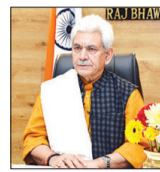


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir
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Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Wednesday visited the Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu and reviewed arrangements in place for the pilgrims ahead of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

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Amarnath Yatra LG Sinha To Flag Off First Batch Of Pilgrims From Jammu Today



YOGESH

JAMMU: Jammu, the City of Temples remained abuzz on Amarnath Yatra eve on Wednesday with devotional fervour amidst the arrival of thousands of Amarnath pilgrims at the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas ahead of the flagging off of the first batch of pilgrims by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday morning. The 57-day pilgrimage will commence from the twin routes of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 3 and conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha

Bandhan. According to the details available, ahead of the ceremonial flag-off, LG Sinha on Wednesday visited the Bhagwati Nagar base camp to review the arrangements made for the pilgrims. He inspected lodging facilities, logistics, security, health-care, sanitation, help desks, power and water supply, emergency response systems and other essential services to ensure a smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage. The Lieutenant Governor directed officials to strengthen manpower deployment to efficiently manage the anticipated rush of pilgrims.

Amarnath Yatra Jammu Kashmir Reverberates With Chants To Lord Shiva: LG

Inaugurates Tawi Aarti, Light & Sound Show To Welcome Pilgrims



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Wednesday inaugurated Tawi Aarti and Light & Sound Show on Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra to welcome

Pilgrims of Baba Barfani. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said that this sacred journey of faith, discipline and spiritual awakening is a source of inspiration for countless pilgrims.

Flash Floods, Cloudbursts Mark Monsoon's Arrival In J&K

Southwest Monsoon Active; Flash Floods, Cloudbursts Hit J&K Parts

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The southwest monsoon became active across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, bringing widespread rain that triggered flash floods, cloudbursts and a sharp rise in water levels in several districts, while forecasters warned that more intense



showers over the next few days could lead to localised flash floods, landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas. Guridraman village in the Larnoo area of Anantnag district witnessed flash floods following intense rainfall during the afternoon. The sudden surge of water could lead to localised flash floods, landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas.

New Viaduct, Tunnel On NH-44 To Open Ahead Of Amarnath Yatra: Nitin Gadkari

'680-Crore Tunnel, Viaduct Completed To Boost All-Weather Connectivity To Kashmir Valley'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday announced the completion of two major infrastructure projects on NH-44 in J-K, that are set to enhance connectivity, improve road safety and ensure uninterrupted travel to the Kashmir Valley.

These are the 3.5-kilometre tunnel connecting Digdole and Panthyal and the 810-metre viaduct near Ramssoo along the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

According to an official spokesperson, the roads are scheduled to open for traffic on July 3.

The projects include an 810-metre-long viaduct on the northbound carriageway near Ramssoo in Ramban district and a 3.5-km AT-03 tunnel on the southbound carriageway, connecting Digdole to Panthyal on NH-44.

Constructed at a total cost of Rs 680 crore, the projects are designed to bypass one of the



NITIN GADKARI

most landslide-prone stretches of the Ramban-Banihal section.

According to the minister, these engineering marvels will provide safer, faster and an all-weather connectivity to the Kashmir Valley.

These projects will significantly reduce travel time, improve road safety and enable a seamless movement of tourists, local commuters, defence vehicles, freight and essential supplies throughout the year. The new viaduct and tunnel

are scheduled to be opened to traffic on July 3, ahead of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

"These projects will provide safer and more reliable travel for pilgrims while strengthening regional connectivity, boosting tourism, trade and economic growth, and enhancing the resilience of Jammu & Kashmir's National Highway network," the minister said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on completion of the two projects, describing the development as a key step towards safer, faster and more reliable connectivity.

Sinha is scheduled to flag off the first batch of Amarnath pilgrims from Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Thursday morning.

The pilgrims will pass the highway to reach their respective destinations at the Pahalgam and Baltal base camps. The 57-day yatra will start from the twin routes the next day.

"Heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways for transforming Jammu and Kashmir's highways and road connectivity. Completion of the 810-metre viaduct near Ramssoo and the 3.5-kilometre AT-03 tunnel connecting Digdole and Panthyal in Ramban district on NH-44 is yet another monumental feat," the lieutenant governor said.

LG Expresses Gratitude To PM Modi, Gadkari

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari for completion of 810m long Viaduct near Ramssoo in Ramban district and 3.5-km AT-03 Tunnel connecting Digdole to Panthyal on National Highway-44.

"Heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji and Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji for transforming J&K's highways and road connectivity. The completion of

810m long Viaduct near Ramssoo in Ramban district and 3.5-km AT-03 Tunnel connecting Digdole to Panthyal on NH-44 is yet another monumental feat.

These key infrastructures secure smooth and all-weather movement of pilgrims.

Cabinet Expansion, Reshuffle To Take Place Around Jantar Mantar Protest: CM

Says It Has Become Necessary To Make Some Movement After Dachigam Meeting

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that the cabinet expansion and reshuffle would take place around the party's protest on statehood at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

Speaking to a News Channel, the CM, said that the cabinet expansion and reshuffle would happen either slightly before or shortly after the Jantar Mantar protest.

"Expansion and reshuffle are my responsibility. After Dachigam meeting, I feel it is necessary to make some movement. This could take place slightly before our Jantar Mantar protest or slightly after it, but it would happen around that time," Omar said.

The ruling NC has decided to stage a protest at Jantar Mantar on the first day of the Monsoon



Session, which is likely to begin on July 20.

In Dachigam meeting held on June 03, Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary had come under sharp criticism over allocation of funds in the Roads & Buildings Ministry as well as his behaviour with MLAs.

Two other ministers- Javid Rana and Satish Sharma- had also faced brickbats from NC and independents legislators

supporting the party. The CM today also said that Jammu and Kashmir's revenues are not enough even to cover government salaries.

"We don't earn that much. Even after adding all taxes, the central share, and the state share, it is not enough to pay salaries. We should be able to bear the burden of salaries, pensions, and other expenses, but the financial condition of Jammu and Kashmir is not good," he said.

Omar added that J&K's dependence on the central government for funds has become habitual. "Our habits are not very good. We feel that everything must come from the central government and that we will not do anything ourselves. Whichever government comes here will have to bend before the central government," he said—(KNO)

Census 2027 Phase-I Successfully Completed In J&K, Ladakh: Amit Sharma

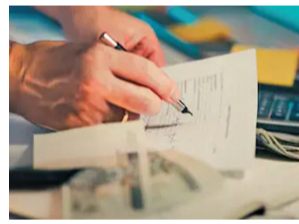
GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations Amit Sharma said on Wednesday said the first phase of Census 2027—House Listing Operations (HLO), stands completed across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Sharma, while addressing a news conference here said, "The month-long exercise, conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026, was carried out in a fully digital and paperless mode for the first time, marking a significant technological shift in India's census system."

He said the entire operation was completed smoothly without any major technical disruption, ensuring 100% coverage across both Union Territories.

He said, a total of 24,071



geo-referenced House Listing Blocks and 295 Census Charges in Jammu & Kashmir were covered during the exercise, while in Ladakh 567 House Listing Blocks across 17 Charges were successfully enumerated.

Sharma said the exercise ensured comprehensive coverage of urban, rural, border, tribal, remote and high-altitude areas, reflecting the reach of the digital census framework.

He said extensive capacity building was undertaken before field operations. In Jammu & Kashmir, 30 Master Trainers, 614 Field

Mutton Crisis Looms Over Kashmir As Livestock Dealers Strike Continues For 9th Day

KMDA Reports Over Rs 173 Crore Loss, Says No One From NC Govt Checked On Them In Punjab

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: A sword of mutton crisis is looming over the Kashmir Valley as livestock dealers continue their strike on the ninth consecutive day, which is severely affecting livestock supply movement to Jammu and Kashmir and also giving the valley losses in crores.

Mutton dealers said they are no longer dependent on official facilitation and have gone to Punjab, where they are managing the situation independently on the ground.

Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association (KMDA) General Secretary Mehraj-ud-Din said traders were compelled to take charge of the situation themselves after repeated warnings and earlier communications to



authorities failed to produce any visible resolution on the ground.

"We are managing the situation on our own now. Despite informing the government in advance, no concrete action was taken," he said, adding that the disruption has continued for several days without

any breakthrough.

"We have been in Punjab for the last five days and are managing everything on our own. We are struggling on our own, doing everything ourselves. No one from the ruling NC government even checked on us after we reached here

or asked what we were doing. Nothing was done for us. They are only sending letters and issuing statements," Mehraj-ud-Din said.

The estimated loss of the mutton industry in the last nine days, calculated based on data shared by mutton dealers and as accessed by KNO, suggests that each truck carries around 160 sheep, while around 60 trucks move daily.

This means around 9,600 sheep per day are affected due to the suspension of movement. With the strike continuing for nine days, a total of around 86,400 sheep have not been transported to the Valley so far.

Taking the average market price of one sheep at Rs 20,000, the total estimated loss comes to nearly Rs 1,72,80,000.

CIK Attaches Property Of Former KCCI President Mubeen Shah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) has placed the real estate assets belonging to Dr. Mubeen Ahmed Shah, a past president of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), under attachment.

The action is being taken in relation to FIR No. 07/2020, which was originally filed at the CIK Police Station.

Official sources reported that the operation was executed by a CIK unit led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Nisar Ahmed and District Investigation (DI) East Inspector Rashid Khan. The team conducted a search operation at Dr. Shah's residence, situated in the Buchwara locality of Dalgate, Srinagar.

During the course of the proceedings, the agency attached 12 marlas of land belonging to Dr. Shah.

'Nearly 4 Lakh Pilgrims Registered Online For Amarnath Yatra'

e-KYC, RFID Facilities Set Up At Nowgam Railway Station For Pilgrims: Div Com



RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Wednesday reviewed the arrangements at Nowgam Railway Station for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, saying all necessary measures have been put in place to ensure the safe and smooth movement of pilgrims.

Speaking to media persons here, Garg, said that weather remains a natural challenge due to the difficult terrain of the Yatra. He said the India Meteorological Department

(IMD) is issuing weather advisories every three hours, which are being displayed at Baltal and Nunwan base camps to help pilgrims plan their journey accordingly.

"Rain shelters have been installed along both Yatra routes, while mountain rescue teams of the SDRF, NDRF and other paramilitary forces have been deployed at designated locations on the tracks with clearly defined jurisdictions to ensure prompt response to any weather-related emergency," Garg said.

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Wednesday reviewed the arrangements at Nowgam Railway Station for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, saying all necessary measures have been put in place to ensure the safe and smooth movement of pilgrims.

Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre comes alive as Kathua welcomes first batch of Amarnath Yatris

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: The Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre Wednesday witnessed the arrival of the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris, marking the beginning of the pilgrimage movement through Kathua. The District Administration gave the devotees a warm reception and ensured seamless facilitation, reflecting the district's preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

Amidst devotional chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and "Jai Baba Barfani", the pilgrims were received at Lakhanpur, the traditional gateway to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, by Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma, ADC Mahima Madan and other senior officers from the district administration.

The Lakhanpur Yatri



Facilitation Centre has been fully operationalised with dedicated facilities for the pilgrims. Six RFID counters and 12 eKYC counters have been established for verification and issuance of RFID cards to registered pilgrims, and the arrangements are being closely monitored to ensure timely processing.

A cultural welcome programme was also organised at Lakhanpur by

the District Information Centre Kathua, wherein cultural troupes presented devotional performances including Shiv Tandav Stotra and bhajans, adding to the festive atmosphere of the reception.

Interacting with the yatris, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma extended his greetings and assured a smooth passage for pilgrims. Dedicated help desks, medical aid, sanitation arrange-

ments and other essential services have been put in place through coordinated efforts of various departments, with the Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre developed as a comprehensive support hub combining efficient service delivery with the traditional hospitality of Kathua.

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, scheduled from 3 July to 28 August, will see devotees from across the country undertake the pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine in Anantnag district of South Kashmir.

Later, the district administration formally flagged off the first batch of yatris from Lakhanpur amid devotional chants and warm wishes. The pilgrims, accompanied by security arrangements, proceeded towards Jammu Base Camp, from where the Yatra is scheduled to commence in the early hours of 2 July.

Samba welcomes first batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA: The District Administration Samba Wednesday accorded a warm and traditional welcome to the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 pilgrims at Tappal, marking the commencement of the annual pilgrimage through the district.

Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Anuj Kumar, received the devotees and extended their greetings. Local residents also joined in welcoming the pilgrims, reflecting the district's tradition of hospitality.

Interacting with the



pilgrims, the Deputy Commissioner conveyed her best wishes for a safe and comfortable pilgrimage. The District Administration, in coordination with the Police, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Religious Langar Organisations and

other stakeholder departments, has made comprehensive arrangements for boarding, lodging, health-care, sanitation, security and other essential services for the Yatra.

The pilgrims appreciated the arrangements

and expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the District Administration Samba and the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board for the facilities provided.

Among those present were Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur, SDM Ghagwal KJS Bali, senior officers of the civil and police administration, security forces, representatives of Religious Langar Organisations, religious leaders and prominent citizens.

Following the welcome and interaction, the pilgrims resumed their onward journey towards Jammu under security arrangements.

Royal Enfield Set to host India's First Adventure Intersection in Ladakh

ROYAL ENFIELD

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Royal Enfield is set to host India's first immersive adventure intersection this September, bringing together riders, climbers, overlanders, kayakers, and explorers at an altitude of 11,480 feet in the heart of Ladakh. The inaugural Himalayan Basecamp (HBC) - Ladakh Edition will unfold from September 4 to 6, 2026, at what the company describes as its spiritual home.

The three-day event has been curated as a sanctuary for the adventure mindset, offering participants guided explorations, competitive challenges, expert-led masterclasses, and immersive cultural experiences against one of the world's most dramatic landscapes. Tickets are now available through Royal Enfield's official website.

Adventure seekers can test their limits through a series of challenges designed to push skill, endurance, and decision-making to the extreme. The Navigation Challenge will see participants navigate Ladakh's most punishing terrain using only instinct and a roadbook, following a Time-Speed-Distance format open to all bike categories. The Himalayan Spirit competition offers a multi-discipline off-road

test running across all three days, while the Hill Climb presents a simple but brutal challenge—one hill, one shot, one clock.

Throughout the event, HBC will host masterclasses led by seasoned adventurers, overlanders, and outdoor specialists. Sessions will cover bush mechanics and off-road recovery techniques for breakdowns in remote areas, motorcycle overlanding essentials including long-distance journey planning and unpaved terrain riding, 4WD and SUV overland skills, and overland cooking using live fire and local ingredients at altitude.

The spirit of adventure extends beyond two wheels, with participants able to sign up for experiences across multiple disciplines. White water enthusiasts can tackle glacier water and Class II rapids on the Zaskar River or kayak the Indus and Zaskar with no prior experience needed. Rock climbing and scrambling sessions at Shey will be available from basic to lead levels with certified instructors. The event also offers hiking through hidden valleys and monasteries, mountain biking with technical descents through Disko Valley, and paragliding for a view from above the landscape others are riding, climbing, and rafting through.

DC Pulwama chairs NCORD meeting, reviews Anti-Drug Campaign



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the implementation of the ongoing anti-drug campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the status of NDPS cases and various enforcement and preventive measures being undertaken across the district.

At the outset, the concerned officers presented detailed progress reports on the activities being carried out under the 100-day intensive Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan. The presentations highlighted awareness programmes organised across Panchayats, educational institutions and urban local bodies, besides initiatives aimed at prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and community participation.

Reviewing the awareness activities being conducted in Panchayats, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Assistant Commissioner

Panchayat to further intensify Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and organise multiple awareness programmes at different locations within Panchayats to ensure maximum outreach and community participation.

The Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Pulwama, briefed the meeting on the awareness programmes being organised in urban areas under the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner directed that awareness initiatives be conducted regularly in markets, public spaces and educational institutions to ensure wider public outreach.

The Chair was also apprised of the awareness programmes being organised in schools across the district. Stressing the importance of preventive education, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Education Department to organise regular awareness sessions, debates, seminars, counselling programmes and sports activities in educational institutions to raise awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse.

DC Anantnag visits Yatra Transit Camps, emphasises readiness for smooth, enriching pilgrimage



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: In a bid to give final touch to the necessary arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, commencing on July 03, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Wednesday made an extensive tour to Yatra Transit Camps, FCI Godown Mir Bazaar and Walnut Factory, Qazigund.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Dooru, SEs PWD and KPDCL, ACR, CMO, CAO, AD Fisheries, Exens of various engineering wings, CEO MCA, officers from Police and other concerned departments.

During the visit, the DC took first hand stock of arrangements and facilities that have been made for ensuring Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, assessing the need for any reinforcements or modifications.

At both Transit Camps, the concerned officers informed the DC that adequate arrangements for amenities including toilets, health care, drinking water, power supply,

langars, toilets, hygiene, sanitation and bedding have been put in place and the same will be fully functional during Yatra. He interacted with the deputied staff and inquired about their operational readiness for the Yatra. He directed that every facility committed to be provided to the devotees in a seamless manner so they have a pleasant and enriching Yatra experience.

Reviewing the facilities, the DC directed for seamless readiness of all departments for the Yatra, ensuring a smooth and successful conduct of the pilgrimage. He inspected the entry and exits points, parking area and other critical locations and asked the concerned officials to ensure their proper utilisation and monitoring. He further called for efficient maintenance of the drainage system as well the footpaths and langar spaces.

Traffic and crowd management besides contingency plans to accommodate Yatris during adverse weather were discussed and finalised during the visit.

Comm SMC inspects Tattoo Ground Yard

Reviews operational readiness of Water Tankers, Sprinkler Fleet

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, Wednesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Corporation's Tattoo Ground Yard, Batamalo, to



review the operational readiness, maintenance standards, and deployment of the water tanker fleet and sprinkler units for ensuring efficient delivery of essential civic services across Srinagar.

During the inspection, the Commissioner thoroughly reviewed the condition, functionality, maintenance, and serviceability of the water tanker fleet to ensure its adequate availability for supplying potable water to water-scarce areas on demand, maintaining public fountains, and meeting the operational requirements of the forthcoming SANJY-2026. He also assessed the operational efficiency and deployment of sprinkler units engaged in the irrigation and maintenance of parks, gardens, medians, roadside plantations, and other green spaces developed across the city.

Emphasizing the importance of a fully functional municipal fleet, Faz Lul

Haseeb directed the concerned officers to ensure that all water tankers and sprinkler units remain in optimum operational condition through regular maintenance, preventive servicing, timely repairs, and continuous monitor-

ing. He stressed the need for scientific fleet management, optimum utilization of available resources, and systematic deployment to ensure prompt, reliable, and uninterrupted delivery of civic services across the city.

The Commissioner observed that a well-maintained and operationally efficient fleet is essential for meeting both routine civic requirements and emergency situations. He noted that the water tanker fleet plays a crucial role in providing timely water supply to areas facing shortages, supporting the maintenance of public fountains, and ensuring adequate logistical support during SANJY-2026. Likewise, the sprinkler units are instrumental in sustaining Srinagar's green infrastructure through regular irrigation and upkeep of plantations, thereby contributing to environmental conservation and urban beautification.

MD KPDCL visits Keran to review Dev Works under Vibrant Villages Programme-II

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mahmood Ahmad Shah, visited Wednesday the border village of Keran to review the implementation and progress of developmental works being undertaken under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II).

The visit was aimed at assessing the pace of development, reviewing the implementation of key government schemes, and interacting with local residents to understand their developmental aspirations and concerns.

During the visit, the Managing Director chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Keran, which was attended by officers from the district administration and various line departments. He reviewed the overall developmental profile of the village, with a



special focus on infrastructure development, public service delivery, connectivity, livelihood generation, and the status of projects sanctioned under VVP-II.

Reviewing the progress of ongoing works, the Managing Director directed all concerned departments to ensure the timely completion of approved projects and stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination for their effective implementation. He observed that the Vibrant Villages Programme is aimed at transforming border villages into vibrant, self-reliant, and sustainable communities

by strengthening infrastructure, improving essential services, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Emphasizing accountability, he called for regular monitoring of all projects to ensure quality execution, transparency, and adherence to prescribed timelines. He also instructed officers to proactively identify developmental gaps and address them in a coordinated manner so that the benefits of various government welfare schemes reach every eligible household.

Earlier, the Managing Director chaired a Public Darbar at the Mini Sec-

retariat, Keran, where he interacted with local residents and listened to their grievances and suggestions. The participants raised issues related to road connectivity, drinking water supply, education, healthcare, civic amenities, and other developmental needs.

Giving a patient hearing to the public, the Managing Director assured them that all genuine issues would be examined and taken up with the concerned departments for prompt redressal. He reiterated the Government's commitment to the holistic development of border villages and emphasized that active community participation is vital for the successful implementation of developmental initiatives.

The Managing Director was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Kupwara, Parvaiz Ahmad Lone, along with officers of various line departments during the visit.

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY, GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR

Subject: Merit/Selection list of the candidates for the position of Laboratory Technician under National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonosis in the Department of Microbiology, Government Medical College, Srinagar.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas; Vide Advertisement Notice No: Micro/HOD/2026/1182-89; Dated: 30.01.2026 online applications were invited from the eligible candidates of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir for engagement as Laboratory Technician under National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonosis in the Department of Microbiology, Government Medical College, Srinagar, initially for a period of one year.

Whereas; upto the cutoff date i.e., 14.02.2026, a total of 11 (eleven) applications were received against the aforementioned scheme.

Whereas; upon scrutiny of the documents carried out by the duly constituted selection committee, only the following three (03) candidates were found eligible.

Sno.	Name of the Candidate	Parentage	Address
01	Mr. Ansar Ahmad Paray	Mr. Nisar Ahmad Paray	Balkote, URI
02	Mr. Shahbaz Nazir Reshi	Mr. Nazir Ahmad Reshi	Khumeriyal, Kupwara
03	Ms. Maleeha	Mr. Mohd Latief Dar	Alluchi Bagh, Srinagar

Whereas; vide this office Notification issued under No: HOD/Micro/2026/155-59; Dated: 27.04.2026, the interview of the above candidates was conducted on 05.05.2026 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Whereas; on the basis of merit secured in the interview, the selection/waiting list was issued vide No: HOD/Micro/295-97; Dated: 05.06.2026 as per the details given below:

Sno.	Name of the Candidate	Status
01	Mr. Shahbaz Nazir Reshi	Selected
02	Mr. Ansar Ahmad Paray	Waiting
03	Ms. Maleeha	Waiting

Now, the selected candidate, namely Mr. Shahbaz Nazir Reshi S/o is hereby directed to report to the office of the Undersigned, along with the following documents within 07 (seven) days from the date of issuance of this notification, to enable the concerned office to send URL, Login ID and Password to the selected candidate's registered mobile number for submission of online form through Employee Verification System (EVS):

- Application form (colored)
- Xerox Copies of all uploaded certificates.
- All original certificates for Physical Verification.

However, if the selected candidate fails to report to the Office of the undersigned, within the stipulated time frame, or whose documents, upon physical verification, are not found in accordance with the eligibility conditions/criteria prescribed in the advertisement notification, his selection shall forfeit without any further notice.

NO: HOD/MICRO/2026/419-23
DT: 01-07-2026
HOD Microbiology,
Govt. Medical College
Srinagar.

Railways strengthens security, passenger facilities for Amarnath Yatra at Jammu station

AGENCIES

JAMMU: The Jammu Railway division has strengthened security and taken passenger facilitation measures at the station here ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, with a special focus on pilgrims' safety, crowd management and essential amenities, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine is scheduled to commence on July 3 simultaneously from the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal district. The first batch of pilgrims will leave the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu on July 2.

"When we talk about the Amarnath Yatra, it is an extremely important event for the region, particularly for Jammu and Kashmir. It also holds immense religious significance. Keeping this in view, all arrangements have been put in place", Senior Divisional



Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal said.

He said that the railways has made elaborate arrangements for devotees with focus on three major fronts.

"The first priority is security. Ticket checking staff, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railway Police (GRP) are working in close coordination to ensure that no untoward incident takes place at the

station. Pilgrims' movement is being properly streamlined to ensure safe and hassle-free travel," he said.

He said that to assist pilgrims, the railways has also deployed scouts and guides at the station. "The volunteers are helping passengers navigate the station, particularly as redevelopment work is underway, with efforts focused on minimising inconvenience to the public." Singhal said that the

railways is also ensuring that passengers receive timely information through regular public announcements and bulk SMS alerts regarding train delays, rescheduling or any operational changes.

He said special attention has been given to passenger amenities during the pilgrimage, with adequate arrangements for drinking water and food to ensure that devotees do not face any inconvenience during their journey.(PTI)

Sakeena Ito reviews development issues of five constituencies of Kashmir

Calls for holding intense awareness camp regarding welfare schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and School Education, Sakeena Ito, Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess developmental issues and public service delivery in the Khanshab, Hazratbal, Pampore, Sopore and Zainpora Assembly constituencies.

The meeting was attended by the MLAs including Hasnain Masoodi, Salman Ali Sagar, Showkat Husain, Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Irshad Rasool Kar, who highlighted key issues and development priorities pertaining to their respective areas.

Senior officers from the concerned departments were also present.

During the meeting, the Minister conducted a detailed review of issues related to health infrastructure, school education, social welfare and ongoing developmental works. She directed the concerned departments to ensure prompt redressal of public grievances and timely implementation of all approved projects.

Reviewing the Health



and Medical Education sector, the Minister stressed the need for strengthening healthcare facilities across the constituencies. She directed officials to expedite the operationalisation of identified Primary Health Centres as 24x7 facilities, complete pending infrastructure works, improve ambulance services, undertake mapping of medical blocks and ensure accountability in project execution.

The Minister also called for enhanced diagnostic facilities, including CT scan services at the Trauma Centre, besides taking up the reconstruction of unsafe health buildings on priority.

The Minister also directed that necessary action be initiated against any officer found responsible for unauthorized changes in Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). She emphasized

transparency in tendering processes and instructed officials to discourage below-estimate tendering while ensuring contractors adhere to quality standards and timelines.

Reviewing the School Education sector, Sakeena Ito directed officials to accelerate the upgradation of schools, address infrastructure gaps and ensure equitable distribution of resources across institutions.

In the Social Welfare sector, the Minister stressed the need to expand outreach under various Central and UT-sponsored schemes. She directed officials to organize awareness camps to maximize public awareness and ensure that benefits reach all eligible beneficiaries. She also called for intensified ICDS outreach in uncovered and left-out areas.

The Minister also

reviewed constituency-specific development issues, including the completion of Government Degree Colleges, Schools and hospitals buildings and regulation of unauthorized constructions and identification of unsafe buildings for appropriate action.

Interacting with the MLAs, Sakeena Ito assured them that all genuine issues raised during the meeting would be examined on priority. She directed the concerned departments to maintain close coordination with the elected representatives to ensure timely resolution of public issues and effective implementation of developmental initiatives.

The Minister emphasized that strengthening public services and accelerating development across all constituencies remain the top priorities of the government.

Speaker reviews PWD works in Charar-i-Sharief, Stresses timely completion



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works being executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department in district Budgam, with special focus in his constituency, Charar-i-Sharief.

During the meeting, the department made a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the works completed during the previous financial year under various components, including Roads & Buildings (R&B), Connectivity, pothole repairs and the UT Capex Budget. The meeting also reviewed the new works proposed and approved for execution during the current financial year.

The Speaker took stock of the physical and financial progress of the ongoing projects and emphasized the need for their timely completion to ensure that the benefits of development reach the people without delay.

He stressed that the benefits of developmental works must reach the people at the grassroots level and that every project should translate into improved public infrastructure and better civic amenities.

Drawing the attention of the engineers to several critical issues pertaining to his constituency, Charar-i-Sharief, the Speaker directed them to address and resolve these issues at the earliest in the larger interest of public welfare.

The Speaker directed the department to expedite the pace of execution of all ongoing works and ensure that they are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Abdul Rahim Rather underscored that there should be no compromise on the quality of works and instructed the officers to maintain the highest standards in execution.

He emphasized that all developmental initiatives should translate into tangible benefits and improved public facilities for the people of Charar-i-Sharief.

Javid Dar reviews CAPEX, CSS Implementation

Stresses Timely Execution, Transparency, Better Inter-Departmental Coordination

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting of senior officers of the Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry and Cooperatives Departments to assess the progress of ongoing developmental programmes and key flagship schemes.

The meeting primarily reviewed the implementation of Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) works and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) across the departments.

While reviewing the progress, the Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure close monitoring of all developmental works for optimum utilisation of funds and timely completion of infrastructure projects.

He stressed that every department must adhere to prescribed timelines, maintain quality standards and adopt a result-oriented approach in project execution to ensure tangible benefits reach the people.

Reviewing the Animal and Sheep Husbandry sectors, Javid Ahmad Dar instructed the officers to intensify efforts for bringing the maximum number of livestock under the live-



stock insurance scheme, thereby providing greater financial security to farmers and livestock rearers.

The Minister also directed the Enforcement Wing of the Agriculture Department to strictly enforce the prescribed guidelines and strengthen field inspections to ensure transparency, accountability and adherence to quality standards.

While reviewing the Horticulture Department, the Minister instructed officers to optimally utilise the existing canning centres by converging them with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to promote value addition, generate employment opportunities and enhance farmers' income. He further directed the department to establish a robust monitoring mechanism for registered nurseries supplying planting material, ensuring that only quality-certified and dis-

ease-free planting stock is distributed among growers while eliminating the supply of substandard material.

Taking stock of the Rural Development Department, the Minister directed officers to ensure that the survey of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is completed in a transparent, fair and time-bound manner, with no eligible beneficiary left out or rejected without due justification.

He further instructed the department to compile and submit all requisite documents relating to pending liabilities prior to the transition to the G-RAM-G regime so that the demand for release of the remaining funds could be effectively pursued with the Government of India. He also asked the department to furnish complete details of the pending 14th Finance

Commission (14FC) liabilities without delay.

Reviewing the Cooperative sector, Javid Ahmad Dar emphasised the need to strengthen the dairy cooperative movement across Jammu and Kashmir to improve farmers' incomes and enhance rural livelihoods. He also directed the department to expedite the audit of cooperative societies and ensure strict compliance with statutory regulations for transparent and efficient functioning.

The Minister reiterated the Government's commitment towards strengthening rural infrastructure, improving governance and ensuring effective implementation of welfare and development programmes. He called upon all departments to work in close coordination, maintain regular monitoring and adopt a proactive approach to achieve the desired outcomes within the stipulated timelines.

Later, several public delegations from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir called on the Minister and apprised him of various developmental and public welfare issues concerning their respective areas. The Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegations and assured them that all genuine demands and grievances would be examined on priority and addressed in a time-bound manner in coordination with the concerned departments.

Sakeena Ito visits Children Hospital Bemina on Doctors' Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of Doctors' Day, Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Minister Sakeena Ito visited Children Hospital Bemina to extend her greetings and appreciation to the medical fraternity for their unwavering commitment to patient care and public health.

Interacting with doctors, healthcare professionals and hospital staff, the Minister lauded their dedication, compassion and tireless service, particularly in providing quality healthcare to children. She described doctors as the 'pride of society' and acknowledged their invaluable contribution to safeguarding lives and strengthening the healthcare system.

"Doctors serve humanity with unmatched commitment and compassion. Their selfless service, professionalism and resilience make them the pride of our society. On this Doctors' Day, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to every member of the medical fraternity," the Minister said.

Sakeena Ito said that doctors play a very responsible role in the society and their contribution cannot be measured in words. She highlighted apart from doctors, public also has very responsive role in the society.

During her visit, Sakeena Ito also interacted with patients and their attendants, enquiring about the healthcare services being provided at the hospital. She directed the hospital administration to ensure the highest standards of patient care, timely medical attention and a patient-friendly environment.

The Minister emphasized that the government remains committed to strengthening healthcare infrastructure, improving medical facilities and supporting healthcare professionals in delivering efficient and accessible services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Div Com inspects SANJY arrangements at Nowgam, Pantha Chowk

Says all the preparations completed to welcome yatris

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday inspected the arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026 during an extensive visit of the Yatra Facilitation Centre at Nowgam Railway Station and the Yatra Transit Camp and Yatri Niwas at Pantha Chowk.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir, and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, during the visit to the respective yatra facilities.

During the visit, Garg inspected accommodation arrangements, separate sanitation facilities for men and women, drinking water supply, and the functioning of RFID and eKYC counters. On the occasion, he directed



officials to install adequate signages to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims to various service and facilitation centres.

Addressing the media, the Divisional Commissioner said that the district administrations of Budgam and Srinagar have put in place comprehensive arrangements to welcome pilgrims and ensure the safe and comfortable stay of pilgrims. He informed that nearly four lakh pilgrims have registered online for this year's Yatra, registering an increase over the previous year.

He said the pilgrimage will be conducted from July 3 to August 28 and expressed optimism that the number of yatris would increase further in view of the significant tourist footfall witnessed in the Valley this year. To cater to the expected rush, he added that additional RFID and eKYC counters have been established at Nowgam Yatra Station and Srinagar Airport.

Garg said the Yatra will continue under the convoy system from Jammu with strict security protocols in place. He added that the cut-off timings for the

convoys have already been publicised to ensure better awareness among pilgrims.

The Div Com further stated that priority in issuing RFID cards will be accorded to pilgrims who have completed online registration. However, on-the-spot registration counters have also been established at Pantha Chowk and at base camps along both pilgrimage routes. RFID cards for such pilgrims will be issued subject to the availability of the prescribed quota and accommodation capacity at the Yatra camps, he added.

Highlighting the challenging terrain along the pilgrimage routes, the Divisional Commissioner said that weather advisories issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) will be displayed on digital screens at Pantha Chowk and base camps to keep pilgrims informed.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.
GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR
BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
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EXTENSION NOTICE 1ST
OF RE-TENDER NOTICE/ CORRIGENDUM.

Subject: Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Chatterhama by way of construction of Additional Bore Well.
Reference: 1. This office Retender Corrigendum Notice vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/ Camp./ 2867-2881, Dated: 19-06-2026, Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_307393_2.
2. This office Extension Notice 5th issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/ Camp./2363-76, dated: 11-05-2026.
3. This office e-NIT No. 03/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/ Camp./64-76, dated: 03-04-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_307393_1.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 01-07-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	13-07-2026 Up-to 02:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	14-07-2026 02.00 PM

NOTE:
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.
No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/ Camp./ 3506-19.
Dated: 01-07-2026.
DIPK-2757-26
DT: 01/07/2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

When Hope Walks In And Death Walks Out

A 35-year-old woman entered a private IVF centre in Srinagar carrying the dream of becoming a mother. She never returned home alive. Instead, her family returned with a body, unanswered questions, and allegations so grave that they demand nothing less than a transparent criminal investigation. If the allegations made by the family are true, this is not merely a case of medical negligence, it is a catastrophic betrayal of the sacred trust that exists between a doctor and a patient. Every IVF centre markets itself as a place where hope is restored. Couples spend their life's savings, endure emotional trauma, and place complete faith in specialists. They do so believing that every possible safeguard exists to protect their lives. That faith is shattered the moment a patient dies under circumstances that remain unexplained.

Equally disturbing are the allegations that the patient's condition worsened immediately after anaesthesia, that the family was not informed honestly, that she was shifted to another hospital, and that the fertility centre was found locked when relatives returned seeking answers. Whether these allegations ultimately stand the test of investigation or not, they are serious enough to warrant immediate scrutiny by the authorities.

Silence from the institution only deepens suspicion. In moments of tragedy, transparency is the first duty of any responsible medical establishment. Families deserve facts, not closed gates. They deserve records, not silence. They deserve accountability, not evasiveness. No doctor should ever be declared guilty by public emotion alone. Medicine is complex, complications do occur, and every death is not necessarily the result of negligence. That determination belongs to an independent investigation based on evidence, expert medical opinion, and the law—not social media or public outrage.

However, the same principle also applies to hospitals and doctors. They cannot seek protection behind professional status when serious allegations arise. Every minute of delay in preserving medical records, securing CCTV footage, examining anaesthesia protocols, and recording statements weakens public confidence and fuels speculation.

The Health Department must immediately constitute an independent panel of senior experts with no connection to the institution. The complete treatment records, consent forms, anaesthesia logs, emergency response timeline, and referral documents must be seized and examined. If any evidence of negligence, concealment, or violation of medical protocols is established, criminal liability must follow without hesitation.

This case is bigger than one hospital. It raises uncomfortable questions about the regulation of private fertility clinics across Jammu and Kashmir. Are emergency protocols regularly audited? Are anaesthesia facilities adequately equipped? Are trained critical-care teams available to handle complications? How often are such centres inspected? These questions can no longer be ignored.

Healthcare is not a business where mistakes can simply be written off as operational losses. Every patient is a human life, every family entrusts its future to medical professionals, and every death demands truth. Justice for this woman will not come through slogans or emotional speeches. It will come through an impartial investigation, scientific evidence, legal accountability, and complete transparency. A woman who entered a hospital with the hope of embracing motherhood deserves at least one certainty after her death—that the truth will not be buried with her.

This version is intentionally forceful while avoiding conclusions that could be defamatory before an investigation establishes the facts.

Steady And Stable As She Goes

India And The Economic Fallout Of The Gulf Conflict



ANANTHA NAGESWARAN

When strikes closed the Strait of Hormuz at the end of February — the channel through which close to a fifth of the world's oil and the bulk of India's crude oil and cooking gas pass — the script for India seemed already written.

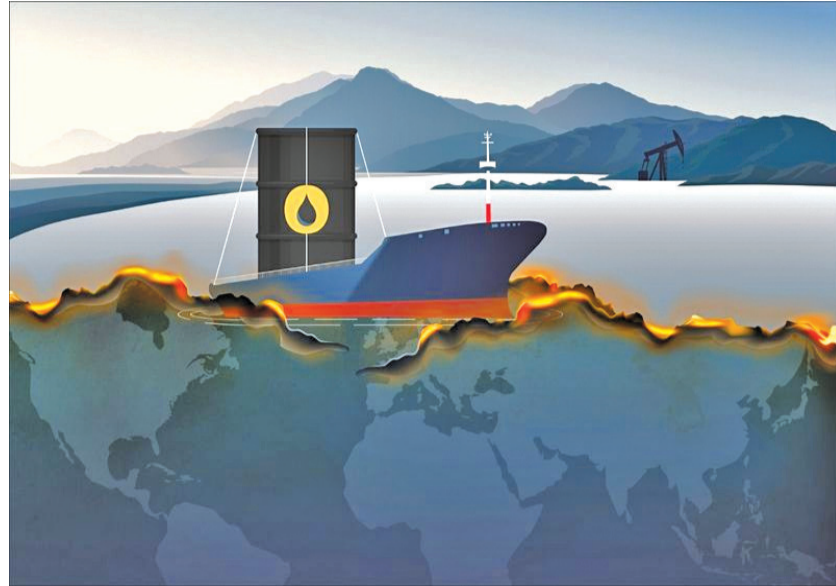
A country that imports nine-tenths of its crude and more than half its cooking gas through the Gulf was, by the textbook, headed for queues at the pump, empty kitchens, a run on the rupee and a scramble for dollars. Nearly four months on, with the Strait reopening and crude back near its pre-crisis level, none of that came to pass. Not a single retail outlet ran dry. Every household that wanted a cylinder got one. India faced neither a 1991 moment nor a 2013 one. Macroeconomic stability held.

This was not an accident, and it was not luck alone. It was the work of a government that chose to act as it had during the pandemic — deliberately and gradually, building one measure upon another rather than reaching for a single dramatic lever. The first priority was the household.

Throughout, not a single retail outlet ran out of stock, and every kitchen had its cylinder. The import-linked cost of a 14.2 kg cylinder rose above 1,600 rupees, yet the household price was held near 900 rupees, and lower still for the poorest. The memory of the early pandemic months, when panic among migrant workers set off a wave of reverse migration to the villages, was instructive. Commercial and bulk users were asked to give way to protect the home.

On the fuels that power the wider economy, the government chose to absorb the shock rather than pass it on. It cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ten rupees a litre, forgoing about 1.7 lakh crore in revenue, and eased the burden on aviation fuel. The marketing companies then held pump prices steady for more than two months before a single restrained revision.

The logic is worth stating plainly: in such uncertainty, only the government has the balance sheet and the time horizon to bear the risk, and it chose to absorb the



impact on the fiscal account rather than on households and firms. Special support for the airlines and a credit-guarantee scheme for micro, small and medium enterprises followed the Covid-era template of targeted and effective interventions.

Behind the price cushion lay a real defence of supply. Domestic refiners lifted cooking-gas output by half within a week, largely replacing the lost imports. India quickly widened its sources, deepening purchases from the United States and Russia and adding new suppliers, so that less energy arrived through the Strait, and it secured the waivers it needed to keep buying Russian crude.

The government also pressed measures for the longer run: converting homes from cylinders to piped gas, a coal gasification programme, a further push on ethanol blending, and strategic crude storage agreed on the Prime Minister's visit to the United Arab Emirates. India was among the few nations that kept its cargoes moving even as Hormuz traffic fell to a trickle.

The external accounts were managed with the same patience. The government removed withholding and capital gains taxes on foreign institutional purchases of government debt and widened the securities open under the Fully Accessible Route, drawing money into the bond market. A new non-resident dollar deposit scheme is expected to bring in a sizeable sum of dollars. The free trade agreements signed over the years did their quiet work: exports of non-oil, non-gems-and-jewellery merchandise and services in April and May 2026 grew by more than 12 per cent over the same period a year earlier.

The headline numbers reassure. Gross foreign direct investment in the last financial year reached ninety-five billion dollars, breaking out of the seventy-to-eighty-billion-dollar band of the post-pandemic years. The current account deficit was barely 0.6 per cent of GDP in FY26 and is now expected to be only marginally higher in FY27.

Honesty also requires acknowledging that fortune lent a hand. The crude basket climbed past a hundred and twenty dollars within weeks of the closure, but from May, a fall in China's oil purchases and steady releases from the United States reserve eased it back below a hundred, and China's resumption of fertiliser exports spared the budget a heavy blow. Had the conflict dragged on, or oil settled near \$120, the picture would feel less comfortable; sound policy and good fortune both played their part. Indeed, fortune eventually favours sound policymakers.

In a sign of the revisions to come, Goldman Sachs recently upgraded its growth forecast for India to 6.8% for CY26 and 6.5% for FY27, both up by 30 bp from previous forecasts.

The medium term, though, allows no complacency. In a world of fragmented alliances, weaponised supply chains and capital that can be turned on and off, the pressure on the balance of payments may outlast the conflict that threatened it. India must place a very high premium on attracting foreign direct investment. A balanced bilateral investment treaty framework, certainty in tax policy, state governments respecting the integrity of contracts, dependable logistics and

On the fuels that power the wider economy, the government chose to absorb the shock rather than pass it on. It cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ten rupees a litre, forgoing about 1.7 lakh crore in revenue, and eased the burden on aviation fuel.

single-window clearances that actually clear will draw the global supply chains now seeking to spread their bets.

The deeper issue is import dependence, and not in energy alone. The merchandise trade deficit runs at about eight per cent of national income; strip out oil, and it is five per cent; strip out oil and gold, and it is still three and a half. Comparable large economies do better.

India must indigenise what it can produce competitively and what it must. Its firms and trade bodies must work harder on their agreements — particularly the new pacts with the United Kingdom and the European Union, which take effect this year and should boost labour-intensive exports. None of this is possible without skilled hands, which is why the training of young Indians in trade skills must now proceed on a war footing.

These tasks will demand persistence and speed. Even as it turns to them, the government must also attend to a southwest monsoon that has so far disappointed, and to the arrival of artificial intelligence and what it will mean for Indian work and Indian life. The Gulf conflict tested one kind of resilience; the years ahead will test others. India met the first test in good order. That is a reason for quiet confidence — and for getting on with the next. (PIB)

(The author is Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India. His views are personal)

Power Crisis

Promises, Reality, And The Need For Change

WANI ARFAT

Electricity is considered one of the most significant necessities in our lives. At present, apart from the lighting of our homes, electricity is essential for educational purposes, for healthcare, for business, for agriculture, and for almost every activity in modern times. With a constant supply of electricity, people are able to study, work, and live peacefully. But in case there are interruptions in the supply of electricity, it affects everybody.

Tral is a beautiful place where one can see greenery, diligent inhabitants, and intelligent youth. It has good potential in education, agriculture, and tourism. However, the major issue, which has been disturbing the lives of people in this place, is the erratic supply of electricity. Power cuts, low voltage, and power failures have become common occurrences in Tral in recent times.

Several years ago, smart meters were installed in Tral by the Power Development Department (PDD). People were promised that this move would enhance the electricity services and that there will be fewer power outages, transparency of the electricity system, and stable electricity supply for the consumers. Therefore, people installed smart meters in their houses and started to pay their bills on time.

On the other hand, most people believe that such expected improvements have failed to take place. For example, in many regions, there is a lack of electricity which comes without warning. At times, the power is off for several hours. Another major problem that people encounter is low voltage of power that affects households, shops, and offices. Consequently, more and more people are now questioning whether the introduction of smart meters for improving the system will bring about the expected benefits.

Students are some of the greatest victims. In the present era, education requires electricity. Students require electricity for lighting, studying, completing their assignments through computers, attending online classes, and preparing for examinations. Power cuts interfere with their studies, waste their time, and create difficulties for them.

The small businesspeople suffer a great deal due to power cuts. There are many shopkeepers who depend on electricity for conducting their businesses including computer centers, photocopy centers, tailoring centers, welding centers, mobile repairing centers, and so forth.

There are various other sectors such as agriculture and horticulture that require electricity and help in supporting many families in Tral. The tourism industry is also



dependent on various public services. While scenic beauty of mountains is an attraction point, reliable electricity and proper amenities are also required for development of the tourism sector.

The health sector is impacted as well. Many elderly, patients, children, and families who use electrical devices require electricity. Electricity is not a luxury but a necessity for many.

Residents of Tral have performed their duties very well. They have used smart meters, cleared electricity bills on time and cooperated with authorities. Now they expect proper and uninterrupted electricity. This cannot be called an unjustified demand because it is the right of every consumer.

On the other hand, it is also necessary to concentrate on the solutions for the problems. If there is an overload in

the electricity grid, if transformers have to be replaced, or if there is a need for replacing old power lines, then such problems must be sorted out at the earliest. Improved maintenance, improved repair services, increased voltage, and advance notice of power cuts would solve most of the problems of the public.

It is also our hope that the Power Development Department (PDD), the Chief Engineer, Kashmir Power Distribution, Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer, Electric Division Pulwama, Assistant Executive Engineer, Sub-Division Tral, and other concerned officials may take a look at the electricity infrastructure in Tral and take necessary measures.

The District Administration Pulwama has its own role to play in improving the situation. Coordination between different departments,

prompt action upon public grievances, and monitoring of essential services could make things better.

The citizens of Tral do not ask for any special treatment. They simply want a good and efficient supply of electricity in return of their taxes. They wish that students could study without being distracted, the patients be treated properly, business operations go on smoothly and families live without any fear of disruption in power supply. Quality of development cannot be judged merely by the number of new projects. Quality of living can reflect the real picture of development and electricity plays a major part in it.

We sincerely hope that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the Power Development Department, the District Administration, and all concerned authorities will take into consideration the concerns of the people of Tral and work out effective and long-lasting measures for the betterment of the electricity system.

The people of Tral do not want any additional demands from the government. They simply wish for a future where everyone has their power supply, all students can study without any disturbances, all businesses can operate smoothly, and everyone lives without any worries. This is not only a public demand but an expectation and an essential step towards development.

Author is a social activist, and medical student

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

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...Dear Relatives

We Are Surviving On Hope, Not Your Opinions



TAMANA LIAQUET

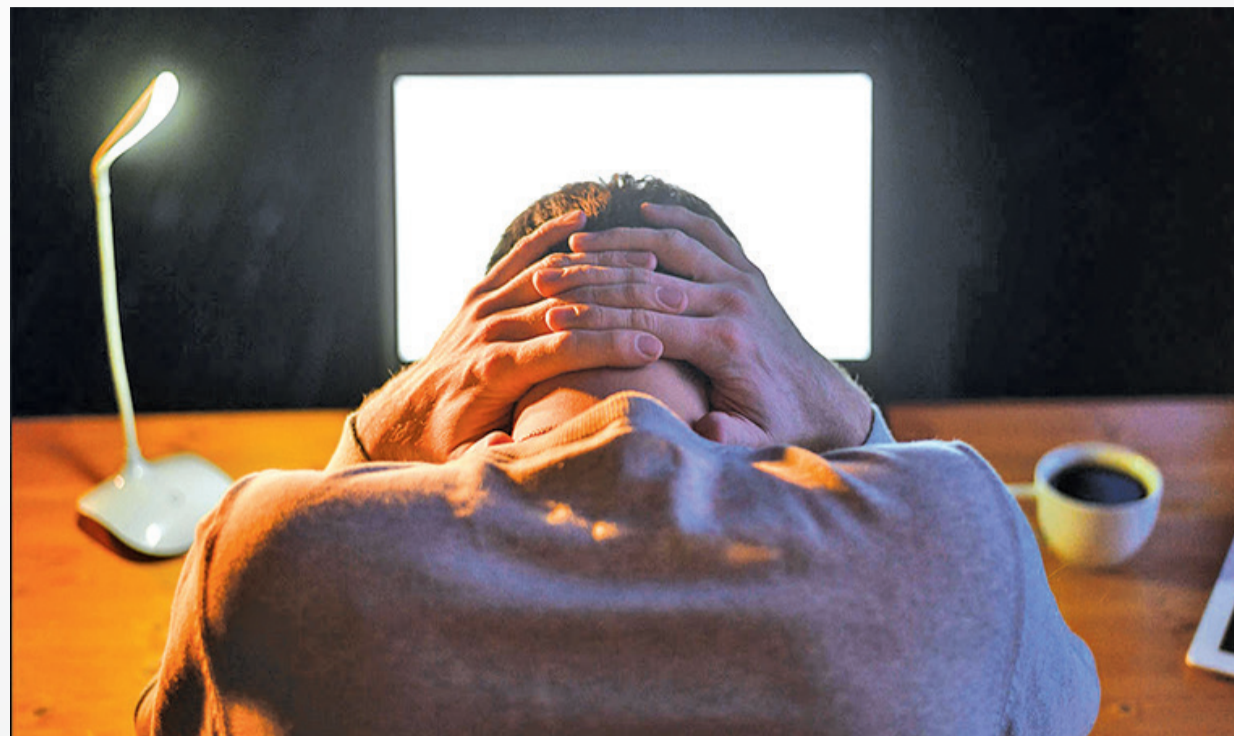
Every person is different from another. That is how the world works. Everyone's life is not the same and not as easy as it seems. Some people carry their battles in public, while others fight silently behind closed doors. But make no mistake, everyone is fighting to survive. Likewise, aspirants preparing for competitive exams are also struggling every single day. They are surviving on hope, caffeine, and deadlines. They fight self-doubt before breakfast and anxiety before bed. Their entire future feels like it hinges on one exam, one rank, one result.

So the real question is this: Why is everyone interfering in their lives? Why don't people understand that aspirants are already under crushing pressure? Why do relatives, neighbors, and even distant acquaintances feel entitled to pass comments, compare, and predict failure?

To all those relatives who don't mind their own business, I have a humble request: Please let every aspirant live and fail on their own. If you can't help them, don't pull them down either. If you cannot encourage, then at least don't discourage. All aspirants are already struggling with their studies, their finances, and the weight of family expectations. Kindly, mind your own business. This interference is not harmless "concern." It is poison. And it doesn't just affect the aspirant — it damages your own children too. Many parents use their children as tools to compete with others. They ignore what their child actually wants, what their skills are, and what makes them happy. In this blind race, two lives are destroyed: the aspirant who is compared, and the child who is forced. The consequences are not emotional they are fatal.

The numbers tell a story we can no longer ignore:

- A 2025 report by the IC3 Institute found that student suicides have risen at a rate of 4% annually over the last decade. That's double the 2% rise rate of overall suicides in India.



ally over the last decade. That's double the 2% rise rate of overall suicides in India.

- NCRB 2023 Data: The National Crime Records Bureau reported a slight rise in total suicides, with student suicides remaining alarmingly high. The triggers? Academic pressure, family expectations, and financial stress.
- Coaching Hub Crisis: In Kota, Rajasthan — India's most famous coaching hub — studies reported a record 28 to 32 student suicides in 2023 alone. That's nearly 3 students every month.
- Demographics: Over 80% of these suicides occurred among students aged 15-20 years, predominantly males. In specialized studies, NEET aspirants made up over 70% of the cases.
- Timing: Research shows a clear spike in suicides during August and September. This coincides with intense exam preparation cycles and result announcements — the exact period when taunts like "Sharma ji ka beta dekho" peak.

Beyond suicide, other ill effects of this interference include reduced self-confidence, heightened anxiety, depression, panic attacks, and a sadistic culture where people actually wait for an aspirant to fail so they can say

"I told you so."

Interference at Every Point

Exam day is already a battlefield for every aspirant who has poured months, even years, into preparation. The mental fatigue after a 3-hour paper is real. But the moment an aspirant steps out, the real damage begins, not from the exam, but from the phone calls. 'Kaisa gaya paper?' 'Iss baar hojayeega na?' 'Kitna score aaya?' Bla Bla Bla...

Relatives fire these questions without a second thought for the aspirant's mental health. The same people who stay silent all year suddenly remember their "concern" on exam day and result day. Why? I ask: Why this selective interference? Why do relations only surface when there's a score to judge? This isn't concern. It's pressure disguised as care. And it destroys more confidence than any failed mock test ever could.

If you truly want to favour the journey of an aspirant, here's how:

- Let them fail, fall, and learn on their own. Failure is a teacher. Don't steal that lesson.
- Appreciate little efforts. A chapter completed, a test attempted — these are wins. Acknowledge them.
- Notice mini improvements. "You studied 1 hour more today" matters more than "Top karoge?"

- Put positive vibes in their life. Send food. Pay for a book. Or just say nothing and let them rest.
- Stop comparing them with others. Your child is not "Sharma ji ka beta." They're their own person.
- Stop making them feel useless while others are winning. Everyone's timeline is different. Success isn't a race.

Support doesn't need advice. Sometimes, silence is the loudest form of love. So to all the aspirants reading this: You are battling every day. Keep battling, because you are going to reach your destiny. Don't take people around you seriously. Let them talk, that's what they're meant to do. There's a line that sums it up perfectly: "Loug kya sochenge jab woh be hum he sochenge, tou phir loug kya sochenge."

Give yourself so much time to improve that you have no time left to think about others. When you're busy building your life, their opinions become background noise. Ultimately, your pace will not die down. You should have no time for swooning over criticism or comparison. Life presents infinite opportunities when you work honestly. Be patient with your progress. Growth is slow, but it is certain.

In this journey, never ever be an 'intermediate'. Being stuck in the middle, not fully committed, not

So the real question is this: Why is everyone interfering in their lives? Why don't people understand that aspirants are already under crushing pressure? Why do relatives, neighbors, and even distant acquaintances feel entitled to pass comments, compare, and predict failure?

ready to quit, will only waste your prime years. Either work very hard to achieve your goal, or give up on it with dignity and excel in some other field. Choose one. But leave the intermediacy. Half-hearted effort gives full-hearted pain. At last, to every aspirant who feels alone tonight: Your struggle is valid. Your stress is real. Your dream is worth it. Keep going. Wishing you all a happy and successful journey ahead. You'll make it, on your own terms.

Author is a NEET aspirant. She can be mailed at vanitamana908@gmail.com

Lessons From The Ruins And Remains Of Rome

BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

The streets of Rome were overcrowded on 29 June 2026, as if the entire city had taken to the streets to celebrate Saints Peter and Paul, the city's patron saints and founders of the new Christian Rome. Despite the hot and humid weather, Rome breathed with youthful energy, hosting social and spiritual gatherings both day and night to commemorate the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul. Emperor Nero crucified Saint Peter in the Vatican, while Saint Paul was beheaded with a sword. Nero also persecuted many others during the Great Fire of Rome in 64 CE, in an effort to control the growing Christian population. Numerous stories and mythologies surround these events—the persecution, the martyrdom, and the subsequent celebrations.

Many people were also out in the streets to witness the famous fireworks display, known as the Girandola, which lit up the sky above Castel Sant'Angelo. A sea of people flooded the Paul's Route and Peter's Route, both leading toward St. Peter's Square, where the two saints were buried "Outside the Walls." This annual public ritual is said to date back to ancient Christian times. The public holidays, religious ceremonies, fireworks, infiorata floral displays, and leisure-seeking holidaymakers together create a magnificent day and a magical night out in Rome.

Everything ancient defines Rome, and the pleasures found among its old ruins and poignant remains bring smiles to the city's visitors. Rome carries within it both the grandeur and ingenuity of human achievements, as well as the ravages of rulers and the destructive power of human evil. The monuments of lost civilisations, the fall of empires, and the fates of emperors reveal the rich cultural, social, political, and economic history and

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heritage of Rome as a city. The ruins and remains of the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Palatine Hills, the piazzas, the museums, the Pantheon, the many churches, and the grandeur of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City are not merely landmarks of the city or monuments of the past—they are depositories of human creativity and labour in the making of Rome, both past and present.

The preservation of Rome and its present is crucial for future genera-



tions to understand the different lessons drawn from history—the innovations of the working class, the limits of empires, the fragility of emperors, and the legacies of timeless civilisations. The decay of all powers of history documented in the ruins and remains of Rome offers profound lessons on continuity and change in the graveyards of the city. It also reveals that adaptability, multiculturalism, human unity, and cultural integration are the four pillars of survival and sustainability.

However, these lessons of history are buried under the ruinous and reactionary propaganda of white supremacist ruling classes and their rent-seeking approach to Rome and its tourist economy. In this context, the market, religion, and the state collaborate to create legitimacy while undermining

the democratic spirit of the people in Rome and across the country. Contemporary Italy is under siege by the religious and capitalist forces and people are suffering from various forms of marginalisation and exploitation from local to national level.

Christian democracy is destroying the deepening of democracy in Italy while upholding the interests of all kinds of capitalisms within its Italian, European and international forms. Religion and its stories of sacrifice, emancipation, and martyrdom are used as weapons to domesticate the masses, delaying the revolutionary forces to share shape that seek to lead working people in a revolutionary path of peace and progress. However, the success of the antifascist movement by the working people serves as a reminder that Ital-

ians are going to defeat all reactionary, religious, and capitalist forces in order to reclaim their democracy, state, and government. Rome amidst all its ruins and remnants, offers hope for a progressive politics that can reclaim peace, homes, human happiness, and human innovation—the socialist, secular and democratic politics that can defeat the religious capitalist politics that breeds hunger, homelessness, unemployment, and poverty in this city of plenty. The future of Italy and Italians depends on their ability to defeat entrenched troika of religious, fascist and capitalist forces. This reactionary alliance is dangerous for people and their country.

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LG Sinha To Flag Off

devotees. He also instructed authorities to make regular public announcements at Bhagwati Nagar and the Tawi Riverfront so that pilgrims receive timely information and guidance.

The Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of logistics, lodging, security arrangements, health facilities, help desks, sanitation, power and water supply, emergency and other essential services and facilities, ensuring a seamless and hassle-free experience for the devotees.

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the devotees of Baba Barfani and wished them a safe, peaceful and blessed pilgrimage. He extended his best wishes and prayed for a safe, peaceful and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage.

The first batch of pilgrims will leave Bhagwati Nagar under a multi-layer security arrangement on Thursday. Authorities said only registered pilgrims with valid RFID cards and completed e-KYC formalities will be allowed to enter the Yatri Niwas before joining the convoy.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Nalin Prabhat, DGP; S.J.M.Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Amol V Homkar, IGP CRPF Jammu Sector; M. Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and senior officials from civil administration, police and security forces.

Meanwhile, offline registration process at the Tawi Riverfront Centre continued smoothly on Wednesday.

Officials said tokens were distributed for both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes, and all pilgrims issued tokens and completing registration would join the first convoy on Thursday morning.

Preparations for the annual pilgrimage in Jammu stand completed, with comprehensive arrangements for registration, accommodation, transportation, medical care, sanitation and security.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar said extensive facilities have been put in place across all five districts of the Jammu division falling along the Yatra route. These include on-the-spot registration, RFID and e-KYC centres, accommodation, langar facilities, medical rooms, sanitation, uninterrupted power and water supply, and robust security arrangements.

He said pilgrims who have registered online can collect their RFID cards at Lakhapur, Chichi Mata Temple in Samba, Jammu Railway Station, Tawi Riverfront and Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas. Pilgrims have been advised to complete e-KYC and collect RFID tags before entering the Bhagwati Nagar base camp by 10 pm a day before their departure.

The Divisional Commissioner said accommodation for nearly 55,000 pilgrims has been arranged across Jammu Division, while more than 2,100 toilets have been installed at accommodation centres, transit camps, Yatri Niwas facilities and along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

He urged pilgrims to strictly adhere to the cut-off timings and guidelines issued by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board and district administrations to ensure a safe and convenient pilgrimage.

To facilitate pilgrims and tourists, the Tourism Department has introduced dedicated air-conditioned buses on four routes covering attractions such as Suchetgarh Border, Gharana Wetland, Akhnour Fort, Raghunath Bazaar, Bahu Fort and Mahamaya Temple. The Transport Department has also notified fixed fares for autos, e-rickshaws and taxis to prevent overcharging.

Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti said elaborate security arrangements have been put in place along the entire 260-km Yatra route, including transit camps and langar sites. He advised pilgrims to rely only on the official Shri Amarnath Shrine Board platform for registration-related information.

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Minhas said the district administration remains committed to ensuring a safe, smooth and convenient pilgrimage. He informed that 18 counters have been established for transparent token distribution and registration, while additional centres at Gita Bhawan, Mahajan Hall, Shri Ram Mandir Purani Mandi and Jammu Railway Station will continue to function as before.

He also appealed to the people of Jammu to extend their traditional hospitality to the visiting pilgrims and encouraged tourists to explore the city's religious and heritage destinations during their stay.

Meanwhile, the first groups of pilgrims entering the Union Territory through Lakhapur in Kathua and Tapyal in Samba received a warm traditional welcome from the respective district administrations before proceeding to the Bhagwati Nagar base camp under security arrangements.

Traffic authorities have also issued an advisory regulating movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Heavy Motor Vehicles will not be allowed to ply from Qazigund towards Jammu and from Jakheni in Udhampur towards Srinagar after 7 pm on July 1, while Light Motor Vehicles will be permitted until 11 pm.—(KNO)

Jammu Kashmir

generations. He invited seekers from across the country to participate in this spiritual journey.

"Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has long been a living thread, weaving together people of diverse languages, cultures and traditions into one shared fabric of faith. With only a few hours remaining before the yatra's commencement, Jammu Kashmir reverberates with chants to Lord Shiva, and the holy banks of the Tawi are lit by lamps of devotion.

On this auspicious occasion, I extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to all pilgrims. The Tawi Aarti, rooted in ancient practice, stands today as a vibrant symbol of our collective spiritual consciousness, cultural unity, spiritual values and social harmony.

The river's uninterrupted flow reminds us that

just as its waters move freely without distinction, so too should human life be guided by love, cooperation, and mutual respect. Throughout Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Tawi Aarti will be offered every evening, and each lamp lit will shine as a beacon of hope, purity, renewal, and faith, illuminating not only the path of the pilgrim but the spirit of our society as well," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor applauded the efforts of Jammu Smart City Limited for building Tawi riverfront and ensuring the river's rightful place at the heart of community life. He said banks that were once neglected have become vibrant centres of culture, tradition, social engagement and spiritual values.

"For centuries Jammu has been known as a centre of spiritual awareness, cultural richness and learning. This land, with its ancient temples, has long embodied spiritual reflection and the finest values of Indian culture. It is therefore heartening to see Jammu reclaiming the distinguished identity for which it has been celebrated in history. I call for people's active participation to keep the city clean and vibrant.

On this sacred occasion I envision a Jammu that emerges as a global centre for spiritual tourism, cultural studies and human values. I want to see a Tawi riverfront that sets a model for environmental protection, sustainable development and modern urban planning, where nature, culture and contemporary amenities complement one another to create a new model of development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also stated that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra stands as a timeless symbol of our spiritual traditions, cultural legacy, and collective faith. He said it is one of India's most revered religious gatherings and embodies a responsibility that echoes the devotion of millions across the nation.

"It is therefore incumbent upon us to uphold the sanctity of this pilgrimage by ensuring that every devotee who undertakes this journey is met with the highest standards of safety, dignity, comfort, and care. We must strive to ensure that devotees carry back with them an indelible impression of love, warmth and spirit of service shown by the people of Jammu Kashmir. It is our responsibility to make every pilgrim an ambassador for Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also launched 'Raahi: Hop Jammu' Bus Service, an initiative of District Administration Jammu. It is designed to offer locals and tourists a seamless, convenient, and environmentally sustainable way to explore the rich cultural, heritage, and recreational landscape of Jammu.

With a fleet of air-conditioned e-buses, the service will operate on distinct thematic routes: Tirath Line, Chenab Line, Sarhad Line and Fun Line, connecting the Jammu's most significant landmarks.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated Exhibition on Shri Amarnathji Yatra. He also presented Swachhta Souvenirs to Yatrias.

Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Shri Sat Sharma, Member of Parliament and President, Bharatiya Janata Party, J&K; Shri Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri S.J.M.Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Ms. Mandeeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Shridhar Patil, DIG JSKRRange; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and CEO Jammu Smart City Limited and senior officials were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly-Shri Yudhvir Sethi, Shri Arvind Gupta and Shri Surinder Bhagat; Shri Rajesh Gupta; President Vishwa Hindu Parishad (J&K and Ladakh); Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; religious leaders; prominent citizens and people from all walks of life also attended the Tawi Aarti.

New Viaduct, Tunnel

He said these key infrastructures would ensure smooth, all-weather movement for locals, tourists, freight and security forces, while ensuring a safer and seamless journey for the Amarnath pilgrims, bypassing landslide-prone stretches.

Lieutenant Governor of J-K Manoj Sinha termed the projects as "monumental feats", adding, "These key infrastructures secure smooth and all-weather movement for locals, tourists, freight and security forces, while ensuring a safer and seamless journey for the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, bypassing landslide-prone stretches".

LG Expresses Gratitude

for locals, tourists, freight and security forces, while ensuring a safer and seamless journey for the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, bypassing landslide-prone stretches," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The landmark road infrastructures are scheduled to open for traffic on 3rd July, 2026.

Flash Floods, Cloudbursts

created panic among residents as several students were inside a local school when the flooding occurred.

Villagers rescued the children before police, SDRF and civil administration teams reached the area to launch rescue operations. There were no immediate reports of casualties, while the extent of damage was being assessed.

In the Chenab Valley, two cloudbursts were reported in Kalagisar village of the Bhalessa region in Doda district after heavy rain lashed the area.

Authorities were monitoring the situation amid continuing unstable weather.

Heavy overnight rainfall also pushed up water levels in rivers and seasonal streams across Rajouri district. The district administration kept vulnerable locations under close watch and advised people living near rivers, nallahs and low-lying areas to remain alert and shift to safer places if water levels rose further.

In Kashmir, widespread rainfall was recorded in Pahalgam, Ashmuqam and adjoining areas, bringing relief from the prolonged heatwave. Cloudy skies and showers led to a noticeable fall in temperatures, improving weather conditions across many parts of the Valley.

Earlier in the day, weather monitoring centres had indicated rain and thundershowers over many parts of Ganderbal, Bandipora, Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam, Poonch, Baramulla, Uri, Gulmarg, the Banihal-Ramban axis, and parts of Doda and Kishtwar. They had also warned that brief but intense showers over Poonch, Budgam, the Ganderbal-Kangan-Sonamarg-Zojila axis, Pahalgam, Shopian, Kulgam and the Banihal-Ramban corridor could trigger localized flash floods, mudslides and landslides. Several of these areas subsequently witnessed intense rainfall.

The active weather coincided with the southwest monsoon advancing across the entire Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh meteorological subdivision on July 1, a day later than the normal onset date. Rainfall during the past 24 hours was highest in Samba at 62.5 mm, followed by Jammu with 35.8 mm, Kathua 23.8 mm and Rajouri 19.6 mm, while light rainfall was recorded at several other stations.

Forecasts indicate generally cloudy conditions with light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places between July 2 and July 4. Heavy rainfall, brief intense showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds are expected at a few locations, particularly across the Jammu division, the Pir Panjal range, Chenab Valley and adjoining parts of south Kashmir.

Between July 5 and July 8, weather is expected to turn hot and humid again, although scattered rain and thunderstorms are likely to continue, especially over parts of Jammu division.

Weather experts said the current spell is being driven by the interaction between active monsoon winds and a series of weak western disturbances expected to affect the region through the week. While prolonged widespread flooding is not anticipated, short-duration intense rainfall and isolated cloudbursts remain possible, increasing the risk of localized flash floods, rising water levels in streams, waterlogging and landslides.

Authorities have advised residents, tourists and trekkers to stay away from rivers, nallahs and landslide-prone areas, monitor official advisories and plan travel carefully over the next few days.

Meanwhile in view of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) nowcast warning forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall across Poonch district, the Health Department has placed all government health institutions on high alert and ordered the immediate cancellation of all staff leave to ensure uninterrupted emergency healthcare services.

According to an official order issued by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Poonch, all health institutions, including District Hospital Poonch, Sub-District Hospitals at Mendhar, Surankote and Mandi, as well as all Primary Health Centres (PHCs), New Type Primary Health Centres (NTPHCs) and Sub-Centres, have been directed to remain fully prepared to deal with any emergency arising from adverse weather conditions.

The directive follows the IMD's warning predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall, with the possibility of flash floods, landslides, road blockages and other rain-related emergencies in the district.

As part of the emergency preparedness measures, the CMO has instructed the Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Poonch and Block Medical Officers of Mendhar, Surankote and Mandi to immediately cancel all kinds of leave, except maternity leave, for medical officers, paramedical staff and other employees working under their control. They have also been directed not to sanction any fresh leave until further orders.

The order stresses that all health institutions must ensure full attendance of doctors, nurses, paramedics and support staff so that medical services remain available round the clock during any emergency situation.

The CMO has further directed all hospitals and healthcare facilities to maintain adequate stocks of emergency medicines, oxygen cylinders, dressings, consumables and life-saving equipment to meet any sudden increase in patient load resulting from weather-related incidents.

Authorities have also been instructed to ensure the 24x7 operational readiness of ambulances and emergency response systems, enabling rapid transportation and treatment of injured or affected persons.

The order further calls for close coordination with the district administration and disaster management authorities to facilitate timely rescue, relief and medical response in the event of floods, landslides or any other natural disaster.

Additionally, the Block Medical Officers of Mandi, Mendhar and Surankote have been asked to establish dedicated control rooms in their respective jurisdictions and submit details of the designated nodal officers, including their names, designations and contact numbers, to ensure effective monitoring, communication and coordination during any emergency.

The CMO warned that any violation of these directions will be viewed seriously, adding that strict disciplinary action will be initiated against officials found negligent in implementing the instructions.—(KNO)

Census 2027 Phase-I

Trainers and 29,269 Enumerators and Supervisors were trained, while in Ladakh 2 Master Trainers, 20 Field Trainers and 722 field functionaries were trained for digital operations, he said.

Sharma added that more than 27,000 census kits in J&K and around 800 kits in Ladakh were distributed to facilitate fieldwork.

He said special arrangements were made to ensure 100% coverage of tribal and nomadic populations, including Gujar-Bakarwal, Gaddi and Sippi communities, with field teams reaching remote and snow-bound areas using difficult terrain routes.

He said the Self-Enumeration phase witnessed strong public participation, with over 6.67 lakh households in Jammu & Kashmir and 7,009 households in Ladakh submitting their data digitally before field verification.

Sharma said the success of Phase-I was the result of coordinated efforts of the Directorate of Census Operations, district administrations, Principal Census Officers, Charge Officers and thousands of field staff, supported by continuous monitoring and review meetings.

He also shared that preparations for the next phase have already begun. The District Census Handbook (DCHB) exercise will start from August 1, 2026, focusing on infrastructure and civic data at village and town level.

Population Enumeration in snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will begin in September 2026, while remaining areas will be covered in February 2027, he said.

Sharma added that Ladakh is expected to achieve 100 percent population enumeration in the September cycle itself, given its climatic conditions, calling it a key milestone in the census schedule.

He said the completion of Phase-I is a historic digital milestone and highlighted end-to-end digital execution, extensive training, coordination and field-level participation.—(KNO)

Mutton Crisis Looms

Rs 1,728,000,000, which is approximately Rs 172.8 crore (about Rs 173 crore).

The issue comes amid a long-pending dispute over livestock transportation through Punjab, where traders have repeatedly alleged stoppages, delays and additional charges at various points, leading to increased costs and disruption in supply chains feeding Kashmir's meat market.

The current crisis also follows formal government-level engagement on the matter. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has earlier said he has taken up the issue with his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann, stating in his communication and public remarks that action against Jammu and Kashmir's mutton dealers in Punjab was "unjustified".

Traders added that they acknowledge the limited powers of the PDP government, and said that PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, MLA Waheed Para and AAP MLA Mehraj Malik have personally called them.

"The ruling NC government has not even messaged us," Mehraj-ud-Din said, adding that before leaving Kashmir five days back, they had informed the CM office about their visit.

Moreover, concern is growing in Kashmir over a potential supply crunch, especially with the marriage season approaching.

Repeated attempts to contact CM's advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zadibal and Minister for Food & Civil Supplies Satish Sharma received no response.—(KNO)

CIK Attaches Property Of

Dr. Mubeen Ahmed Shah, who is the son of the late Ali Shah. The attached property is specifically recorded under Khasra numbers 236 and 337 within Estate Buchwara, as well as Survey numbers 889/703, 595/353, and 888.

Authorities have confirmed that these attachment proceedings are directly linked to the aforementioned 2020 FIR. Dr. Shah, who served as the head of the KCCI from 2006 to 2008, has been residing in Malaysia along with his family members since December 2019, according to officials.

The entire attachment process was carried out in the presence of Naib Tehsildar Shah Mohammad Asif, who witnessed the formalities.

'Nearly 4 Lakh Pilgrims

Commissioner said nearly four lakh pilgrims have already registered online, surpassing last year's figure.

He said the 57-day Yatra, commencing on July 3 and concluding on August 28, is expected to witness a higher footfall.

To facilitate pilgrims, the Div Com said e-KYC and RFID facilities have been established at Nowgam Railway Station in addition to Srinagar Airport, Pantha Chowk base camp and both Baltal and Nunwan base camps. He added that online-registered pilgrims will be issued RFID cards on priority.

Garg said the convoy system from Jammu will continue under a dedicated security corridor with notified traffic cut-off timings. Besides, on-the-spot registration counters have been set up at Pantha Chowk and both base camps for pilgrims arriving directly in Srinagar, subject to the availability of the daily quota.

"Comprehensive security arrangements have been made following a series of review meetings, with special focus on convoy movement, base camp security and safety along the pilgrimage routes," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner added that the ceremonial flagging off of the first convoy will take place on Thursday morning under full security escort. "Many pilgrims have already reached Srinagar through different modes of transport, while arrangements have been put in place to facilitate both pre-registered pilgrims and those seeking on-the-spot registration as per the available quota," he said.—(KNO)

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Amarnath Yatra

IGP Kashmir reviews multi-layered security measures at Pahalgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the extensive security preparations for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir V. K. Birdi on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive visit to Pahalgam to review the security arrangements along the Yatra route and assess the operational preparedness of the security grid.



agency coordination, and ensure the effective implementation of all security protocols. He stressed the need for proactive policing, continuous monitoring, and swift response to any contingency to facilitate the smooth, peaceful, and incident-free conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The IGP was accompanied by DIG South Kashmir Range Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG Yatra Sameer Sharma, SSP Anantnag Amod Ashok Nagpure, along with other senior officers of J&K Police.

The visit forms part of the ongoing series of inspections being undertaken by senior police officers to review operational preparedness and further strengthen the security framework ahead of the commencement of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

hassle-free pilgrimage for the devotees.

The IGP also visited the Nunwan Base Camp and undertook a detailed assessment of the overall security architecture, deployment plans, surveillance mechanisms, access control measures, and emergency response preparedness. He interacted with officers and

personnel deployed on the ground and appreciated their dedication, professionalism, and commitment towards ensuring foolproof security arrangements for the Yatra.

Reviewing the multi-layered security measures, V. K. Birdi directed officers to maintain a high level of alertness, strengthen inter-

Slathia chairs PAC meeting, examine C&AG's audit paras pertaining to JSD



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts, Surjeet Singh Slathia, Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Committee at the Assembly Secretariat here to examine the C&AG's audit paras pertaining to the Jal Shakti Department including PHE and I&FC.

The meeting was attended by the Legislators Mubarak Gul, Shamim Firdous, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo), Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi), Ranbir Singh Pathania, Ch Mohammad Akram, Vikram Randhawa along with Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Jal Shakti Department Shaleen Kabra, Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit and senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department, including the Public

Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control wings.

During the meeting, the Committee held detailed deliberations on the audit observations and examined the issues raised in the audit paras.

After detailed discussions, the Committee, upon the assurance of the Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, directed the concerned officers to furnish a comprehensive report on the audit paras discussed during the meeting within the 15 days for further examination by the Committee.

The members of the Committee actively participated in the deliberations and offered valuable suggestions and constructive inputs aimed at improving the functioning, transparency and accountability of the department.

DLSA G'bal convenes meeting of LSUM to review implementation of NALSA Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal convened a meeting of the Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM), under the guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, to review and strengthen the effective implementation of the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024, in compliance with the directions issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority.

The meeting was attended by Mehraj Din, Senior Prosecution Officer, representing the Department of Police, Ganderbal; Mohd. Amin, Sub-Inspector, representing Subsidiary Jail, Dignibal; Shabana Hamid, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, representing the Department of Social Welfare; Members of the

LSUM Unit; Panel Lawyers; and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Ganderbal.

During the meeting, the Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme and directed all concerned departments to strengthen institutional coordination, facilitate timely identification and referral of beneficiaries, ensure access to free legal aid, undertake regular awareness and outreach programmes, and strictly comply with the guidelines issued by NALSA and J&K Legal Services Authority.

The stakeholders were further instructed to work in close coordination for safeguarding the legal rights of persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities, ensuring that legal services remain accessible, inclusive, and responsive in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment by all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme through coordinated action and sustained institutional support.

SKUAST-K hosts DHR-ICMR National Workshop on Regenerative Medicine

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Tuesday inaugurated a 10-day DHR-ICMR-sponsored national workshop on "Next-Generation Biomaterial Scaffolds for Stem Cell Therapeutics in Regenerative Medicine" at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (FVSc & AH), Shuhama, Ganderbal.

The national-level workshop aims to strengthen capacity building in regenerative medicine by integrating fundamental science, translational research, biomaterial technologies, and clinical applications.

The inaugural session was presided over by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Dean, School of Life Sciences, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. Abid Hamid; Head, CD Hospital, Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah; Scientist and Consultant (Cell & Gene Therapy), ICMR, New Delhi, Dr. Sangram K. Samal. Senior university officials, faculty members, scientists, clinicians,

researchers, and students were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai described the workshop as a significant initiative bringing together academia, medicine, industry, and government on a common platform. He commended the faculty for organizing a program of national importance and emphasized the need for institutional collaboration, innovation-driven research, and affordable therapeutic solutions. He also stressed the importance of launching short skill-based programs to expand certification opportunities and support continuous professional development.

Prof. Riaz Ahmad Shah, Dean, FVSc & AH, highlighted the transformative potential of regenerative medicine in both human and veterinary health care.

Prof. Abid Hamid termed the workshop a timely intervention for developing skilled human resources in the emerging field of regenerative medicine. Building on this, Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah underscored the importance of translational research in

bridging laboratory discoveries with clinical applications and stressed the need for stronger multidisciplinary collaborations.

Dr. Sangram K. Samal highlighted the importance of One Health approaches, interdisciplinary research, and structured capacity-building initiatives to accelerate progress in regenerative medicine.

The inaugural session also witnessed the release of a documentary showcasing SKUAST-K's milestones, infrastructure, academic excellence, research achievements, and future vision. A book on evidence-based research and practical guidance in stem cell therapeutics was also released, along with a compendium documenting the university's academic, research, and outreach achievements.

Organizing secretary, Dr. Mudassir Bashir Gugio reported an overwhelming response to the workshop, with 120 applications received for just 20 seats, including participation from an international candidate from Grenada.

Over the next 10 days, participants will undergo intensive expert lectures

and hands-on training in stem cell and exosome isolation, biomaterial fabrication through 3D printing and electrospinning, preclinical evaluation, regulatory frameworks, and clinical applications.

A major highlight of the workshop will be an industry-academia-policy dialogue focusing on opportunities, challenges, and the regulatory roadmap for veterinary stem cell therapeutics in India.

The workshop features an impressive lineup of international experts from the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), University of Michigan, and Queen Mary University of London, as well as leading Indian institutions, including IITs, AIIMS, IVRI, ICMR, SKIMS, and NIT Srinagar.

Concluding the inaugural session, Prof. Amatul Muhee, Head, Division of Veterinary Clinical Complex, FVSc & AH, reaffirmed the university's commitment to strengthening regenerative medicine through research excellence, innovation, and strategic collaborations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that I, Hilal Ahmad Lone, intend to apply for a Pesticides Licence for ANAS PESTICIDES situated at Dolipora, Kawachek, Kreeri. The application will be submitted to the Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla. Any person having any objection in this regard may file their objections in writing to the Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections received after this period will not be entertained.

HILAL AHMAD LONE
S/o Ghulam Rasool Lone
R/o Dolipora Kawachek, Kreeri

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ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE: NO. 03 - CDPO HSB OF 2026
DATED: - 29-06-2025

Subject: - Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (AWWs) and Sahayikas (AWHs) in Anganwadi Centre of Poshan Project H S BUGH. Reference: 1. Government order No 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022
2. Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023
Approval has been accorded by Mission Director Poshan J & K, vide letter No: - MD/Poshan/22255-62 Dated: 18.06.2026 for filling up of various vacancies of Sanginis (AWWs) and Sahayikas (AWHs) in Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project H S Bugh, as per the details given below:

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post
1	Poshan Project H S Bugh	Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)	02
2		Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers)	03
Total			05

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Proforma as per Annexure "A" from the eligible female candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Workers/ Anganwadi Helpers on Honorary basis for aforementioned post of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the post are as under:

- Date of commencement for submission of application forms is from the date of Publication of this Notice w.e.f 30-06-2026
- Last date for submission of applications is 14-07-2026
- Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection
- Annexure C- Affidavit

ANNEXURE 'A'

FORMAT OF APPLICATION

- Name of POSHAN Project: - POSHAN H S BUGH
- Name of Anganwadi Centre _____
- Post applied for _____
- Name of the Candidate _____
- Father's Name _____
- Husband's Name _____
- Residence _____
- Ward No. _____
- Contact No. _____
- Address for Correspondence _____
- Date of Birth _____
- Age as on 01.01.2026 _____

Academic Qualification:

Sr. No.	Examination passed	Board	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	Percentage

- Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO)
- Document Attached: _____

Photograph attested by Gazetted Officer

Signature of the candidate

ANNEXURE 'B'

Detail of Vacant Posts of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) along with name and location of AWC.

S No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	WARD NO.	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
1	Guffan	07 (seven)	Anganwadi Worker	01
2	Thokpora	01 (One)	Anganwadi Worker	01

For Anganwadi Workers

- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible, i.e., candidates should not be born before 01-01-1989 and not after 01-01-2008
- The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre 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 the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Where ever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying of the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+2 and maximum Graduation.
- If at any time it would be found that candidate's qualification is more than graduation, her candidature shall be rejected without any notice or information. 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 in the concerned ward, candidate from the nearest/adjoining ward within the panchayat can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission POSHAN.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and no other criteria to be considered.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

Detail of Vacant Posts of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) along with name and location of AWC.

S No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	WARD NO.	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
1	Mah	09 (Nine)	Anganwadi Helper	01
2	Paljan-A	02 (Two)	Anganwadi Helper	01
3	Kaladrung-A	02 (Two)	Anganwadi Helper	01

B-For Anganwadi Helpers

- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible, i.e., candidates should not be born before 01-01-1989 and not after 01-01-2008
- The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre 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 the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Where ever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying of the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be 10th.
- In case no 10th pass(matriculate) candidate is available in the ward, candidate with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered from the concerned ward where AWC is advertised.
- The committee shall select the meritorious married woman of the ward as helper from those who full fill the qualification criteria and, if no married candidate is available, then only unmarried candidate shall be considered.

Document Verification

- The candidate who is shortlisted will be required to appear for Document verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.
 - Marks sheet(s) of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
 - Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate.
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - Unmarried Certificate (where required)
- 2) Candidates have to bring two passport size recent color photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:
- Aadhaar Card
 - Voter ID Card
- 3) The candidate, who is supposed to furnish various certificates issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.

ANNEXURE-C

All applicants to submit affidavit from Judicial Magistrate stating following facts:

- 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 cancelled and liable to action under law.
- Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class 10th 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.

No.: - CDPO/ RECT-HSB/POSHAN/2026/264-75
Dated: - 29-06-2026

DIPK-2728-26
DT: 01/07/2026

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project H S Bugh

J&K to host National Coaching Camp for Indian Soft Tennis Teams ahead of 20th Asian Games

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: In a landmark development for sports in Jammu & Kashmir, the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association, under the aegis of the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India (ASTFI) and in active collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, will host the first-ever National Coaching Camp for the Indian Soft Tennis Teams in preparation for the 20th Asian Games, Japan 2026. The camp will be held at the Gindun Sports Stadium, Rajbagh, Srinagar, from 10th July to 13th August, 2026.

The National Coaching Camp represents an unprecedented recognition of Jammu & Kashmir's sporting infrastructure and administrative capability at the national level. For the first time in the history of the Union Territory, an Indian national-level training camp ahead of the Asian Games will be conducted on J&K soil, a testament to the confidence reposed by the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India and the Government of India in the region's growing sporting ecosystem.



The J&K Sports Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to providing world-class facilities and logistical support to ensure the successful conduct of the camp. About Soft Tennis in India and J&K Soft Tennis is a recognized sport under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, and is also sanctioned by the School Games Federation of India and the Association of Indian Universities. The sport is affiliated with the Asian Soft Tennis Federation and the International Soft Tennis Federation and holds the distinction of being featured in both

the National Games of India and the Asian Games in Jammu & Kashmir, the sport has witnessed exceptional growth under the stewardship of the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association.

Pertinently, the Association has built an impressive medal tally at national and international competitions, having won 5 Gold, 13 Silver, and 10 Bronze medals. It has also established a robust grassroots network comprising 18 affiliated district units spread across Jammu & Kashmir and has successfully hosted five National Championships across various categories. Plans are

already in place to host additional prestigious national and international Soft Tennis events in the current calendar year.

A senior official of the J&K Sports Council stated that hosting the National Coaching Camp for the Indian Soft Tennis Teams ahead of the Asian Games is a proud moment for every resident of Jammu & Kashmir. "This is not merely an event, it is a signal to the nation that J&K is ready and capable of hosting elite-level sporting programmes. Our local players will have the invaluable opportunity to train alongside the country's finest athletes, absorb the guidance of top national coaches, and benchmark themselves against the highest standards", the official said.

The J&K Sports Council has appealed sports lovers, youth, and citizens across Jammu & Kashmir to celebrate this historic achievement and to extend their full support to the athletes and officials participating in the camp and join in celebrating this historic milestone for sports in the Union Territory.

2025 FIFA WC: Brilliant Harry Kane scores late double to save England against Congo DR

IAN S

ATLANTA: Skipper Harry Kane led from the front with a brilliant performance as he scored twice to help England come back from a goal deficit to overcome Congo DR 2-1 in a Round of 32 match at the Atlanta Stadium on Wednesday and set up a last 16 clash with Mexico at the Mexico City Stadium on July 6.

Thomas Tuchel's team trailed from the seventh minute, when Brian Cipenga opened the scoring, until the 75th minute, when Harry Kane equalised, then the England skipper then blasting a brilliant winner in the 86th minute to script a dramatic turnaround.

This is the first time in the World Cup since 1986 that the Three Lions have come back to win a match after trailing by a goal at half-time, surviving a huge scare to progress to the Round of 16.

England, the 1966 champions, had lost none of their previous nine World Cup meetings with African opposition, and they kept that record intact in Atlanta, but only just.

"It feels amazing to be honest. What a crazy game. They are a tough team, and then after that first break, we were much better, and their keeper made some unbelievable saves. We spoke about people having hero moments,



and it can be anyone. It was me today. We spoke all week about just being ourselves. There are still things to work on for sure, and these rounds are just about getting through. We are in the part of the tournament when you have to grind out wins, and that's what we have done today," Kane told BBC Sport after the match.

After Germany and the Netherlands crashed out of this World Cup in the knock-out stage, it seemed England could join them in returning home early as they trailed by a goal past the hour mark. They created many chances in the second half but were thwarted by Congo goalkeeper Lionel Mpsi, who pulled off a few

brilliant saves and kept Congo's hopes alive until late in the match.

Congo had never played a World Cup knockout game before, yet they made a dream start after seven minutes with Cipenga's first-ever international goal. A crossfield ball from the right was flicked on by Chancel Mbemba to Cipenga, who was completely free on the left side of the box to fire in a low shot that beat Jordan Pickford at his near post.

England took time to respond before creating several clear chances. Congo DR goalkeeper Lionel Mpsi saved superbly from two Jude Bellingham headers. In between, Noni Madueke's run into the box brought a shooting

chance for Rashford at the far post, only for Aaron Wan-Bissaka to clear off the line. Then, on the stroke of half-time, Mbasi blocked Kane's close-range volley following a corner.

At the other end, Congo might have snatched a second goal when Yoane Wissa turned Wan-Bissaka's low centre against the post.

It took Tuchel's change of his wingers to spark the fightback, substitute Anthony Gordon crossing for Kane to head his 12th World Cup finals goal. Number 13 would certainly be lucky for England as Kane turned away from his marker and unleashed an unstoppable shot inside the near post.

1st T20I: Series opener between India and England called off after first innings due to rain

IAN S

CHESTER-LE-STREET: The first T20I between India and England was abandoned without a result on Wednesday night as heavy rain came pouring down before the home side could start its reply to the visitors' 189/7 in 20 overs at the Riverside Ground on Wednesday.

The ground staff brought out the covers and applied them across the square as rain started soon around the time the players walked off the ground at the end of the 20th over of the Indian innings.

The downpour became strong soon after and continued unabated as the players from both sides waited. They waited till 9 pm local time, the cut-off for a five-over game. The umpires finally decided that the match could not restart and called it off. The two captains walked out of their respective dressing rooms and shook hands before going back in.

Earlier, thanks to half-centuries from skipper Shreyas Iyer and Abhishek Sharma, along with a late surge from Shivam Dube, India overcame slight drizzle and a gloomy evening to post 189/7 in 20 overs.

On a not-so-easy pitch, Iyer hit his first fifty as India's T20I captain - his knock of 68 came off 47 balls, laced with six fours and a six. Abhishek, meanwhile, hit 59 off 24 balls studded with six fours and four sixes. Dube applied



the finishing touches by hitting 42 not out off just 21 balls, including two boundaries and three sixes.

Sent in to bat, India slipped to 6/2 inside two overs. Sanju Samson fell cheaply again, caught at backward point off Saqib Mahmood, before Ishan Kishan was run out after a mix-up with Abhishek for a duck.

Abhishek then launched a blistering counterattack, racing to a 20-ball fifty - the fastest by an Indian batter in England - with a flurry of pulls and lofted drives, before Sam Curran's slower ball trapped him lbw in the eighth over, which also ended his 82-run stand with Shreyas.

But by then, Abhishek had become the fastest batter to smash 100 sixes in T20Is (in 785 deliveries) and surpassed West Indies'

batter Evin Lewis, who had smashed hundred sixes in 789 deliveries in his career. Shreyas then combined with Tilak Varma for a 36-run stand, while striking cleanly against pace and spin.

Varma's dismissal, caught off a low full toss on Mahmood's bowling, brought Dube to the crease. Iyer reached his ninth T20I half-century from 38 balls, his slowest in the format, but accelerated with a six over extra cover and inventive strokes against Luke Wood and Mahmood, who later trapped him lbw.

Dube then took charge, clearing mid-wicket and square leg with powerful hitting, and finished unconquered. England's spinners Adil Rashid and Liam Dawson struggled for control in the drizzle, while Mahmood impressed with three wickets.

Mexico Ends 40-Year Knockout Drought with 2-0 Win Over Ecuador

AGENCIES

MEXICO CITY: The 40-year wait is over. Mexicans had learned to live with defeats in the knockout stages of the World Cup. On seven occasions, El Tri fans were left heartbroken at this stage.

Not anymore. Julián Quiñones and Raúl Jiménez scored within a nine-minute span in the first half and Mexico defeated Ecuador 2-0 on Tuesday night to break a four-decade drought in the knockout stage and progress to the round of 16.

Quiñones opened the scoring in the 22nd minute and Jiménez added a goal in the 31st for the Mexi-

cans, who had not won a knockout-stage match since defeating Bulgaria in the round of 16 when they hosted the tournament in 1986. Mexico coach Javier Aguirre was one of the starting midfielders in that team in '86.

"It means a lot to me because I am one of those who could not progress in the knockout stage," Aguirre said. "We are in the round of 16 and it is happening a great connection with the fans. We are like a family. It is spectacular."

Mexico lost seven consecutive times at that same stage from 1994 to 2018 and didn't advance past the group stage in 2022.



Aguirre, who returned as Mexico's head coach in August of 2024, was an assistant in 1994 and was the coach in 2002 and 2010. "We will be on high alert

from here until Sunday. We will try to have the players recover from this and we will see if we are able to win again," Aguirre said. For Quiñones, it was a

third goal in the tournament and he is now El Tri's second-highest scorer in World Cup history behind Luis "Mataador" Hernández and Javier "Chicharito" Hernández, who scored four each.

Quiñones, who was the scoring leader in the Saudi Pro League last season, has become the spark in the attack that Mexico lacked in previous World Cups.

"I am just happy with the result, that is all that matters now," said Quiñones, who is playing in his first World Cup with Mexico.

The 29-year-old forward arrived in the country from Colombia at age 17 and became a naturalized citizen in 2023. (AP)

ICC Rankings: Ishan Kishan Pips Abhishek Sharma to Top T20I Batting Charts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Dashing India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan has displaced teammate Abhishek Sharma from the top spot in the latest ICC men's T20I batting rankings released on Wednesday.

The rise to the top for Kishan (876 ranking points) comes on the back of his consistent form at the T20 World Cup at the start of the year, where the flamboyant southpaw compiled 317 runs at a strike rate of almost 200 that included an Player of the Match performance against Pakistan in Colombo.

Abhishek (869 ranking points) had held the top ranking for almost 12 months, with Kishan joining an exclusive group that includes Virat Kohli and Suryakumar

Yadav as one of four male players from India to have held the premier position for batters in T20I cricket.

Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan is a distant third in the list with 848 points.

In the latest list, newly appointed India vice-captain Tilak Varma (747 rating points) is static at sixth place where as sacked former skipper Suryakumar Yadav is eighth in the list having dropped a slot.

Among bowlers, India's Varun Chakravarthy and Jasprit Bumrah dropped a slot each to be third and sixth respectively. Afghanistan's Rashid Khan maintained his top spot.

In the men's Test batting rankings, Travis Head has leaped to the top spot while Joe Root has slipped to third.

Movies WATCHLIST

THURSDAY, 2ND JULY

INOX
SRINAGAR
CALL: 95416 13868
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS

CARRY ON JATTA 4
(PUNJABI) (U/A 13+)
08:15 PM

MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA
(HINDI) (U/A16+)
11:35 AM, 02:55 PM, 06:15 PM

COCKTAIL 2
(HINDI) (A)
11:00 AM, 04:30 PM

SUPERGIRL
(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A16+)
02:00 PM

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
(U/A16+)
HINDI ATMOS - 10:30 AM, 01:45 PM, 05:00 PM
HINDI - 07:30 PM