

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh



The youth of the country need to view agriculture from a new perspective. Through their innovation, skills, and entrepreneurship, they can contribute to building an agricultural system that is modern, self-reliant, smart, nature-friendly, and sustainable.

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Top LeT Commander Killed In Shopian Encounter: Police



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, Zakir Ganie, has been killed in an ongoing anti-terror operation in Chanapora area of south Kashmir's Shopian district, while another terrorist is believed to be holed up, police said on Wednesday. A senior police officer said that Zakir was trapped in the encounter for the last five days along with his accomplice. "He has been neutralised and his body was recovered from a cowshed today along with arms and ammunition," he said. He described the killing as a major success for the security forces. "Fresh firing was heard near the encounter site, indicating the presence of another terrorist," he said. In a post on X, Jammu and Kashmir police said, "You can run, but you cannot hide. One Lashkar terrorist neutralised by SOG Shopian, in

a Jt Op, along with RR and CRPF". A senior police official said Ganie was a self-styled LeT commander. According to officials, he left his home on September 27, 2023, for shuttering work in Dialgam but never returned. After his family failed to trace him, a missing person report was filed at Kulgam police station on October 3, 2023. Officials said Ganie later joined The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the LeT, and was subsequently named in a case registered under various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The operation began on July 3 after surveillance cameras detected the movement of two terrorists in a dense orchard in the Meemandar area of Shopian. A joint team of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Army's 55 Rashtriya Rifles and 44 Rashtriya Rifles, and the CRPF established

Amarnath Yatra Witnesses 28% Surge In Pilgrims

Over 1.42 Lakh Devotees Perform Darshan In Six Days Against 1.11 Lakh Last Year

UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra is witnessing a huge surge in pilgrim turnout this year, with the number of devotees performing darshan in the first six days increasing by around 28 per cent compared to the previous year. Official figures available reveal that 1,42,861 pilgrims had performed darshan till 7:00 PM on Wednesday, against 1,11,975 during the first six days of the pilgrimage in 2025, which is an increase of 30,886 pilgrims, or around 28 per cent. On Wednesday alone, 29,047 devotees paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, including 18,362 men, 9,737 women, 404 children, 181 sadhus, 13 sadhvis, 11 transgender devotees and 339 security personnel. Meanwhile, the pilgrimage also witnessed its largest-ever single-day departure from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu, with 9,837 pilgrims leaving in the seventh batch for the twin base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal. Officials said that the batch



departed in a convoy of 361 vehicles, including 188 vehicles carrying 5,337 pilgrims via the traditional Pahalgam route and 173 vehicles carrying 4,500 pilgrims via the Baltal route. The batch comprised 6,684 men, 2,730 women, 21 children, 320 sadhus, 80 sadhvis and two transgender devotees. A heavy rush of pilgrims was witnessed at the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas from the early hours of the day as devotees from different parts of the country assembled for the annual pilgrimage. Amarnath ice Shivling shrinks significantly; devotees rush for early darshan. The naturally formed ice Shivling inside the holy Amarnath cave shrine has reduced noticeably compared to its size at the beginning of the Yatra. The development has led to a surge in the number of devotees keen to reach the cave

ON WEDNESDAY ALONE, 29,047 DEVOTEES PAID OBEISANCE at the holy cave shrine, including 18,362 men, 9,737 women, 404 children, 181 sadhus, 13 sadhvis, 11 transgender devotees and 339 security personnel.

Rain, Thunderstorms Lash J&K; Flash Floods Hit Jammu Parts

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Rain and thundershowers lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday evening, with brief intense spells triggering localized flash floods, mudslides and landslides in some areas. The showers, disrupted life in many areas of Jammu region and in North Kashmir's Kupwara District. Reports aid that Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Katra, Doda, Udhampur, Batote and parts of Ramban received intense showers, which led to localized flash floods, mudslides and landslides, while people were advised to stay away from nullahs, streams and vulnerable slopes. Meanwhile, the MeT office said that Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2 degrees Celsius, 2.5 degrees above normal, while Jammu settled at 34.5 degrees Celsius, slightly below the seasonal average. Kupwara recorded 33.0 degrees Celsius, Qazigund 31.0 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 30.6 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 25.4 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg 23.4 degrees Celsius, Banihal 29.2 degrees Celsius, Batote 28.7 degrees Celsius, Katra 31.0

UAPA Case CIK Conducts Raids At Two Srinagar Locations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Wednesday conducted simultaneous raids at two locations in Srinagar in connection with an investigation registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code. Official sources said one CIK team carried out a search at Usmania Colony, Bagh-i-Mehtab, at the residence of Altaf Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Bagh-i-Mehtab, who is presently residing in Pakistan since 1990. Simultaneously, another CIK team conducted a raid at Sheikh-ul-Alam Colony, Nowgam, at the residence of Mukhtar Ahmad Baba, a resident of Sheikh-ul-Alam Colony, who, according to the investigating agency, has been residing in Pakistan since 2022. The searches are being conducted in connection with FIR No. 04/2026 registered at Police Station Counter Intelligence Kashmir under Sections 505 and 153A of the Indian

Army Chief General Seth Reviews Security Situation In Kashmir



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth on Wednesday reviewed the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness, and combat readiness in the Kashmir valley. Gen Singh visited the Srinagar-based 15 Corps, also called Chinar Corps, headquarters of the Army here and took a review of the situation. "General Dhiraj Seth, COAS, visited HQ Chinar corps and its formations to review the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness and combat readiness along the Line of Con-

trol and in the hinterland," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army said in a post on X. It said the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) was briefed on the operational deployments, counter-terrorism operations, inter-agency synergy, evolving operational dynamics and security arrangements for the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra. "He also reviewed the initiatives towards Tech Absorption, capability enhancement and integrated combat readiness across the full spectrum of operations," the ADGPI said.

Amit Shah Speaks To CMs Of J&K, Kerala, Maharashtra On Rain Situation; Assures Help

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday spoke with the chief ministers of Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Jammu and Kashmir to take stock of the situation arising from heavy rains there and assured them of all possible assistance from the Centre, officials said. The home minister called Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, they said. During the separate phone conversations, Shah assured them of all possible assistance from the Centre in dealing with the rain-related situation, they said. Speaking to Satheesan, the home minister expressed satisfaction over the rescue and



relief operations carried out by the Kerala government following the Wayanad tragedy, in which three people were killed after a rain-soaked mound of excavated earth collapsed at the site of a multi-crore tunnel project in Meppadi panchayat on Tuesday. Shah also asked the chief minister to order a high-level inquiry into the incident. Satheesan informed him that the state cabinet, which met earlier in the day, had already decided to conduct an inquiry. Ten people were injured, and five remained missing in the incident, which has been described as a "man-made disaster". In Maharashtra, the capital Mumbai witnessed torrential rain on Wednesday, delaying local train services and causing inconvenience to office-goers. The city was battered by rain over the weekend and got a brief respite on Tuesday. Long-distance train

CS Calls For Large-Scale Capacity Building To Combat Cyber-Frauds

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired the 37th Union Territory Level Coordination Committee (UTLCC) meeting convened by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu, and called for a comprehensive, coordinated and technology-driven strategy to curb the growing menace of cyber-enabled financial frauds and other unregulated financial activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Emphasising the need for strengthening institutional capacities, the Chief Secretary urged regulatory bodies including the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to undertake large-scale capacity building programmes for prosecution and investigation officers to enhance their abil-



ity to effectively investigate and prosecute cyber-enabled financial crimes. The UTLCC, constituted by the Ministry of Finance, GoI serves as a statutory coordination forum to promote close cooperation among financial regulators and enforcement agencies, curb unauthorised deposit-taking and other unregulated financial activities, and facilitate timely sharing of market intelligence. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Regional Director, RBI, Jammu; Principal

Amarnath Yatra Provides Livelihood To Thousands Of Pony Handlers

Say Improved Infrastructure Eased Movement But Traffic Congestion Remains

RAJA SYED RATHER

BALTAL: The annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra continues to provide a crucial source of livelihood to thousands of pony handlers across Kashmir, many of whom depend on the pilgrimage season to support their families for the rest of the year. The improved infrastructure along the Yatra route has also eased the movement of pilgrims. The Men and Machinery of the 122 (RCC) of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) have constructed and maintained the track from the Baltal Base Camp to the Holy Cave, facilitating smoother access for devotees and supporting those engaged



in Yatra-related services. Ghulam Ahmad, a pony handler, said that infrastructure and facilities along the route have improved considerably over the years. "Earlier, the roads were in very poor condition, but now they have improved significantly. The routes are much better, and facilities such as drinking water and electricity are available. Overall, the arrangements here are very good," he said. Another pony handler, Fayaz Kassana, who has been associated with the Yatra

since 2010, said the pilgrimage is the primary source of income for his family. "Earlier, there were many problems related to roads, water and electricity, but now the facilities have improved significantly. We earn our livelihood through this work. We come here for one or two months during the Yatra, and the income we earn during this period helps us sustain ourselves for the rest of the year," he said. Pony handler Abdul Rashid welcomed the improved arrangements but expressed concern over increasing traffic congestion. "The work is going well, but the biggest problem is traffic jams. I have been working here for

J&K Govt Announces Full Fee Waiver For AAY Students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major relief for economically weaker families, the Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday announced a full fee waiver for students belonging to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families studying in Government Schools and Government Degree Colleges across the Union Territory. According to separate orders issued by the School Education and Higher Education Departments, the decision has been taken as a welfare measure to promote equitable access to education and will come into force with immediate effect. As per the School Education Department order, students of Classes IX to XII in Government Schools who belong to AAY households and possess a valid AAY Ration Card or any other prescribed document will be exempted from payment of all fees leviable by

Northern Railway Ramps Up Security, Passenger Facilities For Amarnath Pilgrims



AGENCIES

JAMMU: Northern Railway has strengthened security and passenger amenities at the Jammu railway station to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, officials said on Wednesday. Officials of the Jammu division said that elaborate arrangements have been put in place to ensure the safety, convenience and comfort of pilgrims reaching the base city from different parts of the country. Senior railway officers and

supervisors are monitoring the arrangements round the clock, while personnel from the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railway Police (GRP) have been deployed across the station premises, they said. The Jammu railway station is under 24-hour CCTV surveillance through a central control room, while ticket-checking staff are conducting regular patrols along with the RPF and GRP personnel to prevent any untoward incident. Railway authorities have also established

Div Com chairs Multi-Disciplinary Meeting on Traffic Management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Wednesday chaired a multi-disciplinary meeting to review traffic management initiatives and monitor the progress of key road infrastructure projects aimed at improving traffic flow and urban mobility across Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Vice Chairman Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, SSP Traffic Srinagar, and senior officers from the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), and other concerned departments.



During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the status of several major projects, including the Natipora Crossing, Chanapora Bridge road, T-junction at Natipora, Shalteng-Parimpora Flyover, Foot Over Bridge at JVC, underpasses at Nowgam and Mominabad, the road along the Doodganga bank from Barzulla

to Sanatnagar, painting of zebra crossings and stop lines, establishment of an e-charging station at Batalmoo, development of bus stops, removal of traffic bottlenecks across the city, and identification of no-honking zones.

Officers from the R&B Department and SSCL briefed the chair on the current status of the projects, progress achieved so far, and the timelines for their completion.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination and directed the concerned agencies to ensure the timely execution of all projects to enhance traffic management and commuter convenience in the city.

Comm SMC reviews Urban Greening Initiatives during Inspection of Hari Parbat Range

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, Wednesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Hari Parbat Range under the Urban Forestry Division to review the progress of ongoing afforestation, landscaping, and urban greening initiatives aimed at enhancing the city's environmental sustainability.

During the inspection, the Commissioner reviewed the survival rate of plantations, maintenance of green spaces, progress of beautification works, and the overall condition of the area. He directed the concerned officers to adopt scientific plantation management practices, ensure timely irrigation, safeguard newly planted saplings, and optimize the use of available resources to maximize the survival and healthy growth of



plantations.

Emphasizing the critical role of urban forests in improving air quality, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and strengthening the city's ecological resilience, the Commissioner instructed the field functionaries to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness, landscape management, and environmental stewardship. He further directed that all ongoing works be executed in a time-bound manner while ensuring quality, sustainability, and long-term maintenance of the developed

green assets.

The Commissioner also underscored the need to intensify plantation drives and further strengthen Srinagar's green infrastructure in line with the Corporation's commitment to developing a cleaner, healthier, greener, and climate-resilient city.

During the visit, officers of the Urban Forestry Division briefed the Commissioner on the progress of various plantation programmes, maintenance schedules, survival monitoring mechanisms, and the operational challenges being encountered in

the field.

Appreciating the dedication and sincere efforts of the field staff, the Commissioner urged them to continue working with renewed commitment towards transforming Srinagar into a model of sustainable urban forestry and environmental conservation.

The Commissioner was accompanied by Joint Commissioner (Works), Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forestry Division, and other senior officers of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Urban Forestry Division during the inspection.

DC Kupwara reviews progress under HADP, JKICIP



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKG) in the district and the progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKICIP).

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the operational status of Kisan Khidmat Ghars Centres, with particular emphasis on Common Service Centre (CSC) onboarding, capacity building of Krishi Udyamis (KUs), delivery of services and revenue generation.

A detailed review was also conducted of the district's performance against the prescribed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under HADP and JKICIP including course completion by enrolled farmers, establishment of approved

units, tracking of established units through the OTA application, utilisation of released funds, farmer and farm registration under KKG Level-2, completion of e-KYC under KKG Level-3, daily reporting compliance by Krishi Udyamis, credit disbursement against sanctioned cases, sanction of credit applications, JKICIP coverage in selected blocks and approvals under JKICIP.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to achieve the prescribed targets under each performance parameter through a coordinated and result-oriented approach. He instructed the officers to expedite farmer and farm registration, ensure timely completion of e-KYC of all eligible beneficiaries, improve daily reporting compliance by Krishi Udyamis, strengthen credit linkage and maintain accuracy and real-time update of data on the designated portal for effective monitoring and evaluation. He further

directed the departments to review the performance of Krishi Udyamis on a daily basis and take prompt corrective measures wherever required.

The Committee reviewed the implementation status of various interventions being undertaken under the two flagship programmes. Stressing convergence among implementing departments, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure timely execution of approved interventions, undertake regular field-level monitoring and maximise outreach so that the intended benefits reach the farming community in a transparent and time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Lead District Manager, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Agriculture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries and other concerned officers.

DC Budgam reviews Road Safety Measures at DRSC Meeting

Stresses coordinated efforts for safer roads across District

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) at the Conference Hall, Budgam to review the implementation of road safety measures and assess the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) submitted by various stakeholder departments on the decisions taken during the previous meeting.

The meeting reviewed the progress achieved by various departments in strengthening road safety infrastructure, enforcement, emergency response, public awareness and institutional coordination across the district. The District Road Safety Action Plan 2026-27 was also reviewed, with emphasis on the timely execution of identified interventions by the concerned departments.

The DC stressed the need for sustained coordination among all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of road safety measures and directed the departments to expedite the execution of all pending decisions in a time-bound manner.

He instructed the concerned departments to prioritise the rectification



of accident-prone locations through appropriate engineering interventions, including installation of road safety signage, crash barriers, street lighting and other essential safety infrastructure.

He also directed that identified black spots be addressed through improved road geometry, proper road markings, pedestrian crossings and other traffic-calming measures.

The DC further directed the Roads & Buildings Department and other executing agencies to undertake regular road safety audits and remove obstructions along roads that contribute to accidents or create hindrances, particularly during the winter season, to ensure safe and uninterrupted movement of traffic.

Emphasising the safety of school children, the DC instructed Chief Education Officer Budgam to conduct a comprehensive audit of all school buses to ensure strict adherence to prescribed safety guidelines, including the installation and proper functioning of CCTV cam-



eras and other mandatory safety features.

The DC also directed the Traffic Police and ARTO to intensify enforcement drives on the Humham-Budgam-Doodhpatri Road, ensuring zero tolerance for traffic violations on the stretch.

He further instructed the concerned departments to verify that vehicles whose registrations or permits have been suspended are not operating on the roads and to initiate strict action against violators.

The DC emphasised strict enforcement of traffic regulations, strengthening surveillance, regular inspection of public transport vehicles and school buses, and intensified awareness campaigns to promote responsible road behaviour. He further directed all departments to actively conduct Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns within their respective sectors to create greater public awareness regarding road safety measures, traffic rules and responsible road usage, thereby encouraging community participation in accident prevention.

VC KU inaugurates RAMP Programme at North Campus



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof. Neelofer Khan, Wednesday inaugurated a Management Development Programme (MDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative at the University of Kashmir, North Campus, Delina, Baramulla.

The programme is one of the two MDPs launched in Baramulla under the RAMP initiative, with a total participation of 44 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs.

Addressing the inaugural session, Prof. Neelofer Khan appreciated the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in organizing such developmental programmes and emphasized that promoting entrepreneurship is the need of the hour. She said entrepreneurship not only provides financial independence to youth but also fosters innovation and encourages them to explore ventures aligned with emerging opportunities and market needs.

Director, North Campus, Prof. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, also addressed the participants and encouraged them to think innovatively, embrace entrepreneurship and create their own legacy through enterprise and self-reliance.

Assistant Professor and Programme Coordinator, Dr. Ulfat, also spoke during the inaugural session, highlighting the importance of entrepreneurial skill development and capacity building among aspiring entrepreneurs.

District Nodal Officer (DNO), Baramulla, Intiyaz Ahad Malla, presented a detailed overview of the RAMP scheme and JKEDI's role in promoting entrepreneurship and strengthening the MSME ecosystem.

The inaugural session was followed by technical training sessions conducted by the designated resource persons.

The initiative aims to equip aspiring and existing entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills and managerial competencies required to establish and successfully manage sustainable business enterprises.

DLSA G'bal conducts Legal Awareness Programme at Central Jail Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal organized a legal awareness programme at Central Jail Srinagar on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) relating to Prema-Release, Parole and Furlough to educate inmates about the legal provisions, eligibility criteria and procedure governing these reformative measures.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman DLSA Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal in accordance with the Calendar of Activities issued by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA).

Sajid Irfan, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, and Romani Syed, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Ganderbal, served as the Resource Persons. They explained the legal framework governing premature release, parole and furlough, their objectives, eligibility conditions, procedural requirements and the distinction between these provisions. The inmates were also informed about the role of legal aid institutions in assisting eligible prisoners.

MSME organizes CBP on Branding, Marketing for PM Vishwakarma Artisans in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, Branch MSME-DFO Srinagar, organised a Capacity Building Programme on Branding and Marketing under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme at Kashmir Government Polytechnic College, Srinagar, exclusively for registered PM Vishwakarma artisans.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Amit Kumar Tamarra, IEDS, Joint Director, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and coordinated by Mohammad Tariq Ishtiaq, IEDS, Assistant Director, Branch MSME-DFO Srinagar.

Sessions were conducted on "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Product Branding and Market Promotion" by the SL PMU Team, "Product Packaging, Branding and Marketing" by faculty members from Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), and credit facilitation, banking awareness,



Industries Centre (DIC), Srinagar.

The programme aimed to strengthen the branding, marketing, and entrepreneurial capabilities of registered PM Vishwakarma artisans through awareness on modern marketing practices, digital tools, financial literacy, and market linkages.

Addressing the participants, IEDS, Assistant Director, Branch MSME-DFO Srinagar, emphasised the importance of branding, quality improvement, and effective marketing strategies for enhancing the visibility and market value of artisan products.

The programme concluded with a commitment of the Branch MSME-DFO Srinagar, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, towards empowering PM Vishwakarma artisans through continuous capacity-building initiatives and improved market access.

QR code generation, and financial literacy by the Lead District Manager (LDM), Srinagar.

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UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
MECHANICAL AND HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL AND HOSPITAL DIVISION ANANTNAG.
email: xenmhd-ang@jk.gov.in

GIST OF short term e-NIT No: MHDA/TS/2025-26/13 of Dated: 04-07-2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT short-term e-tenders are invited from OEM's, authorized dealers of OEM's/ Experienced Firms for the below mentioned work:

S.no	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Contract Period
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Comprehensive Maintenance Contract with Operation of 1000 LPM Capacity (02 Nos) Oxygen Generation Plants (INMATEC Make) including Repair and Maintenance Of Electro Mechanical Equipments for one (01) year at District Hospital Kulgam.	31.98	1000	64000	1 year
2	Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of 1000 LPM Capacity (01 No) Oxygen Generation Plants (L&T Defense Make) including Repair and Maintenance Of Electro Mechanical Equipments for one (01) year at District Hospital Kulgam.	31.40	1000	62800	1 year

- Administrative Approval: Accorded by Director of Health Services Kashmir vide Order No. 18/DHSC of 2026 Dated: 30-06-2026
- Technical Sanction: 1. Accorded under no. MHDA/TS/08 dated: 03-07-2026 by Executive Engineer Mechanical and Hospital Division Anantnag.
- 2. Accorded under no. MHDA/TS/09 dated: 03-07-2026 by Executive Engineer Mechanical and Hospital Division Anantnag.
- 3. Position of Funds: To be made available by intending Department as per AAA.

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 04-07-2026 (16:00 Hrs.).
2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 04-07-2026 (17:00 Hrs.) to 15-07-2026 (14:00Hrs.) in two (02) covers.
3. Opening of Bids: - The bids received up to due date and time shall be opened on 16-07-2026 at (14.00 Hrs.) or any date convenient to the department in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Division Anantnag.

No: MHDA/TS-389/759-60
Date: 04-07-2026

DIPK-2997-26
DT: 08/07/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
M&H Division Anantnag

Education Conclave 2026

CM Omar appoints 117 lecturers; waives tuition fee for AAY students

Launches 2,109 education sector works worth 115 crore rupees

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a landmark move in Jammu & Kashmir's education sector, the Government Wednesday revived appointments to School Lecturer posts, with the Chief Minister handing over appointment letters to 117 newly selected lecturers. These appointments are the first lecturer appointments in the Education Department in many years.

The Chief Minister also fulfilled his Budget 2026 commitment by announcing a full fee waiver for school and college students belonging to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. This move is expected to make education affordable and accessible.

These decisions were announced by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during Education Conclave 2026 - "Buniyaad Se Bulandi Tak" which was organised by Samagra Shiksha & Departments of School and Higher Education.

The conclave also saw the launch of several educational infrastructural and digital initiatives. The Chief Minister inaugurated



2109 works in the Education sector worth more than 115 crore rupees, besides inaugurating a studio for virtual classes and a high tech auditorium for Government College of Engineering Technology Jammu.

Recognising the stellar academic performance of students, the Chief Minister also felicitated 67 meritorious school and college students and honoured National Award-winning teachers.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inspected exhibition stalls showcasing student innovations, institutional reforms and technological initiatives.

The Chief Minister praised these young minds, saying their innovative work ranging from patents to start-ups proved how technology and good education can solve everyday problems and help real people.

Appreciating Education Minister Sakina Itoo for initiating several reforms and budgetary interventions, the Chief Minister assured that the government would continue investing in educational infrastructure, institutional development, improving service conditions of teachers and academics to ensure an enabling environment for equitable access to quality education across Jammu and Kashmir.

He called teachers the backbone of society, pointing out that every single profession, whether it is doctors, engineers, soldiers, or police officers, starts with a teacher. He promised that the government would keep working to improve schools, help teachers, and make learning better for everyone.

Minister for Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Agriculture Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Several Members of Legislative Assembly, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Commissioner School Education Department, Vice Chancellors of Universities, Director Colleges, Directors of School Education Kashmir and Jammu and other senior officers of the Education Departments were present on the occasion. They were joined by academicians and students in the day-long conclave.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction in the education sector of J&K especially with regard to students; he said, "I leave this conclave with renewed confidence in the future of Jammu and Kashmir."

Dy CM inspects development works in Udhampur, Katra; visits injured soldier at NCH

Reviews progress on Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, holds public outreach programmes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATRA: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Udhampur and Katra to inspect the ongoing developmental works and review progress of key infrastructure projects.

During his visit to Udhampur, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the Northern Command Hospital to enquire about the health of Subedar Rakesh Kumar of 1st JAKLI, who is undergoing treatment.

The Deputy Chief Minister interacted with the attending doctors and reviewed the medical condition of the injured soldier. He directed the hospital authorities to make every possible effort to ensure the best medical care and facilitate his early recovery.

He also met the family members of Subedar Rakesh Kumar and assured them of the government's full support in providing quality medical treatment and all necessary assistance during the course of his



treatment. He hoped for the soldier's speedy recovery and appreciated the dedicated services being rendered by the medical team.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, particularly the Domail-Katra stretch and reviewed the pace and quality of the work. He stressed the need for timely completion of the prestigious project while maintaining the highest standards of quality and safety. He said that the expressway will significantly improve the con-

nectivity, boost tourism and promote economic development in the region.

During the tour, the Deputy Chief Minister also held public outreach programmes at various locations in Katra, where he patiently listened to the grievances, issues and demands raised by the people. He assured the public that all genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner and directed the concerned officers to take prompt action for their resolution.

Reiterating the government's commitment to transparent, accountable

and people-centric governance, the Deputy Chief Minister said that regular field visits and direct interaction with the public are essential for ensuring effective implementation of developmental works and timely redressal of public grievances.

Among others accompanying the Deputy Chief Minister were the Engineer-in-Chief, Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers of various engineering wings, senior officers of the district administration and former Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI) representatives.

Speaker Rather reviews tourism development works at Yousmarg

Stresses interdepartmental coordination, quality infrastructure, promotion of winter tourism



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Wednesday convened a high-level meeting to review the progress of ongoing development works, their execution and the new initiatives proposed under the Special Area Sustainable Community-Centred Initiative (SASCI) at Yousmarg, Hajian, Nilnag, Nagbal and adjoining areas.

The meeting also focused on resolving issues pertaining to the Forest Department that have been affecting the timely execution of various developmental projects in these tourist destinations.

During the meeting, Chief Executive Officer, Yousmarg Development Authority (YDA), Riyaz Ahmad, gave a detailed presentation on the developmental profile of the area, highlighting prominent trekking destinations, ongoing and proposed projects, beautification initiatives, parking facilities, tourism infrastructure, winter tourism potential and various adventure tourism activities. He apprised that Rs 357 lakh have been sanctioned for

21 ongoing and new works in 2026-27, of which, more than 85 lakhs have already been released.

The Speaker emphasized the need to develop a network of trekking trails connecting Yousmarg-Drugtolen, Yousmarg-Burgah, Yousmarg-Nilnag, Yousmarg-Hajian, Yousmarg-Fresnag and Yousmarg-Sang-e-Safaid, stating that these scenic routes would provide tourists with a unique and memorable experience while promoting eco-tourism in the region.

Emphasising the importance of coordinated efforts, the Speaker called for greater interdepartmental coordination and effective liaison among all stakeholder departments to ensure the timely completion of projects. He directed the concerned officers to resolve all bottlenecks, particularly those related to forest clearances and other procedural issues, at the earliest so that developmental works are not delayed and inconvenience to tourists and the local population is avoided.

The Speaker further instructed the executing agencies to complete all projects within the stipulated timeframe without compromising the quality of work. He reiterated that

creation of durable and high-quality infrastructure should remain the foremost priority.

Highlighting the immense potential of Yousmarg as a year-round tourist destination, the Speaker stressed the need to explore and promote winter tourism activities in the area. He observed that the development of winter sports and adventure tourism would not only attract more visitors but also create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the local youth and contribute significantly to the regional economy.

Describing Yousmarg as one of the most picturesque tourist destinations of Jammu and Kashmir, the Speaker underscored the need for its planned and sustainable development while preserving its pristine natural environment.

The Speaker also directed the concerned departments to ensure completion of the Hajian-Yousmarg Bridge during the current financial year, stating that the project is crucial for improving connectivity and facilitating tourism as well as the movement of local residents.

Earlier, the Speaker visited Darewan Basti at Yousmarg, where he interacted with the local residents to take stock of their grievances and developmental aspirations. The residents urged him to develop the traditional settlement as a heritage tourism destination so that the visitors could experience and learn about the rich culture, traditions, architecture and lifestyle of the local community.

Dir Panchayati Raj reviews RGSA progress, orders time-bound completion of PGs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Panchayati Raj, Jammu and Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of various components under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and set firm deadlines for the completion of pending works and targets.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs), Under Secretary, Mohammad Arshad, Executive Engineers and SPRC/DPRC team.

The Director reviewed the status of Panchayat Ghars, Panchayat Learning Centres, Gram Panchayat Development Plans, Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar initiative and fund utilisation.

Reviewing the progress of Panchayat Ghars, the Director was informed that against a target of 640, land has been identified for 577 sites, 269 Panchayat Ghars have either been completed or reached advanced stages of completion.

He directed the districts to resolve pending land issues on priority, expedite tendering and execution, and ensure timely completion of all ongoing works.

The Director further instructed that districts should identify and report all Panchayat Ghar sites where construction is stalled due to land disputes or non-availability of land.

Riyaz Wani sought a detailed report clearly indicating each affected location, along with the Deputy



Commissioner's comments and certification confirming that land is unavailable or that the site is under dispute. These cases will then be taken up with the Government for resolution.

Districts were asked to continue pursuing the matter with the Deputy Commissioner to resolve disputes and secure alternate land wherever possible. Where land is being donated, all legal formalities and written declarations should be completed to ensure there are no future claims or disputes.

Officers were also directed to provide realistic timelines for completion of Panchayat Ghars where work has already been taken up and separately indicate cases that remain pending due to unresolved land issues.

Regarding Panchayat Learning Centres, 20 PLCs sanctioned earlier are functional across the Union Territory, and 41 additional PLCs have been sanctioned in the current phase.

The Director directed that functional PLCs be regularly utilised for capacity building, digital learning and training of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Self Help Groups and other grassroots stakeholders.

Reviewing the Gram Panchayat Development Plan 2026-27, the Director instructed all districts to ensure timely conduct of

Hasnain Masoodi chairs Privileges Committee meeting



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Privileges of the J&K Legislative Assembly, chaired by Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi, on Wednesday examined two alleged breach of privilege cases and directed both the officers concerned to submit the supplementary written replies.

The Committee considered a notice submitted by MLA Ali Mohammad Dar against the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Chadoora, Budgam and another notice submitted by MLA Mian Mehar Ali against then Assistant Commissioner Development, Ganderbal. Both the officers were summoned and heard separately by the Committee.

While examining the case related to then Assistant Commissioner Ganderbal, the officer submitted that the issue had arisen in connection with the preparation and submission of the list of works under the MGNREGA scheme, wherein certain works recommended by the Member could not be included. He also placed his version of the facts before the Committee.

During the deliberations, the Committee took a serious view of the allegation that the officer had not been responsive to the telephone calls of the Member. The Committee observed that Members of the Legislative Assembly are elected repre-

sentatives of the people and are entitled to due courtesy and prompt responsiveness from public officials to enable them to effectively discharge their legislative responsibilities.

In response, the officer submitted that he had always endeavoured to respond to the communications of the Member and expressed regret if, on any occasion, he had inadvertently failed to do so. After detailed deliberations, the Committee decided to grant the officer further time to submit a supplementary written reply. The matter shall be considered further in the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee thereafter examined the case related to the alleged breach of privilege notice submitted by Ali Mohammad Dar against the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Chadoora, Budgam. The officer appeared before the Committee and submitted his statement.

After hearing the officer, the Committee expressed its displeasure over the conduct attributed to him during the incident in question. The Committee observed that despite issuance of government instructions emphasizing that due courtesy and respect should be extended to Members of the Legislative Assembly, such instances reflect adversely on the functioning of the Executive and warrant serious attention.

DC Ramban inspects Lamber Yatra Camp, Reviews pilgrim facilities for SANJY

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: As part of the ongoing review of arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, Wednesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Lamber Yatra Camp at Banihal to assess the preparedness of various departments and ensure the smooth delivery of essential services to pilgrims.

The inspection was aimed at reviewing the quality, efficiency and timely availability of facilities established for the convenience, safety and comfort of the devotees.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban, Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Banihal, Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan; SDM Ramsao, Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah; and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Langars and directed the SDM Banihal and the Food Inspector to ensure regular monitoring of food quality, hygiene and availability so that pilgrims are served safe, nutritious and hygienic meals. He also reviewed healthcare arrange-

ments, medical facilities and emergency response services established at the camp.

The Deputy Commissioner further inspected the RFID issuance counters, accommodation facilities, sanitation and cleanliness measures, drinking water supply, security arrangements, traffic management, power and lighting, public conveniences and other amenities put in place for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Interacting with the devotees, the Deputy Commissioner obtained firsthand feedback on the services being provided. He enquired about their travel experience, accommodation, sani-

tation, medical assistance, security arrangements and overall comfort, while assuring them that the district administration remains committed to ensuring a safe and hassle-free pilgrimage.

Emphasising the need for continuous supervision, the Deputy Commissioner instructed officers to maintain round-the-clock monitoring of all facilities and respond promptly to any requirement or grievance of the pilgrims. He stressed that sanitation, drinking water, healthcare and other essential public services must be maintained at the highest standards throughout the Yatra.

ACB uncovers fresh custodian land scam in Jammu, registers 2 FIRs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau has achieved a major success in extracting one of the major land scams in Jammu and Kashmir, wherein custodian land in Bhalwal and Amb area of Jammu district has been found usurped by the land mafia in connivance with the officers/officials of custodian /revenue department.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said that inputs were received that custodian land in thousands of kanal situated at Asarwan, Mishriwala, Bhalwal

and R.S. Pura Jammu, has been fraudulently grabbed by the land grabbers/gangsters in connivance with the Revenue officers/officials. The revenue records have been tampered and land has been sold to various persons.

On the basis of the inputs received by ACB a verification was initiated and on the basis of the verification conducted earlier it was found that more than 1000 kanals of Custodian land was shown allotted to the displaced persons on the basis of fake orders, who were otherwise not entitled for the allotment of additional land through

fraudulent means by the land grabbers / Form Alaf holders in connivance with the officers / officials of Revenue department and others. Accordingly, 27 case FIRs were registered by the ACB in which the investigation is still in progress.

Again, during the course of verification it has been found that displaced persons of Pakistan (PAK / POK Refugees) were already allotted land in their favour but even then kith and kin of these families although not entitled being Form Alaf holders in connivance with the concerned Patwaries / Girdawars / Naib Tehsildars / Tehsildars of

Revenue Department got mutations of additional land at Bhalwal area of District Jammu attested in their favour either without any Govt. / Provisional Rehabilitation Office (PRO) order or on fake Govt. / PRO order. During verification it has also been found that no such orders of allotment of land were issued by the office of the PRO. These persons after getting mutation of lands in their favour alienated the said land directly or through their attorney holders / conduits to various persons by resorting to fraudulent means, thereby causing a huge loss to the Govt. Exchequer.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

The Season Of The Turncoats

In Jammu and Kashmir, political migration has become as predictable as the changing seasons. Every time an election rolls around, a familiar ritual plays out: politicians who spent years fiercely defending one ideology suddenly wake up with a newfound passion for another. Principles are quietly swept under the rug, loyalties are rewritten overnight, and political parties are treated less like platforms for public service and more like Uber rides, used purely to get to the destination of power. The latest example? Former Baramulla DDC chairperson Safina Baig's leap over to the ruling National Conference. While anyone in a democracy has the right to change their mind and join a new party, these frequent, convenient defections force us to ask a glaring question: Are these moves actually about serving the public, or are they just about personal survival? If politicians think voters are still blindly following them from one camp to the next, they are in for a reality check. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have grown incredibly politically savvy. The days of voters passively accepting whatever new alliance is thrown at them are fading fast. Recent elections have sent a loud and clear message: credibility, track record, and genuine commitment matter far more than whatever party flag a candidate happens to wave on election day. The Reality of Political Trust: Trust takes a lifetime to build at the grassroots level, but it can vanish in a single moment of opportunism. You can transfer a politician's name to a new party roster, but you cannot simply transfer the public's faith along with it. For the political parties themselves, welcoming every defecting heavyweight with open arms is a dangerous game. Sure, it makes for great headlines and creates the illusion of momentum. But what about the loyal, everyday workers? The Sacrifice: Grassroots workers spend decades building the party from the ground up, often standing by it through its darkest days. The Disconnect: When a party ignores these loyalists to roll out the red carpet for a newcomer who only showed up because the political winds changed, it crushes morale. Democracy is built on the freedom of choice, but it also demands a spine. Leaders who repeatedly jump ship owe the public a real explanation, not just the usual, tired cliché about "wanting to serve the people." If a politician's core beliefs shift every time power changes hands, it's fair to wonder if they ever had any beliefs to begin with. At the end of the day, the people of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be taken for granted. Turncoats can always find a new stage to stand on and a new slogan to shout, but winning back the respect of a discerning public is a much steeper climb. Power will always attract politicians. But in the grand scheme of things, power is temporary, integrity is what earns lasting respect. Parties can welcome turncoats all they want, but it's the voters who decide if they actually get to stay.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) And Eurocentric Knowledge Traditions

BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

The booming growth of AI, along with its evolving engagement with everyday issues, reveals that AI is set to become a staple of daily life—mapping and shaping people's choices across everything from food and friendship to family, health, and livelihoods. AI is going to be a crucial facilitator—and determinant—of human life in the future, and there are no two ways about it. Its inalienable presence in human life and society poses both opportunities and threats. The opportunity lies in further deepening citizenship rights, democratising, and decolonising all forms of knowledge, society, politics, culture, and the economy, steering them along a progressive path toward equality, justice, and liberty. The threats, however, come from the inherent bias embedded within AI systems and their Large Language Models (LLMs)—biases that originate in skewed methods of data collection, categorisation, management, and storage. This database infrastructure disproportionately privileges dominant subjects, knowledge traditions, and ideas, thereby reinforcing a narrow mainstream dominant narrative while leaving little room for critical interrogation.

Most AI models are designed and trained on European datasets, ideas, and languages. Such Eurocentric inputs inevitably produce Eurocentric biases, thereby perpetuating the conditions that uphold Eurocentric knowledge traditions as the dominant epistemic framework. For example, most of the data and archival records in the World Digital Library come from Europe—roughly 90 percent—while only 10 percent originate from outside it. When AI trains its LLMs based on these data, Eurocentric bias is the natural outcome. As a result, AI's claim to universal scientific progress is seriously compromised, limiting its applicability and appeal for people across diverse social, economic, political, religious, regional, national, gender, and sexual groups and beyond.

AI actively promotes and reinforces a European worldview, often perpetuating existing perceptions and stereotypes about people outside the West. This



carefully curated colonial narrative is elevated to the status of a universal truth and gradually becomes codified as scientific knowledge. In stark contrast, indigenous knowledge from Africa, Asia, and Latin America is routinely dismissed as little more than ethnography within the European scientific hierarchy. By entrenching this Eurocentric dominance, AI ultimately undermines the very scientific, digital, and technological revolution it claims to champion.

At the heart of AI lies the binary logic of 'input' and 'output'—a duality whose historical and intellectual lineage can be traced directly back to Cartesian or Cartesian dualism. This foundational framework did not merely destroy the diverse knowledge traditions within Europe; it also systematically marginalised those across the rest of the world. By fundamentally promoting this Cartesian duality, AI inadvertently reinforces Eurocentric knowledge hierarchies while undermining its own democratic and emancipatory potential—namely, the goals of democratisation, decolonisation, and decarbonisation—alongside the very sustainability of diverse knowledge systems.

The Eurocentric and biased empiricist European knowledge tradition,

reinforced by AI, produces dominant paradigms in economy, politics, and culture that champion digital capitalism and its profit-driven platform markets—destroying whatever is left of the social foundations of the market. Politically, it promotes authoritarianism by centralising power and decision-making in ways that benefit digital capitalism and its few platform capitalists, who control and domesticate people and their everyday lives across the world. Culturally, it promotes productivist culture and culture of mass consumerism, standardising everything from food and toys to entertainment, products, and services. Such standardisation encourages monolithic outlooks on life, destroying the diversity of everyday existence. Capitalism promised free choice, but instead offers standardised products and dreams in the name of the digital revolution. It reveals that capitalism is not a dynamic system.

AI has enabled systems and processes in which people's lives, everyday activities, choices, dreams, desires, and needs are reduced to data. People are merely data subjects within AI's LLMs. Such a reductionist knowledge tradition promotes causal relationships while showing little intent to understand the

objective and subjective conditions that shape everyday life and human happiness. AI has not only increased labour productivity across various sectors but has also digitalised warfare. However, it has failed to grasp the complexity of human conditions and intergenerational knowledge to enhance peace and happiness. Despite these limitations, AI has revolutionised several sectors, potentially benefiting people, even as it fundamentally upholds the profit-driven systems of capitalism.

AI reduces its own potential by adhering to Eurocentric knowledge traditions and their associated assumptions, perceptions, stereotypes and biases. The call for the decolonisation of AI is therefore central to its capacity to engage with and enhance democratic and diverse knowledge traditions within its own epistemic frameworks. This can only be realised when AI and its systems are collectively owned, operated, and governed through genuine engagement with the full spectrum of diverse knowledge traditions worldwide.

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Formidable Challenge

Rising Cybercrime In The Age Of Digital Revolution

LALIT GARG

India's digital revolution has ushered in an unprecedented era of speed, convenience, transparency, and connectivity. Mobile banking, UPI, e-commerce, online education, digital healthcare, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) have transformed the everyday lives of millions, making services more accessible and efficient. Today, India is rapidly emerging as one of the world's largest digital economies, and the vision of "Digital India" and "Developed India 2047" rests firmly on this technological transformation. However, alongside this remarkable progress, a darker reality is expanding at an equally alarming pace—the growing empire of cybercrime. Digital arrests, online financial fraud, phishing, identity theft, investment scams, breaches of personal privacy, crimes perpetrated through social media, the circulation of child sexual abuse material, and the misuse of Artificial Intelligence have evolved beyond mere technological concerns. They now pose grave threats to national security, economic stability, and the moral fabric of society.

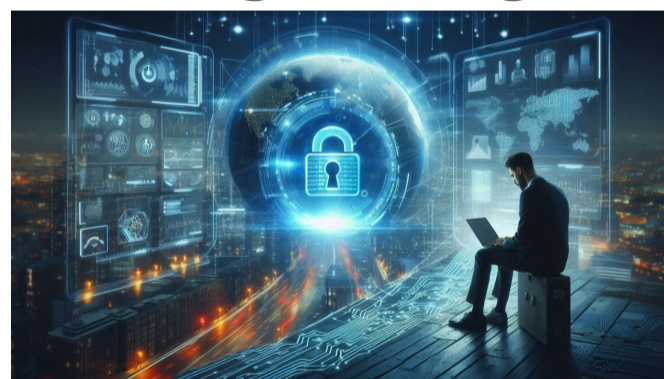
Ironically, the very technology designed to make human life safer, more convenient, and knowledge-driven is increasingly becoming the most powerful weapon in the hands of criminals. While society has enthusiastically embraced the limitless opportunities offered by the internet, cybercriminals have been equally quick in exploiting its vulnerabilities. As a result, trust in the digital ecosystem is steadily eroding. Trust is the cornerstone of any digital economy. Every time a citizen scans a QR code, transfers money through UPI, or invests through an online platform, they are placing their confidence not merely in technology but in the credibility of the entire digital infrastructure. If this confidence continues to be shaken by cyber fraud, fake calls, phishing attacks, data breaches, investment scams, and identity theft, the very foundation of India's cashless economy will weaken. Just as counterfeit currency threatens a nation's finan-

cial system, unchecked digital fraud can undermine the vision of a truly digital economy.

Cybercrime differs fundamentally from conventional crime. Traditional crimes were generally confined to specific geographical locations, making the identification and arrest of offenders relatively feasible. In contrast, today's cybercriminal can operate anonymously from thousands of kilometers away and target millions within minutes. Their risks are minimal, while their gains are enormous. This imbalance has made cybercrime one of the most dangerous forms of criminal activity, transcending national borders, languages, and conventional legal jurisdictions. The concern extends far beyond financial fraud. Recent allegations regarding the dissemination of child sexual abuse material through social media platforms have shocked the global community. If major digital platforms can profit from advertisements linked to such heinous content, it reflects not merely a technological failure but a profound ethical and social crisis.

This raises an important question: Can social media companies continue to evade responsibility by describing themselves merely as technology platforms? When Artificial Intelligence and sophisticated algorithms determine which advertisements reach which users, these companies must accept equal responsibility for the consequences. Although many digital platforms claim to remove objectionable content promptly, their commercial priorities often appear to outweigh their ethical obligations. If advertisements or content related to child exploitation, obscenity, cyber fraud, or organised crime remain active for extended periods, it is not simply a triumph for criminals—it is also an indictment of the accountability of digital platforms. A healthy digital society can flourish only when freedom of expression is balanced with social responsibility.

Perhaps the most tragic aspect of cybercrime is the immense psychological trauma suffered by victims. A lifetime's savings can disappear within minutes. Victims



then find themselves running from banks to police stations and cyber helplines, yet delayed intervention often makes the recovery of stolen funds nearly impossible. Such experiences gradually erode public confidence in institutions and governance. When criminals escape punishment and victims receive little relief, the deterrent power of law itself begins to diminish. Recognising the seriousness of the challenge, the Government of India has introduced several initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity, including the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, dedicated helplines, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), and various digital security programmes. The judiciary has also expressed serious concern by treating online financial fraud as a significant threat to economic security. Nevertheless, a substantial gap remains between policy formulation and effective implementation.

The first few hours after a cybercrime complaint are crucial. If suspicious bank accounts are frozen immediately and the movement of stolen funds is halted without delay, significant financial losses can often be prevented. Unfortunately, bureaucratic delays frequently work in favour of cybercriminals. Cybersecurity is no longer merely a policing issue. It has become a multi-dimensional challenge involving economic policy, national security, education, governance, and international cooperation. Developed nations have elevated cybersecurity to the level of national security by establishing specialised agen-

cies, deploying cutting-edge technologies, training expert personnel, enabling real-time intelligence sharing, and enforcing stringent legal frameworks. India too must move decisively in this direction. Local law enforcement agencies need comprehensive training in digital forensics, blockchain analysis, AI-assisted investigations, and international cyber law. At the same time, public awareness is equally indispensable. As technology evolves, criminals continually devise more sophisticated methods of deception. Therefore, digital literacy must become a nationwide movement through schools, universities, colleges, and civil society organisations. Citizens should be educated to identify suspicious links, fraudulent calls, fake investment schemes, and deceptive social media practices. However, responsibility cannot be shifted entirely onto citizens. Governments, banks, and digital service providers cannot absolve themselves by simply advising users to remain vigilant. Creating a secure digital ecosystem is fundamentally an institutional responsibility.

Weak Know Your Customer (KYC) systems, corruption, administrative negligence, and institutional collusion further facilitate cybercrime. If fraudulent identities are used to open bank accounts, if payment platforms fail to detect and block suspicious transactions promptly, or if internal complexity enables criminal networks to flourish, these are not merely technological failures—they constitute institutional crimes. Transparent

audits, strict accountability, and robust punitive measures are therefore indispensable. Cybercrime is no longer confined to any single nation. In the borderless world of the internet, criminals operate globally, making international cooperation imperative. The United Nations and the world's leading economies must work together to establish a comprehensive global legal framework, rapid information-sharing mechanisms, and advanced technological collaboration to combat cybercrime. Just as international cooperation has become essential in combating terrorism, it is now equally vital in addressing cyber threats.

Ultimately, the true purpose of the digital revolution is not merely technological advancement but the creation of a safer, more prosperous, and more dignified society. If digital transformation instead becomes synonymous with fear, insecurity, and mistrust, its promise will remain unfulfilled. The real strength of Digital India lies not in its apps, servers, or data centres, but in the trust with which millions of citizens conduct their daily digital transactions. What India needs today is not merely better technology, but an integrated framework that harmonises technology, ethics, law, and accountability.

The government must enact stronger laws, ensure swift justice, and establish highly efficient investigative mechanisms. Digital companies must fulfil their social responsibilities with greater seriousness. Financial institutions must strengthen security systems and institutional accountability. Citizens, too, must cultivate responsible digital behaviour and cyber discipline.

Maintaining a healthy balance between digital innovation and cyber security will be one of the defining tests of a developed India. If this balance is achieved, Digital India can emerge as the world's most trusted digital democracy. If not, even the most remarkable technological achievements may ultimately collapse under the weight of public distrust.

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Rethinking Corporatism Beyond The Myths



NAVEED QAZI

Political ideologies are often remembered for their loudest advocates and darkest chapters. Marxism is commonly associated with class struggle, while corporatism is frequently dismissed as a relic of the authoritarian regimes of interwar Europe. Yet this simplified view obscures an important reality. Although twentieth-century dictators appropriated corporatist institutions for their own ends, corporatism itself has a much longer intellectual history and, in democratic societies, has evolved into a framework for cooperation between governments, employers and organised labour. At a time of widening inequality, labour unrest and political polarisation, understanding corporatism is more relevant than ever in the contemporary world.

The fundamental difference between Marxism and corporatism lies in how each views society. Marxism, rooted in the writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, argues that history is driven by conflict between social classes. Capitalists and workers possess fundamentally opposing interests, and capitalism can ultimately be replaced only through revolutionary transformation. Class conflict is therefore not an unfortunate consequence of the system but the principal force driving historical change.

Corporatism, on the other hand, begins from a very different assumption. Rather than seeing employers, workers and the state as irreconcilable adversaries, corporatist theory argues that they are interdependent groups whose interests should be coordinated through structured negotiation. Economic stability, it contends, is best achieved not through perpetual confrontation but through institutionalised dialogue between organised interests. Political scientist Philippe C. Schmitter, whose influential essay *Still the Century of Corporatism?* (1974) remains a landmark in the field, defined corporatism as a system in which recognised interest organisations participate in public decision-making within an agreed institutional framework. His work continues to shape contemporary

scholarship.

Corporatist ideas long pre-date the rise of twentieth-century fascism. During the late nineteenth century, Catholic social thinkers sought an alternative to both laissez-faire capitalism and revolutionary socialism. A decisive moment came in 1891 when Pope Leo XIII issued the encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which defended workers' rights to organise while rejecting socialist revolution and calling instead for cooperation between labour and capital. Later papal writings, especially *Quadrag-*

Capitalists and workers possess fundamentally opposing interests, and capitalism can ultimately be replaced only through revolutionary transformation. Class conflict is therefore not an unfortunate consequence of the system but the principal force driving historical change.

esimo Anno (1931), further developed the idea of occupational or vocational representation as a means of reducing industrial conflict.

During the interwar period, however, corporatism became closely associated with authoritarian governments. In Italy, Benito Mussolini established the Corporate State, claiming that employers and workers would collaborate within state-controlled corporations. In reality, independent trade unions were abolished, strikes and lockouts were prohibited, and the state dictated labour policy. Although presented as a system of class harmony, it functioned largely through political coercion rather than genuine negotiation.

A similar model emerged in Portugal under Antonio de Oliveira Salazar.



The Estado Novo incorporated occupational corporations into the constitutional order, but these organisations remained firmly under state control, while independent labour activism was tightly restricted.

In Spain, Francisco Franco created the Syndical Organisation, commonly known as the Vertical Syndicate, in which employers and employees belonged to the same compulsory state-controlled bodies. These institutions sought industrial peace but excluded genuine collective bargaining and political pluralism.

Austria also experimented with corporatism during the Austrofascist period between 1934 and 1938 under Engelbert Dollfuss and later Kurt Schuschnigg. Influenced partly by Catholic social teaching, the regime attempted to replace parliamentary democracy with vocational chambers representing different sectors of society. The experiment came to an end with the German annexation of Austria in 1938.

In Germany, the National Socialist German Workers' Party did not establish a fully developed corporatist state comparable to Mussolini's Italy. Instead, it abolished independent trade unions in 1933 and replaced them with the German Labour Front, a state-controlled organisation that eliminated collective bargaining and subordinated labour entirely to Nazi objectives. Most historians therefore distinguish Nazi labour institutions from classical corporatism, despite certain authoritarian similarities.

The defeat of fascism after the Second World War fundamentally reshaped corporatist thinking. Democratic governments across Western Europe retained the principle of organised consultation while rejecting authoritarian control. What emerged became known as democratic, or neo-

corporatism. This new model differed fundamentally from its predecessor. Independent trade unions became recognised negotiating partners rather than instruments of the state. Employers' associations retained their autonomy, governments acted as mediators rather than commanders, and collective bargaining became central to economic policymaking. Political scientists Gerhard Lehbruch and Philippe Schmitter demonstrated during the 1970s that these democratic arrangements contributed to wage moderation, lower levels of industrial conflict and more predictable economic policymaking in several European countries.

Modern Austria offers perhaps the clearest example. Its Social Partnership, *Sozialpartnerschaft*, established after 1945, institutionalised regular negotiations between government, business organisations and trade unions. Similar consensus-based arrangements developed in the Scandinavian countries, the Netherlands and parts of Germany. Outside Europe, Singapore has built one of the world's most enduring systems of tripartite cooperation, where the government, employers and the National Trades Union Congress work closely on wage policy, productivity and skills development. Although more state-led than the Austrian model, it has delivered decades of industrial stability and economic competitiveness. Likewise, Australia demonstrated the effectiveness of democratic corporatism through the Prices and Incomes Accord of the 1980s, under which governments and trade unions coordinated wage restraint with improvements in social welfare. These examples illustrate that corporatist principles have proved adaptable beyond Europe, provided they operate within democratic institutions and respect the independence of organised labour.

Corporatism therefore did not become more progressive because

authoritarianism gradually evolved. Rather, democratic societies retained one valuable principle-structured cooperation between organised interests-while discarding political repression, compulsory organisations and one-party rule. Labour unions, once controlled or suppressed under authoritarian corporatist regimes, became independent participants whose legitimacy rested upon democratic representation.

Today, few political parties openly describe themselves as corporatist. The term carries too much historical baggage. Nevertheless, corporatist practices remain deeply embedded in many democratic systems. Christian Democratic parties such as the Christian Democratic Union of Germany, the Austrian People's Party and several members of the European People's Party have traditionally supported social partnership and institutional dialogue between employers and organised labour. Many social democratic parties, particularly in Austria and Scandinavia, also support tripartite bargaining, despite advocating more redistributive economic policies. Even the International Labour Organisation promotes tripartism, bringing together governments, employers and workers to develop international labour standards.

Corporatism therefore survives less as a political ideology than as a method of governance. It offers a middle path between unfettered markets and revolutionary class politics. Critics argue that it can favour established interest groups at the expense of smaller or emerging voices. Supporters respond that societies confronting inflation, industrial disputes and technological disruption require institutions capable of building durable compromises rather than deepening social conflict.

Marx believed that history advanced through class struggle. Corporatist thinkers believed that societies prosper through negotiated cooperation. Neither vision has fully triumphed in our world. Yet in today's democracies, where governments routinely consult employers' organisations and independent trade unions before introducing major economic reforms, it is the democratic adaptation of corporatist principles-not the authoritarian model of the 1930s-that continues to shape public policy. History, in this respect, has not vindicated dictatorship; it has preserved cooperation while rejecting coercion.

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Dr. A.N. Bhat Malmohi

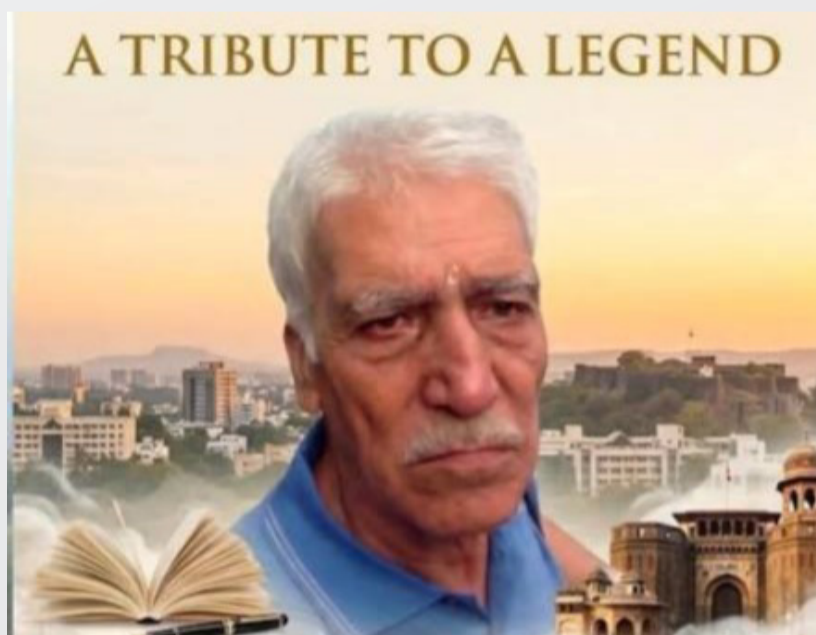
The Gentle Voice Of Kashmiri Literature And Universal Humanism

HAROON RASHID BHAT

Great souls do not disappear with death; they continue to live through the values they uphold, the words they leave behind, and the lives they inspire."

The passing of Dr. Amar Nath Bhat Malmohi on the evening of 28 June 2026 in Pune has left an irreplaceable void in the literary and cultural landscape of Kashmir. A distinguished playwright, eminent scholar, accomplished critic, and one of the foremost custodians of the Kashmiri language, Dr Malmohi devoted his entire life to enriching literature, nurturing theatre, and preserving the cultural identity of his homeland. His departure is not merely the loss of a celebrated literary figure but the silencing of a voice that consistently advocated wisdom, tolerance, spirituality, and humanity. There are certain personalities whose influence extends far beyond their writings. They become institutions in themselves, shaping minds, inspiring generations, and preserving the intellectual heritage of a society. Dr. Amar Nath Bhat Malmohi belonged to this rare category.

Through his literary works, scholarly essays, critical studies, and dramatic creations, he strengthened the



foundations of modern Kashmiri literature while remaining deeply rooted in its classical traditions. Although I had long admired his literary stature, my first meaningful encounter with Dr Malmohi came not through a personal meeting but through his voice. It was on 8 July 2017, at approximately 10:30 p.m., when I happened to tune into an interview broadcast by Radio Kashmir. Conducted by two eminent personalities of the Valley, the interview soon became one of the most memorable conversations I have ever heard. His calm, composed, and gentle voice carried a rare warmth that immediately commanded attention. I instinctively put aside everything else and listened with complete absorption. As the conversation unfolded, every answer revealed another facet of his profound personality, intellectual depth, and remarkable humility.

One aspect that particularly

impressed me was his generosity in acknowledging the contributions of fellow scholars. He spoke with great admiration about Mohammad Ahsan and Professor MohiUl Din Hajini, acknowledging their remarkable contribution to the preservation and promotion of the Kashmiri language and its rich cultural heritage. His appreciation reflected not only his generosity of spirit but also his deep respect for those who dedicated their lives to the service of Kashmiri literature and culture. Such humility is the hallmark of truly great minds. The discussion gradually turned towards religion and spirituality, where Dr Malmohi articulated a philosophy that remains profoundly relevant in today's world. He remarked, "I am more fascinated by the spiritual aspect of religion, which I believe is common to all." These few words reflected the essence of his worldview. For him, religion was

never a cause of division; rather, it was a means of discovering the deeper unity of humankind. He believed that beneath diverse rituals and traditions lies one universal truth—the dignity of the human soul. Self-realisation, according to him, was the highest purpose of life.

His extraordinary scholarship became even more evident when he effortlessly recited verses of Mirza Ghalib, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, and the revered Kashmiri mystic Shahi Shamas Faqeer. What made the experience exceptional was not merely his remarkable memory but his ability to illuminate the profound philosophical and spiritual meanings embedded in their poetry. Every verse became a lesson in literature, philosophy, and life itself. Perhaps the most revealing moment of the interview came when he was asked about the personality who had influenced him the most. Without hesitation, he named Ramakrishna Paramahansa, explaining that he admired him because he practised and respected all religions. This response beautifully reflected Dr Malmohi's own intellectual and spiritual outlook. He believed that truth transcends religious labels and that genuine spirituality nurtures compassion, harmony, and mutual respect.

His life stood as a testimony to this belief. As a literary critic, Dr Malmohi displayed exceptional fairness and intellectual integrity. His essays and critical writings on numerous literary personalities of Kashmir were marked by objectivity, scholarly depth, and an unwavering commitment to truth. He evaluated literature on merit rather than personal affiliations, thereby setting an inspiring example of ethical criticism and academic excellence. His contribution to Kashmiri theatre occupies a distinguished place in the history of the Valley's cultural renaissance. Through his plays, he portrayed

the aspirations, struggles, and moral dilemmas of society while simultaneously preserving the linguistic beauty and cultural ethos of Kashmir.

His dramatic works were not merely performances; they were reflections of social consciousness, cultural continuity, and artistic excellence. At a time when indigenous languages and cultural traditions face unprecedented challenges, Dr Malmohi's lifelong dedication acquires even greater significance. He understood that language is not simply a means of communication but the living repository of a people's history, identity, and collective memory. His tireless efforts towards the preservation and promotion of Kashmiri language will continue to inspire future generations of writers, scholars, artists, and cultural activists. As we mourn the loss of this extraordinary literary giant, we also celebrate a life lived with purpose, humility, and unwavering commitment to knowledge.

Great individuals never truly depart; they continue to live through their ideas, their writings, and the countless lives they touch. Dr. Amar Nath Bhat Malmohi's literary legacy will remain a guiding light for all who believe in the transformative power of literature, culture, and humanity. His gentle voice may have fallen silent, but its echo will continue to resonate in the hearts of those who value wisdom over prejudice, dialogue over division, and humanity above all else. May the Almighty grant eternal peace to his noble soul and bestow strength upon his family, friends, admirers, and the entire literary fraternity to bear this irreparable loss. Kashmir has lost one of its brightest literary luminaries, but his legacy shall remain immortal in the annals of its cultural and intellectual history.

The writer is a teacher. He can be mailed at minamharoon123@gmail.com

Prepare students, teachers for AI era: Advisor Wani

Calls For Values-Based Learning, Skill Development, Effective Implementation Of NEP

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Calling education the biggest tool for progress and nation-building, Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani on Wednesday stressed the need to prepare both students and teachers for the emerging era of artificial intelligence (AI), while advocating values-based learning and skill development to meet the demands of the evolving job market.

Addressing an education programme here at SKICC, Wani, said education is not merely a department but a movement that enables societies and nations to become economically and intellectually self-reliant.

He said history has shown that countries and regions which prioritised education transformed their economies and achieved remarkable progress.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, he said the Omar Abdullah-led government has accorded priority to the education and health sectors, describing them as the pillars of development.

Wani hailed the improving academic performance of students, saying recent outstanding examination results reflected the growing emphasis on education by the government, parents and society.

He said education should not remain confined to classrooms and textbooks, stressing the need to focus on character building, honesty, discipline, respect for elders and teachers, civic sense and awareness of laws from an early age.

"We have to prepare children for society and build their character alongside academics," he said, adding that students should be equipped with values that help them become responsible citizens.

Highlighting technological advancements, the CM's Advisor said the world has progressed from calculators and computers to the age of artificial intelligence, making it essential to train not only students but also teachers to adapt to changing times.

"We have to prepare the future generation with the skills needed for the evolving job market so they are ready to face new opportunities and challenges," he said.

Referring to the National Education Policy (NEP), Wani said the policy framework is robust but called for its effective implementation to achieve the desired results.

Expressing satisfaction over the growing participation of girls in education, he said female students are consistently outperforming boys in several areas, which, he said, is a matter of pride—(KNO)

Foreign Tourist Arrivals In Ladakh Nearly Double In June; Up 99.46%

Tourism strongest pillar of Ladakh's economy: LG Saxena

RAJA SYED

LEH: The massive tourism surge in Ladakh continues to witness an impressive upward trajectory, with foreign tourist arrivals almost doubling in June this year compared to the previous year, from 3,349 foreign tourists in June 2025 to 6,680 in June 2026 - a jump of 99.46 percent - reflecting the Union Territory's increasing popularity among international travellers seeking high-altitude adventure, culture, spirituality, and sustainable tourism experiences.

According to details obtained, among international visitors, Israel continues to emerge as the largest source market for Ladakh, followed by Thailand, the United States, Vietnam, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Malaysia, Australia, Taiwan, Russia, Italy, South Korea, Spain, and several other European and Southeast Asian countries.

Apart from foreign visitors, the overall tourist arrivals in Ladakh in June 2026 have gone up to 1,07,740, representing a healthy growth of 43.48 percent over June 2025, when 75,089 tourists had visited Ladakh. In the first six months, from January to June 2026, a total of 2,25,286 tourists have visited Ladakh, including 2,11,645 domestic and 13,641 foreign tourists.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said the encouraging growth in tourist arrivals reflected the success of the Administration's sustained efforts to position Ladakh as a premier tourism destination while ensuring sustainable and responsible development of the sector.

"Tourism is one of the strongest pillars of Ladakh's economy and a vital source of livelihood for thousands of our people. The remarkable increase in tourist arrivals this year is a reflection of

our sustained efforts to position Ladakh as a premier, year-round tourism destination while ensuring that development remains sustainable and environmentally responsible," he said.

He said it is heartening to see this growth bringing renewed confidence and economic opportunities for our hoteliers, guest house owners, homestay operators, tour operators, transporters, trekking guides, artisans, entrepreneurs, and local communities whose livelihoods depend on tourism.

The LG attributed the tourism surge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for domestic tourism and the massive infrastructure boost in Ladakh, accelerating tourism, the local economy, and employment creation.

Under Saxena's leadership, the administration has undertaken several transformative reforms, including simplifying

regulatory procedures, reducing compliance burden, granting Industry Status to hotels and guest houses, improving tourism infrastructure, strengthening air and road connectivity, expanding visitor amenities, promoting responsible tourism, and encouraging private investment.

The Ladakh administration has also focused on diversifying Ladakh's tourism offerings beyond the conventional summer season by actively promoting winter tourism, adventure tourism, high-altitude trekking, wildlife tourism, rural tourism, wellness tourism, cultural tourism, spiritual tourism, and astro-tourism.

Several national and international sporting events, cultural festivals, and tourism promotion campaigns have further contributed to extending the tourist season and increasing Ladakh's visibility in domestic and global tourism markets—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Top LeT Commander

a tight cordon around the area, leading to intermittent exchanges of fire over the past five days.

The Army's Victor Force deployed additional personnel to block possible escape routes through the thick orchard, while the area was illuminated to prevent the terrorists from using the dense foliage as cover.

Officials said the second trapped terrorist is believed to be Latif, who joined the outfit last year. The search operation was continuing at the time of filing.

Amarnath Yatra

shrine as early as possible.

The 57-day Yatra, which commenced on July 3, is being conducted under a multi-layered security arrangement with extensive logistical support from the administration, police, CAPFs, health services and other departments. The pilgrimage will conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan—(KNO)

Rain, Thunderstorms

degrees Celsius, and Bhandarwah 27.0 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature stood at 19.6 degrees Celsius in Srinagar and 23.4 degrees Celsius in Jammu, while Pahalgam recorded 14.6 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 11.0 degrees Celsius, according to the Meteorological Centre's evening observations—(KNO)

CIK Conducts Raids

Penal Code and Sections 13 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Officials said the searches were in progress at the time of filing this report, adding that further details would be shared after completion of the operation. [KNT]

Amit Shah Speaks

services towards Gujarat remained disrupted due to waterlogging on the Vasai-Virar section in neighbouring Palghar district and at several locations in south Gujarat.

Operations on the Mumbai-Pune route were also yet to be fully restored following landslides in the Bhor Ghat section on Monday.

According to civic officials, the Tulsi Lake, one of the seven reservoirs supplying drinking water to Mumbai, started overflowing late at night due to heavy rainfall in its catchment area.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast intermittent light to moderate rainfall in Mumbai and the suburbs during the day.

In neighbouring Gujarat, the southern part received "extremely heavy" rainfall on Tuesday, with the worst affected being Surat district, where five people died in rain-related incidents, while 2,100 people were shifted from flooded areas to safe locations, officials said.

Kamrej taluka in Surat recorded a whopping 305 mm rainfall in 10 hours ending 4 pm on Tuesday, they said.

Schools and colleges in the Navsari district and Surat remained shut on Tuesday in view of the downpour.

"Extremely heavy rainfall occurred at isolated places in the districts of South Gujarat region, namely Surat, Valsad, Dadra & Nagar Haveli in the last 24 hours," the IMD said in its midday state forecast on Tuesday.

Talking to reporters, M Nagarajan, Commissioner of Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC), had said around 2,100 people have been relocated from across different zones to safe shelters.

An official from the district disaster management office had said that a total of five deaths were reported in rain-related incidents over the past two days.

"Two deaths due to electrocution were reported today, while another person died in the Kamrej area. On Monday, two individuals died from electrocution in the Rander area of Surat," the official had said.

In Jammu and Kashmir, flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall struck the upper reaches of Thathri town in Doda district on Tuesday, partially damaging several houses, shops and vehicles.

It was the third such incident in the twin districts of Doda and Kishtwar this week, following heavy rainfall that has battered the mountainous region.

Officials said heavy rain in the upper reaches had triggered flash floods, bringing boulders, mud and debris into Thathri town.

The Doda-Kishtwar highway was also blocked at Thathri following the flash floods, disrupting vehicular movement in the region.

The incident came a day after heavy flash floods triggered by incessant rainfall damaged the Doda-Kishtwar highway near the under-construction 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Power Project.

CS Calls For Large

Secretary, Home Department; Inspector General of Police, Crime; Commissioner Secretary, Law Department; Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir; Joint Director (Headquarters), Information Department; General Manager, RBI; Registrar, Cooperative Societies; representatives of the Market Intelligence Unit of RBI, SEBI and ICAI, besides other senior officers.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of creating widespread financial awareness and enhancing institutional preparedness against emerging financial crimes. He urged SEBI and NSE to jointly undertake awareness and training programmes targeting nearly 50,000 participants, while asking ICAI to strengthen the capacities of around 20,000 stakeholders, including teachers, students, Self Help Group (SHG) members, community influencers, law enforcement personnel and officers involved in prosecution.

Highlighting the need for stronger enforcement mechanisms, Dulloo called for the formulation of a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in consultation with the Principal Secretary, Home Department. He observed that a well-defined SOP would create greater deterrence against financial offenders by clearly delineating the responsibilities of various departments

and agencies, ensuring seamless coordination and facilitating swift action against fraudsters.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Finance Department to expedite the finalisation of the Chit Fund Rules to strengthen the regulatory framework and effectively curb unauthorised deposit-taking and fraudulent investment schemes in the Union Territory.

Expressing concern over the rapid evolution of technology-driven financial crimes, he stressed the need to intensify efforts against emerging frauds, particularly crypto currency related scams and other sophisticated cyber-enabled offences.

He called for identifying the masterminds behind phishing messages, fraudulent emails and similar cyber frauds, besides advocating stringent non-kinetic measures such as cancellation of driving licences, passports and vehicle registration certificates, along with attachment of properties under relevant legal provisions against those involved in cheating people of their hard-earned money.

Earlier, Regional Director, RBI, Jammu, Chandra Shekhar Azad, made a detailed presentation on the initiatives undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India to strengthen the country's financial fraud prevention ecosystem.

He highlighted the deployment of the Financial Fraud Risk Adapter tool by RBI to banks for strengthening fraud detection and prevention. He also elaborated on several other technological and regulatory interventions, including the Artificial Intelligence-based Mule Hunter tool for identifying mule accounts, mandatory adoption of the "bank.in" domain by banks operating in India, standardisation of 1400 and 1600 series telephone numbers for promotional and customer awareness calls respectively, tokenisation of card details to secure online transactions, and customer-enabled options for disabling selected features of debit/credit cards and internet banking services to enhance account security.

The Regional Director further informed the meeting that RBI has significantly intensified financial literacy and awareness campaigns across Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that more than 113 awareness programmes have been organised across various districts and institutions, benefitting government employees, students, traders, business establishments and members of the general public.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, and Principal Secretary, Home Department, also shared valuable suggestions for strengthening the Union Territory's response to cyber-enabled financial frauds. They emphasised the need for introducing distinct call signatures for whitelisted and other entities, while advocating sustained public awareness campaigns on the modus operandi adopted by cyber fraudsters, reporting mechanisms and preventive tools available to safeguard citizens against online financial crimes.

Amarnath Yatra

the last 20 years. I do not own a pony; I work with someone else's. I have been waiting since morning, but because of the traffic, there has been very little

movement. If I return without carrying a pilgrim, the pony owner will question me. We are poor people, and this is our only source of income. I have four daughters and a young son, and my family's livelihood depends on this work," he said—(KNO)

J&K Govt Announces

government schools.

Similarly, the Higher Education Department has approved a full fee waiver for undergraduate students from 1st to 8th semester enrolled in Government Degree Colleges. The benefit will be available to eligible AAY students with a valid AAY Ration Card or other prescribed documents, provided they are not receiving any other scholarship assistance.

However, both orders clarify that fees payable to any outside statutory authority or examining body, where not within the competence of the departments to waive, shall continue to be governed by applicable rules unless specifically exempted by the competent authority.

Heads of Institutions and Principals have been directed to verify the eligibility of beneficiaries before granting the waiver and to maintain proper records for audit, inspection and verification.

The financial implications arising from the scheme will be worked out by the concerned Directorates and communicated to the Administrative Departments for reimbursement from the Finance Department.

The Directors of School Education and Director Colleges have been instructed to ensure strict implementation of the orders, including verification of beneficiaries, maintenance of records, monitoring and submission of periodic reports. (GNS)

Northern Railway Ramps

help desks and information centres to assist pilgrims with travel-related queries. Additional drinking water facilities, sanitation staff and a round-the-clock first aid centre have been put in place, while regular public announcements are being made regarding train operations and the yatra.

Passengers are also being informed about any train delays through the public announcement system and SMS alerts, the officials said.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal has been personally reviewing the arrangements and issuing directions to ensure better passenger services.

"Amarnath Yatra is a symbol of faith and devotion. It is our commitment to ensure that every pilgrim completes the journey safely and with dignity. Our officers, supervisors, RPF and GRP teams are working round the clock, and additional arrangements will be made whenever required," Singhal said.

The Jammu division appealed to the passengers to follow railway announcements and contact the Rail Madad helpline (139) or the station help centre for any assistance.

The 57-day Amarnath Yatra, which began on July 3, will conclude on August 28, coinciding with the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

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CS assesses preparedness for J&K's first-ever household poverty survey

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major policy initiative aimed at further strengthening inclusive governance and ensuring that government welfare schemes reach the most deserving families, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting of Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD) to have first hand appraisal of the proposed household-level enumeration of multidimensionally poor families across J&K.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Administrative Heads including ACS Finance; Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Secretary, RDD; HoDs of the Planning Department and other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing. Speaking on the proposed initiative, the Chief Secretary maintained that the proposed household enumeration represents the next logical step in our development journey. He remarked that this initiative seeks to identify the actual households that continue to experience multiple deprivations with an objective to create a scientifically validated and technology-enabled database that will help Government departments deliver welfare ben-



efits with greater precision, improve inter-departmental convergence and ensure that no deserving family is left behind.

He further stated that the proposed exercise is the first step towards data-driven governance, transparency and inclusive development, and would provide an institutional framework for identifying and addressing pockets of deprivation across Jammu & Kashmir.

He impressed upon the Deputy Commissioners to work out the human resource requirements in coordination with the Planning Department. He also directed the Department to frame capacity building programmes for these resources so that the exercise is taken up after the culmination of the 2 phases of the Census operations across the UT including the pastoral populations of J&K.

The proposal, presented by the Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, R Alice Vaz lays down a scientifically designed framework for identifying households experiencing multiple deprivations across health,

education and living standards as per the GoI norms. She added that the proposal is founded on the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) framework developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), while adapting it for household-level identification of poor families within Jammu & Kashmir. Unlike sample-based national surveys that provide only macro-level poverty estimates, the proposed exercise seeks to identify the actual households behind the statistics, thereby facilitating direct and targeted government intervention.

As proposed, the enumeration shall initially cover the most vulnerable categories already available in government databases, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, covering approximately 2.19 lakh beneficiary households across all twenty districts of Jammu & Kashmir. The proposed methodology follows the nationally accepted Multidimensional Poverty Index framework by assessing every household

across three dimensions including Health, Education and Standard of Living, through twelve carefully defined indicators. These include nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, household assets and financial inclusion. A scientifically weighted deprivation score would be generated automatically through a digital application, and households crossing the prescribed deprivation threshold would be identified as multidimensionally poor. To ensure comprehensive assessment, two structured digital schedules have been proposed. The first schedule would collect household information required for automated computation of the MPI score, while the second schedule, applicable only to households identified as multidimensionally poor, would capture the reasons for deprivation, gaps in access to government schemes, awareness levels and barriers preventing families from availing benefits.

CS takes stock of 'TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a review meeting of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), chaired by the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday it was highlighted that Jammu & Kashmir has identified all High-Risk Villages (HRVs) to be covered under the intensive TB screening campaign.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME); Director SKIMS; Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM); Managing Director, JKMSCL; Principals of Government Medical Colleges (GMCs); Director, Health Services, Kashmir/Jammu; and Senior Faculty Members from various medical institutions across the UT.

Commending the sustained efforts of healthcare workers the Chief Secretary emphasized that the fight against tuberculosis requires sustained vigilance, early detection and uninterrupted treatment. He directed all districts to ensure rigorous contact tracing of every notified TB patient so that all household and close contacts are promptly identified, screened and, wherever diagnosed with tuberculosis, immediately linked to appropriate treatment under the National TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. He stressed that timely contact investigation and initiation of treatment are critical to breaking the chain of transmission and achieving the goal of TB elimination.

The Chief Secretary also



laid special emphasis on the effective utilisation of the 'Khushi Chatbot' integrated with the TB Mukht Bharat App, observing that the platform serves as an important digital companion for TB patients by providing ready access to authentic information, treatment guidance and counselling.

He noted that the availability of information in local languages greatly enhances awareness, addresses misconceptions and encourages treatment adherence among patients and their families, thereby strengthening community participation in the fight against tuberculosis. He directed the concerned officers to maximise enrolment of patients on the application and ensure its wider use across all districts.

The review meeting assessed the progress made under Phase-II of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and noted substantial improvements across several key indicators over the past three weeks, reflecting the focused efforts of the Health & Medical Education Department, district administrations, and field-level healthcare workers.

The meeting was further informed that 6.85

lakh individuals residing in High-Risk Villages have already been screened under the campaign, representing a significant increase in community outreach over the past three weeks. The intensified field activities have substantially improved active case finding, particularly in vulnerable and underserved populations.

A major milestone highlighted by the Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M.Raju during the meeting was the successful conduct of 1,525 Nikshay Shivirs covering all 1,518 identified High-Risk Villages, thereby achieving 100 percent geographical coverage under the campaign.

To further strengthen field diagnostics, he divulged that 11 additional hand-held digital X-ray machines have been deployed in districts including Reasi, Doda, Rajouri, Ramban, Baramulla, Srinagar and Kupwara through support from the Central TB Division and Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, significantly enhancing the diagnostic capacity in remote and difficult areas.

Considerable improvement was also recorded in the use of digital chest X-ray screening. The

number of vulnerable individuals undergoing chest X-ray examination increased from 1.72 lakh to over 3.15 lakh, resulting in the overall X-ray examination rate increasing from 70 percent to nearly 79 percent. Several districts including Baramulla, Kupwara, Srinagar and Budgam have achieved exceptionally high X-ray coverage, reflecting improved compliance with national screening protocols.

The review further noted encouraging progress in molecular diagnostics. A total of 95,810 microbiological investigations have been carried out, of which 91 percent were conducted using rapid molecular tests (NAAT), ensuring early and accurate diagnosis while reducing dependence on conventional microscopy.

Moreover the implementation of TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) also witnessed notable progress. The proportion of eligible household contacts initiated on preventive therapy increased from 34 percent to 65 percent, representing a substantial advancement towards preventing the progression of latent TB infection into active disease.

DLSA G'bal launches district-wide door-to-door awareness campaign on NALSA 2025



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, conducted a district-wide door-to-door Legal Awareness Campaign on the NALSA (DAWN - Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation for a Drug-Free India) Scheme, 2025 Wednesday across various areas of the district.

The awareness was conducted by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Ganderbal in several areas including Wail, Kachnambal, Kurhama, Manigam, Surfraw and Kangan.

The campaign was conducted under the supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal.

The initiative aimed to create awareness regarding the ill effects of drug abuse, promote a drug-free society, and ensure effective dissemination of information about free legal services available to eligible persons.

During the awareness programmes, the Para Legal Volunteers visited households, local markets and public places, where they interacted

with students, youth, parents, shopkeepers and members of the general public. The participants were sensitized about the harmful consequences of substance abuse on individuals, families and society and were encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle while promoting the message of "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life."

The PLVs also explained the objectives and salient features of the NALSA DAWN Scheme, 2025, including awareness on prevention of drug abuse, counselling, de-addiction and rehabilitation services, and the legal support available to affected individuals and their families.

Information was disseminated regarding the constitutional and statutory right to free legal aid, the categories of persons entitled to free legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, and the procedure for availing legal aid, legal representation, mediation, Lok Adalat and other legal services through the Legal Services Institutions.

The Para Legal Volunteers further appealed to the community to actively participate in anti-drug initiatives and work collectively towards building a healthy and drug-free society.

DC Kulgam chairs mega Block Diwas at Yaripora

Listens to Public Grievances and Demands

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kulgam, Shazad Alam, visited Yaripora, Wednesday and presided over the Block Diwas public outreach programme.

During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an interactive public grievance hearing, providing the local populace with an opportunity to present their issues, demands, and developmental concerns.

The grievances raised by the public mainly pertained to road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare facilities, education, sanitation, irrigation, revenue matters, and other civic amenities.

The Deputy Commissioner heard each grievance patiently and directed the concerned departmental officers to address the issues promptly in accordance with the applicable rules and within the stipulated time frame.

Matters requiring immediate intervention

were resolved on the spot, while the remaining issues were referred to the respective departments for necessary action and follow-up.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized responsive governance, transparency, accountability, and timely redressal of public grievances. He instructed all officers to maintain close coordination with the local administration and ensure effective implementation of government welfare schemes and ongoing developmental projects. He also urged the public to actively participate in developmental initiatives and make optimum use of government schemes.

The Block Diwas programme was conducted smoothly and served as an effective platform for direct interaction between the district administration and the public. The visit strengthened public confidence in the administration and facilitated the identification and resolution of local issues through coordinated departmental action.

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un



With profound grief and sorrow, we announce the demise of **Abdul Qayoom Sheikh, S/o Late Noor Mohammad Sheikh, R/o Lakshmanpora, Batamaloo, Srinagar, who passed away on Tuesday, 7 July 2026.**

May Almighty Allah grant him Jannatul-Firdous. Ameen.

Kindly Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any kind of eatables.

Bereaved Family:
SHEIKH FAMILY

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the Registration Certificate (RC) of my vehicle CBA GALANZA, Model 2024 has been lost during travel from Hawal, Srinagar to Mill Stop. I am intending to apply for a duplicate RC and PERMIT from the concerned authority. If anyone has any objection in this regard, the same may be conveyed within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice to the RTO Office, Srinagar. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Shakeel Hussain Mir S/o Zulfiquar Ali Mir
R/o Khushhal Sar, Zadibal, Srinagar
Contact No.: 9906762750

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA
NEAR: TEHSIL OFFICE CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING FRESH E-TENDER
Two cover system
E-NIT No: 20/EE/R&B/CHD/1966-75 of 2026-27/Dated: 06/07/2026

Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (incl. cost of Bitumen and GST (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money CDR/FDR/BG (Rs)	Time of Completion (days)	Major Head	Class of Contractor
1	Inner links at Kaisermulla.	40.00	1100/-	80000/-	15 working days	C&T 2026-27	AAY/BEE
2	Upgradation of inner links at Hayatpora/ Takiya Hayatpora.	40.00	1100/-	80000/-	15 working days	C&T 2026-27	AAY/BEE
3	Upgradation of Narpora Alamkote road (Remaining portion)	40.00	1100/-	80000/-	15 working days	C&T 2026-27	AAY/BEE
4	Macadamization of link road from main road to house of Gh Ahmad Malik at Check Mohalla Wanpora Nagam.	20.00	800/-	40000/-	15 working days	C&T 2026-27	BEE/CEE
5	Inner roads at Dawatpora and Panzipora	20.00	800/-	40000/-	15 working days	C&T 2026-27	BEE/CEE

Project Authority: PW (R&B) Department Kashmir
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned
Position of funds: Committed /Available

- 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 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
3	Bid submission Start Date	06/07/2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	13/07/2026 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14/07/2026 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

- Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Inviting Authority) as the cost of the tender document.
- At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work, The CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security on stipulated period, the case may be forwarded to Higher Authorities for debarment of the participating in tendering process for a period of 01 Year.
- Abnormally Low Bid Price: As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08.08.2025, which is reproduced as :- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price. Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price. The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance Security shall be taken only after approval of next Higher authority.
- The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Receiving Authority).
- Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
- In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.
- Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.
- Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.
- Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.
- All other terms and condition shall be same as per NIT No:

No: 1966-75
Dated: 06/07/2026

DIPK-2985-26
DT: 08/07/2026

Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Chadoora

Massive upset in ICC elections as Imran Khwaja loses board seat; Palani, Usmani, van Vuuren elected

IAN S

EDINBURGH: In a major shake-up in global cricket administration, long-serving International Cricket Council (ICC) Deputy Chairman Imran Khwaja suffered a shock defeat in the Associate Member Directors' elections held during the global body's Annual Conference here on Wednesday.

France's Gurumurthy Palani topped the polling charts with 35 votes, while UAE's Mubashir Usmani and Namibia's Dr. Rudie van Vuuren secured 26 votes each to claim the three available spots on the all-powerful 17-member ICC Board. Khwaja, a veteran cricket administrator from Singapore, finished a close fourth with 23 votes, while Malaysia's Mahinda Vallipuram managed to get only 19 votes.

The ICC confirmed the development in an official statement, noting that the three elected Directors will each serve a two-year term on the ICC Board. While Palani and Van Vuuren enter the apex board for the first time, Usmani successfully retained his position.

Palani's election to the all-important ICC Board will trigger another administrative change. "The result will require an election for Gurumurthy Palani's position on the Chief Executives' Com-

mittee as he is unable to hold both positions," the ICC stated.

Congratulating the newly elected members, ICC Chairman Jay Shah said, "I congratulate Gurumurthy Palani, Mubashir Usmani and Dr Rudie van Vuuren on their election as Associate Member Directors to the ICC Board.



International Cricket Council

"Associate Members play a vital role in the continued growth and global expansion of our sport, and I look forward to working closely with them as we build on the strong progress being made across all regions."

Shah also acknowledged the contributions of the outgoing veterans. "I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Imran Khwaja and Mahinda Vallipuram for their dedication and service to Associate cricket.

"Their contribution to the ICC and to the devel-

opment of the global game over many years has been significant and deeply valued. Together, we remain committed to strengthening opportunities for all Members and ensuring cricket continues to grow in every corner of the world," he added.

The defeat of Khwaja, a lawyer by profession, truly marks the end of an era. He had previously served as the interim ICC Chairman in 2020 and functioned as Deputy Chair under multiple chiefs, including N Srinivasan, Greg Barclay, and Shah.

He was also hailed as a saviour for anchoring crucial back-door negotiations between the PCB and the BCCI to ensure the smooth conduct of the high-stakes Men's T20 World Cup clash in Colombo.

Out of the 45 Associate Members, only 43 were eligible to vote as USA Cricket and Cricket Canada remain under suspension. With each member allowed three votes, a total of 129 votes were polled. Khwaja's exit means the ICC will now have to appoint a new Deputy Chairman.

One of the three newly elected Associate Directors is expected to be chosen for the role before the four-day conclave concludes on July 11. The high-profile meetings were preceded by the delegates assembling at Lord's to witness Australia clinch their seventh global crown in the final of the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup.

FIFA WC: 'Morocco must be brave with the ball,' says Aboukhilal ahead of France QF clash

IAN S

RABAT: Former Morocco winger Zakaria Aboukhilal has warned the Atlas Lions that they cannot afford to rely solely on defensive resilience against France, insisting they must also be brave in possession when the two sides renew their FIFA World Cup rivalry in Friday's quarterfinal.

The fixture marks the first World Cup meeting between the nations since France defeated Morocco 2-0 in the semi-finals of the 2022 tournament in Qatar, ending the Atlas Lions' historic run as the first African and Arab nation to reach the last four.

Aboukhilal, who came on as a second-half substitute in that semi-final, said France remain one of the most dangerous teams in world football because of their ability to capitalise on the smallest errors.

"I remember the intensity and the feeling that we were still in the game. Even though we were behind, we kept believing and pushing. France were difficult because they punished every small mistake. They have speed, experience, and players who can decide a match in one moment. Sometimes you feel you are in control, but one transition can change every-



thing," Aboukhilal told FIFA.

The Torino winger believes Morocco's task goes beyond containing France star Kylian Mbappé, stressing that Les Bleus possess match-winners all over the pitch.

"Of course, Mbappe is one of the best players in the world, so you have to be aware of him. But France are not only Mbappé. They have quality everywhere.

"Morocco will have to defend together, stay compact, and not give France too much space in transition. But they also have to be brave with the ball. Against France, you cannot survive. You need moments where you make them defend as well," he added.

Although Aboukhilal was not selected for Morocco's 2026 World Cup squad, he has closely followed the team's progress and

believes the current side has matured significantly since its breakthrough campaign in Qatar.

"The maturity. They look calm, confident, and together. They don't look surprised to be at this stage. They want to play to their own strengths, no matter who the opponent is," he said.

Aboukhilal also praised the leadership within the current squad following the retirement of former captain Romain Saiss, highlighting goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, defender Noussair Mazraoui, and skipper Achraf Hakimi as key figures.

"Of course, Romain was a big leader, but this team has more leaders now. Bono is one of them, and you also have players like Mazraoui and Hakimi who understand what it means to represent Morocco," he said.

Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20: Nair powers Coastal Kings Mangaluru to thrilling win over Gulbarga Mystics

IAN S

BENGALURU: Captain Karun Nair produced another match-winning innings as Coastal Kings Mangaluru edged Gulbarga Mystics by three runs in the final league match of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

With the playoff spots already decided before the match, there was little at stake except final standings. But the contest delivered an exciting finish, with the Mystics falling just short in their chase of 170.

The Coastal Kings posted 169-9 before restricting the Mystics to 166/7,

leaving their fifth win in 10 matches to finish second in the standings with 11 points. Bengaluru Blasters topped the table with 18 points, followed by Shivamogga Yodhas (10) and Mysore Warriors (9). Gulbarga Mystics finished fifth on six points, ahead of Hubli Tigers on net run rate. The play-offs begin on Friday, with the Shivamogga Yodhas taking on the Mysore Warriors in the Eliminator before the Bengaluru Blasters face the Coastal Kings Mangaluru in Qualifier 1.

Nair once again anchored the Coastal Kings' innings with a superb 65 off 37 balls, striking eight fours and two sixes. Walking in after the early loss of two wickets with the score at 30-2, the experienced Karnataka batter steadied the

innings through partnerships of 59 with Prajwal Pavan (35) and 50 with Suraj Ahuja.

His dismissal for 149-5 in the 18th over sparked a late collapse as the Kings lost four wickets for just 20 runs. Kranthi Kumar (3-38) and Suhas Purushotham (2-27) bowled impressive closing spells to restrict the total to 169. Nair's third half-century of the tournament, and his highest score this season, took his tally to 294 runs from nine innings.

The Mystics made an aggressive start through openers Macneil Noronha and Aarav Mahesh. Noronha plundered 17 runs from the opening over as the pair raced to 58 without loss in the Powerplay before adding 70 for the first wicket.

Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing: India assured of 9 medals in U-23 women's category

IAN S

JAKARTA: India's U-23 women boxers delivered a commanding performance at the Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing Championships, with nine boxers advancing to the semi-finals to assure medals after a strong showing in the last-eight stage bouts held across afternoon and evening sessions in Jakarta on Wednesday.

In the afternoon session, Tanu (51kg) registered a dominant 5:0 unanimous decision win over Thailand's Kewalin Norasing, while Nisha (54kg) secured an equally convincing 5:0 victory against Kazakhstan's Aliaksar Sybat. In the 48kg bout, Nidhi fought hard but went down narrowly to Kazakhstan's

THE BOXERS PROGRESSING TO THE SEMIFINALS

- TANU (51KG),
- NISHA (54KG),
- PRACHI (57KG),
- NIKITA CHAND (60KG),
- KAJAL (65KG),
- SHIVANI (70KG),
- MUSKAN (75KG),
- NAINA (80KG),
- PRIYANKA (+80KG).



Gulnaz Buribayeva via a **3:2 split decision.

The evening session saw India continue its momentum, with Prachi (57kg) sealing a commanding win over Korea's Yejin Oh via RSC in the first round. Nikita Chand (60kg) followed it up with a clinical victory against Chinese Taipei's Chen-Xuan Ye via

RSC in the third round, while Kajal (65kg) edged past Japan's Arinda Aki-moto in a closely contested 4:1 split decision.

With these results, India has now assured a total of nine medals in the U-23 women's competition, with all semifinalists guaranteed podium finishes. The boxers pro-

gressing to the semi-finals include Tanu (51kg), Nisha (54kg), Prachi (57kg), Nikita Chand (60kg), Kajal (65kg), Shivani (70kg), Muskan (75kg), Naina (80kg), and Priyanka (+80kg).

India's dominant showing in the women's category highlights its growing strength and

depth at the continental level, with multiple boxers now in strong contention for gold medals.

The Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing Championships, being held in Jakarta from July 5 to July 16, continue to serve as a key platform for India's emerging talent to shine on the international stage.

West Indies fined 10 per cent match fee, docked two WTC points for slow over-rate against Sri Lanka

IAN S

NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA): The West Indies have been fined 10 per cent of its match fee and docked two crucial ICC World Test Championship (WTC) points for maintaining a slow over-rate during the second Test against Sri Lanka.

West Indies fined 10 per cent match fee, docked two WTC points for slow over-rate against Sri Lanka.

North Sound (Antigua), July 8 (IANS) The West Indies have been fined 10 per cent of its match fee and docked two crucial ICC World Test Championship (WTC) points for maintaining a slow over-rate during the second Test against Sri Lanka.

Javagal Srinath of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanctions after the home side was ruled to be two overs short of its target after taking time allowances into consideration.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for each



over if their team fails to bowl within the allotted time. The maximum penalty under this specific clause is capped at 50 per cent of the match fee.

Furthermore, as per Article 16.11.2 of the ICC World Test Championship playing conditions, a side is penalised one championship point for each over short. Consequently, two WTC points have been deducted from the West Indies' total.

Though they remain in eighth position in the ongoing WTC standings, but with the two points deducted, their PCT is down to 15. West Indies captain Roston Chase pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction,

thus eliminating the need for a formal hearing. The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Paul Reifel and Ahsan Raza, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, and fourth umpire Deighton Buttler.

Coming to the match, the West Indies ended a 23-year wait for a Test series victory over Sri Lanka by securing a 1-0 triumph in the two-match series following the second Test in Antigua ending in a draw. The series win was also the first time West Indies clinched a series under Roston Chase's leadership. Their next Test assignment will be against Pakistan from July 25-August 7 in Trinidad for another two-game series.

Wimbledon: Fearless Fery sails into semis; sets up clash with Roland Garros champ Zverev

IAN S

LONDON: Unheralded Briton Arthur Fery continued his fairytale run at Wimbledon 2026, becoming only the second wild card player ever to reach the men's semifinals with a straight sets victory over Frehcn Open 2026 runner-up Flavio Cobolli.

Fery continued his best season at his home Grand Slam, cruising past the Italian Cobolli 6-4, 7-6(4), 6-0 in two hours and 14 minutes to emulate Croatian legend Goran Ivanisevic as the second wild card to storm into the semifinals at Wimbledon. Ivanisevic did one better and reached the final 25 years ago.

The 23-year-old Briton, who entered the grass-court major with just six tour-level wins to his name, produced a high-class all-around performance under the baking London sun to overwhelm Top-10 star Cobolli and become the lowest-ranked men's singles semi-finalist at SW19 since then-World No. 125 Goran Ivanisevic won the title in 2001.

The World No. 114 Fery said his tournament is getting better and better. "It just seems to be getting



better and better every match," Fery said in his on-court interview. "I just can't believe it. Incredible, playing on Centre Court for the second time, a second win. I just can't believe it," he added.

Fery also became the fifth British man to reach the Wimbledon semifinals in the Open Era after Roger Taylor, Tim Henman, Andy Murray, and Cameron Norrie. In Friday's semifinals at The All England Club, Fery will take on second seed and Roland Garros champion Alexander Zverev, who defeated sixth seed Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

"I guess it's going to be a first time, and we will figure it out as we go," Fery said when asked about his plans ahead of his clash with Zverev. "I'm just going to keep going. I've been doing a great job over the past 10 days. I'm just going to do the same thing and see where that takes me."

Movies

TIMING

THURSDAY 9TH JULY

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
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U/A 16+
11:00 AM
03:00 PM
07:10 PM

ALPHA
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Hindi Atmos
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01:35 PM
04:25 PM
07:15 PM

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

COCKTAIL 2
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12:00 PM

MINIONS AND MONSTERS
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English with English Subtitles
02:20 PM

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