

# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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**Tributes to Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji on his Martyrdom Day. Guru Ji's supreme sacrifice & message of peace, compassion, equality & selfless service continue to guide humanity. Let's rededicate ourselves to building a peaceful, inclusive & harmonious society, as epitomised by Guru Ji.**

## CM Omar Inaugurates Lavender Festival At Nunar

Calls Lavender Cultivation An Addition Of New Chapter In Journey Of Prosperity Of J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday inaugurated the Lavender Festival organised by the Agriculture department Kashmir at the Model Floriculture Centre (MFC), Nunar, Ganderbal, and laid the foundation stone and inaugurated several agriculture infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening the medicinal and aromatic plants sector and improving farmers' livelihoods in the district.

The festival was attended by Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development, Javid Ahmad Dar; Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Sudhanshu Dhama; senior officers of the Agriculture Production Department, scientists from SKUAST-Kashmir and other

officials. Addressing farmers, growers and members of the local community on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that lavender cultivation in recent times has added a new dimension to the Agriculture landscape of J&K. He highlighted the economic sustainability of lavender crop and impressed upon the farmers to adopt this crop on commercial lines. He stressed adopting this climate-resilient and high-value crop can safeguard farmers' incomes in the face of changing weather patterns.

He noted that lavender cultivation offers multiple benefits, including value addition through essential oil extraction, tourism potential and employment generation. He said in coming times lavender cultivation would be extended to newer areas of J&K, adding that the lavender festival would be a regular event in coming times.

Drawing parallels with internationally renowned lavender destinations, ●P-06

## Admin Steps Up Amarnath Yatra Preparations, Security Drills Intensified

Mock Drills Held By Police, CRPF Along NH-44, Railway Stations

SAJID RAINA

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration has intensified preparations for annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) beginning July 3, 2026, with civil administration, security agencies and shrine board officials undertaking a series of measures to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimage and effective management of the expected influx of devotees.

Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir Anshul Garg on Thursday said all departments were working in coordination to provide necessary facilities and services to pilgrims along both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes.

"There is a well-established system in place for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Like every year, the pilgrimage will commence on July 3, and all departments are working to provide services in a timely manner," Garg told reporters on the sidelines of an event in Srinagar.



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The Div Com, said preparations at the Baltal and Nunwan base camps were being regularly reviewed and that district administrations were coordinating with service providers to ensure seamless arrangements for pilgrims.

He said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), has been continuously reviewing preparations related to pilgrim facilitation and security.

"Meetings are being held with service providers by the district administrations as well as at the divisional level. Our effort is to ensure that a maximum number of pilgrims undertake the yatra this year and receive the best possible services," he said.

Garg said all stakeholder departments, service providers and local residents were prepared to contribute towards the successful conduct of the pilgrimage.

As part of preparations, the Jammu administration has

developed the Tawi Riverfront as a major on-the-spot registration and token centre for pilgrims.

Officials said the facility would help streamline registration procedures, improve crowd management and facilitate orderly movement of devotees. Similar registration and facilitation centres have also been established across Jammu city.

Preparations are also underway at the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board's Yatri Niwas in Chanderkote in ●P-06

**■ THERE IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED SYSTEM IN PLACE FOR THE SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRA.** Like every year, the pilgrimage will commence on July 3, and all departments are working to provide services in a timely manner," Garg told reporters on the sidelines of an event in Srinagar.

## Rain, Hailstorm Lash J&K Parts



SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Amid a Meteorological Department warning of flash floods and mudslides in vulnerable areas, rain, thunderstorms, gusty winds and hailstorms lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday evening.

An official of the MeT Centre Srinagar said, many places across Kashmir and parts of Jammu division, including Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Poonch districts witnessed a spell of rain and thundershowers. "Weather activity was also reported along the Sonamarg-Baltal-Holy Cave axis ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra," he added.

The weather office said hailstorms were reported in some areas and warned that similar conditions could occur in parts of North and Central Kashmir, including Tangdhar, Kupwara, Handwara, Budgam, Uri, Ganderbal, Shopian and Kokernag.

It also cautioned that intense rainfall at isolated places could trigger flash floods, waterlogging ●P-06

## Preparedness, Training Critical Elements For Disaster Response: DGP

REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** Asserting that there is no substitute for readiness when dealing with challenging situations, Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, Nalin Prabhat, on Thursday said preparedness and training remain the most critical elements of disaster response.

Addressing personnel from various rescue and security agencies during a joint training programme, the DGP, said, "Mountain rescue teams play a crucial role in saving lives during emergencies, particularly as weather-related risks continue to increase every year."

"In mountainous areas, the risk of cloudbursts and landslides is rising annually. Mountain Rescue Teams have a very important role to play. Training is a fundamental requirement for any force and any challenging task. There is no substitute for it," DGP Prabhat said.



Recalling the rescue operation in Gulmarg, the DGP lauded SDRF and MRT personnel for their dedication, professionalism and efficiency, describing their performance as being of "global standards." He also informed the personnel that the accommodation benefits promised to those who participated in the Gulmarg rescue operation have been approved in principle and the process is awaiting final inputs from district police authorities.

The DGP stressed ●P-06

## CAT Stays SKUAST-K Cameraman Recruitment Amid Explosive Allegations Of Nepotism, Manipulation

TABIYA ASLAM

**SRINAGAR:** In a major embarrassment for Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K), the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Srinagar, has stayed the recruitment process for the post of Cameraman following serious allegations of favoritism, manipulation of eligibility criteria, and abuse of official position. City & Local Guides

The recruitment process, initiated to fill two Cameraman posts, has come under judicial scrutiny after Zahid Ahmad Sheikh of Tangmarg approached the Tribunal challenging the provisional selection list issued by the university.

In his petition, Sheikh described the entire selection process as "shabby, arbitrary and tailor-made" to accommodate a favoured candidate. He alleged



that despite being declared ineligible during the recruitment process, a candidate was mysteriously brought back into contention and ultimately selected.

The petitioner has further alleged that the dramatic turnaround was not accidental but the result of undue influence exercised by senior officials.

The crux of the petitioner's grievance lies in the qualification relied upon by the selected candi-

date. Rather allegedly possesses a Diploma in Cinematography from Bharat Sevak Samaj (BSS), an organisation whose recognition status has been questioned by courts and whose activities have come under the scanner of law enforcement agencies.

According to the petition, the University had constituted an Equivalence/Relevance Committee to assess the eligibility of candidates whose qualifications did not exactly match the prescribed nomenclature. The Committee explicitly resolved that candidates must possess diploma certificates issued by recognised universities or institutions. Despite this, Rather was considered eligible on the basis of a 'non-recognised diploma'.

According to the petition, the selected candidate allegedly lacked the mandatory qualification prescribed in the advertisement notice. The ●P-06

## Chief Secy Assesses The Circular Economy Framework For J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday reviewed the proposed Circular Economy framework for J&K put forth by the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), aimed at establishing a resource-efficient, low-waste and environmentally sustainable development model across the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD was attended by Commissioner, JMC; CiTaG Professionals and other concerned officers.

The proposed policy envisions transforming Jammu & Kashmir into a regenerative Himalayan economy where waste materials are going to be converted into productive resource flows safeguarding the region's ecological integrity, enhancing urban governance and generating sustainable livelihoods.

During the presentation, the Chief Secretary was informed that the policy has been conceived in response to emerging regulatory requirements under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, judicial directives concerning waste management and environmental protection, increasing waste generation linked to tourism and pilgrimage activities, and the need to protect the UT's ecologically sensitive lakes, wetlands, forests and mountain landscapes.



The framework recognises unique circular ●P-06

## Growing Concern Over Sectarian Hate Speech On Social Media

JAVED SHAH

**SRINAGAR:** Concern is mounting across Jammu and Kashmir over the increasing circulation of inflammatory speeches and hate-filled content by self-styled religious preachers belonging to different schools of thought on social media platforms.

Members of civil society, intellectuals and concerned citizens have expressed alarm at what they describe as a dangerous trend of public vilification, character assassination and sectarian rhetoric that is steadily poisoning the social atmosphere and deepening divisions within society.

People said that instead of promoting religious values, tolerance and mutual respect, several individuals claiming to represent religious interests have turned social media into a battleground for personal attacks, abuse



and incitement against those holding differing beliefs. Such content, they warned, is creating an environment of hostility and mistrust among communities that have coexisted peacefully for generations.

Citizens described the situation as deeply disturbing, saying that the relentless campaign of hatred and slander has the potential to trigger serious social unrest if left unchecked.

"The language being used is not only irresponsible but dangerous. Every day, videos and speeches targeting individuals and entire schools of thought are being circulated online. This continuous provocation can have grave consequences for society," said a concerned resident.

Many observers fear that the growing culture of online hate could eventually spill onto the streets, threaten-

ing communal harmony and public order. They warned that attempts to inflame passions and exploit religious sentiments for popularity, influence or personal agendas are eroding the foundations of a tolerant and pluralistic society.

Social media platforms, which were once seen as tools for communication and awareness, are increasingly being used to spread divisive narratives, misinformation and sectarian propaganda. Citizens said that unchecked abuse of these platforms is degrading the social fabric and normalizing intolerance among younger generations.

They urged religious scholars, community leaders and social influencers to exercise restraint and uphold the values of respect, dialogue and coexistence. At the same time, they called upon authorities to closely ●P-06

## Amarnath Yatra Northern Army Commander Reviews Security Preparedness

UMAISAR GULL

**PAHALGAM:** Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma visited Pahalgam and Chandanwari on Thursday to review the security situation and assess operational preparedness along the southern route ahead of the commencement of the Amarnath Yatra 2026.

The Army Commander, reviewed security arrangements and preparedness measures put in place for the annual pilgrimage.

In a post on X, Northern Command said, "Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, visited Pahalgam and Chandanwari to review the security situation and assess operational preparedness along the Southern Route ahead of the commencement of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026."

"Indian Army is committed to ensuring a safe pilgrimage for all devotees through seamless coordination ●P-06

## Pak National Repatriated Through Teetwal Friendship Bridge In North Kashmir



AGENCIES

**KUPWARA:** A Pakistani national apprehended earlier this month was repatriated to Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) through the Teetwal Friendship Bridge in Karnah sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Thursday after completion of all legal and procedural formalities.

Officials said Assad Khan, son of Janzab Khan and a resident of Muzaffarabad, had been apprehended on June 12, 2026. Following investigation and verifica-

tion procedures, authorities initiated the process for his repatriation through the designated crossing point.

The handover was carried out at the Teetwal Friendship Bridge in the presence of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Karnah, Tehsildar Karnah, officers of the Army, including representatives of 06 Mahar Regiment, and SHO Karnah, along with other concerned officials.

Officials said the repatriation process was conducted in a smooth and orderly manner in coordination with the relevant ●P-06

# DC Srinagar, SSP finalize preparations for NEET-2026 examination

Emphasize seamless coordination, comprehensive logistical, security arrangements

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** In order to finalize preparations and arrangements for the forthcoming re-examination of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-2026, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here Thursday.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar Dr. G.V. Sundep Chakravarty was present on the occasion.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz U.I. Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, Nodal Principal Colleges, Prof. Seema Naaz, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Qureshi, IAS Probationer Alfred Thomas, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Secretary SMC, Tahir Magray, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM, East, Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Chief Education Officer, Gh Mohi-ud Din, all Tehsildars, representatives of the National Testing Agency (NTA), senior Officers of the District Administration, Traffic Police, Centre Supervisors, During the meeting, a detailed review of all



arrangements being put in place for the NEET-2026 re-examination scheduled to be held on June 21, 2026 was undertaken regarding deputation of Examination Staff including Centre Superintendents, Invigilators and supporting personnel and secure transportation, handling of examination material and conduct of mock exercise. Discussions also focused on ensuring the availability of adequate infrastructure and facilities at all designated examination centres, including uninterrupted power and water supply, proper seating arrangements, sanitation, transportation, medical assistance and deployment of requisite staff.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of meticulous planning

and effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the examination. He directed all concerned departments to remain fully prepared and responsive to address any issue and ensure that candidates are provided with a conducive and hassle-free environment on the day of the examination.

The DC underscored the need for strict compliance with the guidelines and standard operating procedures issued by the National Testing Agency and other competent authorities. He directed all stakeholders to work in close coordination and ensure that every aspect of the examination is managed efficiently and professionally while upholding the

integrity and credibility of the examination process.

The DC further stressed the establishment of a Joint Control Room for real-time monitoring of the examination process through live CCTV feeds from all examination centres. He directed the concerned agencies to strengthen CCTV surveillance mechanisms and as per the prescribed guidelines, to ensure the secure, fair, transparent and smooth conduct of the examination. He emphasized that all necessary technological and security measures must be put in place.

SSP Srinagar reviewed the security arrangements and directed the concerned Officers to implement a comprehensive security plan at all examination centres. He emphasized strict vigilance and adherence to examination protocols to prevent any malpractice and ensure the integrity of the examination process.

The meeting also reviewed traffic management plans, transportation facilities for examination personnel, emergency response mechanisms and arrangements for maintaining law and order around examination centres. Instructions were issued to ensure smooth movement of candidates and staff and to avoid any inconvenience during the conduct of the examination.

# PCC Orders Closure of Hotel Holiday Inn in Pahalgam

Directs Disconnection of Power and Water Supply

**AGENCIES**

**ANANTNAG:** In a significant enforcement action in the tourist resort of Pahalgam, the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (PCC) has ordered the closure of Hotel Holiday Inn at Movera, Pahalgam, for allegedly operating without mandatory environmental clearances and failing to install prescribed pollution control measures.

The closure order, issued under provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, states that the hotel was functioning without a valid consent from the Pollution Control Committee, a statutory requirement for such establishments.

According to the order, repeated notices were served upon the hotel management, including a show-cause notice issued on September 16, 2025, seeking an explanation as to why legal action should not be initiated for violations of environmental laws. The hotelier, however, failed to respond within the stipulated period.

A fresh inspection conducted by the Divisional Officer of the Pollution Control Committee found that the hotel continued to operate without valid consent and had not installed mandatory pollution control mechanisms, including an Oil and Grease Trap required for treatment of wastewater generated from kitchen operations. Inspecting officials reported no change in the status of the establishment despite earlier notices and recommendations.

Acting on the findings, the PCC directed proprietor to cease operations forthwith. In one of the strongest provisions of the order, the Executive Engineer of KPDCL's Electric Division Anantnag has been directed to disconnect electricity supply to the hotel, while the Executive Engineer of the Jal



Shakti Department has been instructed to disconnect water supply. The Deputy Commissioner Anantnag has been tasked with ensuring implementation and compliance of the closure directions, while PCC officials have been asked to coordinate with the concerned departments for execution of the order.

The order also reiterates environmental norms requiring hotels with more than 19 rooms to install Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), while smaller establishments must maintain septic tanks and soakage pits for proper sewage disposal.

The action assumes significance as authorities intensify scrutiny of environmental compliance in Pahalgam, one of Kashmir's most prominent tourist destinations, amid growing concerns over the ecological impact of unregulated commercial activity. [KNT]

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# Two-Day Theatre Workshop on "Theatre and Youth of Kashmir" Concludes at IUST

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**AWANTIPORA:** A two-day theatre workshop titled "Theatre and Youth of Kashmir", organized by the Young Dramatists Society (YDS), Srinagar, concluded successfully at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora.

The workshop was aimed at introducing students and young theatre enthusiasts to the fundamentals of theatre, including acting techniques, stagecraft, voice modulation, character development, and the role of theatre in promoting social awareness and preserving cultural heritage.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various departments of the university. During the workshop, theatre experts and resource persons associated with YDS conducted interactive lectures and practical training sessions, emphasizing theatre as a powerful medium of creative expression, personal development, and community engagement.

Participants were also engaged in discussions on the evolving landscape of contemporary Kashmiri theatre and the opportunities available for youth to contribute to the growth of performing arts in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the organizers underscored the importance of encouraging young people to participate in cultural and theatrical activities to safeguard Kashmir's rich artistic traditions while fostering creativity, critical thinking, confidence, and social responsibility among the younger generation.

The workshop concluded with practical demonstrations and performances by participants, who showcased the skills acquired during the two-day training programme. Certificates of participation were distributed among the participants at the valedictory session.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to the authorities of Islamic University of Science and Technology for their support and cooperation in facilitating the successful conduct of the workshop. They also reiterated their commitment to organizing similar programmes in the future to strengthen theatre culture and youth engagement across Kashmir.



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# Pak Currency, Mobile Numbers Recovered During Search Op in Poonch

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**POONCH:** Security forces recovered Pakistani currency notes and a slip containing several Pakistani mobile phone numbers during a search operation in the Mendhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday.

Officials said the recovery was made by a Road Opening Party (ROP) of 118 Territorial Army during an area domination and search operation conducted near Bhattaduriyan along National Highway-144A.

During the operation, personnel recovered Pakistani currency notes along with a handwritten slip bearing multiple mobile phone numbers believed to be from Pakistan.

The recovered material was subsequently taken into possession by the security forces for further examination and analysis.

Officials said the discovery has prompted a thorough investigation to determine the provenance of the recovered material and examine whether it has any connection with cross-border activities or other security-related concerns. [KNT]

# DC Kupwara reviews preparedness for IPPI-2026

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**KUPWARA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Task Force (DTF) to review and finalize preparations for the upcoming Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI)-2026 programme, scheduled to be conducted on June 28, 2026.

The meeting reviewed the district's preparedness, implementation strategy, logistics management and inter-departmental coordination to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the immunization drive.

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Dy CMO), Kupwara, gave a detailed presentation highlighting the district action plan, deployment strategy, vaccine logistics and targets fixed under the programme. He informed that 130,085 children in the 0-5 years age group have been identified as the target population across the district.

To ensure comprehensive coverage, 766 vaccination booths have been established, while 158 supervisors have been deployed for effective monitoring and supervision. A total workforce of 3,088 personnel, comprising health workers, ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, supervisory staff and other support personnel, has been mobilized for the successful implementation of the campaign.

Reviewing the preparedness, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Health

Department to strengthen field-level monitoring, ensure the effective functioning of all vaccination booths and maintain an uninterrupted cold chain to preserve vaccine potency and ensure availability of other logistics. He stressed that no eligible child should be left uncovered during the campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the need to pay special attention to transit and migratory populations, particularly nomadic families residing in higher reaches and remote areas of the district, to ensure universal immunization coverage.

Highlighting the importance of public participation, he called for intensified Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities through ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, educational institutions and other stakeholders to create greater public awareness and encourage maximum community participation in the immunization drive.

The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer Kupwara, Dr. Zaffar; Deputy CMO, Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Medical Superintendent, Government Medical College Handwara, Medical Superintendent, SDH Kupwara, Zonal Education Officer Kupwara, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Kupwara, Block Medical Officers, Child Development Project Officers and other concerned officers.

# Bandipora finalizes arrangements for International Yoga Day 2026



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Thursday chaired a meeting to review and finalize arrangements for the observance of International Yoga Day 2026 across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparedness of various departments and stressed the need for close coordination to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event. Arrangements related to venue management, participation of students and youth, sanitation, drinking water, medical facilities, transportation, and security were discussed in detail.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to complete the assigned tasks well in advance and ensure foolproof arrangements for the celebrations. She emphasized that International Yoga Day serves as an important platform to promote a healthy lifestyle and raise awareness about the physical, mental, and emotional benefits of yoga among people of all age groups.

The District Nodal Officer, AYUSH, and the Youth Services & Sports Department

were directed to work in close coordination with all line departments for the seamless conduct of yoga sessions and related activities across the district. The Deputy Commissioner also called for maximum public participation to make the event a grand success.

It was informed during the meeting that the main district-level celebration of International Yoga Day will be held at S.K. Stadium Bandipora on June 21. Similar programmes and yoga sessions will be organized simultaneously at the sub-divisional headquarters of Sumbal and Gurez, besides other designated locations across the district, to ensure wider participation and outreach.

International Yoga Day is observed annually on June 21 across the globe to promote health, wellness, and harmony through the practice of yoga.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, District Information Officer, District Nodal Officer AYUSH, Block Development Officers, and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

# DC Shopian reviews RDD developmental activities

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Thursday chaired a review meeting to discuss various issues related to the functioning of the Rural Development Department and assess the progress of developmental activities being implemented across the district under various flagship government schemes.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commission-

er reviewed the status of ongoing developmental works, implementation of government schemes, progress achieved under various flagship programmes and the overall functioning of field-level offices.

Special focus was laid on addressing operational and administrative issues affecting the smooth execution of departmental works. Various issues and concerns raised by the BDOs and Panchayat Secretaries were discussed in detail.

The DC directed the concerned to resolve the issues and ensure seamless implementation of developmental works.

Emphasizing the need for regular monitoring of works, the DC instructed all field staff and supervisory authorities

to discharge their duties with dedication and responsibility and ensure strict adherence to departmental guidelines viz a viz quality and durability of works.

He also directed that all completed and ongoing works be promptly uploaded on the designated online portals to facilitate effective monitoring and real time tracking of progress.

The DC directed the Block Development Officers (PD) generation under MGNREGA and expedite the completion of all ongoing works in a time bound manner before the transition of the programme to VB-G RAM G.

**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION**  
**OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, CENTRAL DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
POLICE GOLF CORSE, BOULEVARD ROAD SRINAGAR.

**Mohammad Altaf Tewda,**  
S/o: Mohammad Shafi Tewda,  
R/o: Thune Kangan  
No: WLWC/Estt/2026-27/346-56

**Subject:** Eviction Notice under section 34A of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act-1972.  
**Reference:** Ganderbal Range Officer's letter No. ROG/WL/Sindh/2026-27/116-30 dated: 23.05.2026.

**Block Forest Officer, Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary report bearing No. TWB/BO/WO/2025-26/77 dated 06/06/2026.**

- Whereas Government has notified Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary vide SRO No 156 Dated 19:03 1987 under Section 18 of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- Whereas Section 27 of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 prohibits entry of a person In Wildlife areas.
- Whereas Section 27(3) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 prohibits the alteration, destroying or defacing any boundary mark of a sanctuary with intent to cause damage to any such boundary mark or to cause any wrongful gains.
- Whereas Section 29 of Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972 says that no person shall destroy, exploit or remove any Wildlife including forest produce from a wildlife sanctuary or damage or divert, stop or enhance the flow of water into or outstand the sanctuary except under and in accordance with a permit granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- Whereas Range Officer, Ganderbal vide his office letter No. ROG/WL/Sindh/2026-27/116-30 dated: 23.05.2026 read with Block Forester Officer, Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary report No. TWB/Bo/WO/2025-26/77 DATED: 06.06.2026; wherein it has been brought under the notice of Undersigned that you have un-authorizedly installed temporary Tea stall with the notified limits of Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary at the foot hills of Thajwas Glacier as such you have caused damage to fragile ecosystem for your greedy and selfish benefits. The report is annexed with Geo-tagged photographs which substantiates that you have violated the provision of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- Whereas Section 34 A (1) (a) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 has empowered Officer not below the Rank of Assistant Conservator of Forests to evict any person from a sanctuary or national park, who has un-authorizedly occupied Government Land. The Section 34 A (1)(b) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 has also empowered the Officer not below the Rank Deputy Conservator of Forests to remove any unauthorized structures, buildings or constructions erected on any Government Land within any sanctuary or National Park.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 34-A of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 notice is issued upon you to evict from unauthorized occupied Land and to remove the encroachment within 10 days from the date of issuance of this notice and show cause within 07 days why action (including confiscation of tools and Belongings) shall not be taken against you for un-authorizedly occupying the Government Land.

**Dated: 18/06/2026**

Pervaiz Ahmad Wani  
Deputy Conservator of Forests  
Wildlife Warden  
Central Division Srinagar

DIPK-2281-26  
DT: 18/06/2026

# CM Omar visits Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, reviews arrangements for Annual Mela

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDEBAL:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday visited the revered Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla in Ganderbal district to review the arrangements being put in place for the forthcoming annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Political Advisor to the Chief Minister, Mudasir Shahmiri; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Sudhanshu Dhama and other officers.

During the visit, the Chief Minister paid a spot inspection of various facilities being established for the convenience of devotees and reviewed preparations related to accommodation, drinking water supply, sanitation, power supply, healthcare services, security, traffic management and other essential arrangements.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore



briefed the Chief Minister on the level of preparedness made for the smooth facilitation to the devotees vis-a-vis sanitation, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare services, de-silting of Nallah, additional mobile toilets and other arrangements along with backup besides accommodation, and langar facilities.

Interacting with officers

on the spot, the Chief Minister emphasized the significance of the annual mela and directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure that devotees are provided a safe, comfortable and spiritually fulfilling experience during their visit to the temple.

He stressed the need for maintaining high stan-

dards of cleanliness and hygiene in and around the temple premises and instructed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted availability of basic services throughout the mela period.

The Chief Minister also reviewed arrangements for medical aid, emergency response services and transportation facilities. He directed the concerned agencies to remain fully prepared to promptly address any requirement of pilgrims and ensure smooth movement of devotees.

During the visit, members of the local community and representatives of various organizations interacted with the Chief Minister and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements being made for the annual pilgrimage.

Reaffirming the government's commitment towards preserving the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister said that the annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela symbolizes the region's age-old traditions of harmony, mutual respect and communal brotherhood.

# Hope Flows: Sopore's 15 lakh gallon daily water deficit to end by 2027

Rs 100 Cr investment to rewrite town's water story; ongoing mega project to meet urban population needs till 2040

WARIS FAYAZ

**SOPORE:** Relief appears to be on the horizon for thousands of residents in North Kashmir's Sopore area as a major drinking water project under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme is set to bridge the town's long-standing water shortage of nearly 15 lakh gallons per day till 2040.

Officials said that the project, being executed at Krankshivan Colony, will generate more than 32 lakh gallons of potable water daily, significantly enhancing the town's supply capacity and providing a long term solution to recurring shortages that have plagued several localities, particularly tail end areas. Once completed, the project is expected to transform the water supply scenario across all 21 municipal wards of Sopore.

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department Sopore, Mushtaq Ahmed Wani, said the project is progressing at a steady pace and is scheduled for completion by September 2027.

"Sopore is presently facing a deficit of around 15 lakh gallons per day. The AMRUT 2.0 project, estimated at over Rs 73 crore, will



generate more than 32 lakh gallons daily and cater to the needs of the town till 2040," Wani told KNO.

According to the official, the department continues to face challenges in ensuring equitable water distribution, particularly during the summer season when demand rises sharply.

He said misuse of treated drinking water for non-domestic purposes often affects supply in tail end areas, forcing the department to deploy tanker services to sustain water

availability in affected localities. "We have pressed six water tankers into service to cater to areas facing shortages. Simultaneously, inspection teams have been constituted to conduct regular checks and take action under the Water Regulation Act against misuse of drinking water," Wani said.

Meanwhile, MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, who recently inspected the project site, described the scheme as a landmark initiative that would permanently address drinking

water shortages in the town. Kar said the department would lay more than 121 kilometres of pipeline network under the project, ensuring improved distribution and access to drinking water across Sopore's urban areas.

The legislator termed it one of the largest drinking water projects being executed in the Kashmir Valley and said the overall investment, including land acquisition and allied works, is expected to cross Rs 100 crore.

For years, residents of Sopore have faced recurring water shortages, especially during peak summer months. Several localities, particularly those situated at tail ends of the supply network, often report irregular water supply and low pressure.

Officials believe the AMRUT 2.0 project will not only bridge the existing deficit but also create adequate infrastructure to meet the town's drinking water requirements for decades, reducing dependence on decades old water supply chain and tanker services besides ensuring a more reliable supply system for the growing urban population—(KNO)

# Public engagement essential pillar of effective Governance: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Thursday held series of interactions with public delegations and citizens at Civil Secretariat, Jammu, listening to their concerns and assuring them of timely and effective redressal.

During the public outreach, delegations representing different areas and sectors apprised the Minister of issues related to healthcare infrastructure, educational facilities, social welfare initiatives, public utilities and other developmental needs. Several individuals also met the Minister to present grievances and seek intervention on matters concerning their localities.

Giving a patient hearing to all representations, the Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to

responsive, transparent and people-centric governance. She emphasized that public engagement remains an essential pillar of effective administration and helps ensure that developmental policies are aligned with the needs and aspirations of the people.

Highlighting the Government's focused approach towards improving grassroots governance, the Minister said that regular interactions with citizens provide valuable insights into local challenges and enable the administration to formulate practical and inclusive solutions. She added that strengthening last-mile service delivery and enhancing accountability at every level remain key priorities of the Government.

She assured all public delegations and individuals that their genuine issues and concerns will be addressed on priority.

# Dy CM chairs meeting on revival of customary mining activities in Kashmir

Stresses prompt decisions on sand, stone quarrying, loose material lifting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Thursday emphasized the need for prompt decisions regarding the sand and stone quarrying and lifting of loose material across Kashmir to ensure the uninterrupted availability of construction material for the public.

The Deputy Chief Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting held to review the revival of customary mining activities and stone quarrying at identified locations across Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Members of the Legislative Assembly, including Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, Ahsan Ahmad Pardesi, Hilal Akbar Lone, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, Javed Hassan Baig, and Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo besides Additional Chief Secretary, Mining Department, Director Geology & Mining, Director Finance Mining, Joint Directors and District Mineral Officers.

While reiterating the government's commitment to completely curb the illegal mining activities, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that people should not face any shortage of construction material due to restrictions on unlawful operations.

He called for timely formulation of a comprehensive Mining Policy for Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the optimal utilization of mineral resources while safeguarding the environmental interests. He stressed transpar-



ency in mining operations and directed the concerned authorities to ensure that no illegal mining practices are allowed in any district.

The Deputy Chief Minister also emphasized the need for effective royalty collection from all the companies engaged in mining activities across Kashmir and called for the speedy disposal of pending penalties and court cases related to mining operations.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the revival of customary stone quarrying activities at identified locations including at Pantha-

chowk in Srinagar, Sadrekoot Bala in Bandipora, and other related locations.

The Deputy Chief Minister underscored the importance of balancing developmental needs with environmental sustainability and directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of finalizing modalities for regulated mining operations.

The meeting explored mechanisms for the structured revival of quarrying activities and outlined a comprehensive way forward in the interest of public convenience.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure that all decisions are taken in a transparent, environmentally responsible and people-centric manner, facilitating the availability of construction material while preserving ecological balance.

# MP Ruhullah Mehdi convenes Public Darbar in Awantipora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** Member of Parliament, Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Agha Syed Ruhullah Mehdi Thursday convened a Public Darbar at Town Hall Awantipora to hear public grievances and developmental concerns of the people.

During the interaction, delegations from various areas of Awantipora and adjoining regions, besides representatives of trade bodies, social organizations, welfare & development forums, Auqaf committees, senior citizens and other stakeholders participated in the event. The suggestions and demands put forth during the Public Darbar

pertained to various sectors.

Addressing the gathering, the Member of Parliament assured the participants that issues requiring policy-level intervention would be taken up at appropriate forums, including forthcoming sessions of Parliament.

On the occasion, he also directed officers of the concerned departments to take prompt action on genuine grievances and issues raised during the interaction and ensure their timely redressal.

The Public Darbar witnessed participation from the public and various stakeholders. District and sectoral officers from different departments were also present on the occasion.

# J&K SSI Manufacturers Seek Review of School Uniform DBT Mode

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Local SSI Manufacturers Unit in Jammu and Kashmir have called on the School Education Department to review the existing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for school uniforms under the Samagra Shiksha Abiyan scheme, saying the policy has affected both students and the region's small-scale manufacturing sector.

The demand has been raised ahead of the next academic session, with manufacturers urging authorities to restore the earlier system under which schools procured uniforms directly from local SSI Manufacturers units.

Among those advocating for the change is local manufacturer Yasir Siraj, who believes the present arrangement has failed to achieve its intended objective of ensuring that every child receives a school uniform.

Under the Samagra Shiksha Abiyan scheme, the Government of India provides ₹600 per student annually for two sets of uniforms for children studying in Classes 1 to 8. Previously, the funds were routed through school heads, who purchased their Requirement with local manufacturers and distributed

uniforms to students. However, with the introduction of Aadhaar-linked DBT, the amount is now transferred directly to the bank accounts of parents.

According to local manufacturers, while the move was aimed at improving transparency and reducing administrative delays, it has created several challenges on the ground.

They claim that many families facing financial difficulties are often compelled to use the money for essential household expenses, leaving children without the prescribed school uniform.

Manufacturers also point to the growing lack of uniformity in schools. Since parents purchase uniforms individually from different shops, students often end up wearing garments of varying colours, fabrics and designs, defeating the purpose of having a common dress code.

"The intention behind the scheme is good, but the results are not visible on the ground. In many cases, children are either not receiving uniforms or are wearing different styles and colours. At the same time, local manufacturing units that once supplied schools have lost a major source of business," Yasir Siraj said.

He added that the earlier procurement system supported local industries, generated employment and ensured timely delivery of standardised uniforms to students.

Manufacturers have proposed that procurement funds be routed back to school heads, with clear guidelines requiring purchases only from registered local SSI manufacturing units.

They argue that such a model would ensure quality control, maintain uniformity among students and provide a much-needed boost to Jammu and Kashmir's garment manufacturing sector.

Industry representatives have urged the government to examine the issue before releasing funds for the upcoming academic cycle, saying a policy review could benefit students, schools and local businesses alike.

"We are not seeking the removal of transparency measures. We are simply asking for a system that ensures children receive proper uniforms while supporting local production and employment," Siraj said. This version reads more like a newspaper report, with smoother flow, balanced attribution, and stronger human-interest appeal.

# GCW Nawakadal hosts Poster Making Event under NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Poster Making Event was conducted at Government College for Women (GCW) Nawakadal, Thursday under Nisha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan-Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchan, to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The programme was held under the supervision of the Principal, Prof. Dr. Huda Ghazali, and organized by the College Wellness and Student Counselling Cell (CWASC) in collaboration with the Cultural Activities Committee of the college.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Nuzhat Jan, Nodal Officer-I CWASC and Dr. Asmat Ara, Convenor, Cultural Activities Committee. Dr. Waseem, Nodal Officer-II, Prof. Rukhsana Shawl, Dr. Rashma Siraj, Dr. Khushpal and other faculty members were also present at the event.

Students of the college actively participated in the poster making activity, where they expressed their resolve against drug abuse through creative artwork and slogans promoting a drug-free society.

The posters highlighted the harmful effects of substance abuse and motivated others to join the fight against drug abuse for building a Viksit Bharat.

# DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, CENTRAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

POLICE GOLF CORSE, BOULEVARD ROAD SRINAGAR.



Reyaz Ahmad Chopan,  
S/o: Abdul Razaq Chopan,  
R/o: Akhal Kangan  
No: WLWC/Estt/2026-27/357-67

Dated: 18/06/2026

Subject: Eviction Notice under section 34A of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act-1972.  
Reference: Ganderbal Range Officer's letter No. ROG/WL/Sindh/2026-27/116-30 dated: 23.05.2026. Block Forest Officer, Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary report bearing No. TWB/BO/WO/2025-26/77 dated 06/06/2026.

- Whereas Government has notified Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary vide SRO No 156 Dated 19:03 1987 under Section 18 of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- Whereas Section 27 of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 prohibits entry of a person In Wildlife areas.
- Whereas Section 27(3) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 prohibits the alteration, destroying or defacing any boundary mark of a sanctuary with intent to cause damage to any such boundary mark or to cause any wrongful gains.
- Whereas Section 29 of Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972 says that no person shall destroy, exploit or remove any Wildlife Including forest produce from a wildlife sanctuary or damage or divert, stop or enhance the flow of water into or outstand the sanctuary except under and in accordance with a permit granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- Whereas Range Officer, Ganderbal vide his office letter No. ROG/WL/Sindh/2026-27/116-30 dated: 23.05.2026 read with Block Forester Officer, Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary report No. TWB/Bo/WO/2025-26/77 DATED: 06.06.2026; wherein it has been brought under the notice of Undersigned that you have un-authorizedly installed temporary Tea stall with the notified limits of Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary at the foot hills of Thajwas Glacier as such you have caused damage to fragile ecosystem for your greedy and selfish benefits. The report is annexed with Geo-tagged photographs which substantiates that you have violated the provision of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- Whereas Section 34 A (1) (a) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 has empowered Officer not below the Rank of Assistant Conservator of Forests to evict any person from a sanctuary or national park, who has un-authorizedly occupied Government Land. The Section 34 A (1)(b) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 has also empowered the Officer not below the Rank Deputy Conservator of Forests to remove any unauthorized structures, buildings or constructions erected on any Government Land within any sanctuary or National Park.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 34-A of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 notice is issued upon you to evict from unauthorised occupied Land and to remove the encroachment within 10 days from the date of issuance of this notice and show cause within 07 days why action (including confiscation of tools and Belongings) shall not be taken against you for un-authorizedly occupying the Government Land.

Pervaiz Ahmad Wani  
Deputy Conservator of Forests  
Wildlife Warden  
Central Division Srinagar

DIPK-2282-26  
DT: 18/06/2026

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

## Why We Must Stop The Merchants Of Hate

A deeply unsettling shift has been quietly taking over our digital lives. Over the past year, scrolling through social media has felt less like connecting with the world and more like walking through a minefield of hostility. Most troubling of all is the source of this toxicity: individuals masking themselves as religious preachers, turning platforms meant for community into arenas for bitter, sectarian warfare. Instead of offering the comfort, compassion, and brotherhood that sit at the true heart of any faith, these figures have chosen a darker, more profitable path: division. What makes this trend so dangerous isn't just the words being said, but who is saying them. These self-proclaimed leaders wield massive influence. Every provocative speech, every casual insult thrown at a differing school of thought, and every fiery video uploaded for clicks adds fuel to an already simmering fire.

The real-world cost of this digital bravado is a steady erosion of trust. In Kashmir, a place historically celebrated for its deep-rooted traditions of coexistence and mutual respect, the damage is palpable. These cherished cultural values are being systematically dismantled by opportunists who realize that demonizing "the other" is the quickest way to build a fiercely loyal following.

The fallout from this rhetoric doesn't stay confined to our screens. It seeps directly into the minds of our youth, who spend a massive portion of their formative years online.

When hatred is repeatedly packaged and sold as a religious duty, intolerance becomes the new normal. Healthy differences of opinion, the very sign of a living, breathing society, are suddenly viewed as acts of war. Communities that have shared walls, celebrations, and hardships for generations are being pushed apart by a wedge of manufactured suspicion.

We often talk about the sanctity of free speech, but let's be clear: freedom of expression is not a license to poison society. There is a vast, undeniable gulf between preaching one's faith and inciting hatred against someone else's.

To confront this, we need a multi-layered defense: Legal Accountability: Those who consistently use their platforms to stoke sectarian animosity must face the legal consequences of their actions. Platform Responsibility: Social media conglomerates can no longer hide behind algorithms. They must decisively ban and de-platform accounts that profit from hate. The Power of Moderation: Responsible religious scholars and community elders cannot afford to stay silent. When mainstream voices retreat, extremists rush in to fill the vacuum. The voices of wisdom must become louder than the voices of provocation.

History is a patient teacher, and its lessons are brutal. Societies rarely collapse overnight. Instead, they are weakened slowly, thread by thread, by quiet intolerances and growing suspicions until the damage is irreversible. The warning signs are flashing right in front of us. Faith should be a bridge that connects us, not a weapon used to tear us apart. If we continue to look the other way, the poison currently festering in the virtual world will inevitably spill over into our streets, leaving a broken society for the next generation to inherit. The time to log off the hate and stand up for harmony is now.

# G7 Summit: An Opportunity For Reflection, Reform And Renewal

LALIT GARGG

The world's attention is currently focused on the G7 Summit being held in France. Leaders of the seven major advanced economies have gathered to deliberate on a wide range of critical issues, including the global economy, international politics, trade, climate change, artificial intelligence, energy security, and ongoing conflicts. At such a moment, a natural question arises: Is the G7 still as relevant and influential as it was at the time of its inception? Has it truly evolved into an effective platform for addressing global challenges, or has it largely become a mechanism for safeguarding the interests of a handful of powerful nations? Furthermore, are the actions and policies of U.S. President Donald Trump undermining the relevance and effectiveness of this forum in pursuit of narrow national interests?

The success of international organizations established to promote world peace, balanced economic development, and global cooperation is ultimately measured not by their declarations but by their outcomes. Unfortunately, in the case of the G7, questions continue to be raised about the actual impact of its decisions and commitments. In recent years, the organization has struggled to play a decisive role in resolving major global crises, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, instability in the Middle East, global economic uncertainty, climate change, and growing trade rivalries.

The G7 comprises the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan. In practice, however, the direction and policy orientation of the group have often been heavily influenced by the United States. Under President Donald Trump in particular, American foreign policy has frequently appeared to prioritize pressure and dominance over cooperation and consensus. On several occasions, Trump has treated allied nations less as equal partners and more as followers expected to align with American priorities. Tariff wars, trade restrictions, pressure regarding defense spending, and a series of unilateral decisions have contributed to growing mistrust among member countries.

The Iran-Israel conflict has further intensified global economic uncertainty. In recent months, the violent confrontation created fears of a broader regional war. Iran, Israel, and several non-state actors appeared poised for direct confrontation, with the Strait of Hormuz emerging as a critical flashpoint. Nearly one-fifth of the world's oil supplies pass through this strategic waterway, making any



disruption a matter of global concern. Even within the G7, countries appeared divided in their approach to the crisis. It is precisely for this reason that the unity once associated with the G7 is no longer as visible. France, Germany, Canada, and Japan have frequently adopted positions that differ from those of the United States on issues ranging from the Iran conflict and climate change to global trade rules and the role of multilateral institutions. Under such circumstances, it becomes difficult to expect the organization to formulate universally acceptable and effective strategies for resolving the world's increasingly complex challenges.

India's participation in the summit carries special significance. Although India is not a member of the G7, its growing economic strength, expanding global influence, and role as a representative voice of the developing world have made it an important participant in such forums. This is not merely an opportunity for India to showcase its achievements; it is also a platform to articulate the aspirations of developing and underprivileged nations whose voices are often marginalized in global decision-making processes. Across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, numerous countries continue to grapple with economic crises, food insecurity, climate-related disasters, and unsustainable debt burdens. Their priorities often differ significantly from those of the G7 nations. India must therefore raise a fundamental question: Should the authority to shape the world's future remain concentrated in the hands of a few developed countries? Shouldn't global governance become more democratic, inclusive, and representative? This is the time to strengthen the voice

of the Global South and place its concerns at the center of international discourse.

The greatest challenge to the G7's relevance lies in its effectiveness. If an organization is unable to prevent or resolve the world's most pressing crises, its utility naturally comes under scrutiny. The Russia-Ukraine war continues without a lasting resolution. The Middle East remains deeply unstable. Terrorism and extremism continue to pose serious threats. Climate change is pushing humanity toward unprecedented environmental and humanitarian challenges. Yet the achievements of institutions that claim global leadership remain limited. Recent reports suggesting a reduction in tensions between the United States and Iran and a movement toward dialogue and reconciliation have brought a sense of relief across the world. Prolonged hostility had contributed significantly to instability in the Middle East, with adverse consequences for the global economy. As prospects for negotiations strengthened, financial markets responded positively. Investor confidence improved, energy markets showed signs of stabilization, and oil prices softened. This demonstrates that peace is not merely a political achievement; it is intrinsically linked to global economic stability and the well-being of ordinary citizens.

However, an important question remains. If dialogue and compromise ultimately represented the path to resolution, why was the period of confrontation allowed to continue for so long? Why did President Trump eventually find it necessary to embrace negotiations and consensus-building? Was it due to economic pressures? Concerns about global financial markets? Expectations from the American public? Or was it an acknowledgment

that the politics of pressure and confrontation have inherent limitations? These are precisely the kinds of questions that deserve serious discussion within forums such as the G7. The international community cannot be satisfied with symbolic or temporary peace agreements. What is needed is peace that is durable, credible, and just. If agreements are driven primarily by political image-building, electoral considerations, or short-term strategic calculations, they are unlikely to endure. The G7 should take meaningful initiatives to ensure that peace efforts around the world are genuine and centered on the protection of humanity's collective interests.

Today, the global order stands at a critical crossroads. The world is no longer unipolar. Emerging economies such as India, China, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, and others are reshaping the global balance of power. In this changing environment, the G7 must also adapt its vision and functioning. If it continues to be perceived primarily as an instrument of American leadership and Western interests, its credibility, legitimacy, and influence are likely to diminish further. The need of the hour is for the G7 to become more inclusive, provide greater representation to developing nations in decision-making processes, take concrete initiatives toward economic and climate justice, and place global peace at the forefront of its agenda. The United States, too, must recognize the distinction between leadership and dominance. Leadership earns trust; dominance breeds resistance.

The summit in France should therefore be more than a forum for discussing economic and political issues. It should serve as an opportunity for genuine introspection. The G7 must reassess its role in a rapidly changing world and explore how it can become more relevant, effective, and credible. Only by overcoming internal divisions and embracing the principles of equality, cooperation, and mutual respect can it meet the expectations of the international community. India, on this occasion, should boldly convey that the future of humanity lies in balance, dialogue, cooperation, and inclusivity. Lasting peace, economic stability, and human welfare cannot be secured through the dominance of any single nation or group of nations. They can only emerge from a shared sense of responsibility and a collective commitment to common progress. That is the greatest need of our time, and it is the true test of forums such as the G7.

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## The Reality Of Happiness And Anger In Human Life

MOHAMMAD HANIEF

In every era of human history, people have searched for happiness and struggled with anger. These two emotions, often viewed as opposites, have shaped personal lives, communities, and even civilizations. While happiness is celebrated as a symbol of success and fulfillment, anger is frequently portrayed as a destructive force that must be controlled or eliminated. Yet such a perception oversimplifies the complex reality of human emotions. Happiness and anger are not opposing forces competing for dominance; they are natural elements of the human experience, each carrying its own purpose and significance.

Modern society has elevated happiness to an almost sacred ideal. Success stories, social media platforms, advertising campaigns, and self-help philosophies often present happiness as the ultimate destination of life. The message is subtle but persistent: a successful life is a happy life, and a happy life is one free from struggle, disappointment, and emotional discomfort. As a result, many people spend years pursuing achievements, wealth, recognition, and material comfort with the expectation that these accomplishments will provide lasting contentment.

Reality, however, reveals a different truth. Happiness is not a permanent condition that can be secured once and for all. It is a dynamic and evolving emotional state that rises and falls with circumstances, relationships, and personal perspectives. The joy associated with success, achievement, or acquisition often fades with time as individuals adapt to new realities. What once seemed extraordinary gradually becomes familiar, and new desires emerge to replace old ones. This pattern demonstrates that happiness cannot be sustained solely through external accomplishments.

The deepest forms of happiness often arise from sources that cannot be measured in financial or material terms. Human connection, a sense of purpose, personal growth, and gratitude frequently contribute more to long-term well-being than status or possessions. The warmth of family, the loyalty of friendship, the satisfaction of meaningful work, and the quiet confidence that comes from living according to one's values provide a more enduring foundation for happiness than temporary pleasures. These experiences remind people that fulfillment is often found not in what is acquired but in what is appreciated.

At the same time, happiness derives much of its meaning from the existence of difficulty. Joy becomes valuable because sorrow exists. Achievement becomes meaningful because failure is possible. Peace is cherished because conflict and uncertainty are part of life. Without challenges, happiness would lose much of its emotional significance. Human beings often discover their greatest appreciation for life not during periods of comfort but after overcoming adversity. In this sense, struggle does not diminish happiness; it deepens it.

The role of anger is equally important, although it is far less understood. Anger is commonly associated with aggression, hostility, and destruction. Public discourse frequently focuses on the harmful consequences of uncontrolled anger, highlighting broken relationships, social conflict, and acts of violence. While these consequences are real, they represent the misuse of anger rather than its fundamental nature.

At its core, anger is an emotional response to perceived injustice, disrespect, disappointment, or threat. It serves as an internal signal that something significant has been violated or neglected. Just as physical pain alerts the body to injury, anger alerts the mind to conditions that demand attention. Far from being merely



destructive, anger often reflects deeply held values and convictions. People become angry when fairness is compromised, when dignity is denied, or when expectations rooted in trust and respect are betrayed.

History provides countless examples of anger functioning as a catalyst for progress. Many social reforms, political movements, and struggles for justice emerged from collective dissatisfaction with existing conditions. The desire to challenge inequality, resist oppression, and seek accountability has frequently been fuelled by a form of anger directed toward constructive ends. When guided by reason and moral purpose, anger becomes a force capable of inspiring courage, determination, and change.

The difficulty arises when anger is allowed to dominate judgment. Uncontrolled anger narrows perspective and encourages impulsive actions that often produce lasting consequences. Relationships can be damaged in moments of emotional intensity, and decisions made under the influence of rage frequently generate regret. Prolonged anger may also affect physical and mental well-being, contributing to stress, anxiety, and emotional exhaustion. For these reasons, the challenge is not to eliminate anger but to manage it wisely.

Equally problematic is the tendency to suppress anger entirely. Societal expectations often encourage individuals to conceal nega-

tive emotions in order to appear composed and agreeable. Yet emotions that remain unacknowledged rarely disappear. Suppressed anger can accumulate over time, gradually transforming into resentment, bitterness, or emotional detachment. Genuine emotional health requires recognition rather than denial. Understanding the source of anger allows individuals to address underlying concerns in a thoughtful and constructive manner.

The relationship between happiness and anger reveals a deeper truth about human nature. Both emotions emerge from what people value most. Happiness reflects experiences that align with personal hopes, aspirations, and relationships. Anger emerges when those same values appear threatened or violated. The two emotions are therefore connected by a common foundation: the human capacity to care deeply about life, people, and principles.

Life itself is rarely defined by permanent happiness or constant anger. Instead, it unfolds through a continuous interaction of emotional experiences. Moments of joy are often followed by disappointment, while periods of frustration may eventually lead to growth and fulfillment. Emotional balance does not require the absence of negative feelings. Rather, it requires the ability to navigate the full range of human emotions with awareness, maturity, and resilience.

In an age marked by rapid tech-

nological change, social pressures, and growing uncertainty, maintaining such balance has become increasingly challenging. The constant comparison encouraged by digital culture often creates unrealistic expectations about what life should feel like. Many individuals come to believe that happiness must be continuous and that anger represents personal failure. This misconception can generate additional frustration when reality inevitably falls short of idealized images.

A healthier perspective recognizes that emotional complexity is not a weakness but a defining feature of humanity. Happiness enriches life by providing moments of meaning, connection, and hope. Anger protects important values by drawing attention to injustice, neglect, and wrongdoing. Neither emotion should be viewed as an enemy. Both serve essential psychological and social functions when understood and managed appropriately.

The reality of human life lies not in the pursuit of endless happiness nor in the rejection of anger. It lies in developing the wisdom to understand both. Happiness teaches gratitude for what is present, while anger encourages action when something important requires change. Together they contribute to personal growth, strengthen character, and deepen understanding of the world.

Ultimately, a fulfilling life is not measured by the absence of struggle or the uninterrupted presence of joy. It is measured by the capacity to experience emotions fully, learn from them honestly, and respond to them responsibly. Happiness and anger, when viewed through this lens, cease to be opposing forces and become complementary aspects of a shared human journey. Their coexistence reflects the richness of life itself and the enduring complexity of the human heart.

The author is a senior analyst and environmentalist. Feedback can be sent to m.hanief@gmail.com. Twitter/X: @haniefmha

## ■ The Arithmetic Of Aspiration

# Why India's Employment Question Now Turns On Permanence

DR. V. ANANTHA NAGESWARAN

When Sir Arthur Lewis set out in 1954 to explain how poor economies grow rich, he located the central drama of development not in the accumulation of capital, but in the migration of workers out of subsistence agriculture into the more remunerative occupations of industry and services, a transition he rightly anticipated would govern the prospects of every late-industrialising nation.

India stands precisely at that crossing today, and the question before policymakers is not one of whether enough jobs exist, but the more demanding one of whether the economy can generate employment that is sufficient in number, formal in character, and durable enough to carry a young worker into a lifetime of rising productivity and security.

The scale of the task can be stated with some precision, for the Economic Survey 2023-24, drawing on the Periodic Labour Force Survey and demographic projections, estimated that the economy must generate nearly 78.5 lakh non-farm jobs every year through the remainder of this decade, a figure flowing from two compounding pressures, the steady rise in the workforce as participation deepens, and the labour that structural transformation must draw out of agriculture, whose share in employment, still close to 46 per cent, is expected to fall towards a quarter by 2047.

The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2025 and operational from the following month, is the most considered attempt yet to attack that deficit, deploying 99,446 crore through the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to catalyse more than 3.5 crore formal jobs in the two years to July 2027.

A worker joining an EPFO-registered establishment for the first time, and earning below 1 lakh a month, becomes eligible for up to 15,000 paid in two instalments, the second conditional on a financial literacy course



and held in savings, while employers who expand their payroll beyond an established baseline receive up to 3,000 a month for each new worker, on terms calibrated so that even small firms are drawn in rather than crowded out.

What elevates the scheme above the familiar and disappointing genre of hiring subsidies is its requirement of six months of continuous employment before the first benefit is released, since hiring a first-timer pays off only if the worker stays to become productive, and the condition converts the initial hiring into a genuine commitment, assuring the employer of tenure enough to repay the cost of training while giving the worker the months within which real skills and a credible record are built.

Thus, it rewards not hiring, but the harder discipline of retention, and what it leaves behind is a portable employability track record for the

worker.

Its most deliberate tilt is towards manufacturing, where the employer incentive runs for four years rather than two, a doubling that acknowledges the longer gestation of industrial capacity and weights the manufacturer's calculus towards expanding the workforce rather than substituting labour prematurely with automation.

Importantly, it is a stance that the government has recognised as essential to the country's realisable aspiration to become a global manufacturing centre. Through the EPFO, every worker onboarded acquires a Universal Account Number and a first taste of social security few informal workers have known, and the early returns are encouraging, with some 60 lakh first-time employees enrolled since the launch, the bulk of them under thirty and over 18 lakh of them women, while nearly 1.77 lakh establishments, many of them small firms where informality

has long concentrated, have generated upward of 66 lakh opportunities.

It would be imprudent, however, to mistake an encouraging beginning for an accomplished transformation, and the scheme's safeguards, its exclusion of fraud-tainted establishments, its six-monthly electronic returns confirming that employment is sustained rather than merely declared, and its automated disbursement, reflect a welcome awareness that schemes of this kind must guard against rewarding hiring that would have occurred anyway.

Its true measure will lie not in the first year's enrolment figures but in whether the jobs outlast the incentive that created them, and whether the demand it stimulates meets a supply of employable young people, which is why its fortunes are inseparable from parallel investment in skilling.

It is worth remembering that joblessness penalises far more than

income, eroding skills, self-respect, and one's place in society, and Voltaire had said as much when he let Candide conclude that labour keeps three great evils at bay, namely boredom, vice, and want.

A scheme of this kind is finally to be valued because it grasps that fuller meaning of employment, treating the formal job not as a statistic to be tallied but as the first secure rung of a working life, and the task now, as India sets its course towards a developed economy by 2047, is to hold to the patience the scheme embodies and to ensure that meaningful employment for the young, which the Prime Minister has placed at the centre of the national project, is realised not in a single season of incentives but across a generation of durable, productive, and dignified work. (PIB)

(The author is Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India)

## From Pandit Nehru's India To Modi Ji's Bharat



HARDEEP SINGH PURI

On 10 June, Prime Minister Narendra Modi becomes the longest continuously serving democratically elected Prime Minister in our history. Having served the Indian state across much of the journey in between, I can say the achievement is not the length of the tenure. It is what the office has been made to do.

On 10 June 2026, Modi ji completes his 4,399th consecutive day in office, one more than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru served from his first elected government in 1952 until his death in 1964. The qualifier is worth keeping, because Pandit Nehru, measured from 1947, still holds the record for the longest unbroken tenure.

What Modi ji has surpassed is the mark for the longest continuous tenure of an elected head of government in the Republic's history. I have spent my working life inside the state that lies between those two dates, and the milestone interests me less for its arithmetic than for what it allows one to measure. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya taught that a government should be judged by what reaches the last person in the line, by Antyodaya. The distance from Pandit Nehru's India to Modi ji's Bharat is the distance the last person has travelled.

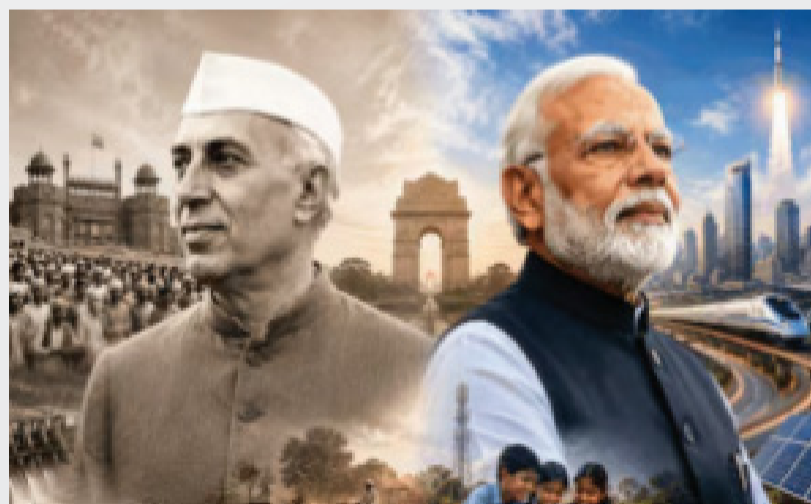
A fair account begins with what Pandit Nehru inherited. He inherited a partitioned subcontinent scarred by the largest forced migration in history, an economy drained by two centuries of colonial extraction, a people of whom fewer than one in five could read, and a life expectancy in the early thirties. From that inheritance he built a constitutional democracy that held, while one newly free nation after another fell to the general or the strongman.

The Planning Commission set the direction, the public sector held the commanding heights, and a system of licences decided who might produce

On 10 June 2026, Modi ji completes his 4,399th consecutive day in office, one more than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru served from his first elected government in 1952 until his death in 1964. The qualifier is worth keeping, because Pandit Nehru, measured from 1947, still holds the record for the longest unbroken tenure.

what. The universities, the laboratories, the atomic and space programmes, the steel towns: the institutional spine of independent India was laid in those years. I joined the Foreign Service in 1974, and the India I represented was a serious country that had chosen to manage scarcity with as much dignity as its machinery allowed.

The cost of that settlement became visible by the time I was a mid-career officer. The state had learned to allocate, but it had not learned to deliver. The distance between a scheme announced in Delhi and a benefit received in a village was where the money vanished. A former prime minister's own admission, that fif-



teen paise of every rupee reached the poor, was a verdict on the model itself. The state could plan. It could not reach.

Modi ji's inheritance in 2014 deserves the same honest accounting. He took charge of an economy the markets had filed among the Fragile Five, weighed down by stalled projects, double-digit inflation fresh in memory, and corruption that had corroded public faith in the state itself. His answer was a different machine altogether.

The Planning Commission gave way to the NITI Aayog, which convenes the states rather than instructs them. Identity, a bank account, and a mobile phone were joined into one layer, and the government began to pay citizens directly instead of through intermediaries who had taken their cut for four decades. Direct Benefit Transfer is a plain phrase for a decisive instrument. It moved the test of governance from intention to receipt.

What followed was the reconception of the state as a platform. India built public digital rails, an identity system that works at the scale of a continent, and a payments network the world now studies. More than fifty crore Jan Dhan accounts opened formal banking to families it had never reached. In the same decade, by NITI Aayog's estimate, nearly twenty-five crore Indians moved out of multidimensional poverty, and the economy the markets had written off now grows faster than any other

major economy. The state that once stood between the citizen and the thing the citizen needed now builds the road and stands aside. That is the substance behind the word Bharat.

I can speak to one corner of this from the office I hold. In 2014, ethanol blending in our petrol stood at 1.53 per cent. This year we have reached twenty per cent, a target once set for 2030 and met half a decade early, and the money that once left the country to buy crude now reaches the farmer, who is now an Urjadata, a provider of energy, alongside the Annadata who feeds us.

In the same years, the Ujjwala Yojana carried cooking gas into more than ten crore poor households for the first time, with the subsidy paid into the beneficiary's own account, beyond any middleman's reach. This is Antyodaya rendered in litres and cylinders. The last person is no longer the one the scheme forgets. She is the one it is built around.

The same ledger runs through brick and steel. Close to four crore pucca homes have been built under the Awas Yojana for families that had never owned one. The metro, which ran in five cities in 2014, runs in more than twenty today. The number of airports has roughly doubled, and UDAN has put air travel within reach of towns that had only watched aircraft pass overhead. The railways have been electrified almost end to end and run their first indigenously built semi-high-speed trains. None of this is abstraction. Each entry is a

queue that no longer forms, a journey that no longer consumes a day, a roof that does not leak.

The fiscal architecture moved with the rest. The Goods and Services Tax, for all its early friction, gave the country the single national market that had defeated every government which pursued it for two decades, and the Centre and the states now compete on the ease of doing business and the quality of delivery, a healthier contest than the older one over allocations.

The same confidence reshaped how India carries itself abroad, and here I claim some standing from my years representing the country. Pandit Nehru's non-alignment was the prudent stance of a poor and new state that could not afford to choose a side. The present doctrine of multi-alignment is the stance of a country that intends to be courted by every side. India carried its Group of Twenty presidency to every state of the Union rather than confining it to the capital, and the framing of India as a voice of the Global South turned an old developmental weakness into a claim to leadership. A state confident of its delivery at home speaks differently in the world.

A record of this scale invites scrutiny, and a democracy as argumentative as ours will supply it. But the question the office is asked has plainly changed, and that is the measure of the distance travelled. Pandit Nehru's India asked what the state could allocate. Modi ji's Bharat asks what the state can deliver, and insists on showing the receipt.

That is why 10 June is worth marking, and why the count of days is the least of it. Pandit Nehru built the Indian state. Modi ji has rewired it to reach the citizen in whose name it was built. I have served the state in both its incarnations, and I know which transformation the last person in the line will remember. The promise that once had to be taken on trust somewhere upstream now arrives, traceably, in her own hand. That is the Viksit Bharat we have been asked to build by 2047, and it begins, as Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya said it must, with her. (PIB)

(The writer is Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas)

## CM Omar Inaugurates

The Chief Minister said the scenic lavender fields of Ganderbal have the potential to attract visitors and nature enthusiasts, particularly those travelling to Sonamarg. He emphasized that such initiatives can create new sources of income for local communities while promoting rural tourism.

The Chief Minister also underlined the importance of reducing excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture. He said the government, in collaboration with agricultural institutions and experts, is working to promote sustainable farming practices and create awareness about the long-term benefits of preserving soil health.

Highlighting the government's efforts under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Omar Abdullah said substantial investments are being made to modernize the agriculture sector through advanced infrastructure, mechanization, value-addition facilities and promotion of high-value crops.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a Post-Harvest Infrastructure Project for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants at the Model Floriculture Centre, Nunar, being established under HADP/ NABARD at a cost of 538.23 lakh.

The project includes development of an FPO Park with office and storage facilities, machinery for processing and e-marketing of medicinal and aromatic plant products, post-harvest management infrastructure, transportation facilities, establishment of a distillation unit, quality control laboratory, shade-net structures and other support facilities aimed at creating a comprehensive ecosystem for medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation and marketing.

The Chief Minister also reviewed infrastructure created at the centre under NABARD-funded projects, including development of a germplasm centre, strengthening of farm infrastructure, irrigation facilities, farm mechanization and establishment of essential oil distillation units.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also distributed sanction letters among beneficiaries under various agriculture and allied sector initiatives. The beneficiaries received assistance for establishment of Hi-Tech Poly Houses, Common Facilitation Centres, dairy units and breed-based farms, besides keys of tractors provided under government-supported mechanization programmes aimed at enhancing farm productivity and improving rural livelihoods.

Addressing the farmers, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening agriculture as a viable and profitable sector. He said efforts are being made to ensure that every region benefits from development initiatives and modern agricultural interventions.

Referring to ongoing road widening works in Ganderbal, Omar Abdullah acknowledged concerns raised by affected shopkeepers and assured them that their issues would be addressed in a fair and humane manner. He said the government would work towards a suitable rehabilitation mechanism in consultation with all stakeholders.

Minister for Agriculture and Rural development and Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar while addressing the event underlined the importance of HADP for the promotion of cultivation of crops like lavender. He said the department of Agriculture is working to explore medicinal and aromatic crops (including lavender) cultivation for the socio-economic transformation of farming community of the region.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, also addressed the gathering and highlighted the government's continued focus on strengthening the agriculture sector through infrastructure development, technological interventions and farmer-centric initiatives.

Farmers, Agri entrepreneurs, stakeholders and childrens from different schools also enthusiastically participated in the event.

Congratulating the people of Ganderbal on the successful organisation of the Lavender Festival, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the initiative would further strengthen the district's identity as a centre of agricultural innovation, floriculture and rural tourism.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inspected stalls showcasing lavender cultivation, essential oil extraction, value-added products and other innovations in the agriculture and floriculture sectors.

## Admin Steps Up

Ramban district, where authorities are strengthening infrastructure and facilities to accommodate pilgrims during the yatra.

Security agencies have simultaneously stepped up preparedness along the pilgrimage routes.

In Pulwama district, police, in coordination with the CRPF and other agencies, conducted comprehensive mock drills at multiple locations to assess operational readiness and strengthen security arrangements ahead of the pilgrimage.

The exercises were carried out along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway stretch from Galander to Kandizal Crossing, as well as at Kakapora Railway Station and Ratnipora Railway Halt Station. Personnel from police, CRPF, specialised units, emergency response teams and medical services participated in the drills.

Officials said the exercises tested inter-agency coordination, communication systems, response mechanisms, area domination measures and contingency preparedness through simulated secu-

urity and emergencies.

Meanwhile, security personnel intensified search and sanitisation operations at railway stations and other strategic locations. In south Kashmir's Kulgam district, police conducted extensive frisking and vehicle checks near the Navyug Tunnel in Qazigund, along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Responding to a question on Muharram arrangements, the Divisional Commissioner said the administration had also initiated preparations for the observance and was coordinating with all stakeholders to ensure smooth conduct of processions.

He said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had already reviewed the arrangements and directed officials to ensure availability of all essential services along approved procession routes.

"For the past few years, a system has been in place for Muharram processions. District administrations, in coordination with security agencies, are making arrangements at all approved routes," he said.

Garg added that field visits were underway and officials were preparing a final checklist of services in accordance with the chief minister's directions.

"Our effort is to ensure that Muharram processions are held smoothly during the tourist season so that there is no inconvenience either to participants or to tourists visiting Kashmir," he said.

Earlier, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday flagged off 45 specialised Mountain Rescue Teams deployed at 21 locations along the Amarnath Yatra routes and the cave shrine to strengthen emergency response during the pilgrimage.

Stressing the growing threat of cloudbursts and landslides in mountainous areas, he said the teams would play a crucial role in rescue operations.

Prabhat also highlighted the importance of training and lauded coordinated efforts by SDRF, police, BSF and SSB personnel.

The 38-day annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir is scheduled to commence on July 3 amid heightened security and elaborate logistical arrangements across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

## Rain, Hailstorm

and mudslides, particularly in hilly and vulnerable areas of Tangdhar, Kupwara, Kukur-nag, Banihal and Kishtwar.

The fresh spell of rain brought a temporary relief from warm conditions in several areas, although authorities advised residents and travellers to remain cautious due to the possibility of sudden changes in weather.

The MeT Department has forecast generally cloudy weather across Jammu and Kashmir from June 19 to June 22, with one or two spells of light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms and gusty winds likely at many places.

Weather activity is expected to continue between June 23 and June 25, with partly to generally cloudy skies and light rain or brief showers at scattered locations across the Union Territory, the department said, adding that there is possibility of isolated hailstorms and intense showers during the next five days and urged people living in landslide-prone and flood-prone areas to remain alert.

As a precautionary measure, the MeT Centre advised people to stay away from loose structures, electric poles, wires and old trees during thunderstorms. It also recommended suspension of boating and shikara operations on water bodies whenever strong winds, lightning or thunderstorms occur.

Farmers and orchard owners have been advised to undertake spraying operations during early morning hours when weather conditions are comparatively stable.

Officials said district administrations and disaster management agencies were monitoring the situation and would remain prepared to respond to any weather-related emergency in vulnerable areas—(KNO)

## Preparedness, Training

that while individual forces may possess high levels of training, effective disaster response requires coordinated preparation and seamless cooperation among all agencies.

"No matter how good the training of individual forces is, unless we train together for interoperability, we cannot achieve the goal of jointness and jointmanship," he said.

DGP Prabhat also congratulated the SDRF team for conducting a joint training capsule aimed at improving interoperability and coordinated deployment during rescue missions, terming it a first-of-its-kind initiative.

Describing NDRF as the "flag bearer" of disaster management in the country, the DGP said other agencies should learn from its standards of training, equipment and preparedness. "We would like to learn best practices from NDRF and adopt them to further strengthen our response mechanism," he said.

Expressing confidence ahead of the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, the DGP said, "I expect all participating agencies to maintain the same high standards of professionalism and performance demonstrated in previous rescue operations."—(KNO)

## CAT Stays SKUAST-K

petitioner claimed that objections regarding the candidate's eligibility were ignored and that repeated representations highlighting the alleged irregularities were brushed aside by the university authorities.

The petitioner further contends that Rather does not possess the requisite experience as a cameraman in short films, documentaries, and news packages, an essential requirement under the advertisement notification.

The case has raised disturbing questions about transparency and fairness in recruitment within one of Jammu and Kashmir's premier institutions. The petition alleges that eligibility records were altered without explanation and that established procedures were compromised to ensure the selection of a preferred candidate.

Aggrieved by the University's failure to consider his representation dated May 25, 2026, Sheikh approached CAT under Section 19 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985. The Tribunal has now stayed the recruitment process pending further verification.

The case highlights the growing concern over the use of unrecognised qualifications in public recruitment and raises serious questions about the verification mechanisms employed by universities and other public institutions.

Taking note of the allegations, the Central Administrative Tribunal has stayed further proceedings relating to the appointment, effectively halting the recruitment process until the matter is examined in detail.

When contacted Deputy Registrar, SKUAST-K, Mir Rashid, he didn't received call from this reporter despite many attempts.

The controversy has triggered widespread debate among job aspirants, many of whom view the case as a litmus test for accountability and transparency in public recruitment.

The matter will be heard next on July 22, 2026.

## Chief Secy Assesses The

economy opportunities of J&K owing to the large tourism footfall, extensive pilgrimage circuits, a well established horticulture economy worth nearly 12,000 Cr and the geographical realities of mountainous terrain. Accordingly, the policy proposes an implementation architecture tailored specifically to the capacities and circumstances of different urban local bodies and regions.

A key feature of the policy, as highlighted by the Commissioner Secretary, Mandeep Kaur is the adoption of a 'Differentiated Circularity Framework', under which urban local bodies will be assigned implementation responsibilities according to their operational capacity, waste generation levels and infrastructure readiness.

Under the proposed framework, she made out that the smaller and remote urban local bodies will adopt a Basic Circular Model centred on waste reduction, reuse and aggregation. These local bodies will establish ward-level Reduce-Reuse-Recycle (RRR) centres, encourage household composting, create collection systems for recyclables and rely upon cluster-level processing facilities rather than investing in expensive standalone infrastructure. The model seeks to minimise transportation costs while ensuring effective waste recovery in geographically challenging regions.

The roadmap also envisages medium-sized urban local bodies implementing the Circular+ Model, which introduces decentralised composting systems, mini material recovery facilities, small-scale biogas plants, repair-and-reuse initiatives and strengthened compliance mechanisms for bulk waste generators. The model focuses on local processing of wet waste while building stronger recycling and recovery systems.

For Jammu and Srinagar cities, the Commissioner JMC, Devansh Yadav elucidated that the policy proposes an advanced Circular++ Model, positioning both cities as regional circular economy anchors.

He revealed that the model envisages integrated resource recovery systems comprising city-wide segregation, biomethanation and compressed biogas facilities, construction and demolition waste processing plants, bulk waste generator compliance mechanisms, wastewater reuse through sewage treatment plants, digital traceability systems and regional support functions for surrounding urban centres. The two capital cities are expected to serve as processing and market hubs for higher-order circular economy activities.

The presentation further highlighted the adoption of a Cluster-Based Circular Economy Model following a hub-and-spoke architecture wherein advanced processing infrastructure is concentrated at strategic hubs while smaller urban centres function as collection and aggregation nodes.

Seven priority circular economy clusters have been proposed, namely the Jammu Metropolitan Urban Materials and Construction & Demolition Cluster; Srinagar Valley Organics and Lake-Sensitive Circularity Cluster; Apple and Horticulture Biomass Cluster; Pilgrimage and Tourism Circular Services Cluster; Artisan, Silk and Upcycling Cluster; Mountain Decentralised Circular Livelihoods Cluster; and Urban Water Reuse and Sludge Recovery Cluster.

The framework also identifies nine priority value chains for intervention including municipal dry waste recovery, organic waste and bio-inputs, plastic and packaging recovery,

horticulture biomass, tourism and pilgrimage waste management, construction and demolition waste recycling, wastewater reuse, repair and refurbishment systems, and artisan-based circular production networks.

To ensure effective implementation, the policy proposes a six-pillar architecture comprising regulatory reforms, financial mechanisms, institutional arrangements, market development systems, digital governance tools and livelihood-generation initiatives.

The implementation roadmap has been structured into four phases. The first phase will focus on institutional activation, baseline assessments, tiering of urban local bodies and infrastructure preparation for the smooth and flawless implementation of the framework.

The second phase will concentrate on pilot clusters, compliance systems and market activation. The third phase envisages scaling-up and replication across the Union Territory, while the final phase focuses on mature circular systems, cost recovery and long-term sustainability.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of developing a practical, technology-driven and financially sustainable framework capable of delivering measurable environmental, economic and social outcomes. He emphasised the need for strong inter-departmental coordination, effective convergence of existing schemes and robust digital monitoring systems to ensure successful implementation of the policy.

He maintained that once implemented, the framework is expected to significantly improve waste recovery rates, reduce landfill dependence, strengthen ecological protection, generate green livelihoods, promote circular enterprises and enhance overall urban governance across Jammu & Kashmir.

## Growing Concern Over

monitor content that promotes hatred, incitement and sectarian discord and to take appropriate action against those found violating the law.

People stressed that differences in religious interpretation should never become a basis for hatred or hostility. They said Jammu and Kashmir's rich tradition of brotherhood and coexistence must be protected from those seeking to divide society through provocative speeches and inflammatory online campaigns.

Warning that silence in the face of growing extremism could prove costly, citizens appealed for collective efforts to counter hate speech and preserve social harmony before the damage becomes irreversible.

## Northern Army

with all stakeholders, vigilant security measures and comprehensive preparedness," it said—(KNO)

## Pak National

authorities on both sides. The crossing point at Teetwal has historically served as an important humanitarian and administrative channel for facilitating approved cross-border exchanges and repatriation procedures.

Authorities said all requisite formalities were completed before the Pakistani national was handed over to the authorities across the Line of Control. [KNT]



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# CS directs rationalization of departmental cadres, timely conduct of DPCs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a high-level meeting of Administrative Secretaries to review the status of updation of Recruitment Rules (RRs) across departments and assess the progress made in holding Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) for government employees.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary undertook a comprehensive department-wise review of the Recruitment Rules pertaining to both Gazetted and Subordinate Services and emphasized the need for their timely revision in line with evolving administrative requirements and technological advancements.

Observing that the nature of governance and service delivery has undergone significant transformation over the years, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of aligning departmental structures with contemporary needs. He underscored the necessity of identifying posts that have become redundant over time and strengthening those that are critical for efficient functioning of departments.

To carry forward this exercise in a structured manner, the Chief Secretary directed the constitution of a core team under the leadership of the Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department, with representatives from the General Administration Department (GAD), Finance Department, Law Department and the concerned departments. The team shall undertake a



comprehensive review of departmental cadres and manpower requirements in the coming weeks to ensure optimum utilization of human resources across government departments.

The Chief Secretary further emphasized that updated Recruitment Rules are essential for enhancing administrative efficiency, ensuring transparent career progression for employees and creating opportunities for induction of skilled manpower possessing qualifications suited to modern governance requirements. He called upon all departments to expedite the process of revising and finalizing their Recruitment Rules within stipulated timelines.

Reviewing the status of Departmental Promotion Committees, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of conducting DPCs in a timely and regular manner to facilitate the career advancement of employees and maintain motivation within the workforce. He directed all departments to remove bottlenecks and ensure that eligible employees receive promotions without undue delay.

The meeting also deliberated on the framework and skill sets required for recruitment of Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS). Discussions were held

lists, which have impacted the promotion process in several departments.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department, Shabnam Kamili, gave a detailed presentation on the status of Recruitment Rules currently under examination in the department. She apprised the meeting about cases that had been referred back to departments for compliance with observations and urged the concerned departments to resubmit the revised proposals at the earliest for expeditious processing.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the online portal developed for processing Recruitment Rules. It was informed that several departments have already submitted proposals through the portal and that all technical issues affecting its operation have been successfully resolved.

The meeting was further apprised that extensive capacity-building measures have been undertaken for departmental officers to facilitate effective use of the portal and ensure smooth, transparent and time-bound updation of Recruitment Rules across the Government.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the Government's commitment towards modernizing human resource management practices, streamlining service structures and ensuring timely promotions, thereby enhancing administrative efficiency and improving service delivery to the people.

# Sakeena Itoo chairs multi-departmental review meeting at Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Thursday chaired a comprehensive multi-departmental review meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to assess medical arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY), Muharram observances, Monsoon preparedness and delivery of essential public services across Jammu.

During the meeting, the Minister undertook a detailed review of medical and allied arrangements being made for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, including deployment of medical personnel, availability of healthcare facilities, transportation logistics, sanitation, drinking water supply and electricity at transit camps and other key locations.

The Minister directed the health department and district administrations to ensure round-the-clock availability of medical staff, sufficient stocks of medicines, and deployment of ambulances at all Yatra transit camps. The Power



Development Department (PDD) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) department were instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply and potable water.

Reviewing preparations for Muharram, the Minister emphasized the need for seamless coordination among departments to ensure the availability of all essential civic amenities and directed officers to work in close coordination with local committees in accordance with the directions already issued by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The Minister further instructed the authorities of Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, to maintain adequate stocks of medical equipment and essential drugs in hospitals. She also reviewed the deployment plan for additional ambulances in remote and monsoon-

prone areas that may face connectivity challenges during the rainy season.

Emphasizing preventive healthcare, the Minister directed the Health Department to ensure 100 percent coverage during the forthcoming Plus Polio Day on June 28 and undertake extensive awareness campaigns to maximize public participation.

Taking stock of monsoon preparedness, the Minister directed the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC), and Public Health Engineering Department to expedite repairs to flood-damaged infrastructure and complete desilting of nullahs and drainage channels at the earliest. The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Jammu Development Authority (JDA) were instructed to intensify sanitation drives,

fumigation measures, and scientific waste disposal to prevent waterlogging and mitigate the risk of seasonal diseases.

Reviewing public utility services, the Minister instructed the Power Development Department to adhere strictly to notified power supply schedules, decongest overhead electrical infrastructure, and reduce transformer repair time to less than 24 hours. The Public Health Engineering Department was directed to ensure potable tap water supply to all habitations and arrange tanker services wherever pipeline infrastructure is yet to be completed.

On the education sector, the Minister directed the School Education Department and Higher Education Department to complete admission processes in a time-bound manner and commence academic sessions without delay. She emphasized promoting research-oriented education with a focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI), enhancing enrolment in Government schools, and expediting infrastructure projects being executed under Samagra Shiksha.

# MP, MLAs call on Minister Javed Rana; raise public issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Member of Parliament (MP), Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan, MLA Banihal Sajad Shaheen, MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar, Thursday called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, in separate meetings and discussed various issues of public importance.

They apprised the Minister of several public welfare, developmental and infrastructure related issues requiring the intervention of the Minister.

During his meeting, the MP held detailed discussion on a range of issues of public importance, with particular focus on development priorities, governance-related matters and concerns affecting the people. The exchange also covered ongoing initiatives and measures aimed at addressing the key challenges and improving public service delivery across the region.

The MP apprised the Minister of several public welfare and developmental concerns requiring attention and sought timely intervention for their resolution.

Javed Rana gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured the MP that all genuine concerns would

be examined for redress on priority. MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar, apprised the Minister of several issues of public importance pertaining to his constituency, with special emphasis on urgent restoration of the irrigation canal at Madbal, Chadoora, which was damaged during last year's floods.

The MLA informed the Minister that the canal serves as a vital source of irrigation for agricultural lands in several villages, including Doyan, Durbugh, Yarikalan, Checkpora, Buchroo and Wathoora. He expressed concern over the hardships being faced by the farmers and sought immediate intervention for restoration and rehabilitation of the canal to ensure timely water availability during the ongoing agricultural season.

Besides the irrigation issue, the MLA also raised several other matters concerning the public welfare, development and civic amenities in different parts of the constituency and requested for their early resolution.

MLA Banihal, Sajad Shaheen also raised constituency specific issues and requested the personal intervention of the Minister to address the bottlenecks in order to ensure smooth implementation of welfare schemes and measures in his constituency.

# MLA, DC Shopian assess hailstorm damage in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** In the wake of the recent hailstorm that caused damage to orchards in several parts of the district, MLA Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, and Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Thursday conducted an extensive tour of the affected areas to assess the ground situation and interact with farmers and orchardists.

MLA and Deputy Commissioner, Shopian toured the villages of Vedpora, Daramdora, Magalpora, Odhu, Chaigund, Dumpora, Dairoo and Nadigund and other areas where hailstorm-induced losses to horticultural produce were reported.

During the visit, detailed interactions with farmers were held where farmers flagged off their concerns regarding the losses suffered due to the hailstorm.

The Duo expressed solidarity with the affected families and assured them that their genuine concerns would be projected before the government for appropriate relief and assistance.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian informed the affected residents that dedicated teams of the Horticulture Department have already been deployed to conduct a comprehensive damage assessment in all affected areas. He said that based on assessment reports, affected growers will be provided support and financial assistance admissible under the existing provisions for the losses.

# SWD Srinagar organizes Awareness Camp on Women Legal Entitlement

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Social Welfare Department (SWD)-SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar, organized an awareness camp on women's legal entitlements, including legal aid and legal counsel, at Anganwadi Zone Lal Bazar, Srinagar Thursday.

The programme was aimed at creating awareness among women regarding their legal rights and the various support mechanisms available to them for accessing justice. A large number of women from the area participated in the camp and actively engaged in the interactive sessions.

Officials from SANKALP-HEW Srinagar highlighted the importance of legal awareness and informed participants about free legal aid services, legal counseling facilities,

women's rights under various laws, protection against domestic violence, inheritance rights, and other welfare measures available through government agencies.

The participants were encouraged to seek legal assistance whenever required and were educated about the procedures for availing free legal aid through the concerned authorities.

The officials emphasized that legal empowerment is essential for ensuring gender equality and enabling women to make informed decisions about their lives and well-being. Officials of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar reiterated their commitment to promoting awareness and strengthening access to justice for women through regular outreach programmes and awareness campaigns at the grassroots level.

# Kulgam admin felicitates Winners of District-Level Competitions under NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** District Administration Kulgam Thursday organized a Grand Felicitation Ceremony at the Auditorium Hall, Kulgam, to honour the winners and outstanding participants of various competitions conducted under the aegis of the 100-Day Special Campaign against Drug Abuse under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA).

The event celebrated the achievements of students and youth who participated in district-level competitions held across schools, blocks and municipal areas, including Essay Writing, Painting, Speech and Slogan Writing Competitions, as well as Sports Tournaments, Marathon Events and the District Ideathon.

The competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation from thousands of students and youth across the district and served as a powerful medium to spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse while promoting creativity, healthy lifestyles, sportsmanship and community engagement.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, congratulated all the winners and participants for their remarkable performances and appreciated their contribution towards strengthening the movement for a drug-free society.

He emphasized that the fight against drug abuse requires active participation of youth, educational institutions, parents and civil society and highlighted that such initiatives help channelize the energy and talent of young people towards constructive pursuits.

The Deputy Commissioner further stated that the District Administration remains committed to creating platforms for youth engagement through sports, innovation, cultural activities and awareness programmes. He urged the youth to become ambassadors of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and play an active role in spreading the message of a healthy, drug-free and progressive society.

During the ceremony, cash prizes, certificates, trophies and mementos were presented to winners and top performers from various competitions. Special recognition was also accorded to participants of the District Ideathon for their innovative ideas and contributions.

The event was attended by officers from various departments, representatives of educational institutions, teachers, students, parents and members of civil society.

The felicitation ceremony marked another significant milestone in the district's ongoing efforts under the 100-Day Special Campaign against Drug Abuse, reaffirming the collective resolve of the people of Kulgam towards building a Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir.

# DIPR's Cultural Unit conducts Drug Awareness Programme in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Kashmir, organized an awareness programme under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA) at Greenland Paramedical College, Sangeen Darwaza, Hawal, Srinagar.

The programme aimed at sensitizing students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of leading a healthy, addiction-free life. Students actively participated in the event and delivered insightful speeches highlighting the ill effects of substance abuse on individuals, families, and society.

A short play depicting the dangers of drug addiction

was presented by the artists of Mehak Dramatic Club. The impactful and engaging performance received enthusiastic applause from the audience for effectively conveying the anti-drug message.

Student speakers who participated in the programme were felicitated for their contribution and awareness efforts.

Speaking on the occasion, AECO, Cultural Unit Kashmir, Syed Shakeel Shan, stressed the vital role of parental care and guidance in preventing substance abuse among youth. He also gave a detailed briefing on the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and emphasized the collective responsibility of society in combating the menace of drugs.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Rukaiya Mir W/o Gowhar Ahmed Mir (old name) to Reema W/o Gowhar Ahmed Mir (new name). In future I will be called and addressed as Reema W/o Gowhar Ahmed Mir. Now I want the same correction to be updated in my Aadhar card bearing no 873912775367. If anybody is having any sort of objection in this regard, he/she may contact the concerned deptt. within a period of 7 days. No objection will be entertained aftermath.

# JAMMU AND KASHMIR FOREST DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS KASHMIR SOUTH CIRCLE BIJBEHARA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Sub:- State Level Committee approved case file of Wood Based Units & non submission of requisite documents / registration fee- reg.**

Whereas, on the basis of recommendation furnished by the DFO concerned, 33 case file of Wood Based Unit holders under S.O. 321 of 2022 dated-04-07-2022 submitted to State Level Committee for their approval.

Whereas, State Level Committee in its 12th meeting held on 24-12-2025 approved the said case files for accord of licences under wood based category.

Whereas, the applicants whose description is mentioned below, failed in depositing the requisite registration fee before this licensing authority for obtaining of licence in their favour up to 15-06-2026.

Whereas, this office served notice on 04-04-2026 to the applicant on their home address to attend this office and deposit necessary registration fee and consent of Pollution Control Committee/ Board as per para 3, part-ii of the said S.O which set mandatory that "no new wood-based industry shall be installed/ operated without consent to establish/ operate from Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee/ Board.

Whereas, till date the below mentioned applicant(s) have not deposited the requisites/ fee in this office resulting non issuance of license.

Now through the medium of this public notice last and final opportunity is given to the following intending unit holders whose case files have been approved in 12th UT Level Committee to deposit the requisite documents/ fee under rules in this office within 15 days from the date of publish of this notice in print media, after stipulated time it will be presumed that the said persons are not interested and the approval granted in their favour shall be revoked forthwith. The list of defaulters is under:-

S.No	Name	Parentage	Residence	SLC	Forest Division
1	Fareeda Bano W/O	Late Ab. Rashid Thoker	Aglar Chirat.	12th	Shopian
2	Mohd. Naiz ul Kabir	Ab. Kabir dar	Sangam	12th	Lidder
3	Gh Qadir Naik	Mohd. Sadiq Naik	Trali Payeen	12th	Awantipora
4	Abdul Majeed Bhat & Ab. Gani Bhat	Ab. Gani Bhat	Wanpora	12th	Kulgam
5	Ab Rashid Ganie	Ab. Satar Ganie	Hasanpora Taweela	12th	Lidder
6	Manzoor Ahmad Dar	Ab. Gani Dar	Pahoo Kakpora	12th	Awantipora
7	Ab. Hameed Reshi	Gh Nabi Reshi	Sethar Satghar	12th	Lidder
8	Naseema Akhter Wf/o	Nazir Ahmad Malik	Chersoos	12th	Awantipora
9	Mohd. Yousuf Bhat	Ali Mohd. Bhat	Chersoos	12th	Awantipora
10	Ajjaz Ahmad Dar	Ab. Rahim Dar	Tumchipora	12th	Awantipora
11	Mohd. Younoos Bhat	Farooq Ahmad Bhat	Chersoos	12th	Awantipora
12	Javid Ahmad Bhat	Mohd. Jabbar Bhat	Reshipora	12th	Awantipora
13	Mohd. Shafi Mathanji	Gh. Mohd. Mathanji	Pazalpora	12th	Lidder
14	Ab. Hameed Parray	Gh. Mohd. Parray	Chersoos	12th	Awantipora

(Dr. Syed Nadeem Hussain), IFS  
Conservator of Forests,  
Kashmir South Circle, Bijbehara.

DIPK-2318-26  
DT: 18/06/2026

# 'The main thing is that we ended up on the right side', says Dercksen after SA's first T20 WC win

IAN S

**BIRMINGHAM:** South Africa's seam-bowling all-rounder Annerie Dercksen admitted she felt immense relief after the side beat Pakistan by two wickets to register their first win of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, adding that ending up on the right side of the result was the main thing for them.

Promoted to number three, Annerie struck 52 - her maiden T20 World Cup half-century - to take the Proteas over the line in a chase of 127 at Edgbaston. "I said to the team I'm probably going to die 30 years before I should, because we have a knack of doing this, but the main thing is that we ended up on the right side."

"We've done it a couple of times in World Cups now. Credit to the team, credit to the people coming in and pulling that game through for us, because I think at one stage the odds were probably stacked against us a little. I'm just really proud of the fact that we were able to pull that through."

"It's crucial as it's always nice to get some momentum with a win. We're well aware that every game now is sort of do-or-die for us. We're very happy that we could get some momentum going into the next game (against India at Old Trafford on Sunday)," said Annerie after the game ended.

She also backed the Pro-



teas team management's decision to promote her to one-down, despite the move not working out in their tournament opening defeat to Australia. "It's quite nice. I've been doing it for a while in ODI cricket so it hasn't been too foreign to me."

"It's quite nice to face the ball when you're in the Powerplay and only have two fielders out and a hard new ball. Obviously there's gonna be games like the last one where it doesn't pay off, but I am fortunate that it came out on the right side here."

Annerie's aggressive approach against the spinners was decisive, particularly after South Africa suffered early setbacks in the

chase. "I wouldn't say it's a concern. I'm more proud of the fact that we were able to pull it through."

"It was a tough wicket. I thought their spinners bowled exceptionally well and we probably lost a couple of wickets at crucial stages. But all in all, we're still very confident that we're a phenomenal batting line-up."

"We've been fortunate enough to play a lot of teams in the subcontinent recently, and we also had Pakistan tour South Africa, so maybe, without realising it, I got to work on my game against spin. And it was something I made a conscious effort about as well," she added.

# 2026 FIFA WC: Mokoena's late equaliser helps South Africa hold Czechia

IAN S

**ATLANTA:** South Africa fought back from a goal deficit to hold Czechia to a 1-1 draw in a Group A clash at Atlanta Stadium on Thursday, scoring their first point of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Teboho Mokoena's 83rd-minute penalty cancelled out Michal Sadilek's early opener as South Africa and Czechia shared the points at the Atlanta Stadium, the result leaving both sides on one point from two matches.

Czechia coach Miroslav Koubek had called for a "fast start" from his side after they lost their opener to South Korea, and his men responded and scored the opener with the match in the sixth minute of the match. Adam Hlozek crossed from the right, and



Alexandr Sojka's canny, first-time touch released Sadilek, who lashed it past Ronwen Williams.

Sadilek's goal was the fastest in this World Cup after five minutes and eight seconds. Felix Nmecha took eight seconds longer

to net for Germany against Curaçao.

The two sides created many chances but could not find another goal as they went for the breather with Czechia leading 1-0.

South Africa manager Hugo Broos introduced

Relebohile Mofokeng for the second half and, though the 21-year-old dully flickered his genius, a Czechia backline bossed by the impressive Ladislav Krejci appeared set to hold out for victory.

That was until Pavel

Sulc was penalised for handball, and Mokoena sent Matej Kovar the wrong way from the spot to make it 1-1.

Mexico and the Republic of Korea are leading the table in Group A with three points each, with the Mexicans ahead on goal difference.

"I'm very proud of my team. This is Bafana Bafana - we love good football, we are aggressive, we create chances. Yes, we made mistakes, but I'm very proud of the performance today. Czechia are powerful and very tall. We did very well. It's a little bit of a pity that it's only 1-1, but we have to win the game against the Republic, which will be very difficult too. If we play with the same mentality, it will be possible," said South Africa coach Hugo Broos after the match.

# 2026 FIFA WC: Ivory Coast's Wahli denied entry to Canada for clash against Germany

IAN S

**ABIDJAN:** Ivory Coast forward Elye Wahli has been denied entry to Canada and will miss his country's FIFA World Cup group-stage match against Germany in Toronto on Saturday, the Ivorian Football Federation (FIF) confirmed on Thursday.

The 23-year-old Nice striker, who featured in Ivory Coast's opening World Cup victory over Ecuador, was unable to secure the administrative authorisations required to enter Canada and will remain in the United States.

The development comes amid reports in France linking Wahli to an investigation into alleged spot-fixing in Ligue 1. The allegations relate to Nice's league match against Metz in May, where Wahli is accused of deliberately receiving a yellow card.

French prosecutors have confirmed to The Athletic that a 23-year-old Ligue 1

footballer was arrested as part of the investigation, though no player was officially named. The Ligue de Football Professionnel (LFP) later said it had been alerted to an unusually high volume of bets placed on a booking involving Wahli.

In a statement, the Federation Ivoirienne de Football (FIF), the governing body of football in the Ivory Coast, said it had not received any official notification regarding legal proceedings involving the player and reaffirmed its support for him.

"The Ivorian Football Federation has taken note of the various articles and information published on this Wednesday, June 17, 2026, concerning the Ivorian international Elye Wahli. To date, the FIF has not been officially notified of any judicial or administrative proceedings involving him."



the player and reaffirms its confidence in him. Elye Wahli remains an important element of the Ivory Coast national team.

"The FIF also informs that the player will not be able to join the delegation's trip to Canada. Indeed, the necessary administrative authorisations for his entry into Canadian territory could not be obtained at this stage. Elye Wahli will therefore remain in the United States pending the team's return," the official statement further added.

Wahli is the second World Cup player in recent days to encounter entry issues involving Canada. Ghana midfielder Thomas Partey was also denied entry for his country's opening group match against Panama, prompting a formal protest from the Ghanaian government.

Ivory Coast will face Germany in Toronto before returning to the United States for their next Group-stage match against Curaçao in Philadelphia.

# Boxing World Cup: Minakshi advances to quarters in China

IAN S

**GUIYANG:** Indian boxer Minakshi secured a win on the fourth day of the Boxing World Cup (Stage 2) in China, moving on to the quarterfinals in her weight class.

Minakshi, the reigning 48kg World Champion and current World No. 1, now competing in the women's 51kg category, secured a decisive 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Poland's Natalia Kuczevska, advancing in the competition.

On day four, Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) was eliminated after losing 0-5 to Kyrgyzstan's Mirzokhid Imamnazarov.

So far in the tournament, five Indian boxers have reached the quarterfinals: Nikhil (55kg), Deepak (70kg), Minakshi (51kg), Prachi (57kg), and Saneh (65kg). Additionally, Jyoti (48kg) and Jugnoo (85kg) have secured medals by advancing to the semifinals.

Jyoti was a late addition to India's squad as the BFI expanded the 18-member



squad to 20, adding Aakash alongside in the 75kg category as India's contingent saw 10 male and 10 female boxers represent the nation.

"Our foremost responsibility is towards the athletes. International competitions play a vital role in a boxer's development, and every deserving athlete should have the opportunity to test themselves against the best in the world. Jyoti and Aakash have worked hard to earn this chance, and it is important that they are able to compete, gain valuable exposure against top

international opponents and further their development at the highest level," Ajay Singh, President of the Boxing Federation of India, had said.

On Day 5, four Indian boxers will compete in their quarterfinal matches. In the women's category, Minakshi (51kg) will face Kazakhstan's Alua Balkibekova, Saneh (65kg) will face Poland's Kinga Krowka, and Prachi (57kg) will face Shih Yi Wu of Chinese Taipei. In the men's division, Nikhil (55kg) will go up against Azerbaijan's Amin Mamadzada.

# Tommy Paul notches 7th straight win at Queen's Club

IAN S

**LONDON:** Tommy Paul of the United States continued his march in the HSBC Championships at the Queen's Club in London, bringing out some of his best tennis to get the better of Botic van de Zandschulp, progressing to the quarterfinals on Thursday.

The 29-year-old Paul came up with a gritty second-round display to defeat Van de Zandschulp 7-6(5), 6-3 and extend his winning streak at the grass-court ATP 500 event to seven matches. Paul, who lifted the title at Queen's Club in 2024 before missing last year's event through injury, recovered from an unsteady start and struck a series of brilliant winners to book his return to the quarter-finals.

After dropping serve in the opening game, Paul found himself in a nervy first set

that featured four breaks of serve between the pair. However, the eighth seed raised his level when it mattered most, delivering a composed tie-break performance before taking control in the second set.

Having withdrawn from the 2025 edition due to an abdominal injury, Paul has wasted little time making his mark on his return. The American now boasts an impressive 9-2 record at Queen's Club, according to the Infosys ATP Win/Loss Index, having defeated five Top-50 opponents on his way to the 2024 title.

In the quarter-finals in west London, Paul will face fourth seed Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, who earlier eased past the dangerous Corentin Moutet 6-4, 6-3 in one hour, 39 minutes. Davidovich Fokina now leads the

Frenchman 3-0 in their Lexus ATP head-to-head series, having also beaten him in Hamburg last month.

"We know each other very well, so it's difficult to play against a friend," Davidovich Fokina said of Moutet. "He's a very tricky player. You never know what the next shot is going to be... Today, the conditions were hotter, but I knew that I needed to be focused on myself."

"I was just worried about my end of the court, really, and not worried about playing the other guy," Paul said in his on-court interview. "I just tried to make my first serves. I think I could have done a better job of that today. I don't think either of us played too many points where they finished at the net. There were a lot of baseline points, but I think the ball striking was good today," he said.

## NOW SHOWING

# Movies

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June





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HINDI

03:15 PM, 06:15 PM

TOY STORY 5

(3D ENGLISH WITH ENG SUBTITLES) (U)

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(HINDI) (U/A16+)

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