

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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Muharram Marked By Spirit Of Unity, Service In Kashmir



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: A heartwarming display of communal harmony and brotherhood marked the first day of Muharram outside the historic Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta area of Srinagar, where volunteers from different sections of society came together to serve the public in remembrance of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and the martyrs of Karbala. The volunteers distributed drinking water and juices among passersby and devotees, reflecting the timeless message of sacrifice, compassion and service associated with the martyrdom of Imam

Hussain (RA). The office bearers of Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid also joined the initiative, lending support to the humanitarian effort and underscoring the spirit of unity that Muharram inspires across communities. Volunteers said the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (RA) continues to serve as a beacon of faith, justice, patience and humanity. "The message of Karbala transcends sectarian boundaries and teaches us to stand for truth, justice and compassion. Through this small gesture, we seek to honour the values upheld by Imam Hussain (RA)." **•P-06**

From Crushing Terrorism To Art-370, PM-Led Regime Redefined India's Security Doctrine: Shah

Says Coordinated Efforts Against Terrorism, Insurgency Led To Improvement In Security Environment

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi led regime for fundamentally transforming country's national security architecture over the past 12 years, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that the decisive steps like policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, cross-border operations, abrogation of Article 370 and sustained efforts to curb insurgency and Naxalism have led to India emerging as a strong and secure nation.

In a statement marking 12 years of the PM Modi led government, Shah, said India has emerged as a strong and secure nation capable of protecting its citizens and responding firmly to threats against its sovereignty.

Highlighting the government's approach towards terrorism, Shah said India has moved away from what he described as a defensive posture and adopted a strategy of swift and decisive action.

He termed surgical strikes, air strikes and Operation Sindoor as examples of India's willingness to target terrorist infra-



structure beyond its borders.

According to Shah, Operation Sindoor marked a significant shift in India's response doctrine, with security forces destroying nine terror camps and eliminating more than 100 terrorists.

He said the operation reflected the government's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and strengthened India's deterrence capabilities.

The Home Minister also cited the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as a major

step in strengthening national integration and internal security. He said the move helped establish a new security paradigm and contributed to greater stability in the region.

Shah said incidents of stone pelting in Jammu and Kashmir had come down significantly, while security measures along the country's borders had been strengthened. He noted that around 93 per cent of the border with Pakistan and nearly 80 per cent of the border with Bangladesh had been fenced to improve

surveillance and prevent infiltration.

Referring to efforts against Left Wing Extremism, Shah said Naxal violence had witnessed a steep decline under the Modi government.

He said hundreds of districts that were once affected by Naxal influence had witnessed considerable improvement, while thousands of insurgents had surrendered. The government, he added, had allocated substantial funds for security operations, training and rehabilitation in affected regions.

The Union Home Minister also highlighted steps taken in the Northeast, saying more than a dozen peace accords signed over the years had contributed to a decline in insurgency and improved stability across the region. He said violence in the Northeast had reduced considerably, enabling greater focus on development and connectivity.

On defence preparedness, Shah said the government's push for Aatmanirbhar Bharat had significantly boosted domestic defence manufacturing. He said defence production had increased from about Rs 46,000 crore in 2014 **•P-06**

PDD Inspector Terminated Over Terror Links



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has terminated the services of a Power Development Department (PDD) employee over alleged involvement in terror-related activities.

Officials sources said Mohd Shafi Malik, 51, a resident of Arwani, Bijbehara, has been dismissed from service. Malik, a 12th-pass inspector posted at Hassanpora Tawella in Bijbehara, was terminated on allegations of links with terror activities.

Officials further said that Malik is named in multiple FIRs registered at Police Station Bijbehara, including FIR No. 76/2017 under Sections 302, 147, 148, 149, 336, 212 and 7/27 of the Arms Act; FIR No. 66/2018 under Sections 147, 148, 149, 336, 427, 332 and 341 of the RPC; and FIR No. 78/2018 under Sections 147, 148, 149, 427, 307 and 341 of the RPC.

An official said the government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards individuals with alleged terror links.

Rain, Thunderstorms, Gusty Winds Lash Kashmir Parts

MeT Warns Of Hailstorms, Flash Floods At Isolated Places

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Several parts of Kashmir witnessed rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds on Wednesday, bringing down temperatures across the Valley, while the Meteorological Department

warned of brief intense showers, hailstorms and flash floods at isolated places.

Officials said that a spell of rain and thunder showers affected many areas of Kashmir during the afternoon, with some places **•P-06**



CM Omar Unveils ₹100 Crore Development Package For B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday gave Bandipora district a massive developmental boost by inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for 18 major projects worth approximately ₹100 crore. These multisectoral projects span higher education, roads, bridges, clean drinking water, urban development, and agriculture infrastructure, aiming to directly address the key needs of the local population.

Major initiatives include the construction of the Government Degree College at Ajas (₹14 crore), a



footbridge over the River Jhelum at Tundipora-Hakbarā (₹10.62 crore), a female student hostel at Government Degree College Bandipora (₹10 crore), and a school building at Kaloosa (₹3.71 crore). Other works include the Markundal-Hajin road upgrade (₹7.13 crore), a water supply augmentation scheme (V6.66 crore), a multi-storey car parking **•P-06**

J&K's Transition Into UT Ended Bloodshed, Fear: LoP Sharma

Says UT Status, MHA Control Improved Security Scenario In J&K

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Stating that the era of violence, fear and bloodshed has largely come to an end in Jammu and Kashmir, Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Wednesday said that region has witnessed a significant improvement in the security situation after its transition into a Union Territory.

Talking to reporters on sideline of function in Srinagar, the LoP said that during the previous regimes, law and order was under the control of the elected government, yet incidents of violence, civilian killings and unrest were frequent.

He said in the past, "blood used to flow on roads and bullets were fired at youth and even school-going children," while



strict laws such as the Public Safety Act (PSA) and other provisions were used against people.

The LoP said after the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir and the transfer of law and order responsibilities to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the situation has changed considerably.

"Today the roads of Jammu and Kashmir are not witnessing the kind of violence seen earlier.

The youth have come out of the atmosphere of fear and are no longer living under the shadow of bullets, PSA or UAPA," Sharma said.

Questioning demands for restoration of greater administrative control, Sharma said the youth of Kashmir would have to decide whether they wanted to return to the circumstances that existed in the past.

The LoP further said PM Narendra Modi-led government has been extending financial support to Jammu and Kashmir without any discrimination.

"The Government of India is providing funds with an open heart for development and infrastructure projects across the Union Territory," he said, adding development activities are progressing **•P-06**

Chief Secy Reviews Progress Of PM Fasal Bima Yojana In J&K

Stresses On Enhanced Farmer Coverage, Timely Settlement Of Claims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a review meeting of the State Level Coordination Committee on Crop Insurance (SLCCC) to assess the implementation and progress of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and related crop insurance schemes across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting besides ACS, APD was attended by the MD, J&K Bank; Director, Agriculture, Kashmir/Jammu; Convenor, UTLBC and other concerned officers from the Department.

While reviewing the implementation framework of PMFBY, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to ensure coverage of all eligible farmer beneficiaries reflected on the Kisan Rin (KRIN) Portal in accor-



dance with the guidelines of the Government of India. He directed the concerned departments, banks and other stakeholders to work in close coordination for achieving universal coverage of eligible farmers under the scheme.

Dulloo also called for leveraging the ongoing 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' as an effective platform for creating awareness among farmers and motivating them to avail the benefits of **•P-06**

J&K Female Gross Enrolment Ratio Stuck At 46.6%, Remains 'Deficient'

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: With a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 46.6 percent for female students at senior secondary level, Jammu and Kashmir finds itself mired in the 'deficient category,'—raising a question on the efficiency of educational outreach in the region.

The recent official figures revealing GER of girls at higher secondary level said that, Jammu and Kashmir has a deficient rate of girls' enrolment at the higher secondary level, with its performance being only marginally better than the states with the lowest enrolment in other states of the country.

"Meghalaya with 46.5 percent GER, Jammu & Kashmir with 46.6 percent, and Madhya



Pradesh 46.9 percent perform only marginally better and, Assam with 47.4 percent and Gujarat 49.7 percent also fall into the deficient category," it reads.

Although these States have improved compared to the

extremely low levels recorded in 2014-15, their current GER for girls in higher secondary education remains low. The marginal gains achieved are insufficient, leaving them far behind national goals of equitable access.

The documents further reveal that only a limited set of States and UTs report strong participation of girls in higher secondary education.

It include Chandigarh with 122.8 percent, Puducherry with 104.9 percent, and Goa (102.6 percent).

"Relatively higher levels are also evident in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands with 97.9 percent, Dadra and Nagar Haveli with 94.8 percent, Daman and Diu 94.8 percent, and Kerala with 91.7 percent.

Earlier this week, as reported that Jammu and Kashmir has recorded its sharpest decline in student progression from secondary to higher secondary in a decade, with the transition rate falling more than 20% between 2014 and 2024. **•P-06**

...NC MPs Won't Support NDA

CM Omar On Reports Of Opposition MPs Switching Sides

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said National Conference MPs won't support the NDA government at the Centre, amid reports of some Opposition MPs - including those from the Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) - allegedly backing the BJP-led government.

Speaking with reporters on the sidelines of a review meeting in Bandipora, CM Omar said he could not comment on the reasons behind their shift in support.

"Neither I, nor you can answer this question. By sitting in Bandipora how can I say what will DMK or Shiv Sena MPs do? It is up to them. It is up to their conscience. They will go as far as their conscience allows them to go," he said.

He said, "As far as National Conference MPs are **•P-06**

■ Amarnath Yatra

MHA Team Led By Union Home Secy To Visit J&K On June 20, 21



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A high-level team of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) led by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir regions for two-days on June 20 and 21 to assess preparedness especially security arrangements for forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, slated to commence on July 3.

Sources said that the team will comprise heads of paramilitary forces, CRPF, BSF, SSB, and Intelligence Bureau and other key wings of the MHA. "Officers will review security arrangements for

57-day-long yatra in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. The MHA meeting in Jammu is expected on June 20 followed by a similar meeting in Kashmir division on June 21," sources added.

Pertinently, on June 12 Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting in New Delhi to review security preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra. He directed the top security brass to focus on ensuring a safe and smooth pilgrimage for devotees. "Safety of pilgrims remains the top priority of the PM Modi-led government," Shah said.

The Union **•P-06**

Ram Niwas Sharma visits border villages of Uri; reviews progress on VVP Phase-II

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Commissioner Secretary Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma, who is also Nodal Officer for Vibrant Villages Maidanan and Salasan, Wednesday visited the two border villages in Uri Sub-Division and reviewed the progress of developmental activities being undertaken under the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) -Phase II.

He was accompanied by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Uri, Joint Director School Education North Kashmir, Deputy Chief Education Officer Baramulla and other concerned officers of line departments. During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary held extensive interaction with the residents, community representatives and local stakeholders at both Maidanan and Salasan villages. He listened to their concerns, developmental aspirations and suggestions regarding improvement in basic amenities



and public services. The residents highlighted various issues and demands related to infrastructure, connectivity, education, healthcare, drinking water supply and livelihood generation.

Assuring the people of the government's commitment towards the welfare and development of border communities, Ram Niwas Sharma stated that the Vibrant Village Programme aims to transform remote villages into self-reliant and vibrant settlements through focused developmental

interventions and improved public service delivery. He emphasized that sustained efforts are being made to strengthen the infrastructure and create better socio-economic opportunities for the residents living in border areas.

The Commissioner Secretary also conducted a comprehensive review of the developmental works and government schemes being implemented in the two villages. He was briefed about the status of ongoing projects, achievements made so far, challenges

being faced and the future plans envisaged under the programme.

He stressed the need for timely completion of projects, effective coordination among the departments and regular monitoring to ensure that developmental benefits reach the people in a tangible manner.

Ram Niwas Sharma directed the concerned officers to maintain close engagement with the local communities and adopt a proactive approach in addressing the public grievances and developmental needs. He further underscored the importance of ensuring transparency, accountability and quality in execution of works being carried out under the programme.

The visit provided an opportunity for on-the-ground assessment of developmental requirements and helped reinforce the administration's commitment towards accelerating the pace of development in border villages.

Amit Sharma reviews Census-2027 Operations in Pulwama

Appreciates district's top performance in self-enumeration phase

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Circuit House Pulwama to assess the progress of the ongoing House Listing and Housing Census Operations (HLO).

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, who is also the Principal Census Officer, highlighted the efforts of the district administration towards ensuring the smooth, accurate and timely conduct of Census-2027.

During the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, who is also the District Census Officer, presented a detailed presentation highlighting the district's progress under Census-2027. The presentation covered the progress under the self-enumeration phase and HLO, awareness and IBC campaigns undertaken across the district, training imparted to census functionaries, creation and demarcation of House Listing Blocks (HLBs), status of field operations, arrangements for the inclusion of migratory populations, measures adopted for snow-bound and remote areas, and monitoring mechanisms put in place to ensure



quality data collection and comprehensive household coverage.

Addressing the meeting, the CPCO appreciated the efforts of census functionaries and congratulated the district administration for its outstanding performance during the self-enumeration phase. He directed the census staff to maintain the same momentum during the ongoing House Listing and Housing Census operations while ensuring the highest standards of accuracy, transparency and confidentiality.

He emphasized that the Census is one of the most important national exercises and serves as the foundation for future planning, policy formulation, infrastructure development, welfare programmes and equitable allocation of resources.

To enhance public confidence and awareness regarding the census exercise, Sharma directed supervisors and enumerators to properly identify themselves during field visits and proactively educate people

about the significance of Census-2027.

Reviewing the progress of the ongoing House Listing and Housing Census operations, the Director expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved so far and called upon all concerned officers to ensure complete coverage of households. He stressed the need for maintaining data quality and directed Charge Officers to undertake regular field inspections while ensuring uniform quality checks by supervisors. He also called for intensified monitoring and strict adherence to census guidelines and operational instructions.

Emphasising inclusive coverage, he directed officials to ensure the proper enumeration of migratory populations and tribal communities so that no household or individual is left out of the census exercise.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama informed the meeting that the district administration is conducting the census exercise with a zero-error

approach and has put in place robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure the accuracy and completeness of data collection. He directed all field functionaries to work in close coordination, maintain professionalism and adhere strictly to prescribed protocols. He further assured full administrative support to census teams and emphasized the timely resolution of any operational issues arising during field activities.

The meeting concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session during which supervisors, enumerators and field officials raised various operational queries that were addressed by the Director Census Operations and senior officers.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Tral and Awantipora, Joint Chief Principal Census Officer, Charge Officers, district and sectoral officers, supervisors, enumerators and other concerned officials.

MLA Mir Saifullah chairs meeting of Committee on Public Undertakings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A meeting of the Committee on Public Undertakings was held Wednesday at the Legislative Assembly under the chairmanship of MLA Mir Saifullah.

Legislators Ajaz Ahmed Jan, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Shafi Ahmad Wani, Rajiv

informed the members that the committee examines and reviews CAG audit reports related to public undertakings, identifies irregularities or inefficiencies, ensures financial discipline, verifies that the government investments are utilized properly and economically, investigates cases of mismanagement



Jasrotia, Mehar Ali, Reyaz Ahamad Khan, Arjun Singh Raju, Rafiq Ahmad Naik besides Chairman Bureau of Public Enterprises Talat Parvaiz, Secretary JK Legislative Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandit, Accountant General Tsewang Tharchin, DG Accounts & Treasuries Fayaz Ahmad Lone along with senior officers from Finance Department and Legislative Assembly were present in the meeting.

The Secretary, J&K LA briefed the meeting on the objectives and functioning of the committee, which included ensuring legislative oversight of state-owned corporations/undertakings and promoting efficiency, economy and accountability in their operations. He also

and enforces accountability. The members discussed various aspects relating to the effective functioning of the Committee and its mandate in ensuring accountability, transparency and efficiency in the functioning of public undertakings.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Mir Saifullah emphasized the importance of the Committee and highlighted its crucial role in strengthening legislative oversight of public sector undertakings. He stated that the Committee serves as an important link between the government and the people, helping to identify and address the public grievances while ensuring that the intended benefits of various public undertakings reach the people effectively.

DC Pulwama reviews NEET (UG) Examination preparations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Wednesday chaired a comprehensive meeting at the Circuit House Pulwama to review the arrangements for the forthcoming NEET (UG) Examination.

At the outset, the Additional Deputy Commissioner briefed the chair on the overall preparedness, including identification of examination centres, deployment of staff, implementation of SOPs, transportation plans, videography arrangements, security arrangements, and other logistical requirements.

The DC also sought detailed inputs from Centre Superintendents regarding preparedness at their respective centres, including adherence to prescribed SOPs and arrangements put in place for smooth conduct of the examination.

The DC directed all concerned Centre Superintendents to ensure fool-proof arrangements for the smooth and fair conduct of the examination. He stressed the importance of

maintaining strict adherence to the guidelines issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and ensuring proper coordination among all stakeholders.

Emphasizing the sensitivity of the examination, the DC directed for adequate deployment of magistrates and security personnel at all examination centres. Dr. Qayoom further instructed the concerned departments to facilitate seamless transportation, ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, and provide all essential services on the day of the examination.

Highlighting the need for effective inter-departmental coordination, the Deputy Commissioner called for a collaborative approach to create a conducive environment for the candidates.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tral, Assistant Commissioner Development, Pulwama, Centre Superintendents of all designated centres, City Coordinator/Nodal Officer NTA (District Pulwama), and officers from Police and Civil Administration.

Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan ANTF-CB commences two-day capacity building programme for investigating officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: As part of the 100-Day "Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan" launched on 11th April 2026, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Crime Branch J&K Wednesday commenced a two-day specialised training programme for Investigating Officers at the Police Auditorium, Gulshan Ground, Jammu.

The programme was inaugurated by Inspector General of Police Jammu Zone Bhim Sen Tuti, who attended as Chief Guest. In his address, the IGP stated that the fight against the drug menace requires a multi-dimensional approach encompassing enforcement, quality investigation, effective prosecution, rehabilitation of victims and community participation. He noted that well-trained Investigating Officers form the backbone of the criminal justice system and play a decisive role in dismantling drug trafficking networks and securing convictions.

A total of 120 Investigating Officers drawn from the Jammu-Kathua-Samba (JKS) Range and Udhampur-Reasi (UR) Range are participating. The programme aims to enhance the professional competence of field investigators handling NDPS cases and strength-

en institutional capacity to tackle narcotics trafficking. The 100-Day Abhiyan seeks to combine enforcement, prevention, awareness, rehabilitation and community engagement to disrupt supply chains, identify drug hotspots and sensitise vulnerable sections of society.

The two-day schedule includes sessions on the drug trafficking scenario in Jammu & Kashmir and the national perspective, legal provisions of the NDPS Act, investigation and prosecution of NDPS cases, recent technological advancements, forensic and fingerprint applications, utilisation of NAFIS and case studies covering investigation from registration of FIR to filing of the Final Report. Sessions are being conducted by subject experts from the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), senior police officers, forensic specialists and legal practitioners.

Officers of ANTF stated that enhanced investigative skills, meticulous evidence collection and effective use of technology are essential for ensuring successful prosecution and deterrence against drug traffickers.

The programme will conclude on 18th June 2026 with practical evaluation exercises, feedback sessions and distribution of certificates to participants.

ADDC Shopian chairs Block Diwas at Kathahallan Keller

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone Wednesday chaired a Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Halqa Kathahallan, Block Keller of the district.

The outreach and public contact programme was held with the objective of listening to public issues and grievances for their timely redressal.

During the interaction, the public projected several issues and demands related to road connectivity and macadamization, drinking water supply, dearth of staff in Primary School Kathahallan, repair of roads, electricity, healthcare, education, irrigation and other developmental requirements.

Members of the Gujjar community residing in the area also highlighted concerns regarding basic amenities, access to government welfare schemes and recognition of Community Rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA). The ADDC directed the concerned officers to examine the issues and take necessary measures as per rules for their resolution.

He listened patiently to the issues and grievances and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their prompt redressal. Matters requiring higher level intervention were noted for appropriate follow up action and assured people that genuine public concerns would be addressed in a time bound manner.

He reiterated the administration's commitment towards inclusive and participatory development and emphasized that Block Diwas serves as an important platform for strengthening public outreach, ensuring transparency, improving service delivery and accelerating developmental initiatives at the grassroots level.

DC Budgam reviews arrangements for International Yoga Day

Directs Officers to ensure District-Wide Celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: In connection with the upcoming International Yoga Day, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting at Conference hall Budgam to review and finalize the arrangements for the district-level celebration of International Yoga Day to be observed on June 21.

During the meeting, the DC directed all concerned officers to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the event across the district. Stressing the importance of Yoga in promoting physical, mental and emotional well-being, the DC emphasized the need for maximum public participation and awareness. He directed that International Yoga Day be celebrated in all Govern-



ment and Private Schools, Colleges, and all Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across Budgam district to ensure the message of healthy living reaches every section of society.

The DC further instructed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to actively coordinate and supervise Yoga Day celebrations at their respective subdivision headquarters in collaboration with line departments, educational institutions and local stakeholders to ensure

enthusiastic participation at the grassroots level.

The meeting reviewed arrangements relating to sanitation, drinking water, seating, medical aid, security, transportation, logistics, publicity and other essential facilities.

Officers from the Youth Services & Sports, Health, School Education, Higher Education, AYUSH, Information, Police and other line departments briefed the DC on their preparedness and action plans for the event.

The district-level celebration on June 21 will witness participation from government officers, students, athletes, NCC and NSS cadets, healthcare workers, Yoga enthusiasts and members of the general public, collectively promoting the message of fitness, wellness and a healthy lifestyle.

The DC urged all departments to work in close coordination to ensure flawless arrangements and make International Yoga Day celebrations a grand success throughout Budgam district.

Besides, ADDC Budgam Vivek Agarwal; PO ICDS Budgam, ADC Budgam, GM DIC Budgam, ASP Budgam, JD planning Budgam, SE R&B Budgam, all SDMs, ACP, DIO Information, CEO, CMO, DYSSO, CHO, and all other concerned District officers and officials were present in the meeting.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MACHINERY DIVISION SRINAGAR

MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

Fax No: 0194-2497093

GIST of e-Tender					
e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS/2026-27/11				
Date:	16.06.2026				

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

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Bid Security/ EMD in (In Rupees)	Requisition letter no:	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Servicing for 125 KVA DG Set installed at Anti Corruption Bureau, Peerbagh Srinagar.	50/-	39449.00	790.00	CAO, ACB letter no ACB/ Accts/5932-33 dated 19.05.2026.	Sanctioned vide No. 11 of 2026-27 Dated: - 16.06.2026

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

01	Publish date	16-06-2026(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	16-06-2026(18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	16-06-2026 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	23-06-2026(09:55 hrs)
06	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	23-06-2026(14:00 hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/980-84
Date: 16 .06.2026

DIPK-2241-26
DT: 17/06/2026

Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar

LG, CM express grief over tragic Pahalgam road accident

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and CM Omar Abdullah on Wednesday condoled the loss of lives in a tragic road accident near Aru in Pahalgam, today.

In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Pained by the loss of precious lives in the tragic road accident in Pahalgam. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members in this hour of grief. I have directed the District Administration to provide all necessary assistance to those affected."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed profound grief over the tragic road accident in Pahalgam that claimed two lives and



left six others injured.

The Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls. He also prayed for strength and courage to the families to bear the irreparable loss.

Expressing concern

over the injured, the Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to ensure that they receive the best possible medical treatment without any delay. He also instructed the administration to extend all necessary assistance and support to the affected families.

CS delineates framework for reducing multidimensional poverty in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the current status of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in Jammu and Kashmir and deliberated upon targeted interventions required for further reducing poverty levels across the UT.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs; Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department; Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Secretary, Rural Development Department and senior officers of the Planning Department. Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated through video conferencing.

Reviewing the incidence of multidimensional poverty in Jammu and Kashmir and the indicators defining deprivation across the three broad dimensions of Health, Education and Standard of Living, the



Chief Secretary underscored the need for identification of vulnerable households in each district, initially laying focus on Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, to facilitate outcome-oriented interventions.

He directed the Planning Department to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the updated data emerging from the forthcoming NFHS-6 survey and develop district-specific action plans aimed at improving individual indicators and accelerating poverty reduction over time.

The Chief Secretary observed that several Centrally Sponsored Schemes already provide effective instruments for addressing various dimensions of poverty. He highlighted flagship programmes such as the National Food Security Act, Ayushman Bharat, National Education Policy-2020 initiatives, housing schemes, Ujjwala Yojana and financial

inclusion programmes as critical tools for improving living standards and reducing deprivation. He emphasized the need for convergence of these schemes and augmentation through capital expenditure wherever required.

He further instructed the Planning Department to devise a standardized survey format for district-level assessment of vulnerable households and work closely with district administrations to identify gaps and priority areas requiring focused interventions.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, advised the districts to incorporate poverty reduction initiatives into their annual development plans and stressed the importance of focusing on AAY households for more targeted and actionable interventions.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, R.

Alice Vaz, highlighted that the Multidimensional Poverty Index captures poverty beyond income and reflects deprivations experienced by households across multiple dimensions, thereby serving as an important policy tool for poverty eradication.

She informed that the current baseline MPI estimates are based on NFHS-5 data and were released in July 2023, while NFHS-6 data is presently under finalization and is expected to provide updated insights into multidimensional poverty across the country.

It was further informed that Jammu and Kashmir is well on course to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 1.2, which envisages reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half before 2030. All twelve indicators used for measuring multidimensional poverty have registered improvements, demonstrating the growing effectiveness of government initiatives at the

grassroots level.

Among the districts, it was revealed that Doda, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch and Udhampur recorded the steepest declines in multidimensional poverty over the assessment period. Rural areas witnessed particularly notable improvement, with the proportion of multidimensionally poor population declining from 16.37 percent to 6.10 percent, while urban poverty reduced from 3.51 percent to 1.09 percent.

The intensity of poverty, which measures the average level of deprivation experienced by multidimensionally poor households, also improved significantly, declining from 44.17 percent to 42.11 percent, indicating sustained gains in living standards and access to essential services.

The meeting also reviewed the contribution of various government schemes towards reducing multidimensional poverty. It was informed that a broad spectrum of welfare and development programmes spanning health, education, housing, livelihoods, social protection and financial inclusion have collectively contributed to improving living standards and reducing deprivation across Jammu and Kashmir.

NIA attaches land of terror case accused in Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday attached two plots of land in north Kashmir's Baramulla district under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), officials said.

The properties, located in Kanispora and spanning 7.5 marla (2,050 sq ft) and 6 marla (1,632 sq ft) respectively, are owned

by Shaheen Ahmad Lone, an individual who has been named as an accused in a 2020 NIA case, officials added.

This action was executed following a directive from a special NIA court in Jammu, issued under Section 33(1) of the UAPA.

The seizure forms a component of the agency's high-profile probe into an entrenched conspiracy, one that implicates the proscribed

terrorist organization Hizbul Mujahideen and Pakistani state agencies in an effort to incite terrorist activities within India.

The ongoing inquiry is specifically centered on unearthing the illicit arms trafficking network, channels of terror financing, and the apprehension of Hizbul operatives in connection with former Deputy Superintendent of Police Devender Singh.

Transport Comm reviews Transport Preparedness for Amarnath Yatra in Sonamarg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, Wednesday visited Sonamarg and Baltal to review the transport preparedness and arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

He was accompanied by RTO Kashmir, Qazi Irfan; ARTO Ganderbal, Anis Ahmed and other officers of the Transport Department.

During the visit, the Transport Commissioner chaired a meeting of all stakeholders, including officers of the Transport Department, Traffic Police and transport operators and other concerned agencies. The meeting reviewed the preparedness of various departments and discussed measures required to ensure safe, efficient and hassle-free transportation facilities for the pilgrims.

The Transport Commissioner stressed that only roadworthy and fit vehicles should be deployed for Yatra duties and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely inspection and fitness certification of all vehicles proposed to be engaged for the pilgrimage. He emphasized that drivers engaged for the Yatra must possess the requisite driving skills, valid credentials and be well acquainted with the Yatra route, traffic regulations, safety protocols and emergency response measures.

Taking serious note of complaints regarding

overcharging by transport operators, the Transport Commissioner directed strict adherence to the notified fare structure and warned that any instance of overcharging would invite stringent action under the relevant provisions of law.

The Transport Commissioner also reviewed the availability of vehicles for the Yatra and directed transport operators to ensure adequate deployment of vehicles to cater to the anticipated demand of pilgrims. He stressed the need for maintaining sufficient reserve capacity to

address any surge in passenger traffic during the Yatra period. As part of the visit, the Transport Commissioner inspected the Motor Vehicles Department Enforcement Post at Sonamarg and reviewed the enforcement and facilitation measures being undertaken by the department. He directed the field officers to maintain effective surveillance and ensure strict compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements.

The issue of parking management was also discussed in detail. Directions were issued for earmark-

JDA reclaims land worth ₹10 crore near Jammu Railway Station



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu Development Authority (JDA) in coordination with the District Administration, reclaimed approximately four kanals of prime land opposite Mangal Market, behind Vaishnavi Dham, near Jammu Railway Station, in a major anti-encroachment operation on Wednesday. The land is estimated to be worth around ₹10 crore.

The JDA land had allegedly remained under unauthorised occupation for several years, with a number of dhabas and commercial establishments illegally operated without lawful authority by two individuals. The occupants had earlier approached the High Court seeking regularisation of their possession.

Pursuant to the Court's directions, the competent authority examined the matter and concluded that the occupation was unauthorised and impermissible under law, following which orders were issued for removal of the encroachments and restoration of the land to JDA.

During the operation, more than 30 unauthorised structures including dhabas and commercial units, were vacated and demolished. The encroachments had contributed to persistent traffic congestion in the Railway Station area due to heavy vehicular movement and roadside parking, frequently causing bottlenecks for commuters, pedestrians and railway passengers. Authorities had also repeatedly flagged unlawful activities around the encroached area that affected public safety, while food at the dhabas was being prepared in unhygienic conditions.

JDA Vice Chairman Dr Rupesh Kumar stated that public land is a public trust and must be safeguarded from illegal occupation, reiterating the Authority's commitment to protecting public assets, planned development and firm action against encroachments affecting urban infrastructure.

JDA appealed to citizens to refrain from encroaching upon government land and to cooperate in preserving public property.

Respect, dignity of senior citizens is their rightful entitlement, not a favour: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday remarked that respect for senior citizens is their rightful entitlement and not a favour as they have contributed immensely for the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these remarks while felicitating senior citizens of Day Care Centre Roop Nagar Jammu during a grand function held at JKTDC Banquet Hall at TRC Jammu, to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of senior citizens towards society.

The programme was attended by Director, Social Welfare Jammu, Ranjeet Singh; Secretary, Advisory Board for Scheduled Castes; Joint Director, Poshan ICDS; Deputy Director (Administration), Social Welfare Department; Assistant Director, Social Welfare; and several other senior officers, besides a large gathering of senior citizens.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasised that respect for elders



is their rightful entitlement and not a favour. She observed that senior citizens devote their lives to nurturing families, educating future generations and contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of society. She stressed that it is the collective responsibility of every individual and institution to ensure that elders receive care, respect and dignity within their homes and communities.

Reviewing the facilities available at the Day Care Centre, the Minister directed the concerned officers to establish a well-equipped library and create dedicated recreational spaces to promote the mental, physical and social well-being of senior citizens.

Highlighting the invaluable wisdom and experience possessed by

the elderly, the Minister instructed officers of the Social Welfare Department to maintain regular interaction with senior citizens, listen to their concerns and ensure timely redressal of their grievances. She further directed the department to strengthen facilitation measures for senior citizens across public institutions and service delivery mechanisms.

The Minister underscored that senior citizens have made immense contributions towards the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir and deserve recognition, care and support at every level. She assured them of the Government's continued commitment to addressing their concerns and enhancing welfare initiatives aimed at improving their quality of life.

DG Libraries & Research visits border villages of Trikanjan, Chotali

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Director, Libraries & Research, J&K, Mohammad Rafi, who is also the designated visiting officer for the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) Phase-II, Wednesday visited the border villages of Trikanjan and Chotali in Uri Sub-Division to review the progress of developmental initiatives being implemented under the programme.

During the visit, he interacted with local residents, Public representatives, youth, women and other stakeholders to obtain firsthand feedback on developmental needs and the implementation of various government schemes. He



also reviewed the status of ongoing works and assessed the availability of basic amenities and public services in the villages.

Speaking on the occasion, the visiting officer said that the primary objective of the Vibrant Villages Programme is to ensure the comprehensive and sustainable development of border villages by improving infrastructure, strength-

ening service delivery and creating better livelihood opportunities for the local population.

He emphasized that the programme aims to transform border villages into vibrant and self-reliant communities while enhancing the quality of life of residents.

He further stated that regular field visits and interactions with the public help

the administration identify local priorities and address developmental gaps in a timely manner. He assured the villagers that their genuine concerns and suggestions would be conveyed to the concerned authorities for appropriate action.

The residents appreciated the outreach initiative and shared their views regarding infrastructure, connectivity, public services and other developmental requirements.

The visiting officer reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring inclusive growth and balanced development in the border areas under the Vibrant Villages Programme Phase-II.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Subject: Select list for the posts of Lecturer, Functional English in School Education Department.

NOTICE

Pursuant to the recommendations received from the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission, Solina, Srinagar, Kashmir vide Letter No. PSC/DR/Lect/School Edu./Functional English (7859156) dated 26.05.2026, the following candidates are hereby directed to submit their valid E-Mail IDs and Mobile Numbers in the School Education Department, (Gazetted Section), Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, in person or on E-Mail ID: school-edu@jk.gov.in within a period of fifteen (15) days positively, for uploading their verification rolls on the Employees Verification System (EVS):

S.No.	Name (Mr./Mrs.)	Parentage (Mr.)	Address
1.	Azra Rashid	Rashid Mohd. Sofi	52, Nai Basti, Near EEFA Mall, Anantnag
2.	Naseem Ahmad Khan	Akbar Khan	76, Chanahar Wayiloo Bala, Gutlibagh, Ganderbal
3.	Shiksha Bala	Amar Chand	84, Bhatoli, Gandoh
4.	Salma Rehman	Ab. Rehman Paswal	18, Baghballa, Karnah

No. Edu-Lect/114/2026-0-(7761266)
Dated: 17.06.2026

DIPK-2254-26
DT: 17/06/2026

Dr. Deep Novel Kour (JKAS)
Deputy Secretary to the Government,
School Education Department

Good Morning **Kashmir**

Footpaths For Sale, Pedestrians For Punishment

In Srinagar today, walking on a footpath has become a luxury. The administration appears to have quietly surrendered public spaces to roadside vendors and shopkeepers who have turned pavements into private extensions of their businesses. The result is simple: pedestrians have been pushed onto busy roads, left to dodge speeding vehicles while the authorities look the other way.

The irony is staggering. Footpaths were built with public money for public use, yet they now resemble open-air markets overflowing with fruit carts, vegetable stalls, cartons, furniture and household goods. In several commercial areas, even the roads themselves are narrowing under the weight of unchecked encroachments and haphazard parking.

Who, then, owns Srinagar's footpaths? The pedestrians who pay taxes and expect basic civic amenities, or those who have illegally occupied every inch of available space?

The administration's occasional anti-encroachment drives have become little more than photo opportunities. Officials remove encroachments one day, only to see them return the next. This revolving-door approach has exposed a complete failure of enforcement and, worse, has created an impression that there is an unofficial blessing for these illegal occupations.

The biggest victims are schoolchildren, elderly citizens, women and persons with disabilities, who are forced to risk their lives by walking on roads meant for vehicles. Every encroached footpath is an invitation to tragedy, and every accident that occurs because a pedestrian had nowhere else to walk is a damning indictment of civic governance.

The administration cannot continue to plead helplessness. If authorities can regulate traffic, collect taxes and impose fines, they can certainly reclaim public walkways. What is missing is not authority but the will to enforce the law consistently.

A city that cannot protect its footpaths cannot claim to be pedestrian-friendly or well-governed. Srinagar's roads and pavements are not private property to be distributed among encroachers. They belong to the people.

The message to the administration is blunt: stop treating encroachment as a temporary inconvenience and recognise it for what it is—a complete hijacking of public space. Reclaim the footpaths, enforce the law without fear or favour, and return the city to its rightful owners: its pedestrians.

Wrong Promotions, Right Resignations



DR. ANJUM QURESHI

A workplace is built on the efforts of its employees. Every employee plays an important role and contributes in their own way to the success of the organisation. Most people try their best to deliver good results. At times, they even sacrifice their work-life balance because they want their organisation to grow and succeed. Many employees can also cope with imperfect leadership and challenging work conditions. However, things begin to change when they feel that their hard work and dedication are not being recognised.

I remember a friend sharing an experience with me. She had informed her boss that she would be out of town for three days and would not be available for office work during that period. Her boss refused to allow it, saying that it was a crucial time for the organisation and that she needed to prioritise work. Wanting to support the organisation, she agreed and continued working.

The company achieved its goals, and the project was successful. However, a few weeks later, she called me in tears and told me that she had decided to resign. When I asked her why, she explained that her sincerity, loyalty, and commitment were never appreciated. Instead, she saw people being rewarded for flattery, gossip, office politics, and ego. She felt that no matter how hard she worked, those qualities mattered more than genuine contribution. Eventually, she left the organisation and found a new job.

Unfortunately, this story is not uncommon. It is a reality in many organisations across different sectors. When employees leave, people



often assume that they have moved for a higher salary. While better pay can certainly be a reason, it is not always the main one. Many employees leave because career growth and promotions are influenced by politics, favoritism, and personal connections rather than loyalty, integrity, sincerity, and competence.

Some people may choose to compromise and play the game to secure promotions or salary increases. However, many hard-working professionals are unwilling to do so. When they repeatedly see politics being rewarded while genuine effort is ignored, they begin to feel that resignation is the better option.

This process rarely happens overnight. Employees do not always express their disappointment openly. Instead, they slowly disengage. They stop sharing ideas, reduce their enthusiasm, and become less involved in organisational activities. Quietly, they begin updating their resumes and exploring new opportunities. They struggle to accept a system where merit is ignored and favouritism is rewarded.

Fair recognition is one of the strongest motivators in any workplace. Employees want to believe that their efforts will be rewarded fairly. When

promotions are perceived as unfair, trust in the system begins to decline. When undeserving individuals are rewarded and personal connections influence important decisions, sincere and hardworking employees become demoralized. They start questioning the value of their efforts and wonder whether their dedication truly matters.

As a result, capable employees often choose to leave. Rather than engaging in office politics, they prefer to work in environments where contributions are respected and performance is valued. They know that their skills and experience can help them find opportunities elsewhere.

Organisations often fail to recognize the long-term damage caused by wrong promotions. When favouritism becomes normal, innovation, collaboration, and accountability begin to suffer. Employees spend more time trying to please people than focusing on meaningful work. Over time, this weakens the culture and performance of the organisation. The consequences extend far beyond the loss of a few employees. Organisations lose experienced professionals, valuable knowledge, and future leaders. Wrong promotions may satisfy a few individuals for a short time, but

The company achieved its goals, and the project was successful. However, a few weeks later, she called me in tears and told me that she had decided to resign. When I asked her why, she explained that her sincerity, loyalty, and commitment were never appreciated.

they can drive away valuable assets permanently.

Every organisation should remember one important truth: people can tolerate pressure, challenges, and even imperfect leadership. What they find difficult to tolerate is unfairness. When the wrong people are promoted, the right people start writing their resignations.

Dr. Anjum Nazir Qureshi, Assistant Professor, RCERT, Chandrapur. (TEDx Speaker, Author, POSH Trainer)

LIFE-SAVING MEDICINES

Rising Costs, And The Common Man's Struggle



LALIT GARGG

The approval of price increases—reportedly reaching nearly fifty per cent for some cancer drugs, anti-tetanus serum, and essential childhood vaccines—has created a new crisis for millions of families. This issue is not merely economic; it raises profound questions about social justice, human compassion, and the very concept of a welfare-orientated state.

India is steadily moving forward with the dream of becoming a developed nation. The vision of a "Developed India" by 2047 is being reiterated time and again. Amid claims of massive infrastructure growth, digital transformation, remarkable space achievements, and economic progress, a fundamental question continues to arise: Can a nation truly be called developed if ordinary citizens are forced into debt because of illness? If the ever-increasing cost of medicines and medical treatment determines the thin line between life and death, what then? If healthcare becomes a privilege of economic capacity rather than a basic right? At a time when inflation is already burdening common households, the decision of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to permit significant price hikes in certain life-saving medicines and vaccines has become a matter of serious concern. The approval of price increases—reportedly reaching nearly fifty per cent for some cancer drugs, anti-tetanus serum, and essential childhood vaccines—has created a new crisis for millions of families. This issue is not merely economic; it raises profound questions about social justice, human compassion, and the very concept of a welfare-orientated state.

The reality of healthcare in India is well known. Government data indicate that a substantial proportion of citizens continue to bear medical expenses out of their own pockets. Illness no longer remains solely a health crisis; it often transforms into an economic catastrophe. There was a

time when people commonly fell into debt because of wedding expenses. Today, however, a serious illness can financially devastate an entire family. The treatment of cancer, heart disease, kidney ailments, and other complex medical conditions often demands lakhs of rupees. If the prices of life-saving medicines continue to rise, healthcare will become increasingly inaccessible for the poor and lower middle classes. The NPPA has justified these price revisions by citing rising production costs and the risk of shortages in the market. According to this argument, pharmaceutical companies may discontinue production if they cannot recover their costs, resulting in a lack of availability of essential medicines. While this reasoning may hold economic merit, an important question remains:



Can life-saving medicines be treated like ordinary consumer goods? Should there not be a balance between reasonable profit and social responsibility in the healthcare sector?

Healthcare and education are the two most fundamental pillars of any civilised society. Unfortunately, both sectors in India have witnessed growing commercialisation over the years. Escalating hospital charges, expensive diagnostic tests, unnecessary medical investigations, high equipment costs, and now rising medicine prices are collectively making healthcare unaffordable for ordinary citizens. Medical care increasingly appears to be transforming from a service into an industry. Hospitals often seem more like corporate enterprises than centres of healing. Patients are frequently viewed as customers rather than individuals seeking care. This trend not only widens economic inequality but also deepens social divisions. Even today, quality healthcare remains largely inaccessible to those with stronger financial resources. Poor citizens are left dependent on overcrowded government hospitals with limited infrastructure and resources, while affluent individuals can afford advanced treatment in state-of-the-art private facilities. Is this the social justice envisioned by the nation's founders? Is this the India that the freedom fighters dreamed of building?

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several welfare-orientated initiatives have been

introduced. Schemes such as Ayushman Bharat have provided relief to millions, while the establishment of Jan Aushadhi Kendras has improved access to affordable medicines. Nevertheless, significant structural challenges continue to persist in the healthcare system. If medicine prices continue to rise and private healthcare remains largely unregulated, the benefits of these initiatives may be substantially diluted. The real challenge lies in placing healthcare at the center of public welfare rather than leaving it entirely to market forces. The government's responsibility extends beyond announcing schemes; it must also ensure that every citizen has access to affordable and quality healthcare. Stronger price controls on life-saving medicines are essential. Government hospitals must be adequately supplied with essential drugs. Procurement systems should be transparent and accountable. The government can also provide targeted subsidies and support for the production of critical medicines so that the burden of rising costs does not fall entirely on patients.

At the same time, health insurance coverage must be expanded significantly. Millions of poor and lower-middle-class families remain outside the protection of any meaningful insurance framework. A major illness can wipe out their lifetime savings. Health insurance should not be limited to hospitalization expenses alone; it should also cover essential medicines and

long-term treatments. Furthermore, the government should periodically conduct independent reviews of pharmaceutical pricing and cost structures. If production costs have genuinely increased, the evidence should be publicly disclosed. Greater transparency would strengthen public trust and help prevent unjustified price escalation. The primary objective of healthcare policy should be to strike a fair balance between corporate profitability and citizens' rights. The vision of a developed India in 2047 cannot be measured solely through skyscrapers, expressways, digital networks, or GDP growth. Its true success will be judged by the well-being of its most vulnerable citizens. If a farmer, laborer, employee, or low-income worker cannot access dignified medical treatment during illness, claims of development will remain incomplete.

The need of the hour is not merely a debate on medicine prices but a comprehensive reassessment of the entire healthcare system. Healthcare is not a luxury; it is a fundamental human right. In a nation where citizens are denied the opportunity to live healthy lives, the glow of economic progress inevitably fades. It is time for governments, policymakers, medical professionals, pharmaceutical companies, and society at large to work together to ensure that healthcare remains an instrument of public service rather than merely a source of profit. Otherwise, the dream of a developed India may shine brightly in statistics while millions continue to struggle in the darkness of illness, debt, and helplessness. As India moves toward the centenary of its independence, this remains one of its greatest moral and humanitarian challenges—one that demands urgent and meaningful solutions today.

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Cadaver Crisis: Why India Needs More Body Donors



KALPANA PANDEY

A few months ago, I decided to donate my body and went to KEM Hospital in Mumbai to complete the formal process. The purpose behind this decision was to help dispel superstitions, customs and misconceptions about death in society, to make my body useful for medical education and research after my death, to promote scientific, rational and humanist thought, and to increase scientific temper in society. I decided to donate my body out of the feeling that I should be of use to society even after death, and to inspire others towards body donation and organ donation. Many people like me donate their bodies, but the recent Sejal Pawar case has raised some disturbing questions.

Sejal Pawar, an MBBS student at the prestigious KEM Hospital in Mumbai, made extremely disgusting, obscene and insensitive jokes about donated dead bodies—especially about the size of male cadavers' genitals—on the stand-up comedy show 'Pranit More Show'. Laughingly, she and her colleagues told how they would mock the private organs of dead bodies during their studies and, at the end of the procedure, cut them off. The video went viral on social media in a flash, causing a massive wave of outrage among the medical community and sensitive sections of society. In an earlier video, she refers to KEM Hospital as 'chindhi' (shoddy), the people around her as 'ugly', and her teachers as 'toxic'.

This incident struck at the very foundational ethics of medical education and profession. The cadaver is regarded as a 'Guru', and gratitude is expressed to it through the Cadaveric Oath; publicly ridiculing that body in this manner is not just insensitivity but an assault on the very roots of humanity. Dr. Asha Kadam rightly said that in her time, despite the strong smell of formalin in the dissection hall, compassion for that body used to well up. She says, "The question would arise: did someone donate their body so that students could learn? Leave alone entertaining inhuman thoughts about that body, I never even heard such a thought from anyone." This is a part of our cultural values. She pointed out the hypocrisy: a society that justifies someone losing their job for scooping out and eating a 370-rupee biryani, how does it initially ignore the obscene remarks made by a woman doctor about dead bodies? Many on social media reacted sharply, saying that people with such a depraved mentality like her must be taught a lesson, and that action should be taken against Pranit More, who hosted the show where this happened.

This controversy also marked the culmination of the excesses taking place in the name of 'dark comedy' and 'freedom of expression'. Dentist Daphne Claire from Kerala thoroughly dissected this issue in her social media post. She made it clear that laughing at the private organs of a dead body is not 'dark comedy'. 'Dark comedy' originated from victims trying to heal by joking about their own pain. But no one has the moral right to make fun of someone else's body or organs—an experience you have not personally lived—and call it 'dark comedy'. This is a violation of human dignity. Dr. Claire then highlighted a deep social contradiction. She says, "When Sejal's video first surfaced, it was men who followed her, laughed, and gave her fame. They increased her followers. But when the 370-biryani case came out—which glorified sexual violence against a woman—women immediately raised their voices in united protest. This means, when men are insulted, women step forward, but when women are insulted (or male body donors are insulted), men laugh and 'follow', especially if the woman is attractive!" This observation elevated the controversy beyond one student's irresponsible statements to a question on society's collective moral foundation. Both incidents are reprehensible—one a posthumous cruelty and disrespect, the other a celebration of sexual violence against a living woman. Both must be held accountable, but the two cases are not identical crimes.

The Sejal Pawar case also highlighted another fact—merely acquiring a medical degree does not automatically bring humanity, sensitivity or ethics. In a country where millions of women do not even get the opportunity for education, for a female student who received this opportunity to misuse it in this way is nothing short of a tragedy. Fortunately, the KEM administration conducted

an inquiry, sent her on compulsory leave, recommended counseling, and she also offered a public apology. However, this incident has created an urgent need to further strengthen the teaching of ethical values, communication skills and compassion in medical education.

The true value of human life lies not just in its duration, but in what that life has done for others. We have been hearing this statement for generations. But its deepest meaning strikes you when you understand the concept of body donation. Death is an indisputable, inevitable truth. Everyone must leave this physical body one day. Going beyond the usual options of mixing with the soil, turning to ash or merging into water, the realization itself is staggering that one's body can become a pillar of future knowledge.

Body donation is when a person legally donates their entire body after death for noble purposes such as medical education, surgical skill development and scientific research. It is not merely a medical procedure or a legal obligation; it is the most precious and selfless contribution to humanity. Often, there is discussion in society about organ donation, but the unique importance of body donation is not highlighted as much. The body donated by one person directly helps train hundreds of doctors, and through them, saves the lives of thousands of patients. This donation has the extraordinary power to keep the flame of knowledge, service and humanity burning continuously for society even after death.

While understanding the concept of body donation, it is first necessary to distinguish it from organ donation. In organ donation, after a person becomes 'brain-stem dead', their life-saving organs such as heart, liver, kidneys, eyes, and skin are given for transplantation to other needy patients. In contrast, in body donation, the entire body is made available to medical colleges, government hospitals or recognized research institutions for learning anatomy, for practice by surgeons, and for research into new medical technologies. This donation is not limited to a single organ; instead, the whole body becomes the first and most important textbook that shapes future medical experts. In a vast country like India, body donation is governed by the 'Anatomy Act' and the specific rules of respective states. In Maharashtra, body donation has full legal recognition under the 'Maharashtra Anatomy Act, 1949'. Any competent adult in sound mind can make this pledge during their lifetime by recording it in a will or by applying in the prescribed form to the concerned institution. While legally it is binding on relatives to fulfill this wish after death, social sensitivity and the family's consent are extremely important. That is why it is equally essential that this decision be made after taking the family into confidence, understanding their feelings, and obtaining their complete consent.

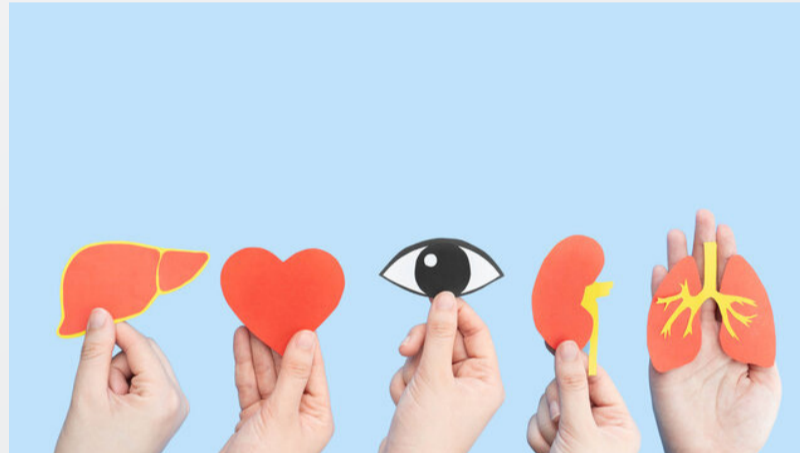
The foundation of medical education rests on an extremely minute and deep understanding of human anatomy. The chambers of the heart, the cavities of the lungs, the contraction and expansion of muscles, the invisible network of blood vessels and nerves—the complex arrangement of all these is simply impossible to understand only by looking at flat diagrams in books, images on a digital screen or videos. For this, the experience of actually dissecting a human body is the true teacher. This body obtained through body donation, called a 'cadaver' in medical terminology, is like a three-dimensional, living textbook for the students. It is for this reason that in renowned medical institutions across the world, body donors are addressed by highly respectful terms like 'First Teacher' or 'Silent Mentor'. Although this body does not speak, in its silence it unfolds every secret of the human body to the students. When a budding doctor begins their career, their first real interaction with the human body happens precisely because of this donated body. The very hands that are to perform complex surgeries on countless patients in the future are given their first safe practice platform by this body. This means that a single surgeon trained on the body of a donor can save thousands of lives over their entire career.

This is the immense power of this donation. However, unfortunately, the rate of body donation in India is extremely low compared to the need. While ideally there should be at least one body available for every ten students, in reality, 30 to 40, or even up to 75 students in some places, have to depend on one body. This adversely affects the practical quality of medical education. Students have to stand on stools and watch from a distance, they get no hands-on practice, and are forced to rely solely on bookish knowledge. Considering the severity of this shortage, it is an urgent necessity to create public awareness about body donation in society.

When deciding on body donation, a natural and legitimate question arises in the minds of family members—"After death, will the dignity and honor

of our loved one's body be maintained?" This concern is completely human and natural. However, in recognized medical institutions, the body is treated with great respect, sanctity, and sensitivity. This is not merely a matter of verbal assurance, but the core of strict protocols and the medical code of ethics. From the moment the body is received until the studies are completed, its dignity is maintained at every stage. Upon arrival at the institution, a registration number is assigned to the body, so that the donor's personal identity remains completely confidential. Students are given no information about the donor's name, place, or family. To preserve the body, chemicals like formalin (embalming) are used to keep it in good condition. The law strictly prohibits the use of the body for any purpose other than study. Students who engage in mockery, mischief, or any act that might hurt the body's dignity face strict disciplinary action. Nowadays, in almost all medical colleges, before starting the study, students are administered the 'Cadaveric Oath'.

In this oath, students accord the donor the status of their teacher, express heartfelt gratitude for their noble sacrifice, and promise to treat the body with respect, considering it a sacred instrument for acquiring knowledge. Besides, many institutions organize an annual 'Gratitude Ceremony' by inviting the families of body donors, where the directors, professors and students come together to offer an emotional tribute to the work of these donors. The social need and the far-reaching aspects of the contribution of body donation must be understood. This contribution is not limited only to students. New techniques for complex neurosurgeries, cardiac surgeries,



orthopedic surgeries are first perfected by practicing on donated bodies. The safety testing of newly developed medical devices—such as stents, pacemakers, artificial joints—is carried out on human bodies. Students of forensic medicine also learn about decomposition processes and wound patterns on such bodies. If the body of a person who died of a rare disease is donated, it provides a direction to understand that disease in depth and search for a cure.

Moreover, an eco-friendly perspective is also embedded in this. On average, one large tree is burned for the cremation of a dead body, causing massive smoke pollution. Body donation avoids this environmental damage. However, a major obstacle in this journey of knowledge and contribution is social superstition and misconceptions. Deep-rooted traditional beliefs exist in society, such as: "The body must remain intact after death, otherwise the soul does not attain liberation," or "If the body is cut, there will be disability in the next birth." However, no religion opposes the service of humanity; in all religions—Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain—philanthropy is considered the highest duty. Body donation is indeed the ultimate act of philanthropy. To overcome these obstacles, there is an urgent need for public awareness campaigns in schools and colleges, positive use of social media, camps, and sharing the experiences of families of successful donors. The feeling that body donation is not just 'giving a body' but 'donating knowledge' must be imprinted on the social psyche.

Against the backdrop of all this controversy, it becomes even more important to turn our attention to the inspirational work and personalities in the body donation movement. In Mumbai, the 'Jyeshtha Sthanik Nagarik Seva Manch' and social worker Savita Gharat have been tirelessly running this movement for the last 15 years. The motto of their work is: "Marave pari kirti rupe urave, ka nahi marave pari dehadanaan, avayavadaan rupi urave" (Better to die but endure in the form of glory; why not die but endure in the form of body donation, organ donation?). Savita Gharat, Rashmi Parab and their colleagues go from door to door, hold camps, and provide online guidance to dispel fears and remove obstacles among people. Recently, they visited 92-year-old Mr. R.K. Sahgal. Mr. Sahgal, an engineer himself and a graduate of Melbourne University, had been waiting for the organization for two years. He and his

90-year-old wife live in India by their own choice even though their children are abroad.

Specially calling their youngest son from New Jersey and discussing all legal aspects, Savita Gharat facilitated the path for his body and organ donation. Mr. Sahgal's words touch the heart—"I lived honestly all my life, everything went well. But now, even in my last moments, I want to give something to society before I go. Everyone should make these arrangements beforehand so that no obstacle comes in the way." Such people are walking, talking sources of inspiration. Similarly, the work of Dombivli's 'Maharshi Dadhichi Dehadanaan Mandal', active since 1988, is unforgettable. Gurudasji Tambe, influenced by a lecture, founded this organization with the help of friends. This organization promotes not only body donation but also eye donation, skin donation, blood donation and organ donation free of charge. They tirelessly spread information that skin donation allows skin grafting on burn patients; eye donation can give sight to four to six blind people.

If one wants to understand the true soul of this movement, one must listen to the experiences of the actual activists. Vinod Davre of Parbhani, who donated his grandfather's (paternal grandfather's) body in 2015, says, "A doctor friend of mine met me after 35 years and said, 'I am a doctor today only because of your grandfather's body donation. Our entire building of knowledge rests on that body. We talk to that body, a bond is formed. And after all the learning is done, we perform their last rites in a very hygienic manner.'" After hearing this, all the pressure on his mind was lifted, and he himself became active in this field.

Through his personal efforts alone, he has facilitated 14 body donations and 3 organ donations till date—he derives zero financial benefit from this, but he does this work as a social commitment. He asks, "In a government medical college, 75 students are learning anatomy by standing on stools around one body. If these same students are going to treat you tomorrow, what will be the quality of this education?" This question compels all of us to think. That is why body donation is not just an option, but the need of the hour. A doctor friend himself once told a body donor's family member, "If there is any person we doctors consider the most honorable in the world after our mother and father, it is only this body donor. Our entire medical edifice is built on this body. We wash our hands and eat lunch during a break while dissecting, and immediately reconnect with that same body with a bond of affection. So much so that we even talk to that body." After the medical study is complete, the remains of that body are not disposed of like any waste material, but are given a very dignified final rite, in accordance with religious traditions or the family's wishes. Some institutions return the ashes to the family, while others perform a collective immersion. Transparency and respect are the unshakable rules in this entire process.

Dr. Asha Kadam, from her experience, said, "Even today, while performing a post-mortem, we doctors and the support staff take full care of that body. Everyone follows the unwritten rule that the dignity of the dead body must be maintained." This tradition of honor has been ingrained in Indian culture for thousands of years; Maharshi Dadhichi donated his own bones for the peace of the three worlds and is known as the first body donor in creation.

From this entire discussion, one thing emerges with absolute clarity, the movement of body donation is not confined merely to the utilization of a dead body. It is the tangible embodiment of the nobility of human life, the ultimate height of philanthropy, and an unbroken tradition of knowledge donation. Maharashtra has seen a galaxy of medical luminaries like Dr. Anandibai Joshi, Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis, Dr. Kishore Shantabai Kale, Dr. Nitu Mandke, Dr. Ravi Bapat, Dr. Prakash and Manda Amte, Dr. Tatyarav Lahane, who devoted their lives to the service of humanity. This is the true tradition of doctors. A mechanic in a garage bows to his tools in the morning, a trader worships his ledger—this is gratitude

towards one's profession. Similarly, an ideal doctor should have the same feeling towards their patients and towards the body donor who became a means of their education. As Anjali Jharkar said, "A perfectly healthy person won't go to a doctor; only the one with a problem in their body goes, because for them, the doctor is God. Because of depraved doctors who desecrate such living or dead bodies, what difference remains between the mentality of a butcher and a doctor?" The time has come for society to take this question seriously.

Brooke Borel, who writes in 'Popular Science', writes in one of her pieces—abroad, dead bodies are used in science, safety, education and research. Dead bodies are needed for many areas of research. For example, scientists who study the biomechanics of injury want to understand how the human body gets injured. This can help them prevent injuries. For this, they conduct controlled tests to understand how much trauma a dead body can withstand. After applying the measurements obtained from these tests to a model or dummy, scientists test and verify the protective gear (e.g. helmet, seat belt) that keeps us safe.

The use of a real body can help make car seat belts or train seats safer. The brain can help design helmets that reduce traumatic brain injuries. American football players suffer from hard tackles. It can also be used to reduce the injury a soldier sustains from the shock of a bomb blast. When this research is complete, if the family wishes, they can receive my cremated remains. Otherwise, the donor can be honored along with other unclaimed donors with a memorial plaque, a tree, or a solemn annual ceremony.

Forensic scientists also use dead bodies in their work. Some universities take donated bodies and bury them in the ground or place them in a secluded forest. Then scientists measure the time it takes for flies, dermestid beetles, and other scavenger insects to skeletonize the bodies. This is a different kind of rebirth—becoming part of the ecosystem of a field or a forest. This end might seem horrifying, but the data obtained from this process helps forensic researchers identify when a person died and what injuries they might have suffered. This helps law enforcement authorities solve murder cases.

In such processes, the body can be used to recreate the scene of a specific crime—for example, hung in a forest, or stuffed in the trunk of a car, etc. This can help solve a case or help a police officer bring a murderer to justice. Later, the skeleton can rest in a box in a forensic collection, occasionally living on in the form of research on bone aging.

But there is another option for whole body donation, which is a long-standing tradition in medical training, and which seems more suitable to me. Every first-year medical student has to take a course called 'Gross Anatomy', in which they dissect a human cadaver. This is their first patient. It may be the first dead body they have ever seen or touched. When they enter the Gross Anatomy room, they see different bodies—each being an example of astonishing diversity in human shape. The relationship between medical students and their first cadaver is special. The cadaver provides the student with knowledge they could not otherwise obtain; the student is amazed by and grateful for this gift. This is what doctors believe.

The body can teach future doctors the physical landmarks necessary to perform a spinal tap or to rule out appendicitis. A surgeon can learn to dissect the delicate nerves in my hand. Or, perhaps, a pathologist can perceive the difference between a pre-mortem and post-mortem blood clot.

In this era of reels and social media, the mentality of sacrificing ethics for momentary fame is on the rise. Dr. Asha Kadam's fear is genuine: "It is our responsibility to see whether, in the craze for reels, our next generation is speaking something wrong or irresponsible, watching it, or following it." Against this backdrop, deciding to donate one's body is not just an individual decision but a social statement—that we give the highest place to knowledge, service and humanity. This is a movement that truly gives meaning to the adage, "Marave pari kirti rupe urave" (Better to die but endure in the form of glory). Death is not the end of life; through body donation, it becomes the starting point of a new, unending service and flow of knowledge. People can help the living with their death. By burning away the mental pyre of apathy, laziness, ignorance and superstition, all of us should set foot on this sacred path of knowledge donation. Because, rather than our body mixing with the soil or turning into ashes, if it becomes the light of someone's knowledge, what act could be greater than that?

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Muharram Marked

Mubashir, a volunteer, said. Another participant said the initiative reflected the centuries-old tradition of communal harmony in Kashmir. "Muharram is not only a period of remembrance but also an opportunity to strengthen bonds of brotherhood and mutual respect among people," he said. The atmosphere around the historic mosque was marked by reverence and solidarity, with members of both Shia and Sunni communities participating in the service activity and exchanging greetings of peace and goodwill. A passerby said the initiative offered a powerful example of social cohesion and collective responsibility, reinforcing the values of unity and compassion that form the essence of the teachings of Karbala—(KNO)

From Crushing

to nearly Rs 1.5 lakh crore, supported by policy reforms and a focus on indigenous production. He said thousands of defence-related items had been identified for indigenisation, while investments in military modernisation, border infrastructure, defence satellites and indigenous weapons systems had strengthened India's strategic capabilities. Shah said the achievements of the past 12 years reflected the government's commitment to safeguarding national interests and ensuring security across the country. He asserted that India's response to security challenges now serves as an example of decisive governance and national resolve—(KNO)

Rain, Thunderstorms,

witnessing strong winds and lightning activity. Rain was also reported along the Sonamarg-Baltal-Holy Cave axis and the Pahalgam-Holy Cave route.

The weather department said brief intense showers accompanied by thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds were recorded at a few locations, particularly in north Kashmir districts and parts of south Kashmir.

According to the MeT Centre Srinagar, temperatures remained below normal at most places following the wet weather conditions.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 29.4 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal, while the minimum settled at 15.6 degrees Celsius. Qazigund registered a maximum of 28.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.8 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 24.0 degrees Celsius as the day's maximum and 12.2 degrees Celsius as the minimum.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 27.6 degrees Celsius, and Gulmarg 19.8 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 32.6 degrees Celsius, which was 5.5 degrees below normal for the season. Katra registered 32 degrees Celsius, while Banihal recorded 26.3 degrees Celsius.

The MeT department said generally cloudy conditions prevailed across Jammu and Kashmir during the day, with intermittent rain and thunderstorms reported from several areas.

It advised people to remain indoors during thunderstorms and stay away from electric poles, overhead wires, loose structures and old trees. Boating and Shikara operations on water bodies, including Dal Lake, were also advised to be suspended during periods of strong winds and lightning activity.

The department said there was a possibility of hailstorms at isolated places and warned that intense showers could trigger flash floods and mudslides in vulnerable areas.

Officials said the wet weather is expected to continue over the next several days, with intermittent spells of rain and thundershowers likely at many places across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

CM Omar Unveils `100

facility (3.74 crore), and residential apartments for Panchayati Raj Institution members.

During his visit, the Chief Minister chaired a high-level review meeting to evaluate the developmental scenario, public service delivery and the progress of various schemes. The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo (through virtual mode), Javed Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmad Khan, MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat, MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chib, senior officers; Heads of Departments;

and district officers.

Noting Bandipora's progress in the last financial year, Chief Minister Abdullah urged all departments to maintain their developmental momentum. He emphasised that the government has cleared administrative and financial approvals well in advance this year. This proactive step ensures that departments in Bandipora can utilise the working season fully and execute projects timely, rather than rushing at the end of the financial year. The Chief Minister added that this step is vital for the district due to challenging geographical and climatological conditions.

Highlighting Bandipora's rich natural wealth, the Chief Minister called for the scientific cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. He directed that the possibility of setting up a specialised industrial estate for medicinal herbs be explored. This initiative is expected to enhance local entrepreneurship, create fresh jobs for the youth and add significant value to the district's natural resources.

Local lawmakers also raised constituency-specific demands regarding developmental aspects which the Chief Minister promised would be swiftly reviewed and resolved.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister distributed vehicles to beneficiaries under the UMED initiative and inspected stalls set up by local self-help groups. He also met with the public. Delegations from Gurez, Tulail, and Sonawari, assuring them of timely and equitable redressal of their developmental concerns.

A special highlight of the visit was an open interaction between the Chief Minister and the students of Government Degree College, Bandipora. The session was hosted by a female student, followed by a lively interaction session where students asked candid questions about governance, jobs, and public policy. Praising the confidence of the students, the Chief Minister encouraged the young generation to actively participate in democracy and nation-building.

J&K's Transition

steadily under the present dispensation.

Referring to the return of Kashmiri Pandits, Sharma called the community as an inseparable part of Jammu and Kashmir's identity.

"Kashmiri Pandits are an integral part of Kashmir's heritage and identity. Without them, Jammu and Kashmir remains incomplete," he said.

He said the Centre has created an atmosphere where members of the displaced community are increasingly asserting claims over their properties and lands in the Valley. Sharma said, the Union Government is working towards facilitating their rehabilitation and resettlement.

"The Home Ministry is actively working on measures to ensure that those reclaiming their properties and lands are eventually re-established in Kashmir," he added.

Sharma further said that the security environment in Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a transformation, adding that incidents targeting tourists and security personnel have reduced significantly under the current government.

Earlier in the day, the BJP leader also took a swipe at the National Conference government, describing it as politically unstable and predicting that it would "collapse on its own" due to internal contradictions.

Sharma reiterated the BJP's position that the Centre would take a decision only after being fully satisfied that peace, stability and normalcy have been firmly established in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

Chief Secy Reviews

crop insurance. He observed that the campaign presents a valuable opportunity to educate farmers about the importance of risk mitigation through insurance and to encourage their enrolment under this farmer-centric welfare schemes. He also directed the banks to outreach their KCC customers for their enrolment under PMFBY here.

To strengthen coordination and address implementation challenges at the grassroots level, the Chief Secretary suggested that the Agriculture Production Department designate district-wise nodal officers for PMFBY. These officers, he said, should work closely with banks, insurance companies and district administrations to identify and resolve bottlenecks, facilitate seamless enrolment of eligible farmers and ensure smooth implementation of the scheme across all districts of the UT.

Reiterating the Government's commitment towards safeguarding farmers against crop losses arising from natural calamities and adverse weather events, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of collective efforts by all stakeholders to

expand insurance coverage and enhance financial security of the farming community in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the ACS, Agriculture Production Department, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma gave a detailed overview of the scheme's performance since its inception, status of claims under Kharif 2025, coverage achieved during Rabi 2025-26, saturation of loanee farmers under the scheme and the implementation status of the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS).

He underscored the need for creating greater awareness about the benefits of crop insurance at the grassroots level to enhance farmer participation under PMFBY. He observed that, besides leveraging the media for wider dissemination of information, the Agriculture Production Department will utilize the ongoing 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' and other Government-sponsored outreach programmes and events as effective platforms for educating farmers about the scheme and encouraging them to avail its benefits.

The meeting was further informed by Director Agriculture, Kashmir that since the launch of PMFBY in Jammu and Kashmir, more than 12.89 lakh farmers have been covered under the scheme, with over 6.85 lakh farmers benefiting through claim settlements.

He further elaborated that a cumulative area of over 4.05 lakh hectares has been insured under the scheme till Rabi 2025. Against a cumulative premium collection of Rs 463.37 Cr, claims amounting to Rs 220.35 Cr have been settled in favour of farmers, providing crucial financial support against crop losses.

Reviewing the status of Kharif 2025 claims, it was divulged that claims amounting to Rs 53.58 Cr have been submitted covering 1.27 lakh farmers across the Union Territory. Of these, nearly 2.01 lakh farmers were enrolled under PMFBY during Kharif 2025, covering an insured area of more than 75,000 hectares.

The meeting also reviewed localized calamity and post-harvest loss claims reported during Rabi 2025-26. It was informed that over 2,100 loss intimations have been received from farmers, involving a claim amount exceeding Rs 5.52 Cr. The Agriculture Production Department is closely coordinating with stakeholders to ensure prompt processing and settlement of eligible claims.

On the coverage achieved during Rabi 2025-26, the Chief Secretary was informed that Jammu and Kashmir has registered significant growth in farmer enrolment and area coverage under the crop insurance programme compared to the previous season. The Union Territory recorded one of the highest growth rates in farmer enrolment among participating States and Union Territories, the meeting was apprised.

Regarding the status of coverage of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders under PMFBY it was observed that while substantial progress has been achieved, there remains considerable scope for improving saturation levels among eligible loanee farmers.

The meeting further deliberated on the implementation of the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) in Jammu and Kashmir. Detailed presentations were made regarding premium structures, financial implications and tendering processes.

The advisories issued by the Government of India concerning proposed revisions in the operational guidelines of PMFBY and RWBCIS and the forthcoming national tender cycle beginning from Kharif 2026 also came up for discussion during the meeting.

Emphasizing the need to safeguard farmers' interests while ensuring fiscal prudence, the Chief Secretary directed the Agriculture Production Department to undertake all preparatory measures required for timely implementation of crop insurance schemes in accordance with Government of India guidelines and emerging policy frameworks.

He reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening crop insurance coverage and enhancing resilience of the farming sector against weather-related and other production risks, thereby ensuring greater income security for farmers across Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Female Gross

The official figures in this regard reveal that J&K has recorded the second highest decline in the transition rate across the country during this period.

"The steepest declines in transition from secondary to higher secondary between the years 2014 and 2024 were recorded in Arunachal Pradesh with 81.8 percent to 60.7 percent and Jammu & Kashmir with 93.38 percent to 72.9 percent."

The documents further said that despite notable improvements, persistent challenges remain in ensuring retention through the higher secondary stage—(KNO)

CM Omar On Reports

concerned, we will never support such a move".

Commenting about the review meeting in Bandipora, he said his government would address the developmental concerns raised by public representatives and make every possible effort to resolve pending issues in the district.

Omar Abdullah, accompanied by advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, deputy chief minister Surinder Choudhary, cabinet ministers and senior officials, chaired a review meeting in Bandipora to assess the implementation of development programmes and examine the status of various projects across the district.

The chief minister said he reviewed the performance of works undertaken under last year's development plan and identified areas requiring attention.

He said legislators representing Bandipora, Sonawari and Gurez highlighted local issues and demands during the meeting and sought intervention in sectors requiring improvement.

"The concerns and expectations of the people were conveyed by their representatives. We have assured them that whatever is possible from our side will be done," he said.

Among the issues discussed was the upgradation of district hospital Bandipora, which has been functioning from a new building for several years but is yet to be formally upgraded.

CM Omar said the matter was taken up during the review and added that Health Minister Sakina Itoo, who joined the meeting virtually, assured that pending requirements related to the facility would be addressed by her department—(KNO)

MHA Team Led By

Home Minister directed officials to put in place a comprehensive, multi-layered security grid along the Yatra routes through close coordination between Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), the Jammu and Kashmir Police, and other security agencies.

Shah laid emphasis on integrating modern technology with traditional security mechanisms.

During the meeting officials were directed to ensure extensive deployment of drones, CCTV surveillance, and advanced monitoring systems to further strengthen situational awareness and threat response capabilities.

The Home Minister also instructed that senior officers from CAPFs and the Jammu and Kashmir Police be deployed at key camp locations to maintain continuous oversight of arrangements on the ground throughout the duration of the Yatra.

Apart from the Yatra routes, HM Shah asked officials to ensure enhanced security arrangements at other major tourist locations across Jammu and Kashmir so that visiting pilgrims can travel safely and without disruption.

The annual Amarnath Yatra, which draws thousands of devotees each year to the Himalayan shrine, is set to commence on July 3, with authorities working to ensure tight security and smooth management amid challenging terrain and weather conditions—(KNO)

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Chief Secretary reviews implementation of POSH Act

Calls for enhanced awareness among women and capacity building across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) across J&K, emphasizing the need for ensuring safe, secure and conducive work environments for women in both public and private sectors.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home Department; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner Secretary, Law Department; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary, Transport Department; Managing Director, Mission Shakti; Joint Director, Information Department, besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of implementing the provisions of the POSH Act and the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in their true letter and spirit. He directed the Social Welfare Department to devise a comprehensive implementation framework clearly delineating responsibilities at various levels to ensure that all workplaces are compliant with the provisions of the Act and remain safe and supportive spaces for women employees.

Stressing the need for widespread awareness,



Dulloo called for intensified outreach among women working in government departments, public institutions and private establishments regarding their rights, safeguards and grievance redressal mechanisms available under the Act.

He also emphasized the need for regular capacity-building programmes for all stakeholders, including District Nodal Officers, members of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) and other functionaries responsible for enforcing the Act.

The Chief Secretary advised the Law Department to facilitate training programmes through the Legal Services Authorities and strengthen awareness and legal literacy initiatives related to the Act.

He further directed Mission Shakti to ensure that districts regularly organize 'Mahila Jan Sunwai' programmes on a monthly basis under the supervision of District Magistrates, Senior Superintendents of Police and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), providing a dedicated platform for women to raise their grievances and seek timely redressal.

He also instructed the department to undertake extensive dissemination

of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material related to the POSH Act, Women Helpline-181 and the SHE-Box portal at workplaces and through departmental websites to enhance awareness and accessibility of grievance redressal mechanisms.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez, highlighted the key provisions of the POSH Act and outlined the measures being undertaken for its effective implementation across the Union Territory.

He informed that Internal Complaints Committees have been constituted in government offices down to the Tehsil and Block levels. Additionally, 978 institutions and workplaces employing women have been identified so far. He stressed the need for comprehensive identification and mapping of all workplaces across districts in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Sarmad Hafeez further informed that all government departments and private establishments have been advised to prominently display details of Women Helpline-181 and

the SHE-Box portal to facilitate easy access to support and complaint registration mechanisms for women employees.

He added that the department is planning a series of capacity-building workshops and an intensive IEC campaigns in the coming months to create greater awareness about workplace safety and women's rights under the Act.

Additionally Mission Director, Mission Vatsalya/Mission Shakti, Rubina Kousar, also presented an overview of the measures being undertaken to strengthen the implementation framework of the Act and improve institutional response mechanisms for addressing complaints of workplace sexual harassment.

She informed the meeting that 2,826 government offices and 1,048 private establishments have been mapped on the designated portal, with the number continuously increasing as more workplaces are identified and brought under the system. She further revealed that three complaints of sexual harassment had been received and addressed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Kousar also highlighted the department's ongoing capacity-building initiatives, stating that nodal officers have been designated in all districts while the process of identifying and mapping workplaces is being carried out on a continuous basis to ensure comprehensive coverage under the POSH framework.

PCC issues closure notices to 11 CA cold storage units in Lassipora

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Eleven Controlled Atmosphere (CA) cold storage units in Lassipora Industrial Growth Centre (IGC), one of Kashmir's most important apple storage hubs, have been served closure notices by the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (PCC) for alleged violations of environmental laws, including the absence of mandatory pollution-control infrastructure.

Official documents reveal that the Pollution Control Committee has initiated closure proceedings against several prominent cold storage units after inspections reportedly found serious deficiencies in environmental compliance, particularly the absence of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) and composite pits required for management of wastewater generated during operations.

The units that have come under the scanner include Fruitin Agro Private Limited, Simnani Agro Fresh, Kohinori Cold Chain Pvt. Ltd., Tufaaah Agri Fresh Pvt. Ltd., Evergreen Cold Chain Pvt. Ltd., Peaks Agro Warehousing, Kashmir Fruit Preserves-I, Kashmir Fruit Preserves-II, Fruit Master Beverages, Super Fresh Agri Products and Alpine

Agro Fresh Pvt. Ltd.

The PCC orders, issued under provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, direct closure of the units and also recommend disconnection of electricity and water supplies in cases where violations persist.

Documents show that inspections conducted by PCC officials reported that certain units neither had Effluent Treatment Plants installed nor composite pits for handling wastewater, despite repeated notices and opportunities for compliance. In some cases, authorities also cited operation without valid consent from the Pollution Control Committee.

The Pollution Control Committee did not limit its action to issuing closure directions alone. The orders also directed the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama to ensure closure of the units, while asking the Executive Engineer of the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) to disconnect electricity supply and the Executive Engineer of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department to disconnect water supply to the concerned cold storage facilities. The unit holders were

further directed to cease operations forthwith, indicating the seriousness with which the environmental violations were viewed by the regulatory authorities.

The repeated finding in the orders is no Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) installed, no composite pit provided, units continued operations despite notices and some units were allegedly operating without valid consent renewal from PCC.

In the case of Alpine Agro Fresh, PCC specifically recorded that the unit holder failed to renew consent after expiry and that inspection found neither an ETP nor a composite pit. The same findings appear in the orders against Tufaaah Agri Fresh and Super Fresh Agri Products.

Environmental experts point out that wastewater generated from washing, grading and handling fruit in CA stores requires scientific treatment before discharge. Untreated effluents, particularly cold water discharges and processing waste, can adversely affect nearby water bodies, vegetation and local ecology if not properly managed.

Estates Manager Lassipora Fayaz Ahmad stated that the Industrial Estate had not received any closure order copies from the Pollution Control Committee.

His statement has raised fresh questions, as reviewed PCC documents clearly indicate that closure proceedings were initiated against several CA stores operating in Lassipora. The apparent contradiction between the official records and the position taken by the Estate administration is likely to invite further scrutiny.

The development has triggered concerns within Kashmir's apple industry, as Lassipora houses some of the Valley's largest Controlled Atmosphere storage facilities that play a crucial role in preserving fruit and supporting the horticulture economy.

The case also brings into focus a larger environmental question: whether wastewater generated by cold storage facilities is being scientifically treated before disposal and whether the required treatment infrastructure is fully functional across the industrial estate.

With eleven units reportedly shut and environmental compliance under scrutiny, stakeholders are now awaiting clarification from the Pollution Control Committee, Industrial Estate authorities and the management of the affected units regarding the status of compliance and future course of action. [KNNT]

Pulwama gears up for Yoga Day celebrations

DC finalizes preparations, stresses wider public participation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama gave a detailed presentation outlining the proposed programme and arrangements for the district-level event as well as activities planned at the sub-divisional and institutional levels.

The meeting was informed that the main district-level Yoga Day function will be held at the Hockey

Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama gave a detailed presentation outlining the proposed programme and arrangements for the district-level event as well as activities planned at the sub-divisional and institutional levels.

The meeting was informed that the main district-level Yoga Day function will be held at the Hockey

Turf near Boys Higher Secondary School, Pulwama, where a mass yoga session will be organised. Similar events will also be conducted at sub-divisional levels including at Awanti Swami Temple, Awantipora and Government Degree College Bajwani, Tral, besides educational institutions, AYUSH centres, Amrit Sarovar sites and other designated locations across the district.

Reviewing the preparations, the DC called for the involvement of elected representatives, political workers, general public, members of various associations, civil society organisations, youth groups, students, government officials, ex-PRI members, ex-DDC members and former ULB representatives in the celebrations.

DLTC meeting held to review Telecom infrastructure works in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: A meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) was Wednesday held under the chairmanship of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Syed Faheem Bihagi to review the progress of telecom infrastructure projects and assess the status of mobile connectivity across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed review was held regarding the implementation of BSNL 4G saturation projects, pending Right of Way (RoW) cases, and the progress achieved under BharatNet and other initiatives aimed at strengthening telecom infrastructure in the district.

The meeting discussed the current status of ongoing projects and measures required to enhance mobile and internet connectivity, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

A key issue highlighted during the meeting was the poor mobile network coverage in and around District Hospital Ganderbal. Emphasizing the importance of reliable communication facilities in healthcare institutions,

the ADC directed the concerned telecom operators and line departments to take immediate steps to improve network connectivity at the hospital and ensure uninterrupted communication services.

The ADC also reviewed the progress of BharatNet projects in the district. It was informed that work at several locations has been completed, while the remaining works are at different stages of execution.

Directing the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work, the ADC stressed the need for timely completion of all pending projects, particularly at locations where tendering formalities have already been completed. He urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure seamless and reliable telecom connectivity across the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer PW (R&B), Assistant Commissioner Development, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal, officers of various line departments and representatives of BSNL, Jio and other telecom service providers.

Custodian General reviews DILRMP progress in Anantnag

Calls for timely and accurate Digitisation of Land Records

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Custodian General J&K, Tassaduq Hussain Mir, recently designated by the Government as District Mentor, Digital India Land Records Modernization Program (DILRMP) for Anantnag, chaired a comprehensive meeting of the concerned officers Wednesday at Dak Bunglaw, Khanabal, to review the progress made by the district on the flagship initiative so far.

The meeting was attended by ACR, SDMs, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, digitisation centres' staff and other officials of the revenue department.

At the outset, the ACR delivered a detailed presentation on digitisation of land records and Massavies, uploading of backlog mutations, SVAMITVA and other aspects of DILRMP. He briefed the Custodian General that Jambandies of all 394 Revenue Villages have been digitised and 100 percent uploading of backlog mutations has been achieved. He further informed the chair that out of 394, a total of 391 Massavies (Cadastral Maps), stand digitised till date and the same have been sent for uploading on the designated portal.

Moreover, subparcelisation has been completed in respect of 127 Cadastral Maps

and under SWAMITVA, drone survey has been conducted in 372 revenue villages till date.

Addressing the meeting, the Custodian General said that quality of land records digitisation will be highly beneficial for the citizens in future. He lauded the officials for making appreciable achievements in digitisation and stressed on its time bound completion without compromising on data accuracy.

Tassaduq Hussain emphasized that digitization initiative is aimed at enhancing transparency and ensuring that citizens have easy access to vital land-related information. He said that conducting digitization in a meticulous way is essential to streamline revenue-related services, adding that appropriate course of action be adopted by the officials associated with the task.

Calling digitisation of revenue records a crucial reform to enhance transparency and public service delivery, the Custodian General impressed upon the officers to continue the efforts for achieving desired targets within the stipulated timeframe. He instructed them to follow the due process while capturing revenue data adding that correct information be compiled for any reference or record purpose.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-II, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

TENDER NOTICE

eNIT No. STD-II / 35 of 2026-27 Dated 17-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tender (In Two Cover System) is hereby invited from A-class electrical contractors/registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for "Augmentation of Receiving station Hafroo."

SNO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Augmentation of Receiving station Hafroo.	68140.00	Rs 34.07 Lacs	09-07-2026; 4:30pm

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 18-06-2026; 4:30pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	18-06-2026; 4:30pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	09-07-2026; 4:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	18-06-2026; 4:30pm
E	e-Bid submission (END) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	09-07-2026; 4:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	10-07-2026; 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand Only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 68140.00 (Rupees Sixty-Eight Thousand One Hundred and Forty Only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/ Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
- Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) class III(b) As per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer along with original CDR and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in bold letters on the envelope and the Name/ Firm should be clearly written on the cover.

The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

No: STD-II/2061-63/Ts
Dated: 17-06-2026
DIPK-NB-799-26
DT: 17/06/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

ADDENDUM.

Subject: 1) Construction of GT at HSS Checki Wandung.
2) Construction of GT at PS Astan Check.
3) Construction of GT at MS Shistergam.

Reference: NIT No.50 OF R&B/QAZIGUND/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/5157-71 DATED:07-02-2026 and Instructions issued by Deputy Director Samagra Shiksha J&K Jammu vide No. Edu/SmS/PD/2025-26/Misc-01 Dated: 20-01-2026

Kindly read updations/Amendments made in above referred NIT as under:

Please Read	Instead of
For Item No.01_02 AAA.No. Society Order- 82 -Chirag of 2022, Dated:- 19-09-2022 Issued under endorsement No.Edu/SPD/Plg/AAA-36/2022-23 Dated: 19-09-2022 and Item No.03	For Item No.01, 02 & 03 AAA No. Edu/SmS/PD/2025-26/Misc-01 Dated: 20-01-2026
AAA.No. Society Order- 79 - Chirag of 2023, Dated:- 10-05-2023 Issued under endorsement No.Edu/SPD/Plg/AAA-36/2022-23 Dated: 10-05-2023	

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.
No.R&B/Qzd/25-26/5209-11
Dated: 10-02-2026

DIPK-2275-26
DT: 17/06/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Division Qazigund

YSS Felicitates 15-Year-Old Cricket Sensation Aleeza Shahnawaz



AZHAR HAJINI

ANANTNAG: At just 15 years of age, Bonigam Qazigund's Aleeza Shahnawaz is proving that hard work speaks much louder than social media fame. Instead of chasing online likes, the young cricketer has focused entirely on her game and it is paying off massively.

After making her national debut in 2025 through the J&K Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS), Aleeza rapidly climbed the ranks. She quickly earned spots on the Under-19 and Under-23 teams, and has now achieved a massive milestone: joining the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) Senior Women's Team.

Behind Aleeza's rapid rise is the deep support of her parents, Shah Nawaz and Aasfy. Their sacrifices and belief in her talent, combined with Aleeza's relentless work ethic, turned her childhood dream into reality.

To honor this incredible achievement, the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports officially felicitated the young cricketer. District Youth Services and Sports Officer Anantnag Zahoor Ahmad Wani personally visited Aleeza's home along with some field officials to congratulate her on behalf of Director General of YSS Anuradha Gupta, presenting the family with a token of appreciation to celebrate her success and encour-

age her bright future in cricket.

During the visit, Aleeza's parents shared their deep gratitude toward the YSS. They noted that her 2025 national debut which she played with the support of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K was the ultimate turning point for her career, giving her the confidence to dream bigger and push harder.

Aleeza's journey is a powerful reminder that true champions are built through grit and consistent performance. As she proudly represents JK on the senior stage, she stands as a shining example that talent, hard work, and resilience will always find their way to the top.

Bengal T20 League: Siliguri Strikers seal last semifinal spot as Season 3 enters decisive phase

IAN S

KOLKATA: Servotech Siliguri Strikers, Novus Royals Purulia, Sobisco Smashers Malda, and Shrachi Rarh Tigers have made it to the semifinals of Season 3 of the Bengal T20 League men's competition after consistent performances in the league stage.

In the day's second match, Siliguri Strikers beat Rashmi NES Medinipur Wizards by 7 wickets at the Eden Gardens to seal their place in the last four.

Earlier in the day, Purulia booked their spot in the semifinals after beating Malda by 8 runs in their final league game of the season.



Batting first, Purulia scored 139/8 in 20 overs, with Yuvraj Deepak Keshwani top-scoring with 40 off 28 balls. For Malda, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal, Ramesh Prasad, and Prayas Ray Barman bagged two wickets each.

In reply, Malda fell short, scoring 131/8 in 20 overs. Prayas Ray Barman top-scored with 32 off 28 balls for Malda. Mithilesh Das (3-18) and Pradipta Pramanik (3-20) were the pick of the Purulia bowlers.

In the second match, batting first, Medinipur posted 163/4 in 20 overs, thanks to Priyanshu Gaurav Srivastava (70 not out off 52) and Abhishek Das (42). For Siliguri Strikers, Akhilesh Yadav bagged three wickets.

In reply, Siliguri Strikers went over the line comfortably,

scoring 167/4 in 18.2 overs. Sudip Chatterjee (34 off 19), Karan Lal (48 off 43), Vishal Bhati (28 off 20), Snehasish Saha (22 not out), and Pramod Chandila (20 not out) impressed with the bat for Siliguri Strikers.

The Bengal T20 League is a franchise-based T20 cricket competition organised under the aegis of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB). Now in its third season, the league features eight city-based franchises representing the breadth of West Bengal - Adamas Howrah Warriors, Novus Royals Purulia, Kolkata Royal Tigers, Murshidabad

Kings & Queens, Rashmi Nes Medinipur Wizards, Servotech Siliguri Strikers, Shrachi Rarh Tigers, and Sobisco Smashers Malda - competing across men's and women's competitions. Men's matches are held at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, with women's matches at the JU Salt Lake Campus, Kolkata.

Brief scores:
Novus Royals Purulia 139/8 (20 overs) beat Sobisco Smashers Malda 131/8 (20 overs) by 8 runs
Rashmi NES Medinipur Wizards 163/4 (20 overs) lost to Servotech Siliguri Strikers 167/3 (18.2 overs) by 7 wickets

2026 FIFA WC: Portugal fail to build on early goal as Congo earn first points in 1-1 draw

IAN S

HOUSTON: While his arch-rival Lionel Messi started Argentina's defence with a fine performance, Cristiano Ronaldo failed to score as Portugal were held to a disappointing 1-1 draw by a fighting Congo DR in a Group K match in the FIFA World Cup 2026 at the Houston Stadium in Houston on Wednesday.

Portugal took an early lead with Joao Neves scoring as early as the sixth minute. But Congo DR fought back to level the score in added time in the first half.

Though Portugal dominated possession, they could not

convert that into three points as they failed to create potent attacks - they had only one shot on target in the entire match - to build on their early goal. It was celebration time for Congo. After 52 years away from the World Cup finals, the Leopards of Congo DR earned their first-ever point, secured by the impressive Yoane Wissa's super header on the stroke of half-time. They defended in numbers and did not allow Ronaldo and Portugal many opportunities to take advantage of.

With Colombia and Uzbekistan, the other teams in the Group, Portugal are expected to progress with

ease from Group K, but Wednesday's draw adds to the pressure on Ronaldo's side.

Ronaldo set a record as he became the oldest outfield player ever to start a World Cup match. It was Ronaldo's 23rd World Cup appearance, putting him fourth on the all-time list alongside Italian great Paolo Maldini. As well as being the oldest outfield player to start a World Cup match, at 41 years 132 days, Ronaldo became the second-oldest outfield player to make an appearance at the tournament - behind Roger Milla, who was 42 years 39 days when he played for Cameroon against Russia on 28 June 1994.

Div Com reviews Preparations for International Yoga Day Celebrations

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess and finalize arrangements for the observance of International Yoga Day across the Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Director AYUSH, Director SKICC, and senior officers from various departments, including Health, School Education, Sports Council, Fire & Emergency Services, Traffic Police and other stakeholder agencies.

The flagship event is scheduled to be held at the SKICC on June 21 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM.



Reviewing the preparations, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Director AYUSH to ensure the timely distribution of yoga mats and T-shirts among participants.

He further instructed the Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and Deputy Director Planning (DDP) to formulate a comprehensive transpor-

tation plan to facilitate the smooth movement and punctual arrival of participants at the venue.

Deputy Commissioners apprised the chair of district-level arrangements, including the organization of yoga sessions at prominent tourist destinations and iconic locations, as well as provisions for live streaming of the event

across all districts.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed logistical arrangements at the main venue, including the installation of a public address system for the National Anthem, installation of LED display screens, instructor platforms, drinking water facilities, sanitation arrangements, besides dis-

tribution of refreshments to participants after the culmination of the event.

To ensure effective documentation and reporting of Yoga Day activities, he issued directions for heads of educational institutions to register on the AYUSH Department portal and upload photographs of events conducted under the International Yoga Day programme.

Also, Garg instructed all concerned officers to ensure the live streaming of the Prime Minister's Yoga Day session.

Further, he stressed the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination and directed all departments to ensure that necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance for the successful conduct of the event.

World Cup Hat Tricks: Messi's Was The Latest, An American Scored The First And Other Key Facts

AP

ATLANTA: At age 38 and playing in his sixth World Cup, Lionel Messi has his first hat trick in soccer's biggest tournament and Argentina's defense of the trophy is off to a flying start.



Messi's three goals in the 3-0 win over Algeria on Tuesday saw him become the joint highest scorer in men's World Cup history alongside Germany's Miroslav Klose with 16 in total. It was also the first hat trick of this year's tournament and the 55th in World Cup history.

Hat tricks used to have a very different meaning. The term "hat trick" is well-known to sports fans in the United States and, just like soccer, it is used in hockey to describe when a player scores three goals in one game. But it was originally used in cricket and is widely regarded to date back to 1858 when English bowler H.H. Stephenson took three wickets off consecutive balls. It is said that a collection was made and Stephenson was presented with a hat to mark the feat.

The term has since spread to other sports to

not only describe three goals, but anything from three consecutive wins, championships or even defeats.

According to the NHL, "hat trick" was used by newspapers as early as the 1930s and the Hockey Hall of Fame traces it back to a promotion by Toronto businessman Sammy Taft offering a free hat to a player who scored three goals in an NHL game in the city.

Messi joins a list of greats to score World Cup hat tricks. Perhaps the biggest surprise is that it took Messi so long to record the latest feat in his trophy-laden career.

The game against Algeria was his record-extending 27th in the World Cup, two more than Germany's Lothar Matthäus. His first appearance was in 2006.

Messi became the oldest player to score a World Cup hat trick and joined a list of greats that include Pelé, Eusebio, Gerd Müller, Cristiano Ronaldo and Kylian Mbappé.

The next target will be to join an even more elite list of players to have scored multiple World Cup hat tricks.

Only four players have achieved that feat: Sándor Kocsis, Just Fontaine, Müller and Gabriel Batistuta.

The first World Cup hat trick was scored by an American. It was at the first edition of the World Cup in 1930 that American Bert Patenaude scored the competition's first hat trick in a 3-0 win over Paraguay. But it took several decades for it to be officially recognized by FIFA because there was a dispute over the scorer of one of the goals.

According to the U.S. soccer federation, historian Colin Jose helped to convince FIFA to amend its records.

For a long time, England's Geoff Hurst was the only player to score a hat trick in a World Cup final as the Three Lions were crowned champion in 1966.

Mbappé emulated that feat in 2022, but he ended up on the losing team in Qatar against Messi's triumphant Argentina.

World Cup hat tricks are becoming less common. The most hat tricks in a single World Cup was eight in the 1954 edition. The only edition in which none were scored was in 2006.

The last time there were more than two hat tricks at a World Cup was back in 1986 when there were four.

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