

# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Srinagar • Sunday 05, July 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 160 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998



Only registered pilgrims for their designated date will be permitted to proceed to Holy Cave Shrine. Directed all depts & security agencies to work in close coordination with Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board & stakeholders to ensure a safe, seamless & spiritually fulfilling Yatra.

## LG Sinha Reviews Amarnath Yatra Arrangements

Urges Pilgrims To Travel Only With Valid Registration



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the overall management of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and directed all departments and security agencies to maintain close coordination. He also urged pilgrims to undertake the yatra only after obtaining a valid registration permit. The review meeting, attended by senior civil, police, intelligence and security officials, focused on key aspects of the annual pilgrimage, including the movement of pilgrims, traffic management, security arrangements, accommodation, registration status and other logistical measures. During the meeting, it

was noted that an unusually large number of pilgrims have been arriving without valid registration, which is causing long waiting time for pilgrims to conduct Yatra. The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the Yatra is being conducted in accordance with the prescribed ceiling of pilgrim movement on the Yatra tracks, in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's orders. Therefore, adherence to the registration schedule is imperative for ensuring the safety, security, and convenience of all pilgrims. It was reiterated that only pilgrims possessing valid registration for the designated date shall be permitted to proceed on the Tracks leading to the Holy Cave Shrine. The Lieutenant **•P-06**

## MHA Designates 23 More Individuals, Including 11, From J&K As Terrorists Under UAPA

Close Aide Of Masood Azhar Figures In List; HM Says PM-Led Govt Committed To Eliminating Every Terror Module

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** The Centre on Saturday designated 23 more individuals as terrorists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), including 11 natives of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the move is intended to dismantle terror networks operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a notification adding the names to the Fourth Schedule of the UAPA, taking the total number of individuals notified as terrorists under the law to 57 since the 2019 amendment empowered the Centre to designate individuals as terrorists. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said PM Modi led government remains committed to its policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism and would continue taking action against those involved in activities targeting India. In a post on X, Shah said the 23 individuals, affiliated with banned terrorist organisations, had been designated under the UAPA for their alleged involvement in anti-India activities, terrorist attacks, infiltration, arms smuggling, recruitment and financing of terrorism. Shah said "Pursuing PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision of zero tolerance against terror: the MHA today declared 23 dreaded terror functionaries affiliated with banned organisations as terrorists under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The designated terrorists are involved in anti-India activities, carrying out terror attacks, inciting terror, trafficking arms, infiltrating through the border, facilitating terrorist organisations, raising funds and recruiting terrorists. Out of the 23 terrorists announced today, 17 are Pakistani nationals and 6 are Indian nationals. However, all of them at present operate terrorist activities from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir." An official said that formally designating these individuals as terrorists will not only help dismantle the terror ecosystem by curbing their financial networks, movements, recruitment capabilities, and terror-linked activities, but will also send a



strong message of deterrence against anti-national and terrorist acts. Furthermore, it will enhance the capacity of security and law enforcement agencies to initiate coordinated legal, investigative, and preventive actions at both national and international levels. According to the MHA, 17 of the newly designated individuals are Pakistani nationals while six are Indian nationals. It said all 23 are currently operating from Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The ministry also said **•P-06**

**THE UNION MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (MHA) ISSUED A NOTIFICATION ADDING THE names to the Fourth Schedule of the UAPA, taking the total number of individuals notified as terrorists under the law to 57 since the 2019 amendment empowered the Centre to designate individuals as terrorists.**

## LG Orders Suspension Of 8 SED Officials Over Controversial Book

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has suspended eight officials of the School Education Department and ordered a high-level inquiry after two books procured for government school libraries were found to contain "highly inappropriate" content. According to Government Order No. 257-JK(Edu) of 2026, issued on July 4, the action was taken after the department observed "serious negligence, dereliction of duty and lack of proper due diligence" during the selection and recommendation of books under the Samagra Shiksha library initiative. The order stated that Samagra Shiksha had received a library grant for procuring age-appropriate books for 18,328 government schools and 394 PM SHRI schools. Expert sub-committees were constituted for the selection of library books across different classes. During scrutiny, the department found objectionable content in two selected books — Personalities and Legends of J&K authored by Hilal Ahmad and Santosh Meena and published by Oberoi Book Service, **•P-06**

## DGP Directs Heightened Vigil, Strict Security Measures For Amarnath Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Saturday directed security agencies to maintain a high level of operational preparedness and intensify surveillance across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the safe conduct of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra. Chairing a Union Territory-wide security review meeting at the Police Control Room here the DGP, assessed the security and logistical arrangements for the annual pilgrimage with senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, Central Armed Police Forces, intelligence agencies and other security organisations. DGP Prabhat asked all agencies to ensure close coordination and step up area domination and night domination exercises, particularly along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, critical road corridors and



the twin Yatra routes. He directed field officers to maintain a close watch on anti-national and disruptive elements to prevent any attempt to disturb peace during the pilgrimage. The DGP also instructed officers to strictly verify the identity credentials of pilgrims and ensure effective use of the RFID-based tracking system for real-time monitoring of registered yatis. He said issues relating to unregistered pilgrims should be handled in coordination with the Shri **•P-06**

## CM Omar Thanks Govt Of India For Suspending Srinagar Airport Runway Closure

Says Decision Will Ensure Uninterrupted Air Connectivity, Protect Tourism, Trade

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday expressed his gratitude to the Government of India for its prompt and positive response to the concerns raised over the proposed runway closure at Srinagar Airport, stating that the decision to suspend the closure would ensure uninterrupted air connectivity to Jammu & Kashmir and provide much-needed relief to passengers and the tourism sector. The Chief Minister had personally taken up the matter with the Government of India to safeguard the interests of passengers, the tourism industry, trade, and the people of Jammu & Kashmir, who would have been adversely affected by the proposed closure. Expressing his appreciation, the Chief Minister said, "Grateful to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Ji and



Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Ji for acceding to our request and suspending the airport closure order. This closure had created a lot of difficulties for regular travellers and forced tour groups and tourists to cancel their planned visits."

He said the decision to suspend the proposed runway closure would ensure uninterrupted air connectivity to the region, preventing disruption to travel, tourism, and economic activity.

**GRATEFUL TO** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Ji and Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Ji for acceding to our request and suspending the airport closure order.

The Chief Minister reiterated that maintaining seamless air connectivity is vital for Jammu & Kashmir's economy, particularly during the peak tourist season, and thanked the Government of India for responding promptly to the concerns raised by Jammu and Kashmir government.

## Srinagar Simmers At 34°C MeT Predicts Wet Spell From Today



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Hot and humid weather continued across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, with most places recording temperatures above normal, while the Meteorological Department predicted widespread precipitation from July 5 (Today). According to the data accessed, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 34.0 degrees Celsius, which was 4.4 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 20.0 degrees Celsius, 2.7 degrees above normal. Qazigund recorded a high of 32.8°C and a low of 18.2°C,

both 5.3°C and 2.5°C above normal, respectively. Pahalgam, the tourist resort, registered 26.9°C as the maximum and 14.5°C as the minimum, while Kupwara recorded 33.5°C and 18.9°C. Kokernag recorded 30.9°C, Gulmarg 24.4°C, Banihal 31.2°C, Batote 28.2°C, Katra 34.0°C, Bhaderwah 31.4°C, and Jammu city 37.6°C, remaining 1.6°C above normal. The minimum temperature in Jammu settled at 25.9°C, marginally 0.1°C below normal. No rainfall was recorded at most stations during the day, though Kokernag, Gulmarg, Banihal, Batote and Katra received light **•P-06**

## Ghosts Of Education Over 1,500 J&K Schools Crippled By Empty Desks, Lone Teachers

RIYAZ BHAT

**SRINAGAR:** There are more teachers than students in 146 schools across Jammu and Kashmir—and in over 1,350 others, the teaching faculty can fit in a single selfie. The Ministry of Education (MoE) has said that in Jammu and Kashmir, at least 146 schools have reported functioning without any student enrolled and over 1355 other schools are functioning with single teachers. "141 primary schools and five upper primary schools were reported with zero enrolment," MoE said. It also said that 1,762 primary schools and 135 upper primary schools had enrolment of less than 15 students, while 5,175 primary schools and 748 upper primary schools had enrolment of less than 30 students.



The Ministry said that a large number of schools with low or zero enrolment was highlighted as a matter of concern. The MoE advised the Jammu and Kashmir authorities to undertake a detailed analysis of these schools and adopt strategies to improve enrolment. About the single teacher schools in Jammu and Kash-

mir, MoE said that there are 1278 primary and 77 upper primary schools with single teachers in the UT. MoE urged the Jammu and Kashmir authorities to undertake a detailed review and appropriate corrective measures, and ensure compliance with RTF norms at all levels. Earlier in March, the Jammu and Kashmir government had said that over the

past four years, nearly 3200 schools in the UT were either functioning with less than ten or zero student enrolment—leaving over 2500 teachers deployed in empty schools. The figures were revealed in the Legislative Assembly that said 3192 schools in Jammu and Kashmir reported less than ten or zero enrolment since 2022 including 1494 schools in Jammu and 1698 in Kashmir region respectively. The house in the March was also informed that 2518 teachers were posted in these schools including 1934 teachers in 1494 schools of Jammu division and 584 teachers in 1698 institutions of Kashmir region. In 2024 KNO reported that nearly 4400 government run schools were closed in Jammu and Kashmir owing to 'zero or extremely low' enrolment of students. **•P-06**

## Mughal Road Sees Unprecedented Tourist Rush

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The historic Mughal Road, the picturesque highway linking Shopian in south Kashmir with Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu division, is witnessing an unprecedented influx of tourists and commuters this summer. The growing popularity of the scenic route has, however, brought into sharp focus the glaring absence of basic infrastructure and public facilities, prompting locals, transporters and tourism stakeholders to demand immediate government intervention. The 84-kilometre road, renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, alpine meadows and historic significance, has emerged as one of Jammu and Kashmir's most sought-after tourist destinations. Every day, hundreds of vehicles carrying local tourists, families and adventure enthusiasts pass through iconic spots such as Peer Ki Gali, Dubjan **•P-06**

## Flights To Operate All Days Srinagar Airport Withdraws Full Runway Closure



REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** As part of a major relief for air travellers, tourists and the business community, Srinagar Airport on Saturday withdrew the proposed Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) envisaging full runway closure on Mondays and Tuesdays, announcing that flight operations will continue on all days this year. In an operational update, the airport said there will be no full airfield closure this year and that operations will continue daily with operational/watch hours from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, while night-

time runway maintenance will continue till October 2026. "Passengers are advised that there will be no full airfield closure at Srinagar Airport this year. Airport operations will continue on all days with operational/watch hours from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Night closures for runway maintenance will continue until October 2026," the airport said. The airport further said that the previously proposed NOTAM regarding full runway closure on Mondays and Tuesdays has been withdrawn, adding that airlines will continue **•P-06**

# Div Com chairs Airfield Environment Management Committee Meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Saturday chaired a meeting of the Airfield Environment Management Committee to review critical issues concerning aviation safety and environmental management around Air Force Station (AFS) Srinagar.



The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama and Anantnag, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Director Airport Authority, senior officers of Indian Air Force, and representatives of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

A comprehensive review was conducted on a range of issues impacting airfield safety and operational preparedness, including the construction of an emergency access road, regulation of brick kilns in the vicinity of the airfield, scientific management of solid waste, removal of unlit obstructions affecting flight operations, and measures to curb the menace of stray dogs in and around the airport.

During the meeting, officials informed the chair that Air Force Sta-

tion Srinagar has three designated emergency exit gates for launching search and rescue operations in the event of an aviation emergency. However, one of the emergency gates on the north-western side does not meet the operational requirements for the movement of Crash Fire Tenders.

Taking note of the issue, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to convene a coordination meeting with all concerned departments to expedite the development of connectivity between the Ring Road and the airport. He also instructed that the feasibility and construction of an emergency access road be taken up on priority to strengthen emergency response capabilities.

Reviewing the issue of brick kilns operating within an eight-kilometre radius of AFS Srinagar, the

Divisional Commissioner observed that a standard operating procedure is already in place under which brick kilns remain closed from November to March to maintain visibility and ensure safe aircraft operations during the winter season.

The meeting also assessed the progress of the solid waste management project at the Achan-Soura dumping site, a key initiative aimed at reducing bird activity that poses a significant hazard to aircraft.

The Commissioner, SMC, informed the meeting that work on the project is progressing steadily and is expected to be completed by June 2028.

Emphasising the need for a coordinated approach to waste management, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to strengthen solid waste collection and disposal

mechanisms in villages surrounding the airfield, noting that indiscriminate garbage dumping attracts birds and adversely impacts aviation safety.

The committee further reviewed the issue of unlit obstructions that pose risks to safe flying operations. It was decided that telecom service providers would be directed to ensure proper illumination of communication towers, while a detailed survey would be undertaken to identify and rectify other unlit structures in the aircraft operational area.

Addressing the growing menace of stray dogs within and around the airport, the Divisional Commissioner described the issue as a serious threat to both air operations and public safety. He instructed the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, to get the issue addressed at the earliest.

# FDA imposes Prohibition on Gutkha, Pan Masala, Tobacco-Mixed Food Products

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has issued a comprehensive ban on the manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution, and sale of all food products containing tobacco and nicotine as ingredients.



The order is issued by Commissioner FDA, J&K, who is also designated as Commissioner of Food Safety, J&K, in the interest of public health and in exercise of powers under Section 302(a) & (b) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, in accordance with Regulation 2.3.4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011, keeping in view directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, and advisories issued by

the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Government of India.

The prohibition covers Gutkha, Pan Masala containing tobacco/nicotine, and all chewable or flavoured food products containing tobacco and/or nicotine, whether sold as a single product or in separate packages intended to be mixed and consumed together. The order will remain in force across the

entire Union Territory for a period of one year starting June 2026.

The measure aims to safeguard public health, particularly protecting children, adolescents, youth and other vulnerable groups from the harmful effects of tobacco and nicotine consumption.

The Commissioner has directed all Designated Officers, Food Safety Officers and enforcement teams across the

Union Territory to intensify market surveillance, inspections and enforcement drives. Special focus has been laid on educational institutions, public places, transport hubs, wholesale markets and areas frequented by young consumers.

The Food & Drugs Administration has appealed to general public, educational institutions, civil society organizations, traders' associations and other stakeholders, to support the initiative and report any instances of manufacture, storage, transportation or sale of prohibited products to the concerned authorities through the Toll-Free Number 104, by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in, or through the FSSAI consumer grievance portal, <https://foscoss.fssai.gov.in/consumergrievance>.

# JKRERA inspects various Illegal Colonies across multiple locations

Urges public not to invest in unregistered Real Estate Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) has issued a strong advisory to the general public, requesting citizens to refrain from investing in real estate projects that are not registered with the Authority.

The advisory follows a series of stringent enforcement actions on the ground. Under the supervision of the Chairperson of JK RERA, Satish Chandra, a team of officers including Deputy Secretary JK RERA, Esha Chib, and Naib Tehsildar, Gias-ud-din carried out extensive inspections of various illegal and unregistered colonies across multiple locations. The enforcement drive targeted unauthorized developments at 90 Feet Road, Nowgam, Zakoora, and Gulab Bagh in Srinagar,

as well as several areas in Budgam district.

To protect hard-earned money and avoid falling into legal or financial traps, JKRERA strongly advises prospective buyers to follow a strict verification process before making any financial commitments. Before investing or booking a property, citizens must first ensure that the real estate project is explicitly registered with the JKRERA. If a project lacks a valid RERA registration number, individuals should not invest in that project under any circumstances.

Furthermore, buyers must ensure that the real estate agent facilitating the transaction is also registered with JK RERA. Under the Real Estate Act 2016, only a RERA-registered real estate agent is authorized to market, promote, or facilitate transactions for a RERA-registered real

estate project.

Dealing with unregistered individuals or entities leaves buyers exposed to significant risks. Investing in unregistered projects or dealing with unregistered agents strips buyers of their legal protections under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act.

Chairperson, JK RERA, Satish Chandra, reiterated the Authority's commitment to bringing transparency and accountability to the region's real estate sector. He warned developers and agents operating without valid registration to halt activities immediately or face strict legal and penal action. He further advised citizens to verify the registration status of both projects and agents by visiting the official JK RERA portal before finalizing any property deals.

# 'Dosti Discussion' held at HSS Mantrigram under 100-Day NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan, a "Dosti Discussion" programme was organised at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Mantrigram on Saturday to raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of leading a healthy and responsible life.

Deputy District Election Officer, Er. Hilal Ahmad, attended the programme as Nodal Officer and underscored the importance of collective efforts in combating the menace of substance abuse. Chief Education Officer Bandipora also attended the programme and appreciated the initiatives being undertaken under the campaign to sensitise youth and promote a drug-free society.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, who pledged to play an active role in spreading awareness against drug abuse and contributing towards building a drug-free society.

# JKAACL organises Punjabi Kavi Darbar to Commemorate Prakash Utsav

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organised a Punjabi Kavi Darbar dedicated to the Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji at the Conference Hall, Tagore Hall, Srinagar, with eminent scholars, litterateurs and poets paying rich tributes to the life, philosophy and teachings of the Sixth Sikh Guru.

The programme was presided over by eminent Punjabi litterateur Ajit Singh Mastana, while Jagmohan Singh Raina graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Ideel Saleem, Additional Secretary JKAACL, Kashmir and Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, JKAACL, were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Ideel Saleem, appreciated the sublime teachings of Gurbani and underscored the timeless message of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji. He observed that the Guru's divine wisdom continues to illuminate the path of truth, courage, justice, compassion and

selfless service, inspiring generations to uphold righteousness and harmony.

In his address, Ajit Singh Mastana lauded the sustained efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir



Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in promoting Punjabi language and literature. He appreciated the high literary standard of the Kavi Darbar and remarked that such programmes provide a meaningful platform for poets and writers while preserving and strengthening the region's rich linguistic and cultural heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, Jagmohan Singh Raina congratulated

JKAACL for organising the event and urged the gathering to imbibe the teachings and ideals of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji in their daily lives. He stated that the Guru's message of righteousness, courage, equality and humanity remains profoundly relevant in the contemporary world.

Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, highlighted the significance of commemorating the Prakash Utsav through literary and cultural activities. Reiterating the Academy's commitment to the promotion of Punjabi language and literature, he expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests,

scholars, poets and participants for making the event a success.

Zorawar Singh presented a scholarly paper on the life and philosophy of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, highlighting the Guru's historic visit to Kashmir and elaborating on the significance of the doctrine of Miri-Piri, which continues to inspire humanity with the ideals of spiritual strength, moral courage and social responsibility.

The Kavi Darbar witnessed soulful poetic recitations by eminent Punjabi poets, including Didar Singh, Kewal Pal Singh, M.S. Jugnu, H.S. Pali, Rikhi Singh, Ichpal Singh, Kavinan Singh, H.S. Upashak, Salinder Singh Sodhi and Jasbir Kaur, who paid eloquent literary tributes to Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji through their inspiring compositions.

The event concluded on a note of literary fervour and spiritual inspiration, reaffirming JKAACL's steadfast commitment to preserving, promoting and enriching the diverse linguistic, literary and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

# ADDC Kulgam reviews implementation of Mission YUVA in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A review meeting on the implementation of Mission YUVA was held Saturday, under the chairmanship of Altaf Ahmad Khan, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, in his office chamber.

The meeting was attended by the Lead District Manager (LDM), Career Counselling Officer (CCO), Employment Officer (EO), District Programme Manager (DPM), NRLM, Block Programme Managers (BPMs), NRLM, members of the Mission YUVA Team, and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under Mission YUVA was undertaken, with special emphasis on the progress achieved under Udyam

Jagrati 5.0, registration of beneficiaries, counselling, mobilisation, credit linkage, and other programme components. The performance of all concerned departments and agencies was reviewed in detail, and the gaps affecting the achievement of targets were discussed.

The Chair directed all concerned officers to focus on the KPIs where the district is lagging behind and to take immediate corrective measures for improving performance. He stressed the need for close coordination among all stakeholder departments, timely updation of data on the Mission YUVA portal, regular field-level monitoring, and expeditious disposal of all pending tasks to ensure achievement of the prescribed targets within the stipulated timelines.

# DIPR organises Seminar on Drug Abuse Awareness under NMJKA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Saturday organised an awareness seminar on drug abuse at Government Boys' Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Gulab Bagh, Srinagar.

The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who shared their views on the harmful effects of drug abuse and highlighted the importance of making informed choices to build a healthy and addiction-free society.

Speaking on the occasion, Cultural Officer Kashmir, Abdul Raqib Bhat and AECO, Syed Shakeel Shan underscored the need for collective community action to combat the growing menace of

drug abuse. They stressed that Kashmir, renowned for its rich Sufi heritage, has always stood for values of peace, spirituality, and moral integrity, leaving no room for social evils such as substance abuse. They urged students to become ambassadors of awareness within their families and communities.

The Principal, Osia Jabeen appreciated the initiative undertaken by DIPR and assured the institution's full cooperation in organising similar awareness programmes in the future to educate and empower the younger generation.

Vice Principal, Mumtaz Hussain, who conducted the proceedings, expressed gratitude to the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising the seminar and for its sustained efforts in promoting social awareness through meaningful outreach programmes.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Notice Inviting short term E-Tenders-NIT No.07 of 2026-27 Fresh

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J and K U.T, e-tenders on percentage basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K.U.T Govt. for the following works:-

S. NO.	NAME OF WORK	Estt Cost (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender opening authority
1	Providing of men, Machinery, materials for execution of emergent works at site as per requirement due to breaches/ floods / calamities/ encroachment removal etc of Dadi canal (Major/ Medium Irrigation) M&R 2701 for the F.Y 2026-27 Phase 2nd.	5.00	15000/=	FY 2026-27	DEE	300/-	2701 M&R	Ex. Engineer

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ) set to terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website. [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from :-

1.	Publishing date	04.07.2026	06.00PM
2.	Download Date Starts	04.07.2026	06.00PM
3.	BID Submission Date Starts	04.07.2026	06.00PM
4.	BID Submission Date Ends	13.07.2026	04.00 PM
5.	Date of opening of tenders	14.07.2026	10:00 AM

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and The bids uploaded shall be opened online on above mentioned date by the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies (on 100dpi) of all necessary documents like Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag / latest GST clearance certificate(GSTR-3B and GSTR-1) /Registration card duly renewed along with Verification/BID Security in the form of EMD as per above. And Additional performance security as per below (2). (EMD CDR and Additional Performance Security CDR shall be deposited separately for each item of work). The date of CDR/FDR/BG should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date. After opening of tenders online, the 1st lowest bidder shall be asked to deposit the CDR/FDR/additional performance security pledged to tender receiving authority and other documents in original. The CDR/ FDR / additional performance security and other documents in original shall be deposited within two Days positively after opening of tenders. The EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR of the successful bidder will be retained as performance security deposit till expiry of defect liability period, whereas the EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned latest by 30 days after award of the contract.
  - The check list of documents for cover 1st is attached with the NIT & bidders are advised to recheck the uploaded documents as per the Check list.
  - Additional Performance Security is to be uploaded by the bidder at the time of bid submission in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the Circular issued by the Finance Department vide No.FD-Code/ 441/2021-02-158 dated 08-08-2025 if the bid percentage is below 10% . The additional performance guarantee/security shall be treated as a part of performance security.
  - The CDR/APS/FDR/Security Deposit uploaded during tendering shall be properly verified from the issuing bank before awarding the contract. Furthermore if at any stage the CDR/APS/FDR/Security Deposit are found to be false/ or forged/fraudulent, action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the contractor as laid down in Procurement of Manual of works GFR 2017 besides blacklisting the contractor from tendering process.
  - If the successful bidder is seriously unbalanced or front loaded in the opinion of the Tender Opening Committee. The Tender opening Committee may in such cases seek written clarifications from the bidder, including detailed price analyses of its bid price in relation to scope, schedule, resources mobilization, allocation of risks and responsibilities and any other requirements of the bid's documents besides Additional Performance Security as per above breakup. If, after evaluating the price analyses, procuring entity determines that the bidder has substantially failed to demonstrate its capability to deliver the contract at the offered price, the Tender Opening Committee may reject the bid/proposal. A bid which contains several items in Bill of Quantities which are unrealistically priced low and which cannot be substantiated satisfactorily by the bidder may be rejected as non-responsive.
  - Contractor / Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/FDR / Treasury Challan as required, their EMD will be forfeited besides they will be barred/prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of Six Months (06 Months) in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be considered for the said period.
  - Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25.
- Remittance Head:-0702  
Position of AAA: -(1)Accorded vide SE's order No. 19DB of 2026 dated 24-06-2026 under No. SE/Hyd/DB/AA/2798-99 dated 24-06-2026  
Position of TS: -(1). Accorded vide SE's order No. 20DB of 2026 dated 24-06-2026 under No. SE/Hyd/DB/TS/2800-01 dated 24-06-2026  
Position of Funds: -Budgetary Provision 2026-27  
No. IDA/1986-2008  
Dated: 04/07/2026
- DIPK-2888-26  
DT: 04/07/2026  
Executive Engineer  
Irrigation Division Anantnag

## MLAs call on CM Omar, raise constituency-specific developmental issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Several Legislators called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita here Saturday and apprised him of various developmental and constituency-specific issues requiring the government's attention.

Among those who met the Chief Minister were MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, and MLA Banihal, Sajad Shaheen. The legislators highlighted a range of issues concerning infrastructure development, public services and other matters related to their respective constituencies.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the legislators and discussed the issues raised by them



in detail. He assured them that all genuine concerns projected during the meetings would be examined on priority and addressed in a time-bound manner.

Reiterating his government's commitment to equitable development and

responsive governance, the Chief Minister said that the concerns and aspirations of the people from every region of Jammu and Kashmir would continue to receive focused attention to ensure balanced and inclusive development.

## Sakeena Ito visits Nandimarg, holds Public Darbar

Announces New Projects for Nandimarg, Adjacent Villages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito Staurday visited Nandimarg in Kulgam district, where she held a Public Darbar to directly engage with the people and listen to their grievances and developmental concerns.

During the interaction, people from the area projected several developmental demands and highlighted issues requiring immediate attention.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised by the public and assured them that all genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Ito said that the present dispensation is committed to ensuring inclusive and equitable development across all



regions. She emphasised that public outreach programmes and direct interactions with people remain central to the government's approach towards delivering responsive, transparent and accountable governance.

The Minister urged the concerned departments to work in close coordination to ensure the timely completion of developmental projects and reiterated that the welfare and development of the people would continue to receive the highest priority.

Sakeena Ito also highlighted various initiatives

undertaken by the Government for the welfare of the people and outlined measures being implemented to ensure the holistic development of the region.

During her visit, the Minister laid the foundation stone for a road project in the area, which is expected to significantly improve connectivity and promote socio-economic development in Nandimarg and its adjoining villages.

On the occasion, the Minister also announced several new developmental projects for Nandimarg and neighboring villages.

## Karra writes to CM, says assault on Congress MLA violates democratic norms

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra on Saturday condemned the alleged manhandling of Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat in Bandipora and urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to order an impartial inquiry and take strict action against those responsible.

In a statement, Karra described the alleged assault on Bhat by workers of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, reportedly led by Jalal Akbar Lone, the younger brother of Sonawari MLA Hilal Akbar Lone, as a serious departure from democratic norms and contrary to the spirit of alliance dharma.

He said political differences were a natural part of democracy but could never justify intimidation or physical confrontation.

Karra said the alleged involvement of workers belonging to a constituent



of the ruling alliance made the incident more unfortunate and raised concerns about mutual respect among alliance partners.

He also criticised a press conference by National Conference workers defending the incident, saying any attempt to justify such conduct only aggravated the situation and sent a disturbing message about democratic functioning.

The JKPCC chief said he had written to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, seeking his personal intervention and calling for an impartial examination of the incident along with strict action against those

responsible.

In his letter, Karra said elected representatives in the Union Territory were already functioning under a challenging dual-control administrative system and stressed the need for democratic forces to work together to safeguard the dignity of elected institutions.

He expressed hope that the chief minister's intervention would help restore confidence among alliance partners and uphold alliance dharma, warning that any recurrence of such incidents or attempts to justify them would weaken trust and goodwill within the coalition.

## MP Jugal Kishore chairs DISHA meeting at Reasi

Reviews progress of centrally sponsored schemes, development works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

REASI: Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) at Reasi to review the implementation, progress and monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and flagship programmes being executed across the district.

The meeting focused on assessing the physical and financial progress of major developmental schemes and ensuring effective implementation of welfare initiatives aimed at improving public service delivery and accelerating district development.

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek gave a detailed presentation highlighting the current status, achievements and progress under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in the district. A comprehensive review

was undertaken of key programmes including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Jal Jeevan Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, besides schemes related to Health, Education, Power and Rural Development sectors.

The meeting witnessed threadbare deliberations on the ground-level implementation of these schemes, with detailed discussions on achievements, challenges and bottlenecks affecting timely execution. Special emphasis was laid on improving inter-departmental coordination, expediting pending works and ensuring timely completion of ongoing projects.

Reviewing the overall progress, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma issued a series of directions covering a wide range of developmental works across the district. He stressed that completed schemes should be made operational without unnecessary delay so that the intended benefits reach the public at the earliest. He further directed that all stalled works be



revived through timely intervention and appropriate remedial measures to prevent delays in public service delivery.

During the meeting, the MP directed concerned officers to organize extensive awareness camps across the district to sensitize the public about the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. He emphasized that wider outreach and awareness generation are essential to ensure that eligible households are fully informed about the scheme and motivated to avail its benefits. He asked the concerned departments to strengthen IEC activities and facilitate smooth registration and implementation for beneficiaries.

He also raised concerns regarding road infrastructure and urged the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to take immediate steps for repair and

widening of roads to ensure smooth and hassle-free movement of traffic. He highlighted that improved road connectivity is crucial, particularly during the ongoing pilgrimage season, to facilitate safe and convenient travel for pilgrims and tourists visiting the holy shrines of Shri Amarnath Ji and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. He stressed that timely execution of road improvement works would significantly reduce traffic congestion, enhance commuter safety and improve the overall travel experience for thousands of devotees visiting the region.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma urged NHPC to explore the development of a scenic viewpoint near the iconic Baradari Bridge in Reasi. He observed that such a viewpoint could emerge as a major tourist attraction and help unlock

the tourism potential of the area by offering panoramic views of the surrounding natural landscape. He noted that the initiative could also generate local economic opportunities and boost tourism-related activities in the district.

The meeting was also attended by Members of Legislative Assembly from the district, who actively participated in discussions and raised various developmental issues and public concerns pertaining to their respective constituencies. They highlighted issues related to infrastructure development, road connectivity, power supply, drinking water, healthcare, education and other essential public services, seeking timely intervention and effective solutions from the concerned departments.

Among those present in the meeting were MLA SMVD Baldev Raj Sharma, MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, MLA Gulabgarh Er. Khurshid Ahmed, SSP Reasi Mukund Tibrewal, ADDC Krishan Lal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, Sub-Divisional Magistrates of respective subdivisions, Chief Planning Officer and other senior district and sectoral officers.

## Srinagar airport closure plan dropped; hoteliers hail pragmatic move

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Hoteliers Club (JKHC) has warmly welcomed the decision of the Srinagar International Airport authorities to withdraw the proposed weekly runway closure and ensure uninterrupted flight operations throughout the year.

In a statement, JKHC President Mushtaq Chaya described the decision as a timely and pragmatic intervention that has averted serious economic and social repercussions for Jammu and Kashmir. He said the JKHC had immediately taken up the matter with the Government of India as well as the Government of Jammu & Kashmir after concerns were raised by stakeholders from across the tourism, trade, horticulture, healthcare and business sectors regarding the proposed closure.

Chaya expressed his sincere gratitude to the Union Government, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Airports Authority of India, and the Srinagar International



Airport authorities for their prompt and positive response in addressing the concerns raised by the JKHC and other stakeholders, and for ensuring that uninterrupted air connectivity to the Valley is maintained.

Chaya said the proposed suspension of flight operations for two days every week had created widespread apprehension across Kashmir. At the peak of the tourist season, such a closure would have severely affected tourist arrivals, hotel bookings, travel agencies, transport operators, restaurants, handicrafts, retail businesses and thousands of families whose livelihoods depend directly or indirectly on tourism.

He said the proposed disruption would also have caused immense

hardship to patients travelling outside Jammu and Kashmir for specialised medical treatment, students, employees, business travellers and families with urgent travel requirements. It would have disrupted business engagements, delayed movement of perishable goods, and adversely affected the confidence of investors and visitors alike.

Chaya said Srinagar Airport is the lifeline of Kashmir and uninterrupted air connectivity is indispensable for tourism, trade, horticulture exports, healthcare, education and the overall economic development of the region. Any prolonged disruption in flight operations would have had far-reaching consequences for the Union Territory's economy.

## ITBP Chief Reviews Security Preparedness on Baltal, Pahalgam Axes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Shatruejt Kapur, on Saturday undertook a 16-kilometre trek to review the security arrangements along both the Baltal and Pahalgam axes of the ongoing Shri Amarnath Yatra.

During the visit, the ITBP chief assessed the security grid and operational preparedness of the force deployed along the twin pilgrimage routes to ensure the smooth conduct



of the annual yatra. Kapur interacted with officers and jawans deployed in the high-altitude areas and commended them for their professionalism, dedication and commitment in ensuring a

safe, secure and seamless pilgrimage for devotees.

The Director General also reviewed the deployment, logistics and overall preparedness of the force, while appreciating the personnel for performing their duties under challenging terrain and weather conditions.

The ITBP is among the key security forces deployed for the annual Amarnath Yatra, working in coordination with other security agencies to safeguard pilgrims along the twin routes. [KNT]

'No RFID, No Darshan'

## Div Com Appeals to Amarnath Pilgrims to Follow Registration Norms

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Saturday urged all Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims to strictly adhere to the online registration schedule, stating that the mandatory RFID-enabled access would only be provided to those with confirmed slots.

Addressing a press conference here, Garg said the annual pilgrimage, which commenced on July 3 from the Pahal-

on-spot RFID and e-KYC verification.

"Online registration began on April 15, and most pilgrims have registered through banking channels. While facilitation counters have been set up for registered devotees to collect their RFID cards, those arriving without registration or before their scheduled date will face inconvenience," Garg said.

He said that RFID is mandatory for the yatra and that unregistered



gam and Baltal routes, has witnessed over 26,000 devotees offering prayers at the holy cave in the first two days.

"The yatra is progressing smoothly. All essential facilities, including healthcare units, rest shelters, filtered drinking water, disaster management teams, and lighting along both tracks, have been put in place to ensure a hassle-free experience for the pilgrims," he said.

However, the Divisional Commissioner expressed concern over a significant number of devotees arriving in the Union Territory without prior online registration. He said that the yatra is subject to a ceiling fixed by the Supreme Court, and the administration has a limited quota for

pilgrims would have to wait until slots open up based on no-shows. "We appeal to all devotees to undertake the pilgrimage only on their registered date. Those planning to come later must complete online registration in advance," he added.

The administration has also set up boarding and lodging facilities across Kashmir for the convenience of pilgrims, and information is being disseminated through official press notes and social media handles, Garg said.

"We are making every effort to accommodate all genuine devotees, but they must wait for their turn and complete the registration process beforehand," he reiterated. (KNS)



Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education  
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

## Indian Olympiad Qualifier in Mathematics (IOQM) 2026-27

All students wishing to participate in the Indian National Mathematical Olympiad (INMO) 2027 must appear for the corresponding Indian Olympiad Qualifier Examination in Mathematics (IOQM) on September 6, 2026.

Qualifying in IOQM is the first step towards participation in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) of 2027 and European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2028 as an official member of the Indian team.

For more details and enrollment link:  
<https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in> & <https://www.mtaai.org.in/>

Registration can be done directly at respective Centres. Alternatively, registration can be done online from 29 June 2026 onwards at <https://ioqm.mtaai.org.in/>

Last date: 25 July 2026

## J&K pilgrims return to Jammu after successful conclusion of Somnath Swabhiman Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Pilgrims from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, who participated in the Somnath Swabhiman Yatra-2026 under the theme "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," returned safely to Jammu Tawi Railway Station Saturday, marking the successful conclusion of the six-day pilgrimage to Gujarat.

Principal Secretary to the Government, Culture Department, Brij Mohan Sharma,



accompanied by Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKACL), Harvinder Kour, received the pilgrims at Jammu

Tawi Railway Station and welcomed them on the successful completion of the pilgrimage.

The yatra, organised by the Department of Culture, Gov-

ernment of Jammu & Kashmir in collaboration with JKACL, enabled the pilgrims to visit the Shree Somnath Mahadev Temple and several other religious, historical and cultural sites across Gujarat.

During the pilgrimage, the participants offered prayers for peace, harmony, prosperity, national unity and the well-being of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the nation.

The Special Train carrying the yatis arrived safely at Jammu Tawi Railway Station

from Sabarmati Railway Station, Ahmedabad concluding the pilgrimage peacefully.

Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma thanked Government of India, Government of Gujarat besides, Shree Somnath Trust, District Administration, Gir Somnath, Indian Railways and all departments, officials, volunteers and coordinating agencies for their support and arrangements that ensured the safety, security and comfort of the pilgrims throughout the yatra.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

**Jammu And Kashmir Needs Peace, Opportunity**

**C**hief Minister has raised several important issues that deserve attention beyond political debate. Whether it is the resolution of the mutton traders' dispute, the call for better relations with neighbouring countries, or ensuring that the annual benefits the local economy, each reflects concerns that directly affect the lives of ordinary people.

The decision to resolve the mandi tax issue comes as a major relief for Kashmir's mutton traders. For weeks, they faced uncertainty because livestock being transported from Rajasthan through Punjab was subjected to a levy that traders considered unjust. The additional burden threatened not only their businesses but also the prices consumers ultimately pay. The government's intervention shows that genuine concerns can be addressed when dialogue replaces confrontation. The Chief Minister's remarks on India-Pakistan relations have also sparked discussion. While security remains paramount and there can be no compromise on the country's sovereignty, the reality is that prolonged hostility benefits no one. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have lived through decades of conflict and understand better than most the price of instability. The vision once articulated by former Prime Minister, that neighbours cannot be changed and therefore relations should improve wherever possible, continues to hold relevance. Strong national security and meaningful dialogue are not mutually exclusive; they can go hand in hand.

The Amarnath Yatra is another reminder that faith and the economy often go together. Every year, lakhs of pilgrims travel to Jammu and Kashmir, bringing with them opportunities for thousands of local families. Hoteliers, transport operators, shopkeepers, pony owners, artisans and small vendors all depend on the pilgrimage season for a significant part of their annual income. If visitors are able to spend time in local markets, interact with residents and experience Kashmir beyond the pilgrimage route, the benefits spread much more widely across the region. Security considerations will always remain the top priority, especially in the face of continuing terrorist threats. But where conditions permit, every effort should be made to create an environment in which pilgrims can safely explore local markets and contribute to the economy. Such interactions also help break stereotypes and strengthen bonds between people from different parts of the country. Equally welcome is the decision to postpone the proposed closure of Srinagar Airport. At a time when tourism is gradually regaining momentum, uninterrupted air connectivity is vital. A prolonged shutdown would have resulted in cancellations, financial losses and another setback for an industry that supports thousands of livelihoods across the Valley.

The larger message is clear. Jammu and Kashmir needs governance that focuses on solving problems instead of creating them. Whether it is protecting traders from unfair taxation, supporting tourism, ensuring the smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra or encouraging conditions that promote peace and economic activity, practical solutions matter far more than political slogans. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have endured enough uncertainty. They deserve an administration that protects their interests, creates opportunities for growth and works towards lasting peace and prosperity. Those goals will not be achieved through rhetoric alone, but through consistent action, sound policy and a commitment to putting people first.

■ The Stolen Sanctuary

**Why It's Time To Give School Vacations Back To Children**



DR. RIZWAN RUMI

**T**he final school bell before the summer or winter break once symbolised freedom. It marked the beginning of weeks filled with laughter, family gatherings, outdoor adventures, books read for pleasure, and the quiet joy of simply being a child. Vacations were never intended to be an extension of the classroom; they were designed to refresh young minds and prepare them for a new academic beginning.

Today, that cherished tradition is gradually disappearing. For millions of children across India, vacations have become another academic term disguised as a break. Bulky homework assignments, compulsory projects, online classes, worksheets, presentations, and coaching sessions now dominate what should have been weeks of relaxation and discovery. Instead of returning to school refreshed and motivated, many children return mentally exhausted before the new session has even begun.

This growing trend demands serious reflection. If education aims to nurture healthy, curious, and creative human beings, then our approach to school vacations deserves urgent reconsideration. Education is not merely about completing textbooks or scoring high marks. It is about fostering intellectual curiosity, emotional resilience, creativity, and balanced personality development. Vacations play an essential role in achieving these goals. Rest is not the opposite of learning; it is an indispensable part of learning.

Neuroscientific research has consistently shown that the brain consolidates memories and strengthens learning during periods of adequate rest and sleep. Continuous cognitive engagement without sufficient recovery reduces concentration, creativity, problem-solving ability, and emotional regulation. Mental fatigue eventually leads to disengagement rather than improved academic performance. Far from being "wasted time," vacations provide children with opportuni-



ties to process what they have already learned while developing life skills that classrooms alone cannot teach. One of the most common arguments in favour of extensive holiday homework is the fear of the so-called "summer slide"—the belief that children forget academic concepts if they remain away from formal studies for several weeks. While some learning loss may occur, educational research indicates that excessive homework is not the solution. Studies conducted by organizations such as the have repeatedly shown that beyond a moderate level, additional homework contributes little to academic achievement while increasing stress and reducing student well-being.

Similarly, the has highlighted the growing relationship between excessive academic pressure and rising anxiety, sleep disturbances, emotional exhaustion, and declining motivation among school-going children. The challenge, therefore, is not whether children should remain intellectually active during vacations—it is how that engagement should occur.

Modern childhood is already under unprecedented pressure. Long school hours, tuition classes, competitive examinations, digital distractions, and parental expectations leave very little room for spontaneous play or meaningful family interaction. Holiday homework often becomes the final burden added to an already overloaded schedule. Children are not miniature adults working under corporate deadlines. Every unfinished assignment, every project file, and every compulsory presentation silently transforms a vacation into another examination season.

Instead of looking forward to holidays with excitement, many children now associate them with anxiety. This is neither educationally sound nor psychologically healthy.

Developmental psychologists have long argued that play is central to healthy childhood development. Outdoor games develop physical fitness, teamwork, resilience, negotiation, and leadership. Reading storybooks enhances imagination and language skills. Conversations with grandparents strengthen emotional intelligence and cultural identity. Helping parents at home builds responsibility and practical life skills. Travelling, observing nature, gardening, drawing, music, photography, and community service nurture creativity that no worksheet can replicate.

As famously observed, "Play is the highest form of research." When children explore the world freely, they are learning continuously—only in ways that cannot always be measured by examination marks.

The conversation surrounding holiday homework is also a conversation about children's mental health. Across the world, educators and psychologists are increasingly concerned about rising levels of academic stress among school students. Excessive workload contributes to anxiety, burnout, reduced self-esteem, sleep deprivation, and declining enthusiasm for learning.

Education should inspire curiosity, not chronic exhaustion. A child who returns to school emotionally refreshed is often more attentive, more creative, more confident, and ultimately more capable of academic success than one who spends the entire vacation com-

pleting repetitive assignments. This does not imply that vacations should become periods of complete academic disengagement.

**Instead of compulsory worksheets and lengthy written assignments, schools can encourage meaningful experiential learning:**

- Reading books of personal interest.
- Maintaining a holiday journal.
- Exploring local history and culture.
- Planting and caring for trees.
- Visiting museums, libraries, or heritage sites.
- Participating in sports and creative arts.
- Spending quality time with family members.
- Volunteering in community activities.
- Learning practical life skills such as cooking, gardening, or financial literacy.

Such experiences cultivate curiosity, responsibility, empathy, creativity, and independent thinking—qualities that define true education. The and the, through the principles of the, have emphasised experiential learning, competency-based education, flexibility, and the holistic development of every learner. These principles call for reducing unnecessary academic burden while promoting creativity, critical thinking, well-being, and joyful learning. The spirit of these reforms should naturally extend to school vacations.

Parents, teachers, school administrators, and policymakers must collectively rethink what we expect from our children during holidays. Vacations should not become another examination timetable. Children deserve time to breathe, dream, play, imagine, explore, fail, recover, and simply enjoy being children. These seemingly ordinary experiences lay the foundation for resilient, compassionate, innovative, and emotionally healthy adults. Perhaps the greatest gift education can offer is not another worksheet, but the wisdom to recognise that sometimes the most meaningful learning happens when the school bag is finally placed aside.

If we truly wish to prepare children for the future, we must first allow them to experience a childhood worth remembering.

The author can be mailed at rizwan-roomi2012@gmail.com

**Behind Every Saved Life Stands A Doctor Who Also Needs Care**



SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT

**D**octor's Day, a solemn yet celebratory occasion that pays tribute to the tireless service and sacrifices of medical professionals. Doctors are the backbone of any health care system. Their dedication, expertise, and compassion play a vital role in saving lives, promoting well-being and guiding individuals through their most vulnerable moments. In 2026, this day takes on added meaning with the official theme "Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?" National Doctors' Day in India was instituted in 1991 by the government of India to honour Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, a pioneering and the second chief minister of West Bengal.

Dr Roy was born and passed away on July 1st, making the date symbolic and historically significant. During his lifetime, Dr Roy was instrumental in shaping India's healthcare infrastructure. He helped establish vital institutions such as the Indian Medical Association and the Medical Council of India. He was also a city planner responsible for founding some important cities such as Durapur, Bidanagar, and Kalyani. In the year 1961, he received the award of Bharat Ratna, which is the most prestigious award that an Indian citizen can get.

Doctors often face intense pressure emotionally and physically as they navigate long



working hours, make life-altering decisions, and often care in high-stress environments. This has been very evident during the coronavirus pandemic period. In the period when everyone was staying at home, it was doctors who were working tirelessly to help save lives at risk. The coronavirus pandemic brought into focus how vulnerable medical professionals are to diseases, exhaustion, burnout, and trauma. There have been several reliable studies carried out in India on doctors' psychological well-being.

A major study on Indian residents found that 67.2% had moderate levels of stress, 30.1% were diagnosed with symptoms of depression and more than 90% had burnout. The statistics above clearly show the pressing need for reforms within the system that can help the healthcare professionals in particular. Doctors are much more than just medical professionals. They are mentors, educators, counsellors, and often

a source of hope for patients and their families. Their role extends beyond clinical treatment to building trust and instilling strength in those suffering from illness. Whether it is a surgeon who operates under extreme pressure, a paediatrician who eases a parent's worry, or a rural practitioner who serves isolated communities with limited resources, every doctor makes a meaningful difference.

After God, people often place their trust in doctors because they heal disease, pain, fear, suffering, and emotional troubles. His wisdom and empathy restore faith in those in pain and their families during their toughest times. Nevertheless, as far as my experience goes, we need to educate both the current generation and the future generations who will be doctors. They should first learn that the profession is for the service of humankind, not just a way of making money. Making money might be a

result of the profession but saving lives and alleviating suffering should always be the main aim of the physician. The doctor does not have any financial gain after saving his patient; what he gains in the end can only be known to the patient's family. He gets happiness in seeing his patient return safely to his family members. Saving life is indeed a noble act and the worth of doing so can never be quantified in terms of money.

Over the decades, India has produced countless medical professionals who have transformed the health care landscape in India and across the world. Indian doctors serve in leading positions in hospitals and research institutions around the world. Historical figures such as Dr Kadamini Gangali, one of India's first female doctors and Dr Ranjit Roy Churi, a pioneer in medical ethics and policy, have laid the foundation for ethical and advanced medical practice in

the country.

There are various ways to honour Doctors in this celebration. Some of the ways that people can show their appreciation to doctors are by saying thank you with their words or writing down a note, or performing such acts on social media. Schools, Colleges, and Universities can organise essay competitions, debates, and interactive talks to inspire the next generation to consider medicine as a noble profession. Thoughtful gifts such as medical books, journals, or items that contribute to a doctor's clinic or personal well-being can also serve as tokens of appreciation.

Most importantly, policymakers and healthcare support should create a safer work environment for doctors. Although India celebrates National Doctors' Day on July 1st, the global community recognizes doctors on International Doctors Day, which is observed on the 1st Monday of October. Both observances serve a common purpose to recognise the selfless work of doctors and to remind society of their indispensable role.

It is a day, more than a ceremonial occasion. It is a moment of reflection, respect, and renewed responsibility. We must remember that they too are human, deserving of care, compassion and dignity. As we offer our gratitude, let us also advocate for a system that supports their mental health, professional growth and personal fulfilment. After all, in caring for our doctors, we strengthen the very foundation of our healthcare system.

Author is a researcher. He can be mailed at shoiabhat2018@gmail.com

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

Good Morning **Kashmir**

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

**Javed Ashraf Shah**

Associate Editors

**Mir Suhail**

**Sulaiman Muhammed Shah**

Legal Advisor

**Bashir Sidiq**

Bureau Chief Jammu:

**Harbans Nagokay**

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

**Khidmat Offset Printing**

**Press, The Bund, Srinagar**

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

**Aijaz Ahmad Dar**

# The Bengali Scientist Who Challenged British Through Science



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

**W**hen the story of modern science is told, the world usually remembers discoveries, patents, medals, Nobel Prizes, and famous European laboratories. But before a discovery can happen, a more fundamental thing must exist: a place where minds are allowed to ask questions freely. For colonial India, that place did not come easily. It had to be imagined, demanded, defended, and built. One of the earliest architects of that scientific self-respect was Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, a Bengali physician, thinker, institution-builder, and one of the forgotten fathers of modern Indian science.

Several Bengali scientists helped lay foundations for modern science but were denied full recognition by colonial structures—Mahendra Lal Sircar occupies a special position. He may not be remembered like Jagadish Chandra Bose, Prafulla Chandra Ray, Meghnad Saha, or Satyendra Nath Bose for one specific equation, device, medicine, or theory. His contribution was deeper and more structural. He helped create the soil in which such scientific minds could grow.

Born in 1833, Mahendra Lal Sircar rose through hardship to become one of the most respected physicians of Bengal. He was trained in Western medicine at a time when colonial education allowed Indians to study European science but rarely encouraged them to become original creators of science. The colonial system needed clerks, assistants, translators, doctors, and technicians. It did not naturally

imagine Indians as independent discoverers. This was the intellectual climate against which Sircar worked.

His great realization was simple but revolutionary: India could not become scientifically strong merely by reading science from British textbooks. Indians needed laboratories, lectures, experiments, journals, public discussions, and institutions of their own. Science could not remain a borrowed language. It had to become a lived culture.

This vision led him to establish the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science in Calcutta in 1876. The very name of the institution was significant. It was not called an association for memorizing science, importing science, or admiring science. It was for the "cultivation" of science. The word suggested growth, patience, discipline, and national awakening. Sircar understood that a civilization cannot rise through imitation alone. It must develop the confidence to investigate nature with its own hands and its own instruments.

In colonial India, this was not a small act. British rule had created universities, but many of them were examination-oriented rather than research-oriented. They produced degrees, but not necessarily laboratories of original inquiry. Sircar's dream challenged this model. He wanted Indians to conduct experiments, deliver public lectures, and participate in the universal enterprise of science as equals, not as spectators.

This is where the question of denied recognition becomes important. The colonial order did not always need to openly insult Indian talent. Its more powerful method was to limit opportunity. It controlled funding, appointments, institutional status, scientific networks, and international visibility. A European scientist working in London, Cambridge, Berlin, or Paris automatically entered a world of recognition. An Indian scientist in Calcutta had to fight first to prove that his mind was worthy of being heard.



Sircar's life shows how colonialism affected science not only through political domination but also through psychological domination. It produced a belief that serious scientific thinking belonged to Europe, while India was a land of tradition, emotion, and spirituality. Sircar rejected this false division. He believed that Indians could respect their cultural inheritance and still master modern science. For him, science was not anti-Indian; it was essential to India's regeneration.

His decision to support scientific education among ordinary people was equally important. He did not want science to remain confined to elite classrooms. Public lectures at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science helped create a wider scientific temper. This was a major contribution because nations are not transformed only by a few geniuses. They are transformed when society begins to respect evidence, reason, observation, and inquiry.

The later achievements of Bengal's scientific renaissance cannot be separated from this foundation. The same intellectual atmosphere helped produce figures such as Jagadish Chandra Bose, Prafulla Chandra Ray, Meghnad Saha, Satyendra Nath Bose, and others. Even C. V. Raman, who later won the Nobel Prize in Physics, did important work at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science. In that sense, Sircar's institution became more than a building. It became a declaration: Indians were not merely receivers of scientific knowledge; they were capable of producing it.

Yet, despite this monumental role, Mahendra Lal Sircar is not widely remembered in the global history of science. This neglect is itself a symptom of the problem. The world celebrates the final discovery but often forgets the person who built the platform that made discovery possible. The Nobel system recognizes individuals for specific breakthroughs, but history must also recognize those who created the conditions for breakthroughs under hostile circumstances.

Sircar's struggle also teaches an important lesson for today. Scientific progress does not depend only on brilliant students. It depends on institutions that trust them, fund them, guide them, and give them freedom. A society that does not build research culture cannot complain that its talent migrates elsewhere. Sircar understood this nearly 150 years ago. His answer to colonial arrogance was not anger alone; it was institution-building.

This is why he deserves to be seen as the opening figure in the story of Bengal's denied scientific greatness. He did not merely ask, "Why are Indians not recognized?" He asked a more powerful question: "Where are the Indian institutions that will produce recognized science?" His response was practical, visionary, and national.

Today, when we discuss decolonizing knowledge, we must remember that decolonization is not only about rewriting history. It is also about restoring forgotten builders to their rightful place. Mahendra Lal Sircar's name must be brought back into public memory not as a footnote, but as a pioneer of Indian scientific self-confidence.

He fought an empire not with weapons, but with a laboratory. He answered prejudice not with slogans, but with a scientific institution. He proved that before a nation can win prizes, it must first win the courage to think for itself.

Mahendra Lal Sircar may not have received the global honour that his vision deserved, but every Indian laboratory, every young researcher, and every institution committed to original inquiry carries a part of his unfinished dream. He was not merely a doctor of bodies. He was a doctor of a wounded civilization, prescribing science as the medicine of national awakening.

*Author is Faculty of Mathematics, Department of General Education HUC, Ajman, UAE. He can be mailed at reyaz56@gmail.com*

Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee

## Visionary Nation-Builder And The Architect Of New India

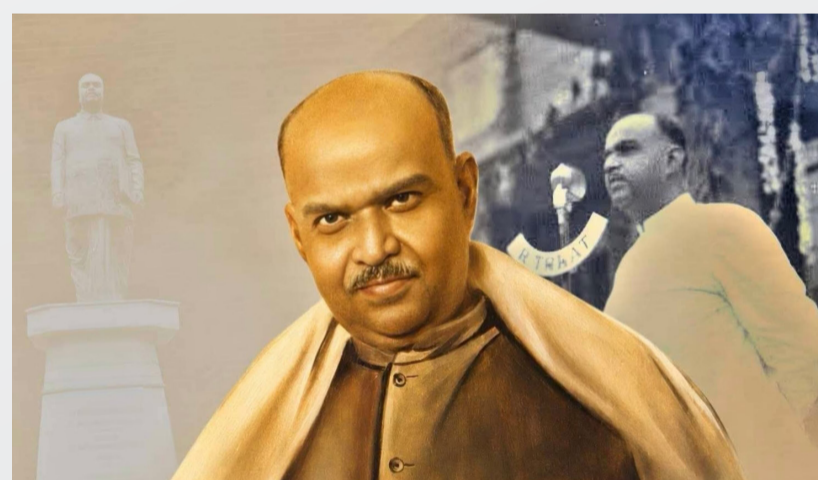


LALIT GARG

**H**istory remembers not only those who held political power but, more importantly, those visionary statesmen who shaped the destiny of a nation. Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee was one such nation-builder whose vision transcended the politics of his time and was firmly rooted in the creation of a strong, self-reliant, culturally awakened, and united India. His 125th birth anniversary comes at a defining moment when India is advancing rapidly toward the national aspiration of "Viksit Bharat 2047" (Developed India 2047) and emerging as one of the world's leading powers. This is not merely a coincidence; it is a historic convergence where Dr. Mukerjee's ideals resonate profoundly with India's contemporary journey of transformation.

Dr. Mukerjee was far more than a politician. He was an eminent educationist, an erudite scholar, a visionary thinker, a fearless nationalist, an accomplished administrator, and an unwavering champion of democratic values. For him, nationalism was never a narrow political doctrine; it was the cultural soul of India, the foundation of national unity, and the guiding force behind public welfare. He believed that India was not merely a geographical entity but a living civilization shaped by thousands of years of shared cultural consciousness.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks to realize the vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" (One India, Great India), "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India), "Viksit Bharat 2047," and "Vishwaguru Bharat" (India as a Global Leader), Dr. Mukerjee's ideological legacy assumes even greater significance. Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly acknowledged him as one of the foremost architects of



modern India. The historic abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir was not merely a constitutional reform; it represented the fulfillment of Dr. Mukerjee's unfinished mission, for which he ultimately laid down his life. His immortal declaration—"One nation cannot have two constitutions, two prime ministers, and two national flags"—was not merely a political slogan but a powerful affirmation of India's indivisible national identity. He firmly believed that national unity could never become a subject of compromise. Today, the complete constitutional integration of Jammu and Kashmir stands as a living tribute to his supreme sacrifice.

While Dr. Mukerjee's political achievements are widely celebrated, his intellectual and academic contributions were equally remarkable. At the age of just thirty-three, he became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, a distinction that reflected his extraordinary brilliance. He regarded education not merely as a means of livelihood but as the very foundation of nation-building. He envisioned an educational system that harmonized scientific advancement with spiritual and ethical values, believing that only such an approach could restore India's status as a global center of knowledge.

The emphasis placed today on India's knowledge traditions, mother-tongue education, research, innovation, and holistic learning underlines

National Education Policy echoes many aspects of Dr. Mukerjee's educational philosophy. His economic vision was equally far-sighted. He strongly advocated self-reliance, indigenous enterprise, and production-oriented growth, maintaining that political independence remained incomplete without economic freedom. India's remarkable progress today in manufacturing, digital technology, startups, semiconductors, green energy, defense production, and global investment reflects the spirit of self-reliance envisioned by many of the nation's early architects, among whom Dr. Mukerjee occupied a distinguished place.

For Dr. Mukerjee, democracy extended far beyond periodic elections. It embodied civil liberties, freedom of expression, equality before the law, and an unwavering commitment to the national interest. He possessed the courage to speak the truth as he perceived it, even when it meant opposing those in power. His resignation from Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet remains one of independent India's finest examples of principled politics. At a time when public life increasingly calls for integrity, ethical leadership, and ideological conviction, his life continues to offer enduring inspiration.

During the Partition of India, Dr. Mukerjee played a decisive role in ensuring that the Hindu-majority regions of Bengal remained within India. With his determined inter-

vention, present-day West Bengal might not have been part of the Indian Union. Although he accepted Partition as a tragic historical compulsion, he never abandoned his belief in the cultural unity of India. His concept of Akhand Bharat (United India) was never about territorial expansion; rather, it represented the ideal of civilizational unity, cultural harmony, and a shared historical heritage. As the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Dr. Mukerjee laid the foundations of a political culture that placed the nation above all else, promoted transparent governance, and viewed politics as an instrument of public service. The maturity and resilience of Indian democracy as the world's largest democratic system owe much to the institutional and ideological contributions of leaders like him. He regarded a principled opposition as an indispensable pillar of democracy and consistently advocated constructive democratic dialogue.

Today, India is on course to become the world's third-largest economy. The national vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 encompasses far more than economic prosperity. It represents a comprehensive commitment to social justice, cultural confidence, technological leadership, environmental sustainability, good governance, and responsible global engagement. The intellectual foundations of this national vision bear the unmistakable imprint of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee's thought. He believed that India could lead the modern world only by remaining deeply rooted in its own civilizational ethos—a philosophy that increasingly defines the identity of New India. For India's youth, Dr. Mukerjee's life remains an enduring source of inspiration. He demonstrated that it is not age but vision that shapes history. As the youngest Vice-Chancellor, a young Member of Parliament, a young Union Minister, and the founder of a new political movement, he exemplified courageous leadership, intellectual excellence, and unwavering patriotism. At a time when India possesses the world's largest youth population, his ideals inspire young citizens not merely to pursue success but to shoulder their responsibilities toward the nation.

Dr. Mukerjee's nationalism was fundamentally inclusive. He regarded India's diversity as its greatest strength and firmly believed that despite differences of language, region, caste, and faith, India's national identity remained one and indivisible. The contemporary vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" reflects this very spirit of national integration. His life also reminds us that nation-building is not the responsibility of governments alone; it is the collective duty of every citizen. If India is to achieve its aspiration of becoming a developed and globally respected nation by 2047, economic growth alone will not suffice. The country must also nurture citizens of character, provide quality education, strengthen social harmony, encourage scientific temper, foster cultural self-confidence, uphold ethical politics, and deepen democratic responsibility. This was the enduring message of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee.

Therefore, the true tribute to him lies not merely in commemorating his birth anniversary but in translating his ideals into national action. As India prepares to play an increasingly influential role on the global stage, Dr. Mukerjee's life reminds us that only a nation firmly rooted in its cultural heritage can confidently ascend the heights of modernity. The most meaningful homage on his 125th birth anniversary would be to embrace his ideals of patriotism, democratic values, educational excellence, self-reliance, cultural consciousness, and national unity as integral elements of India's collective character. If we remain committed to these ideals, the vision of a developed, prosperous, self-confident, and globally respected India by 2047 will cease to be a distant dream. It will become a historic reality, realized through the far-sighted vision of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee and the collective endeavour of millions of Indians. His thoughts continue to illuminate the path of New India and will remain an inexhaustible source of inspiration for generations to come.

*The author can be mailed at lalitgarg11@gmail.com*

## LG Sinha Reviews

Governor appealed to the intending unregistered pilgrims to defer their travel for next few days in order to avoid any inconvenience upon reaching Jammu Kashmir.

The administration has, therefore, asked all intending pilgrims to complete the mandatory registration process and obtain a valid Yatra Registration Permit for their allotted date before commencing their journey to Jammu Kashmir. Pilgrims are requested not to travel without confirmed registration, as they shall not be permitted to proceed on the Yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor further reviewed the security and logistic arrangements for the Yatra. He directed all departments and security agencies to keep working in close coordination and to maintain continuous liaison with all stakeholders, including Langar organizations, service providers and other NGOs for a safe, seamless, spiritually enriching and fulfilling Yatra.

The meeting was attended by Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Shri S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Shri Chandrakar Bhatti, Principal Secretary, Home Department; Shri Pankaj Thakur, Joint Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB); Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; senior officers of the Civil Administration, Police, Security Forces, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, and other concerned departments.

## MHA Designates 23

11 of those designated are natives of Jammu and Kashmir, who are allegedly operating from across the border after crossing over and are involved in facilitating infiltration, recruitment, logistics, weapons supply and financing for terrorist organisations.

The Jammu and Kashmir natives named in the notification are Masood Ilyas Kashmiri, Abdullah Jihadi, Firdous Ahmad Bhat, Haroon Rashid Ganai, Bilal Ahmed Mir, Abid Qayoom Lone, Nazir Ahmed Gujjar, Mohammad Yaqoob, Owais Farooz, Wasim Noor Jat and Mohammad Shahid Faisal.

Officials said the designation would strengthen legal action against the accused by enabling investigating agencies to target their financial networks, restrict their movements and enhance coordination with domestic and international agencies dealing with terrorism-related cases.

The notification includes operatives linked to Pakistan-based organisations such as Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML), Al-Qaeda and ISIS.

According to the government, several of those designated have been accused of coordinating cross-border infiltration, arranging the supply of weapons and explosives, recruiting youth through social media, raising funds for terror activities and planning attacks in different parts of the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those named are Masood Ilyas Kashmiri, whom the government described as a close associate of JeM chief Masood Azhar and an infiltration coordinator into Kashmir; Mufti Mohammad Asghar Khan, alleged to head JeM's military wing in PoK; and Abdul Rauf, Hafiz Khalid Waleed and Maulana Saifullah Khalid, who are accused of holding senior positions in Pakistan-based terrorist organisations.

The MHA said formally designating the individuals as terrorists would help curb their fundraising, recruitment, movement and operational capabilities while strengthening the legal framework for coordinated action against them.

The UAPA was amended in 2019 to allow the Centre to notify individuals, in addition to organisations, as terrorists under Section 35 of the Act.

Officials said the latest notification forms part of the government's continuing efforts to target the leadership, facilitators and support structures of cross-border terrorist organisations.

Masood Ilyas Kashmiri (also known as Mufti Masood Ilyas, Masood Ilyas, Abu Mohammad, or M. Masood Ilyas) is a Pakistani national affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He is a close confidant of Maulana Masood Azhar and the key coordinator for infiltration into Kashmir. He is actively involved in recruiting youth into terrorist groups via social media and raising funds for terrorism. He orchestrated the attack on a police checkpoint near the PDP office in Sunjwan, Jammu, in April 2022.

Mohammad Musaddiq (alias Doctor, Abdul Mannan, Sajjad, Hamza, Wahid Khan) is a Pakistani national affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He serves as the launching commander for the Lasiyakot sector, facilitating infiltration across the border via tunnels. He has been involved in sending consignments of arms and ammunition to India using drones. Additionally, he was involved in conducting reconnaissance of strategic locations such as the RJB complex in Ayodhya, the RSS headquarters in Nagpur, and the IOCL refinery in Panipat.

Mufti Mohammad Asghar Khan, alias Abu Saad or Saad Jimiki, is a Pakistani national affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He serves as the JeM 'Amir' (chief) and head of its military wing in PoK. He is one of the key conspirators behind the terrorist attack on the Indian Army camp in Nagrota, Jammu. He runs camps in Muzaffarabad to provide jihadist and military training to terrorists.

Hafiz Abdul Shakoor alias Qari Jarrar is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM). He facilitated the infiltration of three Pakistani terrorists via the Samba-Kathua sector for the attack on the Nagrota Army camp. He participated in the Afghan war during 1995-96 and coordinates terrorist activities with the assistance of the ISI. He is a member of the JeM's governing council (Shura).

Abdullah Jihadi alias Shaheenawaz alias Al-Hijama is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He is a co-conspirator of Mufti Asgar Khan and facilitates the infiltration of terrorists into the North Kashmir region. He has attempted to incite hatred and disaffection against the Government of India. He used to manage several launching camps located in the Kupwara and Baramulla districts.

Firdous Ahmad Bhat is an Indian national (currently based in Pakistan) associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba. He serves as a 'launching commander' for the group, having crossed into Pakistan via the Wagah border in 2018 using

valid travel documents. He facilitates safe passage for foreign terrorists across the Line of Control (LoC). Additionally, he is involved in supplying weapons to Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and radicalizing the youth of South Kashmir to recruit them into terrorist activities.

Ghulam Farid (alias Gulshan Kumar) is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed. He served in the Pakistan Army from 2001 to 2005. Subsequently, in September 2008, he entered India illegally via Bangladesh. He was arrested in Jammu in December 2008 and was later deported to Pakistan in July 2019.

Haroon Rashid Ganai alias Shunu is an Indian national (currently residing in Pakistan) and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba. He traveled to Pakistan with valid documents in March 2018 and joined Lashkar-e-Taiba there. He incites youths from the Kashmir Valley to join terrorist ranks and supplies arms and ammunition to Over Ground Workers for carrying out terrorist activities.

Bilal Ahmed Mir, alias 'Ahmed Bhai', is an Indian national (currently residing in Muzaffarabad, PoK) and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and The Resistance Front (TRF). Operating from across the border (Pakistan/PoK), he conspires to incite and instigate local Kashmiri youth to engage in jihad. Furthermore, he is directly involved in managing the illicit supply chain of arms, ammunition, and logistics into the Kashmir Valley.

Abid Qayoom Lone is an Indian national (currently residing in PoK) and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). He traveled to Pakistan via the Attari check post in February 2020 and did not return. He is involved in planning attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir and raising funds for LeT. He smuggles narcotics on a large scale from Pakistan into India through an organized syndicate operating along the Line of Control (LoC), with the proceeds used to finance terrorist activities.

Nazir Ahmed Gujjar alias Abu Manazil is an Indian national (currently residing in Islamabad, Pakistan) and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). He crossed the Line of Control into PoK in 2006. He recruited local youths to revive terrorist activities in the Doda and Kishtwar regions. He has been a key operator in sending consignments of arms and ammunition into Indian territory via drones across the Samba and R.S. Pura sectors.

Abdul Rauf (also known as Hafiz Abdul Rauf or Hafiz Abdul Rauf) is a Pakistani national associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), and Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF). He has been a senior leader of Lashkar since 1999 and operates under the direct command of the terrorist Hafiz Saeed. He works to mobilize funds and public support for Lashkar at an international level under the guise of charitable organizations such as the 'Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation' (FIF) and Al-Madina Welfare Trust. The United States has designated him a 'Specially Designated Global Terrorist' (SDGT).

Ashfaq Ahmed (alias Ishfaq Ahmed) is a Pakistani national associated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He joined JeM in 2000 and is in charge of 'Shuaba Hadith' and the Al-Rehmat Trust (JeM's charity wing) in Bawalpur. He received jihadi training in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. He was identified as one of the subscribers of the Pakistani mobile numbers used during the January 2016 attack on the Pathankot Air Force Station.

Hafiz Khalid Waleed (alias Hafiz Khalid Naik/Khalid Waleed) is a Pakistani national associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). He is the son-in-law of LeT chief Hafiz Mohammad Saeed and has been a member of the organization's Central Advisory Committee since 2003. He was the key mastermind behind the June 2016 Pampore attack, in which eight Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed. He was designated as a global terrorist by the US Department of the Treasury in August 2012.

Maulana Imdad Ullah Makki (also known as Maulana Imdad, Imdad Bhai, or Maulana Imdadullah) is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He serves as the 'Amir' (chief) of Jaish's prisoners' wing ('Shoba-e-Aseeran') and heads the organization's legal affairs. He is a very close associate of Maulana Masood Azhar and his deputy, Mufti Abdul Rauf Asghar. He was involved in real-time coordination with the terrorists who attacked the Pathankot airbase in January 2016.

Maulana Saifullah Khalid (alias Waliul, Mohammad Salim, Wajid) is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML). He serves as the General Secretary of the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League and previously held the position of President of the Milli Muslim League (MML). He has headed several wings of Lashkar and Jamaat-ud-Dawa, such as the propaganda department and the control and reform wing. In April 2018, the United States designated him as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

Mohammad Yaqoob (alias Abu Sumama, Samama Ilyas, Waris Ali) is a Pakistani national affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). He currently operates as an LeT operational commander based in Islamabad (Chatta Bakhtawar). He coordinates financial and logistical support for other LeT cadres active in the Kashmir Valley to carry out terrorist activities in India. A case has been registered against him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) at the CI Kashmir Police Station in Srinagar.

Maulana Yusuf Taibi (alias Mohammad Yusuf) is a Pakistani national associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). He is a key leader within LeT/JuD, currently affiliated with the organization's control and reform ('Dawat-o-Islah') wing. He previously headed the 'Jamia Al-Dirasat Al-Islamia Trust' (JADIAT), a Karachi-based entity linked to LeT/JuD. Currently, he is associated with the 'Al-Qadisia Islamic Center' in Lahore and delivers Friday religious sermons ('Khatba') at the Sargodha \*Markaz\* in Punjab.

Owais Farooz (alias Owais Ahmed Mir / Owais Farooz Mir) is an Indian national associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). He traveled to Pakistan via the Wagah border on a valid Indian passport in April 2018 and joined the terrorist ranks of the LeT. In January 2023, his brother, Farzan Feroz, was arrested by the Srinagar Police with 450 grams of heroin (valued at approximately 9.95 lakh) and an LeT letterhead. The NIA Court, Pulwama, has issued a proclamation order against him under Section 82 of the CrPC.

Qari Yaqub Sheikh (also known as Qari Mohammad Yaqub Sheikh, Yaqub Sheikh, Qari Sheikh Muhammad Yaqub, and Mohammad Yaqub) is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). He is a central leader of JuD and a member of its central 'Dawati team' (proselytization team). He contested the 2018 Paki-

stani general election as a candidate for the Milli Muslim League (MML). He has played a prominent role in missions to raise funds for Lashkar and JuD in Saudi Arabia. In August 2012, the United States designated him as a global terrorist.

Rana Iftikhar (also known as Rana Waleed Atif, Rana Iftikhar Haider, Rana Iftikhar Ahmed, or Haider Khan) is a Pakistani national associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). He is a close associate of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed and serves as the key manager of finances for the organization's Kashmir operations. He heads 'Shoba-e-Aseeran,' the wing responsible for the welfare of the families of terrorists who have been killed or are imprisoned in Indian jails. He was arrested in 1993 after being wounded during an encounter in the Mendhar sector of Jammu & Kashmir and remained incarcerated in an Indian prison until 2004.

Wasim Noor Jat alias Qari Wasim is a Pakistani national associated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He is a JeM 'launching commander' responsible for operations in the Kotli area. During 2021-22, he was involved in activities related to dropping weapons and ammunition into Indian territory via drones. He was previously arrested by security forces in October 2008 and was incarcerated at Kot Bhalwal Central Jail, Jammu, from 2012 to 2015; following his release, he was deported to Pakistan.

Mohammad Shahid Faisal (alias Ustad, Muhandis, Zakir) holds Pakistani nationality (originally Indian, currently active in Rawalpindi) and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Al-Qaeda, and ISIS. He is the key mastermind and handler behind the 2012 Bengaluru LeT conspiracy case and the 2013 Nanded LeT case, which involved plots for the targeted killings of right-wing politicians and journalists. He fled to Pakistan in 2013 with the assistance of terrorist Farhatullah Ghori. Investigations reveal his involvement as an online handler in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case (2024), the Mangaluru cooker blast, and the Al-Hind ISIS module case. He recruits youth through anti-national and jihadist videos shared on social media and YouTube/Telegram channels (such as 'Sawat-al-Haq')—(KNO)

## LG Orders Suspension

Jammu, and Great Personalities of Jammu and Kashmir authored by Sushant Giri and published by Anurag Prakashan, Delhi.

As per the order, 123 copies of the first book were supplied to Jammu, Ramban and Udhampur districts, while 123 copies of the second book were supplied to Jammu and Baramulla districts before both publications were withdrawn.

The government said the books contained material related to separatism, which had the potential to create law and order concerns.

The officials placed under suspension include Fazil Imran Sadiq (Coordinator Library, Samagra Shiksha), Gurjeet Singh (Assistant Coordinator), Sanjeev Sharma (Principal, GHSS Kore Pannu, Kathua), Shazia Kouser (Academic Officer, SCERT Jammu), Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir (Lecturer, BHSS Wathora Budgam), Niranjan Sharma (Lecturer, GHSS Badhat Kishtwar), Renu Mengi (Lecturer, DIET Jammu) and Rajmohini (Lecturer, GGHS Poonch). City & Local Guides

During the suspension period, they will remain attached with the Administrative Department of the School Education Department.

The government has also disengaged contractual Computer Assistant Sheikh Suheel Ahmad, who was assisting the Coordinator Library, Samagra Shiksha, with immediate effect.

Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar, has been appointed as Inquiry Officer, while Additional Secretary, General Administration Department, Rohit Sharma, has been appointed as Presenting Officer. The inquiry report has to be submitted within 30 days.

The government has further ordered that the authors and publishers of the two books be banned and blacklisted in Jammu and Kashmir, besides withdrawing all printed material authored or published by them from the Union Territory.

## DGP Directs Heightened

Amarnath Ji Shrine Board while ensuring that only duly registered devotees are allowed to undertake the Yatra in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

Reviewing disaster preparedness, the Director General of Police directed all agencies to keep contingency plans and adequate resources ready to respond to weather-related emergencies, including evacuation, medical assistance, shelter and other essential services.

He also asked officers to ensure adequate security and assistance for both pilgrims and tourists across the Union Territory.

Emphasising public service, the DGP instructed officers to remain accessible and responsive and provide prompt assistance to pilgrims throughout the Yatra.

Senior officers of the police, Army, CAPFs, intelligence agencies, Traffic Police, Railway Police and other security organisations attended the meeting and reviewed the implementation of security measures, traffic management plans and standard operating procedures for the pilgrimage—(KNO)

## MeT Predicts Wet Spell

rainfall during the previous 24 hours.

The MeT Department said weather conditions are expected to change from July 5, with rainfall activity likely to increase across the Union Territory.

In Jammu division, fairly widespread rainfall is likely from July 5 to 6, followed by widespread showers on July 7 and 8, and fairly widespread rainfall again on July 9 and 10.

The department has issued a weather advisory for Jammu division, warning of isolated thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph on July 5, 6, 9 and 10. It has also forecast isolated heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds from July 6 to 8.

The MeT Department warned that the expected weather activity could trigger landslides, mudslides, shooting stones and flash floods at vulnerable places during the period.

For Kashmir division, isolated thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph are expected on July 7 and 8, it said.

The department advised residents, tourists and commuters to follow official weather updates and exercise caution, particularly while travelling through hilly and vulnerable areas during the forecast period—(KNO)

## Over 1,500 J&K Schools

In the year there were a total of 23,117 government run schools in Jammu and Kashmir out of which 4394 were deleted from the UDISE data.

In 2024, the official figures had revealed that a total of 12,977 government primary schools were functioning in Jammu and Kashmir. However, after the merger, only 8966 primary schools were functional.

Similarly, 392 government middle schools, three high schools and one higher secondary were deleted from the UDISE+ list.

Overall, Jammu and Kashmir used to have over 28,800 government and private schools. However, as per the official figures, the count has reduced to nearly 24,00 schools—(KNO)

## Mughal Road Sees

and Aliabad Sarai.

However, while the number of visitors continues to increase, commuters say the infrastructure has failed to keep pace with the growing traffic.

Officials said that tourist arrivals on the Mughal Road have witnessed a significant rise over the past few months, particularly during weekends and holidays, as visitors from both Kashmir and the Pir Panjal region flock to the high-altitude destinations to escape the summer heat.

Despite being declared a National Highway nearly three years ago, travellers say the route continues to lack even the most basic facilities required for a safe and comfortable journey.

"The natural beauty is unmatched, but once you enter the road, you are virtually cut off from the outside world. There is no mobile network for long stretches, no emergency assistance, no public washrooms and very few places where families can stop and rest," said Shub Jan, a tourist from Srinagar who recently visited Peer Ki Gali with her family.

Regular commuters said the absence of roadside services makes travelling on the highway particularly difficult in the event of mechanical failures or emergencies.

"The stretch between Hirpora and Peer Ki Gali is breathtaking, but if a vehicle develops a fault, there is no mechanic or recovery service nearby. Travellers are left stranded for hours," said Abdul Majid, a driver who frequently uses the route.

Local transporters highlighted the lack of food outlets and essential services across several sections of the road.

"There are stretches extending beyond 20 kilometres without a single shop, restaurant or tea stall. Tourists and commuters have no option but to carry everything with them. This discourages many people from choosing the route," said Fayaz Ahmed, a transporter from Rajouri.

Safety remains another major concern, especially in emergencies where communication becomes nearly impossible.

"In case of an accident or medical emergency, there is no mobile connectivity to contact emergency services. Families travelling with children, elderly people or patients remain highly vulnerable," said Tariq Lone, a regular commuter.

Women travellers, meanwhile, described the absence of sanitation facilities as one of the biggest challenges on the route.

"It is disappointing that such a famous tourist destination does not have proper public washrooms. For women, elderly people and children, the journey becomes extremely uncomfortable, particularly during long trips," said Yasir Ahmad a tourist from Pulwama.

Tourism stakeholders believe that the Mughal Road has enormous potential to become one of the Union Territory's premier tourist corridors if adequate infrastructure is developed.

"If the government establishes proper roadside facilities, food courts, rest areas, mobile connectivity and emergency response systems, tourist arrivals could increase several times. This would create employment opportunities for local youth, encourage investment and significantly boost the local economy," said Maqsood Khan, a hotelier from Poonch.

Residents and stakeholders from both sides of the Pir Panjal region have jointly appealed to the Jammu and Kashmir Government to prioritise infrastructure development on the highway. They have demanded installation of mobile towers, emergency helpline booths, public toilets, fuel stations, vehicle repair facilities, designated parking spaces, resting shelters and regular road maintenance to make travel safer and more convenient.

They also urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and elected representatives from both Kashmir and the Pir Panjal region to take immediate steps to transform the Mughal Road into a well-equipped tourism corridor capable of meeting the needs of the growing number of visitors while ensuring safety, comfort and sustainable economic development—(KNO)

## Srinagar Airport Withdraws

updating their schedules in accordance with the notified operational timings.

Passengers have been advised to check the status of their flights with their respective airlines before leaving for the airport and rely only on official channels for authentic updates.

Meanwhile, the Valley's trading fraternity welcomed the decision, describing it as a timely relief for the tourism and business sectors.

"We welcome the airport authorities' decision to withdraw the proposed weekly runway closure. It will ensure seamless connectivity during the peak tourist season and prevent inconvenience to travellers as well as losses to trade and tourism," Manzoor Ahmad, a tour and travel operator from Srinagar said.

Moreover, traders also expressed hope that the remaining runway maintenance would be completed during night hours without affecting normal flight operations in the coming months—(KNO)

ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL

+91- 9906230114- 6006600834

# DAR MATTING SHOP

DEALS IN:- BLANKETS, BED SHEETS, BED COVERS, PILLOW COVERS, DOOR MATS, ROOM SHEETS, GRAPHICS, LINING, ROTTERY & MUCH MORE

# SKUAST-K's One Health Vision gains global recognition

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has achieved a major milestone in its journey towards advancing the globally important One Health approach, with its student team securing the prestigious One Health Day Student Event Award 2025 organized by the internationally acclaimed One Health Commission.

The award was conferred on the university's student network, SKUAOHUN (SKUAST-K One Health University Network), for successfully organizing a month-long hybrid outreach and awareness initiative titled One Health Program-2025. The team competed against entries from 94 countries and was recognized for taking the One Health message beyond academic institutions and actively engaging communities through innovative



educational and outreach activities.

The achievement marks a significant international endorsement of SKUAST-K's efforts to institutionalize One Health—an integrated framework that recognizes the interdependence of human, animal and environmental health and addresses emerging challenges such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food safety and climate-related health risks.

SKUAST-K is among the first institutions in India to establish a dedicated School of One Health and has, over the past two

years, developed a comprehensive ecosystem for interdisciplinary education, research and policy engagement in the sector. The university has forged collaborations with leading medical and veterinary institutions and has recently developed several innovative technologies and initiatives under the One Health framework.

As part of its growing leadership in this area, SKUAST-K has also created vibrant student-led One Health platforms and community engagement programs to translate science into societal impact.

The international award includes an International Certificate of Excellence, a cash prize of USD 1,000, and complimentary registration for two student representatives to attend the 9th World One Health Congress, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, in September 2026.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai congratulated the student team, faculty members, and the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry for the achievement. He described the recognition as validation of SKUAST-K's vision to become a globally relevant transdisciplinary institution that addresses emerging societal and scientific challenges through innovation and collaboration.

"With our philosophy of SKUAST-K for Quality of Life, we remain committed to creating solutions that improve the health of people, animals and ecosystems alike," Prof. Ganai said.

# Five-Day Farmers' Exposure Visit concludes at Directorate of Agriculture

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The five-day Farmers' Exposure Visit Programme, organized by the Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir, concluded Saturday at the Directorate Hall, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, with Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, presiding over the valedictory function as the chief guest.

The programme was designed to provide participating farmers with first-hand exposure to modern agricultural technologies, innovative farming practices and successful models of sustainable agriculture. Throughout the five-day programme, farmers interacted with subject experts, visited important agricultural institutions and gained practical



insights into improved crop management, resource-efficient farming and value addition in agriculture.

Addressing the participants, Director Agriculture Kashmir, emphasized that exposure visits are an important component of capacity building as they enable farmers to learn from successful experiences, adopt scientific interventions and replicate best practices in their own fields. He said that such initiatives help bridge the gap between research and

field-level implementation, ultimately contributing to enhanced agricultural productivity, higher farm incomes and sustainable agricultural development across the Kashmir Valley.

Shah appreciated the enthusiasm, dedication and active participation displayed by the farmers during the programme and urged them to act as ambassadors of modern agriculture by sharing the knowledge and experiences gained with fellow farmers in their

respective villages. He stressed that the Agriculture Department remains committed to empowering the farming community through continuous skill development, farmer-centric training programmes, exposure visits, field demonstrations and technology dissemination under various developmental initiatives.

On the occasion, the Director distributed certificates among the participating farmers in recognition of their successful completion of the programme. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Agriculture Department for providing them with a valuable learning platform and affirmed their commitment to adopting the improved technologies and practices demonstrated during the exposure visit.

# ARTO B'pora conducts Special Enforcement Drive; 37 vehicles Challaned



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** On the directions of the Transport Commissioner, J&K, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, and the Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, a special enforcement drive was conducted by the ARTO Bandipora team across the district to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and the notified fare regulations.

The drive primarily focused on checking overcharging by auto-rickshaw drivers and curbing illegal parking, particularly on Hospital Road and at Kaloosa, where complaints had been received from the general public.

During the enforcement drive, a total of 37 vehicles were challaned under various provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act

and Rules, with an expected revenue realization of approximately ₹39,500. In addition, three auto-rickshaws were seized for serious violations.

To safeguard the interests of commuters and ensure transparency in fare collection, the ARTO Bandipora team also displayed the notified fare lists inside e-autos so that passengers can easily verify the prescribed fares and report any instances of overcharging.

The ARTO Bandipora reiterated its commitment to ensuring safe, lawful and passenger-friendly public transport services and appealed to all transport operators to strictly adhere to the notified fare structure and traffic regulations. The general public has also been urged to report any violations to the concerned authorities for prompt action.

# ADDC Shopian chairs reviews Saturation of Banking, Financial Services Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone Saturday chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Shopian to review and discuss the implementation of the saturation campaign of deepening financial inclusion by ensuring universal access to banking and financial services for the un-served and under served population at Gram Panchayat (GP) and Urban Local Body (ULB) levels being conducted from June 15 to July 15, 2026.

During the meeting, the ADDC stressed the importance of ensuring 100 per cent coverage of eligible beneficiaries under differ-

ent government welfare schemes and directed all departments to work in close coordination for effective implementation of the campaign.

He also emphasized extensive awareness generation, extending financial and banking services in un-served and under-served areas.

Officers were instructed to intensify field-level activities and submit regular progress reports for achieving the objectives of the saturation campaign within the stipulated timeframe.

ACD, Muzaffar Ahmed; ALC, Dr. Nida Yousof; LDM, Farooq Ahmed, BDOs, CSC, Manager, District Manager, NRLM, and other concerned attended the meeting.

# KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Potushai Gurez line will be observed due to which power supply to Wanpora, Dawar, NHPC, Tragbal, Peerbaba, Kanzalwan, Razdantop and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 07 & 09 July 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Bugoo Tapline of Nowpora line will be observed due to which power supply to Bugoo, Gulabad, Hyder Colony, ADC Sopore's office and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 09 July 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Tujjar Tapline of Amar-garh-Bandipora line will be observed due to which power supply to Tujjar, Harwan, Shrine and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 07, 11 & 18 July 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 kV Panzipora and Shair Colony line will be observed due to which power supply to Panzipora, Tarzoo, Hygam, Haritar, Shair Colony, Maharajpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 14 July 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Wanpoh-Ashajipora/Malaknag Double Circuit line will be observed due to which power supply to Ashajipora, Dialgam, Rohu, Mirbazar, Schichen, Brinty, Malaknag, Reshi Bazar, Janglatmandi, Shirpora, BB Nowgam, Thajiwara, Brakpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 06 & 09 July 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Wanganpora Safal Kadal line will be observed due to which power supply to Noorbagh, Safakadal, Eidgah, Rathpora, Saidapora, Baghwanpora, Ganderpora, De-addiction & Rehabilitation Centre will be affected from 08 AM to 12 Noon on 06 July 2026.

# Green Cooperative Day observed at NM Govt Higher Sec School B'pora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** As part of the ongoing Cooperative Week being observed from June 29 to July 06, 2026, the Department of Cooperatives, Bandipora on Saturday organised a Plantation Drive under the theme "Green Cooperative Day" at NM Government Higher Secondary School Bandipora, Muneer Ahmad Pintoo.

Besides, officials of the Cooperative Department Bandipora, staff and students of the Eco Club of the School Bandipora also participated in the programme.

Students, staff and officers of the Cooperative Department enthusiastically participated in the plantation drive and planted saplings within the school premises, reaffirming their commitment towards environmental protection and sustainable development.

The Department of Cooperatives reiterated its commitment to organising awareness and outreach activities that encourage community participation and strengthen the cooperative movement while promoting a greener and cleaner environment.

The Department of Cooperatives reiterated its commitment to organising awareness and outreach activities that encourage community participation and strengthen the cooperative movement while promoting a greener and cleaner environment.

# SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow we would like to inform about the sad passing of Rafiq Bashir, wife of Late Bashir Ahmad Naikoo on Saturday 04 July 2026. (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un). The congregational Fatiha Khawari will be held at Mushtaq Colony, Hyderpora, Lane 4 on 07 July 2025.

Note: A kind request to all visitors, kindly don't bring any fruits or other items with you.

Grief Sticken

Arifa Jaan, Mubeena Jaan, Ruksana Akhtar, Irshad Ahmad Naikoo, Asiya Irshad, Mansha Manzoor, Kamran Manzoor, Mohammad Musab

Contact: 7006038357, 9906663374

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER J&K,**  
**RAILHEAD COMPLEX, JAMMU**  
Email Address: transport-commjk@jk.gov.in | Tel No. Office: (Jmu.) 0191-2476091, (Sgr-) 0194-2490686

**Subject: Registration of Drivers Engaged in the Public Transport Sector (Excluding Government Employees) for Availing Benefits under Government Welfare Schemes.**

## CIRCULAR

In order to create a comprehensive database of drivers engaged in the public transport sector and to facilitate the implementation of various Government welfare and social security schemes for their benefit, it has been decided to undertake the registration of eligible drivers through the Motor Vehicles Department, J&K.

Accordingly, all Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) and Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) shall initiate the registration of drivers engaged in the public transport sector within their respective jurisdictions.

The registration shall cover drivers operating public transport and commercial vehicles, including stage carriages, contract carriages, taxis, auto-rickshaws, buses, minibuses, maxi cabs, goods carriages, and other commercial transport vehicles. Government employees engaged in driving duties or otherwise employed by the Government shall not be eligible for registration under this initiative.

**The registration exercise is intended to:**

- Develop and maintain an authenticated database of drivers engaged in the public transport sector.
- Devise a training schedule of all the Passengers Vehicles Drivers for imparting necessary instructions about the overall safety of the passengers.
- Facilitate identification of eligible beneficiaries for Government welfare and social security schemes.
- Ensure transparent, efficient, and timely delivery of benefits under schemes notified by the Government from time to time.
- Enable evidence-based policy formulation for the welfare and development of the public transport sector.

**Eligible drivers shall submit the prescribed registration form (enclosed) along with self-attested copies of the following documents:**

- Valid Driving Licence.
- Aadhaar Card or any other Government-issued photo identity proof.
- Proof of residence.
- Commercial Driving Badge, wherever applicable.
- Passport-size photograph.
- Any other document as may be prescribed by the registering authority.

**All RTOs/ARTOs shall:**

- Ensure wide publicity of this registration drive through transport unions associations, stand committees, public notices, social media platforms, and other suitable means.
- Facilitate hassle-free registration of eligible drivers at their respective offices.
- Verify the credentials of applicants before registration.
- Maintain and periodically update the database in the prescribed digital format.
- Submit weekly progress reports to the Office of the Transport Commissioner, J&K.

The registration exercise shall commence w.e.f 15/07/2026 till 15/08/2026. All concerned officers shall ensure that the registration process is conducted in a transparent, time-bound, and citizen-friendly manner. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

**APPLICATION FORM FOR REGISTRATION OF DRIVERS ENGAGED IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT (EXCLUDING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES)**

**PART A – APPLICANT DETAILS**

- Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Father's/Husband's Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- Gender:  Male  Female  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Aadhaar No. (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_
- Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Village/House No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Office \_\_\_\_\_  
Tehsil: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ PIN Code: \_\_\_\_\_
- Correspondence Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

**PART B – DRIVING LICENCE DETAILS**

- Driving Licence Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date of Issue: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- Valid up to: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- Issuing Licensing Authority: \_\_\_\_\_
- Class of Vehicle Authorised:
  - LMV
  - LMV (Transport)
  - Medium Passenger Vehicle
  - Heavy Passenger Vehicle
  - Medium Goods Vehicle
  - Heavy Goods Vehicle
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Badge Number (where applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
- Driving Experience: \_\_\_\_\_ Years

**PART C – EMPLOYMENT DETAILS**

- Present Status:
  - Self-employed Driver
  - Employed by Vehicle Owner
  - Attached with Transport Operator
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of Employer/Vehicle Owner (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
- Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Vehicle Registration Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Nature of Public Transport Vehicle:
  - Taxi
  - Cab
  - Maxi Cab
  - Bus
  - Mini Bus
  - Auto Rickshaw
  - Goods Carriage
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

**PART D – ELIGIBILITY DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that:

- I am engaged/intend to be engaged as a driver of a public transport vehicle.
- I am not a Government employee employed by the Central Government, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, or any Government Department, Corporation, Board, or Public Sector Undertaking.
- My driving licence is valid and has not been suspended, cancelled, or disqualified by any competent authority.
- I shall immediately inform the Transport Department of any change affecting my eligibility or registration.

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature/Thumb Impression of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

NO: RC/JK/2026/883-907 DPK-2865-26 (Rizwan Asgar), JKAS  
Dated: 03/07/2026 DT: 04/07/2026 Joint Transport Commission

Space for photo

# FIFA WC: Unbeaten Colombia seal final last-16 spot with 1-0 win over Ghana

MIAMI

**KANSAS CITY:** Colombia extended their unbeaten run at the FIFA World Cup 2026 to four matches as they dispatched Ghana 1-0 at the Kansas city Stadium to seal the final spot of the Round of 16.

Having finished top of Group K ahead of Portugal, Nestor Lorenzo's team were too strong for the Black Stars, with Jhon Arias's first-half strike enough to seal the win. The Colombians will face Switzerland, a team that comes into the match after defeating Algeria 2-0.

Colombia took to the field with a clear attacking intent and, taking advantage of their speed on the wings, began to create danger against the African defense. Their persistence paid off in the 14th minute when Jhon Arias capitalised on an assist from Luis Javier Suarez to open the scoring. In the second half, they maintained control, managed possession of



the ball and continued to trouble the opposing defense with constant attacks into the penalty area.

Lorenzo's side return to action on July 8 in Vancouver, where they will battle Switzerland for a place in the quarter-finals.

Ghana's Thomas Partey went close with a powerful long-range effort inside two minutes, but La Sele - roared on by a sea of Colombian supporters - soon seized

the initiative. Suarez, on for the injured Jhon Cordoba, burst clear down the right before squaring into the penalty area, where Arias caressed a first-time finish into the bottom corner.

Ghana were a touch fortunate not to be even further behind at the break, as Luis Diaz fired wide from inside the box and Lawrence Ati-Zigi produced a brilliant reaction save to claw away Johan Mojica's downward header.

Diaz had the ball in the net in the 56th minute, but the goal was ruled out for a marginal offside after he stretched to convert Arias's cross. Moments later the Colombia forward fired straight at Ati-Zigi from an unmarked position inside the penalty area. One goal proved enough, though, as the Colombians kept it tight at the back and prevented Ghana from registering any shots on target.

# FIFA WC: 'We have many things to correct,' says Messi after Argentina survive Cape Verde test

MIAMI

**MIAMI:** Argentina captain Lionel Messi admitted his side have 'many things to correct' after surviving a major scare to defeat Cape Verde 3-2 after extra time and book their place in the Round of 16 of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The defending champions needed an extra-time own goal, forced by Messi's corner, to overcome a spirited Cape Verde side after being pushed back twice during a thrilling contest at the Miami Stadium on Saturday. Argentina will now face Egypt in the last 16.

Reflecting on the performance, Messi stressed that qualification alone was not enough and said the team must learn from their mistakes ahead of the knockout stages.

"Today, we put in a huge effort, as always, playing well and playing badly, just like we always say, but I think the important thing now is to rest, think about what's coming next and try to take positives from today's game. Beyond just qualifying, I think there are positives because we did some good things, and we also need to correct the bad ones, which I think were many today as well," Messi said after the match



as quoted by ESPN.

Messi, who opened the scoring in the 29th minute to extend his remarkable record of scoring in eight consecutive FIFA World Cup matches, acknowledged that Argentina struggled to maintain control after taking the lead.

"We knew it was going to be a very tough match; this team hadn't lost to Spain and Uruguay for a reason. We did the hardest

part, which was finding the first goal. We thought that from then on, we would start to find our game and be more relaxed, but it was the complete opposite. We lost the ball, we sat back, we couldn't pressure them well, and they struck with their strengths," he said.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner added that Argentina expected a difficult challenge from Cape Verde and said knockout football leaves no room for complacency. "We knew it was going to be difficult; this is a knockout tournament, and nobody gives you anything for free," Messi said. Argentina are still unbeaten in the tournament and looking to create history, becoming the first team in 64 years to successfully defend their title in the FIFA World Cup history.

# 'We're fully focused and united': Raul Jimenez warns England before round of 16 FIFA WC clash

MIAMI

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexico striker Raul Jimenez believes the unity and fighting spirit within the squad have been the driving force behind El Tri's impressive FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign as they gear up for a blockbuster Round of 16 clash against England.

The experienced forward, who has rediscovered his goalscoring touch on the biggest stage after years of injury setbacks, said the players are fully aware of the magnitude of Monday's contest and are determined to continue giving fans reasons to celebrate.

Jimenez has enjoyed a memorable tournament, scoring twice to help Mexico reach the knockout stages. His latest strike, in the 2-0 win over Ecuador, took his tally to 47 international goals, moving him past Jared Borgetti into second place on Mexico's all-time scoring list. Only Javier 'Chicharito' Hernandez (52) has scored more goals for the national team.

Ahead of Sunday's last-16 encounter, the veteran striker stressed that Mexico are embracing the challenge.

"We're fully focused and united. That sense of togetherness and family spirit is spurring us on to



great things. We've still got another match to play here in Mexico, and we're fully aware of what's at stake," Jimenez told FIFA.

"We're going to give it our absolute all and keep giving the fans something to shout about. We've got a really strong side, and there's been a real sense of togetherness since Vasco (Javier Aguirre) took charge. The sky's the limit," he added.

The England fixture also carries an intriguing personal subplot. Jimenez has faced England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford six times in the Premier League and scored in every meeting, with the Everton goal-

keeper conceding six goals to the Mexican striker - more than against any other player in Jimenez's career.

The 35-year-old's campaign has also carried deep personal significance. His opening goal of the tournament, against South Africa, was the first World Cup goal of his career after featuring in three previous editions without finding the net.

The emotional celebration that followed was dedicated to his late father, Raul Jimenez Vega, who passed away in March.

"That was for my dad. He'd have been the happiest man in the stadium if he'd been here. This one's for him," Jimenez added.

# Women's T20 WC: Unbeaten heavyweights Australia and England clash for ultimate glory at Lord's

LONDON

**LONDON:** Arch-rivals Australia and England will lock horns in a clash of unbeaten teams when cricket's most celebrated rivalry takes centre stage in the final of the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground on Sunday.

The title clash has all the ingredients to deliver a blockbuster finale and decide the winner of the 12-team tournament. Six-time champions Australia are gunning for their seventh title and standing on the cusp of a milestone 150th women's T20I victory.

They have historically dominated England in global tournament finals, emerging victorious in all three of their previous T20 World Cup final encounters



in 2012, 2014, and 2018. Australia have won six of their last eight T20Is against England, including in their last three consecutive meetings.

But England, the hosts and 2009 winners, will lean on their immaculate record at the 'Home of Cricket'. England boast a perfect four-from-four T20I record at Lord's, a streak that includes their maiden T20 World Cup triumph back in

2009. Australia's primary concern revolves around the fitness of veteran seam-bowling all-rounder Ellyse Perry, who sustained a quad injury during their semi-final victory over the West Indies. Head coach Shelley Nitschke hinted that the management's tolerance for playing a partially fit Ellyse remains high given what is at stake.

and emerged victorious, while Australia pulled off a record run-chase against India here last week.

**Squads-**

Australia: Sophie Molineux (c), Ashleigh Gardner (vc), Tahlia McGrath (vc), Nicola Carey, Kim Garth, Lucy Hamilton, Grace Harris, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham and Tahlia Wilson (traveling reserve).

England: Nat Sciver-Brunt (c), Lauren Bell, Alice Caspey, Tilly Corteen-Coleman, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Dani Gibson, Amy Jones, Freya Kemp, Heather Knight, Linsey Smith, Issy Wong, and Danni Wyatt-Hodge

# B'la Strikers enter KCFL final with convincing win over B'pora Blasters

GMK SPORTS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir Champions Football League (KCFL) 2026, organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, moved one step closer to crowning its inaugural champions as Baramulla Strikers defeated Bandipora Blasters 3-1 in Qualifier 2 on Friday to book their place in the grand finale.

In a high-intensity contest played before an enthusiastic crowd at the Synthetic Turf Football Ground, TRC Srinagar, Baramulla Strikers delivered a clinical performance to overcome Bandipora Blasters and earn the second berth in the title clash. The standout performer of the evening was Shafiq Ahmad, who produced a match-winning display by scoring two crucial goals. His brilliant performance earned him the Man of the Match

award and played a decisive role in Baramulla Strikers' impressive victory.

The playoff encounter once again witnessed a remarkable turnout, with football lovers thronging the venue to witness another thrilling under-lights clash. The electric atmosphere created by passionate supporters has become a defining feature of the inaugural edition of the Kashmir Champions Football League, reflecting the growing popularity of football across the Union Territory.

With Friday's victory, Baramulla Strikers have now set up a mouth-watering final against Srinagar United, who had earlier secured direct qualification after winning Qualifier 1.

The championship clash, scheduled for Sunday, promises to bring together two of the tournament's best-performing teams in what is

expected to be a fitting finale to an exciting competition.

The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council congratulates Baramulla Strikers on reaching the final and appreciated both teams for displaying exemplary sportsmanship and competitive spirit. The Council also expresses gratitude to the football fraternity and spectators whose overwhelming support has contributed immensely to the success of the league.

As the inaugural edition of the Kashmir Champions Football League reaches its climax, the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council has invited football enthusiasts from across the Valley to witness the grand finale and celebrate the remarkable journey of a tournament that has showcased emerging talent, strengthened grassroots football and reaffirmed Jammu & Kashmir's growing passion for the beautiful game.

	<b>WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE</b> (HINDI) (U/A 16+) 02:20 PM, 08:15 PM
	<b>ALPHA</b> (U/A 16+) HINDI ATMOS 10:45 AM, 01:35 PM, 04:25 PM, 07:15 PM
	<b>MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA</b> (HINDI) (U/A 16+) 01:00 PM, 06:30 PM
	<b>COCKTAIL</b> (HINDI) (A) 11:20 AM
	<b>MINIONS AND MONSTERS</b> (U/A 7+) ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 04:20 PM HINDI - 11:00 AM
	<b>BABY DO DIE DO</b> (HINDI) (A) 05:35 PM

**NOW SHOWING**

*Movies*

**SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**INOX SRINAGAR**  
CALL: 95416 13868  
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS