

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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CM Omar Calls For Shift From Volume-Driven To Value-Based Tourism

Says Need To Develop J&K As A Sustainable Tourism Destination



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday called for a paradigm shift in Jammu and Kashmir's tourism strategy, urging policymakers, industry stakeholders and local communities to move beyond volume-driven tourism towards a value-based and sustainable tourism model that safeguards the region's fragile ecology while ensuring long-term economic prosperity.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Conclave on Sustainable Tourism Planning, Designing Tourism for Tomorrow, organised by the Department of Tourism at SKICC, the Chief Minister said sustainable tourism is no longer a choice but an imperative for preserving Jammu and Kashmir's environment and securing the future of one of its most vital economic sectors.

Advisor to the Chief Minister

Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta and Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Ashish Chandra Verma were present on the occasion.

Managing Director J&K Tourism Development Corporation Shreya Singhal, Director SKICC Mufti Mohammad Farid-ud-Din, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Haris Ahmad Handoo, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajad, senior officers of the Tourism Department, Chief Executive Officers of various Tourism Development Authorities, tourism stakeholders and experts also participated in the conclave.

In his keynote address, the Chief Minister said that tourism devoid of sustainability inevitably leads to long-term decline. "Tourism without

Amarnath Yatra LG Reviews Arrangements For Amarnath Pilgrims

Visits Pantha Chowk Yatra Transit Camp, Yatri Niwas; Orders Round-The-Clock Care For Pilgrims



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday visited the Yatra Transit Camp and Yatri Niwas at Pantha Chowk in Srinagar and reviewed the arrangements made for the pilgrims of ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the officials and pilgrims and enquired about the facilities. He directed the officials to ensure that every devotee of Lord Shiva receives round-the-clock care.

"From registration to accommodation and food, no pilgrim should face any inconvenience. It must be our collective responsibility to make their stay in Jammu Kashmir

divine and comfortable," the Lieutenant Governor told the officials.

The Lieutenant Governor took stock of the arrangements, including accommodation, sanitation, security, healthcare, drinking water, power supply, firefighting measures and other essential services made by different departments aimed at ensuring the comfort and safety of the yatrias.

"The figures from the past week reveal that this year's Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has witnessed a greater number of devotees compared to last year. This surge is not only a blessing for our spiritual heritage but also a positive sign for tourism in Jammu Kashmir, giving fresh momentum to the local

economy.

I want that the rich handicrafts and handloom products of Jammu Kashmir should travel across the country and this unique heritage find a place in every devotee's home. This will honor our artisans and it will also strengthen the spirit of One District One Product campaign, weaving together faith, culture and prosperity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the coordinated efforts of District Administration, all line departments, Shrine Board, Police, security forces and other stakeholders. He emphasized the need to maintain the close coordination and vigilance in ensuring effective crowd management.

Pilgrim Count Nears 2 Lakh; 8,150 Arrive In Kashmir

UMAISAR GUL

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra is all set to cross the 2-lakh pilgrim mark on Friday, with 28,583 devotees paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Thursday.

According to the details available, the eighth batch of 8,150 pilgrims arrived at twin base camps after leaving from Jammu towards Kashmir under tight security arrangements this morning.

Official figures revealed that 28,583 pilgrims paid obeisance at the shrine on Thursday, taking the total number of devotees since the commencement of the pilgrimage on July 3 to 1,71,501.

Among those who performed darshan were 17,004 men, 10,766 women, 298 children, 187 sadhus, 25 sadhvis, besides 303 security personnel.

Meanwhile, 8,150 pilgrims departed from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu in a convoy of 334

Heat Persists Across J&K As MeT Predicts Rain From Jul 11



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological (MeT) Centre Srinagar on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness hot and humid weather over the next few days, while warning of heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides in vulnerable areas of the Jammu division between July 11 and 12.

According to details shared by the MeT department, the weather is expected to remain generally hot and humid on July 9 and 10, with scattered spells of rain and thundershowers across the Union Territory. A few places in the Jammu division may also experience brief but intense heavy showers.

On July 11 and 12, many places are likely to receive one or two spells of rain and thundershowers, with isolated heavy rainfall and intense showers expected over the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal range of Jammu division.

The weather is expected to remain largely hot and humid from July 13 to 16, although scattered

Govt Orders Screening Of School Books For Objectionable Content



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has ordered a blanket screening of all books and study materials in government schools, recognised private institutions, and coaching centres across the Kashmir division to weed out content that could hurt religious sentiments or national interest.

The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), in a circular issued on Thursday directed all Heads of Institutions to conduct a thorough review of books available in offices, classrooms, staffrooms and libraries – both recent acquisitions and older publications.

"The purpose of this screening is to ensure that no book contains inappropriate or objectionable content. This includes material that may violate religious sentiments of any section, content inappropriate for students, material against prevailing laws with potential to harm national interest, and content affecting educational values and established norms," the circular stated.

The directive also mandates that all books strictly adhere to the age-appropriate guidelines laid down under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Heads of institutions have been asked to submit a detailed report if any

After Reviewing Kashmir Security, Army Chief Assesses Operational Readiness Along LoC

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: A day after assessing operational preparedness in Kashmir, Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth on Thursday reviewed the security situation along the Line of Control (LoC) and the counter-insurgency grid in the Pir Panjal region.

An official said that the Army chief visited forward areas in Poonch, Rajouri and Sunderbani, where he was briefed by the White Knight Corps on the prevailing security environment, operational deployments and the overall counter-insurgency framework along the LoC.

The official said that senior commanders apprised the Army Chief of the surveillance architecture, field-level innovations, integrated operational readiness and the progress of infrastructure development in the forward areas.



General Seth reviewed initiatives aimed at strengthening connectivity and improving facilities in border villages, besides assessing ongoing people-centric programmes being implemented in the region, the official added.

Pertinently, on Wednesday, the Army Chief had visited the headquarters of the Srinagar-

based Chinar Corps, where he reviewed the overall security situation in the Valley, operational preparedness along the LoC and the hinterland, as well as the Army's combat readiness.

During the briefing, officers informed him about operational deployments, counter-terrorism operations, inter-agency

CS Assesses Status Of Arrangements For Ongoing Amarnath Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the arrangements put in place for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 and issued directions for further strengthening the facilities and services being provided to the pilgrims to ensure the safe, smooth and hassle-free conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Civil Administration, Shrine Board, and security establishment, including Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of Police, CAPFs, BRO/BEACON, Heads of Departments, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners/SSPs of Anantnag and Ganderbal; Director Information; besides

other concerned officers. Reviewing the progress of the Yatra, the Chief Secretary took note of the extensive arrangements made and their further augmentation

in view of the unprecedented response from pilgrims this year. It was informed that the pilgrimage has witnessed an overwhelming turnout since the commencement of yatra this year.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on the recommendations presented by the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari based on the reports of various committees constituted to assess the status of arrangements on the ground. The discussions focused on identifying additional measures required to make the arrangements more robust, reliable and responsive to the needs of the pilgrims.

World Witnessed Capability, Credibility Of India's Defence Platform During 'Op Sindoor': PM Modi

AGENCIES

MELBOURNE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the world witnessed the capability and credibility of India's defence platform during 'Operation Sindoor' when explosions were taking place at terrorists' hideouts across the border.

He made the remarks while speaking at an Indian diaspora event, 'Melbourne meets Modi', also attended by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

"The world is witnessing the capability and credibility of our defence sector. You must have seen the demonstration in Operation Sindoor," PM Modi said.

"The explosions were taking place at the terrorists' hideouts, and their echoes



were reverberating across the world," he said.

"Did you feel proud of the action taken against terrorist camps?" Modi asked, amid

cheers and applause from the audience.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year, targeting terror infrastruc-

ture in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in retaliation for the horrific Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 innocent civilians.

Under the operation, India launched a series of precision missile strikes on nine terror camps in Pakistan and PoK, eliminating at least 100 terrorists.

In September last, in a viral video, Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) commander Masood Ilyas Kashmiri admitted that the family of the terror group's chief Masood Azhar was "torn into pieces" in Indian missile strikes in Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes between India and Pakistan, and ended with an understanding to stop the military actions on May 10.(PTI)

LoP Sharma Meets BJP President In Delhi



KNO DESK

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, Leader of Opposition, Sunil Kumar Sharma on Thursday met BJP president Nitin Nabin in New Delhi, just two days after his own visit to Jammu & Kashmir.

Sources said that Sharma was called to New Delhi for an urgent meeting with Nabin. "The meeting took place in the afternoon at BJP headquarters and lasted for over one hour," sources disclosed.

Nitin Nabin was in Jammu & Kashmir on 6th and 7th of this meeting—(KNO)

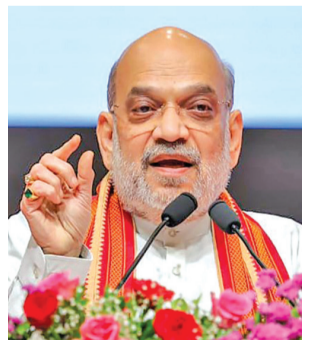
Terrorism Ended In J&K Under PM Modi's Leadership: Shah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on Thursday said that India has been freed from Naxalism and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling it a reflection of the country's "collective success".

Addressing the Land Border Districts' Superintendents of Police Conference-2026 in New Delhi, Shah said the government is now focused on strengthening border security through a comprehensive and technology-driven approach.

The conference was attended by Union Ministers of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Home Secretary, Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Directors General of Police of border states and several



senior officials.

Shah said the conference had institutionalised a comprehensive approach towards border security and added that the government would also move ahead with a holistic strategy for strengthening coastal security.

"This conference will focus on discussing challenges related to border security, addressing concerns and formulating appropriate policy measures," he said.

The Home Minister said India's border

Dir Info, DIPR employees condole demise of Majeed Ahmad's son

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Information and Public Relations, Shreya Singhal Thursday expressed profound grief and sorrow on demise of the son of Majeed Ahmad, Information Officer, DIPR.

During a condolence meeting held at Media Complex Srinagar, the Director Information conveyed her deepest condolences to Majeed Ahmad and his family during this hour of immense grief. She prayed for peace of the departed soul and patience upon the bereaved family to

endure this profound loss. Meanwhile, DIPR employees also condoled the demise of beloved son Majeed Ahmad. They also expressed heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for strength and courage to them to bear this irreparable loss.

The officers and employees also observed a two-minute silence and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Among others, Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; officers and officials of DIPR also attended the condolence meet.

DC Budgam reviews progress on demarcation of Hokersar Wetland



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan Thursday chaired a meeting to review the progress of the ongoing demarcation of Hokersar Wetland, a designated Ramsar Site.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Budgam, Afroza Bano; SDM (West) Srinagar, Irfan Bahadur; Divisional Forest Officer, DFO Wild life, Mohd Altaf, Photo Interpretation Division J&K, Divisional Forest Officer, Settlement & Demarcation Srinagar, Range Officer Hokersar, Tehsildar Budgam, Naib Tehsildar, Regional Director, Survey & Land Records Srinagar, Settlement Assistant, Regional Director Survey & Land Records Srinagar, besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the DC took detailed review of the progress achieved in the demarcation process.

He assessed the status of field verification, boundary assessment, geo-refer-

enced mapping, and the availability of relevant revenue and survey records required for the exercise.

The DC said that scientific and accurate demarcation is imperative for its long-term conservation and protection. He stressed that the exercise should be carried out with precision and in accordance with the prescribed norms.

The DC underscored the importance of close coordination among the Revenue, Forest and Survey & Land Records departments to ensure smooth execution of the demarcation process.

The DC Stresses on time bound completion of the demarcation process, submit regular progress reports, and ensure completion of the demarcation exercise within the stipulated timeframe.

The DC said that clear identification of the wetland boundaries is essential to prevent encroachments and strengthen conservation measures aimed at preserving the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the Ramsar Site.

VC LCMA inspects Khushalsar-Gilsar Lake System

Reviews conservation and demarcation measures

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Vice Chairman, J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Thursday conducted an extensive inspection tour of the Khushalsar Gilsar lake system, covering Gil Kadal, Sazgaripora, Saida-pora, and other adjoining areas in and around the waterbodies to review the progress of conservation and protection measures being undertaken by the Authority.

The Vice Chairman was accompanied by the Superintending Engineer, Collector, all Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEs), Junior Engineers (JEs), Revenue officials, and other officers and officials of the Authority.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman undertook a comprehensive on the spot review of the demarcation exercise being carried out by the field teams. He inspected the identified land parcels and assessed the progress achieved in the field.

Stressing the importance of clearly establishing the boundaries of the



water bodies and their protected areas, he directed the demarcation teams to expedite the pegging and marking of all identified land to ensure proper identification, protection, and effective monitoring of these ecologically significant assets.

Interacting with the field staff, the Vice Chairman emphasized the need for sustained vigilance and coordinated efforts in carrying out conservation activities. He instructed the concerned officers to ensure that the demarcation work is completed in a time bound manner while maintaining complete accuracy and transparency. He further directed that regular inspections be

conducted to prevent any encroachment or unauthorized activity within the demarcated areas.

Reviewing the condition of the water body, the Vice Chairman directed that the Water Master and barge be mobilized and shifted to the Khushalsar Gilsar water body on priority today itself so that cleaning and other restoration activities can be intensified without any delay. He emphasized that all necessary logistical arrangements should be made immediately to ensure that the machinery becomes operational at the earliest.

The Vice Chairman also reviewed the existing protective measures along vulnerable stretches

of the Khushalsar Gilsar water bodies. Recognizing the need for strengthening the physical protection of the lake boundaries, he directed the Engineering Wing of LCMA to immediately prepare a detailed proposal for installation of chain link fencing around the identified vulnerable locations. He observed that appropriate fencing would help secure the demarcated land, discourage encroachments, and support the long-term preservation and restoration of the water bodies.

Reiterating the Authority's commitment towards conservation of the Khushal Sar Gilsar lake system, the Vice Chairman stated that LCMA remains dedicated to protecting these important urban wetlands through scientific management, continuous monitoring, infrastructure development, and active field level interventions. He emphasized that the restoration and safeguarding of these water bodies is vital for maintaining ecological balance, improving the urban environment, and preserving the natural heritage of the Kashmir Valley for future generations.

DC Shopian reviews TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

Urges coordinated action to make Shopian TB-free



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Thursday chaired a review meeting of TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan here at Mini Secretariat, Shopian to assess the progress of tuberculosis elimination efforts across the district.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the status of TB case detection, treatment outcomes, follow-up mechanisms and awareness initiatives being undertaken in the district. He stressed the need for intensified screening, early diagnosis, timely treatment and coordinated efforts to achieve the objective of a TB-free Shopian.

The DC directed the Health Department to strengthen community

outreach, ensure regular monitoring of patients, enhance public awareness regarding TB prevention and treatment and maintain close coordination among all stakeholders for effective implementation of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

He emphasized that sustained efforts, active public participation and efficient healthcare delivery for achieving the national goal of eliminating tuberculosis within the stipulated timeline.

The meeting was attended by CMO, Shopian, Dr. Saima Bhat; MS, DH, Shopian, Dr. Arshid Qadri; DTO, Dr. Aijaz Patloo, BMOs, besides Senior Treatment Supervisors (STS) and Senior Treatment Laboratory Supervisors (STLS).

B'pora sets up Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal to protect Gurez Valley's Fragile Ecology

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In a significant step towards preserving the pristine environment of Gurez Valley, the District Administration Bandipora Thursday established a Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal on the Road to Gurez with the active support of the Indian Army and launched the 'Polythene-Free Gurez' Campaign to curb the use of single-use polythene and plastic and promote sustainable tourism in the valley.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, said that the initiative, envisioned in line with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for environmental conservation and cleanliness, has been launched under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and would be implemented in letter and



spirit.

The Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the newly established Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal on the Road to Gurez, where she interacted with visitors and tourists proceeding towards Gurez Valley. She appealed to them to cooperate with the District Administration in making Gurez a polythene-free tourist destination by avoiding the use of single-use plastic and adopting eco-friendly alternatives.

The Deputy Commissioner said that with the

Tragbal on the Road to Gurez, where sustainable and environment-friendly alternatives, including steel water bottles and cloth bags, had been made available for travellers. In addition, a washroom facility and a food point were also established for the convenience of visitors.

The Deputy Commissioner urged tourists and other visitors to extend their wholehearted support to the initiative and contribute towards keeping Gurez clean, green and free from plastic pollution.

The campaign is being implemented under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) under the leadership of the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Bandipora, with the active support of the Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K; Secretary, Rural Development Department, Jammu & Kashmir, and the District Administration Bandipora.

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A one-day Scientist-Sheep Breeders Interaction Programme-cum-Exposure Visit for progressive sheep breeders from Budgam was organized at the Mountain Research Center for Sheep & Goat (MRC&G), SKUAST-Kashmir, on Thursday by the Sheep Husbandry Department (SHD), Kashmir, under the

As part of the program, participants visited the Center's research and livestock farms, where they observed improved sheep breeds, scientific management practices, fodder production systems, and ongoing research. Live demonstrations provided hands-on exposure to modern sheep farming technologies.

An interactive session enabled farmers to discuss field-level chal-



Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

The program focused on strengthening the technical knowledge and practical skills of sheep breeders through expert lectures and field demonstrations on scientific nutrition, breeding, disease prevention, flock health management, and modern housing practices. Scientists highlighted innovative technologies to improve sheep productivity and farm profitability.

lenges with scientists and receive practical, science-based solutions for effective flock management.

The program was led by Dr Parvaiz Ahmed Reshi, Senior Scientist & Head, MRC&G, along with Dr Muzamil Abdullah, Dr Abul Qayyum Mir, and Dr Zulfiqar-ul-Haq from MRC&G. Dr Muzamil Bashir and Dr Asma Khan from the Sheep Husbandry Department also interacted with the participants.

ADDC Baramulla reviews PMAY-U

Directs timely disposal of PMAY 2.0 Cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Pranjal J. Hazarika, Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) in the district.

The meeting reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under the scheme, the status of beneficiary verification, the progress of PMAY 2.0, and the recovery of funds from beneficiaries who have failed to commence construction despite receiving the first installment under PMAY-U.

The ADC directed the concerned officers to expedite the recovery process in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and ensure strict monitoring of such cases.

Reviewing the implementation of PMAY 2.0, the ADC directed all concerned officers to complete and process all pending cases for sanction within one month. He emphasized timely verification of applications and close coordination among the concerned departments to ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits of the scheme without delay.

SKUAST-K reviews Mid-Term Progress of First IIT Bombay RuDRA Internship Cohort

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Wednesday reviewed the progress of its first batch of students undergoing a one-month internship at IIT Bombay under the Center of Excellence for Rural Data Research & Analysis (RuDRA), an initiative supported through HADP-19 and HADP-20.

The program is designed to equip students with advanced technological skills, research exposure, and interdisciplinary learning at one of India's premier institutions, enabling them to develop innovative, data-driven solutions for agriculture and rural development in Jammu & Kashmir.

The review was chaired by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai in the presence of Prof. Masood Saleem Mir, Principal Investiga-

tor, HADP-20; Prof. Shabir Ahmad Bangroo, Principal Investigator, HADP-19; Prof. Irfan Ahmad Bisati, Co-Principal Investigator, HADP-20; and IIT Bombay faculty members Dr. Pennan Chinnaamy, Dr. Mohammad Kasim; and Dr. Somdeep Kundu.

The internship is a key outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between SKUAST-K and IIT Bombay to strengthen collaboration in sustainable agriculture, environmental management, and rural development.

As part of the partnership, SKUAST-K has established the Center of Excellence for Rural Data Research & Analysis (RuDRA), in collaboration with IIT Bombay's RuDRA Lab, to advance decision-support systems for rural development and to promote joint research, curriculum development, knowledge transfer, faculty and student exchange, and internship programs. The inaugural cohort comprises

14 students from different faculties and academic programs, making it the university's first interdisciplinary batch under the initiative. During the review, the students presented the progress of their projects at IIT Bombay, highlighting work on geospatial technologies, data analytics, digital agriculture and AI-enabled decision-support systems for agriculture and rural planning.

Addressing the interns, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai urged them to maximize the opportunity by acquiring cutting-edge technological expertise that can be adapted to address the evolving needs of farmers and rural communities in Jammu & Kashmir.

The internship program is expected to build a pool of skilled professionals capable of translating advanced technologies into practical solutions for sustainable agriculture, rural livelihoods, and evidence-based rural governance in Jammu & Kashmir.

PM Vishwakarma Capacity Building Programme held in B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Branch MSME DFO Srinagar, under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, in collaboration with the District Administration Bandipora, organised a PM Vishwakarma Capacity Building Programme at the DC Office, Bandipora on Product Packaging, QR Code Generation and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The programme was

attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Zaffar Shawal as chief guest, Joint Director and General Manager, DIC Bandipora, as guests of honour. Joint Director/Ho MSME DFO J&K & Ladakh, AK Tamaria also graced the occasion.

The ADC highlighted the need to integrate traditional crafts with modern technology to enhance the competitiveness of Kash-

mir's rich artisan sector. The Joint Director reviewed the implementation and progress of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in Jammu & Kashmir and addressed the issues faced by the Vishwakarma beneficiaries.

The General Manager appreciated the efforts of artisans and assured continued institutional support through schemes implemented by DIC for eligible beneficiaries.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

PHONE: 01933-295302

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No: 57/EEP/RNB/of 2026-2027/3151-61 | Dated: 08/07/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work :-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
1	Washroom Block for Female and Special Aabled students GDC Rajpora .	31.31	1100/-	2% of DV. cost	120 working days	BEE,AAY	MH: Hr. Education.	AAA: GDC/RA/290-94 dt.06.07.2026	Ist call

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08 - 07-2026
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	08 - 07-2026 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	08 - 07-2026 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	21 - 07-2026 upto 0 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22 - 07-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security(PS)/ Tender Fee	Upload a Copy of Performance Security(PS)/ Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No:0470010200000099 IFSC: JAKA0LALANG Account Name: Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank PW(R&B) Zone South .

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

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG.
- All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG.
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

Head Draftsman DIPK-3033-26 DT: 09/07/2026 Technical Officer Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

Several delegations call on CM at Raabita, seek resolution of public issues



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah (Thursday) met several public delegations at Raabita and listened to their grievances and demands concerning various public and sector-specific issues.

A delegation of the Industrial POP Association, Khunmoh, called on

the Chief Minister and highlighted the challenges confronting the Plaster of Paris (POP) industry in Kashmir due to the non-availability of gypsum.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured its members that the matter would be examined in consultation with the concerned departments to explore a

sustainable solution.

Later, a delegation of the Khidmat Centre Association met the Chief Minister and submitted a proposal concerning them.

The Chief Minister assured the delegation that its representation would be examined on merit in consultation with the concerned departments.

CS sets monthly targets for PM Surya Ghar Yojana, Solarization Mission in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and the ongoing Solarization of Government Buildings Programme across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Managing Director, JPDCL/KPDCL; CEO, JAKEDA besides representatives of several other concerned departments.

While taking this review the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to achieve the targets assigned to both the Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) within the stipulated timelines. He directed the concerned agencies to ensure installation of all the rooftop solar (RTS) systems pertaining to nearly



57,000 beneficiaries where vendor agreements have already been executed, so that these consumers receive the benefits of the scheme without any delay.

Stressing the importance of timely implementation, the Chief Secretary instructed the concerned departments to prepare a well-defined timeline for achieving the targets considerably before the sunset date of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, thereby ensuring that Jammu & Kashmir fully utilizes the opportunity provided under the flagship programme of the Government of India.

Reviewing the progress of the Solarization of Government Buildings, the Chief

Secretary called upon the Science & Technology Department and JAKEDA to expedite execution and ensure that all identified government buildings are brought under rooftop solar coverage in a mission mode.

He directed that over 1,400 more government buildings under the CAPEX mode and around 1,300 buildings under the RESCO mode be targeted for completion by the end of July 2026. He also stressed the simultaneous completion of smart metering in all commissioned buildings to ensure effective net metering, accurate energy accounting and optimum utilization of the installed solar assets.

Speaking during the meeting, Additional Chief

Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar, outlined the roadmap for bridging the existing implementation gaps and highlighted the measures being taken to further streamline execution.

He elaborated upon the strategy to strengthen inter-agency coordination, simplify operational processes and accelerate the pace of implementation so that the targets under both the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and the Solarization of Government Buildings Programme are achieved within the prescribed timelines.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, while appreciating the progress made under

the scheme, suggested that districts demonstrating outstanding performance should be suitably recognized to encourage healthy competition among the implementing agencies.

He particularly commended the exemplary work carried out in the Kupwara and Shopian districts in the implementation of this Yojana, and recommended that the officers and field functionaries responsible for these achievements be appropriately appreciated to motivate similar performance across the Union Territory.

The meeting was informed by the MD, KPDC, Mehmoood Ahmad Shah that under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the Government of India has fixed a national target of one crore residential rooftop solar installations by 31st March 2027. In line with this, Jammu & Kashmir has set a target of 83,500 residential consumers for itself, comprising 39,500 consumers under JPDCL and 44,000 consumers under KPDC.

Satish Sharma's Punjab Outreach Eases Mutton Dealer Woes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

CHANDIGARH: In a significant step towards resolving the long-pending issues faced by the mutton dealers, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Thursday held a series of meetings with the Punjab Government, resulting in immediate directions for addressing the concerns of the trading community.

The Minister held

livestock while ensuring compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Responding positively to the Minister's intervention, the Punjab Government issued on-the-spot instructions to the concerned departments to take immediate steps for resolving the issues. The decisions taken during the meetings are expected to significantly ease the difficulties being faced by the mutton dealers and ensure smoother coordination between Punjab and J&K.

Expressing satisfaction over the outcome of the

practices.

In separate discussions with the senior officials, the Minister also reviewed opportunities for enhanced cooperation in the fields of Science & Technology, innovation, digital governance and research. He stressed the need to leverage technology for improving public service delivery and promoting sustainable development.

The growing menace of drug abuse also figured prominently during the discussions. Satish Sharma held detailed deliberations with the senior Punjab offi-

J&K Assembly Panel Pushes PWD on Infrastructure Promises



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A meeting of the Committee on Government Assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held Thursday at the Assembly Secretariat under the Chairmanship of MLA Ali Mohammad Sagar.

MLAs Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Mir, Chandar Prakash, Ifthak Ahmad, Mehraj Malik, Shabir Ahmad Kullay besides Financial Commission (ACS) PWD (R&B) Anil Kumar Singh, Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit, Assistant Director JKLA Syed Ahmad Wani and senior officers from PWD attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Members participated in deliberations and raised

several issues. They highlighted the public demands pertaining to the Public Works (R&B) Department, particularly concerning development and infrastructure development.

ACS Public Works (R&B), assured the Committee that all the issues and concerns projected by the Members would be examined carefully and addressed in a phased manner, subject to the availability of resources and other administrative requirements.

Emphasizing the significance of the Committee, the Chairman observed that the Committee on Government Assurances plays a vital role in strengthening the legislative oversight by ensuring executive accountability. He said that assurances, promises and undertakings made by Ministers on the Floor of the House carry the solemn responsibility of the government and must be fulfilled within the stipulated timeframe.

HC Judges inspect New High Court Complex site in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Justice Sanjay Dhar, Chairman of the Building and Infrastructure Committee, along with Justices Rahul Bharti, Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Member of the Building and Infrastructure Committee and Justice Shahzad Azeem, on Thursday visited the site of the new High Court Complex, Srinagar to review the progress and pace of construction work.

On the occasion, the Executive Engineer, R&B Project Division-I Srinagar, delivered a detailed presentation on the status of the ongoing project. He apprised the Judges of the various phases of

construction completed so far and outlined the new works scheduled to be taken up in the future.

During the on-spot inspection, the Judges reviewed all aspects of the construction work. They directed the concerned authorities and executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and ensure timely completion of the project, while underscoring the need to adhere to quality and the highest standards of workmanship.

Registrar Judicial, Srinagar, Joint Registrar Judicial, Srinagar, Registrar Infrastructure and other officers of the R&B Department accompanied the Judges during the visit.

detailed discussions with the Punjab's Animal and Sheep Husbandry Minister, the Chief Secretary of Punjab, the Secretary, Science & Technology and the Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj.

The primary focus of the meetings was to find an immediate and practical resolution to the issues affecting the mutton dealers, which have been causing hardships to the traders and impacting the smooth movement of livestock.

During the marathon deliberations, Satish Sharma strongly projected the concerns of the mutton dealers. He emphasized the need for coordinated action between the governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab to facilitate hassle-free movement of

meetings, Satish Sharma said that safeguarding the interests of traders and ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential commodities remains a priority of the Government. He said the positive response from the Punjab Government reflects the spirit of cooperative federalism and inter-state coordination in resolving issues affecting the livelihoods of thousands of people.

The meetings also featured extensive discussions on strengthening cooperation in the field of animal husbandry. Both sides explored measures to improve livestock management, disease control, scientific breeding practices and veterinary services through greater collaboration and exchange of best

practices. The Minister thanked the Punjab Government for its prompt response and assured the mutton dealers that the Jammu and Kashmir Government would continue to work closely with all the stakeholders to ensure that their genuine concerns are addressed in a time-bound manner.

The Minister thanked the Punjab Government for its prompt response and assured the mutton dealers that the Jammu and Kashmir Government would continue to work closely with all the stakeholders to ensure that their genuine concerns are addressed in a time-bound manner.

Rajpora, Uri, Pampore MLAs call on Min Rana; seek early redress of grievances

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: MLA Rajpora, Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir, MLA Uri, Dr Sajad Shafi and MLA Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi, Thursday called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, the MLAs apprised the Minister in detail of the pending public grievances and developmental requirements of their respective constituencies.



Issues raised included augmentation and restoration of drinking water supply schemes, repair and maintenance of damaged irrigation channels, protection concerns related to forest land and long-pending demands for strengthening of flood control infrastructure in

vulnerable areas.

MLA Rajpora, Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir, drew attention to irrigation and drainage-related issues in his constituency and urged the intervention of the Minister.

MLA Uri, Dr Sajad Shafi, highlighted the need for early completion

of water supply augmentation works in his constituency while MLA Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi, raised concerns pertaining to environmental degradation and sought the Minister's intervention for early redressal of public grievances related to his constituency.

Responding to the concerns raised, Javed Rana assured the MLAs that all genuine demands would be taken up on priority and resolved in a time-bound manner. "The Omar Abdullah government is committed to

ensure that no genuine grievance of the people goes unaddressed. Public service and grassroots development remain our foremost priority and we will leave no stone unturned in reaching out to every constituency," the Minister said.

Emphasising the need for timely execution of works in all constituencies, Rana directed the concerned officers to resolve all pending issues in a time-bound manner to ensure that developmental projects do not suffer delays.

Centre reshuffles AGMUT cadre, Shahid Choudhary moved to AP, Tanushree to Delhi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday ordered a major reshuffle of AGMUT cadre officers, transferring and posting several IAS and IPS officers across Union Territories and northeastern states, with Jammu and Kashmir witnessing significant changes.

According to an order issued by the Ministry, senior IAS officer Shahid Iqbal Choudhary (2009 batch) has been transferred from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, while Swati Sheemar (2023 batch) has been posted from J&K to Delhi.

In exchange, Saugat Biswas (2006 batch IAS) has been transferred from Arunachal Pradesh to

Jammu and Kashmir. Mamta Yadav (2021 batch IAS) has been moved from Delhi to J&K, while Ishita Rathi (2022 batch IAS) has been transferred from Puducherry to the Union Territory.

Among IPS officers, Tanushree (2017 batch) has been shifted from Jammu and Kashmir to Delhi. Rajesh Kumar Sharma (2014 batch) has been transferred to Chandigarh, while Deepika (2018 batch) has been posted to Puducherry.

The order further states that IPS officers Gaurav Sikarwar, Arshi Adil, Vishnu Kumar, K.M. Priyanka, Rajeev Kumar Ambasta, Deepak Yadav, Anand Kumar Mishra and Satish Kumar have been posted to Jammu and Kashmir from Goa, Delhi and Chandigarh.

Among other IAS transfers, Vivek Pandey, Garima Gupta, Pawan Kumar Sain, Amjad Tak, Ajay Kumar Gupta, Awaniish Kumar and Sweta Nagarkoti have been posted to Delhi from Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, DNH&DD and Lakshadweep.

Meanwhile, Sanjay Goel and Rishita Gupta have been transferred to Arunachal Pradesh, while Arava Gopi Krishna has been posted to Ladakh. L. Kumar has been shifted to Puducherry, Kesavan R to Lakshadweep, Bhupesh Chaudhary and Shashanka Ala to DNH&DD, R Giri Sankar to Puducherry and W Punshiba Singh to Lakshadweep.

Other IPS transfers include Vivek Kishore, Sindhu Pillai A, Chinmoy Biswal, Ajay Krishna Sharma, A Koan, Varsha

Sharma, Jitendra Kumar Meena, Anil Kumar Lal, Manjeet, Geetanjali Khandelwal and Satyawan Gautam to Delhi; Nabam Gungte, Rishi Kumar and Angad Mehta to Arunachal Pradesh; Pukhraj Kamal and Lokeshwaran R to Delhi; Vinit Kumar to Chandigarh; Gaurav Tyagi to Delhi; Tikam Singh Verma and Arshi Adil to Jammu and Kashmir; Utkarsha to Delhi; Pawan Kumar to Ladakh; R Subash to Delhi; Sikandar Singh to Puducherry; Dharendra Pratap Singh, Nishant Gupta and Amit Kaushik to Mizoram; Patel Aalap Manshukh to Lakshadweep; and Shweta Singh Chauhan to Goa.

The transfers have been ordered with immediate effect and will remain in force until further orders, the Ministry said.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR
BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

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RE-TENDER NOTICE/ CORRIGENDUM.

(SL.NO. 01)

Subject: AMC for the Departmental Vehicles namely Scorpio JK01-W9211, Bolero JK01W-5914, Tata Yodha JK01BA-0835 and Bolero Camper JK01BC-1179.

Reference: This office Fresh e-NIT No. 17/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/1875-85, dated: 25-05-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_310884_1.

With reference to the subject work advertised vide the above-mentioned e-NIT No. and Tender ID under reference, it is submitted that a total of two (02) bids were received. Upon technical evaluation, only one (01) bid was found to be technically qualified. Accordingly, the competent authority has approved the extension of the tender process, and the revised schedule is as under:

S. No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Bid Submission Start date & Time	08-07-2026 Up-to 03:00 PM
2.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	14-07-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM
3.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	14-07-2026 04:00 PM

Note:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./ 3952-62

Dated: 08-07-2026.

DIPK-3036-26

DT: 09/07/2026

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

EDIT

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

The Problem With Counting Crowds

For years, Jammu and Kashmir has patted itself on the back every time tourist numbers hit a new high. Millions of visitors are framed as an absolute win. But if you talk to anyone living there, or even look past the crowded scenic viewpoints, the truth is hard to miss. The valley is buckling under its own popularity. Traffic jams now stretch for miles, garbage piles up faster than it can be cleared, and concrete hotels are creeping into once-untouched green spaces. When a traveler flies halfway across the country for peace and quiet, only to find the same noise and gridlock they left behind at home, everyone loses. Tourism shouldn't be a race to see who can pack the most bodies into a fragile ecosystem. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah recently pointed out a hard truth: it is vastly better to earn a hundred rupees from one traveler who stays a week than one rupee each from a hundred travelers who stay for an afternoon. Kashmir needs to shift its focus from volume to value. The goal should be attracting visitors who want to slow down, respect the land, engage with local culture, and actually invest in the community. Fleeting, high-density crowds overwhelm the infrastructure; conscious travelers sustain it. Good speeches won't clean up Dal Lake or save the meadows. Transitioning to sustainable tourism requires making choices that might annoy developers but will save the region in the long run. Enforce hard limits: Every destination has a breaking point (carrying capacity). The government needs to figure out exactly how many people a place like Gulmarg or Pahalgam can handle at once, and cap it. Stop the reckless building: Enforce strict zoning laws. Ecologically sensitive zones shouldn't face a constant barrage of new construction just to meet seasonal demands. Fix the basics: Prioritize real waste management and reliable public transit so hundreds of rental cars aren't choking the mountain roads. Guide travelers toward lesser-known valleys to take the pressure off the main hotspots. Hotel owners, tour operators, and travelers themselves have to stop treating Kashmir's natural beauty like an infinite resource. It isn't. Once a forest is cleared or a lake is ruined by pollution, no amount of clever marketing can bring it back. The vision laid out by the government is the right one, but the real test is whether they have the spine to enforce it when commercial interests push back. Protecting this landscape isn't an environmental luxury anymore—it's the only way to keep paradise from becoming just another crowded tourist cap

Sacred Trust: Why Parenting Is Not A Choice

UZMA NAZIR

Parenting is not a personal life-style choice; it is a sacred trust, an amanah, for which parents are directly accountable before Allah. Every time a horrific headline shatters our collective conscience, whether it is a brutal assault case in Kashmir, shocking exploitation cases from Rajasthan, or similar moral crises across the world, society follows a predictable, reactive script. We demand swift legal action. But courts are reactive; true prevention begins in our living rooms. As Frederick Douglass wisely said, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

In Islam, this responsibility is made even clearer. Allah says: "O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones" (Surah At-Tahrim 66:6). This verse shows that parenting is not only about providing food, clothing, and education; it is about protecting faith, character, and moral direction. We live in a tragic modern irony: we work harder than ever to provide material comfort, yet we leave our children unattended in the lawless wilderness of the internet. When parents are too busy, a dangerous psychological vacuum forms. This vacuum is quickly filled by toxic digital algorithms, gaming group chats, and harmful influences that gladly do the teaching before parents do.

Islam reminds us that children are shaped by their environment and by what their parents model. The Prophet said: "Every child is born upon fitrah..." meaning a natural pure state, and it is the parents who influence the child's development. This means the home is the first classroom, and what happens there shapes the future. Islam commands men to lower their gaze. Respect and consent are not optional social preferences; they are religious obligations. Allah says: "Tell the believing men to lower their gaze and guard their chastity" (Surah An-Nur 24:30). This command is deeply relevant to raising sons in a world where entitlement, lust, and violence can be normalized. Parents must treat children as an amanah.



The Prophet Muhammad said that no father can give his child anything better than good manners and noble character. This is why a son must understand that he is never entitled to another person's time, attention, or body. True masculinity must be anchored in emotional control, empathy, and the protection of the vulnerable, never in dominance, arrogance, or physical aggression.

This is also why parental example matters so deeply. As James Baldwin observed, "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." Boys do not only learn from lectures; they learn from the way fathers speak to mothers, how adults handle anger, and whether home teaches respect or entitlement. Parents often blame external influences, modern media, the West, bad friends, or the internet for a child's moral decay. But before blaming the world, we must ask what our own homes are teaching. As Carl Jung warned, "If there is anything we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves."

Islam strongly supports this principle of self-correction. The Prophet said: "He is not one of us who does not show mercy to our young and respect to our elders." This

hadith reminds parents that good character begins with mercy, gentleness, and humility inside the home. If we want sons who respect women, we must first model respect in the home. If we want children to use screens wisely, we must also show discipline in our own screen use.

History repeatedly shows that great minds are often shaped by highly intentional and present parents. Imam al-Bukhari was raised by a widowed mother who personally guided his education and helped shape history's greatest master of hadith. Imam al-Shafi'i learned under hardship because his mother refused to let poverty excuse parental duty. Thomas Edison, once dismissed by school, was transformed by a mother who believed in him and educated him at home. These stories are not sentimental decorations. They are proof that presence, discipline, and sacrifice in parenting can shape the course of history. Islam honors this effort, because raising righteous children is one of the greatest forms of worship.

Parents must balance emotional security with strict boundaries. A child's moral development does not happen by accident; it requires deliberate stages of guidance.

Age 0 to 7(Play): Flood with Love: Children must be surrounded by affection,

safety, and warmth so they never seek validation from predators online. In Islamic terms, this is a time to nurture fitrah, mercy, and attachment to goodness.

Age 7 to 14: Discipline and Tarbiyah: This is the stage for teaching boundaries, manners, internet safety, privacy, and the absolute law of consent. This is also the time to teach the commands of modesty, lowering the gaze, and respectful behavior, so that moral formation is being laid early.

Age 14 to 21(Friendship): Be a Trusted Advisor: Teenagers need guidance without humiliation. Parents should become non-judgmental advisors so children can openly report peer pressure, harmful influences, or moral confusion without fear of being crushed by shame. Islam encourages wisdom, mercy, and sincere advice, not harshness that closes hearts.

Teenagers need guidance without humiliation.

Parents should become non-judgmental advisors so children can openly report peer pressure, harmful influences, or moral confusion without fear of being crushed by shame. Trust at this stage prevents secrecy and deception. Islam encourages wisdom, mercy, and sincere advice, not harshness that closes hearts.

Why Prevention Must Begin at Home: Our streets cannot be cleaned until our homes are reformed. Safety begins with the moral boundaries we instill today. A society that tolerates aggression in boys as a "passing phase" is a society that quietly manufactures future harm.

The goal is not merely to raise successful sons, but righteous ones. Sons who know that strength means self-control. Sons who understand that women are not to be consumed, mocked, or violated. Sons who carry adab as part of their identity. Every correction, every silence, every example in the living room carries weight that will echo into eternity. The choices parents make today, whether to guide, protect, correct, or ignore, will be answered before Allah.

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Rising Above HIV Diagnosis And Turning Pain Into Purpose



SHOBHA SHUKLA

To this day 23 years-old Sneha (name changed to respect confidentiality) does not know with certainty how she got infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). No one else in her family carries the virus. The only plausible explanation she offers is that she got it through an infected injection needle in some healthcare setting. Since her infancy Sneha had a hole in her left eardrum which would discharge pus. So she was put on medication for a long time which included injectables. Eventually she had to undergo an ear surgery in 2015 when she was 12 years old. During the general investigations and tests done prior to the surgery, she was found to be HIV positive. Sneha was in a state of shock.

"My mother refused to believe the test results, and she got my test done again in three different laboratories. But every time the result was the same. My mother and elder brother also got tested and both were HIV negative. And we strongly believe that my deceased father was negative as he had undergone multiple heart surgeries and all general investigations were done then, with no sign of HIV," shared Sneha with CNS ahead of world's largest AIDS conference later this month (26th International AIDS Conference, or AIDS 2026 on the theme: #RethinkRebuildRise).

Diagnosed with HIV at 12 years of age

Thus at the tender age of 12, Sneha was diagnosed with HIV. She was directed to government-run Niloufer Hospital in Hyderabad which has a prominent, designated paediatric ART Centre for HIV management in children and adolescents.

A year later Sneha got registered for her medical check-ups at Blue Peter Public Health and Research Centre (BPHRC) of LEPPA Society which also focuses on comprehensive HIV care, support, prevention, and treatment. Through BPHRC she came in contact with Cheyutha (Cheyutha is a Telugu language word meaning 'helping hand'). Cheyutha is a women's community initiative to empower women living

with HIV, through mutual support and collective action. The organisation was started in 2005 by an HIV survivor Laxmi Priya Kagitha, with support from the LEPPA Society in Hyderabad. To date, Cheyutha's Board of Directors is composed entirely of women living with HIV.

"When Priya madam heard about my plight and our financial crisis, she started supporting me for my nutrition as well as my education. I was studying in Class 9 then," said Sneha.

Cheyutha's helping hand

Sneha, who recently completed her post-graduation in Social Work, got an opportunity to work with Cheyutha as a field level worker for Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics in 2021. These clinics are specialised healthcare centres designed to meet the unique physical, mental, and reproductive health needs of young people. Sneha shared that: "The aim was to work for adolescents living with HIV in the age group of 10 to 19 years, focusing on their regular medication and overall wellbeing."

"The children for whom I worked, reminded me of my earlier days when I was newly diagnosed with HIV. At that time, I did not know much about the disease and neither did my mother. I just took my pills regularly because my mother asked me to do so. It was only when I was 17-18 years old that I understood the gravity of my illness and gradually accepted to live with it," she said.

She faced several challenges including discrimination from her relatives. "But my mother always stood by me and took good care of me. So compared to other children living with HIV, I was in a much better position," she reflected.

"Around 150 adolescents living with HIV with whom I have been working, come from very difficult family backgrounds and faced far greater challenges than I had. Almost 70% of them were semi-orphan, who depended on single parents or elderly grandparents. So due to lack of proper care, they would often miss their medication. Some of them had been adopted without anyone knowing about their positive status. It was only when their health deteriorated and they visited hospitals that they were tested and were diagnosed for HIV. They also had to deal with a lot of stigma within their family," said Sneha.

"I was determined to help these children living with HIV - project or no project - and started building my rapport with them. They had got infected unknowingly and had to be prepared to deal with their situation in the best possible



manner," she said.

A day of hope: Free check-ups, supplements & life skills for adolescents living with HIV

"Through Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics, we hold a day long camp once every month on a Sunday, so that the participants do not have to miss their school. A medical check-up of all the children living with HIV is done to monitor their health parameters. They are also given multivitamin, calcium, iron, and protein tablets free of charge. We also counsel them on why they should not miss their daily medication, which is essential for our survival," shared Sneha. Sneha shared that these health camps provide a safe space for the adolescents to express and share their thoughts without any discrimination and stigma, which many of them have to face in their families. They look forward to these camps and literally wait for that one day in the month to enjoy their day with other similar participants with no strings attached.

"Adolescence is the age when they undergo physical changes and they also need some career guidance. So, we call some resource person every month to guide them about their studies and help them in life skills development." Sneha worked for three and a half years in this project before it ended in March 2025 due to funding cuts. Now she works as a peer counselor in Cheyutha, doing similar work.

"But we still continue holding these health camps with the help of some local donors. I enjoy spending time with the youngsters so that they feel safe and reassured that whenever they have a problem, they can discuss it with us and arrive at a solution by themselves with our help."

Sneha is happy that 92% of these 150 children are virally suppressed. When the project started less than 55% had viral load suppression. But within 3 years the figure rose to 92%. According to

the World Health Organization (WHO), if a person with HIV is virally suppressed, then not only the person lives healthy and normal, there is zero risk of any further HIV transmission too - that is why, Undetectable equals Untransmittable or U=U (or treatment is prevention).

From open ostracism to discrimination - The unfinished battle against HIV stigma

From her personal lived experiences, Sneha laments that even today stigma and discrimination is very much there, despite India having an HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, which provides comprehensive legal rights, and prohibits discrimination across education, healthcare, and housing.

"In the 1990s, people expressed it openly and ostracised those living with HIV. Things have improved now but stigma is still rampant. I see it in the hospitals. Hospital staff behave very differently once they come to know of our HIV status. Till they do not know our status we are treated like any other patient. But once we disclose our status for any follow up medical procedures to be safer, their attitude changes instantly and they fear even to touch us or even come near to us," said Sneha.

Sneha's fears are corroborated by the HIV Stigma Index 2.0 Report from 25 countries (including India). It shows that 13% of people living with HIV experienced stigma and discrimination when seeking HIV-related care in the past 12 months, and 25% reported such experiences when seeking non-HIV-related healthcare, including 12% who reported being denied non-HIV-related healthcare completely.

High prevalence of self-stigma

"Most of our community also have self-stigma. They do not want

to come forward and share their problems because of self-stigma. Even I have that fear that people will not understand and would treat you like a black spot if they come to know of your status. None of my friends know that I am living with HIV. I have already faced discrimination from my relatives and I fear that if I share my HIV status with my friends, I would get the same reaction from them," said Sneha.

Mirroring trends across the Asia-Pacific region, the HIV Stigma Index 2.0 data from India reveals that internalised stigma (feelings of shame, guilt, or self-blame) is significantly high. This psychological barrier often acts as a major roadblock, causing individuals to isolate themselves or completely drop out of local health services. The index also demonstrates a strong correlation between individuals experiencing community discrimination and those who interrupted their treatment.

"We have to change the way of thinking of hospital staff and healthcare personnel through advocacy. Despite knowing the causes of HIV transmission, yet they fear to treat us. We also need to continuously maintain a link with our stakeholders and share with them our challenges that we are facing at ground level," said Sneha. For Sneha, creating awareness in the community, as well as in the general public plays a key role in reducing stigma. Moreover, if people have more knowledge about this infection, they will protect themselves from getting infected. There should also be some method for the community to share the challenges they are facing in their daily lives with policy makers.

As per Government of India's Sankalak Report 2025, 1,894 children got infected with HIV due to vertical transmission (parent/mother to child during pregnancy or breastfeeding) in 2024. Around 80,000 children living with HIV were receiving the lifesaving antiretroviral therapy by March 2025. Rate of vertical transmission is still high at 10.75%. This is unacceptable because we can do better. No child needs to be born with HIV.

We have to #Rise to #Rethink and #Rebuild to #PutPeopleFirst in HIV responses and strive for a world in which HIV no longer remains a public health threat.

Author is a feminist, advocate and development justice advocate. She can be mailed at ramakant-bobby@gmail.com

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Bridge Across The Seas

How Modi's Visit Solidified India-Indonesia Civilizational Ties


DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

P rime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Indonesia has emerged as another significant milestone in India's evolving diplomatic journey in the Indo-Pacific region. The warmth with which he was received, the honours bestowed upon him, and the constructive dialogue held with Indonesian leaders reflected not merely ceremonial goodwill but a deepening strategic partnership between two ancient civilisations. India and Indonesia have shared historical, cultural, maritime, and spiritual bonds stretching back over two thousand years.

Indonesia and India are close friends and strategic partners. Their relationship is built on over two millennia of cultural, religious, and commercial ties, evolving into a formal "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership". Both nations were founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement. India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Indonesia along the Andaman Sea. Bilateral military and maritime security cooperation is growing, driven by joint exercises like Samudra Shakti and shared interests in Indo-Pacific stability. Indonesia is India's largest trading partner in the ASEAN region, with India being a major importer of Indonesian crude palm oil. Centuries of shared heritage are highly visible today through widespread Hindu and Buddhist influences in Indonesian art, dance, and epics like the Ramayana. The visit reaffirmed that these civilizational links are being transformed into a dynamic partnership suited to the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century.

As the world's largest democracy and the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, India and Indonesia possess immense potential to shape regional stability, economic growth, maritime security, and global governance. Modi's honour in Indonesia symbolized the recognition of India's growing international stature as well as Indonesia's confidence in India's leadership role in Asia. It was also a reminder that diplomacy is not confined to official agreements alone but is equally nurtured by mutual respect, cultural affinity, and a shared vision for peace and prosperity.

During the visit, discussions covered a wide spectrum of issues including trade, defence cooperation, maritime security, digital innovation, renewable energy, healthcare, education, tourism, and regional security. Both leaders emphasized the importance of maintaining a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific where sovereignty and international law are respected. This shared commitment has become increasingly important amid geopolitical uncertainties and growing competi-

India's approach has emphasized mutual development, cultural connectivity, and regional cooperation. Indonesia has become one of India's most valuable partners within ASEAN, and both countries have repeatedly demonstrated their willingness to work together on issues ranging from disaster management to maritime domain awareness. Their naval exercises, defence dialogues, and coordinated patrols have strengthened mutual trust while contributing to regional security. Economically, the visit opened new avenues for expanding bilateral trade and investment. India and Indonesia have steadily increased commercial exchanges over the past decade, with cooperation extending to pharmaceuticals, automobiles, textiles, agriculture, information technology, mining, energy, and infrastructure.

Indonesia remains one of India's largest trading partners in Southeast Asia, while Indian companies have shown growing interest in investing in Indonesian manufacturing and digital sectors. The leaders expressed confidence that future economic cooperation could achieve far greater heights through diversification of trade, improved connectivity, simplified regulations, and enhanced private-sector participation. Both countries also recognized the importance of resilient supply chains in an era marked by global disruptions. The digital economy formed another important pillar of the discussions. India shared its experience in building inclusive digital public infrastructure, digital payments, financial inclusion, and e-governance. Indonesia, which has witnessed rapid digital transformation, sees India as an important partner in technological innovation and capacity building.

Cooperation in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, fintech, digital education, and startup ecosystems promises to create opportunities for young entrepreneurs in both countries. The visit reinforced the belief that technological collaboration should benefit ordinary citizens rather than remain confined to elite institutions. Cultural diplomacy occupied a central place throughout the visit. Indonesia continues to preserve many aspects of ancient Indian civilization in its language, architecture, literature, dance, music, and religious traditions. The stories of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata continue to inspire Indonesian performing arts, particularly in Java and Bali. Temples, inscriptions, and historical monuments testify to centuries of interaction across the Bay of Bengal. Despite the passage of time and the evolution of distinct national identities, these cultural connections remain vibrant symbols of mutual respect.

Modi's engagement with Indonesian cultural heritage highlighted India's recognition of these shared roots and its commitment to strengthening people-to-people exchanges. Tourism was identified as another promising sector for bilateral cooperation. Indonesia's beautiful islands, beaches, volcanoes, rainforests, and cultural landmarks attract millions of international visitors every year, while India's diverse heritage and spiritual destinations continue



time cooperation received particular attention during the visit. Both India and Indonesia recognize that secure sea lanes are essential for global commerce and regional stability. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Indonesia's Aceh province are geographically close, making maritime coordination both practical and strategically important. Joint naval exercises, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief cooperation, anti-piracy operations, and information sharing contribute to safer oceans and stronger regional resilience. Climate change and environmental sustainability also featured prominently in the discussions.

Both nations are vulnerable to rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation. Collaborative initiatives in renewable energy, mangrove restoration, biodiversity conservation, disaster preparedness, and sustainable development were viewed as essential investments in the future. India and Indonesia share an understanding that economic growth must be balanced with environmental responsibility. Healthcare cooperation has acquired new momentum following the global pandemic. India's pharmaceutical industry, vaccine production capabilities, and medical expertise complement Indonesia's public health priorities. During the pandemic, India supplied medicines and vaccines to numerous countries, reinforcing its image as a reliable partner in times of crisis. Expanding cooperation in phar-

Indonesia continue to advocate reform of global institutions to reflect contemporary realities. They support greater representation for developing countries in international decision-making and emphasize multilateral solutions to global challenges including climate change, terrorism, cybercrime, and economic inequality. Their cooperation

geopolitical symbolism. It represented recognition of India's constructive role in global affairs and its commitment to peaceful cooperation rather than confrontation. Indonesia has consistently pursued an independent policy emphasizing dialogue, moderation, and regional harmony. India's strategic autonomy similarly seeks partnerships without rigid alignments. This convergence creates opportunities for practical collaboration based on shared interests rather than ideological divisions. The visit also demonstrated the growing importance of middle powers in shaping international politics. Rather than depending solely upon major power rivalries, countries like India and Indonesia increasingly seek cooperative frameworks that promote stability, development, and mutual respect. Their partnership illustrates how emerging economies can work together to address common challenges while preserving strategic independence.

Public diplomacy further enhanced the significance of the visit. The enthusiastic reception accorded to Modi reflected the goodwill enjoyed by India among many Indonesians. Indian cinema, yoga, Ayurveda, cuisine, literature, classical dance, and educational opportunities have contributed to positive perceptions of India. Likewise, Indonesians have enriched India's cultural understanding through tourism, academic interaction, and artistic exchanges. Such people-to-people connections often provide the strongest foundations for enduring diplomatic relationships. The Indian diaspora in Indonesia has also played an important role in strengthening bilateral ties through entrepreneurship, education, cultural activities, and philanthropy. Their contributions illustrate how overseas communities can become bridges of friendship between nations. Economic reforms undertaken in both countries create favourable conditions for future investment. Infrastructure development, manufacturing expansion, digital transformation, renewable energy projects, and startup ecosystems provide numerous opportunities for collaboration.

Business leaders accompanying the official delegation explored new partnerships capable of generating employment, innovation, and sustainable growth. Such commercial engagement complements governmental cooperation and ensures that diplomatic achievements translate into tangible benefits for ordinary citizens. Security cooperation remains another crucial pillar of bilateral relations. Both countries face challenges including terrorism, cyber threats, transnational crime, illegal fishing, human trafficking, and maritime piracy. Enhanced intelligence sharing, law enforcement cooperation, capacity building, and joint training strengthen collective responses to these challenges. Their shared commitment to combating extremism while promoting inclusive development reflects common democratic values.

The symbolism of Modi being honoured in Indonesia extends beyond protocol. It signifies recognition of India's expanding influence, responsible diplomacy, and civilizational outreach. Such honours are meaningful because they acknowledge not only an individual leader but also the aspirations of the nation he represents. For India, the visit reinforced confidence in its Act East Policy and demonstrated that sustained engagement with Southeast Asia continues to yield positive results. For Indonesia, closer ties with India diversify partnerships while contributing to regional resilience and economic opportunity. The visit reaffirmed that diplomacy rooted in history, guided by mutual respect, and oriented toward future cooperation remains one of the most effective instruments for promoting international peace and prosperity. As India and Indonesia continue to deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership, the outcomes of this meaningful visit are likely to influence regional cooperation for years to come.

The honour bestowed upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi therefore stands not merely as a ceremonial recognition but as a symbol of an expanding relationship built upon trust, shared values, common interests, and an enduring commitment to a peaceful, prosperous, and interconnected Indo-Pacific region where cooperation triumphs over conflict and dialogue remains the preferred path toward collective progress.

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As the world's largest democracy and the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, India and Indonesia possess immense potential to shape regional stability, economic growth, maritime security, and global governance. Modi's honour in Indonesia symbolized the recognition of India's growing international stature as well as Indonesia's confidence in India's leadership role in Asia.



tion in the region. Indonesia occupies a strategically crucial position astride some of the world's busiest sea lanes, while India remains a major maritime power in the Indian Ocean. Their cooperation therefore carries significance far beyond bilateral relations, influencing the stability of the broader Indo-Pacific. The honour accorded to Modi also reflected Indonesia's appreciation of India's consistent engagement with Southeast Asia through the Act East Policy.

Unlike transactional diplomacy,

to fascinate Indonesian travellers. Enhanced air connectivity, simplified visa procedures, collaborative tourism promotion, and educational exchanges could significantly increase two-way travel.

Universities in both countries are also expanding academic partnerships through student exchange programmes, collaborative research, language studies, and faculty cooperation. Such educational engagement helps nurture long-term understanding between future generations. Mari-

pharmaceuticals, medical education, telemedicine, biotechnology, and public health infrastructure can significantly benefit both populations.

The visit also underlined the importance of cooperation in food security and agriculture. Climate-resilient farming, agricultural technology, irrigation management, and food processing present new opportunities for collaboration. As two populous developing countries, ensuring sustainable food production remains a common priority. Internationally, both India and

within platforms such as the G20, East Asia Summit, ASEAN-led mechanisms, and the United Nations contributes to a more balanced and inclusive international order.

Highest honour for PM Modi in Indonesia therefore carried broader

CM Omar Calls For Shift

sustainability is an unqualified disaster. It may survive for a few years, but it cannot endure in the long run unless sustainability is built into its very foundation," he said.

He said the conclave had been organised at a crucial juncture when Jammu and Kashmir was reassessing its tourism vision and determining whether its future lay in attracting ever-growing visitor numbers or creating greater value from a more sustainable tourism economy.

"We have to decide whether we wish to earn by charging one hundred tourists one rupee each or by creating an experience where one tourist is willing to pay one hundred rupees. The answer to that question must shape all our future tourism master plans," the Chief Minister remarked. He said he welcomed surge in number of tourists visiting J&K but for future the tourist flow may need to be regulated so that not only the tourist resorts are protected but the tourists also enjoy in serene environment rather than having to go through harrowing experience of traffic jams, poor facilities and over-crowding at these tourist spots.

Reflecting on Jammu and Kashmir's tourism journey over the past three decades, Omar Abdullah observed that the region had understandably pursued a volume-based approach to demonstrate normalcy after years of conflict. However, he said the recent fluctuations in tourist arrivals had once again exposed the vulnerability of the tourism ecosystem.

The Chief Minister remarked that last year before the Pahalgam incident, we were dealing with traffic congestion caused by huge tourist inflow. Soon afterwards, we were worried because hotels and destinations had become empty. This reminds us how fragile tourism can be in Jammu & Kashmir where a single incident can affect the whole season.

The Chief Minister underlined that sustainable tourism planning must comprehensively address critical issues including traffic regulation, parking infrastructure, waste management, water conservation, building regulations, carrying capacity and community participation.

Expressing concern over recurring traffic congestion at popular destinations, he said infrastructure creation alone would not solve the problem unless accompanied by effective utilisation and scientific traffic management.

He cautioned against introducing unplanned regulatory measures without adequate stakeholder consultation, citing recent experiences where traffic management decisions adversely affected tourists and transport operators.

"Sustainability cannot be based on knee-jerk reactions. Every intervention must be well-planned, thoroughly discussed with stakeholders and capable of delivering long-term solutions," he said.

The Chief Minister also laid strong emphasis on scientific solid waste management, saying environmental degradation cannot simply be attributed to tourists.

Referring to ongoing waste removal efforts in Dal Lake, he observed that a significant portion of waste originates from local habitations, making community participation equally important.

He also stressed the need to eliminate single-use plastic and promote responsible civic behaviour.

"Government has a responsibility to manage waste, but citizens too have an equal responsibility. Unless we begin treating Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Dal Lake as we treat our own homes, sustainability will remain elusive," he said.

Highlighting the growing challenge of water scarcity, Omar Abdullah said sustainable tourism cannot be achieved without long-term water management strategies, particularly as visitor numbers continue to increase.

The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of strict enforcement of building regulations and tourism master plans.

"A master plan is only as good as its implementation. Selective enforcement breeds resentment and weakens public confidence. Tourism planning cannot be confined to offices; it must be prepared in consultation with local communities who have lived in these destinations for generations," he observed.

Calling for scientific assessment of the carrying capacity of individual tourist destinations, he said each location possesses unique ecological sensitivities that must determine future visitor management strategies.

"Srinagar may comfortably accommodate far more visitors than ecologically fragile destinations such as Gulmarg or Gurez. We cannot adopt a uniform approach for every destination," he said.

The Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir's greatest tourism asset is its unmatched natural beauty rather than artificial attractions.

"We are not selling Disneyland, Universal Studios or Las Vegas. What attracts people here is our rivers, lakes, mountains, glaciers and landscapes. Protecting these natural assets must remain the central objective of every tourism master plan," he asserted.

He also spoke about the increasing influx of tourist vehicles from outside Jammu and Kashmir. While acknowledging that their arrival had helped restore confidence about Kashmir's reopening as a tourism destination, he said such trends also placed additional pressure on local infrastructure and adverse-

ly affected the livelihoods of local transport operators.

"We have to ensure that tourism generates greater benefits for our own people. The objective should be to move steadily up the value chain rather than simply chasing higher tourist numbers," he said.

Advocating premium tourism experiences, the Chief Minister said value-based tourism enables destinations to earn more while reducing environmental stress and improving visitor experiences.

"Value tourism is sustainable tourism. Our responsibility is to create conditions where local people earn better incomes while ensuring that tourism remains environmentally and economically sustainable for generations to come," he added.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that the deliberations of the conclave would contribute meaningfully towards framing a long-term sustainable tourism roadmap for Jammu & Kashmir and guide future policy interventions.

Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani & Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo also spoke on the occasion underlining the need for master planning of Tourist destinations, development of new destinations, environmental protection, strengthening of Tourism Development Authorities and for enhancing visitor experience.

Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Ashish Chandra Verma delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the Government's new initiative for preparing tourism master plans for destinations across Jammu and Kashmir.

He presented an overview of the tourism sector, the vision for sustainable tourism and the need for rethinking the existing tourism development strategy. He emphasised the transition from conventional urban planning to tourism-led destination planning through a structured, long-term framework.

Highlighting existing challenges such as fragmented infrastructure development, inadequate waste management, traffic congestion and the absence of integrated destination planning, he outlined a tier-based categorisation approach for planning tourism destinations according to their ecological sensitivity, tourism potential and infrastructure requirements.

The Additional Chief Secretary also elaborated on the objectives of the workshop, which include facilitating strategic and sustainable tourism planning, developing destination-specific master plans, promoting balanced tourism growth and ensuring greater stakeholder participation in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector.

LG Reviews Arrangements

hassle-free registration process and dissemination of timely information updates to the pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage. He also directed for strict legal action against those found involved in fraudulent registration practices.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Dr. Manddeep K. Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Shri V K Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Srinagar; Shri Rajiv Pandey, DIG CKR; Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarty, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Shri Faz Lul Haseeb, Municipal Commissioner Srinagar and other senior officers.

Pilgrim Count

vehicles comprising 175 buses, 55 medium motor vehicles (MMVs) and 104 light motor vehicles (LMVs).

Of the total, 3,445 pilgrims are travelling via the Baltal route, while 4,705 pilgrims are heading through the traditional Pahalgam route.

The batch includes 5,663 men, 1,960 women, 15 children, 432 sadhus, 77 sadhvis and three transgender devotees. The Baltal convoy left Jammu at 2:50 am, followed by the Pahalgam convoy at 3:38 am under elaborate security arrangements.

With thousands of pilgrims continuing to arrive in Jammu and fresh batches proceeding towards the Valley every day, officials expect the total number of devotees performing darshan to cross the two lakh mark on Friday, subject to favourable weather and smooth movement along both routes.

The 57-day pilgrimage, which began on July 3, is scheduled to conclude on August 9 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan—(KNO)

Heat Persists Across

rain and thundershower activity is likely, particularly in parts of the Jammu division.

The MeT department has advised people to stay away from nallas, streams and landslide-prone areas, warning that heavy rainfall during the afternoon and early morning hours on July 11 and 12 could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides at vulnerable locations in the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal region.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained above normal across most parts of Kashmir on Thursday. Srinagar recorded a maxi-

mum temperature of 32.6 degrees Celsius, 1.9 degrees above normal, while Qazigund and Kupwara registered 31.0 degrees Celsius and 33.5 degrees Celsius, respectively. Pahalgam recorded 27.0 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg 23.0 degrees Celsius, and Jammu city 35.5 degrees Celsius, close to the seasonal average.

The MeT said residents should remain alert and follow weather advisories, particularly in flood- and landslide-prone areas—(KNO)

Govt Orders Screening

book is found to contain objectionable material, along with details of its title, year of publication, author, publisher and the number of copies available.

A compliance certificate has to be furnished to the concerned Chief Education Officer (CEO) or Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), certifying that all books have been screened and no objectionable content exists on the premises to the best of their knowledge.

A strict timeline has been prescribed for the exercise. Reports on objectionable content must be submitted to the concerned CEO or ZEO within seven days from the date of issuance of the circular, i.e., by July 13, 2026.

Zonal Education Officers have been tasked with scrutinising and consolidating reports from schools and coaching centres under their jurisdiction and submitting a consolidated report to the concerned CEO by July 15. The Chief Education Officers, in turn, will forward the certificates and reports to the DSEK office by July 17.

A committee comprising the Joint Director (Central/North/South), Additional Secretary (Law) and OSD (CEW) of DSEK will collect district-level certification reports and submit a final consolidated report to the Director by July 19.

The administration has made it clear that any lapse in compliance will be viewed seriously and would invite disciplinary action against the defaulting officers. (KNS)

After Reviewing Kashmir

coordination, evolving security challenges and arrangements made for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

The Army Chief also reviewed measures related to technology induction, capability enhancement and integrated combat preparedness across operational theatres.

General Seth commended troops for their professionalism and dedication under challenging conditions and urged them to remain mission-focused, operationally agile and maintain the highest standards of operational excellence.

Notably, the Army Chief also called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar—(KNO)

Cs Assesses Status Of

The meeting reviewed the status of infrastructure and facilities at Yatra camps, langars and along both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes. It was highlighted that the recommendations include complete tiling of the pilgrimage track up to the Holy Cave Shrine to enhance the safety of pilgrims, widening of narrow stretches of the track and bridges at vulnerable locations to prevent overcrowding, construction of retaining walls in landslide-prone areas, augmentation of rain shelters and waiting sheds, installation of iron barricades for effective queue management, and ensuring adequate availability of palkis and stretchers for prompt evacuation during medical emergencies.

The meeting also comprehensively reviewed the availability of essential public amenities across the Yatra camps and holding areas. These included adequate toilet and bathing facilities, uninterrupted drinking water supply, regular sanitation and cleanliness of camps, scientific waste management, and efficient functioning of first-aid and medical facilities.

Moreover the need for installation of additional digital display boards for dissemination of advisories, strengthening fire fighting infrastructure, and enhancing disaster preparedness through adequate mitigation equipment and emergency response mechanisms was also discussed.

During the meeting concerned heads of the departments presented updates regarding the facilities created by their respective departments and informed the meeting about the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations made by the committees.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, along with the Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag and Ganderbal, apprised the meeting of the overall conduct of the Yatra and the arrangements made on the ground.

Emphasising the need for continuous monitoring and timely corrective action, the Chief Secretary directed all the line departments to constitute dedicated audit teams to undertake regular inspections of facilities and infrastructure along both the Yatra routes. He instructed these teams to identify

any deficiencies or implementation gaps and ensure their immediate rectification.

Stressing the importance of seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments and agencies, the Chief Secretary called for prompt resolution of issues through effective inter-agency coordination. He asserted that there should be no scope for delays, complacency or lackadaisical approach in the discharge of responsibilities, reiterating that the safety, security and convenience of every pilgrim remain the highest priority of the administration.

Terrorism Ended In

security system, based on the concept of a "Smart Border", would become one of the most advanced systems in the world in the coming years.

He said the Centre, along with border guarding forces, state governments, district administrations and local communities, is building a strong four-layered security grid to protect the country's borders.

"A secure border, prosperous border region and vigilant society together can make the country secure," Shah said.

Highlighting the government's internal security measures, Shah said that after successes against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, militancy in the North-East and Naxalism, the next major focus would be tackling the drug menace.

"In the next three years, we will inflict serious damage on the narcotics network and achieve victory over it as well," he said.

Shah said the government is developing a robust mechanism to make India completely infiltration-free. He said earlier "problems were permanent and solutions were temporary," but the present government was focusing on addressing issues at their roots and creating permanent solutions.

The Home Minister said investment in border infrastructure has increased by 400 percent under the Modi government, adding that a scientific approach has been adopted to strengthen border management.

Referring to the Vibrant Villages Programme, Shah said Prime Minister Modi has described the country's last village as its "first village". He said the initiative aims to prevent migration from border areas, create employment opportunities and ensure complete implementation of government welfare schemes.

He said the government has also launched the Demography Mission to study demographic changes, identify unusual factors contributing to population shifts and suggest measures to address them.

Shah said illegal infiltration remains a key reason behind demographic changes in border areas and stressed the need for timely sharing of information from the grassroots level to higher authorities.

The Home Minister said the government is moving from an isolated border outpost model towards an integrated security grid to make border security stronger and more proactive.

He further said the Centre is fencing the 1,610-km India-Myanmar border at a cost of Rs 31,000 crore.

"The objective is to prevent proxy wars, illegal infiltration, radicalisation, narcotics trafficking, smuggling, drone threats, cyber-crime, organised crime and demographic changes, while making border regions more secure and livable," Shah said.

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Saurabh Bhagat chaired review meeting on J&K SAMADHAN

Directs Migration to MeghRaj Cloud and Initiation of J&K SAMADHAN 3.0

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Department of Public Grievances, Saurabh Bhagat Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning and performance of J&K SAMADHAN, the Union Territory's flagship grievance redressal and monitoring platform.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of J&K SAMADHAN was undertaken covering grievance registration, disposal trends, departmental performance, citizen feedback mechanisms and overall system functionality.

Commissioner Secretary emphasized the importance of strengthening the grievance redressal ecosystem to ensure timely, transparent and effective resolution of public grievances and to further enhance citizen satisfaction.

The meeting was informed that J&K SAMADHAN is proposed to be migrated to the MeghRaj Government Cloud infrastructure. The migration is expected to provide a secure, scalable and reliable hosting environment, improve system availability, strengthen disaster recovery capabilities and align the platform with the Government of India's cloud adoption framework. Shri Saurabh Bhagat directed the concerned officers to take necessary steps for migration of the



platform to MeghRaj Cloud in a time-bound manner to ensure enhanced performance, security and operational efficiency.

Commissioner Secretary also directed the concerned officers to initiate the development of J&K SAMADHAN 3.0, envisaged as a next-generation citizen engagement and governance platform for the Union Territory. He emphasized that the proposed platform should build upon the strengths of the existing J&K SAMADHAN system while incorporating advanced technologies and best practices from successful citizen governance platforms implemented across the country.

Saurabh Bhagat observed that J&K SAMADHAN 3.0 should evolve beyond a conventional grievance redressal platform and serve as a comprehensive citizen-government interaction ecosystem. The proposed platform shall integrate citizen engagement, grievance redressal, service delivery monitoring, governance analytics, Artificial Intelligence, GIS-enabled

examined for implementation in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with a view to expediting the development of a modern, efficient, and citizen-centric governance ecosystem.

Commissioner Secretary further directed that Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BIS-AG-N) may be considered as the Technology Partner for J&K SAMADHAN 3.0 for providing technical expertise in platform integration, customization, localization, GIS integration, dashboard development, interoperability with departmental systems and implementation support. The proposed collaboration is expected to facilitate adoption of a proven governance framework while reducing development timelines, implementation risks and overall project costs.

Saurabh Bhagat directed the Department of Public Grievances, State e-Mission Team (SeMT) Department of Information Technology to work in close coordination for preparation of a detailed roadmap, technical architecture and implementation strategy for the development and rollout of J&K SAMADHAN 3.0.

The meeting was attended by officers of the Department of Public Grievances, Department of Information Technology, State e-Mission Team (SeMT) and other concerned stakeholders.

CoE discusses code of conduct; proposes orientation, institutional outreach

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A meeting of the Committee on Ethics of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was convened Thursday under the Chairmanship of MLA Nizam-Ud-Din Bhat.

The meeting was attended by legislators Salman Sagar, Peerzada Feroze, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Satish Kumar, Surinder Kumar and Arvind Gupta, alongside senior officers from the Assembly Secretariat.

The Committee initiated deliberations on establishing a foundational frame-

work to encourage public confidence in parliamentary institutions and their members. Acknowledging contemporary challenges faced by the legislative bodies, the members unanimously emphasised the necessity of upholding stringent norms, ethical standards and core values to guide the public conduct and responsibilities of representatives. To this end, the Committee resolved to formulate a comprehensive Code of Conduct to serve as an institutional guide for members.

Recognizing the vital

role of ethical values in public life, the Committee decided to organize an orientation programme for all members of the Legislative Assembly.

This initiative will include a comparative study of the operational frameworks of ethics committees across various State Legislatures, as well as the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. To adopt best practices, the Committee emphasized the necessity of undertaking study tours to witness the practical functioning of these institutional mech-

anisms outside the Union Territory.

In a bid to institutionalize the evolving ethical standards, the Committee resolved to broaden its scope of engagement. The members proposed expanding outreach to external academic and civic institutions, including universities. This external consultation aims to gather diverse inputs on public expectations and define contemporary benchmarks for the conduct of public representatives both within and outside the House.

ACB books former tehsildar, others in illegal land mutation scam in Bijbehara



GMK NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a case against the then Tehsildar Bijbehara Ghulam Rasool Bhat, the then Naib Tehsildar Bijbehara Fayaz Ahmad Wani, the concerned Patwari Ghulam Nabi Bandy and others for their alleged involvement in the fraudulent attestation of 162 land mutations in Tehsil Bijbehara during the year 2022-2024 for land measuring 1050 Kanals.

The spokesperson said the case originated from a source-based complaint alleging that the accused officials, in connivance with others, illegally attested mutations involving about 1,050 kanals of land without execution of registered transfer deeds and without payment of the prescribed registration fee and stamp duty, causing substantial loss to the State exchequer.

He said the verification conducted by ACB, supported by reports of the Departmental Vigilance Officer (Revenue), departmental inquiry committees and expert opinion, revealed gross violations

of revenue laws and Standing Order 23-A. The verification further disclosed that the purported relinquishment deeds were actually sale transactions disguised to evade registration and stamp duty, while money was allegedly routed through intermediaries and multiple bank accounts to conceal the transactions.

On the basis of the material collected, a prima facie case of abuse of official position, criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct has been established. Accordingly, FIR No. 06/2026 has been registered at Police Station ACB, Anantnag, under Sections 7 and 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 120-B IPC against the accused officials and others. Immediately upon registration of FIR, simultaneous searches were conducted at the respective residential houses of the accused persons after obtaining search warrants from the Hon'ble Court of the Special Judge, ACB, Anantnag.

Further investigation of the case is in progress, spokesperson added.

Chairman DLSA Pulwama flags off Multi-utility Vehicle for Legal Aid Outreach

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: In a significant step towards strengthening legal aid services in remote areas, the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama Thursday flagged off a newly allotted Mahindra Bolero Neo from the District Court Complex, Pulwama.

The Multi-Utility Vehicle has been allotted to DLSA Pulwama by the J&K Legal



Services Authority. The allotment aims at enhancing the outreach of legal services and ensuring effective delivery of justice, particularly to tribal, marginalized and far-flung areas of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman said that the vehicle will play a vital role in bridging the gap between Legal Services Institutions and the people residing in remote areas of District Pulwama. He stated that the vehicle will be extensively used for conducting legal awareness campaigns and

participation in mega legal services camps.

Emphasizing on accountability and proper utilization, the Chairman directed that the vehicle shall be used strictly in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by National Legal Services Authority. He further instructed the Secretary, DLSA Pulwama that the vehicle is utilized exclusively for public welfare and legal aid purposes. "The objec-

tive is to take justice to the doorsteps of those who need it the most. This vehicle will help our Panel Lawyers and PLVs to reach tribal communities and inform them about their rights, government welfare schemes, and free legal aid available to them," the Chairman added.

The Judicial Officers, Secretary, DLSA Pulwama, Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Panel Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers and staff members of DLSA were present during the flag-off ceremony.

DC Kulgam reviews digitization of land records, AgriStack progress at Devsar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: To review the progress of digitization of land records and AgriStack data entry, the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Thursday visited Tehsil Office Devsar and inspected the functioning of Patwar Khana Sopat Tang-

sports infrastructure for the local youth.

Interacting with the revenue officers and field functionaries, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that digitization of land records and creation of a reliable AgriStack database are key initiatives aimed at enhancing transparency,



pura, Patwar Khana Bon Devsar and Patwar Khana Qasba Devsar.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of the ongoing digitization of revenue records and the progress achieved under the AgriStack initiative. He inspected the quality of digital records, assessed the pace of data entry, and took stock of the measures being adopted to ensure accuracy and timely completion of the assigned tasks.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of the construction of the sports stadium at Sopat, emphasizing the importance of timely completion to provide better

improving governance and ensuring efficient delivery of farmer-centric services. He directed the concerned officers to maintain the highest standards of accuracy while updating records and to complete all pending work within the prescribed timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for close monitoring of daily progress and instructed the officers to address technical and operational issues promptly so that the digitization process is completed in a seamless manner. He also underscored the importance of coordinated efforts among all revenue officials to achieve the objectives of the Digital Agriculture Mission.

DC Bandipora reviews development works at S.K. Sports Stadium



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Thursday visited S.K. Sports Stadium, Bandipora, to inspect the stadium and review the progress of ongoing developmental works aimed at improving sports infrastructure in the district.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various ongoing works and reviewed their physical progress with the concerned officers, engineers, contractors and representatives of sports associations.

Reviewing the development of the playfield, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned executing agency to complete the filling and levelling work within one month to make the ground ready for sporting activities at the earliest.

Inspecting the indoor sports hall, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned engineers to complete the remaining work within two weeks and ensure that the facility is made operational without any further delay.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of the construction of the pavilion and directed the executing

agency to expedite the pace of work and complete the project at the earliest.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer, R&B Bandipora to hold detailed discussions with the Engineering Wing of the J&K Sports Council and representatives of sports associations to ensure effective coordination and timely resolution of project-related issues.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the contractors executing the works and urged them to mobilise adequate resources and complete all ongoing works within the shortest possible time while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all concerned departments and executing agencies to work in close coordination and complete the projects within the prescribed timelines so that the facilities are made available to the sportspersons at the earliest.

Among others, the visit was attended by Executive Engineer R&B Bandipora, Executive Engineer PDD Bandipora, AE and JE J&K Sports Council along with the concerned contractors, Tehsildar Bandipora, and representatives of sports associations.

EAM Jaishankar arrives in Oman on fourth leg of six-nation visit

IANS

MUSCAT: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar arrived in Oman on Thursday after concluding his latest visit to Kuwait.

"Glad to arrive in Oman today. Appreciate the warm reception by Sheikh Ahmed Al Maskari, Director General of Oman's Foreign Ministry," EAM Jaishankar wrote on social media platform X.

On Wednesday, the EAM called on Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, thanking him for supporting the Indian community's welfare and well-being while welcoming his vision for stronger and mutually beneficial India-Kuwait cooperation.

EAM Jaishankar also held a meeting with his Kuwaiti coun-

terpart, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

"A pleasure to meet Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Discussed the impact of Gulf conflict on the region and beyond. Conveyed appreciation for ensuring the well-being of Indian community. We jointly assessed our cooperation focusing on energy, trade, investments, defence, technology, food security and health domains. Confident that our Strategic Partnership will continue to strengthen in times to come," the EAM posted on X after the meeting.

Issues of defence industry cooperation and maritime security dominated EAM Jaishankar's meeting with Kuwait's Defence Minister Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the Registration Certificate (RC) of my vehicle CBA GALANZA, registration no JK01AX-3658 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 Zulfikar Ali Mir
R/o Khushhal Sar, Zadibal, Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION BARAMULLA

FRESH NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS
Fresh E-NIT No. 09/EE/PMGSY/Bla/e-Tendering of 2026-27, Dated:- 09-07-2026.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla invites Fresh e-tender on Percentage Basis for the following works from the eligible & approved contractors of J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways MES and other States/Central Government.

S. No	Name of Work with Package No.	Advt. Cost Incl GST (Rs in Lacs.)	Cost of document Rs in Rupees.	Earnest Money Bid Security Rs in Lacs.	Time for completion (Days)	Tender Call	Class of Contractor
1.	Permanent Restoration of road from L026- Authora to GR Thindam Bala Km 3rd of T04, Package No. JK03-226	7.00	300	14,000.00	30 Days	2nd	" C & D " Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
2.	Permanent Restoration of road from T04 Km 7th to Behrampora, Package No. JK03-97	7.50	300	15,000.00	30 Days	2nd	" C & D " Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
3.	Permanent Restoration of road from MRL01-Kulhama to Ougmuna, Package No. JK03-3011	23.00	800	46,000.00	30 Days	2nd	" B & C " Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
4.	Permanent Restoration of road from MRL13 Pattan to Seeru Block Boundary, Package No. JK03-3016	10.00	600	20,000.00	30 Days	2nd	" C & D " Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
5.	Permanent Restoration of road from MRL03-L010 Humdub to Ladu Ladura, Package No. JK03-3025	20.00	800	40,000.00	30 Days	2nd	" B & C " Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
6.	Permanent Restoration of road from L035 Fruit Mandi To Block Boundary, Package No. JK03-2012	10.00	600	20000.00	30 Days	2nd	" C & D " Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
7.	Permanent Restoration of road from T01 Km 3rd to Block Boundary, Package No. JK03-2007	6.00	300	12000.00	30 Days	2nd	" C & D " Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments

Position of A. A :- Accorded
Position of T. S :- Accorded
Major Head of Account :- M.H-5054, Sub Head: 2181 (PMGSY Roads)

The important dates and time are as under :-

1.	Date of issue of tender notice	09-07-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09-07-2026 at 04.30 PM
3.	Bid submission start date	09-07-2026 at 04.30 PM
4.	Bid submission end date	15-07-2026 upto 04.30 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16-07-2026 at 01.00 PM

1. Cost of Bid Form (non-refundable) should be submitted online.
All other terms and conditions shall be same as published in the Original NIT

DIPK-3060-26
DT: 09/07/2026

FIFA WORLD CUP

17 players face suspension risk ahead of quarterfinals



IAN S

NEW YORK: In all, seventeen players head into the 2026 FIFA World Cup quarterfinals one yellow card away from suspension, with several title contenders at risk of losing key players for the semifinals.

Yellow cards accumulated during the group stage were wiped before the knockout rounds, but any players who receive two bookings between the round of 32 and the quarterfinals will be suspended for the semifinals if their teams advance.

England and Morocco are the teams facing the greatest disciplinary concerns.

Morocco have four players at risk ahead of their quarterfinal against France, with Issa Diop, Achraf Hakimi, Redouane Halhal, and Bilal El Khan-

nouss all one booking away from suspension.

France also have two key players walking a disciplinary tightrope, with forward Michael Olise and midfielder Manu Kone both at risk of missing a potential semifinal.

England arguably have the most to lose. Midfielder Jude Bellingham, defender Marc Guehi, holding midfielder Declan Rice, and left back Nico O'Reilly are all one yellow card away from a suspension.

Midfielder Jordan Henderson also entered the knockout stage carrying a booking, but he has already been ruled out through injury after breaking his wrist. Norway winger Antonio Nusa is also one caution away from a suspension.

Switzerland could be without three influential players if bookings

go against it, with captain Granit Xhaka, Denis Zakaria, and Miro Muheim all at risk.

In Friday's quarterfinal between Spain and Belgium, Spain forward Ferran Torres, who impressed off the bench in the round-of-16 victory over Portugal, and Belgium defender Brandon Mechele are both one booking from a ban.

Argentina has only one player at risk, with defender Gonzalo Montiel the lone member of Lionel Scaloni's squad facing suspension.

Disciplinary records have varied widely among the remaining teams. Argentina has received one yellow card for every 19.7 fouls committed during the tournament, compared with one booking for every 7.7 fouls committed by England.

FIFA WC: Spain's unbreached defense faces Belgium test in quarterfinal

IAN S

NEW YORK: Spain and Belgium meet in an all-European World Cup quarterfinal on Saturday, with Belgium facing the daunting task of becoming the first team to score against Spain in the tournament.

Spain has yet to concede a goal at the World Cup, with goalkeeper Unai Simon extending his shut-out streak in World Cup finals to 609 minutes, a run dating back to the group stage of the 2022 tournament in Qatar.



Luis de la Fuente is expected to retain his preferred back four of Marc Cucurella, Aymeric Laporte, Pau Cubarsi, and Pedro Porro, although Marcos Llorente is available as an alternative at right back if the coach opts to freshen his lineup.

Spain had only a short turnaround after Tuesday's hard-fought 1-0 victory over Portugal in the round of 16, when fatigue appeared to affect several key players. Midfielder Pedri and winger Lamine Yamal were below their usual standards, but De la Fuente is unlikely to leave either out of his starting lineup, reports Xinhua.

He does, however, have options in midfield, with Fabian Ruiz and Mikel Merino, who scored the winner against Portugal, both pushing for starting roles.

Spain has also received a boost on the injury front. Wingers Nico Williams, Jeremy Pino, and Victor Munoz are all available after recovering from minor fitness issues, although Munoz has yet to feature in the tournament.

Belgium enters the match with even less recovery time, but full of confidence after an emphatic 4-1 victory over the United States in the round of 16.

The Red Devils capitalised on a series of defensive mistakes by the Americans, with Charles De Ketelaere scoring twice in

a clinical attacking display. Belgium has suffered a significant setback, however, with midfielder Amadou Onana ruled out after sustaining a cruciate ligament injury that will require surgery. Hans Vanaken is expected to replace him in midfield.

Coach Rudi Garcia was able to rest Kevin De Bruyne against the United States, while winger Jeremy Doku and striker Romelu Lukaku each played only the final 25 minutes.

The trio is expected to return to the starting lineup, with Belgium needing its biggest attacking performance of the tournament to end Spain's remarkable defensive run and book a place in the semifinals.

Indian mixed 4x400m relay team wins gold in Asian U23 Athletics

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Indian quartet of Astik Pradhan, Sandramol Sabu, Setu Mishra, and Shrivani Sachin Sangle won a gold medal in the mixed 4x400m relay on the opening day of the inaugural Asian U23 Athletics Championships 2026 in the Chinese city of Ordos on Thursday.

The country had a good opening day with Indian athletes winning medals in men's 5,000m, men's discus throw, and women's 3,000m steeplechase.

The highlight for India

on Day One was the gold medal in the mixed 4x400m relay as the quartet clocked the winning time of 3:18.64 seconds, finishing ahead of China (3:18.74) and the Philippines (3:25.28 seconds), who finished second and third respectively.

Indian distance runners Shivaji Parashuram and Vinod Singh also gave a good account of themselves by winning silver and bronze in the men's 5,000m. Parashuram clocked 14:08.19 seconds while Singh's bronze-winning time was 14:23.57 seconds. Japan's Rui Suzuki was the winner of

the men's 5,000m. His time was 14:01.24. Prachi Ankush Devkar finished third in the women's 3,000m steeplechase. She clocked 10:32.69 seconds.

It was 1-2 for China in the women's 3,000m steeplechase. Yang Yiting won gold with a time of 10:14.68 seconds, and Liu Yuxin settled for silver (10:25.51 seconds).

In the men's discus throw, India's Bhartpreet Singh won a bronze medal with a throw of 52.91m. China's Li Zhixin was the winner with a throw of 60.79m. Compatriot Jiang Zehao won silver with a throw of 59.60m.

4th T20I: Shreyas Iyer's fighting 80 takes India to 158/7 against disciplined England

IAN S

BRISTOL: Skipper Shreyas Iyer played a lone hand with a counter-attacking 80 off 49 balls, but a disciplined England bowling performance restricted a stuttering Indian batting lineup to a below-par 158/7 in their must-win fourth T20I at the County Ground in Bristol on Thursday.

Electing to bat first, India were rocked again by Jofra Archer and Josh Tongue, who started well again with the ball and used short balls to great effect. After that, the rest of the bowlers took over to keep India to two runs below 160, including not conceding boundaries in the last two overs.

With India's batters again falling to pull shots and not staying at the crease for long, Iyer stood up to lead the batting charge through his unbeaten knock, laced with four boundaries and five sixes.

The sun-baked conditions at Bristol demanded precision with shot selection due to short straight boundaries and longer square boundaries. But India's strategy to explode in the powerplay backfired against the extra bounce extracted by the England pacers. Openers Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (15) and Abhishek Sharma (16) briefly took 15 runs from Josh Tongue's opening over, but the recovery was short-lived.



Jofra Archer (2-20) provided the initial breakthrough by dismissing young Sooryavanshi, who holed out to mid-on on a pull. Tongue (2-36) soon joined the party, utilising a short-ball plan to remove Ishan Kishan (4) via a top-edge. When spinner Adil Rashid claimed Abhishek caught and bowled in his very first over, India's left-handed

top-order was back in the dugout with the scorecard reading a modest 48/3 in 6.4 overs.

Captain Shreyas then anchored the innings alongside Shivam Dube (22). The duo stitched a 53-run partnership for the fourth wicket, pulling India past the 100-mark. However, England's bowlers maintained a tight leash on a spongy surface,

keeping Dube's strike rate under check before Will Jacks broke the stand by having him caught at long-on.

The introduction of Tilak Varma (11) didn't bring any momentum as he fell to Tongue's change of pace. Left with little support, Shreyas shifted gears spectacularly in the 18th over, dismantling Rashid for two massive sixes and a boundary in a 20-run over to get his fifty off 33 balls.

Just when India looked poised for a late flourish, Sam Curran delivered a brilliant penultimate over, conceding a mere four runs. Archer then closed out the final over clinically, removing Washington Sundar (5) before executing a clever piece of football skill on his follow-through to run out Axar Patel (1), as England now need to chase down 159 for a series victory.

Brief scores: India 158/7 in 20 overs (Shreyas Iyer 80 not out, Shivam Dube 22; Jofra Archer 2-20, Josh Tongue 2-36) against England

Chess: Humpy, Divya, Vaishali among top players in fray at 2026 Cairns Cup

IAN S

SAINT LOUIS (USA): Former World Rapid Champion Koneru Humpy, former women's junior World Champion Divya Deshmukh, and 2026 FIDE Women's World Championship Challenger Vaishali Rameshbabu will be among a strong field for the 2026 Cairns Cup chess championship to be held in Saint Louis in August.

One of the world's strongest women's super-tournaments returns to Saint Louis this summer as the 2026 Cairns Cup welcomes 10 of the world's top women chess players to compete for a \$250,000 prize fund—one of the largest in women's chess.



The tournament will take place from August 8 to 21 at the recently expanded Saint Louis Chess Club (STLCC), where it will run alongside the prestigious Sinquefeld Cup, creating one of the world's premier showcases of elite chess.

Like the Sinquefeld Cup, the Cairns Cup features a ten-player, nine-round classical round-robin format, widely regarded as one of the most demanding tests in professional chess. The sixth edition of the tournament continues Saint Louis' tradition of hosting the world's elite players while advancing opportunities for women in the game, the organisers informed in a release on Thursday.

Named in honour of STLCC co-founder Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefeld, the Cairns Cup reflects the STLCC's commitment to

growing women's chess and inspiring the next generation of champions. Furthering that mission, Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefeld established the Cairns Chess Queens Award in 2024, a first-of-its-kind initiative offering a \$100,000 award to any eligible U.S. woman who earns the Grandmaster (GM) title during the program's five-year period ending July 4, 2029.

"It is an honour to once again welcome some of the world's top women players to Saint Louis," said Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefeld, co-founder of the STLCC. "Through events like the Cairns Cup, we aim to create greater opportunities for women in chess and inspire the next generation to compete, achieve, and lead in this timeless game."

The 2026 Cairns Cup will feature a star-studded field that includes three former Women's World Champions, reigning Cairns Cup Champion, reigning International Master (IM) Carissa Yip, 2026 FIDE Women's World Champion Challenger GM Vaishali Rameshbabu, former Women's World Chess Champion and 2026 World Chess Hall of Fame inductee Alexandra Kosteniuk, and three-time Women's World Blitz Champion and Guinness World Record holder for youngest Women's World Blitz Champion, GM Bibisara Assaubayeva.

The complete field includes: IM Carissa Yip (USA), GM Humpy Koneru (IND), GM Tan Zhongyi (CHN), GM Anna Muzychuk (UKR), GM Bibisara Assaubayeva (KAZ), GM Divya Deshmukh (IND), GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (SUI), IM Stavroula Tsolakidou (GRE), GM Vaishali Rameshbabu (IND), IM Alice Lee (USA).

Movies

TIMING

THURSDAY
9TH JULY

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

ALPHA
(U/A 16+)
Hindi Atmos
10:45 AM
01:35 PM
04:25 PM
07:15 PM

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

COCKTAIL 2
(HINDI)
A
12:00 PM

MINIONS AND MONSTERS
(U/A 7+)
English with English Subtitles
02:20 PM

BABY DO DIE DO
(HINDI)
A
04:30 PM

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