



A JOURNEY OF DEVOTION TO THE SACRED AMARNATH CAVE



Do's for the Yatris

- It is mandatory for every yatri to get registered and to carry valid RFID card before starting the journey from Baltal/ Chandanwari.
- Yatris are required to collect their RFID card from designated locations in Jammu/Srinagar before embarking on the Yatra.
- Carry your aadhar details for collecting your RFID card.
- Wear the RFID card around your neck at all times during Yatra for safety & security.
- Do carry sufficient woolen clothing, umbrella, wind cheater, raincoat and waterproof shoes. Weather remains unpredictable and temperature may abruptly fall to below 5 degree Celsius.
- Walk slowly and steadily — don't rush on steep paths.
- Take regular breaks to avoid fatigue.

Don'ts for the Yatris

- No yatri shall be allowed to embark on the Yatra without mandatory registration and valid RFID card.
- Don't ignore the symptoms of high altitude illness.
- Don't drink alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or smoke.
- Don't stop at places with warning signs.
- Don't take shortcuts on the route—it's risky.
- Don't pollute or disturb the Yatra environment.
- Don't separate from your group — always stay with your companions.

May your journey be happy and auspicious!

Department of Information & Public Relations
 Government of Jammu & Kashmir



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DIPK-2804/26 DATED:02/07/2026

LG pays obeisance at ancient Ram Mandir at Purani Mandi



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday paid obeisance at the ancient Shri Ram Mandir at Purani Mandi Jammu. He prayed for the happiness, well-being and prosper-

ity of all. During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor also extended his heartfelt best wishes to the Sadhus and Sadhis who are embarking on the holy annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji.

Mahamandleshwar Mahant Shri Rameshwar Dass; Shri Yudhvir Sethi and Shri Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Members of Legislative Assembly; religious leaders and senior officials accompanied the Lieutenant Governor.

DC, SSP Sgr extend warm welcome to first batch of Amarnath Yatra Pilgrims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar District Administration on Thursday welcomed the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims at Bypass, Pantha Chowk, as the annual pilgrimage commenced amid a spirit of devotion and enthusiasm. Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Sundeep Chakravarthy, received the pilgrims on their arrival and conveyed best wishes for a safe and spiritually fulfilling journey. The Officers also reviewed the arrangements put in place to ensure the comfort and convenience of the yatris. Senior Officers of the District Administration, Srinagar, SMC and the Police Department were present at the venue to facilitate the arrival of the pilgrims and oversee the smooth management of the facilities. Speaking at the occa-



sion, the Deputy Commissioner said the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra holds immense religious significance and that the Administration has made extensive preparations to ensure the pilgrimage is conducted in a safe, seamless and well-coordinated manner. The DC added that comprehensive arrangements, including security, accommodation, sanitation, healthcare and other essential services have been put in place so that pilgrims can undertake the sacred journey with confidence and peace of mind. The DC and the SSP accompanied by local residents, extended a heartfelt

welcome to the yatris and prayed for the safe, smooth and peaceful conduct of the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The pilgrims acknowledged the warm reception and hospitality extended to them and the arrangements made by the administration. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Thomas Alfred, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, SDPO Panthachowk, Zuhair Ahmad, Tehsiladar Panthachowk, Muzamil Zaman, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, Yamin ul Nabi and other Officers and Official were present on the occasion.

DC B'la inspects construction work on Pattan-B'la Bypass, directs timely completion

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. S.F Hamid, accompanied by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Pattan, Gulzar Ahmad, Thursday inspected the ongoing construction work on the Pattan-Baramulla Bypass to review the pace and quality of execution. During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner assessed

the progress of the project and interacted with officials and representatives of the executing agency. He emphasized the importance of maintaining high construction standards while ensuring the timely completion of the project. The DC directed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work and made it clear that any avoidable delay in the execution of the project will not be

tolerated. He instructed the concerned officials to closely monitor the progress and promptly resolve any bottlenecks affecting the work. The Deputy Commissioner observed that the bypass project is of significant public importance and, once completed, will improve connectivity, reduce traffic congestion, and facilitate smoother movement of commuters.

PRIME MINISTER'S FUND

J&K to Receive 275 AI-Enabled Handheld X-Ray Machines, 9 MRI Units, 4 Mammography Units

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has allocated 275 AI-enabled Portable Handheld X-Ray Machines, 9 MRI (1.5 Tesla) Units and 4 Digital Mammography Units to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir under the Prime Minister's Fund, providing a significant boost to the diagnostic healthcare infrastructure in the UT.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for implementation of the project. The



equipment will be installed in identified Government health institutions across the Union Territory to strengthen diagnostic services, improve early disease detection, enhance breast cancer screening

and support AI-enabled tuberculosis screening. The procurement, installation and commissioning of the equipment will be undertaken by the Government of India through its designated

agencies, with supplies expected to commence in the coming months. The Health & Medical Education Department will ensure timely site readiness, deployment of requisite manpower and expeditious operationalization of the equipment so that these advanced diagnostic facilities become available to the people of Jammu & Kashmir at the earliest.

The allocation is the outcome of sustained efforts by the Health & Medical Education Department and reflects the continuous focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure and expanding access to advanced diagnostic facilities across Jammu & Kashmir.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo has been closely monitoring and driving health sector reform initiatives, with emphasis on modernization of healthcare infrastructure, strengthening public health institutions, improving diagnostic capabilities and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services throughout the Union Territory.

The initiative is expected to substantially enhance diagnostic capacity in Government hospitals, reduce the need for patient referrals, facilitate early diagnosis and treatment, and improve healthcare outcomes across the Union Territory.

DC Sgr reviews progress of Phase-3 heritage conservation projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Thursday reviewed the progress of heritage conservation projects being executed across the District at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B North, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer R&B South, Tatheer Manzoor, Executive Engineers of R&B Divisions of Dalgate, Rajbagh, Karannagar and Core besides other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed on the status of ongoing conservation and restoration works being carried out for the preservation, revival, restoration and maintenance of several heritage and religious sites, including Ziyarat Makdloom Sahib, Narian Temple, Sharika Devi Temple, Shrine of Syed Yaqoob Sahib, heritage structure of "Kalai Wall" at Shahr-e-Khaas, Shiv temple, Khankahi Moula, Imambara Hasanabad, Hazratbal Shrine, Hari Parbat fort, Vasanta School, Mian Shah Sahib shrine, Heritage of Kashapa building, Raghunath Mandir, Siraj u din shrine, Gopi Nath Terath, Shri Anandishwar Bhairav Asthan, Shrine of Noor Shah and various other projects.

During the review, the DC emphasized the need for close coordination and collaborative efforts among all line Departments, executing agencies, stakeholders and the District Administration to ensure that restoration



and preservation works are carried out in accordance with established heritage conservation practices. He stressed that the architectural integrity and historical significance of the sites must be preserved while undertaking restoration and maintenance works.

The DC directed the concerned officers to expedite the works and ensure timely initiation and consequential completion of all approved Phase-3 projects.

On the occasion, the DC also reviewed new heritage conservation projects identified for the current financial year. He instructed the concerned departments to complete all requisite formalities and initiate the projects at the earliest.

During the meeting, the DC further took stock of the progress of fencing works being executed on Budshah Bridge over the Jhelum River in the City centre and directed the concerned agency to maintain quality standards and complete the work expeditiously within the stipulated time frame.

First batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims arrive at Base Camp Nunwan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Amid deep spiritual fervor, the first batch of Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 pilgrims travelling through Pahalgam Axis Thursday arrived at Base Camp Nunwan, Pahalgam.

The Yatris were warmly welcomed by Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag (Yatra Officer), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Sr. Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure, Camp Director, Atul Kumar, senior officers from civil and police administration and representatives of various socio-religious organisations.

Interacting with the devotees, the DC and other officers wished them a smooth and blissful journey to the Holy Cave.

Earlier in the day, the pilgrims were accorded a grand reception at Walnut Factory Qazigund by SDM Dooru along with senior officers and officials of line departments.

The reception ceremonies were held in a vibrant and colorful manner, witnessing showering of flowers on the Yatris. They were also provided on spot assistance on accommodation, langars and other essential services. Notably, the adminis-

tration has made comprehensive arrangements including accommodation, health care transportation, sanitation, drinking water and langars for the Yatris. Many service providers have made multiple essential items like sim cards, clothes, trekking utilities and shoes available at designated stations enroute for the ease and convenience of the devotees.

The pilgrims expressed satisfaction on the overall arrangements and were highly enthusiastic as they prepare to commence their sacred pilgrimage to the Holy Cave in the early hours of July 03.

Bandipora welcomes Amarnath Yatris with warmth

DIG North Kashmir, DC B'pora, SSP review security, facilities at Shadipora Transit Camp

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026 pilgrims received a warm, traditional welcome at the Shadipora Transit Camp on Thursday, as Deputy Inspector General of Police, North Kashmir Range, Dr. Vinod Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib; and Senior Superintendent of Police, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, greeted

the yatris with flowers and good wishes for a safe and spiritually fulfilling journey.

The officers interacted with pilgrims, enquired about their well-being, and reaffirmed the District Administration's commitment to a comfortable, hassle-free pilgrimage.

Ahead of the reception, the DC and the SSP carried out a detailed inspection of camp arrangements, reviewing accommodation,

sanitation, drinking water, healthcare, electricity, traffic management, and security deployment. Expressing satisfaction with the preparations made by the District Administration, Police, and line departments, they directed all stakeholders to maintain close coordination, respond promptly to requirements, and ensure uninterrupted services throughout the Yatra period, upholding the highest standards of hospitality and security.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No:45/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/2615-25 | Dated: 02-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Restoration of culvert and P bund near the house of master Nazir Ah Reshi at Amirabad.	7.61	300/-	2% of Adv cost	30 days	Constituency Development Fund 2026-27 (Tlal Constituency)	CEE, DEE	DDCP

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No.82-DDCP of 2026 Dated: 27.06.2026.

Position of funds: Committed.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-07-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02-07-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	03-07-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	14-07-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15-07-2026 12:00 PM

- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department) (The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG.
- All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG.
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG, which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

Sd/- Technical officer
DIPK-2789-26
DT: 02/07/2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
Email: Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in
NO: T-1/EEA/2657-61 | Dated: 02/07/2026

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: -

- Construction of Synthetic Volley Ball Court at HSS Dadsara.
- Construction of Synthetic Volley Ball Court at GHSS Panzgam.
- Construction of Synthetic Volley Ball Court at Allochibagh (Civil Part).

Reference: -

- This office e-NIT No. 27/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/1809-19 Dated 10-06-2026.

Please read item No. 6 of advertised BOQ's as under:-

Please read item No. 6 as	Instead of
Providing and fixing of artificial UV resistant polyethylene synthetic (FIFA approved) Grass with rigid monofilament yarn, 40mm pile height and 1250 gm/sqm weight with total carpet weight not less than 2500 gm/sqm and infill in the ratio of 2:1 with silica sand (size of sand 0.2mm-1.00mm) 15mm (minimum) height and Rubber 8mm (minimum) height infill weight not less than 2.25 kg/sft. The stitch rate per meter should be minimum of 285, all line marking shall be white, unless in the drawings. Line marking shall be stitched "tufted" material (painted lines are not acceptable) the carpet should be laid as per the manufacturers manual including all applicable taxes, levies, octroi, transportation loading/unloading complete (European/American made) @ Rs 3315/ sqm Estimated/Advertised Cost = Rs 14.78 Lacs. Class of Contractor = BEE, CEE, DEE.	Providing and fixing of artificial UV Resistant polyethylene synthetic (FIFA approved) Grass with ridged monofilament yarn, 35 mm pile height and 1250 gm / sqm pile weight with total carpet weight not less than 2500 gm / sqm and infill in the ratio of 2:1 with sand (size of sand 0.2mm - 1.00 mm) 15 mm (minimum) height and rubber 8 mm (minimum) height infill weight not less than 2.25 kg / sft. the stitch rate per mtr should be minimum of 285 all line marking shall be white , unless in the drawings line marking shall be stitched " tufted " material (painted line or not accepted) the carpet should be laid as per manufacturers manual inc. all applicable taxes lavies, octroi , transportation laoding unloading complete job (European /American made) @ Rs 3438.10/ sqm Estimated/Advertised Cost = Rs 15.22 Lacs. Class of Contractor = BEE, CEE.

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT

Sd/- Technical officer
DIPK-2790-26
DT: 02/07/2026

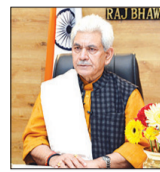
Sd/- Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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Success of these efforts will be measured by the confidence of our students and their contribution to a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir. Many countries have shown that in times of crisis the younger generation becomes our greatest hope. Beyond the standard curriculum, learning must include how to overcome hardships, help rebuild communities and support one another.

Ensure Thorough, Pilgrim-Friendly Security Checks: DGP To Officers

Asks Them To Maintain Seamless Movement Of Amarnath Yatris



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Thursday directed the officers to ensure thorough yet pilgrim-friendly security checks and maintain seamless movement of Amarnath Yatris.

According to the details available, DGP Prabhat today visited the Nunwan Base Camp at Pahalgam to review the arrangements made for the smooth, safe, and hassle-free conduct of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

He stressed the need for close coordination among all security agencies and civil administration to ensure a secure, peaceful, and hassle-free pilgrimage.

The DGP appreciated the dedication and commitment of the police personnel and other security forces deployed on Yatra duty. He

urged them to remain alert, responsive, and compassionate while performing their responsibilities, ensuring that every pilgrim feels safe and well-assisted throughout the pilgrimage.

The DGP conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Base Camp and took stock of the facilities and arrangements made for the yatris. He reviewed the security arrangements, access control measures, deployment of police personnel, traffic regulation, emergency response preparedness, and other logistical arrangements to ensure the safety, security, and convenience of the pilgrims.

The DGP also interacted with police personnel deployed at the Base Camp and appreciated their dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment towards •P-06

Amarnath Yatra Commences

LG Manoj Sinha Flags Off First Pilgrim Batch Amid Tight Security

Extends His Best Wishes To Yatris For A Safe, Blissful, Spiritually Fulfilling Journey

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday flagged off the first batch of devotees for the pilgrimage to the holy cave of Shri Amarnath Ji, from Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp in Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes to all the yatris embarking on the holy pilgrimage.

“Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a sacred path where devotion meets spiritual awakening. I wish all devotees a safe, comfortable, blissful and spiritually fulfilling journey. May this holy pilgrimage bring immense joy and divine peace to all,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

J&K UT administration, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, J&K Police, Army, security forces, local community and all the stakeholders have made extensive arrangements for the



devotees coming from across the country and abroad.

In the first batch, more than 4800 pilgrims set off for the holy yatra of Shri Amarnath Ji, in a convoy of

250 light and heavy vehicles.

Spiritual leaders; heads of religious organizations; public representatives; senior officers of civil administration, Police,

security forces and Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, prominent citizens, and devotees in large number were present at the Flag-off ceremony.

Pilgrims Accorded Warm Welcome In Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As the convoy entered the Valley through the Navyug Tunnel in Qazigund,

the pilgrims were accorded a warm and traditional welcome by the District Administration Kulgam led by Deputy Commissioner Shahzad Alam, senior police officers and local residents.

The reception was marked

by showering of flowers and traditional greetings, symbolising the Valley's age-old tradition of welcoming the annual pilgrimage.

The convoy later passed through Srinagar, where another reception was organ-

ised by the District Administration at Panthachowk Bypass.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo and Senior Superintendent of Police Sundeep Chakravarthy welcomed the pilgrims and reviewed the •P-06

Rain Brings Relief From Heatwave In J&K



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Rainfall across several parts of Jammu and Kashmir brought relief from the recent heatwave on Thursday, with maximum temperatures settling at or below normal in most places.

According to data accessed, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 29.1 degrees Celsius, 0.5 degrees below normal, while Jammu registered 34.5 degrees Celsius, 1.5 degrees below normal.

Other major stations in Kashmir recorded 28.5 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, 28.7 degrees in Kupwara, 27.6 degrees in Kokernag, 22.1 degrees in Pahalgam and 21.6 degrees in Gulmarg.

In the Jammu region, Banihal recorded 28 degrees Celsius, Batote 25.1 degrees, Bhaderwah 26.5 degrees and Katra 32 degrees Celsius, all remaining below normal for this time of the year.

The improvement in weather followed rainfall in several districts over the past 24 hours. Kathua received the highest rainfall in the Union Territory at 85.8 mm, followed by Katra with 39 mm, Ramban 34.5 •P-06

Cabinet Expansion: Limits, Indications & Possibilities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's announcement of a reshuffle and expansion in the cabinet, timed around the party's protest on statehood in New Delhi, has shifted the entire focus to the proposed rejig in the council of ministers.

In an interview on Wednesday, CM Omar Abdullah said that the cabinet reshuffle and expansion would take place around the party's Jantar Mantar protest programme. Since the CM's announcement, speculations have been swirling about the contours of the rejig.

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Union Territory cannot have more than nine ministers, as the permissible limit is capped at ten per cent of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly.

Section 53 of the Act states:



“There shall be a Council of Ministers consisting of not more than ten per cent of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly, with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly has power to make laws, except in so far as he is required by •P-06

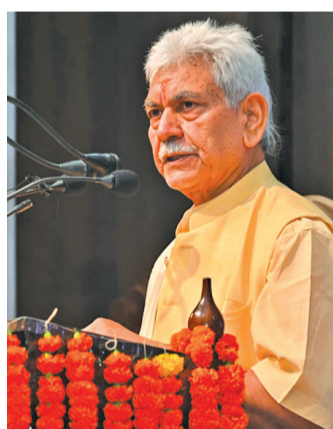
NEP Focussing On Developing Creative, Responsible Citizens: LG

Attends One Day Capacity Building Programme Of School Education Department

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Thursday attended 'One Day Capacity Building Programme' organised by Bharti Airtel Foundation, State Council of Educational Research and Training, J&K and School Education Department. The event served as a formal platform for the launch of instructional resources jointly developed by the three institutions aimed at strengthening the professional capacities of teachers and enriching the overall quality of school education across the Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said the initiative is a collective pledge and rooted in a fundamental truth that when we empower



teachers, we inspire confidence in our students.

“When teachers are empowered, students gain confidence. When schools are strengthened, society becomes more resilient

and when education moves in the right direction, Jammu Kashmir and the nation advance toward a brighter, safer and more prosperous future.

We must remember that the ultimate purpose of education is transformation. When learning connects with lived experiences, it sparks generational change. The greatest power of education does not lie in exam results but in its ability to change lives. A dedicated teacher shapes destiny. I want schools in Jammu Kashmir to focus on this aspect and become laboratories of life-building,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The one-day capacity-building programme is also linked to the broader “Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir” campaign. Its aim is to improve teaching •P-06

EOW Chargesheets Four In Health Deptt Recruitment Scam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir on Thursday said it has chargesheeted four individuals for allegedly securing government jobs in the Health Department using fake and forged educational certificates.

A spokesperson said the Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch J&K), Kashmir, has filed a chargesheet in FIR No. 16/2014 under Sections 420, 468 and 471 RPC before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, against four accused for allegedly securing government appointments through fake and forged educational testimonials.

He said the accused are Shuja Jeevani S/o Gh. Jeevani R/o 79-B, Pamposh Colony, Channapora, Srinagar; Mohd Iqbal S/o Mohd Usman R/o H.No. 181, Umer Colony, Lal Nagar, Channa-

pura, Srinagar; Nisar Ahmad Wani S/o Nasir Ahmad Wani R/o Malwari, Pulwama; and Riyaz Ahmad Shah S/o Ab. Aziz Shah R/o Midoora, Awantipora, Pulwama.

“The case was registered following a complaint alleg-

THE GENERAL public is advised to remain vigilant against economic fraudsters and report any such incidents to the SSP, EOW Kashmir, Crime Branch J&K.

ing that four candidates selected by the Services Selection Recruitment Board (SSRB) for various posts in the Health Department had secured their appointments on the basis of fake and forged educational testimonials,” the spokesperson said.

He said that during verification, the documents •P-06

'Bangladesh Of Kashmir' Wular Village Sees Tourism Boom With Shikara Rides

Locals Rue Poor Road Connectivity Limiting Village's Tourism Potential

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Zurimanz, a small village on the banks of Wular Lake, is steadily emerging as a tourism destination, with shikara rides creating new livelihood opportunities for residents who have traditionally depended on fishing and water chestnut cultivation.

Popularly known as the “Bangladesh of Kashmir”, located between the towns of Sopore and Bandipora, the village post development of scenic attractions, including a selfie point and a boardwalk, has become a favourite stop for both local and non-local visitors, many of whom enjoy shikara rides that offer panoramic views of the lake and its surroundings.

Residents said that tour-



ism has begun transforming the local economy. While fishing and water chestnut cultivation remain the primary occupations for hundreds of

households, shikara rides have emerged as an additional source of income for at least two dozen families.

The growing tourist footfall

has also created opportunities for local youth, many of whom have set up food stalls and small businesses around the tourist site.

According to locals, the village receives an average of over 300 visitors daily, while the number crosses 1,000 on weekends and public holidays.

Despite the encouraging growth, residents said poor road connectivity continues to limit the village's tourism potential.

Mohammad Aamir, a resident, said the existing road has remained in poor condition since it was constructed around 2001.

“Tourists are coming, but many hesitate because of the road conditions. Better connectivity will bring more visitors and strengthen the •P-06

Anti-Party Activities Congress Suspends 2 J&K Leaders From Membership AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Indian National Congress on Wednesday suspended two leaders from Jammu and Kashmir from the primary membership of the party with immediate effect over alleged anti-party activities.

According to a communication issued by the All India Congress Committee (AICC), Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge approved the suspension of AICC members Mohd. Anwar Bhatt and Bashir Ahmed Khan.

The party said the action was taken on account of their “anti-party activities” in Jammu and Kashmir. “The Hon'ble Congress President has approved the suspension of the the AICC Members from Jammu & Kashmir from the primary membership of the Indian National Congress, with immediate effect, •P-06

PC Rallies Against NC-Led Govt Over 'Sidelineing' MLAs In Governance



GMK NEWS NETWORK

HANDWARA: Peoples Conference (PC) on Thursday staged a massive protest rally in north Kashmir's Handwara town over the alleged sidelining of MLAs by the NC-led government.

PC workers organized a large protest gathering against what they described as the weakening of the MLA's role by the incumbent regime. Chanting pro-PC and anti-NC slogans, party leaders including Sheikh Imran, Bashir Ahmad Dar, and Mansoor Bandy marched through the streets of the town, protesting the exclusion of PC MLA Sajad Gani

Lone from official functions in his constituency.

“They are eroding the institution of MLAs. The MLA is an institution. Omar Abdullah is crying that he doesn't have powers and should be given statehood, but on the other hand he is conspiring to weaken MLAs,” State Secretary (Organisation) Sheikh Muhammad Imran told the protest rally.

He added that even the MLAs of the ruling party are being maltreated by the government. “His own MLAs didn't participate in the programmes of the Deputy CM in Rajouri,” he alleged.

Last month, Lone, a vocal critic of the •P-06

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

The Unfinished Promise

More than three decades ago, Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave their homes in the Valley, carrying little more than memories and a hope of returning. Today, a new crisis is quietly unfolding in the community's makeshift settlements and rented rooms: a crushing wave of unemployment among its brightest, most educated youth. While successive governments have offered plenty of comforting words about rehabilitation, actual opportunities have dried up. An entire generation has grown up, earned their degrees, and entered a job market that seems to have forgotten them.

The last major lifeline came nearly two decades ago with the 2008-09 special employment package. Since then? Silence. Thousands of qualified young men and women have watched their prime working years slip away, their frustration mounting as they wrestle with an uncertain future.

Recently, the Jammu and Kashmir Displaced Kashmiri Pandit Front made an appeal that deserves our undivided attention. They aren't asking for handouts; they are asking for a fair shot at rebuilding their lives. Their proposal is straightforward and urgent: A New Employment Package: At least 10,000 new posts cut across Central Government and Union Territory departments.

Accessible Recruitment: On-site recruitment drives held directly within migrant camps and non-camp areas to eliminate the logistical and financial hurdles these youth face.

One Job Per Family: A policy ensuring at least one stable government job for every displaced household.

For a family living in exile, a job is so much more than a monthly paycheck. It is a restoration of self-respect. It is the security of knowing you can take care of your parents, and the quiet confidence that you finally belong somewhere.

The Reality of Modern Inflation

Beyond employment, the community is facing an immediate financial squeeze. The current monthly cash assistance of 13,000 simply hasn't kept pace with reality.

Try managing a household, paying for medical care, and funding a child's education on 13,000 a month in today's economy. It is an impossible mathematical puzzle.

Raising this relief to 25,000 isn't an unreasonable demand, it is a necessary adjustment to inflation that would allow families to live with basic human decency. The Government of India has frequently spoken of its commitment to the Kashmiri Pandit community. But commitments matter little if they don't translate into tangible action. This isn't a political bargaining chip; it is a human rights issue.

Time shouldn't be allowed to blur the hardships these families have endured. If "rehabilitation" is ever going to mean more than a buzzword on a policy document, it has to start with economic empowerment. For the youth of this community, a job isn't just a livelihood, it is the ultimate step toward reclaiming the dignity and stability that was taken from them thirty-six years ago.

Amarnath Yatra

A Sacred Journey And Kashmir's Timeless Tradition Of Hospitality

MOHD AMIN MIR

Every summer, as the snow begins to melt in the majestic Himalayas of Kashmir, thousands of pilgrims from every corner of India undertake one of the world's most challenging and spiritually uplifting pilgrimages, the Amarnath Yatra. For the devotees of Lord Shiva, this journey is much more than a physical trek through mountains and glaciers. It is a journey of faith, devotion, sacrifice, and self-realisation. For the people of Kashmir, particularly those living along the traditional pilgrimage routes, the Yatra has for centuries represented an opportunity to extend hospitality, compassion, and friendship to visiting guests.

Recently, while discussing the Yatra with my 75-year-old mother, I was deeply moved by her memories. She recalled the early 1970s when there were no modern roads leading close to the holy cave, no helicopters, and very few facilities. Pilgrims travelled almost entirely on foot, carrying only essential belongings. They spent days crossing rugged mountain paths, enduring rain, cold winds, and exhaustion, yet their faith never weakened.

My mother remarked that for many Hindus, the darshan of the naturally formed ice Shivling inside the sacred cave holds a significance comparable to the importance of the Hajj for Muslims. Although the two pilgrimages belong to different religions, her observation reflected a universal truth: every faith has sacred journeys that inspire believers to strengthen their relationship with God. Her words reminded me that understanding another person's faith with respect enriches our own humanity. Like countless other Kashmiris, my mother and I feel genuine happiness when the pilgrims arrive in our Valley. Their presence reminds us that Kashmir has historically been a land where spirituality, hospitality, and human warmth have flourished together.

The Amarnath Cave, situated at an altitude of approximately 3,888 metres above sea level in the Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir, is among the holiest pilgrimage destinations in Hinduism. According to ancient traditions, Lord Shiva chose this secluded cave to reveal the secret of immortality, Amar Katha, to Goddess Parvati. The legend narrates that before entering the cave, Shiva left behind every living companion and worldly symbol. Nandi was left at Pahalgam, the Moon at Chandanwari, the snakes near Sheshnag, Lord Ganesh at Mahagunas, and the five elements at Panchtarni. Only then did he enter the cave to narrate the eternal mystery of life and death.

Within the cave, an ice stalagmite naturally forms every year from freezing water droplets. Devotees worship this naturally occurring formation as the sacred Shivling. For millions, it symbolizes the eternal presence of Lord Shiva.

Historical references indicate that the cave has been known for many centuries. Ancient Sanskrit literature and later historical writings mention the sacred shrine, demonstrating that the pilgrimage has deep roots in the cultural and religious history of Kashmir.

One of the most cherished traditions associated with the cave concerns a Muslim shepherd named Buta Malik.



According to local folklore, he met a holy saint who gifted him a bag of coal. Upon returning home, he discovered that the coal had transformed into gold. When he went back to thank the saint, he instead found the holy cave containing the sacred ice Shivling.

Whether understood as history or legend, the story beautifully symbolizes Kashmir's shared heritage. A Muslim shepherd became associated with one of Hinduism's most sacred pilgrimage sites, reflecting centuries of coexistence and mutual respect in the Valley.

The Amarnath Yatra has transformed significantly over the decades. During the 1960s and 1970s, the pilgrimage was far more arduous than today. Most pilgrims travelled by buses to Pahalgam before continuing entirely on foot through dense forests, steep mountains, glaciers, and narrow tracks. Accommodation was basic. Pilgrims often slept in tents or under the open sky. Medical facilities were limited, and communication was almost nonexistent. Yet every year, thousands undertook the journey with unwavering devotion.

Today, improved roads, communication systems, weather forecasting, medical camps, rescue services, sanitation facilities, and helicopter services have made the pilgrimage safer and more organized. Nevertheless, the journey continues to demand physical endurance and spiritual determination.

As my mother shared her memories, I could almost visualize those earlier decades. She remembered groups of pilgrims walking through villages with simple clothing, wooden walking sticks, and heartfelt chants of "Har Har Mahadev." Village children watched with curiosity and admiration. Local residents greeted the pilgrims warmly, offered drinking water, tea, or directions whenever needed, and wished them a safe journey. There were no smartphones, no live television broadcasts, and no social media updates. News travelled through conversations, and the arrival of pilgrims was itself a significant annual event. The Yatra brought people together and fostered meaningful interactions between visitors and local communities.

Those memories remain precious because they remind us of a time when hospitality flowed naturally from the hearts of ordinary people.

Hospitality has always been among Kashmir's finest traditions. Visitors have historically described Kashmir not

only for its breathtaking beauty but also for the kindness of its people.

The arrival of Amarnath pilgrims every summer has long strengthened this tradition. Local residents, pony owners, labourers, shopkeepers, taxi drivers, hoteliers, and volunteers all contribute in different ways to making the pilgrimage comfortable and memorable. Many families eagerly await the pilgrimage season because it supports livelihoods while also providing opportunities to serve fellow human beings.

Serving guests has always occupied a respected place in Kashmiri culture. Regardless of religion or region, visitors are traditionally welcomed with dignity and respect.

Although the Amarnath Yatra is a Hindu pilgrimage, its successful conduct depends upon cooperation among people from diverse communities. Doctors, nurses, rescue personnel, sanitation workers, police officers, security forces, civil administration, volunteers, pony operators, porters, transport workers, and local residents all play indispensable roles.

Their collective efforts demonstrate that compassion and public service know no religious boundaries. This cooperation serves as an inspiring reminder that humanity flourishes when individuals work together despite differences.

The pilgrimage also contributes significantly to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. Thousands of local families earn seasonal incomes through transportation services, pony services, portering, tent accommodation, restaurants, handicraft sales, hotels, taxis, and small businesses. For many households living in mountainous areas, the Yatra provides an important source of annual income. Economic activity generated during the pilgrimage supports livelihoods and stimulates local markets across several districts.

The Himalayan environment surrounding the cave is ecologically fragile. Pilgrims and authorities alike share the responsibility of protecting forests, glaciers, streams, and alpine meadows. Plastic waste should be minimized, cleanliness maintained, and environmental regulations strictly followed. Protecting nature also honours the spiritual significance of the pilgrimage, for the mountains themselves are regarded as sacred.

The Amarnath Yatra teaches valuable lessons extending beyond religion.

- It teaches perseverance through difficult terrain.
- It teaches patience in adversity.
- It teaches humility before nature.
- It teaches equality because every pilgrim walks the same difficult path regardless of wealth or social status.
- Above all, it teaches faith, hope, discipline, and compassion.
- These values are equally relevant in everyday life.

Listening to my mother's memories reminded me that Kashmir's identity has always been enriched by hospitality. When pilgrims arrive, they bring prayers, hopes, and aspirations. Local people, in turn, offer assistance, friendship, and goodwill. Such interactions strengthen bonds that extend far beyond the duration of the pilgrimage itself. My mother's observation comparing the importance of the darshan for Hindus with the significance of the Hajj for Muslims was not intended to equate two distinct religious traditions in every respect. Rather, it expressed a heartfelt recognition that every faith treasures sacred journeys through which believers seek spiritual fulfilment. Respecting another community's devotion is itself an expression of mutual respect.

The future of the Amarnath Yatra should rest upon three essential pillars: safety, environmental protection, and communal harmony. Modern infrastructure should continue to improve while preserving the fragile ecosystem. Pilgrims should receive the best possible medical care, information, and emergency assistance. Local communities should continue to benefit economically while maintaining their cherished tradition of hospitality. Most importantly, the Yatra should remain an occasion that brings people together rather than dividing them.

The Amarnath Yatra is not merely an annual pilgrimage. It is a living symbol of faith, endurance, cultural continuity, and human connection. For generations, Kashmiris have witnessed pilgrims crossing mountains in pursuit of spiritual peace. My mother's memories of the early 1970s remind us of simpler times when pilgrims walked long distances with unwavering faith and local communities welcomed them with sincerity and warmth. Those memories continue to inspire hope that kindness, hospitality, and mutual respect remain among Kashmir's greatest strengths. As another Yatra season unfolds, my mother and I join countless other Kashmiris in praying for the safety, health, and peaceful journey of every pilgrim. May every devotee return home with cherished memories, renewed faith, and a deeper appreciation of the Valley's timeless tradition of welcoming guests.

The Amarnath Yatra belongs to the spiritual heritage of India, but it also reflects a universal truth: when people meet each other with respect, compassion, and goodwill, faith becomes a bridge that connects hearts rather than a barrier that separates them. In that enduring spirit of humanity, Kashmir continues to welcome its guests with warmth and hope, just as it has done for generations.

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Empowering The Last Mile

Enabling Every Dream Through Post Matric Scholarships

SUDHANSH PANT

As Bharat advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, our department remains dedicated in its commitment towards empowering the last mile by ensuring access to quality education and enabling the Nation's Youth through inclusive and impactful scholarship support. Demonstrating its firm commitment towards educational empowerment and social inclusion, the Department has earmarked an estimated budget of Rs. 1300 crore for the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs, EBCs and DNTs for the year 2026-27. Over the last five years, the scholarship scheme has benefited more than 107 lakh students, with a total fund release of over Rs. 5,350 crores, reflecting its sustained focus on supporting eligible students across the country.

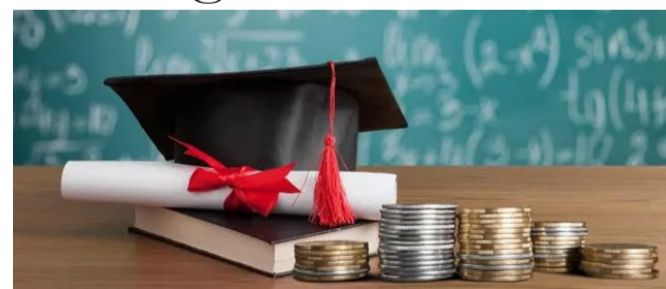
In line with the vision of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to build an inclusive society where disadvantaged and vulnerable communities can

lead productive, safe, and dignified lives, several transformative initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen educational and social empowerment.

These efforts are focused not merely on scheme implementation, but on building trust, awareness, and accessibility among vulnerable communities.

However, as highlighted in the Impact Assessment Report by NITI Aayog, awareness of welfare schemes at the grassroots level continues to remain a challenge, even in the digital era. Recognising this critical gap, the Department has adopted innovative outreach strategies to ensure that the benefits of scholarship and welfare schemes effectively reach the last mile.

The transformative impact of the Department's scholarship initiatives is reflected in the journey of Mahesh Appaiya Nandi Kolmat, a fourth-year BBA student at Alva's College (Autonomous), Sundari Ananda Alva Campus, Moodubidire, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka. Sharing his experience, he said that the Post-Matric



Scholarship has greatly helped him in paying his hostel and college fees, enabling him to continue his studies without financial burden.

Another inspiring example of the Department's inclusive educational outreach is the story of Sakshi Thakur, a Class 12 student studying at Government Senior Secondary School, Khalag, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. Sharing her experience, she said that she received an amount of Rs. 5,000 under the PM-YASASVI Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, which greatly supported her studies. She expressed her gratitude to the Government of India for the valuable assistance provided

through the scholarship.

In order to further strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency and outreach of the Post Matric Scholarship, the Department periodically undertakes a comprehensive impact assessment of the schemes in collaboration with NITI Aayog and independent third-party agencies. The assessment aims to evaluate the on-ground implementation of the schemes, identify existing gaps and operational challenges, and understand the experiences of beneficiaries at the grassroots level. The findings of this exercise support policy makers and the officials in enhancing transparency, improving service

delivery mechanisms, refining outreach strategies, and ensuring that the benefits of the schemes reach every deserving student efficiently.

This evidence-based approach reflects the Department's commitment towards continuous improvement, accountability, and building a more inclusive and responsive welfare ecosystem.

The continued efforts of officials at every level from policy formulation to grassroots implementation reflect a collective effort to transform scholarships into effective instruments of educational empowerment and social inclusion. Through sustained outreach, transparent governance, and citizen-centric implementation, the Department aims to create a future where every young individual, irrespective of background, has the opportunity to realise their aspirations and contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress. (PIB)

(The Author is Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment Government of India)

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

■ Silent Negligence Of Modern Parenting

Are We Raising Children Or Merely Providing For Them?



RAVINDER KAUR

We live in a time when parents are working harder than ever before to give their children the best possible life. Better schools. Online tuition classes. Branded clothes. Modern gadgets. Extracurricular activities. Every comfort that money can provide. Parents today are making sacrifices that previous generations may never have imagined. They work long hours, carry professional responsibilities, and dream endlessly for the success of their children. Yet, amidst all these efforts, a difficult question remains: Are we building our children's future while unknowingly losing their childhood?

This article is not written to blame parents. In truth, this includes all of us. Because somewhere in our race to provide everything for our children, we may have forgotten to ask ourselves an important question: Do we know what our children are learning when we are not watching? Many parents know the name of their child's school, tuition teacher, and favourite subject. But do they know what kind of videos their child watches every day? Do they know the language their children use with friends, siblings, cousins, and classmates? Do they know which voices are shaping their child's personality?

Today, many children are growing up in homes where their strongest influence is no longer family conversations but digital content. Their jokes come from the internet. Their expressions come from social media. Their attitudes come from strangers they have never met. And gradually, their language no longer belongs entirely to their homes. The language children use today often surprises even adults.

Many words, expressions, and styles of communication carry meanings that never existed in our homes, our traditions, or our cultures. If we speak specifically about Kashmir, this concern becomes even more serious. Kashmir has always been recognised for its warmth, respect, hospitality, and soft-spoken culture. Whether in Kashmiri, Urdu, Hindi, or English, our conversations carried dignity and grace. Respect

was not taught through lectures. It was absorbed naturally through observation. Children learnt manners by listening to elders speak. They learned kindness by watching families interact. They learned patience from the atmosphere around them. Today, however, many educators and parents ask the same question: What kind of language are we handing over to the next generation? Will they inherit the softness and politeness that once defined our society? Or will they inherit impatience, aggression,

But do they know what kind of videos their child watches every day? Do they know the language their children use with friends, siblings, cousins, and classmates? Do they know which voices are shaping their child's personality?

sion, sarcasm, and disrespect learned from screens?

This is not merely a question about vocabulary. It is a question about culture. It is a question about identity. It is a question about who we are becoming. Another silent concern is the gradual disappearance of respect and self-discipline. Many children today know rules but do not understand discipline. They know instructions but do not understand responsibility. They know freedom but do not understand boundaries.



Schools work tirelessly to teach values, discipline, punctuality, and respect. Teachers spend hours helping children become responsible individuals. Schools are giving their hundred per cent. But schools cannot replace homes. A teacher may spend six or seven hours with a child. Parents shape the remaining seventeen or eighteen hours. Schools educate children. Homes shape human beings. What happens when a child is emotionally absent from family conversations? What happens when a child spends more time with a screen than with parents? What happens when the real teacher becomes an algorithm? Children are not only learning information. They are learning attitudes. They are learning behaviour. They are learning language. And often they are learning these things far earlier than their age and emotional maturity can handle. Children today are exposed to conversations, jokes, and content that belong to much older age groups. Many repeat these words without understanding their meaning.

Many laugh at ideas they do not fully comprehend. The concern is not that children are learning. Learning is beautiful. The concern is: What are they learning? Who is teaching them? And are they learning it too early? Technology itself is not the problem. Screens are not enemies. Phones, tablets, and digital education are now an unavoidable part of modern life.

The concern begins when technology arrives without guidance. A two-year-old child holding a mobile phone has become a common sight. Many children are given screens during meals simply to keep them occupied. The child eats while scrolling. The parent feels relieved because the child is quiet. But something else is happening silently. The child's mind is being trained to expect constant movement, constant stimulation, and constant change.

Later, the same child struggles

to remain focused on a single task. Within minutes, attention shifts. The child wants to speak to a friend. Then they want to show something to the teacher. Then wants to play. Then they want to watch television. Then they want another activity. The child is not necessarily careless or disobedient. The brain has simply become accustomed to interruption. Attention span is not disappearing naturally. It is being trained away. And yet we often say, "Children today are different." Perhaps the better question is the following: Are children different? Or have we created environments that make concentration difficult? Parents often fear that their children may experience loneliness, anxiety, or depression. These concerns are real and important. But perhaps another question deserves equal attention: Is my child learning values that I would not want them to carry into adulthood? Sometimes the first lessons of disrespect, aggression, impatience, and insensitivity are not learned in schools. Sometimes they enter quietly through our own homes. Hidden behind unlimited access. Hidden behind convenience. Hidden behind our assumption that children know how to manage what even adults struggle to control. Children need supervision. They need conversations. They need guidance. They need boundaries. Freedom without boundaries is not freedom. It is confusion. Exposure alone is not education.

A child may know how to operate every application on a phone and still not know how to speak respectfully to another human being. A child may have access to unlimited information and still not understand gratitude, patience, kindness, or responsibility. Respect for others begins with respect for oneself. And both must be taught deliberately. The greatest lessons children learn rarely come through lec-

tures. Children learn through observation. If parents spend every meal looking at screens, children learn that screens deserve more attention than conversations. If a child approaches a parent and hears, "Wait, I am busy on my phone," the child learns another lesson: The phone is important. People can wait. Children copy what they see far more than they obey what they hear. If parents read books, children become curious about books. If parents speak respectfully, children learn respectful speech. If parents practise patience, children learn patience. Homes remain the first schools of life. Schools strengthen values. Homes create them.

There may come a time when society starts teaching discipline, emotional intelligence, and moral values through expensive workshops and training programmes. But values were never meant to be purchased. They were meant to be lived. Just as no one can eat an entire year's food in a single day, moral values cannot be taught in a single lesson. They are given slowly. Patiently. Repeatedly. Day after day. Conversation after conversation. Example after example. Values become habits. Habits become character. Character becomes destiny.

Parents have every right to pursue dreams for themselves and for their children. They should work hard. They should succeed. They should build better lives. But may we never reach a point where we achieve every dream we chased only to discover that the values which gave those dreams meaning were quietly lost along the way.

One day our children may forget the brand of clothes we bought for them. They may forget the tuition classes we arranged. They may forget the gadgets we gave them. But they will always remember whether someone sat beside them. Whether someone listened. Whether someone guided them. Whether someone taught them how to become good human beings. Because children do not only need parents who provide for them. They need parents who are present for them. And perhaps that is the greatest responsibility of parenting in the modern world.

Har shay apne bachche ko paane do, Har manzil ko chhoone ka hausla do.

"Unhe thoda befikr hokar jeena bhi sikhaiye, Magar saath hi sanskaron ki chaabi bhi unke haath mein rakh dijiye, Kyunki Raumi manzilen insaan ko kaamyab banati hain, Par sanskar usse insaan banaye rakhkte hain"

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Beyond The Epicenter

Venezuela's Earthquake And The Global Precedent

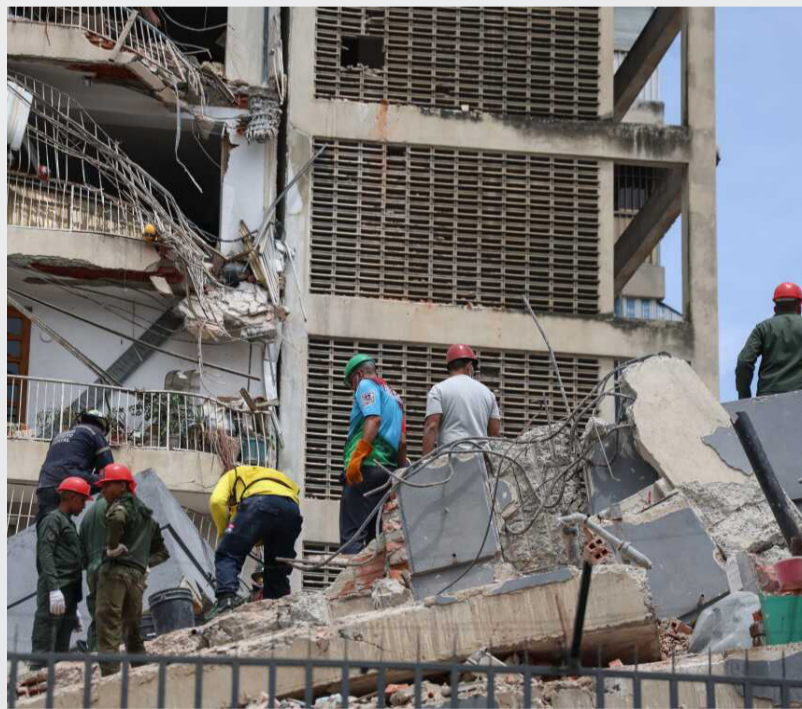
DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

When nature unleashes its fury, it truly tests humanity's technological achievements, economic progress, and administrative pretensions. The powerful earthquake in Venezuela once again illustrated that years of hard work, dreams, and the illusion of a secure life can be reduced to rubble in a matter of moments. A few seconds of earth tremor not only toppled buildings but also deeply threatened the hopes, livelihoods, and futures of thousands of families.

Natural disasters like earthquakes aren't just geological events; they also test a nation's preparedness, governance, social structure, and human sensitivity. The cries of those trapped under rubble, families searching for loved ones, the injured waiting for treatment in hospitals, temporary lives in relief camps, and nights spent in fear reveal that the true pain of disaster is far deeper than statistics.

Venezuela already faces economic challenges, resource constraints, and administrative pressures. This natural disaster, which strikes at this time, not only causes physical destruction but also places additional burdens on healthcare, communications, transportation, electricity, drinking water, and relief systems. This is why the impact of any disaster is more widespread in a society where infrastructure is already weak.

The greatest irony is that disasters do not affect everyone equally. People living in safe and sturdy buildings suffer relatively less damage, while those living in weak construction, unplanned settlements, and



families with limited resources are most affected. The poor, laborers, women, children, the elderly, and the disabled pay the greatest price. Therefore, natural disasters gradually become a manifestation of social and economic inequality.

This is where the importance of urban planning comes into play. If cities are developed according to scientific standards, buildings are constructed using earthquake-resistant techniques, open spaces are provided, emergency evacuation routes are developed, and hospitals are made disaster-ready, the loss of life and property can be significantly reduced. Unfortunately, in many countries, disregard for building

regulations, illegal construction, and poor supervision make such tragedies even more devastating.

The first 72 hours after an earthquake are considered the most crucial. This is the time when the chances of rescuing people trapped under debris are highest. Therefore, the speed, coordination, and efficiency of relief and rescue operations can make the difference between life and death for many. Rescue teams, doctors, firefighters, the military, local administration, and voluntary organizations become the biggest ray of hope in these difficult times.

Relief work goes beyond providing food and medicine. Temporary hous-

ing, clean drinking water, sanitation, mental health support, child protection, women's needs, and the restoration of communication services are equally essential. True rehabilitation from any disaster is possible only when affected people are provided not only with the means to survive but also with the opportunity to resume their lives with dignity.

Such tragedies also test the credibility of governance. The public observes how quickly, transparently, and effectively the government acts in times of crisis. Clear information, quick decisions, proper distribution of resources, and administrative coordination maintain public confidence. Conversely, if there is confusion, delay, or a lack of information in the initial hours, the crisis becomes more severe.

Today, disaster management is no longer limited to relief operations. The modern approach emphasizes that preparedness is the best defense against disasters. Regular mock drills in schools, offices, hospitals, and public institutions, first aid training, local volunteer networks, timely warning systems, and public awareness programs can save thousands of lives. Educating citizens about the dos and don'ts of an earthquake is as important as any technological system.

This tragedy also has a global dimension. Natural disasters do not recognize national boundaries. When a country's capacity is stretched thin, international cooperation becomes humanity's strongest foundation. Efforts such as relief supplies, medical teams, search and rescue experts, technical assistance, temporary shelters, and reconstruction support strengthen a sense of global responsibility. This is a time

when humanity is needed more than politics.

In this era of climate change and rapid urbanization, most countries in the world face the risk of some form of natural disaster. Earthquakes cannot be prevented, but their devastating impact can certainly be mitigated. This requires scientific research, robust infrastructure, stringent building standards, sustainable urban planning, and effective disaster management systems.

This tragedy in Venezuela also serves as a serious warning to the global community. We must understand that secure societies are not built solely on economic growth, but on visionary policies, strong institutions, scientific thinking, and citizen participation. Development is meaningful only when it can protect people's lives in times of crisis.

Ultimately, the greatest lesson of any earthquake is that humanity's greatest strength against nature is its science, its organization, and its compassion. Relief, rehabilitation, safe construction, disaster preparedness, and social solidarity—these five pillars are the most effective means of mitigating future tragedies.

Venezuela's suffering isn't just the suffering of one nation; it's a reminder to all humanity that disasters strike suddenly, but the damage they cause determines our preparedness. Therefore, it's essential that we don't just let every tragedy become news, but instead transform it into an inspiration to secure the future. This will be the truest expression of sympathy and the most meaningful tribute to this tragic event.

(The author is a PhD in Political Science)

Ensure Thorough,

ensuring the successful conduct of the Yatra. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the highest standards of vigilance while adopting a pilgrim-friendly approach in the discharge of their duties.

Later, DGP Prabhat chaired a security review meeting at the Nunwan Base Camp, attended by senior police officers. The meeting focused on the prevailing security scenario, operational preparedness, deployment strategy, area domination, intelligence coordination, contingency planning, and measures to strengthen the overall security grid along the Yatra route.

The DGP directed the officers to maintain round-the-clock alertness, ensure effective supervision at all levels, and uphold close coordination among field formations for prompt response to any contingency.

He stressed that every possible measure should be taken to provide a safe, secure, and seamless pilgrimage experience for the yatrīs—(KNO)

Pilgrims Accorded Warm

arrangements made for their convenience.

The officers, along with local residents, extended their best wishes to the yatrīs and prayed for the safe, smooth and peaceful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The Pahalgam-bound pilgrims later reached the Nunwan Base Camp in Anantnag district, where they were warmly received by Deputy Commissioner and Yatra Officer Dr Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Senior Superintendent of Police Amod Ashok Nagpure, Camp Director Atul Kumar, senior civil and police officers and representatives of socio-religious organisations.

The officers interacted with the devotees and assured them that all arrangements had been made for their stay and onward journey to the holy cave shrine.

Officials said elaborate arrangements have been put in place at both Baltal and Nunwan base camps and all along the Yatra route, including accommodation, healthcare, transportation, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, communication facilities and langars.

Authorities have also established facilitation centres where essential items, including SIM cards, warm clothing, trekking gear and footwear, are available for the convenience of pilgrims.

This year's Amarnath Yatra is also witnessing one of the most technology-driven security deployments in recent years, blending traditional security measures with advanced surveillance and digital monitoring systems.

Officials said nearly 670 additional companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have been deployed across Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the security grid along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, both pilgrimage routes, base camps and other vulnerable locations.

Authorities have intensified aerial surveillance through drones at key transit points, highways, base camps and sensitive areas, while AI-assisted monitoring systems are being used for crowd management, movement analysis and real-time response coordination.

Pilgrims are being monitored through Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, enabling authorities to track their movement in real time and improve emergency response during adverse weather conditions or medical emergencies.

To further streamline the pilgrimage, Jammu and Kashmir Police has launched the 'PEHCHAAN' mobile application, providing pilgrims with real-time information, emergency assistance and other essential services aimed at ensuring a digitally connected and hassle-free Yatra experience.

Authorities have also deployed 30 Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs) across the Baltal and Nunwan-Pahalgam routes. Equipped with specialised mountaineering equipment, medical supplies and communication systems, the teams will remain stationed at vulnerable locations to respond swiftly to accidents, weather-related incidents and health emergencies.

Meanwhile, helicopter services for the pilgrimage have been suspended this year as part of enhanced security measures, with all pilgrims undertaking the journey by road to the respective base camps before

commencing the trek.

Officials said the multi-layered security architecture has been designed through close coordination among the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Armed Police Forces, Army, intelligence agencies and the civil administration to ensure the safe and peaceful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The annual Amarnath Yatra will formally begin from the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal on July 3 and is scheduled to continue for 57 days—(KNO)

Rain Brings

mm and Kishtwar 25 mm. In the Kashmir Valley, Batkoot recorded 27 mm of rain, Pampore 24.5 mm, Pahalgam 13.2 mm, Koker-nag 11.7 mm, Sonamarg 11.5 mm and Qazigund 9 mm. Srinagar received 2.4 mm of rainfall during the period.

The MeT office said the current spell has been caused by the interaction of active monsoon winds with a series of weak western disturbances affecting the region.

It said hot and humid conditions are likely to return between July 5 and July 8, although scattered rain and thunderstorms are expected to continue, particularly over parts of the Jammu division.

He cautioned that while widespread flooding is not anticipated, short-duration intense rainfall and isolated cloudbursts could trigger localized flash floods, waterlogging, landslides and a rise in water levels in streams and nallahs—(KNO)

Cabinet Expansion:

or under this Act to act in his discretion or by or under any law to exercise any judicial or quasi-judicial functions."

With Jammu and Kashmir having a total of 95 MLAs, the permissible number of ministers under the Act works out to 9.5. Since the figure includes a fraction, the rule is that if the fraction is 0.5 or below, it is rounded down to the nearest whole number. Therefore, 9.5 becomes 9. On the other hand, if the fraction is 0.6 or above, it is rounded up to the next whole number, making it 10.

So, J&K cannot have more than nine ministers. With six ministers currently in place, three slots remain vacant in the council of ministers.

The cabinet expansion is taking place after ruling National Conference's brainstorming session at Dachigam on June 03. The Chief Minister himself said that he feels it necessary to move forward with cabinet expansion and reshuffle after Dachigam meeting. What transpired at Dachigam is now widely known. The main highlight of the meeting was that Deputy CM Surinder Kumar Choudhary faced a torrent of criticism from NC legislators over fund allocation as well as his behaviour with legislators.

Two other ministers-Javid Rana and Satish Sharma-also faced criticism during the session.

The biggest possibility is that Surinder Kumar Choudhary may lose the key portfolio of the Roads & Buildings Department currently held by him. However, chances of him being dropped from the council of ministers or divested of the position of Deputy CM are slim, given that he is the seniormost Hindu MLA from Jammu region within the party.

The likelihood of a rejig in the portfolios of almost all ministers, including the Chief Minister, is very high. It is widely expected that Sakina Masood Ittoo and Javid Dar may be divested of less significant portfolios, considering their conduct over the past 20 months. Sakina Ittoo is regarded as one of the most effective ministers in the government and has played a key role in countering opposition parties.

Known for his quiet and diligent style of working, Javid is considered one of the most accessible ministers to MLAs.

The possibility of one minister being dropped from Jammu and replaced by someone from the region cannot be ruled out. However, that remains an even chance.

There is also a likelihood that two to three new faces from the Kashmir Valley could find a place in the cabinet. It will be interesting to watch whether Omar Abdullah keeps one berth vacant for the Congress in the government or fills it with a nominee from the NC.

All indications suggest that one new face each could be inducted from Central Kashmir and South

Kashmir, where the party would not find it difficult to make its choices. There could also be one new face from North Kashmir, though the chances are not very high. Six MLAs from the region are reportedly eyeing induction in the council of ministers—(KNO)

NEP Focussing On

methods and protect students from the challenges today's youth face. The Lieutenant Governor said that rising trends in drug abuse, mental stress, social pressure, digital-world risks and changing lifestyles have made the school's role more important than ever. He said teachers are being provided with modern tools and training so they help build students' personalities and empower them to face life's challenges.

"Every student is born with unique talents. Our duty is to recognise each child's talent and provide resources and tools to grow. I ask every teacher, with a strong sense of responsibility, to remember that education is not merely competition but an ongoing journey of self-development. In this journey you must respect and encourage each student's individuality.

Education today cannot be restricted to measurable academic achievement alone. The challenges of modern life are far more complex than before. Pressure from competition, societal expectations, stress, peer influence and the growing danger of substance abuse, are realities our children face daily. In such circumstances life-skills education becomes essential, and schools should focus on self-awareness, emotional balance, problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking. We must teach children practical lessons for living so they learn with greater confidence and contribute to building a healthy society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the National Education Policy's aim is to develop citizens who are creative, responsible, innovative, compassionate and self-reliant. He also commended the initiative of the Directorate, School Education Jammu to start online classes for grades 11 and 12 across ten districts. He said this is an important step toward educational equality and through this initiative even students in remote villages can access quality learning.

"Success of these efforts will be measured by the confidence of our students and their contribution to a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir. Many countries have shown that in times of crisis the younger generation becomes our greatest hope. Beyond the standard curriculum, learning must include how to overcome hardships, help rebuild communities and support one another. Life-skills-based education can reduce social divides and strengthen the values of diversity.

The purpose of education is the upliftment of all humanity. Today Jammu Kashmir is making its important contribution to this global endeavour. Every positive step taken here can reshape the lives of millions of children in the years ahead. This initiative also reflects the spirit of long-term collaboration among government, teachers, parents, industry and society. All the stakeholders must come together to build a Jammu Kashmir where every student feels safe, respected and inspired, where every teacher, through knowledge, compassion and dedication, shapes the next generation and where education becomes the primary means of transformation, confidence, social harmony and hope," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the meritorious students and winners of Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (TOFEI) initiative. Several books on life-skills were also released.

Shri Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman Bharti Airtel Foundation; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Ms Nuriya Ansari, CEO, Bharti Airtel Foundation; Dr. Naseem Javid Chowdhary, Director School Education Jammu, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, prominent citizens, teachers and students were present.

EOW Chargesheets

submitted by the accused were found to be forged and inconsistent

with the records furnished at the time of selection. Consequently, their selections were cancelled. The investigation established that the accused had dishonestly procured government employment by using forged certificates, thereby cheating the authorities.

"The general public is advised to remain vigilant against economic fraudsters and report any such incidents to the SSP, EOW Kashmir, Crime Branch J&K. Victims of economic fraud may also submit their complaints via email at sspew-kmr@jkpolice.gov.in," the spokesperson added.

Wular Village Sees

local economy. We request the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora and our MLA to improve the road and provide basic infrastructure so that this place can become a major tourism and livelihood hub," he said.

Tourists visiting the village praised both the natural beauty of Wular Lake and the hospitality of residents.

Balvinder Singh, a tourist from Punjab, said he discovered the destination through social media and was impressed by the peaceful atmosphere.

"This is my first visit here. The place is beautiful, and the weather is much more pleasant than many parts of the country facing intense summer heat. People from across India should visit and experience the beauty of Wular Lake," he said.

Another visitor, Anmol Singh from Amritsar, who has been touring Kashmir for the past 15 days, described Zurimanz as one of the most peaceful places he visited during his trip. "The environment here is calm and refreshing. People should come here and enjoy the beauty of Wular and the shikara ride," he said.

Locals, however, believe improved roads and better public amenities can help Zurimanz realise its full potential as a sustainable rural tourism destination while creating more employment opportunities for the communities living along the shores of Wular Lake—(KNO)

Congress Suspends

on account of their anti-party activities in the State," reads the communique—(KNO)

PC Rallies Against NC-Led

government, was not invited to a function organized for the inauguration of a bridge in his segment.

As per a circular issued by the General Administration Department in 2025, MLAs are to be invited to all official functions in their respective constituencies—(KNO)



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LG Sinha flags-off HDFC Parivartan's Mobile Medical Care Unit Van



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday flagged off a Mobile Medical Care Unit van, supported by HDFC Bank Limited under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, 'HDFC Parivartan'.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated HDFC Bank Limited for this noble initiative, which is slated to operate in Jammu division for a period of 27 months. The programme, focusing on Ramban district, is designed to complement and strengthen the public health infrastructure of the region.

Operating on a roster-based schedule, the Mobile Medical Care Unit will

deliver doorstep primary healthcare services to the communities. It will be staffed by a qualified medical team, including a Doctor (MBBS), Community Health Officer, Nursing Staff, and a Community Mobilizer.

The vehicle is equipped with 84 essential medicines and facilities for point-of-care tests like Hemoglobin, Blood Sugar, Urine Pregnancy Test, Chikungunya, Malaria, Typhoid, and Dengue. Along with daily OPD services, the core focus will be on Maternal & Child Health, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Seasonal, Water Borne and Vector Borne Diseases. The team will also provide crucial antenatal/postnatal care and regular screenings for dia-

betes and hypertension. Furthermore, the initiative will feature quarterly specialized health camps with visiting specialist doctors and health awareness activities as well as school health programmes for children in the coverage areas, effectively bridging critical healthcare gaps.

Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Sachin Mahajan, Zonal Head, HDFC Bank; Ms Meera Choudhary, J&K Head, HDFC Bank, Shri Abhishek Khajuria, Cluster Head, HDFC Bank; Shri Satnam Singh, Head, Health - Smile Foundation and other members of HDFC Bank Limited and Smile Foundation were present at the flag-off ceremony at Lok Bhavan Jammu.

CM Omar reviews Shopian's progress, dedicates ₹76 crore development package

Chairs comprehensive district review, lays foundation and inaugurates 13 key projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of District Shopian to assess the progress of developmental works, implementation of key government schemes and the overall delivery of public services, while reiterating his government's commitment to ensuring balanced and equitable development across the district.

During his visit, the Chief Minister dedicated development projects worth over ₹76 crore to the people of Shopian, laid the foundation of major infrastructure works and interacted with farmers, fruit growers and public delegations to take stock of their concerns.

The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Agriculture Production Department Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Members of Legislative Assembly Shabir Ahmad Kullay (Shopian) and Shokwat Hussain Ganai (Zainapora).

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister



Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Heads of Departments, district officers and other senior officials also attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on accelerating infrastructure development, strengthening essential public services and ensuring the timely completion of ongoing developmental projects so that their benefits reach the people without delay.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian gave a detailed presentation highlighting the district profile, progress achieved under centrally sponsored schemes, physical and financial status of various departments, and the implementation of major developmental projects currently underway.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister commended the Deputy Commissioner and his entire team for their efforts in implementing developmental programmes in the district.

Describing Shopian as a geographically small but strategically significant district with unique developmental challenges, Omar Abdullah observed that its identity is intrinsically linked to its world-renowned apple industry, scenic beauty and the historic Mughal Road. He said the government is committed to further strengthening these assets through focused investments and sustained developmental interventions.

The Chief Minister acknowledged the prevailing financial constraints facing Jammu and Kashmir but asserted that these would not become an obstacle to the district's progress.

"There will be no injustice with Shopian or with any Assembly constituency of the district despite our financial limitations," he said, assuring the elected representatives that every issue and demand raised during the meeting had been carefully noted and

would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

He directed officers to immediately rectify shortcomings wherever identified and expedite action on the developmental demands projected by the legislators.

Emphasising effective implementation of projects sanctioned under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), the Chief Minister asked the Deputy Commissioner to personally monitor these works to ensure timely execution.

He observed that the scheme carries strict timelines and requires close supervision to maintain the pace of implementation.

Expressing satisfaction over the overall developmental progress reflected during the review, the Chief Minister appreciated the constructive feedback provided by the legislators and assured them that all genuine public grievances would be addressed to the fullest extent possible.

He also thanked the elected representatives for their active participation in the review meeting and appreciated the district administration for its dedicated efforts towards public service delivery.

Earlier, the Chief Minister dedicated and laid the foundation of 13 devel-

opmental projects with a cumulative cost of ₹76.45 crore, spanning the sectors of roads, bridges, drinking water supply, urban development, rural infrastructure and horticulture.

The projects inaugurated included the upgradation of the Shirmal-Wathoo-Matipora road, water supply schemes at Shadab Karewa, Domwani, Adijan Gadipora and Rebon Khojpora, construction of residential accommodation for Panchayati Raj Institution members at Gagren, the Trenz-Sheikhpora Bridge and the upgradation of the Safanagri-Lamine Darbagh Wachi Road.

The Chief Minister also laid the e-foundation for construction of the Doompora multi-cell causeway, beautification of Shopian town through improved drains, lanes and street lighting, establishment of a mechanical windrow composting unit at the Mega Fruit and Vegetable Mandi Aglar, and a pasteurised compost making unit at Allowpora.

At Aglar, he physically laid the foundation stone for the construction of an auction platform at the Mega Fruit and Vegetable Mandi, aimed at strengthening post-harvest infrastructure and improving marketing facilities for growers.

AMARNATH YATRA

Admin Urges Pilgrims to Travel Only on Registered Dates

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Thursday issued an important advisory for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 pilgrims, stating that the daily maximum number of yatis permitted on the pilgrimage route has been fixed in compliance with directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

According to the administration, adherence to the daily ceiling is mandatory to ensure the safety of pilgrims and the smooth conduct of the Yatra. Officials said advance registration facilities had been made available well before the commencement of the Yatra through designated bank branches across the country as well as online platforms, and a large number of pilgrims had already completed their registration in advance.

The administration clarified that Tatkal (on-spot) registration slots are extremely limited and, therefore, pilgrims have been advised to travel to Jammu and Kashmir only after securing advance registration.

"It is not possible to accommodate thousands

of pilgrims arriving in Jammu and Kashmir without registration under the Tatkal facility. Such pilgrims are requested to wait for their turn and undertake the Yatra only on the date assigned by the administration," the advisory said.

Authorities further noted that many registered pilgrims have also been arriving in Jammu and Kashmir before their allotted travel date. Officials have made it clear that no pilgrim will be allowed to proceed before the date mentioned in their registration.

Pilgrims who have already reached Jammu and Kashmir without registration have once again been urged to wait for their turn. The administration assured that every pilgrim would be given an opportunity to undertake the Yatra, but strictly in accordance with the prescribed procedure and the available capacity.

The administration has appealed to all pilgrims to maintain order and extend full cooperation so that the Yatra is conducted safely and smoothly.

Dr. Touseef Bhatt Elected President of Rotary Club of Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant development for the social service landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, renowned socio-environmental activist Dr. Touseef Bhatt, popularly known as the "Tree Man of Kashmir," has been elected as the President of the Rotary Club of Kashmir, a part of Rotary International, the world's largest humanitarian service organization.

With over 22 years of dedicated service in the fields of environmental conservation, community development, education, youth empowerment, and entrepreneurship, Dr. Touseef Bhatt's election marks the beginning of a new chapter for the Rotary Club of Kashmir. His leadership is expected to strengthen the club's commitment to impactful service while introducing innovative initiatives focused on sustainable development and community welfare.

Dr. Touseef Bhatt has earned widespread recognition for leading large-scale afforestation campaigns and environmental awareness initiatives across the Kashmir Valley, earning him the title "Tree Man of Kashmir." His remarkable contributions have been acknowledged through several prestigious State and National awards.

Apart from his environmental work, Dr. Touseef Bhatt has consistently worked towards bridging the gap between academia and industry by mentoring startups, promoting entrepreneurship, enhancing employability among youth, and encouraging innovation. He has also represented India at several international forums and has served in key positions within various trade chambers and industry federations, contributing significantly to economic and policy development.

Established in 1905, Rotary International is one of the world's oldest and most respected service organizations, comprising more than 1.8 million members across



over 200 countries and geographical areas. Rotary is globally recognized for its humanitarian initiatives, particularly its historic contribution to the near-eradication of polio, reducing cases worldwide by more than 99.9 percent. In India, Rotary has a vibrant network of nearly 465,000 members actively engaged in community service and nation-building initiatives.

Expressing his gratitude on assuming the office, Dr. Touseef Bhatt said:

"I am deeply honored by the trust reposed in me. Service to humanity has always been the guiding principle of my life. I look forward to working closely with fellow Rotarians to strengthen our efforts in environmental conservation, youth empowerment, healthcare, education, and community development. Together, we will strive to create meaningful and lasting change while advancing Rotary's vision of 'Service Above Self.'"

The announcement of the club's Treasurer and various committee chairpersons will be made during the inaugural meeting of the newly elected team.

Under Dr. Touseef Bhatt's leadership, the Rotary Club of Kashmir aims to launch a series of impactful initiatives focused on environmental sustainability, health, education, youth leadership, blood donation, entrepreneurship, and humanitarian service, reaffirming Rotary's enduring commitment to creating hope and transforming lives across the region.

MP Mian Altaf chairs DISHA review meeting in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Member of Parliament, Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, Mian Altaf Ahmad Thursday visited Kulgam district and chaired a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

Prior to the meeting, the MP visited the Drug De-addiction Centre, Kulgam, where he reviewed the facilities and services being provided to patients.

He also visited the Mission YUVA Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) and assessed the initiatives aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth.

During the DISHA meeting, the MP took a detailed review of the implementation and progress of various centrally sponsored schemes and developmental programmes in the district.

The Meeting was attended by MLA, Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad

Alam, ADDC, ADC, JDP, SE, KPDC, SDM, ACR, ASP, Executive Engineers, CEO, CMO and other officers, besides former District Development Council Chairperson, Mohd Afzal parry.

The MP reviewed the progress under PMAY-G, PMAY-U, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), PMGSY and other flagship schemes.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the chair about the progress and implementa-

tion status of schemes and programmes, through a detailed presentation.

The MP stressed the need for effective coordination among departments, timely execution of projects and ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries.

He also took stock of the staff position in the Health and Education departments and reviewed the status of vacant posts, emphasizing the need to address manpower gaps to improve service delivery.

CWC summons Facebook page admin over child interview

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Srinagar, has summoned the authorised representative of Fair Voice News to appear before it on July 3 over the alleged interviewing and recording of a child without obtaining informed consent from the parent or legal guardian.

In a notice issued by the committee on Wednesday, the CWC said it had come to its notice that a child was interviewed and recorded by representatives of the media organisation without the informed consent of the child's parent or legal guardian and without the knowledge or permission of the concerned school authorities.

The committee said that if the allegations are found to be true, the action may amount to a violation of the rights of the child guaranteed under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, wherever applicable, as well as the media report-

ing safeguards issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights relating to the protection of children's identity, privacy, dignity and best interests.

The CWC directed the authorised representative of Fair Voice News to appear before the committee at its office in Srinagar at 12 noon on July 3 along with the reporter or interviewer concerned, the cameraperson or other media personnel present during the interview, if any, and a written explanation detailing the circumstances under which the interview was conducted.

The notice also asked the media organisation to produce copies of the recorded interview, any published or broadcast material, consent or authorisation relied upon, and any other relevant documents in its possession.

The committee said failure to appear or furnish the required information may invite appropriate action in accordance with law.(KNS).

Darakhshaan Andrabi Leads Plantation Drive in Eidgah Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: With a strong commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development, Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr. Syed Darakhshaan Andrabi on Thursday participated in a plantation drive in the Eidgah area under the ongoing mission to build a cleaner, greener, and healthier Jammu & Kashmir.

On the occasion Dr. Andrabi planted shade-giving and fruit-bearing saplings and called upon citizens to become active participants in protecting

nature by planting more trees and nurturing them with responsibility and care.

Addressing the gathering, she said that safeguarding the environment is among the most important responsibilities of our time and that every planted tree is an investment in the future.

She emphasized that expanding green spaces will not only improve environmental quality and ecological balance but will also leave a healthier and more prosperous legacy for future generations.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

ENIT NO. 18 OF R&B / CHADOORA / 850-59 OF 2026-27 DATED: 02/07/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In Two cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:-

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Building Less (Secondary) School at Girls High School B.K.Pora.	96.09	1600	192180	720	PAB	AAY
2	Upgradation of HDO Office B.K.Pora Budgam.	5.24	300.00	10480	25	Capex Budget 2026-27	C/D
3	Major Repair of Girls Middle School Batpora	3.47	200.00	6940	20	PAB	DEE
4	Repair and renovation of MS Hanjigund.	1.00	200.00	2000	15	PAB	DEE
5	Repair and renovation of High School Buzgoo.	1.00	200.00	2000	15	PAB	DEE

Project Authority: Director Samagra Shiksha J&K / Chief Horticulture Office Budgam
 Position of Funds: Budgeted/Committed.
 Position of AAA: Accorded
 Position of TS: Sanctioned

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02/07/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02/07/2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	02/07/2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	11/07/2026 upto 5.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	13/07/2026 10:30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest Money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).
- Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End Date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work, The CDR/ FDR/ Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for the period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- Unbalanced Bid:-
- As per the Circular Instructions of Finance Deptt. Issued Vide No.FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025 & endorsed by Chief Engineer (R&B) Central Kashmir vide endorsement No. CE/R&B/CK/ WS/6375-96 dated 12/08/2025, which is reproduced as:-
- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Project Cost put to bid, the additional Performance Guarantee/Security Percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
- Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The bidders are advised to use legal registration card for e-tendering. If any bidder was found to have fake registration card for his bid, penalty under rules shall be imposed on the bidder for hurdling the tendering process and the fake registration card will be forwarded to concerned authorities for strict action.
- The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited if:-
- a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No. 1850-59 DATED: 02/07/2026 DIPK-2798-26 DT: 02/07/2026 Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

'This win doesn't define us, but enjoy it like...', Gordon reveals Kane's message after Congo win



IAN S

ATLANTA: Anthony Gordon has revealed that Harry Kane urged his team-mates to enjoy the moment when he brought the England squad together for a post-match huddle after the 2-1 win over DR Congo in the round of 32 of the FIFA World Cup 2026.

Kane scored twice in the final 15 minutes as the Three Lions came from behind to reach the last 16, where they will face Mexico. For the first time in their history, England won a World Cup match after trailing at half-time. In nine previous instances where they were behind at the break, they had drawn twice and lost seven times.

In the immediate aftermath, Kane spoke to his teammates on the pitch before he moved closer to the fans to join in the singing and stressed that the difficulty of the win should not stop them from savouring the moment.

"He was saying that this win doesn't define us; it doesn't win us the tournament, but enjoy it like any other nation," Gordon as quoted by England Football. "Sometimes the bigger nations have a tendency not to celebrate properly because they want to go further and they have high expectations, but that shouldn't be the case. It's a win in the World Cup against a tough team and now we're in the round of 16," he added.

Gordon proved instrumental in England's turnaround, setting up both of Kane's goals after he was introduced from the bench in the 61st minute. However, rather than focus on himself, the 25-year-old was keen to highlight the contribution of his teammate, explaining how Kane's goalscoring prowess influenced his decision-making for both goals.

"It's all about H (Kane), isn't it?" he said. "Without him, I probably don't make those decisions. For the cross, I probably would have shot normally, but as soon as I touched it I could just see him in there somewhere and I just thought put it in the area and he does the rest for both goals."

'Had enough runs to defend': Parthiv backs India's batting efforts in washed-out T20I vs ENG

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former India wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel backed India's batting display after the rain-hit opening T20I against England in Durham ended without a result on Wednesday.

India, who opted to bat first after winning the toss, posted 190 before persistent rain prevented the second innings from getting underway. Assessing the visitors' performance after play was called off, Patel said the innings showed India's willingness to adapt to English conditions and highlighted Abhishek Sharma's impact at the top of the order.

According to Patel, India embraced the challenge of batting in unfamiliar conditions instead of taking a cautious approach. "From India's point of view, they needed this kind of batting performance, especially after what had happened in Ireland. They wanted to challenge themselves; they wanted to adapt to the conditions early, and India did that really well in this game," Patel told JioStar.

"190 runs on this pitch, with three spinners bowling through the middle overs, I thought India had enough runs to defend. Nevertheless, they will definitely be more confident going into the second



T20I," he added.

The former India cricketer also reserved special praise for Abhishek Sharma, crediting the left-hander for quickly reading the nature of the surface and making the most of scoring opportunities.

"I thought he batted really well. He understood the conditions well. There was a slightly spongier bounce in Durham, but he made sure that whenever the opportunity presented itself, he capitalised on it," he stated.

Patel pointed to Abhishek's aggressive

intent against both pace and spin as one of the defining features of the innings, as he said, "That over from Saqib Mahmood was an important one, where he stepped out and hit three boundaries, two over point and one over mid-off. Then, when the spinners came on, he chose the right areas to hit those sixes."

Looking beyond the knock itself, Patel said performances in overseas conditions continue to reinforce Abhishek's credentials as one of the leading batters in the shortest format.

"Scoring runs in the SENA countries, South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia, puts a stamp on your authority and your skill set. Usually, that's how you get judged. He did well in South Africa, then in Australia, and now he has scored runs in English conditions as well. That is the reason why he has been either the No. 1 or No. 2 T20I batter for almost a year," Patel mentioned.

The two sides will next face off in the second T20I on Saturday at Old Trafford in Manchester.

India to tour Sri Lanka for a two-match Test series from August 15-27

IAN S

COLOMBO: India has been confirmed to tour Sri Lanka in August 2026 for a two-match Test series, which will be part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2025-2027 cycle, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced on Thursday.

According to a statement by SLC, the opening Test match will be played at the picturesque Galle International Cricket Stadium (GICS) from August 15 to 19. The second and final Test is scheduled to be held at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) in Colombo from August 23 to 27. Both matches are scheduled to commence at 10 am

local time.

The two-game assignment holds significance for both teams as they look to climb up the WTC standings. In the current WTC cycle points table, the Shubman Gill-led India have a points percentage (PCT) of 48.15 after nine matches and are in fifth place. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, are at the sixth spot with a PCT of 44.44.

A series victory will provide a much-needed push for either side in their bid to secure a top-two finish and make the final. The upcoming series marks India's return to Sri Lanka for playing Tests after 2017, when, under the captaincy of Virat Kohli, they man-

aged to get a clean sweep victory.

With the Lanka Premier League (LPL) scheduled to conclude on August 8, the Test series against India will begin after it ends. There was no mention from the SLC on the addition of a three-match T20I series between India and Sri Lanka, which was initially proposed with an aim to raise funds for relief and reconstruction efforts in the island nation following Cyclone Ditwah.

As of now, Dhruv Jureled India A are currently in Sri Lanka for a two-match red-ball shadow tour in Galle. After the first game ended in a draw, the second four-day match is currently underway.

FIFA WC: 'In the 83rd minute it wasn't easy to believe...' Belgium coach lauds near-impossible comeback over Senegal

IAN S

SEATTLE: Belgium manager Rudi Garcia reflected on Belgium's dramatic comeback against Senegal, saying it wasn't looked possible for his side to turn around the game in the 83rd minute when they were down 2-0, but a quick chat during the hydration break helped the team achieve the near-impossible turnaround.

Belgium looked down and out as the clock ticked past the 85-minute mark and they were 2-0 behind. But Romelu Lukaku and Youri Tielemans struck



in the last five minutes to force an additional half hour before Tielemans put his side ahead with a 125th-minute penalty.

"Football is full of emotions," Garcia told a post-

match news conference. "In the 83rd minute it wasn't easy to believe we could come back. At the hydration break I told the players that if we scored another goal, anything was possible.

"We did that and it opened the game up again. Both teams had opportunities in extra time, but the momentum was with us. We were well structured. This is a result that can make our group stronger."

Belgium will vie for a quarterfinal place against the United States at the same venue on Monday. Garcia said rest was now his squad's top priority. "We need to recover because 120 minutes is a lot on the legs," he said.

"We saw the effects on the players at the end. Tonight we qualified for the round of 16 and now we'll see who we

face. It doesn't matter. We're going to enjoy this victory and then prepare as well as we can."

The 62-year-old Frenchman reserved special praise for Senegal and admitted the team was unlucky to be eliminated. "We played against an excellent Senegal side," he said.

"It was the worst possible opponent for us in the round of 32. They have a lot of quality, they are fast and they pressed us very well. There were two excellent teams on the pitch today. Senegal would have deserved to reach the next round," he added.

Arachchige's unbeaten 83 guides Sri Lanka A to 288/5 against India A, Thakur, Saransh pick two scalps

IAN S

GALLE: Skipper Sahan Arachchige led from the front with an unbeaten 83 to help Sri Lanka 'A' reach a commanding 288/5 on the opening day of the second four-day game against India 'A' on Thursday. For India, pacer Yash Thakur and off-spinner Saransh Jain were the standout bowlers with two scalps each.

Earlier, India 'A' made three tactical alterations to their playing eleven - drafting in Aman Mokhadde, Zee-shan Ansari, and Gurnoor Brar in place of Ayush Pandey, Harsh Dubey, and Anshul Kamboj. B Sai Sudharsan, who retired hurt in the second innings in the first game, became fit for the ongoing game.

Opting to bat first, the hosts received a steady launchpad from openers Pawantha Weerasinghe and Sohan de Livera, who put together a 53-run partnership. Thakur provided India A's first breakthrough in the 16th over by removing de Livera for 28. Weerasinghe looked set but threw away his start for 39, falling to Gurnoor Brar just before the lunch break.

The afternoon session saw Nuwanidu Fernando



(44) play with positive intent, hitting Brar for consecutive boundaries. He stitched a crucial 57-run stand for the third wicket with Ashen Bandara before Saransh broke the partnership in the 37th over. The pattern of batsmen failing to convert good starts persisted as Ashen was dismissed for 34 in the 47th over.

Thereafter, Arachchige joined forces with Anjala Bandara to frustrate the Indian bowlers by guiding the home team to 192/4 by tea. The Sri Lanka A captain looked comfortable throughout his stay and

crossed his half-century with a boundary off Auqib Nabi in the 64th over.

India A's search for a wicket finally ended in the 77th over when Saransh cleaned up Anjala for 42, ending a stubborn 99-run association. However, Arachchige remained unperturbed through the final session till stumps were called.

Brief scores:
Sri Lanka A 288/5 in 85 overs (Sahan Arachchige 83 not out, Nuwanidu Fernando 44; Yash Thakur 2-32, Saransh Jain 2-77) against India A

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