

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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After thorough security review, decision has been taken to open the Naranag Temple at Ganderbal for devotees and tourists.

'Ensure Foolproof Arrangements' Union Home Secretary Reviews Preparations For Amarnath Yatra



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Saturday directed the security top brass to ensure foolproof arrangements for the forthcoming 57-day Amarnath Yatra, slated to commence on July 3.

A top official said, that the Union Home Secretary chaired a high-level security review meeting here to review the preparations for the annual pilgrimage. "The security review meeting was held at the Police Headquarters at Haiderpora in Srinagar. It was attended by the top brass of Police, Army, CRPF, BSF, intelligence agencies and top officials of the civil administration" he said.

The official said that during the meeting the security top brass briefed the Union Home Secretary about readiness along both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes. "Security forces have intensified area domination

exercises, route sanitization and counter-terror surveillance measures across Kashmir Valley, particularly in districts connected to the annual pilgrimage," officials told the meeting.

Sources said that the security review meeting also discussed deployment plans, convoy security, emergency response mechanisms, intelligence coordination, disaster management preparedness and arrangements for pilgrims at various transit camps and base camps. "The Union Home Secretary also took stock of infrastructure and facilitation measures put in place for devotees, including healthcare, communication, transportation and rescue arrangements."

The Union Home Secretary was also briefed about emergency response, healthcare facilities, communication networks, and transportation services, sources added.

Sources said the overall security situation **•P-06**

Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue

India's Ancient Centres Of Learning Hold Lessons For The Future: LG Sinha

Says Our Goal To Revive Our Great Inheritances Of Knowledge, Strengthen India's Civilizational Traditions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Invoking the shared scholarly legacy of Nalanda and Kashmir's ancient Sharda Peeth, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday urged the younger generation to rediscover India's knowledge traditions and transform them into a modern intellectual project for a developed India. Platforms such as the Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue are crucial for preserving India's cultural heritage, fostering intellectual exchange and promoting the country's civilizational values on the global stage, he stressed.

Sinha was addressing the Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Department of Culture, J&K, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), National School of Drama and Nava Nalanda Mahavihara University.

The Lieutenant Governor said that good governance promotes cultural dialogue and together they shape the moral, cultural, and human character of a society, and formulate inclu-



SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

sive policies. "Together, the scholars of Jammu Kashmir and Nalanda shaped one of the world's oldest living civilizations. This heritage is our guiding light. The Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue is our opportunity to carry that light forward with wisdom, courage, and a new vision for Viksit Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called for strengthening India's soft power and promotion of cultural diplomacy. "Centuries ago, India's

knowledge unified the globe. Today, we can be the bridge the world needs. The world is watching. Let us lead with confidence and compassion," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that youth have inherited a rich legacy of languages, beliefs, artistic traditions, philosophical schools, and varied ways of life. He said this diversity is our greatest strength.

"From Bihar to Jammu Kashmir, from the temples of Tamil Nadu to the monasteries of Ladakh, from the **•P-06**

TOGETHER, THE SCHOLARS OF JAMMU KASHMIR AND NALANDA SHAPED ONE OF THE world's oldest living civilizations. This heritage is our guiding light. The Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue is our opportunity to carry that light forward with wisdom, courage, and a new vision for Viksit Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

LG Greets People On International Yoga Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday extended his greetings to the people on the eve of 12th International Day of Yoga, which will be celebrated tomorrow.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor has said, "Heartiest greetings to all on the occasion of 12th International Day of Yoga.

On this auspicious occasion, I call upon the citizens of Jammu Kashmir to actively participate in Yoga events and champion the movement toward a healthier lifestyle. This year's International Yoga Day theme is 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing'. Yoga stands as an invaluable treasure of our ancient Indian heritage, which harmonizes mind and body, bridges the bond between humanity and nature, and guides us toward a more holistic realm of health and happiness.

With rising stress and modern health challenges, Yoga offers a **•P-06**

LG Announces Historic Naranag Temple Reopens Following Security Review

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The administration has decided to reopen the historic Naranag Temple in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district for devotees and tourists following a comprehensive security review.

In a post on X, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, as per the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the decision was taken after a thorough assessment of the security situation.

"After thorough security review, decision has been taken to open the Naranag Temple at Ganderbal for devotees and tourists," said the Office of the LG, J&K, said in the post.

The reopening is expected to facilitate **•P-06**

Rain, Hailstorm In J&K Parts; Temperatures Remain Below Normal



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir were hit by rain, thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds on Saturday, while day temperatures remained below normal across most stations in the Valley.

According to the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, rain and thundershower activity affected many areas of the Kashmir division and parts of the Jammu division, including Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, and Udhampur.

The Sonamarg-Baltal-Holy Cave axis and the

Pahalgam-Holy Cave axis also witnessed brief intense showers accompanied by thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds.

Weather data, accessed, showed Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 27.2 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, while Qazigund settled at 24.8 degrees Celsius, Kupwara at 24.7 degrees Celsius and Pahalgam at 21.5 degrees Celsius. Gulmarg recorded 16.6 degrees Celsius. Jammu city registered 37.6 degrees Celsius, which was normal for this time of the year.

During the past 24 hours, Pahalgam received **•P-06**

PMJAY-SEHAT Fraud Allegations Rock GMC Anantnag; Cardiologist Suspended, Govt Orders Probe

Expert Audit Questions Medical Necessity Of Nearly Half Of Reviewed Cardiac Procedures

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: A major controversy has surfaced at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag after serious allegations of medical malpractice, procedural irregularities and misuse of public healthcare funds emerged in connection with cardiac procedures conducted under the PMJAY-SEHAT health insurance scheme.

According to the details available, the Jammu and Kashmir Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department has initiated a formal departmental inquiry against a senior cardiologist and placed him under suspension pending completion of the investigation.

The case revolves around Dr. Syed Maqbool Ahmad Shah, Associate Professor of Cardiology at GMC Anantnag, who is



facing allegations of procedural misrepresentation, generation of questionable reimbursement claims under the PMJAY-SEHAT scheme, bypassing approved procurement channels and performing specialized cardiac interventions on patients who allegedly did not meet the required clinical criteria.

As per official documents, the allegations came to light during an investigation carried

out by the State Anti-Fraud Unit (SAFU), which reviewed claims submitted under the government-funded PMJAY-SEHAT programme. During the audit, investigators reportedly discovered significant discrepancies between records uploaded on the online Transaction Management System (TMS) and entries maintained in the Cath Lab Procedure Register at GMC Anantnag. **•P-06**

CS Takes Stock Of Progress Under 4G Saturation And Amended Bharatnet Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The 11th Meeting of the State Broadband Committee (SBC) of Jammu and Kashmir was Saturday held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo, to review the progress of key digital connectivity initiatives aimed at ensuring universal access to high-speed telecommunications and internet services across the Union Territory.

The meeting besides ACS, PDD and ACS, PWD was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology (IT); Secretary, RDD; CGM, BSNL; MD, JPDC/L/KPDC; Representatives from DoT and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the progress of land allotment and statutory clearances, the Chief Secretary impressed upon all Deputy Commissioners



to clear the pending tower sites on a fast-track basis. He directed the Information Technology Department to obtain district-wise status reports and timelines for every identified site proposed for installation of telecom towers in far-flung and uncovered habitations. He further instructed that weekly progress reports be sought regarding feasibility assessments, land identification, statutory clearances and transfer of **•P-06**

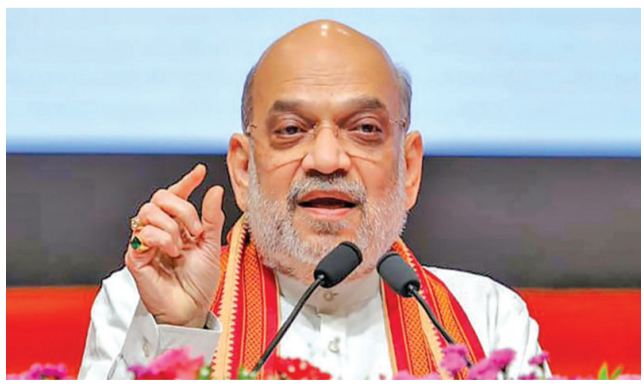
India's Security Landscape Underwent Significant Transformation Under PM Modi: Hm Shah

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Reiterating that India's security landscape has undergone a significant transformation over the past 12 years in PM Narendra Modi's tenure, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said security agencies have established dominance over terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and peace has returned to large parts of North-East.

Addressing a public rally in Ichalkaranji in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district, Shah, said regions that were once affected by violence and instability have witnessed substantial improvements in the security situation.

He said the Centre's policies and the efforts of security forces had helped curb terrorism in Kashmir, while peace had returned to large parts of



the North-East.

Shah also stated that the decades-old challenge of Left-wing extremism had been largely overcome.

The union Home Minister said that stability has been strengthened across several regions of the country, including Ladakh, Punjab and the North-East, as a result of sustained

security and development initiatives undertaken by the Narendra Modi government.

Highlighting the government's focus on defence preparedness, Shah said India's armed forces have been modernised and equipped with indigenous capabilities.

He noted that the country, which once relied heavily on

imports for defence requirements, is now manufacturing advanced military equipment, including missiles, under the push for self-reliance.

The senior BJP leader also referred to key political decisions taken during the Modi government's tenure, including the abrogation of Article 370 and the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Shah said the Prime Minister had simultaneously focused on strengthening the cooperative sector and promoting technological and scientific advancements. Referring to India's space achievements, he said the successful landing of Chandrayaan near the Moon's south pole demonstrated the country's growing capabilities in space exploration.

On welfare measures, the home minister said farmers have received direct **•P-06**

EOW Kashmir Files Chargesheet In Telecom Project Fraud Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir on Saturday said it has filed a chargesheet against a Kanpur-based man in a telecom project fraud case.

Officials said the investigation found that the accused allegedly duped a complainant by promising a US-based telecom call project and fraudulently obtained money through false assurances.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir, of Crime Branch J&K has produced a chargesheet in FIR No. 44/2023 under Section 420 IPC before the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sopore, against Harkeet Singh S/o Guru Mohan Singh R/o Kali Mata Mandir, Lal Bangla, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

He said the case pertains to a written complaint alleging that the accused had induced the complainant to **•P-06**

J&K Records Lowest Student Dropout Rate In 'High-Burden' Category



RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir ranks near the bottom of the 'high-burden' secondary school dropout list, recording a dropout rate significantly lower than most of the states in its category.

According to the official documents available, Jammu and Kashmir had a dropout rate of 12.9 percent at secondary level. "High rates are further observed in Telangana with 13.2 percent, Jammu & Kashmir with 12.9 percent, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu at 12.5 percent each, and Nagaland with 12.1 percent. Maharashtra 11.5 percent,

Sikkim with 11.4 percent, and Tripura at 11.3 percent mark the lower end of this high-burden group," it reads.

In March-2025, KNO reported that Jammu and Kashmir in the previous two years was facing an increase in dropout rate at primary, upper primary and secondary school levels.

At that time primary level J&K was facing a dropout rate of 3.89 percent in the year 2022-23 at primary level that further increased to 8.87 percent in the year 2023-24.

The previous official figures reveal that school at upper primary level, Jammu and Kashmir was facing a dropout rate of 2.65 **•P-06**

Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra-2026 flagged off amid record participation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Hundreds of pilgrims began their journey Saturday to the shrine of Mata Ragnya Devi and other traditional destinations across Kashmir, as the Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra-2026 was ceremonially flagged off.

As part of the ceremonial departure, 214 buses carrying approximately 8,500 pilgrims were flagged off towards pilgrimage destinations across Kashmir, marking the annual observance of Jyeshtha Ashtami.

MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana flagged off the Yatra from Toll Post Nagrota in the presence of DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range Shridhar Patil, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr Arvind Karwani and Additional Commissioner Jammu Sham Lal, besides senior



civil and police officers.

This year's Yatra has registered a significant rise in pilgrim registrations. The Administration attributes the increase to the peaceful atmosphere, strengthened security and extensive arrangements in place, making the 2026 Yatra one of the largest in recent years.

Senior and nodal offi-

cers of the Relief and Rehabilitation Organisation have been deployed at Tulmulla, Tikker, Devsar-Manzgam, Logripora and other pilgrimage destinations well in advance of the Yatra, to oversee arrangements and coordinate among departments. The annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela is being observed at the tradi-

tional pilgrimage centres of Tulmulla (Ganderbal), Tikker (Kupwara), Devsar-Manzgam (Kulgam) and Logripora (Anantnag), with the principal congregation at the shrine of Mata Ragnya Devi, Tulmulla. The Yatra will culminate on 22 June 2026, coinciding with Jyeshtha Ashtami, when thousands of devotees are expected to take part in prayers at the shrine locations.

The departure followed weeks of coordinated effort by the Relief and Rehabilitation Organisation, district administrations, security agencies and other stakeholder departments across the Union Territory.

The Administration conveyed its greetings to the devotees travelling independently to the shrine of Mata Kheer Bhawani and other traditional destinations in the Valley.

BOPEE conducts Common Entrance Test for M.Sc. Technology Courses

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

The test was conducted

at the Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar and Government MAM College, Jammu with 312 candidates appearing in the examination.

To ensure smooth conduct of the entrance test, adequate arrangements had been made in collaboration with the respective college administrations and law enforcement

agencies, under the guidance of Professor Minu Mahajan, Chairperson, BOPEE.

The examination proceeded smoothly with no untoward or unfair incident reported under the vigilant supervision of college staff.

The Chairperson, along with the Members, Secretary, Controller of Examinations and officials of the

BOPEE actively monitored the conduct of the CET at both the centres in Jammu and Srinagar. They thanked the staff members of the respective Colleges and the staff deployed under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioners in the respective District Headquarters for smooth conduct of the said Entrance Test.

HCL Foundation invites applications for Edition XII of HCLTech Grant

₹24 crore will be granted to NGOs for transformative projects across water, biodiversity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: HCL Foundation, which drives the corporate social responsibility agenda of global technology company HCLTech in India, announced Edition XII of HCLTech Grant to provide a platform to non-profits in India to create sustainable, community-led change across rural India.

A total of ₹24 crore will be provided to NGOs, selected by an esteemed jury, for transformative projects in sustainable rural development across the themes of water, biodiversity, health and education. Four winning NGOs from each category will receive ₹5 crore each, while eight other NGOs will receive ₹50 lakh each for their proposed projects. The last date for submitting applications on www.hclfoundation.org/hcltechgrant is June 30, 2026.

"At HCLFoundation, we believe that some of the most transformative solutions emerge from grassroots organizations that are deeply connected to the communities they serve. Through this edition of HCLTech Grant, we aim to provide a platform for NGOs to unleash their potential, scale innovative ideas and create sustainable change that improves



lives and strengthens communities across the country. We look forward to partnering with organizations that are driving meaningful impact and contributing to India's development journey," said Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Director, HCLFoundation.

The HCLTech Grant-supported projects have significantly advanced sustainable development through the years, uplifting 2.3 million lives across 61,000 villages in India. The Grant-funded initiatives have led to the planting of 3+ lakh saplings, the rejuvenation of 68,300+ hectares of land and a reduction of 67,000+ tons in CO2 emissions.

So far, over ₹203 crore has been committed by HCLFoundation through HCLTech Grant. In Edition XI of the Grant, Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS) from Rajast-

han, Live Foundation from Jharkhand, Goodwill Foundation from Mizoram and Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti from Rajasthan were selected for grant of ₹5 crore each for projects ranging from water harvesting in the Thar desert and biodiversity conservation in Jharkhand to enhancing healthcare access in Mizoram and enabling gender equality through education in Rajasthan.

HCLFoundation also announced the HCLTech Grant Edition XII Pan India Symposiums 2026 in an effort to bring together NGOs, experts, government, corporates and policymakers on one platform across India to deliberate on how CSR can contribute towards nation building. This year, the Symposiums have been scheduled in Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Nagpur and Delhi.

DC Kulgam chairs IPPI review meeting

Finalizes arrangements for Pulse Polio Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Saturday chaired an IPPI (Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization) review meeting to finalize arrangements for the upcoming Pulse Polio campaign.

The meeting was attended by officers from the Health Department and other concerned stakeholders.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparedness of the district and stressed the importance of ensuring that no eligible child is left out of the immunization drive. It was informed that a target of 87,770 children has been set for vaccination across the district. For the successful implementation of the campaign, 519 vaccination booths and 13 transit camps have been established to cover children at fixed sites as well as those on the move.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure effective awareness, monitoring, and supervision to achieve 100 percent coverage of the target population.

DC Srinagar conducts comprehensive visit of Mir Behri



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday conducted a comprehensive visit to various areas of the City and Imambargahs in interior localities of Mir Behri Dal and Khushipora HMT to review the arrangements made for the smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram processions and to also take stock of the developmental needs of the area.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz; PO, ICDS, Bureeda Majeed; Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid; IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; CEO, Ghulam Mohi Din; BMO Hazratbal, Dr Ab Majeed; Executive Engineers R&B, Farid Khan; Executive Engineer R&B, Arif Hazari; Executive Engineer, KPDCK, Abrar Ahmad; Secretary LCMA, Mohammad Altaf Bhat; Executive Engineer PHE, Muzamil Ahmad; DSWO, Mohammad Yousuf and senior Officers from the Departments of Health, Fire & Emergency Services, Forest and other line departments.

During the visit, the DC held a series of meetings with local representatives and community members at Mir Behri Dal, Nandpora, Moti Mohalla, Zaldar Mohalla and Khushipora

HMT. In the presence of Officers from all concerned departments, the DC reviewed the preparations made for Muharram and inspected facilities related to sanitation, electricity, drinking water supply, healthcare and other essential services.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized elaborate arrangements with sustained efforts facilitating the observance of important proceedings and Muharram processions. He directed the Officers to ensure seamless inter departmental coordination for proper sanitation, lighting, electricity and water supply and other essential services around the Imambargahs and the procession routes.

Interacting with community representatives, the DC assured them that the District Administration has put in place all necessary measures to facilitate mourners during the Muharram period. He issued several on-the-spot directions to concerned Departments and stressed the need for sustained efforts to ensure the smooth conduct of religious proceedings and processions.

The DC also listened to public issues and developmental demands raised by the residents of the areas. He assured them that genuine concerns, particularly those related to the upgradation of water supply systems, drainage infrastructure, healthcare and education facilities as well as dredging of interior portions of the Dal, would be addressed on a priority basis.

DC Anantnag visits Nunwan Base Camp

Assesses preparedness of various departments for SANJY-2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Saturday visited Nunwan Base Camp Pahalgam, to assess the preparedness of various departments for the ensuing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The DC was accompanied by CEO PDA, ADC,



SEs R&B, Jal Shakti and KPDCL, SDMs Bijbehara and Pahalgam, CMO, Tehsildar, Police Officers, Exens of various engineering wings, ULB and F&ES officials and other concerned officials.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an extensive inspection of facilities and logistical arrangements being established for the pilgrims. He reviewed accommodation, sanitation, drinking water supply, power availability, healthcare services, security arrangements, and other essential amenities at the base camp.

Emphasizing the significance of SANJY as one of the country's most important religious pilgrimages, Dr. Bilal directed all departments to work in close coordination and ensure that every facility is put in place well before the commencement of the Yatra. He stressed the need to maintain high standards of cleanliness, efficient service delivery, and robust emergency response mechanisms to facilitate a safe and comfortable pilgrim-

age experience. During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of ongoing infrastructure and developmental works at the base camp and instructed the executing agencies to expedite pending works and adhere strictly to prescribed timelines.

Subsequently, the DC chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Pahalgam Club, where depart-

ment-wise preparedness and the progress of arrangements were discussed in detail. He directed the officers to ensure flawless coordination for a smooth and successful conduct of SANJY-2026.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with representatives of Tent Associations, Trade Associations, Pony Associations, and other stakeholders associated with the Yatra. He patiently heard their suggestions and assured them that all genuine issues would be addressed on priority adding that keeping with the tradition they have a huge role during the forthcoming Yatra.

Retierating the administration's commitment to ensuring successful conduct of the pilgrimage, the DC stressed on maintaining high standards of readiness by all stakeholders so the best possible facilities are provided to the visiting devotees.

The district administration is undertaking extensive measures to ensure that SANJY-2026 is conducted in a safe, organized, and pilgrim-friendly manner.

MLA Lolab concludes Three-Day Tour of Border Area Machil

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: MLA Lolab, Qaysar Jamsaid Lone, Saturday concluded his three-day extensive tour of the border area of Machil, covering several remote villages across the valley.

During the tour, the MLA visited far-flung areas to assess the status of developmental works, review the availability of essential services, and interact with local residents to understand their concerns and grievances.

On the occasion, MLA Lolab inspected roads, water



supply schemes, healthcare facilities and other ongoing developmental projects in the area. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the execution of works and ensure quality implementation for the benefit of the people. The MLA also held interactions with local resi-

dents, who brought various issues relating to wages, road connectivity, irrigation facilities, healthcare services and fuel accessibility to his notice. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for timely redressal of the issues.

As part of welfare initia-

tives during the tour, Biomass Cook Stoves were distributed among beneficiaries at Katwara, Dappal and Misribaikh villages to promote clean, smokeless and cost-effective cooking solutions for households in the border belt.

Addressing the people, MLA Lolab said that Machil, being a frontier area, deserves priority in terms of development, connectivity and the provision of basic amenities. He reiterated his commitment to ensuring that the concerns and developmental aspirations of the people are addressed on priority.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION SHOPIAN.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

FRESH E-NIT S.NO:- (10) OF 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-quotations are invited from registered commercial vehicle owners of UT of Jammu & Kashmir for hiring of vehicles on rate contract basis for supervision of government works, under a single contract cover. The class of contract shall be Travel. The expenditure shall be met from approved ongoing programmes under contingencies of administratively approved DPRs from competent authorities.

S. No	Particulars	Quantity	Cost of tender document	EMD
1	Hiring of vehicle for office use during the year 2026-27 (Scorpio N&S / Innova Crysta & Hycross / XUV 700), fully loaded. The hire shall include charges for driver, tyres, lubricants, engine oil, battery, repair and maintenance, insurance, liability, and claims related to damage or accidents, excluding fuel. The vehicle offered should not be older than 2020-21 model	1 No.	Rs. 100	Rs. 2000/-

The e-quotation consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, Bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of hire charges and other details can be seen/ downloaded from department website www.jktenders.gov.in.

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	20-06-2026 (04:00 PM)
02	Date of start of downloading.	20-06-2026 (05:00 PM)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	20-06-2026 (06:00 PM)
04	Bid submission end date.	30-06-2026 (04:00 PM)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	01-07-2026 (10:00 PM)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bidders shall upload CDR/earnest money deposit of Rs. 2000/- along with the bid. It shall be released after successful completion of the contract.
- Tender document fee shall be deposited in the shape Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian under MH-0702.
- Rates shall be quoted on daily basis (excluding fuel) and inclusive of all applicable taxes.
- The successful bidder shall bear all costs related to driver's salary, vehicle maintenance, consumables (tyres, lubricants, engine oil, battery), repairs, insurance, liability, accident claims or damages.
- The vehicle shall:
 - Be strictly diesel-run only. Petrol, hybrid, or CNG vehicles will not be accepted.
 - Be capable of safe operation in hilly terrain and nallah/stream crossings during flood situations.
 - Not be older than 2020 model.
 - Be in good condition with new wheel tyres properly aligned and clean interiors.
- Possess valid Commercial registration, insurance, pollution certificate, road permit and driving license of driver.
- Pre-delivery inspection of the vehicle will be carried out by the Executive Engineer. If the vehicle is found uncomfortable, unsuitable, or below standard, the Engineer shall have the absolute right to reject it outright without assigning any reason.
- Once accepted, the vehicle shall be for exclusive use of this office and cannot be diverted for other purposes. Kilometres counting shall start and end at the designated office.
- In case of unsatisfactory condition or breakdown of the vehicle, it shall be replaced immediately with a similar make/model vehicle. Failure to do so will authorize the department to hire another vehicle at the risk and cost of the contractor.
- This office shall not be responsible for challans, penalties, damages, accidents, or third-party claims.
- The driver/vehicle shall not be changed frequently. Any change must be informed to the authority in advance.
- Bills/invoices shall be submitted monthly in triplicate, accompanied by logbooks verified by the concerned officer.
- A penalty of Rs. 1000 per day shall be imposed if the vehicle or agency fails to meet these conditions.
- The vehicle offered shall be Scorpio N & S / Innova Crysta & Hycross / XUV 700 / Tata Safari, fully loaded. The hire shall include charges for driver, tyres, lubricants, engine oil, battery, repair and maintenance, insurance, liability, and claims related to damage or accidents, excluding fuel.

Other terms and conditions of PWD Form 25 shall also apply.

No./IDS/ 1470-80
Dated: 20-06-2026

DIPK-2380-26
DT: 20/06/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division Shopian.

Vice-Prez Radhakrishnan visits Hall of Fame War Memorial, other places in Leh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: Vice-President of India, C P Radhakrishnan, today visited the Hall of Fame War Memorial, Sindhu Ghat, Pashmina Goat Farm at Upshi, and the first rock check dam on the Sindhu River during the second day of his official visit to the Union Territory of Ladakh.

According to the details available, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, accompanied the Vice-President during the visits.

At the Hall of Fame War Memorial in Leh, the Vice-President paid homage to the brave soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces. He lauded the unwavering commitment of the armed forces to the nation and said that their spirit of "Nation First: Always and Every Time" inspires every citizen with a deep sense of patriotism and gratitude.

The Vice-President appreciated the Indian Army for establishing and maintaining the memorial, which preserves the legacy of courage, valour and sacrifice of India's soldiers. He also visited the galleries depicting operations during the Indo-Pak and Indo-China wars and noted that they stand as enduring testimonies to the dedication and heroism of the Armed Forces.

Later, the Vice-President visited the sacred Sindhu Ghat near Leh and offered prayers on the banks of the revered River Sindhu. He observed that the Sindhu River remains a timeless symbol of Bharat's civilizational heritage and cultural unity, inspiring generations through its enduring legacy.



The Vice-President also visited the Pashmina Goat Farm at Upshi and was briefed on the initiatives being undertaken to preserve and promote Ladakh's unique Pashmina heritage. Appreciating the efforts of the institution, he noted that the Changthangi goats and the world-renowned Pashmina they produce reflect the rich traditions and ingenuity of the people of Ladakh.

He commended the farm's contribution towards sustainable livestock management and the socio-economic empowerment of local communities, particularly women engaged in Pashmina production and allied activities. The Vice-President appreciated the dedication of scientists, staff and local stakeholders, whose collective efforts are helping strengthen rural livelihoods, enhance women's economic participation and preserve an invaluable national asset for future generations.

During his visit to Upshi, the Vice-President also inspected the first rock check dam on the Sindhu River, constructed under the Sindhu Jal Samridhi Abhiyan. Appreciating the eco-friendly and cost-effective initiative, he described it as an innovative and

locally adapted solution to Ladakh's recurring water challenges.

The Vice-President lauded the vision and leadership of the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, for conceptualising and spearheading the initiative. He noted that the pioneering project augments water levels in shallow stretches of the Sindhu River, enabling farmers to irrigate their fields during the critical sowing season. He observed that such sustainable interventions can significantly strengthen water security, support agricultural livelihoods and contribute to the long-term development of the region.

Later in the day, the Vice-President also met with the brave personnel of the 5th Battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in Ladakh. He lauded their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and steadfast commitment to safeguarding the nation's frontiers under some of the most challenging conditions.

The Vice-President is on a three-day official visit to Ladakh from June 19 to 21, 2026. During the visit, he will participate in the International Day of Yoga celebrations on June 21, 2026—(KNO)

Legal rights must translate into accessible, dignified institutional support for women: Justice Vikram Nath

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority under the guidance of National Legal Services Authority Saturday organised a mega awareness programme on "Empowering Women and Strengthening Institutional Legal Support" at SKICC, Srinagar.

Among others present on the occasion were Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority; Justice S. V. N. Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Supervising Judge for J&K Legal Services Authority; Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority; Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, High Legal Services Committee besides other Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The programme was conceived as a common institutional platform to strengthen awareness of the legal rights of women and girl children and to improve coordination among the Legal Services Institutions, Police, Health, Education, Social Welfare, One Stop Centres, Child Welfare Committees and other authorities responsible for protection, legal assistance, compensation, rehabilitation and follow-up support.

In his presidential address,



Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, emphasized that the effectiveness of Legal Services Institutions must be judged by whether a person in distress is able to approach the system without fear, be heard with dignity and receive competent assistance without avoidable delay. He called upon all the stakeholders to strengthen the legal literacy, institutional coordination and grassroots outreach so that constitutional and statutory safeguards become a practical reality for women and girl children.

Justice Vikram Nath further stressed that the proceedings and key deliberations of this conference should be translated into vernacular languages and circulated among all concerned stakeholders, so that the knowledge and guidance emanating from the conference are easily understood and effectively acted upon at grassroots level.

Justice S. V. N. Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Supervising Judge for the

J&K Legal Services Authority, during his special address, highlighted the need for functional grievance mechanisms, trained stakeholders and victim-sensitive procedures. He observed that women and children should not be compelled to navigate a fragmented institutional system or repeatedly recount traumatic experiences before different authorities. Clear referral pathways, confidentiality and accountability, he stated, are necessary for meaningful legal empowerment.

While delivering the inaugural address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, underscored that access to justice cannot be measured merely by the availability of laws and institutions.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar called for stronger grassroots outreach and effective functioning of Front Offices, Legal Aid Clinics, Panel Lawyers and Para-Legal Volunteers so that persons in need are guided to appropriate remedies without procedural

hardships. He also stressed the importance of convergence among all stakeholder institutions dealing with women in distress.

Recalling the distinguished tradition of humanitarian and justice-oriented intervention by the J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sanjeev Kumar highlighted its exemplary response in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2005. The J&K Legal Services Authority undertook proactive measures to reach out to the affected population and facilitated timely settlement of their claims. In a significant departure from conventional court-based proceedings, Judicial Officers stepped beyond the confined traditional courtrooms and conducted Lok Adalats in the open, closer to the affected communities, enabling victims to receive compensation and have their claims settled on the spot.

Justice Sanjay Dhar emphasized that the constitutional character of the justice system is reflected in the manner in which a woman is received by the first institution she approaches. Prompt assistance, confidentiality, sensitivity and institutional follow-up, he said, are essential to prevent secondary victimisation and restore confidence in the justice system.

On the occasion, "ENDEAVOUR-2025", the Annual Newsletter-cum-Compendium reflecting the legal services activities and initiatives undertaken across

the Union Territory during the year 2025, was released by the dignitaries.

The awareness programme was also graced by the presence of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousef Wani, Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice Shahzad Azeem.

The programme was also attended by a Former Chief Justice and other former Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh; officers of NALSA and the Registry of High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Judicial Officers; representatives of the Civil and Police Administration; academicians and representatives of various Government departments and institutions.

The session also discussed cyberstalking, impersonation, misuse of images, online blackmail and technology-enabled abuse, with emphasis on prompt reporting, preservation of digital evidence, privacy and victim-sensitive handling of complaints.

In her concluding remarks, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi underlined that convergence becomes meaningful only when responsibilities are clearly assigned, timelines are known and the victim is supported through a continuum of assistance.

Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan celebrates West Bengal Foundation Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan Saturday hosted the cultural evening to mark the West Bengal Foundation Day. The event brought together officials, security personnel, students and the people of West Bengal currently living in J&K UT.

Addressing the gathering, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha conveyed his greetings and best wishes to the people of West Bengal on the occasion. He prayed for the happiness, well-being and prosperity of the people of West Bengal.

"West Bengal is a vibrant expression of Indian culture. Its folk arts, musical traditions and festivals symbolize social harmony and cultural richness. West Bengal's unparalleled contributions to literature, art,

music and science, have offered a fresh perspective to society. The region has served not only as a hub of political awakening but also as a major center of spiritual and cultural consciousness," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to the freedom fighters and great revolutionaries from West Bengal.

"West Bengal's contribution to India's freedom struggle and nation-building has been truly glorious. This land has always been a focal point for patriotism, social awakening and ideological leadership.

It has been home to great luminaries and historic icons such as Maharshi Sri Aurobindo, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Bankim

Chandra Chattopadhyay, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Swami Prabhupada, Khudiram Bose, Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, and Mahasweta Devi, who gave a new direction to our spiritual and national consciousness. May the state continue to scale new heights of growth and development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor recalled the pivotal role of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in spearheading the movement for the complete integration of Jammu Kashmir.

"Building upon the foundation of national unity that Dr. Mookerjee strengthened through his historic struggle, Jammu Kashmir is today advancing on a new path of development and prosperity. I salute his indomitable courage, patriotism and dedication to the motherland," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to draw inspiration from such monumental personalities and contribute toward building a strong, prosperous and Viksit Bharat.

Rana reviews development works in Poonch; cautions against laxity in quality standards



GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: Aimed at accelerating the pace of developmental works and ensuring quality execution of ongoing projects, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and implementation status of Jal Shakti, PWD (R&B), Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and Dharti Aaba works in Poonch district.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department, PWD (R&B), JPDCL, NTPC, Tribal Affairs Department and other senior officers from district administration. Detailed discussions were held regarding the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects, bottlenecks affecting execution and measures required for their timely completion.

While addressing the meeting, Rana stressed the need for expeditious implementation of all sanctioned works. He directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to timelines without compromising quality standards. He emphasized that all the departments must adopt a result-oriented approach to

ensure that developmental projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe and their benefits reach the public at the earliest.

Reviewing the status of water supply and allied infrastructure projects, the Minister directed the Jal Shakti Department to maintain close monitoring of ongoing works and address all issues impeding progress. He called for effective coordination among the executing agencies to ensure seamless implementation of projects across the district.

The Minister reviewed various road infrastructure works being executed under PWD (R&B). He instructed the officers to accelerate project execution while maintaining the prescribed technical specifications and quality parameters.

Highlighting the significance of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, Rana described it as a key initiative for strengthening the power distribution network and improving service delivery in the district. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely implementation of RDSS works and prepare a comprehensive roadmap for achieving the scheme's objectives.

The Minister also expressed concern over

the slow progress in implementation of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in the district and called upon the concerned to pace up the progress.

Maintaining that holistic tribal development remains a foremost priority of the present government, Rana emphasised the need for targeted efforts to bridge critical gaps in social infrastructure, healthcare, education and livelihood support, stressing that sustained and measurable outcomes must be ensured for tribal communities across the district.

The Minister emphasized that all procedural requirements, including technical sanctions, tendering and allotments be completed in the shortest possible time to ensure timely execution of projects across the district. He directed the officers to conduct regular field inspections to monitor the quality, progress and adherence to approved specifications.

He made it clear that any laxity in meeting project timelines or quality standards would not be tolerated. He directed that prompt punitive action be initiated against the contractors found defaulting on their contractual obligations or failing to deliver work as per prescribed norms.

Javid Dar attends virtual release of PM-KISAN 23rd installment

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Saturday attended the virtual event marking the release of the 23rd installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The installment was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who transferred the financial assistance directly into the bank accounts of the eligible farmers from across the country through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism. In Jammu and Kashmir,

an amount of approximately ₹4,209.82 crore has been successfully disbursed among 9.17 lakh beneficiaries under the PM-KISAN scheme since its inception, providing vital financial assistance to the farming community.

The Union Territory-level function organised at SKUAST-Kashmir witnessed the participation of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganie, senior scientists, officers of the Agriculture Production Department, progressive farmers, scholars and other stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Javid Ahmad Dar said that PM-KISAN has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at providing assured financial support to the farmers and strengthening the rural

economy. He said that the timely release of installments enables farmers to meet agricultural input costs, adopt improved farming practices and undertake allied agricultural activities more effectively.

Highlighting the growing significance of agriculture in the face of climate change and emerging environmental challenges, the Minister emphasized that the sector remains the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy and a key source of livelihood for a large section of the population. He stressed the need to promote climate-resilient agriculture, efficient water management, crop diversification and the adoption of modern technologies to enhance productivity and sustainability.

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation for flood protection projects at Guddar Laisoo



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday visited Guddar Laisoo area of Kulgam district and inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several important flood protection works aimed at safeguarding the local habitations and infrastructure.

During the visit, the Minister laid the foundation stone for permanent restoration bund at Laisoo to be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹2.50 crore. She also laid the foundation stone for a flood protection bund at Guddar Laisoo costing 2.46 crore.

On the occasion, the Minister also inaugurated a recently completed flood protection bund constructed at a cost of ₹22.55 lakh, which will help protect the area from erosion and flood-related damage.

She was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam,

officers from R&B, Irrigation and Flood Control and other district officers.

Later, the Minister chaired a public outreach programme at Guddar village, where she interacted with the local residents and listened to their grievances, issues and developmental demands. The people projected various concerns, particularly seeking repair and upgradation of roads in the area.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister assured the public that their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for timely redressal.

Sakeena Itoo informed the people that additional protection bunds have already been approved and work on these projects will commence shortly. She said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is taking all necessary measures to improve public infrastructure and ensure better living conditions across Jammu and Kashmir.

DIPR's Cultural Unit organises Awareness Programme under NMBA at HSS Palpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Srinagar, organised an awareness programme at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Palpora, Srinagar, aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

During the programme, students delivered thoughtful and informative speeches highlighting the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of adopting a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

Adding a creative dimension to the awareness campaign, artists of Kashmir Kala Manch presented a thematic short play depicting the adverse social and personal consequences of drug addiction. The performance was widely appreciated by the audience for its powerful message and effective presentation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Cultural Officer Kashmir and AECO stressed the need for active youth participation in the fight against drug abuse. They urged students to become ambassadors of change and contribute towards making Jammu and Kashmir a drug-free society.

Good Morning Kashmir

Confronting Kashmir's Hypertension Epidemic

There is a quiet crisis unfolding across Kashmir, and it doesn't announce itself with a loud emergency or visible symptoms. Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is tightening its grip on the Valley. It has rightfully earned the grim title of a "silent killer" because by the time many people realize they have it, irreversible damage has already been done to their bodies.

A recent medical programme organized by the Department of General Medicine at SKIMS Medical College for World Hypertension Day brought forward an uncomfortable reality: high blood pressure cases in Kashmir are skyrocketing, and the data shows no signs of slowing down.

For a long time, hypertension was dismissed as an ailment of old age—something to worry about later in life. That is no longer true. Doctors across the Valley are reporting a deeply alarming trend: an influx of young patients in their twenties and thirties suffering from dangerously high blood pressure. Our modern lifestyle is adding fuel to this fire, driven by a perfect storm of daily habits: Sedentary Routines: Long hours spent behind screens with very little physical exercise. Dietary Shifts: A heavy reliance on fast food and traditionally high-salt Kashmiri diets. Rising Obesity: Directly linked to changes in how we eat and move.

But lifestyle is only half the story. Kashmir's unique social and economic landscape has created a pressure cooker environment. Years of economic uncertainty, unemployment anxieties, and persistent psychological stress have taken a quiet, devastating toll on the population's physical health. While mental health challenges are frequently discussed, the direct, physical link between chronic emotional stress and high blood pressure is too often ignored.

The River That Gave India Its Name

Sindhu Mahakumbh And The Celebration Of Living Civilizational Legacy



SACHIN BALI

In the high-altitude deserts of Ladakh, where the Himalayas rise in silent grandeur and ancient traditions continue to thrive amidst some of the world's most breathtaking landscapes, a historic gathering is set to unfold on the banks of one of humanity's most revered rivers. From June 22 to 27, 2026, Leh will host the first-ever Sindhu Mahakumbh, a landmark celebration of faith, culture, heritage and national unity centred around the sacred Sindhu River—the river that gave India its very name.

For millennia, the Sindhu has occupied a unique place in the civilizational consciousness of the Indian subcontinent. More than a river, it is a symbol of continuity, resilience and cultural identity. It nurtured one of the world's earliest urban civilizations, facilitated the exchange of ideas and traditions, and became so deeply associated with the land and its people that its name evolved into "Hind" and eventually "India." Few rivers in the world possess such a profound connection with the identity of a nation.

The first Sindhu Mahakumbh seeks to celebrate this extraordinary legacy. Coinciding with the 30th edition of the Sindhu Darshan Yatra, the event represents not merely a spiritual congregation but a reaffirmation of India's civilizational journey and shared cultural heritage. At a time when societies across the world are grappling with questions of identity and belonging, the Mahakumbh offers an opportunity to reconnect with the historical and cultural foundations that continue to unite millions of people.

The sacred Sindhu Ghat in Leh will become the heart of the celebrations. Pilgrims, saints, scholars, artists, youth



and visitors from every corner of the country will gather on the riverbank to participate in prayers, traditional rituals and spiritual ceremonies. Against the backdrop of Ladakh's majestic mountains and crystal-clear skies, the atmosphere is expected to be one of devotion, reflection and collective celebration.

The participation of eminent saints, spiritual leaders and scholars from diverse traditions will add intellectual and spiritual depth to the event. Through discourses, dialogues and interactions, they will highlight values such as harmony, compassion, service and collective responsibility—principles that have long formed the bedrock of India's cultural ethos. Their presence will reinforce the inclusive spirit of the Mahakumbh, where different traditions converge in a shared reverence for a common heritage.

Beyond its spiritual significance, the Sindhu Mahakumbh will also be a grand celebration of India's cultural diversity. Folk artists, musicians and cultural troupes from across the country will present performances that reflect the richness of India's living traditions. From music and dance to indigenous art forms, the event will showcase the many cultural streams that together form the larger river of Indian civilization.

For Ladakh, the Mahakumbh presents a unique opportunity to share its own rich heritage with the nation. The

region's distinctive culture, spiritual traditions, traditional crafts and warm hospitality will be on display, offering visitors an immersive experience of Himalayan life. The event is expected to further strengthen Ladakh's position as a destination for cultural, spiritual and heritage tourism.

Perhaps the most powerful aspect of the Sindhu Mahakumbh is its message of national integration. People from different regions, languages, communities and traditions will stand together on the banks of the same river, united by a shared sense of history and belonging. In an age often marked by divisions, the gathering serves as a reminder that India's strength lies in its ability to embrace diversity while remaining anchored in a common civilizational identity.

The participation of young people is especially significant. For a generation growing up in an increasingly interconnected yet fragmented world, the Mahakumbh offers an opportunity to engage directly with India's civilizational legacy. It encourages a deeper appreciation of the traditions, values and historical experiences that have shaped the nation across centuries.

The benefits of the event will extend beyond the cultural and spiritual sphere. Thousands of visitors are expected to contribute to the local economy, creating opportunities for artisans, hoteliers, transport operators, guides and small businesses. In

doing so, the Mahakumbh demonstrates how heritage and development can work together to support sustainable growth while preserving cultural traditions.

More importantly, the Sindhu Mahakumbh carries a message that resonates far beyond the banks of the river itself. It reminds us that rivers are not merely geographical entities; they are carriers of memory, identity and collective consciousness. The Sindhu has witnessed the rise and evolution of civilizations, connected people across generations and inspired countless expressions of faith and culture. Its story is inseparable from the story of India.

As preparations gather momentum and anticipation builds across the country, the first Sindhu Mahakumbh is poised to become a defining moment in India's cultural calendar. It is a celebration of the river that gave India its name, a tribute to the civilization that flourished along its banks and a reaffirmation of the timeless values that continue to unite the nation.

When thousands gather on the banks of the sacred Sindhu beneath the vast Himalayan sky, they will not merely participate in a festival. They will become part of a living legacy—one that flows, like the river itself, across centuries, carrying forward the enduring spirit of India.

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UNFREEZING DIGITISED JAMABANDIES

The Missing Link In Completing Land Record Reforms In J&K

MOHD AMIN MIR

The digitisation of land records in Jammu & Kashmir represents one of the most significant administrative reforms undertaken in the Union Territory since independence. The conversion of traditional paper-based Jamabandis into digital records has undoubtedly improved accessibility, transparency, and public convenience. Citizens can now access revenue records online without repeatedly visiting revenue offices, while government agencies benefit from improved record management and monitoring.

However, despite these remarkable achievements, an important challenge continues to impede the realisation of a truly reliable and legally accurate land record system. Across hundreds of villages, numerous grievances and discrepancies were identified during the process of reading digitised Jamabandies before the landowners and stakeholders. These objections relate to ownership details, inheritance entries, mutation incorporation, tenancy records, area calculations, survey particulars, classification of land, and several clerical mistakes that have accumulated over decades.

Simultaneously, the Revenue Department has initiated the process of uploading backlog mutations that remained untested or unincorporated in digital records for many years. While this exercise is essential for bringing revenue records up to date, it cannot achieve its intended purpose unless digitized Jamabandies are temporarily unfrozen to permit necessary corrections and incorporation of verified changes.

The present situation has created a paradox. On one hand, digitization aims to ensure accuracy and transparency. On the other hand, the freezing of Jamabandies after digitization has prevented correction of many genuine mistakes brought to light by the public during the



reading process. Consequently, thousands of citizens continue to face difficulties despite the existence of a technologically advanced system. The time has therefore arrived for the Revenue Department to consider a structured and legally regulated mechanism for unfreezing digitized Jamabandies so that genuine grievances can be addressed and backlog mutations can be incorporated comprehensively.

The Historical Purpose of Jamabandi

Jamabandi has traditionally been regarded as the backbone of land administration. Since the nineteenth century, it has served as the primary record of rights reflecting ownership, cultivation, possession, tenancy, revenue liabilities, and various interests attached to land. In Jammu & Kashmir, successive settlement operations produced Jamabandies that became the foundation of land governance. Revenue officials relied upon these records for assessment of land revenue, maintenance of ownership rights, and settlement of disputes. Courts, financial institutions, development agencies, and government departments have historically treated Jamabandies as important evidence of land rights. Their accuracy is therefore crucial not only for individual landowners but also for public administration. The introduction of digitized Jamabandies was intended to eliminate many traditional problems associated with manual records.

Digitization promised:

- Improved accessibility.
- Reduction in manipulation.
- Faster service delivery.
- Better preservation of records.
- Transparency in transactions.
- Integration with online mutation systems.
- Enhanced monitoring by supervisory officers.

The initiative has undoubtedly achieved considerable success. Citizens can now download copies of Jamabandies, verify entries, and access information from remote locations. However, digitization merely converts existing records into electronic form. If inaccuracies already exist in the original records, digitization alone cannot eliminate them. Recognizing the possibility of inaccuracies, the Revenue Department undertook the exercise of reading digitized Jamabandies before landowners and village residents. This exercise proved highly beneficial because numerous discrepancies surfaced.

In many villages, landowners submitted written objections supported by documentary evidence. The reading process demonstrated that public participation remains one of the most effective mechanisms for improving record accuracy. The freezing of digitized Jamabandies was introduced to protect the integrity of digital records and prevent unauthorized alterations. Without proper safeguards, unrestricted editing could create opportunities for manipulation, fraud, and corruption. A frozen database

provides stability and ensures that records cannot be altered without authorization. However, freezing was intended as a protective measure and not as a permanent barrier against legitimate corrections.

The principal difficulty today is that thousands of legitimate grievances remain unresolved because the relevant digital records cannot be corrected. Revenue officials often possess documentary evidence confirming the existence of errors. Landowners possess mutation orders, inheritance documents, court judgments, and other records establishing their claims. Yet the digital system remains unable to fully reflect these corrections due to restrictions on editing frozen Jamabandies. This situation undermines public confidence in the digitization programme. A citizen naturally expects that once an error is identified and verified, the official record should be corrected. The exercise of uploading backlog mutations is among the most important ongoing reforms in revenue administration. For decades, numerous mutations were attested but never reflected in updated Jamabandies. Others remained pending because of administrative delays.

These backlog mutations involve:

- Inheritance.
- Sale transactions.
- Gifts.
- Partitions.
- Court decrees.
- Government acquisitions.
- Exchange deeds.
- Corrections ordered by competent authorities.

Their incorporation is essential because mutations represent changes affecting land rights. If mutations remain absent from digital records, the online database cannot accurately represent the legal position of land ownership. The process of incorporating backlog mutations inevitably affects ownership and possession entries. Such modifications often require corresponding changes within the Jamabandi database. Without

controlled unfreezing, these changes cannot be reflected comprehensively. Government agencies face complications during land acquisition and compensation proceedings. Temporary and regulated unfreezing therefore becomes an administrative necessity rather than merely a technical option.

The digitisation of Jamabandies in Jammu & Kashmir has laid the foundation for a modern, transparent, and citizen-friendly revenue administration. Yet digitisation cannot be considered complete merely because records have been converted into electronic format. The true measure of success lies in ensuring that these records accurately reflect ground realities and legally recognised rights.

The grievances identified during the reading of Jamabandies and the ongoing exercise of uploading backlog mutations have revealed the urgent need for a carefully regulated process of unfreezing digital records. Refusing to address verified errors risks undermining public trust and defeating the very purpose of digitisation.

The Revenue Department now stands at a critical juncture. By adopting a transparent and legally robust correction mechanism, it can transform digitised Jamabandies from static databases into living records that faithfully represent ownership, possession, and rights on the ground.

The future of land governance in Jammu & Kashmir depends not merely on digitisation but on ensuring that digital records remain accurate, updated, and responsive to the legitimate concerns of citizens. Controlled unfreezing of Jamabandies for rectification of verified grievances and incorporation of backlog mutations is therefore not a step backward; it is the essential next step in completing the journey of revenue reform.

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India's New Agricultural Journey: Beyond Crops, Towards Prosperity



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Indian agriculture has over the past 12 years entered a completely new era. Earlier, our biggest concern was ensuring that the country did not face a shortage of foodgrains and that hunger could somehow be prevented.

Today, Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership and farmer-centric policies have transformed agriculture from being merely a "sector of production" into an integrated foundation for farmers' prosperity, risk protection, nutritional security, green technology and rural development.

For the first time since the Green Revolution, policy focus has shifted from simply asking "how much production" to deeper questions such as "what is the farmer's actual income, how sustainable is agriculture, and how strong is the rural economy." It is with this broader thinking that the Pulses and Oilseeds Mission, Cotton Mission, National Mission on Natural Farming, Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY), Khet Bachao Abhiyan, digital agriculture and research-led innovation are all being connected through one comprehensive vision for agricultural transformation and rural prosperity.

Beyond Production: Income, Security and the Rural Economy

Today, India has achieved a record foodgrain production of 376.563 million tonnes, the highest in the nation's history. Paddy, wheat, maize, pulses and oilseeds have all registered remarkable growth. This is not merely a story of increased production; it is evidence of the expansion and strengthening of the overall rural economy. Alongside this, the Modi government has placed equal emphasis on farmers' risk protection and income security. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), more than Rs 4.27 lakh crore has so far been directly transferred into farmers' bank accounts through 22 installments, providing regular annual income support to over nine crore farmer families across the country. At the same time, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has provided a strong insurance shield to crores of farmer applicants by protecting them against crop losses caused by natural disasters and other adverse conditions.

Investments in irrigation, rural roads, agricultural infrastructure, warehouses and cold-chain systems have strengthened all three critical pillars of agriculture — production, storage and market access. Agriculture today is no longer confined to the boundaries of farmland alone. Dairy, fisheries, poultry, horticulture, beekeeping, food processing, storage systems, rural industries, solar energy and the service sector are all combining to create a new and diversified rural economy. This transformation is generating employment opportunities, increasing rural incomes and building resilience among farming communities. The government's vision is not merely to support farming activity, but to create an entire ecosystem where agriculture becomes the foundation of economic growth, entrepreneurship and rural development.

Pulses, Oilseeds and Cotton Missions: Self-Reliance and Price Security

For a long time, the sectors of pulses, edible oils and cotton remained below their full potential. India remained dependent on imports for pulses and edible oils, while cotton farmers frequently had to face volatility in global markets. Recognising the strategic importance of these sectors, the Modi government has accorded them special priority and launched separate missions to address their challenges in a comprehensive manner.

Through the National Pulses Mission, work is being carried out across



the entire value chain — from seeds to markets — in order to increase both the cultivated area and productivity of tur, urad, masoor, gram and other pulses. This includes the promotion of high-yield varieties, cluster-based farming, processing units, a strengthened MSP (minimum support price) framework, government procurement systems, storage facilities and export support. The objective is clear: India should become fully self-reliant in pulses, reduce its import bill and ensure that farmers receive sustainable incomes from these high-value crops.

Similarly, under the Oilseeds Mission, special emphasis is being placed on crops such as mustard, soybean, sunflower, sesame and palm oil. This is not merely a programme aimed at increasing production. It is part of a larger national strategy to achieve self-reliance in edible oils, strengthen the country's oil security and provide better prices to farmers. The mission seeks to improve productivity through scientific interventions, modern agricultural practices and improved market linkages.

Alongside these efforts, the Cotton Mission is focusing on high-yield and pest-resistant cotton varieties, advanced farming systems, integrated pest management, crop diversification, better integration with the textile value chain and quality improvement measures. Cotton is a major cash crop for millions of Indian farmers, and the mission aims to ensure that farm-



ers not only increase production but also receive stable incomes, better market value and globally competitive quality standards. Through these initiatives, the government seeks to reduce dependence on imports while simultaneously strengthening farmers' incomes and India's agricultural economy.

National Mission on Natural Farming: A New Path for One Crore Farmers Across 75 Lakh Hectares

Rapidly increasing dependence on chemicals, declining soil health and growing pressure on groundwater resources are warning signs that farming methods must change. Recognising this challenge, natural farming is being advanced as a national mission under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Our commitment is to sensitise one crore farmers towards natural farming practices, actively prepare around 18 lakh farmers to adopt natural farming and gradually bring nearly 75 lakh hectares of land under natural cultivation practices in a phased manner.

This transformation is being car-

ried out gradually, on the basis of scientific evidence and farmers' own experiences. Small farmers are being encouraged to experiment with natural farming models on a portion of their land. They are being provided training, locally sourced input packages, certification support, branding assistance and market connectivity. The broader objective is to improve soil fertility, reduce chemical input costs, make crops more resilient against climate-related shocks and provide consumers with healthier and more nutritious food.

Natural farming is also being viewed as a sustainable response to climate change. By reducing excessive chemical usage and promoting ecological balance, the mission seeks to preserve biodiversity, conserve water and restore long-term productivity of agricultural land. The government believes that the future of Indian agriculture lies not only in higher production but also in sustainability, environmental protection and improved health outcomes for both farmers and consumers.

Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and Focus on 100 Low-Productivity Districts

In a vast country like India, some regions progress rapidly while others continue to lag behind for various reasons. To reduce this imbalance, the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana has been conceptualised. Under this initiative, nearly 100 low-productivity districts have been identi-

fied where per-hectare yields remain significantly below the national average and farmers are unable to obtain expected returns from agriculture. In these districts, convergence of 36 schemes from 11 departments is being implemented through an integrated development package. This includes irrigation, soil health management, seeds, fertilisers, crop diversification, animal husbandry, horticulture, agricultural equipment, skill development, infrastructure and market linkages — all being brought together under one coordinated framework. The central idea is that government schemes should not function in isolated 'silos'; instead, they should work collectively with the farmer and the village at the centre of planning and implementation.

This marks an important shift in policy thinking. The focus is no longer limited to 'how much production is taking place', but also on identifying areas where productivity remains low and ensuring that targeted investments and interventions help increase yields and raise farmers' incomes. The scheme seeks to create balanced agri-

cultural growth and reduce regional disparities in rural development.

'Khet Bachao Abhiyan': Balancing Soil, Water and Farmers' Interests

In the race to increase production, pressure on soil and water resources has intensified in many regions. Imbalanced fertiliser use, excessive extraction of groundwater and limited crop rotation have adversely affected the health of agricultural land. If correc-

tional fertilisers and nano-fertilisers should be promoted; green manure, organic manure and integrated nutrient management should be encouraged; farmers should remain vigilant against fake seeds, fertilisers and pesticides and immediately inform authorities about such cases; and organised movement towards natural farming and climate-resilient agricultural practices should be strengthened.

The objective is not to abruptly reduce fertiliser usage, but to ensure that every farmer uses the right quantity, at the right time and in the right combination. This will help maintain long-term soil health, reduce cultivation costs and protect productivity. The campaign also seeks to create awareness among farmers about sustainable farming methods that balance profitability with environmental conservation.

Science, Digital Agriculture and the Role of ICAR

Science, research and digital technology form the backbone of all these efforts. Between 2014 and 2025, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) developed nearly 3,000 climate-resilient crop varieties capable of withstanding drought, floods, heat waves, salinity and other environmental stresses. In total, more than 3,800 high-yield varieties and over 200 bio-fortified varieties have been released, strengthening not only productivity but also nutritional security.

Under the Digital Agriculture Mission and 'AgriStack', systems such as Farmer IDs, digitisation of crop plots, drone-based services, pest and disease monitoring, weather-based advisories and location-specific recommendations are being developed. These initiatives are rapidly reducing the gap between laboratories and farms, and between data collection and decision-making.

Through platforms such as e-NAM, Kisan Saarthi, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) networks, mobile messaging services, WhatsApp groups, community radio and social media, scientists, extension workers and farmer leaders are now able to communicate directly with farmers. Agriculture and rural development are increasingly being viewed together through a holistic lens. Roads, electricity, internet connectivity, Self-Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), rural industries and skill-development programmes can accelerate employment generation, entrepreneurship and social transformation in villages only when they move in step with agricultural development.

Technology is also helping create transparency and efficiency in governance. Digital systems are making subsidies, insurance benefits and advisory services more accessible to farmers. The integration of modern research with grassroots implementation is enabling Indian agriculture to become more competitive, sustainable and resilient in the face of future challenges.

Beyond the Quantity of Crops: Concrete Steps Towards Farmers' Confidence

In the coming years, India will have to further strengthen its agricultural system amid global food, nutrition and climate challenges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is clear — farmers' incomes must rise, their hard work must receive proper value and respect, and self-reliance in pulses, oilseeds and cotton must strengthen nutritional, edible oil and textile security.

Through PM-KISAN, PMFBY, natural farming, the Khet Bachao Abhiyan and climate-resilient technologies, the government seeks to ensure the protection of soil, water and farmers themselves. Through the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, targeted investment in low-productivity districts will reduce regional disparities and help every farmer progress. Science, research and digital technology will make farming more efficient, resilient, sustainable and globally competitive.

When the farm survives, the farmer survives. When the farmer survives, agriculture survives. And when agriculture survives, India's future will remain secure, prosperous and self-reliant. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this is the essence of India's new agricultural journey — moving beyond crops towards the confidence of farmers and the prosperity of rural India. (PIB)

(The Author is Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development)

Today, Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership and farmer-centric policies have transformed agriculture from being merely a "sector of production" into an integrated foundation for farmers' prosperity, risk protection, nutritional security, green technology and rural development.

measures are not taken in time, future generations may inherit weakened soils and degraded farmlands.

Keeping this challenge in mind, the Khet Bachao Abhiyan has been launched. This campaign is not merely about protecting soil; it is about safeguarding farmers' incomes, ensuring food quality and securing the country's long-term food security. The campaign carries five key messages. Every farmer should use fertilisers based on soil testing; excessive dependence on DAP (diammonium phosphate) and urea should be reduced while balanced NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) use, micronutrients, bio-

Union Home Secretary

in the Kashmir was also reviewed. "The Union Home Secretary was briefed about the steps taken to secure the life and property of citizens in Jammu and Kashmir," they said, adding, "The Home Secretary was also briefed about the steps taken to maintain the prevailing peace and break the terror ecosystem in the Union Territory."

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

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

Shah laid emphasis on integrating modern technology with traditional security mechanisms. During the meeting officials were directed to ensure extensive deployment of drones, CCTV surveillance, and advanced monitoring systems to further strengthen situational awareness and threat response capabilities.

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

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

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

India's Ancient

ghats of Kashi to the valleys of Kashmir, each region preserves its distinct cultural identity and rhythm of life. Our shared aim should be to weave these diversities into a harmonious unity that enriches the nation's collective consciousness," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that Indian civilization has always been defined by its centers of knowledge. Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramashila, and many others were hubs of global intellectual exchange, attracting travelers from China, Korea, Java, Persia, and West Asia.

"Nalanda is a living intellectual cosmos of its time. It is a seat of critical thinking and curiosity where thousands of scholars in the past engaged deeply with logic, grammar, medicine, mathematics, philosophy, religion, and the arts. Likewise, Jammu Kashmir was the unique Sharda Peeth of learning, drawing people from afar for instruction across disciplines from mathematics to music.

The young generation needs to understand India's knowledge traditions, whose roots strengthened in Bihar region during Emperor Ashoka's era around the third century BCE. European scholars once overlooked this legacy but I am happy to note that the host city of this event, Srinagar, was also established by Emperor Ashoka. The Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue reminds us that the moment has come to renew this tradition as a modern, relevant intellectual project. Just as scholars in ancient times travelled from Nalanda to Jammu Kashmir carrying manuscripts, philosophies, and scientific ideas, we must revive open exchange and deep engagement of ideas," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said that our ancient towns are living learning centres and cities such as Nalanda, Srinagar, Jammu, Purmandal, Varanasi, Hampi, Sanchi, Madurai, Puri, and Thanjavur carry centuries of experience and knowledge.

"We must strengthen the role of these towns. That requires infrastructure development, heritage conservation, and platforms like the Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue for cultural exchange. We should continuously promote festivals, exhibitions, and discussions that bring together these towns and artists, scholars, and citizens from across the world," he said.

Padma Shri Prof Shafi Shauq; Shri Suman Billa, Director General Ministry of Tourism, Government of India; Prof. Siddharth Singh, Vice Chancellor Nava Nalanda Mahavihara University; Shri Chittaranjan Tripathy, Director National School of Drama New Delhi; Ms D Aaliya, Festival Chairperson, Nalanda Literature Festival; Shri Ganga Kumar, Festival Director Nalanda Literature Festival; Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir; Prof. Nilofar Khan Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Dr. GV Sundep Chakravarty, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; senior officials, literary personalities, prominent citizens and youth in large were present.

LG Announces Historic

pilgrimage and tourism activities in the beautiful Naranag area, known for its ancient temple complex and scenic surroundings—(KNO)

LG Greets People

powerful ray of hope. Let's take a step toward wellness today by participating and committing to a healthier lifestyle."

Rain, Hailstorm In J&K

the highest rainfall of 16.2 mm, followed by Kukernag at 13.1 mm, Katra at 9.7 mm and Qazigund at 6.4 mm. Srinagar recorded 1 mm of rainfall.

The MeT department said generally cloudy weather with one or two spells of light rain, intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms and gusty winds is likely at many places till June 22. From June 23 to 26, the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with scattered rain and thunder activity at a few places.

The department advised people to stay indoors during thunderstorms and lightning, avoid electric poles, wires, loose structures and old trees, and suspend boating and shikara operations during adverse weather conditions.

It also warned that isolated hailstorms are likely over parts of north and south Kashmir during the next few days, while brief intense showers may trigger flash floods and mudslides at vulnerable locations, particularly in parts of Kashmir, Banihal, Ramban and Kishtwar—(KNO)

PMJAY-SEHAT Fraud

The inquiry report alleges that reimbursement claims were generated for 103 cases under the package category of Dual Chamber Pacemaker Implantation, whereas the actual procedures performed were reportedly Left Bundle Branch Area Pacing (LBBAP)—a highly specialized cardiac pacing technique generally reserved for patients suffering from specific conduction abnormalities and impaired heart function. Investigators suspect that the procedures may have been categorised differently to facilitate claims under the insurance scheme.

The unusually high number of LBBAP procedures performed at the institution prompted a detailed review by experts from the Department of Cardiology at SKIMS Soura. An expert panel examined 55 selected cases and found that 27 patients, nearly 49 percent of those reviewed, had normal left ventricular function and did not appear to meet established medical indications for the procedure.

The findings have triggered serious concerns regarding adherence to accepted treatment protocols and whether all interventions carried out were medically justified.

Healthcare experts note that LBBAP is generally considered an advanced pacing technique intended for carefully selected patients. The audit findings have therefore intensified scrutiny over patient selection criteria and procedural decision-making at the institution.

The investigation has further highlighted allegations that some beneficiaries entitled to completely cashless treatment under PMJAY-SEHAT were allegedly asked to bear substantial expenses.

In one instance cited by investigators, a patient was reportedly directed to pay nearly Rs 70,000 to a private vendor for medical hardware used during treatment despite being covered under the government insurance scheme.

Authorities have also alleged that certain cardiac implants and medical devices were procured through private vendors rather than through approved institutional procurement mechanisms. Such practices, officials argue, undermine transparency, accountability and quality-control safeguards established within public healthcare institutions.

The departmental memorandum accuses the cardiologist of manipulating procedural records, violating government guidelines, misusing his official position and compromising professional integrity and patient welfare. Officials maintain that if these allegations are substantiated, they would amount to grave misconduct and a serious breach of public trust.

Acting on the findings, the Health and Medical Education Department has initiated major disciplinary proceedings under the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.

Dr. Maqbool has been served a formal chargesheet and directed to submit a written response within seven days. He has also been given an opportunity to present his defence before the designated inquiry authority.

Meanwhile, the government issued Government Order No. 504-JK (HME) of 2026 dated June 20, 2026, placing Dr. Syed Maqbool Ahmad Shah under suspension with immediate effect pending completion of the inquiry. During the suspension period, he has been attached to the office of Government Medical College Jammu.

Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo confirmed that the inquiry process had already been set in motion and urged people not to prejudice the outcome before the investigation is completed.

"We have already started the inquiry and suspended the doctor concerned. Let the inquiry be completed," the minister said while responding to media queries.

She reiterated the government's commitment to transparency and accountability in the healthcare sector and assured that strict action would be taken against anyone found guilty.

"The inquiry was initiated earlier by the department. We are waiting for the report,

and whoever is found responsible will face action as per the law," she stated.

Responding to the allegations, Dr. Syed Maqbool strongly denied any wrongdoing and described the accusations as "fabricated."

He argued that portions of the departmental memorandum were being selectively circulated and interpreted as established facts, despite the inquiry still being underway.

"What is being circulated in the media is totally different from the actual report. People are treating a memorandum of allegations as a final verdict, which is not correct," he said.

The cardiologist maintained that GMC Anantnag had already submitted detailed replies supported by documentary evidence addressing every allegation raised by investigators.

"We have replied to every allegation with documentary evidence. The matter is under consideration and we have full faith in the system. Justice will ultimately prevail," he said.

Appealing for restraint, Dr. Maqbool urged the public to allow the inquiry process to reach its conclusion before drawing conclusions. "An inquiry is meant to establish facts, not to pronounce guilt before the process is complete," he added.

Commenting on the controversy, medico and health activist Dr Mohammad Momin Khan cautioned against equating allegations with proof of wrongdoing.

"An inquiry is meant to establish facts, not deliver a verdict. Unfortunately, allegations often lead to instant public judgment, with reputations being damaged long before any investigation is completed. Due process exists to ensure fairness, and no individual should be declared guilty until the truth is established through a proper inquiry," he said.

Dr. Momin described Dr. Maqbool as one of the Valley's well-known cardiologists who has treated thousands of patients over the years, including many from economically weaker sections.

"If any wrongdoing is ultimately established, accountability must follow. But until then, fairness demands restraint and respect for due process," he said.

GMC Anantnag Administrator Mukbil Lateef also said that a committee has been constituted to investigate the alleged scam, and the inquiry is currently underway. He emphasized that no individual can be declared guilty until the investigation is completed and accountability is established.

The allegations have generated widespread concern among patients, healthcare professionals and civil society groups, with many demanding a transparent, impartial and time-bound investigation and action against the doctor if really found involved in any wrongdoing and even strict action against those whose who played the reputation of the doctor if he was found innocent—(KNO)

CS Takes Stock Of

land to the executing agencies so that project implementation proceeds without delay.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized that all uncovered habitations identified across the Union Territory should be incorporated in the fresh list of sites prepared jointly by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and BSNL. He stressed that every eligible habitation must be brought under mobile network coverage to eliminate connectivity gaps and ensure that no village remains off-air in any part of Jammu and Kashmir.

He further directed the Power Development Department, including KPDCCL and JPDCL, to ensure timely provisioning of on-grid electricity connections to all feasible telecom tower locations. He also reviewed the implementation of the Call Before u Dig (CBuD) platform and the compliance of Standard Operating Procedures governing road cutting and excavation works by various departments and agencies. He stressed the importance of strict adherence to the prescribed procedures to safeguard critical infrastructure and minimize disruptions.

Reviewing the implementation of the Amended BharatNet Programme, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned agencies to closely monitor the operationalisation of BharatNet infrastructure at the Gram Panchayat level. He asked the local telecom authorities together with the RDD to ascertain the status of BharatNet Udyamis (BNUs) in all Gram Panchayats already commissioned through the State Network Operations Centre (S-NOC) network.

He emphasized that the ultimate objective of the programme is not merely to establish broadband infrastructure but to extend high-speed internet connectivity to households through Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) services. He directed that all commissioned Gram Panchayats should be progressively enabled through BNUs so that aspiring households in rural areas can avail reliable broadband services.

The Commissioner Secretary, IT, Saurabh Bhagat took this occasion to apprise the meeting about the implementation status of the flagship 4G Saturation Project, Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP), preparedness for 5G infrastructure deployment, and the progress under the Call Before u Dig (CBuD) initiative.

He further gave out that substantial progress has been achieved under the Government of India's 4G Saturation Project, which seeks to extend reliable mobile connectivity to remote, border, hilly and underserved areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was informed by the CGM

BSNL that out of the total 847 mobile tower sites planned, 566 sites have already become operational, marking a significant increase from 506 operational sites reported during the previous State Broadband Committee meeting.

He added that work is presently underway on the remaining sites, with tower foundations completed at 128 locations out of whom tower erection had been completed at 97 sites, and passive infrastructure works completed at 82 sites.

It was elucidated that work orders have already been issued for 775 sites, and BSNL has been tasked with ensuring the completion of the remaining sites under the current work orders by December 31, 2026.

The meeting highlighted the transformative impact of the project in improving communication facilities in border villages. Out of 1,419 identified border villages, 1,402 villages have already been covered under mobile network connectivity, leaving only 17 villages yet to be connected. Of these, 10 villages have already been included under the ongoing 4G Saturation Scheme.

The meeting was informed that electricity connectivity has been completed for 647 telecom tower sites, while power meter connections have been provided to 581 sites. The remaining cases are being actively pursued for early completion.

The Committee also reviewed progress under the Border Out Post (BOP) and Border Infrastructure Project (BIP), under which 30 sites have been planned to provide enhanced communication facilities in sensitive and strategically important areas.

Reviewing the progress under the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP), the Chief Secretary was informed that the project covers 285 blocks and 4,299 Gram Panchayats across the Union Territory.

It was apprised that the physical surveys have already been completed in 2,401 Gram Panchayats, while 282 Gram Panchayats have been commissioned on the State Network Operations Centre (S-NOC). Work orders have been approved for 107 blocks covering 1,599 Gram Panchayats, while additional approvals are under process.

The meeting was informed that approximately 744 kilometres of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) have already been laid under the programme. Upon completion, the initiative will provide reliable broadband access, facilitate digital governance, strengthen online education and healthcare services, support entrepreneurship and enable greater participation in the digital economy in rural areas.

Concluding the Chief Secretary reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring seamless digital connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in remote, border and rural areas. He emphasized that reliable telecommunications infrastructure has become a critical enabler for governance, education, healthcare, security, economic growth and citizen services.

India's Security

financial assistance through central government schemes.

He said funds have been transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries under various programmes aimed at supporting the agricultural sector.

Shah also highlighted the creation of dedicated institutional mechanisms for cooperatives and dairy development, saying these initiatives have contributed to strengthening rural economies.

Marking more than 12 years of the National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre, Shah said the BJP would continue working towards Prime Minister Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047. He expressed confidence that the NDA would continue receiving public support in the years ahead—(KNO)

EOW Kashmir Files

part with money on the pretext of providing an AT&T inbound sales call project of a US-based telecom company. During the course of investigation, it was established that the accused had dishonestly deceived the complainant and fraudulently obtained money under false assurances.

"On the basis of evidence collected during investigation, the allegations were found proved and the chargesheet was accordingly filed before the competent court for judicial determination."

The spokesperson said the general public is advised to remain vigilant against economic fraud and report any such incidents to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir, Crime Branch J&K. Victims of economic fraud may also submit their complaints through the official email address: sspeow-kmr@jkpolice.gov.in—(KNO)

J&K Records Lowest

percent in the year 2022-2023 and 4.23 percent in the preceding academic year.

It reveals that in 2020-21, Jammu and Kashmir schools at secondary level were facing a dropout rate of 3.68 percent followed by 5.96 percent in 2021-22 and 6.20 percent in the academic year 2022-23.

The report suggests that in the academic year 2023-24, schools in Jammu and Kashmir at secondary level were facing a dropout rate of 9.07 percent—(KNO)

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Secy RDD reviews sanitation preparedness near Holy Cave for SANJY-2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BALTAL: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Saturday undertook an extensive review of sanitation arrangements and allied facilities from Baltal Base Camp to the Holy Cave Shrine and Panjtarni to assess preparedness for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.



examined the placement of dustbins at strategic locations to facilitate waste disposal at source and promote cleanliness among pilgrims.

While reviewing arrangements at the Holy Cave Shrine area, the Secretary directed officials to ensure regular cleaning, proper maintenance and periodic upkeep of the installed toilets and bathing facilities so that hygienic and dignified amenities are available to pilgrims throughout the Yatra.

Taking stock of the sanitation workforce deployed along the Baltal axis, he instructed officers to ensure adequate manpower at all locations and maintain the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness throughout the Yatra period. He underscored that all tracks leading to the Holy Cave must remain clean, hygienic and pilgrim-friendly at all times.

The Secretary conducted an extensive field visit along the Yatra route, covering key locations including Baltal, Domail, Rail Pathri, Brari Marg, Kali Mata Track, Sangam Top, Sangam Down, the Holy Cave Shrine and Panjtarni.

Commencing his tour from Baltal Base Camp, the Secretary reviewed the sanitation infrastructure and facilities established along the entire Baltal axis up to the Holy Cave. He was accompanied by Director General, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra, sanitation officers (BDOs) deployed at various locations and other departmental officials.

At the Holy Cave Shrine

area, the Secretary took a first-hand appraisal of the sanitation arrangements and later visited Panjtarni to assess the infrastructure and public amenities put in place for the annual pilgrimage.

During the visit, Aijaz Asad reviewed sanitation facilities, health camps, solid waste management systems and other essential amenities established for the convenience of pilgrims. He assessed the overall preparedness and stressed the need to ensure that all facilities remain fully functional and operational well before the commencement of the Yatra.

The Secretary also visited health camps and

reviewed the waste management mechanisms put in place across camps and designated locations. He was informed that a four-stream waste segregation system has been introduced for effective and scientific management of waste generated during the pilgrimage.

Emphasising environmental sustainability, he directed officers to ensure strict adherence to waste segregation protocols and maintain cleanliness along the entire route. He reviewed the functioning of toilets, washrooms, dustbins, grey water drainage systems, wet waste segregation sites and plastic waste management units. He also

Dir Skill Dev reviews progress of VVP-II in Tulail, Neeru Villages of Gurez Valley

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Director Skill Development Department and Prabhari Officer for Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) for the villages of Purana Tulail and Neeru in Block Tulail, Dr. Owais Ahmed, Saturday undertook an extensive visit to the two border villages to review the implementation of developmental initiatives under the Vibrant Village Programme and assess the progress of various government schemes being



executed in the area. The visit was accompanied by officers from various line departments, including Rural Development, Education, Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Public Health Engineering, Power

Development Department, Social Welfare, and other stakeholder departments. During the visit, Dr. Owais Ahmed held detailed interactions with residents, community representatives, former Panchayat representatives, youth,

women, and local stakeholders at Government Higher Secondary School Purana Tulail and later at Government Middle School Neeru.

The meetings provided a platform for the local population to highlight their developmental needs, aspirations, and concerns relating to infrastructure, public services, livelihood generation, education, healthcare, connectivity, drinking water supply, skill development, tourism potential, and welfare schemes.

MUHARRAM AND SANJY-2026

Comm SMC flags off Four High-Capacity Water Tankers to ensure robust Water Supply



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening water supply infrastructure and enhancing civic service delivery, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, Saturday flagged off four newly inducted high-capacity water tankers for the Water Works Division at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar.

The newly added tankers, each with a carrying capacity of 10,000 litres, have been procured to augment the Corporation's water distribution network and improve its capacity to respond effectively to water supply requirements across the city. The induction of these tankers marks a major step towards ensuring reliable access to potable water, particularly in areas facing supply constraints and during periods of heightened demand.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner said that the provision of safe and adequate

drinking water remains one of the core responsibilities of the Corporation. He noted that the addition of the new tankers would significantly enhance the operational efficiency of the Water Works Division, enabling quicker response to public needs and ensuring timely water supply to residents across Srinagar.

Highlighting the importance of the initiative, Faz Lul Haseeb stated that the strengthened fleet assumes special significance in view of the ongoing Muharram observances and the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026. He said that these major religious occasions witness large congregations and increased demand for civic amenities, particularly drinking water. The newly inducted tankers will play a crucial role in ensuring uninterrupted water supply along procession routes, congregation venues, transit camps, and other important locations associated with these events.

Iran conflict, poor harvest trigger sharp rise in Kashmir saffron prices

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's famed saffron, known globally for its superior quality, aroma, and colouring properties, has witnessed a significant rise in prices over the past year. Growers and traders attribute the surge to a combination of geopolitical tensions in West Asia, particularly involving Iran, and a steep decline in local saffron production caused by adverse weather conditions.

According to traders, premium GI-tagged Kashmiri saffron is currently fetching around Rs 350-400 per gram, compared to nearly Rs 200-250 per gram during the same period last year. Non-GI saffron has also recorded a substantial increase, with prices rising from approximately Rs 200 per gram to around 300 per gram. The sharp increase has been driven by reduced availability in both domestic and international markets, coupled with sustained demand for high-quality saffron.

Industry experts said that the conflict and instability involving Iran have significantly affected the global saffron trade. Iran accounts for nearly 90 per cent of global saffron production, making it the world's largest producer and exporter of the spice. Any disruption in Iranian

supplies has an immediate impact on international markets, pushing prices upward across major saffron-producing and consuming regions, they said.

The situation has had a direct effect on Kashmir, where traders also rely on Iranian saffron to meet market demand. With supplies from Iran becoming uncertain and international supply chains facing disruptions, saffron prices have surged globally, benefiting markets where stocks remain available.

However, despite the rise in prices, many saffron growers in Kashmir have been unable to fully capitalise on the trend due to poor production during the previous harvesting season. Farmers say saffron output was significantly lower than normal, leaving them with limited stocks to sell at the current elevated rates.

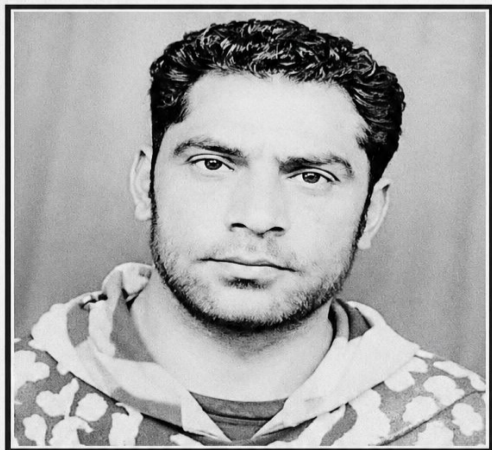
Pulwama observes PM-KISAN Utsav Divas, Joins Nationwide Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: District Administration Pulwama Saturday observed PM-KISAN Utsav Divas with the organisation of a special programme at Circuit House Pulwama to mark the release of the 23rd instalment under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. The event was held in synchronisation with the nationwide programme addressed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

During the programme, the live telecast of the Prime Minister's address was screened for the participants. On the occasion, the Prime Minister released the 23rd instalment of PM-KISAN, facilitating the direct transfer of financial assistance into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers across the country.

The programme witnessed the participation of Chief Agriculture Officer, Pulwama and officers from the Agriculture and allied departments and a large number of beneficiary farmers from different parts of the district. Farmers on the occasion expressed gratitude over the disbursement of financial assistance under the PM-KISAN scheme and appreciated the Government's continued efforts towards improving the socio-economic condition of the farming community.



In Loving Memory of **Ishfaq Bhat**

3rd Death Anniversary

"Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return."

Three years have passed since you left us, yet your memory remains alive in our hearts. Ishfaq, the youngest and most beloved member of our family, was known for his kindness, humility, and gentle nature. His presence brought warmth and happiness to everyone around him.

Not a day goes by without a prayer for you. Though you are no longer with us, your memories continue to comfort and inspire us. We find peace in knowing that your beautiful soul rests in the mercy of Allah and in the gardens of Jannah.

Forever loved, deeply missed, and always remembered in our prayers.

— Bhat Family

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT BIJBEHARA

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE NO- 07 OF 2026

Subject: Re-Advertisement Notice for the Post of Sangini (AWW) and Sahayikas (AWHs) in Anganwadi Centre of Poshan Project Bijbehara

Reference: 1. Government Order No: 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated:30.11.2022.
2. Government Order No: 103-Jk(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023.
3. MD/Poshan/22171-79 Dated: 18.06.2026

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas/Municipal Wards, for the engagement of Sangini (AWW) and Sahayikas (AWH) "preferably married" for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Bijbehara on "Honourarium basis". The applications along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of the undersigned i.e Child Development Project Officer Bijbehara by or before 07.07. 2026 upto 4:00 PM against the proper receipt.

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/ MUNICIPALITY WARD	VACANCY OF SANGINI (ANGANWADI WORKER)		
				NO. OF PANCH WARD/ MC WARD	NAME OF AWC	No. Of Posts
01	Anantnag	Bijbehara	Shaligam	06	Shaligam-H	01

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/ MUNICIPALITY WARD	VACANCY OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPER)		
				NO. OF PANCH WARD/ MC WARD	NAME OF AWC	01
1	Anantnag	Bijbehara	Wopzan	6	Wopzan-E	01
2			Waghama Bala	3	Waghama-H	01
3			Sirhama Bala	6	Sirhama-A	01
4			Khiram Dargah	4	Khiram-B	01
5			Viddy	5	Viddy-A	01

Criteria for Selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) shall remain as envisaged in the Govt Order No: 103 JK (SWD) OF 2023 Dated 28.4.2023 i.e

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2026 shall be considered for the post.
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where Anganwadi Centre is located, name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being unmarried issued by the concerned Tehsildar.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi worker shall be 10+2 and maximum graduation.
- In case no 10+2 candidate is available in the Panch Ward/MC Ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission Poshan.
- In case suitable candidate is not available from adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the panchayat can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission Poshan.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of Marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and no other criteria to be considered.
- In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWW/AWH the said candidate shall qualify for additional 2 % points
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate will higher age will be preferred
- Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

Criteria for Selection of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) shall remain as envisaged in the Govt Order No: 103 JK (SWD) OF 2023 Dated 28.4.2023 i.e.

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2026 shall be considered for the post.
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be Matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate is available in the Panch Ward/MC Ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- The committee shall select the most destitute/ needy married women of the Panch ward/ MC Ward as helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate can also be considered.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form: -
 * Panch Ward /MC Ward Certificate/ Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO/Executive Officer which ever applicable duly countersigned by ACR/SDM.
 * Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
 * Date of Birth Certificate.
 * Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th, 12th.
 * Assembly Intikhabi Firist issued by Assistant Election Officer.
 * Identification Proof (Adhaar card/Election card/Voter card/Pan card).

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can be had from the undersigned office "Free of Cost".
 No:-CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2026-27/217-30
 Dated:- 20 -06-2026

(ANNEXURE-I)

Sd/= Child Dev. Project Officer POSHAN BIJBEHARA S.NO:

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SANGINI(AWW) AND SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPER)

- Name of the District: - Anantnag
- Name of the ICDS Project: - Bijbehara
- Name of the Post:.....
- Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought.....
- Panch Ward /MC Ward..... Panchayat Halqa.....
- Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters)
- Fathers Name (In Block Letters)
- Marital Status:- Married /Un Married
- Husband's Name (if married)
- Place of Permanent Residence.....
 Mohalla.....Village.....
- Panch Ward Constituency.....
 Name of the Panchayat Halqa.....
 House No..... (As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral) Block:.....
- Address for Correspondence..... Mobile No:.....
- Date of Birth.....

13.	Age as on 01-01-2026.....	D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
14.	Academic Qualification								
S.No	Examination passed	Board /School	Year of passing	Marks Obt.	Max. Marks	%age			
1	Matric								
2	T.D.C								
2	Graduation								

- Do candidate belong to family of retired AWH (Yes/No).
- Documents attached.
- Panch Ward Certificate/ Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO duly countersigned by ACR/SDM
- Panchayat Electoral Roll duly attested by concerned officer/official.
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Assembly intikhabi firist issued by Assistant Election officer.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th, 12th
- If candidate belong to family of retired AWH then copy of the e-ration card/any other proof.

Signature of Candidate

UNDERTAKING

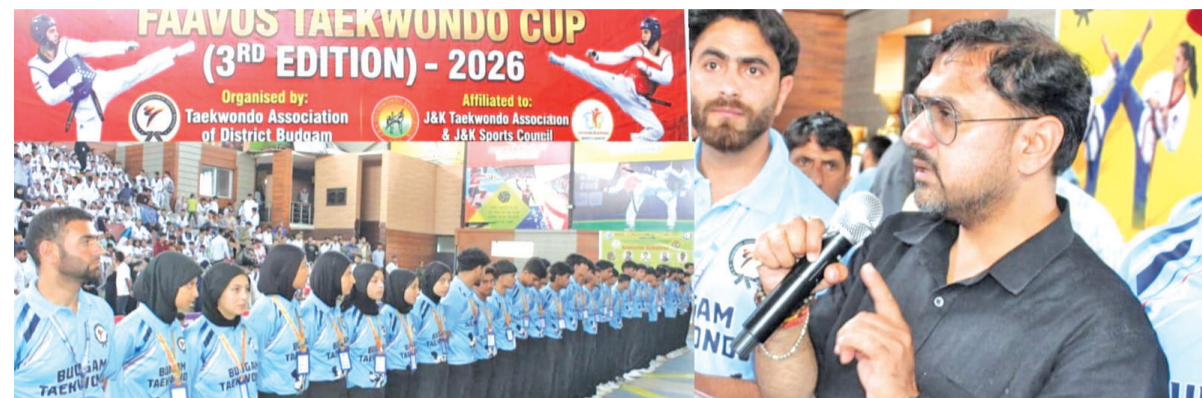
I.....D/o,W/o.....R/o..... do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.

Signature of Candidate

DIPK-2406-26
DT: 20/06/2026

Satish Sharma inaugurates Faavos Taekwondo Cup at Indoor Stadium Budgam

Reaffirms Govts' commitment to youth empowerment through sports



GMK SPORTS DESK

BUDGAM: Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science & Technology and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, Saturday inaugurated the Faavos Taekwondo Cup at the Indoor Stadium, Budgam, amid enthusiastic participation of young taekwondo players from various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The championship brought together hundreds of budding martial artists, showcasing the growing enthusiasm for taekwondo and the increasing sporting culture among the youth. The event reflects the sustained efforts of the government to promote grassroots sports and provide young athletes with opportunities to compete, excel and prepare for high-

er-level competitions. Addressing the gathering, the Minister congratulated the organisers for successfully hosting the championship and appreciated their efforts in promoting martial arts across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that sporting events such as the Faavos Taekwondo Cup play a vital role in identifying talent, encouraging healthy competition and instilling values of discipline, determination and teamwork among young people. The Minister emphasized that the present government is working under a well knit strategy to create a vibrant sporting ecosystem by strengthening the infrastructure, expanding training facilities. It is being ensured that talented sportspersons receive every possible opportunity to compete and succeed at national and international

platforms, he added. "Sports are a powerful medium for channelising the energy of our youth in a positive direction. They not only promote physical fitness but also build confidence, resilience, leadership qualities and a spirit of discipline. Our aim is to ensure that every talented athlete, irrespective of his or her background, gets access to quality infrastructure, coaching and competitive exposure," maintained the Minister. Satish Sharma urged the participating athletes to remain focused, work hard and uphold the true spirit of sportsmanship. He encouraged them to view every competition as a stepping stone towards greater achievements. He expressed confidence that many of the young players participating in the tournament would go on to represent Jammu and Kashmir

and the country with distinction. The Minister also interacted with the players, coaches and sports officials, appreciating their dedication towards the development of taekwondo. He assured them that the Youth Services & Sports Department would continue to organise and support more such competitions to strengthen the grassroots sports and identify emerging talent across Jammu and Kashmir. The inaugural ceremony was attended by senior officers of the Youth Services & Sports Department, sports officials, coaches, athletes and local dignitaries. They appreciated the initiative and expressed confidence that such events would further strengthen the sporting culture and inspire greater youth participation across Jammu and Kashmir.

Women's T20 WC: Shorna, Sanjida and Nahida star as Bangladesh beat Pakistan in low-scoring thriller

SIANS

SOUTHAMPTON: Left-arm spinners Sanjida Akter Meghla and Nahida Akter claimed three wickets apiece as Bangladesh scripted memorable fight-backs both with the bat and ball to hand Pakistan a 23-run defeat in a low-scoring thriller in a Group A clash in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton on Saturday.

Bangladesh were reduced to 48/4 in the 10th over after electing to bat first. But skipper Nigar Sultana (36) and Shorna Akter (39 not out) struck crucial knocks to help them post a modest 123/6.

Chasing 124, Pakistan raced to 41 for no loss and were cruising at 58/1 at the halfway stage with the experienced Muneeba Ali at the crease. Muneeba scored 25 from 30 balls while Gull Feroza made 23 from 18 balls to give Pakistan a good start.

However, with Nigar Sultana marshalling her bowlers superbly, Bangladesh launched a brilliant fightback, and Pakistan's innings unravelled as they lost six wickets in the space of 14 runs in just over



five overs. They eventually ended with 100/8 in 20 overs, scripting a memorable victory with Sanjida Akter Meghla claiming 3-21 while fellow left-arm spinner Nahida Akter claimed 3-18 in four overs. This is Bangladesh's first win in two matches over Pakistan in the T20 World Cup and their fourth in a row over Fatima Sana's side. Bangladesh thus moved to four points from two matches while Pakistan have lost all three matches they have played so far. Earlier, Bangladesh looked in trouble as a brilliant bowling effort led by skipper Fatima Sana (2-18) and some superlative fielding effort helped Pakistan restrict them to a modest

123/6 in the must-win Group A clash.

Skipper Fatima struck a double-blow in the second over as Bangladesh lost three wickets in the Power-play. However, captain Nigar Sultana (36 off 38, 5x4) and Shorna Akter (39 not out off 22, 5x4) produced fighting efforts that helped them reach 123 on a wicket on which the spinners ruled the roost despite there being no turn for them.

After Nigar Sultana elected to bat first on what looks like a good batting wicket, the Pakistan bowlers applied early pressure and had their opponents in a spot of bother at 23/3 at the end of the Power-play, Fatima Sana started the carnage for Pakistan

by claiming the wickets of Dilara Akter (5) and Sharmin Akhter (0) in the second and fifth ball of her first over, the second of the innings. Juairiya Ferdous (7) fell to Tasmia Rubab, and Bangladesh were in real trouble.

Skipper Nigar Sultana and Sobhana Mostary steadied the innings a bit with a 35-run partnership. But Mostary fell before wicket to Nashra Sundhu while the Bangladesh captain was caught by Saira Jabeen off Sadia Iqbal for 36 as their woes continued.

A late flourish by Shorna Akter lifted Bangladesh to 123/6 as the experienced Shorna struck some fine shots at the back end of the innings, slamming 14 runs in the penultimate over. Shorna's knock has given Bangladesh bowlers a total to defend and a fighting chance in the match that they have to win to bounce back from a poor start in the tournament.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 123/6 in 20 overs (Shorna Akter 39 not out, Nigar Sultana 36; Fatima Sana 2-18) beat Pakistan 100/8 in 20 overs (Muneeba Ali 25; Sanjida Akter Meghla 3-21, Nahida Akter 3-18) by 23 runs

2026 FIFA World Cup: It feels like a full-circle moment, says Alex Freeman on his memorable breakthrough

SIANS

SEATTLE: USA defender Alex Freeman described his maiden FIFA World Cup goal as an emotional and unforgettable moment after helping his side secure a 2-0 victory over Australia and seal top spot in Group D in Seattle on Saturday.

Freeman thought his celebrations had been cut short when the assistant referee raised the offside flag after he found the net in the second half at Seattle Stadium. However, a VAR review overturned the decision, sparking jubilant celebrations among the home players and supporters.

"It was a really emotional moment for me when the goal went in. I was going to celebrate somewhere else, but Cristian Roldan and the lads on the bench encouraged me to go and celebrate in that corner. I think this



moment shows just how hard I've worked to get myself here, belting out the national anthem in front of a fantastic crowd like today's. I'm incredibly grateful for all of this. I'm absolutely over the moon," Freeman said after the match. The Villarreal defender has emerged as one of the standout performers for Mauricio Pochettino's

side at the tournament. After providing an assist in the USA's opening 4-1 victory over Paraguay, Freeman followed it up with a goal against Australia to continue his impressive World Cup campaign.

The 21-year-old also reflected on the influence of his father, Antonio Freeman, a former NFL star who won Super Bowl XXXI with the Green Bay Packers.

"It feels like a full circle moment for me and my family," Freeman said. "It's amazing to have a father who has been so successful and such a great mentor to me. He taught me to be ready for moments like these and to believe that I can write my own story too."

USA head coach Mauricio Pochettino reserved special praise for the young defender, highlighting both his rapid development and potential.

Rugby Premier League: Mumbai Dreamers continue undefeated run in Season 2

SIANS

HYDERABAD: The fifth day of the Rugby Premier League Season 2 witnessed Mumbai Dreamers continue their undefeated run, and Chennai Bulls (women) defeat the table toppers at the Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi Athletic Stadium, Gachibowli, Hyderabad on Saturday. In the first match in the men's RPL, Mumbai Dreamers produced a dominant

display as they continued their onward march by beating Chennai Bulls 26-7. Mumbai Dreamers recovered from an early setback to defeat Chennai Bulls. Filipe Sauturaga opened the scoring for the Bulls late in the first quarter, but Demetri Patterson took charge in the second, scoring two tries to put the Dreamers ahead, alongside a penalty try. Mumbai continued to dominate after the break, with

Kaleem Baretto extending the lead in the third quarter. Despite Chennai's efforts in the final period, the Dreamers remained resolute to secure a convincing victory. In the women's section, Chennai Bulls edge Kolkata Banga Tigers 33-28 on the fifth day of the competition. Savannah Bauder continued her impressive form with an early try, while Larah Wright added another to give Chennai Bulls a strong start

against the table-topping Kolkata Banga Tigers. Nia Toliver kept Kolkata in the contest with two brilliant individual tries before Sofia Gonzalez levelled the scores in a fiercely contested third quarter. Amandeep Kaur restored Chennai's lead, but Toliver struck again early in the final period. Adia Pye responded almost immediately, and the Bulls held firm in a tense finish to secure a hard-fought victory.

3rd ODI: We ticked a lot of boxes, says Gill after India complete 3-0 sweep of Afghanistan

SIANS

CHENNAI: India captain Shubman Gill said a lot of the boxes were ticked after his side completed a 3-0 sweep of Afghanistan in the ODI series here on Saturday through a nine-wicket victory at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. India's dominant victory was set by Prasidh Krishna's 5-23 and Yashasvi Jaiswal's hitting an unbeaten 110.



"A lot of the boxes are ticked. We spoke about keeping the intensity in the middle overs and some of the things that we also spoke about was how can we keep creating those opportunities in the middle overs as a bowling unit and as a batting unit, how can we keep pushing for the extra runs in the middle overs and I think a lot of those boxes were ticked," said Gill at the conclusion of the game.

On Prasidh picking his maiden five-wicket haul, Gill said, "Definitely, I think the first spell bowled by Gurnoor (Brar) and Prasidh was outstanding. To see that kind of pace in those conditions was not easy. But I think they kept putting their effort and kept pushing. I mean, definitely you are tempted to give them that one extra over, but looking at the weather, I did ask them if they wanted to bowl that one extra over, but they were pretty exhausted."

India's next assignment is a three-match ODI series in England from July 14-19, and Gill, who also picked the

Player of the Series award, said conditions there will be similar to what will be on offer in the 2027 ODI World Cup, to be played in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

"Going to England, the conditions would be a little bit more similar to what we get in South Africa, not quite similar, but still close to that. So the kind of combination that we would be looking to play there, hopefully we have all the players fit and ready, it is going to be another great series for us."

Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi, who struck a fighting 102, lamented the loss of early wickets. "I think today, at the first 10 overs, I think they bowled well, but we lost wickets that put us under pressure. After that, Azmat and I had a good partnership, but again, we didn't finish well in the batting because after that partnership, we lost back-to-back wickets. That's why we fell short while scoring runs.

"After a long, I think, 95 games, I scored my first 100. I feel good, and Inshallah, I will

try my best to, from today, to do it again and again for my country. And yeah, it was so hot, and I was feeling cramping. I'm feeling good now.

He also said they will learn a lot from the mistakes committed in the ODI series defeat to India. "I think we have talented guys, but when it comes to India, playing in India is a tough side, and we will learn. We were not good. We will learn from that.

"Moving forward, I think we are a quality side, but we were away from ODI cricket because last year we played Bangladesh eight months ago. So we play Ireland next, and in the three games, we were lacking, we will work on that, and yeah, the coach is also new, and we will try to work together as a team."

Prasidh, who returned with figures of 5-23 and picked the Player of the Match award, said his homework in the run-up to the clash was a really good one. "Ice bath's the only thing remaining now, so my body feels good. Bit of a break after the innings, but good to see the way the batsmen batted. I'm really, really happy for the team.

MOVIES Schedule

Sunday, 21st June

OBSESSION (A)
ENGLISH - 05:20 PM

MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA (HINDI) (U/A16+)
10:45 AM, 02:00 PM, 07:40 PM

COCKTAIL 2 (A)
HINDI ATMOS - 10:30 AM, 01:30 PM, 07:30 PM
HINDI - 12:15 PM, 03:15 PM, 06:15 PM

TOY STORY 5 (U)
3D ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 04:45 PM
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 10:00 AM

INOX SRINAGAR

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