

# Good Morning Kashmir


17th Year Of Publication

**Office of LG J&K**  
@OfficeOfLGJandK




**Emergency imposed on 25th June 1975 was one of the gravest assaults on the Constitution & democratic ethos of our Republic. On #SamvidhanHatyaDiwas, I pay tributes to all Satyagrahis who resisted authoritarianism with courage & played a vital role in restoring India's democracy.**

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## Gulmarg Cable Car Reopens After Month-Long Shutdown



**GMK News Network**

**SRINAGAR:** Chief minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reopened the Gulmarg Cable Car project to the public, a month after a technical snag forced the closure of the popular ride to the upper reaches of Gulmarg.

Abdullah, who visited the Cable Car Project in Gulmarg, Baramulla district, North Kashmir, told reporters that Gondola services resumed after the project underwent necessary repairs and maintenance.

"Gondola is working now. The interim report has arrived. Services resumed after the original manufacturer certified the maintenance and service works, based on the report and the inspection of the repair work," Abdullah said.

Chief Minister took a Gondola ride to Phase-I at Kongdoori, where he personally inspected the system and reviewed the extensive restoration works undertaken following a recent technical malfunction.

During the visit, officials from the J&K Cable Car Corporation briefed the Chief Minister on the technical specifics of the restoration and the stringent safety audits conducted before clearing the service for public use.

Expressing his

## LG Chairs High-Level Meeting In Pahalgam; Reviews Preparations For Amarnath Yatra

Directs Departments To Ensure Seamless Arrangements, Foolproof Security, Memorable Experience For Pilgrims

**GMK News Network**

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday chaired a high-level meeting at Pahalgam and reviewed the preparations for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, starting from 3rd July.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department and Nodal Officer for Pahalgam Axis; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri



M. Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic J&K; Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; Shri Amod Nagpure Ashok, SSP Anantnag and senior

**Shivacharya Abhinav Gupta Jayanti**

### Lieutenant Governor Attends Rudra Abhishek Ceremony

**GMK News network**

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday attended Rudra Abhishek ceremony on the auspicious occasion of Shivacharya Abhinav Gupta Jayanti and Nirjala Ekadashi at Shri Anandishwar Bhairav Nath Ji Maharaj Asthapan, Maisuma.

### LG Visits Nunwan Base Camp, Reviews On-Ground Arrangements

**GMK News network**

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday visited the Nunwan base camp with senior officials and reviewed the on-ground arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The Lieutenant Governor

### LG Expresses Gratitude To PM, Mandaviya For J&K's First NCOE In Awantipora

**GMK News Network**

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya for the approval of Jammu Kashmir UT's first

### Passport Fees Hiked As Govt Amends Rules



**NEW DELHI:** The government has revised the passport fee structure through an amendment to the Passports Rules, 1980, increasing application fee for an ordinary fresh passport containing 36 pages from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500.

The new rules will come into force with effect from July 1, 2026.

According to a notification dated June 20, and published by the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday, for an ordinary fresh passport or reissue of passport containing 36 pages, the normal fee would be Rs 2,500, while for tatkal it would be Rs 5,000 for the same category.

At present, application fee for an ordinary fresh passport or reissue of a passport containing 36 pages stands at

### J&K Police Launch 'Hawk Eye Project' To Monitor Amarnath Yatra 24X7



**Sajid Raina**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Police have launched "Project Hawk Eye", a technology-driven surveillance initiative for round-the-clock monitoring of the Amarnath Yatra route, as security agencies intensified preparations for the annual pilgrimage scheduled to commence on July 3.

The initiative, was unveiled by Anantnag Police as part of an expanded security grid for the forth coming Amarnath Yatra.

As part of Project Hawk Eye, Anantnag Police have deployed five drone units for aerial surveillance along the yatra route. Twenty-eight elevated observation posts, or Machan Morchas, have been established at vulnerable locations, while 22 sniper teams have been positioned to reinforce the security grid.

Police have also installed 416 high-resolution CCTV cameras and facial

### Ashura Today Srinagar Braces For Zuljinah Procession; Traffic Curbs Across Downtown

Thousands Expected To Participate In Traditional Bota Kadal-Zadibal March

**Rehan Qayoom**

**SRINAGAR:** As Kashmir prepares to observe Youm-e-Ashura today with religious fervour and solemnity, authorities have put in place elaborate traffic arrangements across Srinagar to ensure the smooth conduct of the traditional Zuljinah procession from Bota Kadal to Imambara Zadibal.

The annual procession, one of the largest Muharram gatherings in the Valley, is expected to draw thousands of mourners commemorating the martyrdom



of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions at Karbala. In view of the expected rush, the Srinagar Traffic Police on Thursday announced a detailed traffic diversion plan

### NC Govt Fulfilled Key Manifesto Commitments In 19 Months: Sakeena

**Jahangeer Ganaie**

**SRINAGAR:** Minister Sakeena Itoo on Thursday said the Omar Abdullah-led government has fulfilled several major commitments outlined in the National Conference (NC) manifesto and remains committed to delivering on the remaining promises through a people-centric governance approach.

Speaking to reporters after addressing a gathering in Tral, Itoo, said that a series of welfare initiatives and governance reforms have been undertaken by the government during the past 19 months. She said the administration has focused on improving public services, strengthening accountability, and extending ben-



efits to vulnerable sections of society across Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to social welfare measures, the minister said the government had fulfilled its commitment to enhance old-age pensions and marriage assistance schemes.

She pointed to the introduction of free bus travel for women and reforms in the academic calendar

### Govt. Restores Commercial LPG Supply, Withdraws Sectoral Mandates

**GMK News Network**

**NEW DELHI:** The Union government on Thursday (June 25, 2026) restored the supply of industrial and commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to pre-crisis levels and withdrew all sector-specific allocation caps that had been imposed at the peak of the West Asia crisis, citing an improved supply situation.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Thursday said supplies of bulk LPG, which had been suspended at the onset of the crisis, have also been partially resumed, with consumers now eligible to receive up to 50



per cent of their pre-crisis consumption levels. The decision follows an improvement in the domestic LPG supply situation and increased availability of imported LPG cargoes.

During the West Asia crisis, the government had invoked

provisions under the Essential Commodities Act to direct that C3-C4 streams be used exclusively for LPG production, diverting them from petrochemical and other downstream sectors to ensure uninterrupted domestic LPG availability.

With indigenous LPG production improving, the government has now decided to reduce the diversion of C3-C4 streams to the LPG pool. The enhanced allocation for petrochemical and other critical sectors will be implemented while ensuring domestic LPG supplies remain unaffected and indigenous production does not fall below 40 TMT per day.

### IPS Officer Mahesh Dixit Named New IB Chief

**GMK News Network**

**NEW DELHI:** Senior IPS officer Mahesh Dixit has been appointed as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), taking charge of India's premier domestic intelligence agency at a time of evolving internal security challenges.

A 1993-batch IPS officer of the Telangana cadre, Dixit's appointment was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. He succeeds the outgoing IB Director after the completion of the latter's tenure.

Dixit brings extensive experience in intelligence operations and internal security. He spent crucial years heading the IB's Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau in Srinagar, which

### 'Lavender Cultivation Emerging As Climate-Resilient Crop In Kashmir'

**Jahangeer Ganaie**

**ANANTNAG:** Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar on Thursday said the government is actively encouraging farmers to diversify towards crops that are less vulnerable to changing weather patterns and climate-related challenges.

Dar inaugurated the Lavender Festival at the scenic Lavender Farm in Sirhama village of Anantnag district, underscoring the growing importance of aromatic crop cultivation in Kashmir's agricultural landscape.

The event witnessed the participation of MLAs Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Altaf Ahmad Kallo, Advocate Reyaz Ahmad



Khan, A.B. Majeed Larmi and several other dignitaries, farmers and agriculture enthusiasts. The sprawling lavender fields, painted in shades of purple, attracted visitors and farmers alike and reflected the region's increasing shift towards high-value aromatic crops.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, the Agriculture Minister, said, "Climate change has emerged as a major concern for the agricultural sector. We are motivating farmers to adopt crops such as lavender, which are comparatively resilient and offer better economic returns. These crops not only benefit farmers financially but also contribute positively to the environment and attract tourists."

He said that

## LG, CM condole demise of JKAS officer Romin Ahmad

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday expressed deep grief over the untimely passing of Shri Romin Ahmad, an officer of the Jammu Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS).

In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Grieved by the untimely demise of Shri Romin Ahmad. As a dedicated officer, he served the people of Jammu Kashmir with dedication and commitment. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the

bereaved family in this difficult hour. May the Almighty grant eternal peace to the departed soul."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his condolence message, the Chief Minister described the passing of the officer as a significant loss to the administration.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, friends and colleagues in this hour of grief. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and for strength and fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

## DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Yom-e-Ashura at Shahoo, Sachen

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Thursday visited Shahoo and Sachen areas to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth and peaceful observance of Yom-e-Ashura.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the arrangements related to drinking water supply, sanitation, electricity, healthcare facilities, and traffic management to ensure the convenience of mourners. Interacting with offi-

cers and local representatives, the DC directed all concerned departments to ensure the timely provision of all essential services and maintain close coordination for the smooth conduct of the religious observance.

He emphasized that all necessary arrangements should be put in place well in advance to facilitate the peaceful, dignified, and hassle-free observance of Yom-e-Ashura and instructed officers to remain available on the ground to promptly address any issues that may arise.

## Kabra chairs UT-Level Committee Meeting on Groundwater Resource Assessment



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, Thursday chaired a meeting of the Union Territory Level Coordination Committee (UTLC) convened for assessment of groundwater resource potential in Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2026. Apart from senior officials of Central Government Water Board, the meeting was attended by Shri Manoj Gupta, Secretary Technical, JSD, CEs PHE and Irrigation & Flood Control Departments and representatives of stakeholder departments.

The meeting, organised by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in pursuance of Government Order marked the commencement of the annual Groundwater Resource Assessment (GWRA-2026) exercise and reviewed ongoing groundwater management initiatives across the Union Territory. During the meeting,

detailed deliberations were held on groundwater resource assessment, inter-departmental coordination and data sharing, besides implementation of the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM).

The Committee reviewed the roadmap for assessment of dynamic groundwater resources across 149 assessment units in Jammu and Kashmir and stressed the need for timely sharing, validation and integration of data by all stakeholder departments to ensure accurate and scientific assessment.

On the occasion, the Additional Chief Secretary released two significant publications of the Central Ground Water Board including the National Compilation on Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India - 2025; and Dynamic Ground Water Resources of Jammu & Kashmir - 2025.

These publications provide an updated assessment of groundwater availability, extraction and sustainabil-

ity parameters, and are expected to serve as valuable reference documents for evidence-based planning, groundwater conservation and sustainable management of water resources in the Union Territory.

The meeting also reviewed the findings of aquifer management studies conducted in parts of Kathua district. Discussions were held on the proposed NAQUIM studies in the Jammu Urban Agglomeration and selected areas of Anantnag and Rajouri districts, aimed at enhancing scientific understanding of groundwater systems and strengthening conservation and management strategies.

Addressing the meeting, the ACS underscored the critical importance of scientific groundwater assessment, coordinated inter-departmental efforts and adoption of sustainable groundwater management practices to safeguard the Union Territory's water resources and ensure long-term water security for future generations.

## DC Shopian chairs monthly District NCORD meeting

Directs stronger action against drug trafficking and substance abuse

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Thursday chaired the monthly District Level NCORD meeting to review the progress of anti-drug abuse initiatives and strengthen measures for curbing drug trafficking and substance abuse in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the performance of enforcement departments and the implementation of decisions taken in previous NCORD meetings.

He stressed the need for intensified efforts to identify drug peddlers, dismantle supply networks and strengthen inter-departmental coordination to effectively combat the drug menace.

Reviewing enforcement measures, the meeting was informed that 31 FIRs have been registered against poppy cultivators, while 18 driving licences of persons involved in NDPS-related offences have been suspended. It was further informed that one medical shop has been sealed for violations under the relevant provisions.

The meeting was also informed that out of 27 kilometres of road identified for wild cannabis growth, four kilometres have been cleared through joint action by the Police, Excise Department and the Sub-Divisional Administration.



The Deputy Commissioner directed the Police, Revenue, Excise, PMGSY, R&B, Education and Irrigation Departments to launch coordinated drives for the removal of wild cannabis, particularly in the vicinity of schools, water bodies, along roads and canals across the district.

He emphasises on counselling services to be further strengthened at Addiction Treatment Facility at DH Shopian to ensure sustained de-addiction support for victims of substance abuse.

The DC also directed concerned departments to intensify facilitation of registration of recovered victims under various self-employment and livelihood schemes so that they can be rehabilitated economically and reintegrated into society through sustainable means of livelihood.

Emphasising preventive measures, the DC directed the tehsildars to identify suitable land for development of playgrounds in pending panchayats to promote

constructive youth engagement. He also instructed the concerned departments to activate Youth Clubs across all panchayats and involve religious leaders, community elders and civil society organisations in strengthening awareness and prevention efforts against drug abuse.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of activities being carried out under the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and directed all departments to further intensify awareness campaigns to ensure wider impact of the campaign.

Among others, the meeting was attended by SSP Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Chaudhary; ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR Shopian, Shakoor Ahmad; SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; SE, R&B, DIO and officers from Health, Education, Excise, MVD, Drug Control, Irrigation, Social Welfare, Tehsildars and other concerned departments.

## FDA issues advisory to FBOs on safe procurement and use of Milk Products

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In view of the extensive consumption of milk and milk products by the general public and their widespread use in hotels, restaurants, catering establishments, cafes, sweet shops, bakeries and other food vending establishments, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has issued an advisory to all Food Business Operators (FBOs) regarding the procurement, storage, use and sale of milk and milk products.

Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, Khalid Jahangir, stated that Food Business Operators must adhere to the prescribed standards and safety norms while procuring and using milk and milk products to ensure food safety, consumer protection and public health.

The advisory states that it has come to the notice of the authorities that in certain instances milk products, particularly Paneer, Ghee and Khoa/Mawa, are being procured, supplied or used without adequate disclosure of the procurement chain, quality assurance mechanisms and traceability records. Such practices may pose serious risks to public health and can mislead consumers regarding the quality and authenticity of food being served.

In this regard, all Food Business Operators, especially hotels, restaurants, catering establishments, cafes, sweet shops, tea stalls, dhabas, itinerant vendors and food vending establishments, have been advised to strictly adhere to the guidelines and instructions issued

through the advisory on key compliance parameters viz. Procurement and traceability of milk and milk products, their notified Standards and Regulatory Compliance with packaging and labelling requirements, consumer information, menu disclosure and Food Safety Display Boards.

The advisory reiterates that under the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, it is prohibited to sell or serve milk containing added water; dahi/curd not prepared from boiled, pasteurized or sterilized milk; skimmed milk as regular milk; milk and milk products containing substances not naturally found in milk, except where specifically permitted under the regulations.

The advisory issued by the Food & Drugs Administration further emphasized that compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations framed thereunder is mandatory for all Food Business Operators and all stakeholders dealing in milk and milk products were called upon to strictly adhere to food safety standards and departmental advisories issued from time to time in the interest of public health and consumer welfare.

The Commissioner also appealed to consumers to remain vigilant, read labels and display boards carefully, and report any concerns regarding the quality or safety of food products. Complaints may be lodged through the Toll-Free Number 104, by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in, or through the FSSAI consumer grievance portal <https://fscos.fssai.gov.in/consumergrievance>.

## DE&CC B'pora organizes One-Day Job Fair; over 450 unemployed youth participate



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** District Employment & Counseling Centre (DE&CC), Bandipora, on Thursday organized a one-day Job Fair at the Employment Office premises under the theme "One Platform for Employment and Entrepreneurship."

The event aimed to bridge the gap between job seekers and employers by providing a common platform for employment opportunities and career advancement.

The Job Fair witnessed an overwhelming response from the youth of the district, with more than 450 unemployed candidates from different areas participating enthusiastically in the event. Around 15 reputed companies and private-sector employers representing diverse industries took part in the recruitment drive, offering employment opportunities across various sectors.

During the course of the event, 450 candidates submitted their applications for different job profiles. Following preliminary screening and interaction sessions, 140 candidates were shortlisted for the next stage of the selection process, while six candidates secured on-the-spot

placements, marking a significant achievement of the recruitment drive.

To further strengthen employment and entrepreneurship initiatives, a dedicated Mission YUVA Facilitation Stall was established by the Block Handholding and Development (BHD) team. The stall provided guidance and registration support to aspiring entrepreneurs and unemployed youth under various Mission YUVA schemes. Participants were sensitized about livelihood generation opportunities, skill development programmes, self-employment initiatives, financial assistance schemes, and other socio-economic empowerment programmes aimed at promoting sustainable entrepreneurship and employment.

Assistant Director Employment, Bandipora, Akil Khateeb, appreciated the active participation of the youth, employers, and all stakeholders. He expressed gratitude to the participating companies, officials, and organizing teams for their collective efforts in making the Job Fair a grand success and reaffirmed the department's resolve to continue organizing such initiatives for the welfare and empowerment of the youth.

## DE&CC Srinagar organizes Job Fair at GPC Gogjibagh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** District Employment & Counseling Centre (DE&CC), Srinagar Thursday organized a District-Level Job Fair at Kashmir Government Polytechnic College (GPC), Gogjibagh, Srinagar.

The event was graced by MLA Lal Chowk, Ahsan Pardeesi, as the Chief Guest. The Job Fair witnessed an overwhelming response from the youth, with around 400 job seekers participating in the event. A total of 15 reputed private companies from diverse sectors participated and offered employment opportunities to aspiring candidates.

In addition to the participating companies, six line departments established awareness and facilitation stalls to disseminate information regarding various



government schemes and livelihood initiatives. A dedicated Mission YUVA Stall was also installed at the venue, which attracted considerable attention and witnessed significant footfall from youth interested in self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

During his visit, MLA Lal Chowk, Ahsan Pardeesi, toured all the stalls and interacted with representatives of the participating companies, line departments, Mission YUVA officials, and job seekers. He appreciated the efforts of

the Employment Department in organizing the Job Fair and stressed the need for conducting more such programmes in the future to provide enhanced employment opportunities and career guidance to the youth. He observed that such initiatives play a vital role in bridging the gap between employers and job seekers and contribute significantly towards youth empowerment and economic development.

The Job Fair provided an effective platform for direct interaction between

employers and job seekers. Following screening and interviews conducted during the event, 37 candidates were shortlisted by the participating companies for further stages of selection and placement.

The programme concluded successfully with enthusiastic participation from employers, government departments, and job seekers, reaffirming the commitment of the Employment Department towards employment generation and youth empowerment in the district.

## CIPMC Srinagar organizes Khet Bachao Abhiyan in Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** Crop Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, Thursday organized a Khet Bachao Abhiyan at the field of progressive farmer Gulam Nabi Ganai at Sether Gund village, Kakapora, Pulwama, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department and local farming community.

The programme witnessed the participation of around 30 farmers and aimed at promoting sustain-

able agricultural practices and creating awareness about the conservation of natural resources for safeguarding Mother Earth.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Plant Protection Officer, Abir Shankhari, demonstrated various tools and techniques of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and highlighted the importance of the safe and judicious use of pesticides. He also sensitized farmers about the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS)

Mobile Application and its role in pest monitoring and management.

Scientific Assistant, Kawal Nain Singh, delivered an informative lecture on the significance of 100 percent seed treatment and the conservation of natural enemies in crop ecosystems. He also demonstrated the use of neem oil, pesticide label claims, QR code verification, pheromone traps and yellow sticky traps as effective components of eco-friendly pest management.

Meanwhile, Junior Agriculture Extension Officer (JAEO), Kakapora, Ashiq Hussain, apprised the participants about the precautions to be observed while spraying pesticides and elaborated on the adverse effects of indiscriminate pesticide use on human health and the environment.

The participating farmers appreciated the initiative and actively interacted with experts on various aspects of integrated pest management and sustainable farming practices.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**

## OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER

### POSHAN PROJECT ROHAMA

**LIMITED TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT OF SNP/SAG FOOD ITEMS.**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from registered Cooperative Societies/Cooperative Super Bazaars/Consumer Cooperative Stores and other Cooperative Institutions registered under the Jammu & Kashmir Cooperative Societies Acts and engaged in supply of food commodities for supply of food items required under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) and Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) under POSHAN Project Rohama for the financial year 2026-2027. The food items and specifications shall be as per the approved Recipe Committee/Formulated Menu, enclosed as Annexure-A.

This notice is being published and circulated for ensuring maximum participation, transparency and fairness in the procurement process. Interested Cooperative Societies/Institutions shall submit their sealed rate quotations indicating item-wise rates per unit (Kg/Litre, as applicable) along with self-attested copies of the following documents:

- Registration Certificate.
- PAN Card.
- GST Registration Certificate, if applicable.
- Latest Renewal Certificate, wherever applicable.
- Declaration regarding capacity to ensure uninterrupted supply of food items as and when required by the department.
- Any other document supporting eligibility and supply capability. Any quotation accompanied by false, misleading or incomplete information/ documents shall be liable to rejection.

The quotations shall be submitted in a sealed envelope superscribed "Rate Quotation for Supply of SNP/SAG Food Items under POSHAN Project Rohama" and shall reach the office of the undersigned within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice.

The quotations shall be opened on 04/07/2026 at 10:00 AM in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the participating representatives who may wish to attend.

The selection shall be made on the basis of the lowest evaluated aggregate rate of the approved SNP/SAG food basket, subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions and reasonableness of rates. Rates found unreasonable with reference to prevailing market rates may be rejected.

The approved rates shall remain valid up to 31.03.2027 or till revision/modification of the approved menu, procurement policy, Government instructions, financial rules, treasury procedures or directions issued by the competent authority, whichever is earlier.

The rate contract/supply arrangement shall be subject to the prevailing Government instructions, procurement policies, financial rules, treasury procedures, directions of competent authorities and orders of competent Courts, as applicable from time to time. Actual quantities to be procured shall depend upon beneficiary strength, approved menu and availability of funds from time to time.

The rate contract and placement of supply orders shall be subject to availability of funds, admissibility of expenditure, fulfillment of all codal formalities and compliance with applicable financial and treasury procedures/instructions in force from time to time.

The department shall not be liable for any procurement or supply in the event of non-release of funds, non-admissibility of expenditure, change in procurement policy, modification of Government instructions, judicial directions, or any other administrative or financial restrictions imposed by the competent authority.

The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations, wholly or partly, and to cancel, modify or curtail the rate contract at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

No: CDPO/POSHAN/2026/221-229  
Dated: 23-06-2026.

DIPK-2537-26  
DT: 25/06/2026

Child Development Project Officer  
POSHAN Project Rohama.

# LG Addresses Valedictory Session of International Conference on Amarnath Yatra

Amarnath Yatra living embodiment of India's spiritual consciousness, cultural heritage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Thursday addressed the Valedictory Session of an International Conference on Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, organized by the Government Degree College for Women, Anantnag in collaboration with the District Administration Anantnag.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a living embodiment of India's spiritual consciousness, cultural heritage and humane values.

"We must preserve, enrich, and pass on this great tradition to future generations. The sacred Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra stands for social unity and deep inner reflection. A journey of patience, prayer, and connection with the divine, it reminds us that true spirituality is about exploring the light within," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that many families and communities have served pilgrims for generations. He said people from different faiths and beliefs have played vital roles in contributing to this pilgrimage and their participation testifies to a shared human consciousness that operates above the boundaries of religion, language, and community.

"At a time when divisions appear to be rising in many parts of the world, Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra offers a unique model of coexistence. The pilgrim-



## LG expresses gratitude to Nitin Gadkari for the restoration of vital bridges over Ravi, Sehar Khad

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari for the restoration of two vital bridges on National Highway-44. "Great news ahead of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The two vital bridges over the Ravi River and Sehar Khad near Kalibari on NH-44, which were damaged in last year's flash floods, have been successfully restored. Deeply thankful to Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji for reinstating this crucial link. This will immensely benefit Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrims and ensure smooth movement of passengers and freight," the Lieutenant Governor said.

age conveys that the true purpose of faith is to bring people together. It is a spiritual journey of the shared values of humanity. The holy Yatra is also a vibrant celebration of India's cultural diversity.

Devotees who come from across the country bring their languages, traditions and as they travel the route this diversity becomes a medium of mutual respect and warmth. I believe this is India's real strength. Baba Barfani's pilgrimage embodies the ideal of our civilization that we

call "unity in diversity." The journey teaches that national unity is built on mutual respect and common purpose," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also stated that sacred Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra plays a critical role in the local economy. He mentioned that pony operators, shopkeepers, artisans, hoteliers, transport providers, thousands of families are directly or indirectly linked to the pilgrimage and the yatra generates livelihoods and also accelerates regional development and infrastructure.

"Maintaining a balance between development and nature conservation is our collective responsibility. Sanitation, waste management, biodiversity conservation, animal welfare, and environmental balance are our collective responsibility. A zero-waste Shri Amarnath Ji yatra has been our commitment, and pilgrims are encouraged through campaigns such as 100 percent waste recycling, organized waste-collection networks, and "Bring plastic, take a bag" initiatives for environmental protection," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that over the past two to three years both tracks have been widened and ambulances have been stationed at designated points along the route. He said Baltal and Chandanwari tracks were widened to 12 feet and illuminated at night. The tracks are inspected and repaired each night during the pilgrimage.

"In the future the Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage will become an important center for global spiritual tourism. It will introduce pilgrims and foreign visitors to the Yatra's gran-

deur as well as India's rich traditions of philosophy, yoga, meditation, and spirituality. The pilgrimage will also be a strong instrument of cultural diplomacy. Visitors from different countries can return having experienced a profound spiritual wisdom.

The sacred Yatra is part of our cultural and spiritual heritage. To ensure each devotee departs with a unique spiritual experience, many transformations have been carried out in the past five years, and digital tools have become an important means. Online registration, RFID and GPS-based monitoring, camera surveillance along the entire track, digital information systems, and modern communication technologies have made the pilgrimage safer, more accessible, and more transparent. We have sought to adopt modern innovations while safeguarding the pilgrimage's core spiritual spirit," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary,

## LG recalls sacrifices made by Imam Hussain (as) on eve of Ashura

**SRINAGAR:** The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday recalled the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) on the eve of Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "The supreme sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions at Karbala remain a timeless beacon for humanity, upholding truth, justice, and human dignity.

Let us resolve to imbibe these universal ideals and work together to build a peaceful, progressive, and equitable society."

Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department and Nodal Officer for Pahalgam Axis; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG South Kashmir; Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; Shri Amod Nagpure Ashok, SSP Anantnag, Dr. Khalida Hassan, Principal Government Degree College for Women, Anantnag; Prof. Farooq Ahmed Malik, Organising Secretary, faculty, staff, students, prominent citizens, civil society members and people from different walks of life attended the conference.

## Sakeena Itoo addresses mega public gathering at Aripal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Thursday visited Aripal Tral and addressed a mega public gathering. The Minister was accompanied by Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan and MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar.

While interacting with the gathering, the Minister assured the people that the government remains committed towards addressing their genuine concerns and ensuring equitable development across all areas. She highlighted the administration's resolve to strengthen public service delivery and accelerate the developmental initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of the people.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo highlighted various initiatives being undertaken for the welfare and socio-

economic upliftment of the people. She said that public welfare and inclusive development remain the foremost priorities of the government.

The Minister further emphasized that sustained efforts are being made to enhance infrastructure and public facilities in key sectors including health, education, social welfare and other essential services. She urged the people to continue participating in the developmental process and maintain close coordination with the administration for effective grievance redressal.

During the event, individuals and deputations from across the Tral area projected their demands and highlighted various developmental issues and public welfare concerns.

The Minister listened patiently to the issues raised by the people and assured them of the timely redressal of all genuine grievances.

## Sakeena Itoo interacts with Himachal Pradesh's Edu Min in Srinagar

Ministers deliberate on strengthening educational cooperation



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Thursday held a detailed interaction with the Education Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Rohit Thakur at Srinagar, focusing on the exchange of ideas, best practices and innovative reforms aimed at further strengthening the education sectors of both regions.

During the meeting, the two Ministers engaged in comprehensive discussions on various aspects of school and higher education sectors, including elementary education, including academic excellence, digital learning, teacher capacity building, skill development and educational infrastructure.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo highlighted the significant strides made by Jammu and Kashmir in the education sector in last around two years. She informed that the Government is committed to ensuring quality, inclusive and equitable education through modernization of educational institutions, expansion of digital learning facilities, strengthening of teacher training programmes and promotion of skill-based education.

The Minister highlighted that the school education department achieved significant achievements in last around two years, with results improving for both 10th and 12th classes. She reiterated that the government is focused on creating a robust academic ecosystem aligned with national priorities and global standards. The Minister also

shared details regarding ongoing initiatives to improve educational access in remote and far-flung areas, enhance learning outcomes, encourage innovation and research, and provide greater opportunities for students through technology-enabled education. She emphasized that education remains the cornerstone for empowering youth and accelerating socio-economic development across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Himachal Pradesh Education Minister briefed the gathering about various reforms undertaken by the state government to strengthen school education, improve academic standards and expand access to quality learning opportunities across rural and mountainous regions. The Minister highlighted Himachal Pradesh's achievements in literacy, community participation in education and efforts towards improving educational outcomes through innovative teaching practices.

Both Ministers expressed satisfaction over the constructive dialogue and agreed to enhance cooperation and knowledge-sharing between Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh in areas of mutual interest. They emphasized that collaborative efforts and exchange of best practices would contribute significantly towards building a future-ready education system capable of meeting the aspirations of students and preparing them for emerging global opportunities. Senior officers of the school education department of both the governments were present during the interaction.

## MLA Sagar chairs meeting of Committee on Assurances



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** A formal meeting of the Committee on Assurances was held Thursday at the Assembly Secretariat, Srinagar, under the chairmanship of MLA Ali Mohammad Sagar.

MLA Iftkar Ahmad, Waheed ur Rehman Para, Shabir Ahmad Kullay along with senior officers from the Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Chairman underscored the vital role of the Committee on Assurances in ensuring the effective implementation of assurances, promises and commitments made by the Government on the floor of the House. He emphasized that the Committee serves as an important mechanism for monitoring the progress of such assurances and ensuring their timely fulfillment.

The Chairman stressed the need for greater account-

ability among the government departments in implementing the assurances entrusted to them. He directed that all the concerned departments should make concerted efforts to ensure that pending assurances are implemented within a stipulated period of three months.

The members of the Committee also echoed the Chairman's vision regarding the significance of the Committee and highlighted the need for strengthening the monitoring framework. They offered valuable suggestions aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Committee's functioning.

The Committee further resolved to hold regular meetings to review the status of assurances and facilitate their timely implementation, thereby ensuring better results and enhanced accountability in governance.

## CM Omar chairs 27th Board Meeting of LCMA

Reviews progress of lake conservation initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired the 27th Board of Directors meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) at SKICC to review the progress of ongoing conservation initiatives and deliberate on policy, administrative and infrastructure-related matters concerning the Dal, Nigeen, Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Forests, Environment and Ecology Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Mandeep Kaur and other senior officers.

The Board reviewed the



action taken on decisions of its previous meeting and assessed the progress of major conservation and restoration initiatives, including the Integrated Management Plan for the Dal-Nigeen lake ecosystem, eco-development of lake hamlets, sewerage infrastructure, lake cleaning operations and other measures aimed at improving the ecological health of the lakes.

Emphasizing that conservation of Jammu and Kashmir's lakes requires sustained institutional coordination, scientific planning and timely execution, the Chief Minister

directed the concerned departments and the Authority to expedite ongoing projects while ensuring strict compliance with environmental safeguards and statutory procedures.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on agenda items relating to strengthening the Authority, modernization of sewerage management systems, conservation of Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes, and enhancement of institutional capacity. The Chief Minister directed that proposals requiring further examination and refinement be revised and resubmitted

after incorporating the observations made during the deliberations. Reaffirming the Government's commitment to preserving the fragile lake ecosystem, the Chief Minister stressed that conservation efforts must be guided by scientific assessment, environmental sustainability and long-term public interest.

He also called for regular monitoring of ongoing works and close inter-departmental coordination to ensure tangible improvements in the conservation and management of Jammu and Kashmir's lakes.

## CM Omar pays tribute to Imam Hussain (AS), Karbala martyrs on Ashoora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday paid rich tributes to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala, recalling their unparalleled sacrifice for truth, justice and righteousness.

In his message on the solemn occasion of Ashoora, the Chief Minister said that the tragedy of Karbala remains an eternal symbol of courage, steadfastness and resis-

tance against tyranny. He observed that Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), along with his devoted family members and companions, upheld the highest ideals of faith, justice, compassion and human dignity through their supreme sacrifice.

"The message of Karbala transcends time and geography. It inspires humanity to stand firm in the face of injustice, uphold moral values and safeguard the principles of truth and righteousness, irrespec-

tive of the challenges," the Chief Minister said.

CM Omar Abdullah emphasized that the teachings and sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS) continue to serve as a beacon of hope and guidance for people across the world, reminding society of the importance of selflessness, integrity and unwavering commitment to justice.

The Chief Minister urged people to imbibe the timeless values exemplified by the martyrs of

Karbala and work collectively towards fostering peace, harmony, mutual respect and brotherhood in society.

On the occasion, Omar Abdullah joined the people in solemn observance of Ashoora and prayed for lasting peace, communal harmony and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also prayed for eternal peace to the revered martyrs of Karbala and for the well-being of all.

## 6 workers injured in Baramulla VOP shuttering collapse incident

WARIS FAYAZ

**BARAMULLA:** At least six workers were injured on Thursday when a shuttering collapsed during concreting work on an under-construction Vehicle Overpass (VOP) of Baramulla Bypass project at Cheradari here in North Kashmir.

Officials said that the incident occurred at Chainage 57+735 on the New Bypass alignment at Cheradari when slab concreting was in progress. Following the mishap, the injured workers were rushed to a hospital for treatment. All of them sustained

minor injuries and were later discharged after receiving medical care.

Project authorities, however, maintained that reports circulating about the incident were far from reality and clarified that the structure involved was not a completed bridge but an under-construction 'Vehicle Overpass.'

According to the project management, concreting of the slab was underway when nearby excavated soil suddenly slid during the final finishing stage and struck the staging system, resulting in the collapse of the shuttering.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

**A New Dawn In Sports For Jammu And Kashmir**

**T**he decision to build Jammu & Kashmir's first National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) at Awantipora is a massive win for the region. It is far more than just a blueprint for modern buildings and synthetic tracks—it is a direct investment in the raw talent and big dreams of thousands of young athletes who have waited far too long for a level playing field.

For three decades the youth of Jammu & Kashmir struggled hard and finally succeeded in breaking the shackles. They have climbed podiums and made headlines despite lacking the elite training grounds, advanced sports science, and professional networks available in other parts of the country. This new centre promises to tear down those barriers, bringing world-class infrastructure and expert coaching right to their doorstep.

What makes this project a potential game-changer is its geography. Kashmir's stunning, high-altitude terrain isn't just beautiful, it is a natural, high-performance training environment.

The thin air and challenging climate are ideal for building endurance, meaning Awantipora won't just serve local talent; it could easily become a premier training destination for elite athletes from all over India. The facility is set to be a massive hub, covering a wide range of sports including, track & Field: Athletics and running disciplines, team Sports: Football, hockey, kabaddi, and kho-kho, and combat & Precision: Taekwondo, shooting, and swimming.

The true value of this project won't just be measured in gold, silver, and bronze. It is about what sports can do for a community. For a vibrant, ambitious generation of young people in J&K, this centre opens up entirely new horizons. It transforms sports from a passionate hobby into a viable, respected career path. "Modern infrastructure alone does not produce champions. It takes a community, a vision, and sustained belief."

Furthermore, the NCOE will breathe new life into the local economy. Building a sports ecosystem means creating jobs, not just for coaches, but for physiotherapists, sports psychologists, administrators, and support staff. It is as much a social and economic anchor as it is an athletic one.

An announcement like this brings a lot of hope, but the real work starts now. Shiny new equipment and pristine fields are meaningless without transparent talent scouting, professional management, and regular access to high-level competitions. If executed with genuine commitment, the Awantipora centre will become a beacon of what is possible. For J&K's young athletes, it sends a powerful, long-overdue message:

Healthcare At A Crossroads

**Building Systems That Protect Patients And Professionals Alike**

The Credentialing Crisis: Who Can Do What, And Who Decides? Beyond The Blame Game: Institutionalising Quality And Safety. How Accreditation, Credentialing, And Log Books Can Standardise Care In Kashmir



DR. FIAZ FAZILI

**H**ealthcare in Kashmir has travelled a long and difficult journey. Despite remarkable achievements by local doctors, nurses, paramedics, and institutions, public perception oscillates between high expectations and deep dissatisfaction. A small news report, departmental inquiry, or adverse clinical outcome often becomes a final verdict—the accused treated as convicted before facts emerge. Discourse polarises between those supporting doctors and those advocating for patient rights. This is neither healthy for professionals nor reassuring for patients. The need is not confrontation but reform—moving from opinions to systems, from assumptions to standards, from blame to accountability. The future depends upon institutionalising quality and safety through accreditation, credentialing, privileging, competency validation, and robust documentation.

This policy-oriented opinion piece draws upon internationally accepted principles of quality assurance, patient safety, risk management, and healthcare governance. Its purpose is to encourage systems that protect both patients and professionals while promoting transparency and continuous improvement.

The Credentialing Deficit; One of the greatest lacunae in our system is the absence of a uniform, transparent

cedural experience, infrastructure support, and ongoing professional development. This is where credentialing becomes essential. Credentialing is a formal process through which an institution verifies a professional's qualifications, degrees, training, certifications, registrations, work experience, skills, and competence. It answers a fundamental question: Is the individual genuinely qualified and competent to perform the services claimed? Credentialing protects patients, providers, and institutions. It helps identify fake degrees, forged experience certificates, fabricated recommendations, and unverified expertise claims. Across the world, credentialing is considered the first line of defence against unsafe practices.

Privileging; However, credentialing alone is insufficient. The next step is privileging. Privileging determines exactly which procedures and clinical activities a professional is authorised to perform within a specific institution— Independently or under supervision. This is perhaps the most misunderstood concept in our healthcare system. Does possessing a postgraduate degree in surgery automatically entitle a surgeon to independently perform advanced procedures like liver

transplants, Whipple procedures, vascular shunts, or highly complex oncological surgeries? The answer is no— unless documented proof of privileges is certified by a team of experts. Completing a specialisation certificate does not automatically permit performance of every procedure associated with that specialty. Privileges are granted based on training, demonstrated skills, case volumes, outcomes, supervision records, continuing education, and institutional requirements. A clinician may initially observe, then assist, then perform under supervision, and finally independently. Such progression ensures patient safety while facilitating professional growth.

Log Books: Evidence of Competence— This is where procedure-specific log books become invaluable. A log book is far more than a record—it is evidence of competence. It documents which procedures have been performed, how many times, in what capacity, and with what outcomes. It records whether the individual observed, assisted, performed under supervision, or performed independently. For a hospital credentialing committee, a log book provides objective evidence rather than subjective claims. No one should work outside or apply for a job without one. In an era of increasing specialisation, every invasive procedure, intervention, surgery, transplant, endoscopy, catheterisation, or critical care intervention should be linked to documented competence and validated privileges.

Does it have referral arrangements and memorandums of understanding with higher centres? Who initiates transfer? When should transfer occur? Who accompanies the patient? What are standard operating procedures for inter-facility transfer? These questions can determine life and death and must be documented.

Accreditation: The Reform Engine; Healthcare standards require every institution and department to maintain documented policies, procedures, and operational manuals. Every employee must know not only their responsibilities but also the processes governing patient care. Quality cannot depend upon memory, assumptions, or individual discretion alone—it must depend upon documented systems. During my own professional journey in healthcare quality as a QPS assessor involved with accreditation standards and international names like JCI, CBAHI, NABH, I witnessed how structured systems transform healthcare delivery. Hundreds of policies, procedures, and protocols were developed, validated, implemented, monitored, and periodically reviewed. The result was consistency, accountability, and safer care. Accreditation is often misunderstood as a bureaucratic exer-



*Can this hospital safely perform this procedure? Can it manage complications? Does it have infrastructure? Can it transfer patients urgently if required? Does it have referral arrangements and memorandums of understanding with higher centres? Who initiates transfer? When should transfer occur? Who accompanies the patient? What are standard operating procedures for inter-facility transfer?*

level of care. The goal is not perfection—it is continuous improvement.

The Way Forward; If we truly wish to reduce conflict, mistrust, allegations, defensive medicine, and public dissatisfaction, improve standards and accountability, we must institutionalise accreditation, credentialing, privileging, competency assessment, and documentation across all healthcare facilities in Jammu and Kashmir. Such reforms will bring clarity where ambiguity exists today. They will establish who can perform which procedures and under what circumstances. They will ensure infrastructure matches clinical ambition. They will strengthen accountability without witch-hunts. They will protect patient rights while safeguarding professionals from unfair accusations. Most importantly, they will create a healthcare system built upon evidence, standards, transparency, and trust.

A Humble Plea To all colleagues: "I know and others do not" or portraying oneself as the ultimate authority is neither ethical nor professional. No doctor, regardless of position, fame, or achievement, possesses all knowledge. Medicine is a lifelong journey of learning, humility, and collaboration. True professionalism lies in respecting the knowledge, experience, and contributions of others while remaining open to continuous learning. Healthcare reform is not about finding faults in our institutions—it is about strengthening them. Tomorrow can indeed be brighter if we choose systems over sentiments, standards over speculation, and reform over rhetoric. Look how teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi rewrites the record books! Every dawn begins with a vision. The dawn of safer, standardised, and accountable healthcare in Kashmir can begin today—if we have the courage to embrace reform.

Note: This article is a policy and systems-improvement discussion and should not be construed as commentary on any recent event, incident, institution, or individual.

The author is a Clinical Auditor who has worked as Team Leader with national and international accreditation bodies including JCI, CBAHI, ISO, and NABH.

Protocol-Driven Care; Evidence-based clinical protocols for ten common admissions and emergency conditions represent one of the most effective strategies for improving quality. Hospitals should establish Level A protocols based on strong scientific evidence and international guidelines, and Level B protocols based on expert consensus and locally available resources. Standardised algorithms for conditions such as acute coronary syndrome, stroke, sepsis, trauma, diabetic emergencies, asthma, pneumonia, acute abdomen, obstetric emergencies, and poisoning ensure every patient receives timely, consistent, and scientifically validated care regardless of the treating clinician

mechanism to determine who can do what, where, and under what conditions. Today, degrees and experience certificates often become the primary basis for assigning responsibilities. While qualifications matter, they are insufficient by themselves. Possessing a degree does not automatically establish competence to independently perform every procedure within a specialty. Safe healthcare requires verification not only of qualifications but also of practical competence, pro-

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# Darkness Of Drugs : That First Hit Will Ruin Your Life

YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

The future of any nation depends on the dreams, energy, and creativity of its youth. But when this very young generation starts falling into the grip of drug addiction, it no longer remains just a social issue but assumes the form of a national crisis. Today, India, along with many other countries of the world, is facing this very challenge. Such an eclipse of drug addiction is cast upon the talent, thinking, creativity, and future of the youth, which is hollowing out not just families but the entire society and nation from within. Aimed at generating global awareness against this serious challenge, 'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' is observed every year on June 26. This day is not a mere formal event but an occasion to warn the entire humanity that if the rising vicious cycle of drug abuse is not checked in time, its consequences will have to be borne by the generations to come.

In India, the problem of drug addiction is no longer confined to metropolitan cities. It has reached villages, towns, small cities, and even schools and colleges. It was once believed that the consumption of narcotic substances was a problem only of the affluent class or urban culture, but today the reality is far more terrifying. Even in rural areas, the prevalence of narcotic substances taken through opium, charas, ganja, heroin, synthetic drugs, and injections is increasing rapidly. This situation indicates that the network of drug abuse has now reached every layer of society. Today's youth is surrounded by various kinds of pressures. Competition, unemployment, social expectations, family stress, mental depression, loneliness, and the desire for instant success are making them weak from within. In such a situation, drug traffickers exploit these very weaknesses of the youth to trap them in their net. Often, peer pressure, the desire to look modern, the quest for thrill, or the attraction of momentary pleasure pushes the youth towards addiction. The beginning often starts with curiosity, but gradually this very curiosity turns into an addiction and then becomes the cause of destruction.

While the internet and digital tech-



nology have opened new doors of knowledge, they have also provided new tools to the drug trade. Through social media, encrypted messaging apps, and the dark web, the buying and selling of narcotics has become easier than ever before. Now, the drug deal is not confined to a deserted alley but has reached the smartphone screen.

This is the reason why the reach of drugs in colleges and universities is increasing alarmingly. Today, serious questions have been raised from time to time regarding the availability of narcotic substances in many prestigious educational institutions of the country. It is indeed an irony that in the very campuses where the future of the nation should be built, some youths are moving on the path of destroying their own future. A flawed interpretation of modernity and freedom has also aggravated this problem. Many youths are under the illusion that addiction makes them more confident, creative, and modern, whereas the reality is completely contrary to this. Addiction gradually destroys a person's ability to think and understand. Their decision-making power weakens, memory is affected, concentration decreases, and mental balance begins to deteriorate. The youth who moves forward with big dreams in life, destroys his own talent and possibili-

ties by falling into the grip of addiction. This is why drug addiction is considered not just a health problem but a problem of the destruction of human resources.

The most lethal impact of narcotic substances is that they make a person a slave both mentally and physically. Once addicted, a person starts consuming drugs in increasingly larger quantities to maintain the same effect. Consequently, their body begins to weaken, appetite decreases, weight drops, eyes remain red, sleep is affected, irritability increases, and a state of depression arises. In many cases, the individual also becomes a victim of suicidal tendencies. The danger is even more severe for those who abuse drugs through injections. The repeated use of the same needle increases the risk of spreading HIV, Hepatitis, and other infections. This is why drug addiction becomes a serious challenge not only for the individual but also for the public health system.

The illicit trade of narcotics is among the most lucrative crimes in the world. This multi-billion rupee business is deeply linked with crimes such as international smuggling, terrorism, organized crime, and money laundering. India's geographical location makes it a crucial transit route between major narcotic production

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areas like the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle. Smuggling consignments coming from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and other neighboring regions remain a constant challenge for India. The most worrisome aspect is that this illicit drug trade is now utilizing state-of-the-art technologies. Drones, encrypted communication mediums, fake identities, and digital payment systems are providing new

strength to smugglers. In such a scenario, control over this problem is not possible through traditional policing alone. For this, a comprehensive strategy at technical, social, and legal levels is required.

Although stringent laws exist in India to prevent the trafficking and consumption of narcotics, the challenge of effective implementation of laws still remains. The fight against drugs cannot be the responsibility of the police, administration, or government alone; it is the collective responsibility of society. Families will have to increase communication with their children.

Educational institutions must run anti-drug awareness campaigns. Religious and social organizations also need to play an active role in this direction. In fact, the most effective weapons against drug abuse are awareness, education, and a positive environment. If youth are connected with better education, employment, sports, art, culture, and creative activities, they can stay away from destructive paths like drugs. We must not limit ourselves to merely telling the youth about the ill-effects of drugs, but we must also give them a positive purpose in life.

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking gives us the message that the fight against drugs is not a single-day campaign but a continuous social movement. If India is to be made a developed nation, its youth power must first be freed from the darkness of drug addiction. This eclipse on the thinking of the country's youth will be removed only when the government, society, family, and the youth themselves face this challenge together.

Today, the need is that instead of a packet of drugs, there should be a book of knowledge in the hands of the youth; instead of the blurriness of intoxication, there should be the sparkle of dreams in their eyes; and instead of the eclipse of addiction on their thinking, there should be the bright light of nation-building. This is the greatest requirement for a drug-free India, and this is also the strongest foundation for a developed India.

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## Achievement Or Concern: Fixed-Dose Drug Combinations



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Health is the most important asset of any nation. Modern medical science has made unprecedented progress in the treatment of diseases, and a significant aspect of this progress is the combined use of various drugs. Many diseases require more than one drug for treatment. Keeping this need in mind, fixed-dose drug combinations (FDCs) were developed. FDCs are medicines that combine two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients in a specific ratio and are presented as a single drug. These can be in the form of tablets, capsules, syrups, or injections.

FDCs have become an important part of the medical world today. They are widely used in the treatment of high blood pressure, diabetes, tuberculosis, HIV infection, heart disease, asthma, and various infections. The World Health Organization also considers the use of FDCs useful in certain conditions. While they have many benefits, their uncontrolled and irrational use has also raised serious concerns. There has been a long-standing debate, particularly in India, regarding the regulation and quality of FDCs.

The basic purpose of FDCs is to simplify treatment. When a patient needs to take different medications multiple times a day, they often miss doses or don't take them regularly. This impacts the success of treatment. If the same medications are available in a single pill, it becomes easier for the patient to take them. This is why FDCs are considered an effective tool to increase patient compliance.

The biggest advantage of FDCs is patient convenience. Containing multiple medications in a single tablet simplifies medication administration. This is particularly useful for older patients, children, and those on long-

term treatment. Reducing the number of medications reduces the likelihood of patients discontinuing treatment. This advantage is particularly important in diseases like tuberculosis and HIV, where incomplete treatment can have serious consequences.

Another important benefit of FDCs is increased treatment effectiveness. In many diseases, combining different drugs produces better results. For example, the treatment of tuberculosis requires the combined use of multiple drugs because single-drug treatment can lead to bacterial resistance. Similarly, multi-drug therapy is part of the standard treatment for HIV infection. In such cases, FDCs simplify and make treatment more effective.

Another benefit of FDCs is controlling drug resistance. Antibiotic resistance has become a global health crisis. If a patient skips one of the necessary medications, the potential for pathogens to develop resistance increases. FDCs help mitigate this problem by giving all necessary medications simultaneously. This prevents the patient from skipping a single medication, making treatment more effective.

FDCs are also often economically beneficial. The production, packaging, transportation, and distribution costs of combined drugs can be lower than those of individual drugs. This reduces the financial burden on healthcare systems. The use of FDCs in large government health programs can also simplify drug management and supply systems.

FDCs are also useful for health administration. In national health programs, when medicines must be provided to large numbers of patients, distributing a single combined drug is more convenient than distributing individual drugs. This reduces storage requirements and makes it easier to ensure drug availability.

Despite these advantages, FDCs also pose several serious challenges. The most significant problem is the lack of dosage flexibility. Each patient's needs are different. Often, a physician may want to increase or decrease the dosage of a particular drug, but this is impossible with FDCs because all the components are in fixed proportions. As a result, the



patient must either change the entire drug or take a dosage that does not meet their needs.

Another major drawback of FDCs is that they make it difficult to identify side effects. If a patient experiences an allergic reaction or other adverse effect after taking a combined medication, it can be difficult to identify which component caused the problem. This can complicate treatment and compromise patient safety.

Another significant problem is unnecessary medication use. Sometimes, patients don't need all the medications included in an FDC, yet they are still required to take the entire combination. This increases the risk of side effects and exposes patients to unnecessary additional medications. A fundamental principle of medical science is to give patients only the medication they need, but irrational FDCs can go against this principle.

The biggest concern regarding FDCs in India has been irrational combinations. For a long time, many drugs were available on the market for combinations that had no clear scientific basis. In some cases, the components of the drugs reduced rather than enhanced each other's effects, while some combinations posed unnecessary risks to patients. This

situation exposed the weaknesses of the drug regulatory system.

Irrational combinations of antibiotics have been a particular concern. Their improper use promotes resistance in bacteria. When antibiotics become ineffective, even common infections become difficult to treat. The World Health Organization has identified antibiotic resistance as one of the greatest threats to human health. Therefore, special caution is necessary in the use of antibiotic FDCs.

Challenges related to FDCs include the complexity of the regulatory system. Before any new FDC can be marketed, adequate scientific testing of its safety, efficacy, and quality must be conducted. Weak testing and evaluation processes can lead to unsafe or ineffective drugs reaching the market. In India, the central government has periodically banned several irrational FDCs, highlighting the severity of this problem.

India is one of the world's largest drug producers, and the use of FDCs is widespread. Thousands of FDCs are available in the Indian pharmaceutical market. Many of these are scientifically justified and extremely beneficial to patients, while some combinations appear to have been devel-

oped solely for commercial gain. This is why experts have long stressed the need for a rational drug policy.

A rational FDC is one in which each ingredient has a clear role, all ingredients complement each other, their safety and effectiveness are scientifically proven, and their combined use is more beneficial than using them individually. A combination that does not meet these standards is not considered rational.

Looking ahead, India needs to adopt a balanced approach to FDCs. While recognizing the genuine benefits of these drugs, preventing their misuse and irrational use is crucial. This requires making the drug approval process more transparent and scientific. Physicians should be trained in rational drug use, and patients should be made aware that they should not use combination drugs without medical advice.

Pharmacovigilance, or drug side-effect monitoring, also needs to be strengthened. This will ensure that any FDC-related adverse effects are identified in a timely manner and necessary regulatory action can be taken. Effective national strategies must also be adopted to promote the judicious use of antibiotics.

Ultimately, it can be said that fixed-dose drug combinations are an important and useful tool of modern medical science. Their use, under appropriate circumstances, plays a crucial role in increasing patient compliance, simplifying treatment, reducing drug resistance, and improving the efficiency of healthcare services. However, their benefits can only be ensured if they are used based on scientific evidence, rational medical principles, and a robust regulatory system. Irrational FDCs not only pose risks to patients but can also pose serious challenges to public health. Therefore, it is essential that the development, acceptance, and use of FDCs in India be governed by the principles of scientificity, transparency, and patient welfare, so that this important achievement of medical science can become a means of real welfare for society.

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

## Gulmarg Cable Car

appreciation for the dedication of the entire corporation staff, the Chief Minister lauded their round-the-clock efforts in restoring this vital infrastructure project—one of the country's premier tourist attractions—within a remarkably short span of time. To honor their exceptional service, the Chief Minister announced a reward of 50,000 for each official and crew member who participated in the swift relief and rescue operations during the technical glitch in May.

During the visit, the Chief Minister was accompanied by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Managing Director of the J&K Cable Car Corporation Syed Qamar Sajad, the CEO of the Gulmarg Development Authority, and other senior officers.

## LG Chairs High

officers of civil administration, police and security forces.

The Lieutenant Governor held a comprehensive review of all key sectors, including logistics, lodging, healthcare facilities, sanitation, power and water supply, availability of civic amenities, road connectivity, RFID cards, functioning on joint control rooms, track maintenance and widening works, construction of footbridges, setting up of langars, creation of holding areas, traffic management and security arrangements.

The Lieutenant Governor directed all departments to ensure seamless arrangements, fool-proof security and a memorable experience for the pilgrims.

He emphasized comprehensive security and disaster management planning for the smooth and safe conduct of the holy pilgrimage.

"Management of the Yatra requires a comprehensive, hybrid planning approach with an absolute zero-tolerance policy for operational lapses. Operations must aggressively mitigate the risks associated with high altitudes, harsh weather, and extreme crowd density.

To ensure safety, weather-based evacuation protocols must be established alongside the strategic deployment of Mountain Response Teams (MRTs) at critical intervals. Furthermore, all transit tents must pass rigorous quality inspections and be equipped with functional fire extinguishers.

On the tracks, real-time crowd analysis must be utilized to identify and clear choke points, while robust traffic management plans and designated parking zones must be enforced to prevent congestion and guarantee the uninterrupted transportation of essential supplies," the Lieutenant Governor directed the officials.

He instructed all concerned departments and agencies to ensure synergy and close coordination for timely completion of works and better delivery of services. He directed the BRO to complete all the allotted works before the Yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor directed officials to conduct regular work monitoring and on-ground inspections to resolve gaps immediately. Additionally, he emphasized that transit camps and halt points must have trained manpower, along with reliable water and power supplies, to ensure the convenience of both pilgrims and service providers.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag briefed the meeting on the overall preparations being made for the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Anantnag, delivered a detailed presentation on the multi-layered security framework and the comprehensive measures in place to ensure pilgrim safety along the entire route.

Speaking to the media persons, the Lieutenant Governor said: "The Jammu Kashmir Administration, Police, Security Forces, Government of India, and the Shrine Board have finalized all preparations to ensure a safe and spiritually enriching experience for the devotees of Baba Amarnath. Local residents and all stakeholders are eager to welcome pilgrims arriving from across the nation."

## LG Visits Nunwan

conducted a detailed inspection and took stock of all amenities in place to ensure a smooth, comfortable, and welcoming experience for the devotees of Baba Barfani.

The Lieutenant Governor inspected the accommodation blocks, and other infrastructure at the camp. He directed the concerned officers to expedite pending works at a few remaining blocks, emphasizing that timely completion must be achieved without compromising on high quality standards, pilgrim safety, comfort and convenience.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department and Nodal Officer for Pahalgam Axis; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; Shri Amod Nagpure Ashok, SSP Anantnag and other senior officers.

## LG Expresses Gratitude

National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) at Awantipora, Pulwama.

The Lieutenant Governor said the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) at Awantipora will

serve as a premier national centre for High Altitude Sports and various athletic competitions besides skilling thousands of youths in various sports.

The facilities at NCOE campus will include athletics tracks, indoor courts, football turf, hockey turfs, kabaddi and kho-kho courts, shooting range, swimming pool, taekwondo hall, integrated strength and conditioning and rehab complex, hostels, sports science centre, and sports medicine centre.

"This state-of-the-art Centre will bring world-class infrastructure and elite coaching right to our Union Territory, training the next generation of Olympic and international champions," he said.

## Lieutenant Governor

Srinagar. The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the devotees and extended his heartiest greetings.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor observed that Shri Anandishwar Bhairav Nath Ji Maharaj Asthapan continues to occupy a cherished place in the collective consciousness of Jammu Kashmir.

He offered his deepest prayers for the peace, well-being, and prosperity of all. He said the vision of great sages reminds us that our collective growth and harmony are beautifully interconnected.

"The life and teachings of Shivacharya Abhinavagupta, foremost exponent of Kashmir Shaivism, continue to illuminate India's spiritual heritage. From aesthetics to profound philosophy of Self-recognition, his vision remains a timeless beacon of non-dual consciousness," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The members of Shri Anandishwar Bhairav Nath Asthapan Trust's Organizing and Management Committees including Shri Omkar Nath Bhat, President; Shri Hari Krishan Koul, Vice President; Shri Hira Lal Koul, Executive Member; Shri Pushpatti Nath Koul, Joint Secretary, and Shri Vijay Sas, Secretary were present.

Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Tejinder Singh, IGP CID; Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravathy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and senior officers also accompanied the Lieutenant Governor.

## Passport Fees

Rs 1,500, and for tatkal it is Rs 3,500 for the same category.

Similarly, application fee for an ordinary fresh passport or reissue of a passport containing 60 pages has been hiked from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,500 and for tatkal, the revised fee will be Rs 6,000 as against Rs 4,000 for the same category.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 24 of the Passports Act, 1967 (15 of 1967), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Passports Rules, 1980, namely -- 1. (1) These rules may be called the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026. (2) They shall come into force with effect from the 1st day of July, 2026," the notification said.

In its notification, the government also issued a Schedule which will substitute the "Schedule IV to the Passports Rules, 1980".

The revised schedule mentions two sub-categories -- for applicants (18 years of age and above/minors aged between 15 to 18 years, if applied under this category); and minor applicants (below 18 years of age).(PTI)

## J&K Police Launch

recognition system infrastructure at critical points to enable real-time monitoring and early detection of suspicious activity.

Meanwhile, security forces conducted a series of mock drills and preparedness exercises across Jammu and Kashmir to test response capabilities ahead of the pilgrimage.

In Bandipora, police, CRPF, SSB and Army personnel carried out a joint mock drill at Shadipora Camp focusing on convoy protection, emergency evacuation, rapid response operations and coordinated action during crisis situations.

A similar high-intensity exercise was held by Ganderbal Police at Malshahi Bagh, Sonamarg Z-Morh Tunnel and along the national highway in Gund with the participation of the Army, CAPFs, SDRF, Fire and Emergency Services, Health Department and civil administration.

In Udhampur, multiple security agencies conducted a mock drill at Birmah Bridge on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway to assess preparedness against potential terror threats and strengthen emergency response coordination.

Police Awantipora, along with the Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police, Army, Fire and Emergency Services and Health Department, organised a joint exercise at Panzgam railway station to evaluate standard operating procedures and inter-agency response during emergencies.

In Jammu district, police, assisted by the BSF and CISF, conducted cordon-and-search operations in the RS Pura border belt as part of heightened security measures ahead of the yatra. Searches were carried out at identified locations in Chakroi and Baspur Bangla areas, but no suspicious material was recovered, officials said.

Officials said the security arrangements were being continuously reviewed to ensure a secure environment for pilgrims and the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage—(KNO)

## Srinagar Braces

for Zadibal and several adjoining areas.

"The main Zuljinah procession will proceed from Bota Kadal to Imambara Zadibal, and traffic movement in Zadibal and surrounding localities will remain affected during the observance," a traffic advisory, accessed reads.

According to the advisory, all traffic moving towards Zadibal from different directions will be diverted at Firdous Cinema, Mill Stop, Lal Bazar and Bota Kadal. Commuters heading towards Hawal Road have been advised to take the Firdous Cinema—Ali Masjid—Sazgaripora route.

Motorists travelling from Karan Nagar and Nallamar towards Soura will be required to use Ali Jan Road, while no right turn towards Sazgaripora will be allowed at Ali Masjid.

Similarly, vehicles coming from Kalai Andhar will not be permitted to proceed towards Zadibal via Firdous Cinema and will instead be diverted towards Sazgaripora or Nowhatta. Traffic from Soura will also not be allowed towards Zadibal beyond Nallabal, with commuters advised to use alternative routes through Zoonimar and Awantibhawan Road.

Authorities have further said vehicles approaching from Lal Bazar will not be allowed to move towards Bota Kadal and should instead take Malabagh and other interior roads to reach Soura and adjoining areas.

"People should plan their travel in advance and avoid unnecessary movement in areas witnessing Ashura processions. Public cooperation is crucial for ensuring smooth traffic management and the peaceful conduct of religious events," the official said.

Yuum-e-Ashura, observed on the 10th day of Muharram, marks the supreme sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS) – the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) – at Karbala. The occasion is observed across Kashmir with mourning processions, religious gatherings and recitations highlighting the values of sacrifice, justice and resistance against oppression.

Notably, traffic Police have appealed to the public to strictly follow the advisory and cooperate with field staff to avoid inconvenience during the observance of Ashura on Friday—(KNO)

## NC Govt Fulfilled Key

as significant steps aimed at easing the burden on citizens and improving public service delivery.

"We had promised to increase welfare assistance, and today those commitments have been translated into action," she said, adding that the government is steadily implementing its agenda for the welfare of the people.

The minister further said the process for providing six free LPG cylinders to eligible beneficiaries is underway and has already received approval. The work is also progressing on electricity subsidies and other measures intended to provide financial relief to households, she added.

Sakeena said the government has significantly strengthened healthcare infrastructure and manpower. "509 doctors were appointed initially, followed by the recruitment of another 424 doctors to improve medical services across the Union Territory," she said. "Dialysis facilities have been expanded in hospitals, and several non-functional oxygen generation plants have been revived to strengthen healthcare preparedness and ensure better treatment facilities for patients."

On governance reforms, Itoo said accountability mechanisms have been reinforced across various departments to improve efficiency and transparency.

She said the government is working for every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of political affiliation or voting preferences. "The government belongs to all people of Jammu and Kashmir and is committed to ensuring inclusive development and equal opportunities for everyone," she said.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament (MP) Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan addressed a meeting of NC workers in Tral and expressed satisfaction over the participation of both senior and newly joined party members.

Speaking to reporters, he said that party workers who could not attend the meeting would be engaged in future organisational programmes.

"National Conference plans to hold a major public rally in Tral within the next two to three months. The event would reflect the party's organisational strength and grassroots support in the region," he said.

Referring to the party's election manifesto, the MP said the NC remains committed to fulfilling the promises made to the people. "Upon completion of its term, the party would place both its manifesto commitments and the work accomplished before the public," he said.

"We will present our promises alongside our performance and let the people decide on that basis in the next elections," Ramzan said, adding that voters would judge the government on its record of delivery and public service—(KNO)

## Govt. Restores

The Centre has directed the Centre for High Technology (CHT) to issue organisation-wise allocations of the additional C3-C4 streams and submit regular reports to the ministry.

The ministry said temporary restrictions on commercial LPG supplies had been imposed to safeguard household consumers amid global supply disruptions triggered by the West Asia crisis. It added that coordinated efforts by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) helped maintain stable LPG supplies despite challenges in global supply chains.

The government has also instructed OMCs to maintain comprehensive data on commercial and industrial LPG consumers and create a unified sectoral database to improve planning, monitor-

ing and supply management.

Reiterating its commitment to cleaner energy, the government said commercial and bulk consumers who have already shifted to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) will continue using PNG. Other eligible consumers with access to PNG infrastructure will be progressively transitioned in coordination with City Gas Distribution entities.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has written to Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories to ensure smooth implementation of the revised supply arrangements. The ministry said the decision balances national energy security requirements with the country's long-term objective of expanding access to cleaner, safer and more efficient fuels.

## IPS Officer Mahesh Dixit

has jurisdiction over Jammu, Kashmir and Leh. Officials said he played a pivotal role in maintaining internal stability and tracking regional security threats during the period following the abrogation of Article 370.

Known for his strong ground-level intelligence network and expertise in counter-terror operations, Dixit has handled several sensitive assignments within the Intelligence Bureau, including Left-Wing Extremism and cross-border infiltration.

His extensive field experience in Jammu and Kashmir is expected to shape the agency's approach to tackling Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, radicalisation and narco-terror networks as he takes over the country's top domestic intelligence post.

## 'Lavender Cultivation

lavender cultivation has gained significant momentum in recent years, with an increasing number of farmers taking an interest in aromatic farming.

"It is encouraging to see more and more people cultivating lavender. This reflects growing awareness among farmers about the potential of aromatic crops. Such initiatives are helping create new livelihood opportunities and strengthening rural economies," Dar added.

The minister said the lavender fields have also become a tourist attraction, drawing visitors from different parts of the country and thereby creating additional income opportunities for local communities.

Responding to queries regarding the allotment of shops at various fruit mandis, including Bijbehara, Prichoo in Pulwama, Pachhar in Pulwama, Shopian and other locations, Dar said the government is working on a comprehensive mechanism to ensure transparency and fairness in the allotment process.

"We want to evolve a system that is fair, transparent and inclusive. The objective is to ensure that deserving stakeholders are accommodated and that the process benefits the maximum number of people," he said.

Addressing concerns over the increasing construction activity on fertile agricultural land, the minister acknowledged the challenge posed by population growth and rising housing needs. However, he emphasised that safeguarding cultivable land remains a priority for the government.

"Laws and regulations regarding agricultural land already exist. At the same time, population growth creates a demand for housing. The government is striving to strike a balance so that fertile land is protected and food security is not compromised. We do not want a situation where we become excessively dependent on others for our food requirements," he said.

On the issue of vacant posts of Block Development Officers (BDOs) in several blocks across Jammu and Kashmir, the minister said the vacancies had arisen due to transfers and promotions, but assured that the government is taking steps to address the shortage.

"Some officers have been transferred, while others have been promoted. The process is underway, and BDOs will be posted in all such blocks very soon to ensure smooth functioning of development activities at the grassroots level," he said—(KNO)



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# SKUAST-K ranks 4th in IIRF University Rankings 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has been awarded 4th rank nationally (Agriculture & Horticulture University category) in the International Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) University Rankings 2026, reinforcing its growing stature as one of India's leading institutions in agricultural education and research.

Ranked just behind three of the country's most prestigious agricultural universities, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana; and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, SKUAST-K's achievement reflects its remarkable rise as a leading center of excellence in agricultural education, research, innovation, and rural transformation.

The recognition places SKUAST-K among the country's top agricultural universities and reflects its expanding academic, research, and innovation footprint. The ranking is based on IIRF's comprehensive evaluation of over 2,500 institutions nationwide, using key performance indicators such as academic reputation, student diversity, research outcomes, innovation, infrastructure, community engagement, and international outlook.



SKUAST-K registered a strong performance across multiple ranking indicators, including academic excellence, research, innovation, inclusivity, community engagement, infrastructure, and global outreach. The university currently offers 14 undergraduate programs, the highest among state agricultural universities in the country, and has nearly 30 percent of its students from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

In research and innovation, SKUAST-K's IPR tally stands at 123 IPRs, including 117 in the last four years, holds an H-index of 115, and has over 200 extramural research projects in operation. The university has also strengthened its profile through large-scale community engagement and development initiatives, such as the Student Rural Exploration Program, which covers 400 villages, involves about 4,000 students, and is expanding its national and international collaborations with reputable institutions and industries.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, said the achievement reflects the sustained efforts of the university's faculty, scientists, students, and staff. He said SKUAST-K remains committed to strengthening research, promoting innovation, and supporting farming communities through education, community engagement, and technology transfer. Prof. Ganai said the university has repositioned its strategic focus from local to national in 2022 and from national to global in 2026, with the aim of emerging as a globally reputed institution in transdisciplinary sciences.

The achievement further strengthens SKUAST-K's position as a center of excellence in agricultural sciences, innovation, and rural transformation.

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# CS H&ME chairs State Task Force meeting; reviews preparedness for PPIC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME), M Raju, Thursday chaired a detailed meeting of the State Task Force to review the preparedness and micro-planning for the upcoming Pulse Polio National Immunization Day scheduled for Sunday, June 28, 2026.

The comprehensive review meeting saw the active participation of Deputy Commissioners, Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), Director Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, Director Health Services Jammu and Director Health Services Kashmir.

Speaking at the meeting, M Raju highlighted that while India has proudly maintained its polio-free status since its last wild poliovirus case in January 2011 and the official certification in March 2014, the threat of re-importation remains critical due to the ongoing transmission in neighboring countries.

The Commissioner Secretary commended the health departments of both the divisions for achieving an exceptionally high and sensitive non-polio Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance rate. Jammu and Kashmir has recorded an AFP surveillance rate of 6.6 cases per 100,000 population under the 15-year age group, significantly outperforming the national average of 3.6, thereby meeting and exceeding the target threshold.

To ensure that "no child is missed" during the three-day immunization campaign (June 28-30, 2026), a massive target of 1,891,821 children below the age of 5 years has been established across the Union Territory. A total of 24,176 vaccine carriers have already been distributed among the secure cold chain logistics at every point.

# Two-Day National-Level Seminar concludes with fervour, devotion at Mattan Sahib

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** The two-day National-Level Seminar dedicated to the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji concluded with great fervour, devotion, and peaceful participation at Gurdwara Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Mattan Sahib, Anantnag.

The concluding day featured soulful Shabad Gurbani Kirtan by Bhai Popinder Singh and Jatha, Singhpora, Anantnag, and Bhai Jagtar Singh from Jammu. Giani Harmeet Singh Raina from Jammu and Giani Harbinder Singh, Incharge Sikh Mission, Jammu & Kashmir, delivered spiritually enriching Gurbani Vichar and Katha, highlighting the life, teachings, supreme sacrifice, and enduring legacy of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

The devotional performances and discourses created an atmosphere of deep spiritual reflection and reverence.

The seminar, organized by the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), witnessed the participation of scholars, religious leaders, intellectuals, and members of the Sikh community from across the region.

President, District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC), Anantnag, expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, scholars, organizers, volunteers, local administration, and the Sikh Sangat for their wholehearted support and cooperation in making the event a grand success.

The organizers reiterated their commitment to preserving and promoting the rich spiritual, cultural, and humanitarian legacy of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, whose supreme sacrifice continues to inspire generations across the world.

The seminar was held alongside an Exhibition on the Life, Teachings, and Martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, which was formally inaugurated on 24 June 2026. The exhibition will remain open to the public till 30 June 2026, up to 5:00 PM, providing visitors, students, and devotees an opportunity to learn about the Guru's invaluable contribution to humanity, religious freedom, and communal harmony.

# CRC Jammu conducts RCI-Accredited CRE Programme in B'la

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** The Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Jammu, successfully organized a Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Accredited Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) Programme in the Aspirational District of Baramulla under the National Fund for Conducting Rehabilitation Education (CRE) Programmes.

The State-level CRE Programme was organized on the theme "Recent Developments in Prevention, Diagnosis and Management of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" and witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 150 rehabilitation professionals, special educators, therapists, academicians, and stakeholders from across the region.

The programme was attended by Nasir Ahmed, Chief Planning Officer, Baramulla; Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director, CRC Jammu; Naveen Gupta, Administrative Officer, CRC Jammu; Rahul Singh, Rehabilitation Officer, CRC Jammu; and Dr. Rayees Zahoor Shah, CRE Coordinator and Developmental Therapist, CRC Jammu.

Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, the Chief Planning Officer, appreciated the efforts of CRC Jammu in bringing quality professional training programmes to aspirational districts and underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in ensuring inclusive development and better rehabilitation outcomes for persons with disabilities.

Director, CRC Jammu, emphasized the importance of capacity building among rehabilitation professionals and the need to remain updated with recent advancements in prevention, diagnosis, and management practices relating to intellectual and developmental disabilities. She reiterated CRC Jammu's commitment to strengthening rehabilitation services and professional competencies across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Developmental Therapist, CRC Jammu and CRE Coordinator, Dr. Rayees Zahoor Shah, highlighted the significance of continuous professional development in the field of rehabilitation.

During the technical sessions, valuable insights on contemporary practices and emerging developments in the management of intellectual and developmental disabilities were highlighted. Experienced rehabilitation professionals and subject experts, while speaking on the occasion, covered various aspects related to the prevention, diagnosis, assessment, intervention, and management of intellectual and developmental disabilities. The sessions provided participants with evidence-based knowledge, practical strategies, and updates on recent developments in the field.

# GDCs organise NMBA Awareness Programmes to promote Drug-Free Society in B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), Degree Colleges across Bandipora district on Thursday organised a series of awareness and plantation programmes aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of substance abuse while promoting environmental conservation.

At HKM Govt Degree College (GDC) Bandipora, the NSS Units, in collaboration with the Literary Club, organised a counselling session for newly admitted students on substance abuse and its preventive measures. The session focused on creating awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and preventive measures among the new entrants, encouraging them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle from the beginning of their academic journey.

The programme was organised under the guidance of the NSS Programme Officers and Convener of the Literary Club, Prof. Sadaf Shafi. Students actively participated in the session and appreciated the



initiative for providing valuable guidance and awareness.

Meanwhile, the NCORD Cell of HKM Degree College Bandipora also organised an awareness programme titled "Ek Ped Nasha Ke Viruddh" under the conveship of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay. Faculty members and students participated enthusiastically in the programme, which highlighted the harmful consequences of substance abuse while promoting environmental responsibility through tree plantation. The participants reiterated the importance of adopting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and preserving the environment.

Similarly, Government Degree College Gurez organised a plantation drive titled "Ek Ped Nasha Kay Viruddh" under the Nasha Mukta

Bharat Abhiyan under the supervision of Principal, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir. Students and faculty members planted saplings within the college campus, symbolising their commitment towards environmental conservation and a drug-free society.

Addressing the participants, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir said that every tree planted represents hope, responsibility and a pledge to safeguard nature as well as society from the menace of substance abuse. He urged students to become ambassadors of environmental stewardship and actively contribute towards the vision of a Nasha Mukta Bharat.

The plantation drive concluded with a collective pledge by participants to protect the planted sap-

lings, preserve the environment and work together towards building a greener, healthier and addiction-free nation.

Similarly, Government Degree College Sumbal, organized a Plantation Drive titled "Ek Ped, Nasha Ke Viruddh" under the aegis of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS). The initiative was carried out under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Shabeena Iqbal Shawl, Principal, Government Degree College Sumbal, with the objective of promoting environmental awareness while reinforcing the message of a drug-free society. Faculty members, NSS volunteers, and members of the NMBA Committee actively participated in the drive.

As part of the activity, saplings were planted at various locations within the college campus, symbolising growth, hope, and a commitment to a healthier future. The participants pledged to contribute towards environmental conservation and support the vision of a healthy, sustainable, and drug-free society.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER**  
**POSHAN PROJECT ZAINGEER**

**ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE**

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 Sanginis (AWWs) for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project ZAINGEER on "Honorarium basis". The applications along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of undersigned i.e the Child Development Project Officer ZAINGEER by or before: 15-07-2026 against proper receipt.

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/MUNICIPALITY WARD	VACANCY OF SANGINIS (ANGANWADI WORKERS) NO. OF PANCH WARD / MC.WARD	NAME OF AWC
1	Baramulla	ZAINGEER	Mundji	06	Takiya Khan Mohalla
2	Baramulla	ZAINGEER	Wadoora-Bala	11	Wani Mohalla
3	Baramulla	ZAINGEER	Rampora	06	Kashipora-A

**Criteria for Selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) Shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order NO 103 JK(SWD) OF 2023 Dated 28.04.2023 i.e.**

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years 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 AWC is situated. 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. Wherever there is any dispute as to residence for any reason then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- Minimum Education qualification should be 10+2 pass and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the 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.
- Weight-age shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis & 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 two percent points.
- Candidates with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

**Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form:**

- Panch Ward Certificate / present / continuous, ward residence certificate based on the voter list of the ward certificate issued by BDO concerned as per format enclosed (in case of any dispute as to residence for any reason then the residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered).
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2 and Graduation (if applicable).
- If candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH, Copy of document proof.
- Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
- Unmarried Certificate from respective Tehsildars.

**All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts duly attested by 1<sup>st</sup> class Magistrate:**

- All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be canceled and liable to action under law.
- Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for Anganwadi Helper and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
- The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

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

Child Dev. Project Officer  
 Poshan ZAINGEER

**(ANNEXURE-I)**

**APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SANGINI (ANGANWADI WORKER)**

S.NO: \_\_\_\_\_

- Name of the District: - Baramulla
- Name of the ICDS Project: ZAINGEER.
- Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought.....
- Panch Ward/MC Ward..... Panchayat Halqa/MC Ward.....
- Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters) .....
- Fathers Name (In Block Letters) .....
- Marital Status: - Married /Un Married
- Husbands 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.....

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
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- Age as on 01-01-2026.....
- Academic Qualification

S.No	Examination passed	Board/School	Year of passing	Marks Obtained	Max. Marks	%age
1						
2						
3						

- Do candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH (Yes/No).
- Documents attached.
- Panch Ward Certificate / present / continuous, ward residence certificate based on the voter list of the ward issued by BDO concerned (in case of any dispute as to residence for any reason then the residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered).
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2.
- If candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH, then copy of the e-ration card.
- Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
- Unmarried Certificate from respective Tehsildars.
- All applicants to submit affidavit stating the facts mentioned earlier in the notification.

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.

**FORMAT FOR PANCH WARD CERTIFICATE.**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.**

This is to certify that the candidate namely.....D/o, W/o.....R/o..... is residing in Panch Ward..... of Panchayat Halqa.....

It is further certified that her name is enlisted in electoral / voter list of the panch ward at S. No.....

No:.....

Dated:.....

Signature of.....

DIPK-2527-26  
 DT: 25/06/2026

Block Development Officer.....

**Photograph of the applicant duly attested by Gazetted Officer**

**Photograph of the applicant duly attested**

# Gol Clears J&K's First National Centre of Excellence in Sports

LG thanks PM, Mandaviya for landmark approval

GMK SPORTS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** In a major boost to the sports ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir, the Government of India has accorded approval for the establishment of the first National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Sports for J&K, to come up in Kashmir. The proposed Centre, to be developed in Kashmir, marks a transformative step in positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a premier destination for high altitude sports, elite athlete development, advanced sports science, and world-class training infrastructure.

Expressing gratitude on the occasion, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha thanked Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, for approving the landmark project, which will create a new era of sporting opportunity for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir. "This state-of-the-art Centre will bring world-class infrastructure and elite coaching right to our Union Territory, training the next generation of Olympic and international champions," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The approved NCOE is envisioned as a premier national centre for High Altitude Sports and various athletic competitions, while also serving as a major platform for skilling thousands of local youths in mul-



GENERATED IMAGE

multiple sporting disciplines. The Centre is expected to significantly strengthen the sports-development architecture of the Union Territory by integrating training, talent identification, sports science, performance enhancement, rehabilitation, residential facilities, and competition infrastructure within one advanced campus.

The NCOE campus will include athletics tracks, indoor courts, football turf, hockey turfs, kabaddi and kho-kho courts, shooting range, swimming pool, taekwondo hall, sports Skilling centres, integrated strength & conditioning and rehabilitation complex, hostels, sports science centre, and sports medicine centre. Together, these facilities will create a high-performance ecosystem capable of nurturing talent from the grassroots to the elite level.

The establishment of the NCOE is expected to put Jammu & Kashmir leaps and bounds ahead in its capacity to produce ath-

letes of national and international standing. For the first time, the Union Territory will have access to an integrated, national-standard institutional platform where promising athletes can train under scientific conditions with the support of modern infrastructure, recovery systems, residential facilities, and specialised performance services. This will not only enhance sporting outcomes but also reduce the distance between local talent and elite opportunity.

The Centre is particularly significant for Jammu & Kashmir because of its strategic suitability for high altitude training, a proven advantage in building endurance, stamina, and competitive performance across several disciplines. Once established, the NCOE will enable athletes from J&K and beyond to train in an environment ideally suited for long-term athletic development, while also creating opportunities for the region to host training camps, coach-

ing programmes, national-level competitions, and performance-based sports initiatives.

The project is also expected to have a far-reaching developmental impact beyond competitive sports. By creating a robust institutional structure for sports training and youth engagement, the NCOE will help generate a stronger culture of discipline, aspiration, and achievement among young people. It will open pathways for local youth not only as athletes, but also as coaches, trainers, technical officials, physiotherapists, sports science professionals, fitness experts, and support personnel. In this manner, the Centre will serve both as a high-performance sports institution and as a long-term engine of youth empowerment, skilling, and social development.

The NCOE has already undergone preliminary feasibility assessment, which has found the location suitable for development of a major sports

training facility. The availability of a large tract of government land at the site gives the project the scale and flexibility needed for a national-standard integrated campus of international standards.

The establishment of the Centre reflects the sustained efforts of the Jammu & Kashmir administration to secure high-impact sports infrastructure for the Union Territory. The proposal for the NCOE was submitted by the Department in April 2026 Chintan Shivir held at SKICC Srinagar and was taken forward under the guidance of Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo, who heads the Apex Committee for Centrally Sponsored Schemes, with the proposal being led by Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary.

For coordinated facilitation of the next stages of the project, including inspections, inter-departmental coordination, surveys, and DPR-related processes, Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, will be the Nodal Officer.

The sanction of the first NCOE for Jammu & Kashmir is being seen as a defining milestone in the Union Territory's sporting journey. With this national-level institution set to come up in Kashmir, J&K is poised to emerge as a strong centre of excellence in sports, capable of producing the next generation of Olympic, international, and national champions.

# Satish Sharma thanks PM Modi, Mandaviya, CM Omar for sanctioning J&K's first National Centre of Excellence

GMK SPORTS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, has expressed profound gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for approving Jammu and Kashmir's first National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in sports.

He described the move as a landmark decision that will transform the sporting landscape of the region and open new avenues for the talented youth.

In a statement issued here, the Minister said that the sanctioning of the first-ever NCOE for Jammu and Kashmir is a matter of immense pride for the people of the Union Territory and a major milestone in the journey towards building a strong and vibrant sports ecosystem in the region. He said the approval reflects the commitment of the governments of India and Jammu and Kashmir towards empowering the youth, strengthening sports infrastructure and ensuring that aspiring athletes from J&K receive world-class training and support facilities within their own region.

Satish Sharma said that the proposed National Centre of Excellence will be equipped with modern, state-of-the-art infrastruc-



ture, including athletics tracks, football turf, hockey turfs, a shooting range, swimming pool and a dedicated sports science centre, which together will provide a comprehensive platform for nurturing sporting talent across disciplines. He said that the facility will serve as a high-performance training hub for the young athletes and will help bridge the gap between grassroots talent and elite sporting achievement.

The Minister observed that Jammu and Kashmir has consistently produced talented sportspersons with exceptional promise in various disciplines despite limited access to top-level infrastructure and specialised coaching. He said establishment of the NCOE will be a game-changer for the youth of the region, enabling them to train under professional systems, benefit from scientific support and compete at national and international levels with greater confidence and preparedness.

"On behalf of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

Ji and our Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Sahib for this visionary decision. The approval of J&K's first National Centre of Excellence is not merely the creation of a sports facility; it is an investment in the aspirations, energy and future of our youth. It will lay the foundation for a new sporting era in Jammu & Kashmir and inspire thousands of young boys and girls to pursue excellence in sports," Satish Sharma said.

The Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and with the active support of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing renewed focus on youth development, modern infrastructure and inclusive opportunities in every sector, including sports.

Satish Sharma reiterated that the Youth Services & Sports Department will work in close coordination with all the concerned agencies to ensure that the benefits of this major initiative reach deserving athletes across Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence that the facility will help produce the next generation of national champions, international medal winners and Olympic hopefuls from the region.

The Minister said that the approval of the National Centre of Excellence stands as a historic and forward-looking step that will redefine the sporting future of Jammu and Kashmir.

# Inter-State Athletics: Karnataka's pole vaulter Sindhushree enters her name in record books

IAN S

**BHUBANESWAR:** Karnataka's aspiring pole vaulter Sindhushree G. was among several athletes who successfully achieved the qualification standards in their respective events in the upcoming Asian Games 2026 at Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, on the second day of the 65th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Thursday.

Sindhushree, 26, fulfilled the mark in style on a day when as many as seventeen athletes booked their berths for the Asian Games starting September 19 by achieving the qualification criteria set by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

On her way to winning the gold medal, she improved the national record to 4.25m, which was better than the Asian Games qualification mark of 4.10m. The previous record of 4.23m was set recently by Baranica, who settled for silver with a height of 4.20m.

Sindhushree also bettered the meet record of 4.10m set by Pavithra Venkatesh in 2023. Jubilant Sindhushree said she was mentally prepared to book an Asian Games berth. "I had trained hard, but the national record was a



bonus," says Sindhushree. Nitika Akare of Madhya Pradesh won the bronze medal (4.10m) and was the third pole vaulter to achieve the Asian Games qualification mark of 4.10m.

The women's 200m and 800m were two track events of the day in which the top three finishers bettered the Asian Games qualification mark. All three medal winners in women's shot put also achieved the Asian Games qualification mark.

Odisha's star sprinter Animesh Kujur was the only athlete in the men's 200m to achieve the Asian Games mark of 20.88 seconds. His gold medal-winning time was 20.74 seconds.

In the highly competitive men's two-lap race, Mohammed Afsal of Kerala (1:48.57 secs) and Krishan Kumar

from Haryana (1:48.82 secs) finished first and second, respectively. Both athletes bettered the Asian Games qualification time of 1:48.80 seconds. "My goal is to improve my fitness to clock below 1:45 for the 800m in the near future," says Mohammed Afsal.

**Results (Day 2):**  
**Men:**  
200m (AG Q Time 20.88 seconds): Animesh Kujur (Odisha) 20.74 seconds, Dondapathi Mruthu Jayaram (Odisha) 20.97 secs, Jishnu Prasad PK (Kerala) 21.18 secs.  
800m (AG Q Time 1:48.80 seconds): Mohammed Afsal P (Kerala) 1:48.57 secs, Krishan Kumar (Haryana) 1:48.82 secs, Prathamesh Deore (Maharashtra) 1:48.89 secs.

Discus throw (AG Q Mark 60.13m): Kirpal Singh (Chandigarh) 57.37m, Nirbhay Singh (Haryana) 55.26m, Arjun (Delhi) 54.90m.  
21km race walk (AG Q Time 1:25:37.00): Sev Sebastian (Tamil Nadu) 1:31:49.00, Sachin Bohra (Uttarakhand) 1:32:10.00, Ningthoukhongja (Manipur) 1:32:24.00.  
Decathlon (AG Q Mark 7250 points): Thowfeeq N (Kerala) 7276 points, Kushal Mohite (Maharashtra) 7251 points, Jasbir Nayak (Odisha) 7131 points.

**Women:**  
200m (AG Q Time 23.70 seconds): Harita Bhadra (Maharashtra) 23.14 seconds, Unnathi Bolland (Karnataka) 23.40 seconds, Prakruthi Poopa Rao (Karnataka) 23.58 seconds.  
800m (AG Q Time 2:05.21 seconds): Gowthami Jayaraman (Tamil Nadu) 2:04.17, Pooja (Haryana) 2:04.37 secs, Lili Das (Uttarakhand) 2:04.59 secs.

Shot put (AG Q Mark 16.25m): Manpreet Kaur (Haryana) 17.75m, Krishna Jayashankar (Tamil Nadu) 16.69m, Srishti Vig (Delhi) 16.96m.  
Pole vault (AG Q Mark 4.10m): Sindhushree G (Karnataka) 4.25m (NR previous national record 4.23m set by Baranica), Baranica Elangovan (Tamil Nadu) 4.20m, Nitika Akare (Madhya Pradesh) 4.10m.

# Women's T20 WC: Charani scripts history, becomes India's highest wicket-taker in a single edition

IAN S

**MANCHESTER:** India's rising left-arm spinner N. Shree Charani continued her dream run in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, rewriting the record books on Thursday by becoming the highest wicket-taker for India in a single edition of the tournament during the clash against Bangladesh at Old Trafford.

The 21-year-old achieved the milestone in the 20th over of Bangladesh's innings when she dismissed Shorna Akter to claim her 11th wicket of the tournament, surpassing Poonam Yadav's previous Indian record of 10 wickets set during the 2020 edition.

The landmark wicket came in the fourth ball of the final over. Shorna advanced down the track looking for a big hit but failed to get the desired elevation, mistiming the ball straight



to Renuka Singh at cover-point. The dismissal took Charani past Poonam and made her the most successful Indian bowler in a single Women's T20 World Cup campaign.

Charani was not done yet. One

delivery later, she struck again to claim her 12th wicket of the tournament, extending her record and helping India restrict Bangladesh to 136/8.

The latest achievement adds another chapter to what has been a remarkable World Cup campaign for the young spinner. Earlier this week, Charani climbed to the No.1 position in the ICC Women's T20I Bowling Rankings for the first time in her career, becoming the highest-ranked bowler in women's T20I cricket.

Her rise to the top of the rankings has been fuelled by a string of match-winning performances in England. Charani entered the Bangladesh match as the tournament's leading wicket-taker after producing a four-wicket haul against the Netherlands in Leeds and following it up with a three-wicket spell against South Africa in Manchester.

# FIFA WC: 'A proud moment for South Africa,' says the Govt as it hails nation's first knockout spot

IAN S

**JOHANNESBURG:** The South African government hailed the Bafana Bafana's historic qualification for the knockout stage in the FIFA World Cup 2026, describing the achievement as "a proud moment for South Africa" after the national team progressed beyond the group phase for the first time.

South Africa secured a place in the Round of 32 with a 1-0 victory over South Korea in its final

Group A match, finishing second in the standings and extending its campaign into the knockout rounds.

Congratulating the team, the government praised the players for their determination and composure on one of football's biggest stages.

"The impressive result is a proud moment for South Africa and reflects the team's determination, discipline, and fighting spirit on one of the world's biggest sporting stages," the

government said in a statement as quoted by Xinhua.

The government added that the team's performance had generated excitement and unity across the country, inspiring South Africans both at home and abroad. It also expressed confidence that Bafana Bafana would continue to represent the nation proudly as the tournament progresses.

The achievement marks a watershed moment for South African football. In their previous World Cup

appearances in 1998, 2002, and 2010, Bafana Bafana failed to advance beyond the group stage. Their victory over South Korea has now rewritten that history.

Head coach Hugo Broos credited his side's tactical discipline and effective use of pace for the result.

"We played a very good game tactically. We had very quick players on the pitch, and we used them very well. We found the spaces at the right moments," Broos said after the match.

## MOVIES SCHEDULE

FRIDAY • 26 JUNE

**CARRY ON JATTA 4**  
(PUNJABI) (U/A 13+)  
03:20 PM

**MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA**  
(HINDI) (U/A 16+)  
06:15 PM

**COCKTAIL 2**  
(HINDI) (A)  
04:00 PM 07:00 PM

**SUPERGIRL**  
(ENG WITH ENG SUBTITLE)  
(U/A 16+)  
01:30 PM

**WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE**  
(HINDI ATMOS) (U/A 16+)  
04:30 PM 07:45 PM







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