

# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Srinagar • Tuesday 07, July 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 161 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

■ Pahalgam Terror Attack

## NIA Names Hafiz Saeed In Supplementary Chargesheet



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a supplementary chargesheet against Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed, accusing him of masterminding the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 people, including 25 tourists and a local civilian.

The supplementary chargesheet was filed before the NIA Special Court in Jammu, naming Saeed both in his individual capacity and as the founder and chief of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its proxy outfit, The Resistance Front (TRF), Travel Guides & Travelogues.

According to the NIA, Saeed has been charged under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, including offences related to waging war against India and conspiring from across the border to orchestrate the attack.

The agency said the supplementary chargesheet, filed in continuation of its original 1,597-page chargesheet, details Pakistan's alleged role in the conspiracy, Hafiz Saeed's involvement, and the evidence gathered during its scientific investigation and field inquiries.

The Pahalgam terror attack, carried out on April 22, 2025, targeted tourists on the basis of their religion, according to investigators. The attack left 25 tourists and one local resident dead, making it one of the deadliest attacks in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years.

The case was initially registered as FIR No. 25/2025 at Police Station Pahalgam in Anantnag district before being transferred

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## Women's Empowerment Key To Viksit J&K; Their Progress Ensures Progress Of Society: LG

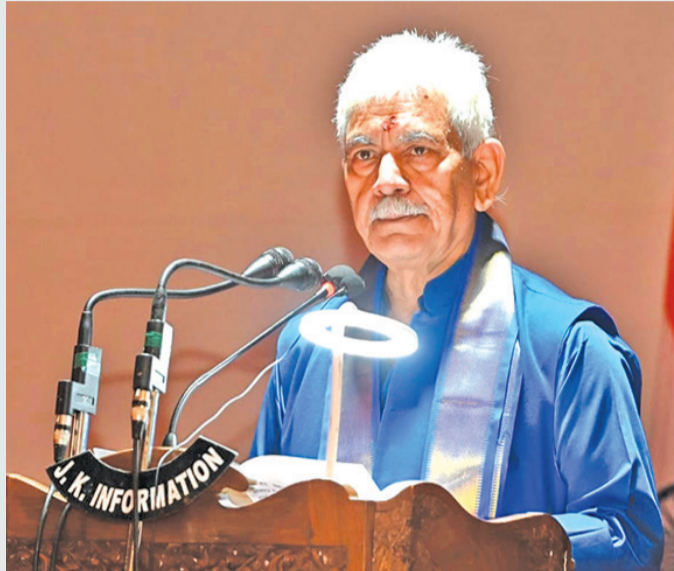
Felicitates Recipients Of Kashmir Women's Organization Fellowship

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the progress of women is indispensable for the progress of society, asserting that a developed Jammu and Kashmir can only be achieved when women are empowered, economically independent and actively participate in leadership and decision-making.

Addressing the felicitation ceremony of Fellows (Gender Equity Advocates) in Srinagar, Lieutenant Governor hailed the fellows as symbols of Jammu Kashmir's ongoing transformation toward a future built on self-confidence, equal opportunities and dignity for all.

He lauded the efforts of Dr. Fida Firdous and all the members of Kashmir Women's Organization for creating a robust platform where the Nari Shakti from the region could move forward confidently, embracing their talent, ideas, and identities and play a meaningful role



in building a bright future for Jammu Kashmir.

"In a short span, Kashmir Women's Organization has earned the distinction of becoming a powerful hub of hope, trust, and positive change. This fellowship program is a tangible realization of collaborative and shared responsibility.

By challenging deeply entrenched stereotypes, these fellows have redefined what is possible. They have paved a new path for future generations and their contributions would serve as a foundation of inspiration, confidence, and guidance for years to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to historical icons such as Rani Didda, Kota Rani, Lal Ded, Habba Khatoon, Mata Rupa Bhawani, who had shaped the consciousness of Jammu

Kashmir and contributed to its development. He highlighted that the women of J&K have always scaled the highest peaks of Nari Shakti.

"We have many such remarkable examples before us, and I wish for the women of Jammu Kashmir to lead the region's development," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for empowering the women of Jammu Kashmir by granting them their due rights and eliminating discrimination.

He outlined a progressive vision for the Union Territory, powered by women leaders.

"Women's empowerment is key to a Viksit J&K; their progress ensures the progress of society. I envision a Jammu Kashmir where women lead in academia, industry, social organizations and governance, shaping policies, driving entrepreneurship, and enriching our culture through art and literature.

I envision a Jammu Kashmir where every young girl grows up believing that her dreams are valuable, her voice is powerful, and her future holds

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■ J-K Books Controversy  
Counter Intelligence Sleuths Conduct Raids In Jammu, Noida



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Counter Intelligence wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday launched simultaneous searches at some locations in Jammu and Noida in connection with the alleged glorification of separatists in two controversial publications, officials said.

The officials said a team of counter intelligence raided the headquarters of Samagra Shiksha at Channi Himmat on the outskirts of the city and questioned the director and other officials as part of the ongoing investigation.

Another team of sleuths simultaneously carried out a raid at the office of a publisher at Noida, the officials said.

They said the raids are still going on when last reports were received.

The books in contention are titled 'Personalities and Legends of J&K', authored by Hilal Ahmad and Santosh Meena and published by Jammu-based Oberoi Book Service, and 'Great Personalities of

## Art-370 Abrogation Fulfilled Syama Prasad Mookerjee's Dream: PM



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KOLKATA:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the abrogation of Article 370 had fulfilled the dream of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee while asserting that his ideology and principles continue to shape the BJP's governance agenda and guide "New India."

Addressing a commemorative programme through a video message on Mookerjee's 125th birth anniversary, Modi described him as a visionary, patriot and champion of national unity, and drew a direct ideological link between the Jana Sangh founder's political struggles and several of the BJP's signature policy decisions, including the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

"Today, the nation and West Bengal are remembering a great son of the soil, a great patriot who was dedicated to the integrity of India," Modi said while lauding the newly formed BJP government in West Bengal for honouring the nationalist leader's legacy.

In remarks carrying strong political

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## CM Meets Mutton Dealers, Reiterates Govt's Commitment To Resolve Livestock Transit Issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday met a delegation of mutton dealers from Jammu and Kashmir who apprised him of the difficulties they have been facing in transporting livestock through Punjab, an issue that has impacted the smooth supply of livestock into J&K.

Minister for Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmed Rana and Minister for Transport and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma were also present during the meeting.

The delegation highlighted the challenges encountered during transit and sought the Chief Minister's intervention to ensure the unhindered movement of livestock.

Giving a patient hearing to their concerns, the Chief Minister assured the delegation that the Government of Jammu and



Kashmir is fully committed to resolving the issue and safeguarding the interests of traders, livestock transporters and consumers.

He informed the delegation that a high-level team of senior officers from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir will shortly visit Punjab to hold discussions with the concerned authorities and work towards an early, practical and mutually agreeable resolution to all issues affecting

the transportation of livestock.

The Chief Minister's intervention follows his earlier outreach to Chief Minister Punjab Bhagwant Mann, to whom he had written a D.O. letter urging the Punjab Government to facilitate the smooth and uninterrupted movement of livestock and address the difficulties faced by transporters from Jammu and Kashmir during transit. Responding promptly, the Punjab Chief

## CS Reviews Cyber Crime Prevention Measures Across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress made in strengthening the cyber crime prevention framework and expediting the operationalisation of the Digital Arrest mechanism across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, Home; Additional Director General of Police (CID); Commissioner Secretary, IT; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Inspector General of Police (Crime), Senior Superintendent of Police (Crime), SP Operations and other senior officers. Officers stationed outside Srinagar participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

Undertaking a comprehensive review of the initiatives, the Chief Secretary



directed that progress on cyber crime prevention and implementation of the Digital Arrest mechanism be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure adherence to timelines and effective inter-departmental coordination. He stressed the need for completing all statutory, administrative and technical requirements within the stipulated timeframe so that the system is made fully functional and operational without delay.

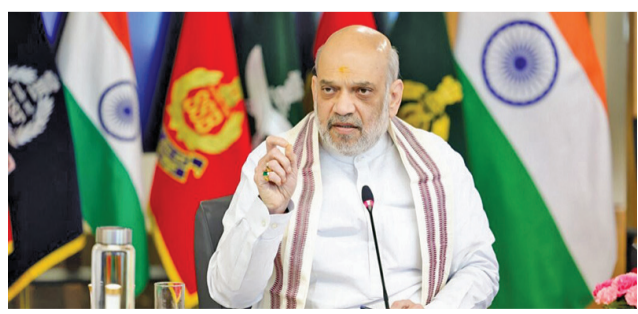
The Chief Secretary further directed the concerned departments to ensure that the progress is uploaded on the Pragati Portal by July 20 without any fail. He instructed the departments to submit all pending proposals and requisite documentation within the prescribed timeline to facilitate the issuance of necessary government orders for its

## 'J&K An Integral Part Of India' Article-370 Abrogation Fulfilled Syama Prasad Mookerjee's Vision: HM Shah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KOLKATA:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the abrogation of Article 370 by the Narendra Modi government fulfilled the long-standing vision of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is now an "integral part of India."

Addressing a commemorative event marking the 125th birth anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee in Kolkata, Shah said Mookerjee had sacrificed his life while opposing the special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir under the slogan, "Ek desh mein do Vidhan, do Pradhan, do Nishan nahi challenge" (One nation cannot have two



constitutions, two prime ministers and two flags).

"Dr Mookerjee gave his life for the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled his resolve by removing Article 370. Today, Jammu and Kashmir is an inseparable part of India," Shah said.

The Home Minister also recalled Mookerjee's opposition to the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, saying he had resigned from the first Union Cabinet because he believed the agreement failed to safeguard the interests of Hindus who had remained in Pakistan and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

Shah said the Modi government had also fulfilled another of Mookerjee's objectives by enacting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), which provides a pathway to Indian citizenship for persecuted religious minorities from neighbouring countries.

"We have removed Article 370, granted citizenship to persecuted Hindu refugees through the CAA, and we will identify and remove every infiltrator from Indian soil to make the country more secure," he said.

Speaking at the event, Shah announced that a 125-foot statue of Syama Prasad Mookerjee would be installed in Kolkata, describing it as more than a memorial and calling it "the

## Much-Awaited ULB Polls In J&K Unlikely In 2026

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The much-awaited Urban Local Bodies (ULB) polls in Jammu & Kashmir are unlikely to be held in 2026 due to the absence of an updated electoral roll, which will only be available after Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is undertaken in the Union Territory.

Officials disclosed to that the chances of holding the electoral exercise in the UT this year are almost nil, as the updated electoral roll required for these polls will only be prepared after the SIR exercise is completed.

"Unlike Panchayat polls, the electoral roll for Urban Local Bodies is prepared on the basis of the electoral rolls of the Election Commission of India. No revision of electoral rolls has been undertaken in Jammu & Kashmir by the EC since the 2024 Assembly polls," they said, adding that this has made the conduct of ULB elections in 2026 highly unlikely.

## Amanath Yatra Cumulative Pilgrim Count Nears 86,000; Expected To Cross 1 Lakh Today



UMAISAR GULL

**PAHALGAM:** The annual Amanath Yatra continued to witness a heavy influx of pilgrims, with 28,818 devotees paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine on the fourth day of the pilgrimage, taking the cumulative number of yatrihs who have performed darshan since the commencement of the Yatra on July 3 to 85,779, official figures said.

According to the official data accessed, the devotees who performed darshan on Sunday included 20,420 men, 7,554 women, 243 children,

249 sadhus, 32 sadhvis, nine transgender pilgrims and 311 security personnel.

With the steady flow of pilgrims, the cumulative number of devotees is expected to cross the one lakh mark on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, amid elaborate security arrangements, the fifth batch of 5,794 pilgrims, which left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu in the early hours of Monday, reached the twin base camps in Kashmir safely.

Official figures revealed that 2,304 pilgrims opted for the shorter

# CM Omar chairs 13th IMPARD Executive Council meeting

Calls for developing it as a premier training institution

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday chaired the 13th meeting of the Executive Council of the Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development (IMPARD) at the Civil Secretariat, reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening institutional capacity, administrative excellence and good governance across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting comprehensively reviewed the functioning of IMPARD and deliberated on a wide range of measures aimed at enhancing the institute's role as the premier training and capacity-building institution for J&K's civil services.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department M Raju, Director General IMPARD Rehana Batul and other senior officers.



At the outset, Director General IMPARD Rehana Batul presented a detailed overview of the institute's functioning, ongoing initiatives and future roadmap. She placed the agenda items before the Executive Council, which discussed each proposal extensively before taking considered decisions.

As Chairman of the Executive Council, the Chief Minister engaged in deliberations on important institutional matters, including recruitment of faculty members, finalisation of new recruitment rules, review and strengthening of training programmes, and support needed for organisation's long-term growth and sustainability.

The Council also examined various employee-related issues, including deputation of faculty members to fill up key positions at IMPA in the short term, implementation of career advancement, service matters, compassionate appointments, engagement of consultants and examination of other proposals through the designated sub-committee. The EC observed that these measures shall strengthen the institutional framework and ensure greater operational efficiency.

Emphasising the pivotal role of IMPARD in nurturing a professional and accountable civil service, the Chief Minister stressed the need for continuous

institutional reforms, high-quality training and innovation in public administration. He underscored that a modern governance framework requires well-trained, motivated and future-ready public servants capable of responding effectively to emerging challenges and citizens' expectations.

The Chief Minister called for regular upgradation of training modules in line with evolving governance practices, greater adoption of technology-enabled learning and stronger knowledge partnerships to ensure that government officials remain equipped with the skills required for efficient public service delivery.

## DC Kulgam inspects Development Works in DH Pora

Reviews Public Infrastructure Projects and Rural De Schemes



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Monday conducted an extensive tour of the DH Pora subdivision to inspect ongoing development works and review the implementation of key rural development schemes.

He reviewed the construction of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Office, Treasury Office and other ongoing projects.

Stressing the importance of timely completion, he instructed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work while maintaining the highest quality standards so that these vital public infrastructure projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Block Development Office (BDO), Pombay, where he reviewed the functioning of the office and assessed

the implementation of flagship rural development programmes, particularly MGNREGA and VB-G RAM-G.

During the inspection, Shahzad Alam emphasized strict adherence to prescribed procedures for the disbursement of material payments under MGNREGA/VB-G RAM-G, underscoring the need for transparency, accountability and financial discipline. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that only genuine labourers whose names are reflected in the muster rolls are engaged at work-sites, with regular verification to uphold the integrity of the programme.

He was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer, Malik Suheel; Sub-Divisional Magistrate, DH Pora, Bashir-ul-Hassan; Executive Engineer R&B Department, Tehsildar DH Pora and other senior district and block-level officers during the inspection.

## DC Bandipora chairs DRAC meeting, reviews Semi Ring Road progress

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Monday chaired a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) to finalize rent assessment cases of government offices functioning from rented buildings across the district.

Of the nine rent assessment cases placed before the committee, seven were approved after detailed deliberations, while two were kept pending, subject to submission of requisite documents and completion of necessary formalities.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized timely disposal of rent assessment cases in accordance with prescribed norms and directed the concerned departments to submit complete documentation to enable early disposal of the pending cases.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer Bandipora along with BMOs; Assistant Director Handicrafts Bandipora; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Bandipora; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora; DySP DAR; besides other concerned officers and departmental representatives.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a review meeting on the Semi Ring Road Phase-II project to assess the progress of works and address issues

requiring inter-departmental coordination for its timely execution.

Reviewing the status of each agenda item, the Deputy Commissioner stressed close coordination among the concerned departments for early resolution of pending issues. She directed the executing agencies and revenue authorities to expedite land acquisition for tower locations, accelerate the estimation of structures falling within the project alignment, and take all necessary measures for early relocation of the irrigation pump to ensure uninterrupted progress of works.

Emphasizing timely completion of the project, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to accelerate the execution process, remove bottlenecks on priority, and complete all procedural formalities within stipulated timelines to ensure smooth implementation of the Semi Ring Road Phase-II project.

The review meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Superintendent Engineer, R&B Circle Bandipora; Project Director, NHAJ Srinagar; Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sumbal; Executive Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control Division Sumbal; besides other concerned officers.

## Ban on Firecrackers After 10 PM Imposed in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** The District Magistrate, Shopian, has imposed a complete ban on bursting of firecrackers after 10:00 PM across the district, citing concerns over public safety, health hazards, noise pollution and security considerations.

The administration in an order said bursting of firecrackers and fireworks during late-night hours has emerged as a serious concern, causing panic among residents, disturbing public tranquillity and creating confusion during anti-terror operations carried out by security forces.

The order states that high-intensity noise generated by firecrackers

adversely affects elderly persons, infants, patients and students besides contributing to respiratory ailments, cardiovascular complications and sleep deprivation. It further notes that sudden explosions during night hours can hamper the operational efficiency and alertness of security personnel deployed in the district.

In view of these concerns, the District Magistrate has prohibited the bursting of all kinds of fireworks, including aerial fireworks and series crackers (laris), by any person within the territorial limits of Shopian district after 10:00 PM.

The order has come into force with immediate

effect and shall remain in operation for a period of two months unless withdrawn earlier or extended through a subsequent order. The administration said the order has been issued ex-parte considering the emergent nature of the situation and is addressed to the general public.

The District Magistrate warned that any person violating the order shall be liable for action under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, besides other relevant provisions of law. The order will be widely publicized through print and electronic media and displayed at government offices across the district for public information. [KNT]

## Animal Husbandry Deptt observes World Zoonoses Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Department of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir celebrated World Zoonoses Day Monday at its Directorate office with the theme "One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses".

The days is observed every year on 6th July to mark Louis Pasteur's 1885 breakthrough, the first vaccine against rabies.

Senior officers and officials, students of GGHSS Kothibagh, and pet owners attended the event. Experts spoke on preventing zoonotic diseases through vaccination, hygiene, and responsible pet care, stressing the One Health approach linking human, animal, and environmental health.

Participants lauded the department's efforts to spread awareness.

## FOOD GRAIN SCAM

# Five Officials, Nine Fair Price Shop Dealers Booked in Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu and Kashmir, has registered an FIR against five officials of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department and nine Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers for their alleged involvement in the embezzlement and misappropriation of government food grains worth over ₹5.57 crore in Karnah area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The case, registered as FIR No. 02/2026 at Police Station ACB Baramulla, invokes provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, along with relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

(BNS), after obtaining prior approval from the General Administration Department (GAD), Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the ACB, the criminal case stems from a communication received from the Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Kashmir, recommending criminal action after departmental inspections and physical verification revealed massive shortages of government food grains at the Lountha Granary in Karnah.

The bureau said a Joint Surprise Check conducted at Government Sale Centres and Fair Price Shops initially detected a shortage of 4,175.89 quintals of rice at the Lountha Gra-

nary. Subsequent physical verification by a departmental sub-committee and an independent verification by the ACB uncovered further shortages at various Government Sale Centres and Fair Price Shops falling under Tangdhar, Karnah-A and Karnah-B circles.

The investigation has so far revealed an alleged loss of ₹5,57,18,657.25 to the government exchequer.

According to the ACB, the shortages were the result of a well-orchestrated criminal conspiracy involving public servants and private beneficiaries, who allegedly misappropriated government food grains entrusted to them by abusing their official positions for unlawful pecuniary gain.

The FIR has been registered for offences relating to criminal misconduct, criminal breach of trust, criminal conspiracy and misappropriation of government food grains.

Among those named in the case are Umar Bashir alias Raja Umer, then Assistant Storekeeper, Ashiq Hussain Mir, then Assistant Storekeeper, besides twelve other accused comprising officials of the department and Fair Price Shop dealers.

Immediately after the registration of the FIR, the ACB launched searches at multiple locations linked to the accused persons. The bureau said further legal proceedings have been initiated in accordance with law, while the investigation is continuing. [KNT]

## DC Baramulla visits Sopore Industrial Estate, interacts with Traders



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid Monday visited the Sopore Industrial Estate, where he interacted with traders, entrepreneurs and industrial unit holders to review the functioning of industrial establishments.

The Deputy Commissioner, accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, inspected various industrial and business units and reviewed their production activities and infrastructure. During the interaction, traders and entrepreneurs highlighted the need for construction of a boundary wall (fencing), establishment of a single regulated entry and exit point, and augmentation of other essential infrastructure and facilities within

the industrial estate.

The Deputy Commissioner, assured them that all demands would be examined on priority and taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action. He emphasized that a well-developed industrial ecosystem is essential for promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and boosting the local economy.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among the concerned departments to facilitate industrial growth and improve infrastructure at the estate.

He reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to supporting local entrepreneurs and ensuring a conducive environment for the growth and expansion of industrial activities.

## DDC Shopian reviews the progress of SASCI, PMGSY, other developmental projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian to assess the progress of projects being executed under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), PMGSY and other developmental sectors in the district.

The DDC reviewed the status of ongoing projects, to address bottlenecks in implementation and directed for ensuring timely completion of works for the benefit of the people of the district.

The meeting aimed to strengthen inter-departmental coordination and to accelerate the pace of infrastructure development in the district.

During the meeting, the DDC reviewed the status of PMGSY road projects and took stock of issues related to obtaining forest clearances. It was informed that forest clearance cases pertaining to three PMGSY

road projects are under process, while work on 15 PMGSY road projects under SASCI are presently underway in the district.

The meeting was further informed that R&B Division Shopian, has undertaken seven road projects under SASCI, of which five have already been completed while the remaining works on two projects are progressing steadily.

The DDC also reviewed the status of projects being executed by departments, including Health, KPDC, Horticulture Planning & Marketing and other sectors.

Emphasising the need for timely execution of developmental works, the DDC exhorted all executing agencies to expedite the pace of work, resolve bottlenecks in a coordinated manner and ensure completion of all projects within stipulated timelines so that the benefits of development reach the people at the earliest. SE, R&B, CPO, Executive Engineer PMGSY, Executive Engineer R&B, DFO and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

## Anantnag Police Destroy Over 308 kg of Seized Narcotics

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** In a major anti-narcotics initiative, Anantnag Police on Monday destroyed more than 308 kilograms of seized contraband, including Charas, Ganja, Poppy Straw and Heroin, at the incineration facility located in the Lassipora Industrial Estate in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The destruction of the



narcotics was carried out after completing all legal formalities and in accordance with the orders of

the competent courts and prescribed procedures.

Police said the destroyed contraband had been seized

in connection with various cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Anantnag district during sustained anti-drug operations.

The exercise was conducted under the supervision of the designated committee constituted for the disposal of narcotic substances, ensuring transparency and adherence to legal norms. [KNT]

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-mail: xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

#### TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT No:	MHDH/TS/2026-27/e NIT/13
Date:	02/07/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bid in Two Cover system on items wise basis from registered/reputed firms for the below mentioned work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Repair and maintenance works to the JE's Room at Snow Clearance Control Room Kupwara	50.8	200.00	1020.00	15 days	Accorded	Accorded

- Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 03/07/2026 (1800hrs)
- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 04/07/2026 (1000hrs) to 23/07/2026 (1400hrs) in two covers.
- Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 23/07/2026 (1600hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
- The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

No: - MHDH/TS/717-24  
 Dated: -02/07/2026  
 DIPK-2892-26  
 DT: 06/07/2026

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 Mechanical & Hospitals Division  
 Handwara

# CM reviews power sector reforms, calls for efficient electricity supply across J&K

Focus on loss reduction, infrastructure upgrades and financial sustainability

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Power Development Department, underscoring his government's commitment to strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's power infrastructure through sustained reforms, modernization and improved service delivery.



The Chief Minister reviewed the overall performance of the power sector, including revenue realization, implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, transmission projects and the roadmap for future reforms.

made significant strides in implementing power sector reforms under RDSS, with projects worth over ₹5,700 crore under execution across the region. Of these, works worth nearly ₹4,700 crore relating to loss reduction have largely been awarded.

Reforms related to metering is expected to improve billing efficiency, reduce losses and empower consumers through transparent energy usage.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department Ashwini Kumar, ACS to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Managing Director Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited Gurpal Singh, Managing Director KPDCCL Mehmoood Ahmad Shah, Chief Electrical Inspectorate PDD Sanjay Sharma, senior officers of JKTPCL, senior engineers and other concerned officers.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of extensive loss reduction works, including installation of aerial bunched (AB) cables, feeder segregation, augmentation of distribution transformers, underground cabling and strengthening of the distribution network. Officers informed the meeting that several districts have recorded substantial progress under these components, with many packages

nearing completion. Reviewing the financial health of the power sector, the Chief Minister noted the encouraging improvement in revenue realization. It was informed that annual revenue realization has increased significantly over the past several years, while the gap between power purchase cost and revenue realization has narrowed owing to sustained reforms, better billing and improved collections.

The meeting was informed that billing efficiency has improved from 56 per cent in FY 2021-22 to 77 per cent in FY 2025-26, while overall AT&C losses have declined drastically during the same period. The ACS-ARR gap has also reduced significantly, reflecting improving financial sustainability of the power utilities.

and reduce system losses. He called for focused efforts to improve consumer services while ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the power sector.

The Chief Minister was informed about proposals for additional infrastructure investments, including expansion of AB cable networks, critical transmission projects, battery energy storage systems and rooftop solar initiatives aimed at improving grid stability, enhancing renewable energy integration and providing reliable electricity in remote and border areas.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of electrification works in uncovered habitations, ongoing transmission projects, feeder-wise power curtailment, tariff proceedings for FY 2026-27 and proposed interventions to further modernize the power sector.

Reiterating that reliable and affordable electricity remains central to the government's development agenda, the Chief Minister directed the department to adopt a results-oriented approach to ensure quality power supply, improve consumer satisfaction and build a modern, efficient and financially sustainable power sector for Jammu and Kashmir.

# Art-370 abrogation brought real freedom to Jammu and Kashmir: BJP's Nitin Nabin

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Bharatiya Janata Party national president Nitin Nabin on Monday asserted that J&K people "got their real freedom in 2019 when the Prime Minister Narendra Modi abrogated Article 370 and 35-A, realising the vision of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee."



BJP national president in Jammu this year.

"Only the persons with blinkered vision are unable to see what has changed in J&K. Tricolour proudly flying high at Lal Chowk and everywhere else in J&K after Narendra Modi took over the reins of the country as the Prime Minister delineates the change in J&K. Prior to 2014, when Congress was at the helm of affairs at the Centre and was in coalition in J&K government, hoisting tricolour was not allowed on the pretext that it would disturb peace in Kashmir and would create law and order problem," he stated, while taking a direct dig at his party's bete-noire, Congress.

Nitin Nabin was addressing "Karyakarta Sammelan" and public rally organised to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee at Majestic Grand, Mishriwala in Jammu outskirts as his first major engagement during his two-day visit to Jammu.

This was his first visit to J&K after taking over as

at all. Had Congress been in power at the Centre, J&K youth would still have been identified as stone-pelters and not as Ranji (trophy) winners," he aimed another barb, while launching an offensive against Congress.

The BJP president described July 6 as a "very significant day for J&K as it marked the birth anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee who laid down his life here for integrating it fully with the rest of the country with one flag and one constitution."

He also recalled the struggle of Dr Mookerjee, former BJP president Dr Murlidhar Manohar Joshi and Narendra Modi, before he became the Prime Minister, to "see tricolour unfurling at Lal Chowk and every nook and corner of J&K."

"My heart swells with pride that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi realised this vision. It is further heartening to note that as we are observing 125th birth anniversary of Dr Mookerjee, the BJP flag is also flying high in West Bengal - the birth-place of BJP ideologue (Dr Mookerjee)," Nitin Nabin said.

Earlier, the BJP national president, accompanied by BJP national general secretary and in-charge J&K affairs Tarun Chugh, was accorded a rousing reception on his arrival at Jammu airport on Monday afternoon.

## J&K Govt Modifies CDF Guidelines

### MLAs Authorized to Provide Medical Assistance Up to ₹20 Lakh for Life-Threatening Diseases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move aimed at providing major financial relief to patients suffering from life-threatening ailments, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered an amendment to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Scheme guidelines.

lakh for organ transplantation, ₹2.75 lakh for cancer treatment, and ₹1.00 lakh for chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis, alongside other diseases notified by the government.

To ensure optimum utilization of resources, the assistance will be admissible for the uncovered portion of the treatment cost only after the patient has exhausted all eligible benefits under existing schemes, including PM-JAY SEHAT, Medical Aid Trust (MAT), and the Cancer Treatment and Management Fund for Poor (CTMFFP).

This timely welfare decision taken by the Omar Abdullah government is expected to benefit the poor patients suffering from critical ailments belonging to Below poverty line families and economically weaker categories to be notified by government.

As per the official government order, sanction has been accorded allowing Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to utilize up to ₹20.00 lakh out of their annual CDF allocation exclusively for providing medical assistance to patients from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and other notified economically weaker categories.

Under the revised guidelines, financial assistance can be sanctioned up to a maximum limit of ₹5.00

# Chief Secy lead SEC approves ₹751.46 Cr disaster recovery projects for J&K

Roads, Schools, Health and Power Sectors to benefit from 1,033 recovery projects



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired the 2nd meeting of the State Executive Committee (SEC) for 2026-27 under the Disaster Management framework and approved a series of proposals aimed at accelerating post-disaster recovery, strengthening disaster preparedness and enhancing the response capacity across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, senior officers of the Finance Department, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), and other stakeholder departments.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon all implementing departments to ensure timely execution of the approved projects with complete adherence to the prescribed technical standards, transparency

and quality parameters so that the affected communities receive the intended benefits without delay.

He further directed the departments whose projects are yet to be submitted, despite approval of funds by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), to expedite the process and furnish their proposals within the next few days.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the entire basket of funds earmarked for the Union Territory should be fully utilized in a planned and efficient manner to execute disaster mitigation, restoration and protection works for the larger welfare and safety of the people.

During the meeting, the Committee approved projects worth ₹751.46 Cr under the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) funding for Jammu and Kashmir to facilitate reconstruction and restoration of critical public infrastructure damaged during the disasters of 2025.

The approved projects

2025 disaster. The approved interventions cover the sectors of Education, Animal Husbandry & Livestock, Roads and Bridges, Housing, and Irrigation & Flood Control. These projects will facilitate restoration of essential public infrastructure and services in the affected areas.

To strengthen disaster preparedness and enable prompt response to emergencies, the Committee approved the release of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) assistance to all the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) and Divisional Commissioners. Under the approved package, ₹2 crore each will be released to every District Disaster Management Authority, while ₹1 crore each will be provided to the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir divisions for meeting emergent disaster management requirements and enhancing institutional preparedness.

The Chief Secretary underscored the need for building resilient infrastructure and improve institutional preparedness against future disasters. He stressed that effective utilisation of the approved funds, timely completion of projects would significantly strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's disaster resilience and ensure faster recovery for the affected communities.

## Dy CM conducts surprise inspection of PMGSY, JKPC, DIQC offices in Jammu

Stresses accountability, timely project execution, quality service delivery



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Monday conducted surprise inspection of several engineering offices in Jammu to assess their functioning and review progress of developmental works.

The Deputy Chief Minister visited the office of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) at Bikram Chowk, Jammu, where he reviewed the overall functioning of the department and assessed the status of ongoing road projects.

He directed the officers to ensure timely execution of works while strictly adhering to prescribed quality standards.

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that improved road connectivity is vital for the socio-economic development of the region. He called upon the officials to work with dedication and accountability.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister also interacted with the officers and staff, emphasizing the importance of maintaining transparency, efficiency

and responsiveness in departmental functioning.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister said that every project should be completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising on quality.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the offices of the Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) and the Design Inspection and Quality Control (DIQC) and JKCC office at Panama Chowk in Jammu. He reviewed the operational efficiency of both the departments and took stock of the progress of various ongoing works.

Expressing the need for strengthening institutional accountability, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to maintain discipline in offices, ensure regular monitoring of projects and uphold the highest standards of quality in execution. He said that effective supervision and timely completion of projects are essential to delivering better public services and meeting the expectations of the people.

## Amarnath Yatris take free ride on RAAHI: Hop Jammu buses along Chenab Line

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** The District Administration Jammu Monday gave Amarnath Yatris a free ride on the RAAHI: Hop Jammu bus service along its Chenab Line, offering pilgrims currently in the city a look at Jammu's heritage sites before they proceed to the Kashmir Valley.

temples, heritage sites, border landmarks and recreational spots.

The Chenab Line had earlier undergone trial runs to test timings and halts and today's ride will help fine-tune schedules and boarding points further.

Online bookings for all routes open from July 8, through online mode only. The service moves into full commercial operation from July 10, with a daily pass giving unlimited hop-on-hop-off access across all routes.

Once operational, the buses will run at regular intervals, depending on the route, with a tour guide on board. More information will be shared by the district administration.

## Pedestrian Killed After Being Hit by Tavera in Kokernag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**Anantnag:** A 61-year-old pedestrian lost his life after being struck by a Tavera vehicle in the Hiller area of Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said.

resident of Dehrua, who was on foot.

The injured man was immediately shifted to the Government Medical College, Anantnag for specialized treatment. However, despite the efforts of doctors, he succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to ascertain the circumstances that led to the fatal accident. [KNT]

## Javid Dar hears public grievances, assures time-bound redress

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Monday interacted with a series of public delegations and individuals at the Civil Secretariat here, reaffirming the government's commitment to responsive and people-centric governance.

During the interaction, the Minister patiently heard a wide range of collective and individual grievances pertaining to civic amenities, healthcare, employee welfare, compassionate appointments and other developmental and

public service-related issues.

Taking cognizance of the concerns raised by the delegations, the Minister issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for prompt examination and expeditious redress of genuine grievances. He stressed the need for a transparent, accountable and citizen-friendly administration, directing the officers to ensure timely disposal of public issues.

Javid Dar reiterated that addressing the public grievances remains a top priority of the government. He assured the visiting delegations that all genuine demands would be resolved in a time-bound manner.

**GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.**  
**GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
 BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.  
 E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

**EXTENSION NOTICE 2<sup>ND</sup>.**

**Subject:** Improvement to water supply Scheme Chandsuma.  
**Reference:** This office e.NIT No: 19 /JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/ GWDS/26-27/Camp/2129-41, dated: 05-06-2026 bearing Tender ID No: 2026\_PHE\_311619\_1.

Due to "POOR Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 06-07-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	16-07-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	17-07-2026 01.00 PM

**NOTE:**  
 All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.  
 No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./3871-83  
 Dated: 06-07-2026.  
 DIPK-2922-26  
 DT: 06/07/2026

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

Good Morning Kashmir

Power Reforms  
Keeping The Lights On,  
Beyond The Statistics

The Jammu and Kashmir government's fresh push to overhaul the power sector looks great on paper. But let's be honest: the real test of these reforms isn't found in a glossy government slide-show or a spreadsheet of statistical milestones. It's found in a simple, everyday reality: When someone flips a switch, does the light come on? During a recent review of the Power Development Department, the Chief Minister called for faster reforms, strictly enforced project deadlines, and a major upgrade to customer service. These are exactly the right priorities. For decades, keeping the lights on has been one of the most frustrating, persistent headaches for residents across J&K. Whether you live in a bustling urban center or a quiet rural village, the story is often the same: sudden outages, blown transformers that take days to fix, dimming voltage fluctuations, and a seemingly endless cycle of delays. There is a massive opportunity on the table right now. With over 5,700 crore being pumped into the region via the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), the tools for real change are finally here. We are talking about major upgrades: Replacing old, hazardous wires with aerial bunched cables, moving vulnerable grids underground, installing modern metering systems. But infrastructure is only half the battle. You can buy the best equipment in the world, but if projects drag on indefinitely or suffer from sloppy execution, nothing actually changes for the end consumer. Every single rupee needs to be tracked, and every deadline must be met with strict accountability. Government reports are quick to highlight shrinking commercial losses and rising billing efficiency. Financially speaking, that's great news. A financially stable utility company is vital because it means there is actually money to reinvest into the grid. However, regular citizens shouldn't feel like "reform" is just a fancy code word for tougher revenue collection. If people are paying their bills on time and transitioning to smart meters, they expect a fair return on that investment. They deserve, accurate billing free of bureaucratic errors, responsive customer support that actually answers the phone, uninterrupted power to run their lives, and breaking the Seasonal Cycle. Recent drops in local hydropower generation, caused by low water levels, have once again exposed just how fragile J&K's energy independence really is. Buying expensive emergency power from national energy exchanges can patch a hole during a harsh winter or a dry spell, but it's a financial band-aid, not a cure. To truly break free from this seasonal anxiety, the region must aggressively invest in diversified energy sources and modern, weather-resistant generation capacity. Electricity isn't a luxury; it is the absolute bedrock of daily life. It's what keeps hospital equipment running, allows kids to study at night, and keeps local businesses and industries afloat. The current administration clearly has the ambition to fix this broken system. But the people of Jammu and Kashmir have heard big promises before. They don't want to read about milestones in a press release; they want to experience them. They want fewer blackouts, faster repairs when a storm hits, and a grid they can finally rely on. Ultimately, true success won't be measured by official reports. It will be measured by homes that stay bright, businesses that run smoothly, and citizens who can finally stop wondering when the next power cut is going to hit.

Beyond The Headlines

Kashmir's Quiet War Against Drug Abuse



SHAHID NAZEER

Every narcotics seizure makes headlines. Every arrest is reported as another victory against drug trafficking. Yet the real battle against drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir is unfolding far from police barricades and courtroom proceedings. It is taking place inside classrooms where teachers identify the first signs of distress, in hospitals where doctors help individuals reclaim their lives, on sports fields where young athletes discover purpose, and within families and communities that refuse to abandon those struggling with addiction.

This is a battle that cannot be won by law enforcement alone. It demands compassion as much as accountability, prevention as much as punishment, and community participation as much as government intervention. Increasingly, Kashmir's response to drug abuse reflects this broader understanding.

Substance abuse has emerged as one of the most serious social and public health challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir. Beyond its devastating impact on physical and mental health, addiction fractures families, weakens communities and deprives young people of their aspirations. Left unchecked, it threatens not only individual lives but also the social fabric and future human capital of the region.

Recognising the scale of the challenge, both the Government of India and the Union Territory Administration have adopted a more integrated approach that combines enforcement against narcotics trafficking with awareness, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The objective is no longer confined to intercepting illegal drugs; it is equally focused on preventing vulnerable youth from entering the cycle of addiction in the first place.

In recent months, the Union Territory Administration, under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has intensified anti-drug initiatives through a 100-day campaign designed to strengthen enforcement while expanding public awareness and community engagement. Bringing together the Jammu and Kashmir Police, District Administrations, the Health and Medical Education Department, educational institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions and civil society organisations, the campaign reflects an important shift—from treating drug abuse solely as a policing issue to recognising it as a collective societal responsibility.

At the forefront of this effort stands the Jammu and Kashmir Police. While



sustained anti-narcotics operations have disrupted trafficking networks across the Union Territory, the role of the police has evolved beyond enforcement. Officers increasingly engage with students, parents and community groups through awareness programmes, school interactions and public outreach initiatives that emphasise prevention alongside policing. Such engagement helps build trust while reinforcing the message that safeguarding young lives requires cooperation between institutions and citizens alike.

District Administrations have also emerged as key drivers of grassroots mobilisation. Through village-level awareness campaigns, educational programmes and interdepartmental coordination, district officials have sought to ensure that anti-drug initiatives reach communities beyond urban centres. These efforts recognise an essential truth: policies become meaningful only when they translate into awareness and action at the local level.

Healthcare professionals constitute another indispensable pillar of this response. Psychiatrists, psychologists, counsellors and de-addiction specialists work tirelessly to treat addiction not as a moral failing but as a medical and psychological condition requiring evidence-based care, empathy and sustained support. Every successful recovery represents more than an individual's triumph—it restores hope to families and strengthens communities.

Educational institutions have assumed an equally important responsibility. Schools and colleges are increasingly integrating awareness programmes, counselling and discussions on mental health into the learning environment. Teachers are often among the first adults to notice behavioural changes that may indicate emotional distress or substance misuse. By fostering informed conversations and reducing stigma, educational institutions are becoming the first line of defence

against addiction. Sport, too, has emerged as a powerful instrument of prevention. Across Kashmir, football tournaments, cricket leagues, martial arts championships and athletics competitions are providing young people with constructive avenues to channel their energy, ambition and talent. Participation in sport nurtures discipline, teamwork and resilience—qualities that strengthen young minds against destructive influences. Every playground filled with aspiring athletes represents an investment in a healthier future.

Equally encouraging is the growing involvement of civil society. Religious leaders, youth organisations, voluntary groups, parents and community elders are increasingly joining hands with public institutions to spread awareness, encourage early intervention and support rehabilitation. Their participation reflects an understanding that sustainable change cannot be imposed from above; it must emerge through collective ownership at the grassroots.

Despite encouraging progress, significant challenges remain. Expanding access to quality rehabilitation facilities, strengthening mental health services, creating greater employment and skill-development opportunities for young people, and sustaining awareness campaigns require continued investment and institutional commitment. Drug abuse is a dynamic challenge that demands equally dynamic and long-term solutions.

What inspires confidence, however, is the growing recognition that success cannot be measured solely through the quantity of drugs seized or the number of arrests made. Those indicators matter, but they do not tell the whole story. The true measure of progress lies in the number of young lives protected from addiction, the families kept together, the students who remain in classrooms, and the individuals who find the courage to seek recovery.

Beyond the headlines of seizures and statistics lies a quieter narrative—one

This is a battle that cannot be won by law enforcement alone. It demands compassion as much as accountability, prevention as much as punishment, and community participation as much as government intervention. Increasingly, Kashmir's response to drug abuse reflects this broader understanding.

of resilience, collaboration and hope. It is the story of police officers protecting communities beyond enforcement, teachers nurturing informed citizens, healthcare professionals rebuilding lives, coaches shaping character, parents standing beside their children, and communities refusing to surrender their future.

Kashmir's fight against drug abuse is ultimately not just a campaign against narcotics; it is an investment in its youth, its social fabric and its future. If this collective spirit continues to deepen, the Valley's most enduring victory will not be recorded in crime statistics, but in the countless young lives empowered to choose opportunity over addiction and hope over despair.

Shahid Nazeer is an independent journalist. He writes on public policy, education, governance, youth development and social issues. He can be mailed at nazirshahid378@gmail.com

Quiet Courage

Her Faith Before The World Believed

ABROO MUSHTAQ

When people speak of a mother, they often speak of sacrifice. They remember sleepless nights, warm meals, comforting hugs, and endless prayers. These are beautiful truths, but they do not tell the whole story. A mother's greatest achievement is not that she holds her child close; it is that she slowly teaches her child to walk away from her.

From the moment a child is born, a mother begins a journey filled with goodbyes. She lets go of tiny fingers learning to crawl, little feet taking their first steps, a school bag carried to the first day of class, and eventually the hand that no longer needs hers to cross the road. Every stage of motherhood asks her to love deeply while expecting less in return. A mother lives in a strange paradox. She spends years making herself indispensable, only to celebrate the day her child becomes independent. No award is given for this silent courage. No audience applauds the countless moments when she chooses her child's growth over her own comfort.

Children often measure love by what they receive. Mothers measure love by what they are willing to give away. Time, dreams, sleep, strength, youth—she offers them quietly, never keeping a record. Even when



exhaustion hides behind her smile, she continues because love, to a mother, is not a feeling that appears only in easy moments. It is a decision she renews every single day. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about a mother is that she is constantly becoming someone new. She is a nurse before she learns medicine, a teacher before she enters a classroom, a counsellor without a degree, and a protector without armor. She adapts because love demands creativity more than perfection.

As children grow older, they begin searching for success in distant places. Yet the place where they first learned courage was never a classroom or

a workplace. It was the quiet confidence reflected in their mother's eyes whenever she whispered, You can do it. Long before the world believed in them, she already had. A mother's legacy is rarely carved into monuments or written in history books. Instead, it lives in the character of her children in their kindness, resilience, honesty, and compassion. Every good deed they perform carries an invisible signature: the values she planted without expecting recognition.

In a world that celebrates loud achievements, motherhood remains one of humanity's quietest masterpieces. It changes lives without demanding applause. It shapes genera-

tions without seeking attention. Its greatest victories are often invisible. Perhaps that is why a mother's love cannot truly be measured. It is not defined by how tightly she holds on, but by how gracefully she lets go while always remaining a place her children can return to. She is not merely the beginning of life; she is the silent strength that echoes through every life she touches.

To understand a mother is to understand that the strongest hearts are often the gentlest ones. And perhaps the greatest miracle is not that every child has a mother, but that one ordinary woman can carry an extraordinary amount of love without ever asking the world

to notice. And so, if the world ever asks what a mother truly is, the answer cannot be contained in a single word. She is the first home we ever know, the safest place we ever return to, and the quiet strength that follows us long after we have left her side. Her love asks for nothing, yet gives everything. Today, I also wish to dedicate these words to my own mother, Shaheena. Every page of my life carries traces of her sacrifices. She has stood beside me through moments of hope and uncertainty, offering strength when I felt weak and faith when I questioned myself. Whatever I become tomorrow will forever be rooted in the love, prayers, and values she has given me. If this article touches even one heart, the first share of its appreciation belongs to her.

This is my humble tribute not only to my mother but to every mother whose love quietly shapes the future without expecting recognition. They may never ask the world to notice them, yet the world exists as it does because of them. A mother spends her entire life teaching her child to stand without her while silently praying they never have to stand without her love.

Dedicated with endless love and gratitude to my beloved mother, Shaheena.

The author can be mailed at abroomushtaqwani@gmail.com

# When Earnings Become More Important Than Relationships



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

In Indian society, the family has been not merely a collection of blood relations but a vibrant institution of trust, sacrifice, partnership, and mutual responsibility. The greatest strength of this institution was that it encompassed both rights and duties. As times changed, education expanded, and women's participation expanded beyond the confines of the home, reaching education, administration, medicine, justice, the military, science, and industry. Economic independence gave women new confidence, the ability to make decisions, and social respect. This change was not only necessary but also a significant step towards a just society.

But every social change brings with it new challenges. Today, as both husband and wife earn, the question of sharing responsibilities alongside financial sharing has become more important than ever. Unfortunately, this balance appears to be deteriorating in many families. In some cases, there is an overemphasis on rights, while in others, duties are neglected. As a result, relationships are losing the ease and closeness that once characterised joint families.

For a long time, in Indian society, the man was considered the economic pillar of the family. His wife, children, and parents were considered to have a moral right to his earnings. He considered his income not personal property but the family's capital. On the other hand, women's contributions were more visible in domestic labour, child rearing, and family management. In modern times, circumstances have changed. Women are contributing as much financially as men by working



hard. Therefore, the natural expectation was that economic responsibilities would be shared equally. However, in practice, the picture is often not so simple.

Today, in many families, it's common knowledge that the husband's income is still considered the primary source of income, while the wife's income is considered a means of personal savings, personal investment, or personal independence. This isn't the case in every family, but where it exists, it causes dissatisfaction. If the husband bears every major household expense, but the wife's income is kept separate from family responsibilities, the principle of equality remains incomplete. Similarly, if the husband expects the wife to work and manage the household yet lack independence in financial decisions, this is also unjust. The problem isn't one party's but one of double standards.

Equality doesn't just mean equal rights. It also means equal responsibility. If both earn, they should share responsibility for the family's needs, future plans, children's education, elderly care, and emergencies. Financial partnership means not only combining income but also building trust. The other aspect of the problem

is psychological. Money not only provides comfort; it also gives confidence. But if this confidence turns into arrogance, it creates distance in relationships. Sometimes, it is seen that those with higher incomes begin to feel more empowered to make decisions. This tendency has been seen in men and is now visible in some women as well. Therefore, it would not be correct to say that financial arrogance is a problem of only one gender. The arrogance of wealth changes the person, not their gender.

Today, in social media and public discourse, male-female relationships are often presented as a conflict. One side asserts its rights, while the other laments the injustices it has suffered. In this tug-of-war, family, communication, and partnership are left behind. Any ideology that aims to establish balance should be welcomed. However, if its interpretation limits rights to the exclusion of duties, it is natural for imbalance to arise in society.

It's also true that millions of women today spend their entire income on their families. Along with their jobs, they also shoulder the responsibilities of home, children, and the elderly. There are many families where husbands and wives share their earnings

without any accounting and make decisions together. Therefore, blaming any one group is neither fair nor factual. The aim of social analysis should not be to make accusations but to understand trends and find solutions.

The problem becomes serious when financial transparency between husband and wife disappears. When income, savings, investments, and expenses become separate worlds, suspicion begins to creep into the relationship. Financial secrecy sometimes turns into emotional distance. Marriage is a partnership, not a business contract. Trust is its greatest asset.

The greatest irony of modern life is that conveniences have increased, but satisfaction has decreased. Incomes have risen, but communication has diminished. Independence has increased, but partnerships have weakened. In the past, families lived together even with limited resources because decisions were made collectively. Today, resources are plentiful, but a mindset of "mine" and "yours" often divides relationships.

Here's another important question. Is domestic labour less valuable than economic income? If the wife manages the home and the husband earns outside, is the breadwinner the sole breadwinner of the family? Absolutely not. Similarly, if the wife also works, is it appropriate to leave all the household responsibilities to her? The answer to this is also no. A family will remain balanced only when both economic and domestic labour are equally respected.

This changing environment is also affecting children. When they see their parents embroiled in economic competition, their own definitions of relationships begin to shift. They learn a language of rights rather than cooperation. This is a matter of concern for future generations. Family not only creates the present, it also shapes the future.

What is the solution? The solution lies not in blaming one party, but in strengthening family communication. After marriage, husband and wife should openly discuss financial expectations, savings, investments,

family expenses, and personal needs. It should be agreed that both will contribute to the family according to their respective capacities. Whether someone's income is high or low should not be the criterion for respect.

The true meaning of economic independence is not freedom but responsible freedom. A free person is one who accepts their duties along with their rights. If earnings become a means of personal convenience, leaving the collective needs of the family behind, even economic prosperity cannot save relationships.

Today, we need to forge a new definition of equality. One in which men abandon their traditional superiority and embrace partnership, and women respect their economic independence and family responsibilities equally. Both see each other as collaborators, not competitors. Marriage is not a platform for victory or defeat but a shared journey through life.

Ultimately, we must remember that money can make life comfortable, but it cannot make life happy. A bank balance can provide security, but not closeness. Expensive houses can be built, but families cannot be bought. The ultimate currency of relationships, even today, is trust, sensitivity, sacrifice, and mutual respect.

When income becomes more important than relationships, the family gradually transforms into a financial unit. Calculation replaces love, ownership replaces partnership, and dialogue replaces argument. Therefore, it's crucial to understand early on that earning money is a means to life, not its purpose. If money strengthens relationships, it's a blessing, but if it becomes a barrier between them, there's no greater irony.

A healthy society will be one where both men and women are financially capable, independent, respected, and fulfil their duties with equal devotion to their rights. This is true equality, true partnership, and the greatest strength of the Indian family system.

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

## National Pedestrian Law

# A Landmark Ruling Of Supreme Court



DR RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The Supreme Court of India has delivered a landmark constitutional ruling declaring that the right to walk—specifically, the right to walk on safe, demarcated, and obstruction free footpaths—is a fundamental right protected under Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution. This verdict elevates pedestrian safety from a matter of civic convenience to a constitutional obligation owed by the State and all local authorities. Cities around the world have recognized that pedestrian friendly infrastructure reduces pollution, improves public health, enhances social cohesion, and supports economic vitality. By calling for a national law, the Court signals that India must move beyond fragmented municipal regulations and adopt a coherent, rights based approach to mobility. The Court's directive includes several key components: mandatory footpaths on all public roads, designed to be continuous, obstruction free, and accessible to persons with disabilities; safe and well marked pedestrian crossings, including zebra crossings, raised tables, and signalized intersections; strict enforcement against encroachments, illegal parking, and commercial use of footpaths; traffic calming measures such as speed limits, rumble strips, and pedestrian priority zones; and clear assignment of responsibility among municipal bodies, traffic police, and state governments for maintenance, monitoring, and compliance.

The Court held that walking is the most basic form of human movement and is inseparable from the fundamental right to move freely under Article 19(1)(d) and the right to life and dignity under Article 21. It emphasized that pedestrian rights take precedence over motor vehicle movement, meaning the privilege of motorists cannot override the fundamental right of citizens to walk safely. The judgment arose from a tragic case involving the death of a

five year old child who was struck by a tanker while walking to school in an area without a footpath. The Court used the case not only to address compensation but to articulate a broader constitutional principle: if a road exists, authorities have a duty to provide safe, well maintained footpaths. This duty applies to municipal corporations, municipalities, panchayats, and urban development authorities.

The Court also noted that India's road infrastructure has historically prioritized motorized transport, leaving pedestrians vulnerable. Pedestrian deaths have surged dramatically—rising from 13,894 in 2015 to 36,526 in 2024, an increase of nearly 163%. This data reinforced the Court's view that pedestrian safety is not merely a policy issue but a constitutional necessity. Importantly, the Supreme Court directed governments to frame a national pedestrian law and create uniform guidelines for accessible, obstruction free, and disability friendly footpaths. It held that citizens may seek constitutional remedies, including compensation, when their right to walk is violated— independent of remedies under the Motor Vehicles Act.

The Supreme Court of India's recent verdict calling for the creation of a National Pedestrian Law marks a transformative moment in the country's constitutional and urban governance landscape, elevating the simple act of walking into a matter of fundamental rights and state responsibility. The Court's judgment, delivered in response to a tragic case involving the death of a young child who was struck by a tanker while walking to school in an area without a footpath, expands the meaning of the right to life under Article 21 and the right to move freely under Article 19(1)(d), declaring that the right to walk safely on public roads is not merely a civic expectation but a constitutional entitlement. This verdict reframes pedestrian safety as a national priority and compels governments at all levels to rethink how roads, cities, and public spaces are designed, managed, and regulated.

The Court noted that cities must be designed for people, not just vehicles, and that walkability is a hallmark of civilized societies. It cited examples from global cities that have successfully reduced pedestrian fatalities through comprehensive legislation, enforcement, and public awareness



campaigns. The verdict also highlights the importance of data driven policymaking, directing governments to collect and publish detailed statistics on pedestrian injuries, fatalities, and infrastructure gaps. This data, the Court argued, is essential for designing targeted interventions and evaluating the effectiveness of policies. The Court further emphasized the need for public participation in the creation of the National Pedestrian Law, noting that pedestrians represent a diverse group whose needs vary widely. It encouraged governments to consult urban planners, disability rights groups, school associations, senior citizen organizations, and civil society groups to ensure that the law reflects the lived realities of those who walk daily.

This imbalance has produced alarming consequences, reflected in the steep rise in pedestrian fatalities—from 13,894 in 2015 to 36,526 in 2024—a 163 percent increase that the Court described as a national crisis demanding urgent structural reform. The verdict asserts that the State's failure to provide safe footpaths, crossings, and traffic calming measures constitutes a breach of constitutional duty. The right to life, the Court emphasized, is not limited to mere survival but includes the right to live with dignity, and dignity cannot exist where citizens must risk their lives simply to walk along a public road. The Court also invoked the principle of equality under Article 14, noting

that road design that privileges motorists over pedestrians creates an unjust hierarchy of rights, effectively granting greater protection to those with vehicles while exposing the poor, the elderly, children, and persons with disabilities to disproportionate danger. This recognition of structural inequality is central to the Court's call for a National Pedestrian Law, which it envisions as a uniform legal framework establishing minimum standards for pedestrian infrastructure, safety protocols, enforcement mechanisms, and accountability systems across all states and urban local bodies. The Court's verdict also reflects a broader shift in global urban policy, aligning India with international norms that prioritize walkability, sustainability, and inclusive mobility.

The Court also emphasized that pedestrians must be placed at the top of the mobility hierarchy, above two wheelers, cars, and commercial vehicles, because their vulnerability is greatest and their rights are foundational. This hierarchy is not merely symbolic but has practical implications for road design, budget allocation, and enforcement priorities. The Court criticized the long standing practice of widening roads for vehicles while narrowing or eliminating footpaths, calling it a violation of constitutional principles and a reflection of flawed development priorities. The verdict also addresses the issue of accountability, holding that when pedestrian deaths occur due to the

absence of proper infrastructure, the State may be liable for compensation under constitutional tort principles. This is a significant expansion of state liability, as it recognizes that negligence in urban planning and road design can constitute a violation of fundamental rights. The Court clarified that such compensation is independent of remedies available under the Motor Vehicles Act, meaning victims or their families may pursue constitutional claims even when criminal or civil proceedings are underway. This dual track accountability framework strengthens the legal position of pedestrians and places greater pressure on authorities to comply with safety standards. The Court's call for a National Pedestrian Law also reflects a recognition that India's urbanization is accelerating rapidly, and without a coherent legal framework, the country risks entrenching unsafe and inequitable mobility patterns for generations.

The Court also stressed the importance of education and awareness, calling for nationwide campaigns to promote pedestrian rights, responsible driving, and respect for road rules. The verdict's implications extend beyond legal and infrastructural reforms; it represents a cultural shift in how mobility is understood in India. For decades, walking has been viewed as a mode of transport associated with poverty, and roads have been treated as spaces primarily for vehicles. The Court challenges this mindset, asserting that walking is not a sign of deprivation but a universal human activity that must be protected and celebrated. By elevating the right to walk to the status of a fundamental right, the Court seeks to reshape public attitudes and encourage a more humane and inclusive approach to mobility. The verdict also has significant implications for environmental policy. Encouraging walking reduces carbon emissions, lowers air pollution, and supports climate resilience. The Court noted that India's commitments under international climate agreements require a shift toward sustainable mobility, and pedestrian friendly infrastructure is a key component of that shift. The National Pedestrian Law, therefore, is not only a legal reform but also an environmental imperative.

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## NIA Names Hafiz Saeed

to the NIA by the Ministry of Home Affairs following preliminary investigations by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

In its first chargesheet, filed on December 15, 2025, the NIA had named Pakistani handler Sajid Jatt, three terrorists who were later killed during Operation Mahadev in July 2025, and two arrested accused. It had also chargesheeted the banned LeT/TRF as a legal entity for its alleged role in planning, facilitating and executing the attack.

The NIA said the investigation into the case remains ongoing as it continues efforts to unravel the larger cross-border conspiracy and identify all those involved in planning and supporting the attack.

## Women's Empowerment

limitless possibilities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor exuded confidence that the fellowship program of Kashmir Women's Organization will propagate the core principle that women deserve equal, dignified participation across all social, cultural, economic and political spheres.

"We must remain steadfast in our resolve to accord due respect to our Nari Shakti, while creating an environment that fosters their capabilities and progress.

When women progress, society progresses; when women lead, the nation scales new heights; and when women realize their dreams, the entire world becomes more just, more compassionate, and more prosperous," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized the need to address the rising challenge of substance abuse among women. He advised the fellows to conduct a comprehensive, region-specific analysis to identify its underlying root causes. He said that this study will significantly strengthen rehabilitation frameworks and provide vital support to our daughters and sisters who have fallen victim to drug addiction.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the guides who mentored the fellows throughout the program.

He hoped that the dedication of all the members of Kashmir Women's Organization would serve as a catalyst for positive change in the lives of countless women in the years to come.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released a book titled "Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipal Council in India", written by Dr. Nazrul Islam.

Dr. Fida Firdous, President, Kashmir Writers Association, Dr. Darakshan Hassan Bhat, President, Kashmir Women's Organization, members of Kashmir Writers Association and Kashmir Women's Organization and senior officials attended the felicitation ceremony.

## Counter Intelligence

Jammu and Kashmir", authored by Sushant Giri and published by Delhi-based Anurag Prakashan.

According to officials, 123 copies of one of the books were supplied to Jammu, Ramban and Udhampur districts, and 128 copies of the other book were supplied to Jammu and Baramulla districts.

An FIR was registered on a Saturday last under Sections 49 (abetment), 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 152 (endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India), 196 (promoting enmity, disharmony) and 353 (publishing, or circulating false statements, rumors, or reports) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), besides Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

After filing the case on Saturday, the Counter Intelligence unit launched raids on the premises of one of the publishers at Bahu Plaza in Jammu city, the officials said.

They said the searches were carried out as part of the ongoing investigation to collect material relevant to the case.

According to officials, the investigators have seized both physical documents and digital evidence but no arrests have been made so far.

Earlier on Saturday, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha suspended eight officials of the School Education Department, removed a contractual staff and ordered an inquiry into the two controversial books found containing "highly inappropriate content".

The action comes after BJP, Congress and other political groups raised objections that the books allegedly "glorified" separatism.

In an order, the School Education

Department said the two books were withdrawn on Friday.

## Art-370 Abrogation

and ideological overtones, the Prime Minister linked the BJP-led Centre's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status in August 2019 with Mookerjee's long-standing opposition to Article 370 and his campaign for the complete integration of the erstwhile state with the rest of the country.

The constitutional arrangement allowed the state to maintain its own constitution, fly a separate state flag, and use distinct titles for its leaders -- Prime Minister, and not the chief minister, and Sadar-e-Riyasat in place of governor.

"Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee was completely dedicated to the vision of one India, supreme India.

He gave the nation the mantra that one country cannot have two constitutions, two heads and two symbols. This was not merely a slogan; it was a call for equal rights, an equal Constitution and an equal national consciousness," he added.

Recalling Mookerjee's arrest during his agitation against Jammu and Kashmir's special status and his death in custody in 1953, Modi said the Jana Sangh founder had fought for his convictions till the very end.

"He fought for his principles, went to jail and ultimately made the supreme sacrifice for Kashmir. Today, our government takes pride in the fact that by dismantling the wall of Article 370, we have fulfilled Dr Mookerjee's dream," the Prime Minister said.

He also used the occasion to stress Mookerjee's role during the Partition, particularly in safeguarding the interests of Bengal when, according to him, efforts were being made to include the entire province in Pakistan.

"Dr Mookerjee stood firm against these conspiracies. He mobilised public opinion, fought political battles and ensured that Bengal remained an integral part of India," Modi said.

"Congress divided the country, and I divided Pakistan," he quoted Mookerjee.

The PM repeatedly highlighted the role of the BJP government in West Bengal in commemorating the Jana Sangh founder, describing it as a reflection of a governance philosophy centred on "Nation First".

"Just a few days ago, on June 20, Paschimanga Divas was organised in a grand manner. It was a salute to the land of Bengal and its heritage. Today's programme is part of the same effort to honour our heritage. I congratulate the West Bengal government for organising such a grand event," he said.

Today's programme is also a testament to the fact that when there is a government committed to "Nation First", national heroes are honoured and every effort is made to work according to their vision, Modi said.

The Prime Minister noted that the Centre was observing Mookerjee's 125th birth anniversary as a two-year national commemoration.

"It began on July 6 last year and will continue till July 6 next year," he said.

Describing Mookerjee's life as an example of how conviction, ideological clarity and commitment could transform an idea into a mass movement, Modi said his journey represented the power of a deeply held belief backed by sustained public engagement.

Tracing the origins of the Jana Sangh, Modi said Mookerjee had introduced ideological diversity into Indian politics at a time when the Congress dominated the national landscape and alternative political viewpoints struggled to find space.

"It was then that Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee dared to embrace a new idea, challenging all those circumstances," he said.

According to Modi, the formation of the Jana Sangh represented far more than the launch of a political organisation.

"It was an expression of unwavering faith in ideological diversity in democracy, national reflection and public participation. It was from this very faith that the Bharatiya Jana Sangh was born," he said.

The PM also paid tribute to generations of Jana Sangh and BJP workers who, he said, dedicated their lives to preserving and nurturing that ideological movement through decades of political struggle.

"An ideology does not become immortal merely because it is founded. It becomes immortal when generations nurture and carry it forward. Several workers devoted their entire lives to keeping the ideology and principles of Jana Sangh alive," he said.

Modi drew a direct line from the Jana

Sangh to the BJP, saying, "That same Bharatiya Jana Sangh is today serving the people as the Bharatiya Janata Party, the world's largest democratic force."

He said Mookerjee's ideas were not only relevant in contemporary India but were helping shape the country's future.

"His ideology is flourishing in the present and giving direction to a new India," Modi said.

Expressing confidence that Mookerjee's contribution would remain central to the BJP's narrative, Modi said future generations would continue to draw inspiration from his courage, vision and commitment to national unity.

"I am fully confident that when future generations write the history of the Bharatiya Janata Party's journey and study it, they will certainly mention Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's ideas, courage and foresight," he said.

## CM Meets Mutton

Minister had assured that the matter would be examined on priority and necessary action would be taken to resolve the concerns.

The proposed visit of the high-level delegation forms part of the follow-up mechanism initiated by the two governments to ensure effective coordination and an early resolution of the issue.

## CS Reviews Cyber Crime

seamless operationalisation.

Highlighting the growing challenge posed by cyber frauds and online financial crimes, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of building institutional capacity through sustained training and skill enhancement of officials associated with cyber crime investigation and digital enforcement.

He also called for a comprehensive public awareness campaign through print, electronic and digital media platforms to educate citizens about emerging cyber threats, including digital arrest scams, online financial frauds and cyber safety practices.

The Chief Secretary observed that public awareness, technological preparedness and coordinated institutional response are critical to effectively combating cyber crime and safeguarding citizens from increasingly sophisticated online frauds.

Earlier, the meeting was given a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the roadmap for implementation of the Digital Arrest mechanism, the status of infrastructure and institutional preparedness, key milestones achieved, existing gaps and the action plan for strengthening the cyber security ecosystem across the Union Territory. The presentation also highlighted the measures being undertaken to enhance coordination among stakeholder departments for ensuring a robust and responsive cyber crime prevention framework.

## Article-370 Abrogation

beginning of the resolve for Sonar Bangla." He said a Syama Prasad Mookerjee Institute dedicated to research on India's national security would also be established alongside the statue.

Shah said Mookerjee's vision of combining cultural nationalism with modern development was being realised under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

"His belief was that the policies of independent India should reflect the fragrance of India's own soil, not be influenced by Western thinking. Under Prime Minister Modi, that vision has begun to take concrete shape," he said.

Referring to Mookerjee's role in founding the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Shah said the organisation had grown into the Bharatiya Janata Party, which now governs a majority of India's population and territory.

The Home Minister also praised the West Bengal government for declaring Mookerjee's birth anniversary a public holiday and said the state had begun implementing several commitments, including welfare schemes, anti-corruption measures, women's safety initiatives, and steps to identify illegal infiltrators.

Shah accused previous Communist and Trinamool Congress governments of pushing West Bengal backwards and expressed confidence that the current government would fulfil its electoral promises and lay the foundation for a "Sonar Bangla."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recorded message was also played during the event, which was attended by West Bengal Chief Minister Suvedu Adhikari, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and other dignitaries.

## Much-Awaited

The Election Commission of India (ECI) had said earlier this year that the SIR exercise in Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh will be announced later, after considering the completion of Phase-II of the Census and weather conditions in snow-bound areas.

"After considering the completion of Phase-II of the Census in these three State/UTs and due consideration of the weather in the upper reaches/snow-bound areas, the SIR schedule for these three State/UTs will be announced later," the EC had said in a press note.

The five-year terms of elected Urban Local Bodies in Jammu & Kashmir ended between October and December 2023. The UT has 78 Urban Local Bodies, including two Municipal Corporations—(KNO)

## Cumulative Pilgrim Count

Baltal route, while 3,490 chose the traditional Pahalgam route.

The Baltal-bound convoy departed at 3:10 am, while the Pahalgam-bound convoy left at 3:50 am under the escort of the Police, CRPF and other security agencies.

The convoy comprised 267 vehicles, including 126 buses, 32 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 104 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and five two-wheelers.

The administration has put in place extensive security, medical and logistical arrangements along both routes, including round-the-clock monitoring, traffic regulation, emergency medical services and deployment of security personnel to ensure the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Under the CRPF's "May I Help You" initiative, women personnel are assisting pilgrims along the Baltal route by providing guidance, information, security, accommodation support, language assistance, connectivity help and emergency medical aid.

CRPF DIG Sudhir Kumar said pilgrims from different parts of the country participate in the Yatra, and many face language barriers. "CRPF is like a mini India, and we have deployed women personnel from different states so that pilgrims can communicate in their own language and receive the assistance they need," he said.

Officials said the Yatra has been progressing peacefully so far, with thousands of devotees visiting the holy cave shrine daily amid favourable weather conditions and tight security arrangements. "All necessary measures remain in place to ensure the safety and convenience of pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage. Several foreign nationals have also undertaken the pilgrimage so far," an official said.

The 57-day Yatra commenced on July 3, from both Baltal based camp in Ganderbal and Nunwan base camps in Pahalgam—(KNO)

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# Satish Sharma meets delegations in Srinagar, assures welfare of workers, traders, youth

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Monday met several delegations from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

He listened to their grievances and demands, assuring prompt redress of the same with intervention of the concerned departments.

A delegation of Rehbar-e-Khel (ReK), led by MLA Khansahib Saif-ud-Din Bhat, called on the Minister and projected various issues. These included regularisation of Rehbar-e-Khel teachers, enhancement of their service conditions and the need for a comprehensive policy to address their long-pending demands.

The delegation highlighted the significant contribution of ReKs in nurturing sports talent at the grassroots level across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister assured



the delegation that the government is fully aware of the issues confronting the Rehbar-e-Khel community and that their genuine concerns would be redressed shortly. He said the contribution of ReKs in strengthening the sports ecosystem is invaluable and every effort would be made to find a practical and sustainable resolution.

A delegation of the Mutton Dealers Association also met the Minister and expressed gratitude to the administration for its timely intervention in resolving issues affecting the trade. The members appreciated the proactive role of the government in ensuring smooth functioning of the sector and thanked the Minister for safeguarding the inter-

ests of traders as well as consumers.

Interacting with the delegation, Satish Sharma reiterated that the government remains committed to maintain a balance between consumer welfare and the legitimate interests of traders. He assured the members that constructive dialogue with stakeholders would continue to ensure transparent and efficient functioning of the sector.

Besides, several other delegations from different districts and regions of Jammu and Kashmir called on the Minister and apprised him of various public issues, developmental requirements and sector-specific concerns.

The delegations sought intervention in matters related to public services,

youth welfare, sports infrastructure, technology-driven governance and developmental initiatives.

Responding to the issues projected by all the delegations, the Minister assured them that the same would be examined on merit and appropriate action would be initiated in coordination with the concerned departments.

Satish Sharma emphasized that sustained public outreach and continuous engagement with stakeholders remain essential for effective governance. He said such interactions provide valuable feedback that enables the government to formulate responsive policies and ensure that the benefits of development reach every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

## WORLD ZOOSESOS DAY

# Javid Dar calls for greater awareness, strengthened disease surveillance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Monday underscored the importance of creating widespread awareness about zoonotic diseases and reaffirmed the government's commitment towards strengthening the animal health systems to safeguard the public health.

In his message on the World Zoonoses Day, the Minister said that being observed every year on July 6 it commemorates the historic achievement of the first successful rabies vaccination administered by Louis Pasteur in 1885.

He said the day serves as an important reminder of the need for coordinated efforts to prevent and control diseases that are transmitted between animals and humans.



The Minister emphasized that Zoonotic diseases such as rabies, brucellosis, avian influenza and other emerging infections continue to pose significant challenges to human and animal health, livelihoods and food security. He stressed that early detection, effective surveillance, timely vaccination and responsible animal husbandry practices are essential for preventing outbreaks and protecting communities.

Javid Dar highlighted the pivotal role of the Animal and Sheep Hus-

bandry Department in disease surveillance, livestock vaccination, veterinary healthcare and public awareness. He said the department is continuously strengthening the veterinary infrastructure, expanding immunization programmes and promoting scientific livestock management to ensure healthy animals and safer communities.

The Minister urged the livestock farmers, pet owners and the general public to adopt preventive measures, maintain proper hygiene while handling the animals, vaccinate pets and livestock regularly and promptly report any suspected disease outbreaks to the nearest veterinary institutions.

Reiterating the importance of the One Health approach, the Minister called for closer collaboration among the Animal Husbandry and allied departments to effectively

tackle Zoonotic diseases. He said protecting animal health is intrinsically linked to protecting human health and preserving the environment.

The Minister also appreciated the dedication of veterinarians, para-veterinary staff and field functionaries for their relentless efforts in safeguarding livestock health and supporting the rural economy. He expressed confidence that with collective awareness, scientific interventions and community participation, Jammu and Kashmir can build a resilient system for the prevention and control of Zoonotic diseases.

Javid Dar appealed to all stakeholders to observe World Zoonoses Day by spreading awareness about disease prevention and adopting responsible practices that contribute to healthier animals, healthier people and a healthier environment.

## Defence startup, ARDE jointly develop indigenous rifle in 100 days

IAN S

**HYDERABAD:** UGRAM 7.62x51 mm battle rifle, developed jointly by Hyderabad-based startup Dvipa Defence with ARDE, has completed key Army and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) trials.

Developed jointly by Dvipa and DRDO's Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), the UGRAM rifle is now under procurement by several Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

The rifle was designed and built in just 100 days, billed as one of the fastest indigenous weapon development programmes in the country.

According to the company, the rifle has completed extensive reliability and endurance testing and is now moving towards procurement by the CRPF, ITBP, SSB and NSG.

Dvipa said the UGRAM features a modern gas-operated rotating bolt system, weighs less than four kilograms and has an effective range of 500

metres.

According to Dvipa Managing Director Sibujoseph, the rifle has successfully cleared Army General Staff Qualitative Requirement (GSQR) trials, extensive field evaluations in all climatic conditions and MHA Board trials.

The startup, which received its manufacturing licence in 2021, has since built a full-fledged production facility on more than 13 acres of land allotted by the Telangana government in Hyderabad.

The company has so far developed over 100 indigenous weapon systems and variants. UGRAM has emerged as its flagship platform.

Dvipa believes the UGRAM programme marks an important step in strengthening Hyderabad's position as a hub for indigenous defence manufacturing while reducing India's dependence on imported small arms. "We remain committed to building world-class defence products in India for Indian security forces," Joseph said.

## ADC inspects civic amenities, Reviews arrangements for Amarnath Yatra Pilgrims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**UDHAMPUR:** As per the directions of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh Monday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the civic amenities and essential services at various lodgement centres and Langer sites established for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims along the National Highway from Jakhani to Kali Mata Temple Tikri.

During the inspection, the ADC visited several lodgement centres and Langer sites to review the accommodation facilities and other basic amenities being provided to the Yatris. He assessed the arrangements for sanitation, drinking water, power, healthcare and overall cleanliness to ensure the comfort and well-being of the pilgrims.

The ADC also interacted

with the pilgrims to obtain first-hand feedback on the facilities and services being provided. The Yatris expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made by the district administration and appreciated the well-maintained lodgement centres, efficient civic services and the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay.

The ADC issued directions to the concerned officers to ensure availability of all essential services at the lodgement centres and Langer sites throughout the Yatra period. He stressed the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness, prompt service delivery and coordinated efforts among all departments for the convenience and safety of the pilgrims.

As part of the hospitality arrangements, the district administration also served wholesome meals to the pilgrims at the lodgement centres.

## Ayodhya temple trust interim General Secretary Krishna Mohan a quiet organiser

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** The resignation of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust General Secretary Champat Rai, along with Trustee Anil Mishra, amidst a raging financial controversy, has thrust the 73-year-old Krishna Mohan into the spotlight. His appointment as the interim General Secretary of the Temple Trust comes at a time when it is facing intense scrutiny, political attacks, and the urgent need to restore public confidence.

Krishna Mohan is not a newcomer to the Trust's functions. He has been associated with the Ram Mandir movement for years, serving in administrative and supervisory roles. This gives him familiarity with both the Temple's day-to-day operations and the broader vision of the Trust. His reputation within Ayodhya's religious circles is that of a quiet, methodical organiser - someone who prefers to work behind the scenes rather than seek the limelight. This temperament may prove valuable in stabilising the Trust during a period of turbulence.

He was emphatic in his declaration on Monday, rebutting allegations of



missing donations and valuables. It was also a signal of his intent to lead with transparency. By opening the Trust's records to scrutiny, the retired Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer aimed to reassure millions of devotees that their offerings remain safe and sacred. But the position also places him at the intersection of faith and politics.

Opposition parties have accused the Trust of mismanagement and hinted at larger conspiracies, largely with an eye on the upcoming Assembly election next year. However, unlike many other similar bodies, the Uttar Pradesh government is not directly involved in managing its affairs. The state generally provides security and caters to the maintenance of law and order. Even as the political narrative was being built, the Yogi

Adityanath-led government reacted quickly, setting up an SIT and allotting a deadline.

Meanwhile, key members of the Trust, though not named, chose to step down for the probe to proceed without any allegations of pressure. In this charged environment, the regional chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for eastern Uttar Pradesh, Krishna Mohan, will need to embody the Trust's independence while cooperating with investigations. The interim General Secretary inherits a daunting task.

The Ram Mandir is the culmination of centuries of struggle, legal battles, and faith. Every donation represents an act of devotion, and any suspicion of misuse is seen as a betrayal.

Krishna Mohan's challenge is to protect this sanctity while further strength-

ening financial practices. Calls for greater disclosure, independent audits, and stricter oversight are growing louder; his leadership will be judged by how swiftly and convincingly he implements reforms.

For many among the Opposition, the controversy was an opportunity to challenge the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has championed the Ram Mandir project. By alleging conspiracy, they sought to dent its moral high ground. Some claims suggest that several such leaders may have overplayed their hand by framing the issue as a "scam". They now risk alienating devotees who see the temple as beyond partisan politics. A more measured demand for transparency might have resonated better.

The Ram Mandir Trust's press conference on Monday was an attempt to reclaim narrative control. By asserting that no objects are missing, accepting resignations, and appointing new leadership, the Trust signalled both accountability and resilience. As Krishna Mohan put it: "The Mandir belongs to the nation," assuring that its sanctity will not be compromised.

## DC B'pora reviews progress of Bunpora OHT, AMRUT Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Monday chaired separate review meetings to assess the progress of the 75,000 Gallons Over Head Tank (OHT) at Bunpora Hajin under the Langushing Scheme and the AMRUT Scheme at Sumbal Town, with emphasis on expediting the completion of both projects at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

Reviewing the progress of the 75,000 Gallons OHT at Bunpora Hajin, the Deputy Commissioner held detailed deliberations on the testing and commissioning of the facility.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore to take all necessary steps, in coordination with the concerned stakeholders, to facilitate the early testing and commissioning of the OHT so that the water supply scheme is made functional at the earliest for the benefit of the public.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore, along with officers of the department, besides other concerned



officials. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of the AMRUT Scheme at Sumbal Town, particularly the laying of the AMRUT pipeline and restoration of the PMGSY road. The Deputy Commissioner directed the PMGSY Division, Bandipora and Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore to work in close coordination to ensure laying of the pipeline on the pending road stretch without further delay.

On the occasion, the DC further directed that a joint inspection be conducted by the officers of the PMGSY Division Bandipora and Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore under the supervision of the Chief Planning Officer, Bandipora after completion of this PMGSY stretch to assess the extent of road restoration required.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the

concerned departments to complete the road restoration estimates promptly and explore the use of suitable machinery, including a JCB fitted with a narrow bucket, to minimize damage to the existing road surface during trench excavation.

Emphasizing timely completion of both projects, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to maintain close coordination, expedite the pending works, and ensure that all procedural formalities are completed at the earliest so that the projects are completed without unnecessary delay and the intended public benefits are delivered promptly.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore; Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Bandipora, along with officers of the concerned departments.

## DLSA Budgam conducts extensive visit to Central Jail Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** In a significant move, as part of Calendar of activities, District Legal Services Authority Budgam, under the Aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority Srinagar Conducted extensive visit to the Central Jail Srinagar.

The visit was made in connection with the forth Coming 3rd Under Trial Review Committee scheduled to be held in the Month of July 2026. During the visit the team led by Chief LADC Budgam interacted with the Jail inmates and has identified eligible UTPS to be taken up in the scheduled 3rd UTRC Meeting. The List shall be shared amongst the all UTRC meeting members and on the day of Meeting amongst them, eligible UTPS to be recommended for release with the due consent of members.

It is important to mention here that DLSA Budgam is committed in safe guarding the Legal rights of the under-Trial Prisoners and their family members as per modus operandi NALSA-SPURHA scheme.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION PULPWAMA

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 55/EPP/RNB of 2026-2027/3054-64

Dated: 06 /07/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are being invited on an item rate basis/percentage age basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion (In days)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Rs.)	AAA No / Dt
1	Macadamisation of IR Trichal .	MH: C&T 2026-27	39.45	2% of Adv cost	BEE/ AAY	05 Days	1100/	109/SE/PS of 2026-27 Dated: 03.07.2026

Position of funds :- Committed

Project Authority= PW(R&B) Department Kashmir

The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) on the dates listed below :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06 /07/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06 /07/2026 from 04.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	06 /07/2026 from 04.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	20 /07/2026 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21 /07/2026 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

In light of Circular issued by Finance department Vide No:FD-code/290/2026 Dated 22.05.2026 and circular issued by worthy Chief Engineer PW(R&B)Department South Kashmir Vide order No:CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 Dated: 05.06.2026, the following conditions are mentioned below:-

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG).
- All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG).
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

Head Draftsman DPK-2927-26 DT: 06/07/2026 Technical Officer Executive Engineer, R&B Division Pulwama

# J&K Sports Council clarifies Sports Quota Recruitment Rules

Refutes misleading claims made through various Media Platforms

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has taken serious note of certain reports, allegations and misleading narratives circulated through various media platforms and social media regarding the recruitment of Outstanding Sportspersons under the Sports Quota, particularly in relation to the implementation of S.O. 12 of 2022 and the recognition of Pencak Silat & Kyaking & Canoeing (Dragon Boat) as an eligible sports discipline.

Since these reports have created confusion among sportspersons and the general public, the Sports Council considered it necessary to place the correct factual and legal position on record in the interest of transparency and public awareness.

The Sports Council clarified that the appointment of Outstanding Sportspersons in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is governed entirely by statutory Rules and Government Orders framed from time to time by the Government after detailed examination, inter-departmental consultation, legal scrutiny and approval of the Competent Authority. The policy has evolved over the years through various statutory notifications beginning with SRO-349 of 1998, subsequently amended through SRO-376 of 2004, followed by S.O. 149 of 2021 and thereafter comprehensively revised and consolidated through S.O. 12 of 2022, which was further supplemented by S.O. 412 of 2023.



collectively provide a transparent legal framework governing the appointment of Outstanding Sportspersons in Government service. They prescribe the recognized sports disciplines, eligibility conditions, assessment criteria, evaluation of sports achievements and the institutional mechanism for selection. Every provision contained in these Rules has been notified by the Government after due administrative and legal process and is binding upon all authorities concerned.

It is therefore incorrect to suggest that appointments under the Sports Quota are made on the basis of individual discretion or by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council independently. The Sports Council functions strictly as an implementing agency of Government policy and is required to discharge its responsibilities strictly in accordance with the Rules notified by the Government. The process of recruitment

is institutional in nature and is carried out through a duly constituted High-Powered Selection Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, with senior officers of various Government Departments Such as Administrative Home, Administrative secretary Law, as its members. Every application received under the Sports Quota is subjected to scrutiny of eligibility, verification of sports achievements and examination under the prescribed rules before being placed before the competent Selection Committee. Decisions are taken collectively in accordance with the statutory provisions, leaving no scope for arbitrary or individual decision-making.

The Sports Council also clarified the position regarding Pencak Silat, as certain misleading statements have been circulated questioning its recognition as a sports discipline. These claims are factually incorrect and contrary to official Government

records. The Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, vide Order No. F. No. 9-32/2015-SP-I dated 03 November 2017, granted recognition to the Indian Pencak Silat Federation following the inclusion of the discipline in the 18th Asian Games held at Jakarta, Indonesia. Since then, Pencak Silat continues to enjoy national and international recognition and is governed globally by PERSILAT, the International Federation for the sport. It is played competitively across numerous countries and forms part of prestigious international sporting events, including the Asian Games, Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Southeast Asian Games, Asian Youth Games, and World Championships, under the auspices of the Olympic Council of Asia, the continental Olympic body recognized by the International Olympic Committee. The sport is also featured in international university sporting competitions,

including the ASEAN University Games.

At the national level, Pencak Silat is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, through the recognition granted to the Indian Pencak Silat Federation as the National Sports Federation. It is included in major sporting competitions such as the National Games, Khelo India competitions, and the All India Inter-University Championships, with athletes also benefiting from various Khelo India programmes in accordance with the applicable scheme guidelines. Pencak silat is also featured in All India Police Games. Furthermore, the Government of India has notified Pencak Silat as one of the sports disciplines eligible for recruitment of Meritorious Sportspersons in Central Government Ministries and Departments under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) policy, thereby affirming its official recognition for public employment.

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, following the inclusion of the mentioned recognized sports disciplines in MYAS Central Govt DOPT, five new games which were already recognized by J&K Sports Council / Govt of India viz baseball, netball, pencak silat, triathlon and Ice hockey were incorporated in the Job SRO 349 of 1998 read with SRO 376 of 2004 for consideration of appointment of outstanding sports persons by virtue of SO-149 of 2021 which is to be read with SRO-376 of 2004 and 3rd proviso of SRO 376 of 2004

states that achievements five year prior to advertisement shall be considered. Subsequently these games were also incorporated in the SO-12 of 2022 read with SO-412 of 2023 at serial no. 40,41,42,43,44 of ANNEXURE-I of SO-12. Further, Indian Pencak Silat Federation was recognized at Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports Govt of India in 2017 and stands registered in J&K Sports Council from 2018 onwards till date.

That rule 7(i) of SO-12 also states that achievements in five year consideration zone shall be calculated. Consequently, Pencak Silat and Netball enjoys the same legal status as every other recognized sports discipline under the applicable Rules.

The Sports Council appeals to all media organizations, stakeholders and members of the public to rely upon authentic Government notifications, official records and verified information while reporting or commenting on matters relating to sports administration. Constructive public discussion based on facts contributes to transparency and strengthens democratic institutions, whereas misinformation and speculative narratives serve only to create unnecessary confusion and undermine the credibility of established institutional processes.

The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council remains steadfast in its commitment to the promotion of sports, the welfare of athletes and the faithful implementation of the policies and decisions of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with law.

## Inaugural KCFL sets new benchmark for Football in Kashmir

Draws unprecedented crowds, lays foundation for a new era in Valley football



GMK SPORTS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** The successful conclusion of the inaugural Kashmir Champions Football League (KCFL) 2026 has marked a historic milestone in the sporting landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, with the tournament emerging as one of the largest and most professionally organised football competitions ever held in the Kashmir Valley.

Organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, the league brought together footballers representing districts from across Kashmir, providing a first-of-its-kind competitive platform where local talent from every corner of the Valley competed under a structured league and playoff format. The tournament showcased the immense footballing potential of the region while creating opportunities for emerging players to perform on a grand stage.

Over the course of the competition, the league witnessed exceptional football, fierce rivalries and remarkable sportsmanship, with teams displaying high standards of skill and determination. The floodlit matches added a new dimension to the tournament, giving players the opportunity to perform in a professional atmosphere while offering spectators an unforgettable footballing experience.

The tournament drew impressive crowds throughout its run, the knockout stage, in particular, witnessed an extraordinary surge in attendance, with occasional prominent sports personalities making their presence, along with thousands of football lovers making their way to the TRC Synthetic Turf Football Ground every evening to cheer for their district teams and favourite local football stars under the floodlights.

The grand finale on

Sunday stood as a fitting culmination to the tournament's success, with the TRC venue witnessing a jam-packed stadium as supporters from across the Kashmir Valley travelled to Srinagar to witness the historic title clash.

The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council expresses satisfaction over the successful conduct of the league, and that the tournament has established a strong foundation for the future of competitive football in the Union Territory. The KCFL has not only provided a platform for talented footballers to showcase their abilities but has also strengthened grassroots football by fostering healthy competition among players representing different districts.

The Council also acknowledges the collective efforts of players, coaches, match officials, organising committees, volunteers, security personnel, medical teams, media organisations and football fans whose contributions ensured the tournament's smooth and successful conduct.

The inaugural edition of the Kashmir Champions Football League has demonstrated that football continues to enjoy immense popularity in Kashmir. The tournament has set a new benchmark for football competitions in the UT and reinforced the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council's commitment to nurturing local talent, promoting grassroots development and creating more opportunities for young footballers to excel.

With the resounding success of its maiden edition, the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council looks forward to making the Kashmir Champions Football League an annual sporting spectacle, further strengthening Jammu & Kashmir's reputation as one of India's strongest footballing regions.

## South Korea football chief steps down after early World Cup exit

IAN S

**NEW YORK:** Chung Mong-gyu resigned as president of the Korea Football Association on Monday as the fallout from South Korea's disappointing World Cup campaign continued.

Chung's departure follows that of head coach Hong Myung-bo after South Korea failed to reach the knockout stage, finishing third in Group A with three points. South Korea defeated the Czech Republic but lost to Mexico and South Africa.

Announcing his resignation, Chung acknowledged both the successes and

failures of his tenure, reports Xinhua.

"There were moments when I lived up to expectations and moments when I left you deeply disappointed," he said. "All the success is thanks to our players and fans, and all the mistakes are my responsibility. I am convinced that Korean football will overcome adversity and reach great heights once again, as it always has."

Queiroz steps down as Ghana coach  
Meanwhile, the fallout for poor performance in Africa continued as Carlos Queiroz has stepped down as Ghana coach in the wake of his side's World Cup campaign ending in the last-32 of the tournament



with a 1-0 defeat to Colombia.

The 73-year-old led Ghana into the knockout stage with a solid performance in the group stage that saw a 0-0 draw with England, a 1-0 win over Panama, and a 2-1 defeat to Croatia, but his side never looked like getting to grips with Colombia despite another organised defensive display.

"We cannot claim complete sporting satisfaction, but we can proudly say that we honoured the colours of Ghana and restored respect and credibility to the Black Stars on football's greatest stage," Queiroz wrote on social media.

"Football, like life, teaches us one timeless lesson: you either win, or you learn. I leave this journey with pride in what we achieved, but also with the healthy dissatisfaction of those who always wanted more. Reaching a higher level should never be the destination - it should be the beginning of even greater ambitions," he added.

Queiroz was only appointed Ghana coach in April after Otto Addo was sacked following a run of defeats. In addition to the four games in the World Cup, he was also in charge of Ghana's 2-0 defeat to Mexico and a 1-1 draw with Wales.



Sun setting over a beach

Syed Shahzaib Andrabi, GD Goenka, 5th class

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(HINDI)  
A  
12:00 PM



### MINIONS AND MONSTERS

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HINDI  
04:20 PM



### BABY DO DIE DO

(HINDI)  
A  
06:20 PM

