

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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Visited the Baltal Base Camp to review the arrangements for the pilgrims of Baba Amarnath. I inspected every facility along with the senior officials and made it clear to all departments that the comfort of Shri Amarnath's devotees must remain the highest priority.

NIA Chargesheets Six Hurriyat Leaders In 1996 Srinagar Violence Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a chargesheet against six senior Hurriyat Conference leaders, including Shabir Ahmad Shah, in connection with a 1996 case involving alleged mob violence, indiscriminate firing on police personnel and anti-India activities during a funeral procession in Srinagar.

The chargesheet, filed before the NIA Special Court in Jammu, names Shabir Ahmad Shah, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Abdul Ganie Lone, Mohd Yaqoob Wakeel alias Mohd Yaqoob Wakil, Javid Ahmad Mir and Shakeel Ahmad Bakshi as accused.

According to the NIA, all six have been charged under relevant provisions of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), 1989, for criminal conspiracy, attempt to murder, rioting and assault on public servants, along with Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

The agency said proceed-

ings against Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Abdul Ganie Lone and Mohd Yaqoob Wakeel stand abated following their deaths. However, it maintained that the chargesheet establishes their alleged roles in the criminal conspiracy and the unlawful assembly, supported by evidence gathered during the investigation.

According to the NIA, the incident occurred on July 17, 1996, during the funeral procession of slain militant Hilal Ahmad Beigh at Naaz Crossing in Srinagar.

The agency alleged that the six Hurriyat leaders jointly led the procession and instigated large-scale violence against police personnel. It claimed that armed militants had mingled with the funeral procession and opened indiscriminate fire on police, injuring several personnel, while government vehicles were extensively damaged in heavy stone-pelting.

The NIA further alleged that the accused raised anti-India, pro-Pakistan and secessionist



Amarnath Yatra Transforms Devotees' Spirits, Uplifts J&K's Economy: LG Sinha

Reviews arrangements for pilgrims at Baltal Base Camp

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday visited the Baltal base camp to review arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, asserting that the annual pilgrimage is "not only transforming the spiritual lives of devotees but also uplifting the lives of the people of Jammu Kashmir".

The Lieutenant Governor inspected Base Camp Hospital, on-spot registration counters, tents and other facilities, along with the senior officials and directed all line departments to ensure seamless inter-departmental synergy for a hassle-free and memorable pilgrimage experience.

"The comfort of Shri Amarnathji's devotees must remain the highest priority. From registration to accommodation, from smooth movement to darshan, every step of the journey should be seamless and free of



any obstacles. The Shrine Board and every department involved are united in their dedication to making this spiritual journey a safe, seamless, and deeply memorable experience for all," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is not only transforming the spiritual lives of devotees but also uplifting the lives of the people of Jammu Kashmir. He interacted with service providers, sanitation workers, doctors, and the volunteers who tirelessly run the langars.

"Their spirit of selfless service is truly inspiring. This year's larger crowds are also bringing new opportunities and positive economic change for local traders and service providers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also stated that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a living symbol of aspirational Jammu Kashmir. "It is woven into the very soul of this land, and preserving its sanctity and cleanliness is our collective duty," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the authorities to

take strict legal action against anyone involved in overcharging pilgrims or executing fraudulent registrations. Whether it is a service provider, a government employee, or an individual associated with any institution, make no exceptions. Register a case immediately, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized a comprehensive audit of all sanitation arrangements. He ordered officials to ensure an uninterrupted, 24/7 water supply.

The concerned officers also briefed the Lieutenant

- Comfort of Shri Amarnathji's devotees must remain the highest priority
- From registration to accommodation, from smooth movement to darshan, every step of the journey should be seamless
- Spirit of selfless service of sanitation workers, service providers, doctors and langar sevadarstruly inspiring
- This year's larger crowds are also bringing new opportunities and positive economic change for local traders
- Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a living symbol of aspirational Jammu Kashmir.

MeT Forecasts Widespread Rain Across J&K From Today



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday forecast fresh spells of rain and thunderstorms across Jammu and Kashmir from July 11 and 12. Isolated places in the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal range of Jammu division may receive heavy rain or brief intense showers, particularly during afternoon and early morning hours.

The weather office, warned that heavy rainfall could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides at a few vulnerable locations in these regions.

People have been advised to stay away from nullahs, streams and landslide-prone areas during the period of intense

J&K Police Chief Calls For Speeding Up Anti-Terror Operations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP) Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhakar Friday chaired a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir with senior officers from the Army, CAPFs, intelligence agencies, and the Jammu & Kashmir Police.

The meeting was attended by GOC 15 Corps, BB Cantt Srinagar; Spl. DG Coordination J&K; Spl. DG CRPF J&K; ADGP CID J&K; AX SIB J&K/L; IGSP of Kashmir Zone, Security J&K, Railways J&K, Traffic J&K & CID J&K, IGs of BSF Ftr Hqrs Kashmir, CRPF KOS, NHW ITBP, and

CRPF Srinagar; Commissioner SB; Addl. Commissioner SB Srinagar; GOC CIP (K) Shariefabad Srinagar; GOC CIP (V) Awantipora; GOC 19 Inf Div Baramulla; GOC 28 Inf Div Kupwara; all Range DIGs of Kashmir Zone; DIGs of SSB Srinagar, CRPF (South) Srinagar, CRPF (North) Srinagar, and ITBP Srinagar; Dy. GOC 31 Sub Area, BB Cantt Srinagar; SSP PCR Kashmir; all District SSPs of Kashmir Zone; Col GS (IS) 15 Corps; DPT J&K; SP Cargo Srinagar; and other senior officers.

During the meeting, senior officers presented detailed assessments of the security measures currently in place and shared

Closed Tourist Destinations Likely To Reopen After Amarnath Yatra: CM

Says Kashmir Marathon Will Promote Sports Tourism, Project J&K As Safe Destination

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday exuded hope that the tourist destinations closed following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack would reopen after the Amarnath Yatra ends.

Talking to reporters after launching the official merchandise for the Kashmir Marathon 2026, Omar, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured him during a security review meeting in Jammu that the remaining tourist destinations would be reopened during the summer season.

"You will recall that during the Assembly session in Jammu, the Home Minister chaired a meeting on security and development where he assured that the remaining tourist destina-



tions, including Aharbal, Sinton Top, parts of Doodhpathri and some areas of Gulmarg, would be reopened. I hope that once the Amarnath Yatra concludes and the forces deployed for the pilgrimage are redeployed, these places will be opened," he said.

The Chief Minister said the

government is working to diversify tourism by promoting different segments instead of relying on a single model.

"A marathon is an event in itself. Organising a marathon does not automatically mean destination weddings or conferences will follow. Every form of tourism has its own identity and potential," he said.

He said the government wants to build unique tourism identities for different destinations, with Gulmarg known for skiing and the Gondola, Pahalgam for white-water rafting and angling, and Sonamarg and Doodhpathri for their distinct attractions.

CM Omar said the government intends to develop the Kashmir Marathon and Jammu Half Marathon into nationally recognised sporting events.

Drawing a

CS Reviews Implementation Of Flagship Centrally Sponsored Schemes In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a marathon meeting of the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, took first hand appraisal of the implementation and progress of key Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and flagship infrastructure projects being executed across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the comprehensive review, Administrative Secretaries of the concerned departments made detailed presentations on the physical and financial progress achieved under their respective schemes, besides outlining the targets, implementation challenges and future action plans.

The Chief Secretary undertook a scheme-wise assessment covering sectors including education, health, power, digital connectivity,



rural and urban development, housing, social welfare, finance, tourism, skill development, water supply, transport, fisheries and infrastructure development. He stressed that effective implementation of flagship schemes remains central to improving public service delivery and ensuring inclusive socio-economic development across the

The Silent 'Digital Overdose' In Kashmir Classrooms

Classes 7-10Th Struggle To Concentrate For Even Short Periods

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: A study conducted in four districts of Kashmir region exposes the academic and cognitive toll of excessive social media use among adolescents of classes 7th to 10th.

The study has quantitatively linked excessive social media usage to reduced attention spans, sleep disturbances, and declining academic interest among adolescents.

The findings of the study serve as a critical warning for the educators and parents that demand immediate action.

"In recent years, the increasing availability of smartphones and internet access has led to a significant rise in social media engagement among adolescents, raising concerns about its impact



on learning behaviours and overall development," reads the study.

The study was conducted among four hundred students from selected schools in the districts of Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, and Srinagar.

"The findings reveal that a majority of students spend a considerable amount of time

on social media platforms each day. Excessive screen time was found to be associated with reduced attention span, increased distraction during study sessions, sleep disturbances, emotional stress, and lower participation in physical activities," reads the study.

The study also identified growing concerns regarding

cyber risks, including cyberbullying, privacy threats, phishing attempts, and inadequate awareness of online safety practices among students.

It recommends the promotion of responsible digital behaviours, cyber-safety awareness programs, healthy screen-time management, and active guidance from parents and educational institutions to help students maintain a balanced relationship with technology.

"Whether it is WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, or any other medium has become an integral part of young people's daily lives. While these platforms offer communication, entertainment, and educational opportunities, growing evidence suggests that excessive use can negatively affect students,"

BJP Will Not Participate In NC's Statehood Protest: Sunil Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Friday dubbed the ruling National Conference's proposed protest at Jantar Mantar over the statehood issue as an "eye-wash", saying the government was trying to "hide its failures" through such "theatrics".

The National Conference (NC) has written to 52 leaders of political and religious outfits across the country, inviting them to join the party's protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on July 20 to press the Centre for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

The party has also invited the BJP's J-K president Sat Sharma.

However, addressing a press conference here, the LoP said the BJP will not participate in the protest.

"They have come

Amarnath Yatra Crosses 2 Lakh Mark In 8 Days



UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra crossed the two lakh pilgrim mark on Friday, with 29,507 devotees paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine, taking the total number of pilgrims to 2,01,008 since the pilgrimage commenced on July 3.

According to official figures available, Friday's pilgrims included 18,837 men, 9,754 women, 351 children, 191 sadhus, 22 sadhvis, 12 transgender pilgrims and 340 security personnel.

Meanwhile, 8,796 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri

Niwās in Jammu in the ninth batch during the early hours of Friday under tight security arrangements. Of them, 3,450 pilgrims were headed via the Baltal route, while 5,346 proceeded through the Pahalgam route.

The batch comprised 6,426 male pilgrims, 2,042 female pilgrims, 228 sadhus, 56 sadhvis, 10 children, 33 foreign male pilgrims and one transgender pilgrim. A total of 354 vehicles, including 175 buses, 70 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 106 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and three two-wheelers, were deployed for the convoy—(KNO)

TOLIC Srinagar reviews Official Language Implementation in Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The first meeting of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC), Srinagar, for the year 2026 was held Friday at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, under the chairmanship of Shri Sagar Hanuman Singh, Chief Postmaster General, J&K Circle and Chairman, TOLIC Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Heads of Offices, representatives and Nodal Officers/Hindi Officers of Central Government departments, Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas functioning in Srinagar and other districts of Kashmir Valley, besides



officers from the CRPF, ITBP and other Central Armed Police Forces.

The Chairman reviewed compliance with the provisions of Section 3(3) of the Official Language Act and called upon member offices to upgrade bilingual websites, expand the use of Unicode tools and the Bhashini AI-powered language translation plat-

form, and organise joint Rajbhasha workshops to strengthen the implementation of the Official Language Policy.

Shri Sagar Hanuman Singh said that Central Government offices should serve as role models in promoting the Official Language by using simple, practical and easily understandable Hindi in official

communication. He also urged employees of Central Government offices to undergo Hindi training courses such as Prabodh, Pragma and Praveen through online and correspondence modes to acquire working knowledge of the Official Language. Representatives of various Central Government offices also shared their suggestions for promoting the use of Hindi in official work.

The meeting was attended by Shri B.S. Rawat, Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar, Shri Itham Ul Islam, Information Service Officer, PIB Srinagar, and Shri Prateek, Director Postal Services, who delivered the welcome address and proposed the vote of thanks.

Secretary (T) reviews progress of Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary (Technical), Agriculture Production Department, G. A. Sofi, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir to assess the progress of various developmental schemes and strengthen administrative efficiency across the department.

The meeting was attended by Director Animal Husbandry Department, Kashmir, Additional Secretary, Deputy Director Central, Deputy Director Poultry, LFRCO, Chief Animal Husbandry Officers, Extension Officer (E&PW), Techni-

cal Officers, Nodal Officer (SASC), Assistant Director Planning and Section Officers (B,E,S).

During the meeting, Deputy Director Central, Dr. Reyaz Nazir Reshi, presented a detailed overview of the physical and financial progress achieved under various schemes and programmes. The review covered key initiatives, including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme, establishment of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries, Mobile Veterinary Units (LHDCP/ESVHD/MVUs), Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), CAPEX works, and NABARD-funded projects.

The Secretary held detailed deliberations on each agenda item and directed the concerned officers to expedite expenditure and ensure timely completion of all approved works and projects.

Emphasising improved governance and account-

DDC Kulgam chairs review meeting on implementation of GOBAR-DHAN Scheme



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Aalam, Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the implementation of the GOBAR-DHAN Scheme and Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the need for a coordinated and time-bound approach for the effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, which are being rolled out from this year. He directed all concerned departments to immediately initiate the groundwork, strengthen institutional mechanisms, ensure inter-departmental convergence and prepare comprehensive action plans for successful implementation across the district.

The DDC stressed that scientific solid waste management, source segregation, safe disposal, and effective utilization of

organic waste through the GOBAR-DHAN initiative are essential for achieving sustainable sanitation and environmental protection. He instructed all stakeholders to launch implementation measures at the grassroots level and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed framework and timelines.

Block Development Officers were directed to take the lead in implementing the mission in their respective jurisdictions, while ensuring active participation and close coordination with all line departments to achieve the objectives of a clean and sustainable Kulgam.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, District Programme Officer ICDS, Deputy CEO JAKEDA, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, all Block Development Officers and District Pollution Officer.

DC, DIG visit GMC Udhampur, review medical care of injured Amarnath Yatra pilgrims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa and Deputy Inspector General of Police Udhampur-Reasi Range Shiv Kumar today visited Government Medical College Udhampur to review the medical care being provided to the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims injured in a road accident near Toldi Nallah on the National Highway in Udhampur district.

Deputy Commissioner and DIG took stock of the treatment and healthcare facilities being extended to the injured pilgrims.

A Maruti car carrying Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims had skidded off



the road near Toldi Nallah resulting in injuries to its occupants.

During the visit, the officers interacted with the injured pilgrims, enquired

about their well-being and reviewed the medical treatment being provided by the hospital administration. The DC directed the hospital authorities to

ensure the best possible treatment, round-the-clock medical attention and all necessary facilities for the speedy recovery of the injured pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the prompt response of the security forces and medical staff in providing timely assistance to the injured. He instructed the hospital administration to closely monitor the condition of each patient and extend every possible support to ensure their early recovery and well-being.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, doctors and other concerned officers were present during the visit.

Nearly 91% enrolled students take up NMMSS Examination: JKBOSE

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A total of 6000 candidates appeared in National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship (NMMSS) 2025-26 examination out of enrolled 6644 candidates, registering an overall attendance of 90.30%.

The examination was successfully conducted by the J&K BOSE under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Government of India aimed at identifying and supporting meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections studying in Government and Government-aided schools.

The examination was conducted smoothly under the overall supervision, guidance and support of Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Chairman-cum-Secretary, JKBOSE, with Dr. Parveen Singh, Director Academics/Liaison Officer, NMMSS, effectively coordinating the conduct of the examination in associa-

tion with the officers and officials of the Academics Division.

JKBOSE appreciated the wholehearted cooperation extended by the Chief Education Officers, who functioned as District Nodal Officer, Centre Superintendents, Deputy Centre Superintendents, Invigilators and inspection teams, in conducting transparent and orderly examination throughout the union territory.

JKBOSE also expressed gratitude to all stakeholders who contributed to the successful conduct of the examination and whose facilitation has been handy in providing an enabling environment to the examinee students.

The Board reiterates its commitment to ensuring transparency, fairness and excellence in the implementation of the National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme and extends its best wishes to all the candidates who appeared in the examination.

Amarnath Yatra DC B'pora conducts Late-Night inspection of arrangements at Shadipora Transit Camp



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Thursday conducted a late-night inspection of the Shadipora Transit Camp to review the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 (SANJY) and took firsthand feedback from the pilgrims regarding the facilities being provided.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive inspection of the facilities established at the transit camp, including accommodation, sanitation, drinking water supply, healthcare services, electricity, traffic man-

agement, security arrangements and other essential amenities to ensure the convenience, safety and well-being of the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to maintain close coordination, ensure prompt response to any requirement and provide uninterrupted essential services throughout the Yatra period to facilitate a safe, smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage.

On the occasion, the pilgrims appreciated the facilities being provided and expressed satisfaction over the services extended by the District Administration and all agencies associated with the conduct of the Yatra.

ability, the Secretary instructed officers to maintain proper and updated official records at all levels, ensure punctuality, and undertake regular field visits by Block Veterinary Officers (BVOs), Livestock Development Officers (LDOs), and Chief Animal Husbandry Officers (CAHOs) to monitor departmental functioning and staff attendance in field offices.

During the meeting, Deputy Director Central, Dr. Reyaz Nazir Reshi, presented a detailed overview of the physical and financial progress achieved under various schemes and programmes. The review covered key initiatives, including the Holistic Agriculture Development

Mega Drug De-addiction awareness programme held at GDC Zainapora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a significant step towards combating the menace of drug abuse and promoting a healthier society, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with the Sub-Divisional Administration Zainapora, Friday organised a comprehensive Drug De-addiction awareness programme at Government SMM Degree College, Zainapora, under the ongoing 100-Day anti-drug campaign being implemented across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad, who attended the programme as the Chief Guest, reaffirmed the administration's unwavering commitment towards eradicating drug abuse and narcotics from society.

Addressing a large gathering of students, faculty members, healthcare professionals and government officials, he stated that the anti-drug campaign has been progressing vigorously across Sub-Division Zainapora over the past two-and-a-half months and has yielded encouraging results.



Highlighting the achievements registered during the campaign, SDM informed that illegal poppy cultivation has been reduced to zero across Sub-Division Zainapora, while nearly 28 kilometres of roadside wild cannabis growth has been identified and destroyed through sustained field operations and coordinated enforcement measures. He emphasized that the campaign against narcotic cultivation and substance abuse would continue with renewed vigour under the guidance and support of Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

The SDM further stated that individuals affected by substance abuse are being actively facilitated for treatment, counselling and rehabilitation to enable their reintegration into society as healthy, productive and responsible citizens. Calling upon the youth to become ambassadors of change, he urged them to remain vigi-

lant, stay away from drugs and actively support the administration's efforts to build a healthy, progressive and drug-free society.

Speaking on the occasion, G.A. Qureshi, Honorary Treasurer, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K, said that the programme had been organised as part of the Union Territory-wide anti-drug campaign being carried out under the directions of the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir. He highlighted the humanitarian and voluntary role of the Indian Red Cross Society in promoting public awareness, social responsibility and community well-being. He appealed to the younger generation to adopt a disciplined and healthy lifestyle and contribute towards the creation of a drug-free society.

Earlier, Prof. Shaista Masrat, Principal, Government SMM Degree College Zainapora, underscored the pivotal role of educational institutions in shaping

responsible citizens through continuous awareness and preventive interventions. She appreciated the collective efforts of the administration, healthcare professionals, civil society organisations and educational institutions in addressing the growing challenge of drug abuse and encouraged students to actively participate in awareness and prevention initiatives.

The programme also featured expert sessions by medical professionals from Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag and Community Health Centre (CHC) Zainapora. Dr. Afaq Hyder and Dr. Suhail Malik delivered detailed presentations on the health, social and psychological consequences of substance abuse, preventive measures, early identification of addiction and the importance of timely intervention, treatment and rehabilitation.

An interactive session was held during which students actively engaged with the experts and raised several questions relating to substance abuse, mental health and rehabilitation. The queries were comprehensively addressed by the medical professionals.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT NO. (06) OF 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K U.T, e-Tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. for the following works.

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost in Lakhs	Cost of Tender Doc. in Rs.	Earnest Money (Rs)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Head of Account
1	Construction of foundation block for the Additional drought pump of LIS Goripora	18.00	1500	36000	25 days	BEE/CEE	PMKKKY
2	Restoration/renovation of Kulwan Kul Chewa Khurd	2.90	300	5800	12 days	DEE	CDF

Position of Funds: Budgetary Provision.
Position of AAA: Accorded vide Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama's order No. 89 DDCP of 2026 dated: 03-07-2026 endorsed vide No. DDCP/PMKKKY/2026-27/2536-38 Dt. 03-07-2026 and order No. 91 DDCP of 2026 dated: 04-07-2026 endorsed vide No. DDCP/CDS/Raj/2026/2565-68 dt. 04-07-2026.

Position of T/S: TS/PMKKKY/06 of 07/2026 Dt. 09-07-2026 and TS/CDF/2026-27/01 of 07/2026 dt. 09-07-2026.

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	09-07-2026 (06:00 pm)
02	Date of start of downloading	09-07-2026 (06:00 pm)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	09-07-2026 (06:00 pm)
04	Bid submission end date	22-07-2026 (06:00 pm)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)	23-07-2026 (10:00 am)

Terms and Conditions: -

- Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt/e-challan under (MH: 0702-PWD Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (tender inviting authority), and Earnest Money/Bid Security in shape of CDR/ FDR from any schedule or nationalized bank pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid.
- Bidders are advised to use the (My Documents) area in their user on www.jktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below:
 - GST, Adhaar Card, 16-Digit Bank Account No. GST linked and PAN No.
 - Registration card with latest renewal.
 - Card verification letter.
 - Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.
 - BOQ.
 - Acknowledgment/ certificate w.r.t. filing of GST returns of previous quarter.
 - Acknowledgment/ certificate w.r.t. filing of Income Tax returns of Previous financial year.
 - The successful bidder is bound to register himself with Assistant Labour Commissioner, Pulwama for CESS Registration after issuance of allotment.
 - Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document fee (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) and Earnest Money
- Deposit (2% of the Advertised cost) to be deposited into Bank Account No.0367010200000608 IFSC code: JAKA0ANKKEE, Account Name: Chief Engineer Kashmir Irrigation and Flood Control, J&K Bank Ltd., Tankipora Branch mentioning therein NIT No, Sr. No of work and Adv. Cost of work) & date on it must not be prior to date of issuance of this tender Notice. Besides bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary Documents including cash deposit pay in slips for both tender document fee as well as earnest money. No online transfer screenshot shall be accepted.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 Days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-Tendering process:
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on web site www.jktenders.gov.in in acquit bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vendor.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para- 3.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

No.: PID/CS/ 1395-1405
Dated: 09/07/2026

Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Pulwama
DIPK-3110-26
DT: 10/07/2026

Udhampur road accident

LG directs officials to ensure best possible treatment to injured pilgrims



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has taken immediate cognizance of the road accident near Toldi Nallah in Udhampur in which six Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims sustained injuries. The Lieutenant Governor spoke to the senior administrative and medical officials, and directed them to ensure all necessary and best possible

treatment for the swift recovery of those injured. In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Received the report of a road accident near Toldi Nallah in Udhampur involving 6 Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims from Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. The devotees were traveling to Pahalgam base camp for holy cave darshan when their vehicle skidded off the road. One pilgrim is seriously injured, while

the other five are in stable condition and currently receiving care at GMC Udhampur. The critically injured pilgrim has been shifted to GMC Jammu. I have directed the Divisional Commissioner of Jammu, the Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur and medical officials at GMC Jammu and Udhampur to ensure they receive the best possible treatment. I pray to Lord Shiva for their swift recovery".

.....LAUNCHES PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

CM Omar unveils official merchandise for Kashmir Marathon 2026

Says event to establish Kashmir on India's marathon calendar, boost sports tourism

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday launched the official merchandise for the Kashmir Marathon 2026, organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department, at the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC), Srinagar.

The official merchandise, comprising the marathon cap, finisher's medal and racing kit specially designed for participants, was unveiled at a brief function attended by representatives of the media and senior officers of the Tourism Department. The Chief Minister also launched the promotional video for the event.

The initiative is aimed at promoting sports tourism, encouraging fitness and healthy lifestyles, and showcasing Jammu and Kashmir as a premier destination for national and international sporting events.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the marathon is much more than a sporting competition and forms an important part of the gov-



ernment's broader strategy to diversify tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Marathon is an event in itself. We are trying to increase tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. Tourism is not limited to destination weddings or conferences. We want to give recognition to the many unique experiences that Jammu and Kashmir offers, including skiing, the gondola, white-water rafting, fishing and other adventure activities," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government is striving

to establish the Kashmir Marathon as one of the country's flagship sporting events on the lines of renowned marathons held in Delhi, Mumbai, Ladakh and other parts of the country.

"I have seen marathons in Delhi, Mumbai and several other states and Union Territories. Today, runners from across the country and the world participate in the Ladakh Marathon. We want the Kashmir Half Marathon and the Jammu Half Marathon to attain the same stature and recognition," he said.

Highlighting the wider significance of the event, Omar Abdullah said the marathon sends a powerful message about the Valley's peaceful environment and hospitality.

"The positive message of the marathon is that Kashmir is comfortable, safe and welcoming for everyone. We want people from across the country and around the world to come here, participate and experience Kashmir," he added.

The Chief Minister was informed that the third edi-

tion of the Kashmir Marathon will be held in Srinagar on October 25, 2026.

Participants in the half marathon will run through some of Srinagar's most iconic landmarks, including the Jhelum riverfront, Lal Chowk, Dalgate and the scenic Boulevard along Dal Lake. Full marathon runners will continue towards Hazratbal and Kashmir University. The course has been designed with a combination of flat and hilly stretches, featuring an overall elevation gain of approximately 960 metres, offering both a scenic and challenging experience for participants.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Ashish Chandra Verma, Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course, Haris Ahmed Handoo, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajad, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Speaker Rather inaugurates renovated facilities, new lifts at MLA Hostel Sgr



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Friday inaugurated the newly installed lifts and other upgradation/renovation works executed at new hostel block of MLA Hostel, Srinagar.

The inauguration marks a significant step towards upgrading the infrastructure and improving the facilities available to Members of the Legislative Assembly. The renovation works have been undertaken with the objective of enhancing convenience, accessibility and overall comfort for the occupants.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker emphasized the importance of maintaining and modernizing public infrastructure to ensure efficient service delivery and better amenities. He stated that the MLA Hostel serves as an important facility for the legislators and, therefore, its upkeep and modernization must receive due

attention. The Speaker expressed satisfaction over the completion of the works and said that the installation of modern lifts and execution of renovation works would greatly benefit the legislators and other stakeholders by providing a safer, more comfortable and user-friendly environment.

He underscored the need for regular maintenance of government infrastructure and directed the concerned authorities to ensure that all facilities at the MLA Hostel are maintained in a proper and efficient manner. He also stressed the importance of timely execution of developmental and renovation works so that public assets continue to serve their intended purpose effectively.

The Speaker reiterated the commitment to improve the infrastructure and public facilities and said that such initiatives contribute significantly towards enhancing the working environment and convenience of public representatives.

J&K Bank Holds Mega Financial Inclusion Campaign in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR- Reinforcing its commitment as the Convener of the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC), J&K Bank Friday organised a Mega Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign - 2026 at the Auditorium Hall of Government College of Education, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India under the theme "Together Towards Financial Empowerment."

The programme was attended by Chief General Manager - in charge, FIDD, Reserve Bank of India, Nisha Nambiar, Regional Director, RBI (Jammu), Chandrashekhar Azad, ADDC Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Bank's Chief General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmed Bhat, General Manager (UTLBC/FID) Khursheed Muzaffar, Nodal Principal Colleges, Kashmir Division, Dr. Seema Naaz, Joint Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Nuzhat Qureshi, besides senior officers from various government departments including DIC, NRLM, SMC, Handloom, Handicrafts and Employment, member banks, Banking Correspondents,



students and members of the public.

Addressing the gathering, Chief General Manager (RBI) Nisha Nambiar said, "The objective of such outreach programmes is to nurture enlightened banking citizens by making people aware of safer and smarter ways to save, enabling them to take informed decisions while choosing insurance products, and encouraging the responsible use of digital banking platforms for their financial needs. As cyber frauds continue to evolve, it is equally important for customers to remain vigilant and adopt safe digital banking practices."

Emphasising the importance of Re-KYC, she said, "Re-KYC is not merely a regulatory requirement; it is essential for ensuring uninterrupted access to your savings, banking services and other financial products. Banks have significantly simplified the process, and today custom-

ers can complete Re-KYC conveniently through digital channels as well."

Urging the participants to become ambassadors of the financial inclusion movement she said, "I request all of you to carry these messages forward so that together we can ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left behind."

Prior to the inaugural session, CGM RBI interacted with the bank staff and Banking Correspondents of various banks manning different stalls set up at the venue. She appreciated their role in extending banking services to the last mile and stressed the need for expediting the completion of pending Re-KYC formalities to strengthen customer service, ensure regulatory compliance and enhance the integrity of the financial ecosystem.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Chief General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmed Bhat said that financial inclusion is not

merely about opening bank accounts; it is about empowering every citizen with access to savings, insurance, pension, digital payments, government welfare benefits, and protection against cyber fraud.

Highlighting the progress achieved in J&K, he said, "The banking ecosystem in the Union Territory has made commendable progress in advancing the financial inclusion agenda through the collective efforts of the UT Administration, Reserve Bank of India, member banks and line departments. Today, Jammu & Kashmir has over 25 lakh PMJDY accounts, supported by more than 16 lakh RuPay Debit Cards. During the last financial year alone, banks opened 1.57 lakh new PMJDY accounts, while enrolments under the social security schemes registered encouraging growth, with 31% growth under PMSBY, 29% under PMJJBY and 26% under APY."

Attempt to divert attention from "real issues": LoP Sharma on NC's statehood protest

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Friday said the party will not join the ruling party's proposed statehood protest at Jantar Mantar, terming it as a mere "eye wash" and an attempt to divert attention from "real issues."

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Sharma questioned the fate of the Chief Minister's promised signature campaign for restoration of statehood.

"What happened to the signature campaign for statehood restoration that the Chief Minister had promised last year?" he asked, alleging that the ruling party was using the statehood issue to divert attention from governance failures.

Sharma termed the government's outsourcing policy an "appointment scam", alleging that deserving youth were being denied opportunities while appointments were being made through the backdoor.

He demanded an immediate rollback of the policy and warned that the BJP would intensify its agitation if the order was not withdrawn.

He said the proposed



movement would begin in Kashmir with 'a gherao of the Civil Secretariat' (Surround the Civil Secretariat in protest) and would later be expanded across Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP leader also accused the government of failing to fulfil its election promises, including providing 200 units of free electricity, 10 kilograms of free ration, one lakh jobs and free LPG cylinders.

Responding to a question on whether the BJP would join the NC-led statehood protest in Delhi, Sharma ruled out the possibility, saying the party would not stand with "thieves, fraudsters and murderers."

He asserted that restoration of statehood remains the BJP's commitment and said it would come through Parliament, not through protests at Jantar Mantar. Alleging widespread corruption in several government departments, Sharma claimed that money was being collected through transfers and other official processes. —(KNO)

Major Boost to Medical Education in J&K

NMC Approves Increase of 50 MBBS Seats at GMC Srinagar



GMK NEWSNETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant development aimed at strengthening the medical education and healthcare delivery system in the Union Territory, the Health and Medical Education Department Friday announced that the National Medical Commission (NMC) has granted permission to increase the annual MBBS intake capacity at Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar.

The Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) of the NMC has issued the Letter of Permission (LoP) under Section 28(3) of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, approving an increase of 50 MBBS seats. With this approval, the total annual intake capacity of GMC Srinagar will rise from 200 to 250 seats, effective from the upcoming Aca-

demical Year 2026-27.

It is pertinent to mention that last year for the academic session 2025-26, the GMC Srinagar has got approval of additional 20 seats, increasing the total number of seats from 180 to 200.

The approval follows a rigorous evaluation by MARB under the provisions of the Undergraduate Medical Education Standards Regulations (UGMSR), 2023.

Expressing satisfaction over this landmark achievement, the Health and Medical Department has stated that this expansion reflects the government's unwavering commitment to augmenting medical infrastructure and providing more opportunities for aspiring doctors across the Union Territory.

The increase in the seats has further strengthened GMC Srinagar's position as one of the premier medical colleges in the country.

.....Six NPA accounts settled

JKLFC extends relief to borrowers under Settlement Scheme-2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Settlement Committee of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC) met under the chairmanship of its Managing Director to consider settlement of seven Non-Performing Asset (NPA) loan accounts under the Settlement Scheme-2026 (SS-2026).

The Committee approved settlement proposals in respect of six NPA loan accounts involving a total settlement amount of approximately ₹84.43 lakh, subject to the borrowers depositing the approved settlement amounts within the stipulated period and fulfilling all the provisions of the Scheme.

The Board of Directors, in its 247th meeting held on 31st December 2025, had approved introduction of the Settlement Scheme-2026 (SS-2026), which was subsequently notified by the Corporation vide Order No. 155 dated 12th February 2026. The scheme came into force with immediate effect and

shall remain in operation up to 30th September 2026.

The Scheme has been introduced as a One-Time Settlement (OTS) mechanism to facilitate recovery of long-pending Non-Performing Assets by providing eligible borrowers an opportunity to liquidate their outstanding loan liabilities on concessional terms, thereby improving recoveries and reducing the Corporation's NPA portfolio.

The Managing Director emphasized that the scheme is an important initiative to recover long-pending dues, facilitate closure of stressed loan accounts and safeguard the financial interests of the Corporation. He directed all the Branch Heads and District Officers to expedite identification of eligible cases and ensure prompt processing and submission of settlement proposals.

The Corporation reiterated its commitment to strengthen its recovery mechanism and improve the quality of its loan portfolio through effective implementation of the Settlement Scheme-2026.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI
PHE MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION
BALGARDEN, SRINAGAR

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
e-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/ 12 of 07/2026 Dated: 10.07.2026

On behalf of the Hon'ble LG of J&K UT, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division, Srinagar, invites tenders by e-tendering mode on percentage rate basis from experienced and reputed mechanical / registered Contractors/firms with established Workshops for "Repairs/replacements to the all types of submersible pumping units installed at different WSS's of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' -Tender fee, Earnest Money Deposit, fulfillment of qualification criteria and acceptance to General terms and conditions, technical specifications and price schedule of the tender. Cover '2nd' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ

S No	Particulars of the work	Ceiling Amount	Tender fee (Rs)	Earnest money (Rs)	Bid Validity	Duration of contract
1	Annual Framework/Rate Contract for Repairs/replacements to the all types of submersible pumping units installed at different WSS's of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	25.00 Lacs	500	50000	180 days	One Year

Major Head of Account = M&R
The Bidding documents consisting of specifications, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the official website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given below:

1.	Date of publishing on tender portal	10-07-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-07-2026, 05.00 P.M to 20-07-2026, 11.00 A.M
3.	Period of uploading of bids	From 10-07-2026, 05.00 P.M to 20-07-2026, 11.00 A.M
4.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	20-07-2026 at 12.00 P.M in the office of the Executive Engineer JS (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar.
5.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

Each tender should be accompanied with an Earnest Money in the form of CDR/ FDR as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar. In absence of Earnest Money, the Tenders shall be rejected out rightly. Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.
Note: All the interested parties are requested to visit the sites before bidding for proper assessment of the subject work.
No: PHE/MRD/1134-39
Date: 10/07/2026
DIPK-3122-26
DT: 10/07/2026

sd/-
Executive Engineer
Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural
Division Srinagar

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Common Man Can't Afford The Market Anymore

For thousands of families across Jammu and Kashmir, a simple trip to the local market has become a source of anxiety. Every passing week brings fresh price hikes, leaving people wondering how long they can continue to manage their household budgets. While major election promises are still awaiting fulfilment, even smaller but equally important issues such as keeping essential commodities affordable appear to have slipped down the government's list of priorities. The rising cost of daily essentials is now hitting every household. Eggs, once regarded as an economical source of nutrition, are selling for Rs 230 to Rs 240 per tray in many markets, compared to Rs 150 to Rs 170 just a short while ago. Vegetables and fruits have also become costlier, while mutton and poultry have turned into luxuries for many middle-class and low-income families. The impact goes far beyond numbers. Parents are forced to rethink grocery lists, daily wage earners struggle to provide balanced meals for their children, and pensioners find their monthly savings disappearing faster than ever. When basic food items become expensive, it is always the common citizen who bears the heaviest burden. Equally concerning is the lack of regular market monitoring. Consumers often see inspection teams only during Eid, Ramadan or other festive occasions. Once the celebrations are over, routine inspections appear to vanish. Market regulation should not be limited to festivals. It should be a year-round exercise to discourage overpricing and protect consumers. The departments responsible for market regulation have a duty to ensure that notified price lists are followed in letter and spirit. Those found charging excessive rates must be held accountable. Fair traders also deserve protection from those who exploit consumers for quick profits. No one expects the government to control every factor influencing inflation. But ensuring transparency in pricing, conducting regular inspections and taking action against profiteering are responsibilities that cannot be ignored. People are not asking for miracles. They simply want fair prices, honest enforcement and an administration that remains connected to the everyday struggles of ordinary citizens. Development is important, but good governance is measured not only by roads, buildings and announcements. It is also reflected in whether a family can walk into a market and return home with enough food for the table without worrying about how they will make ends meet. Today, that simple expectation is becoming increasingly difficult to fulfil, and it deserves urgent attention.

Stitching The Value Chain

How PM MITRA Parks Are Rewriting India's Textile Destiny

PABITRA MARGHERITA

For centuries, India's identity was deeply woven into its textiles, from the lasting warmth of Kashmir's Pashmina and the golden luster of Assam's Muga silk, to the royal Kanjeevarams of Tamil Nadu, the weaves of Chanderi, and the legendary textile craftsmanship of Surat. Today, this sector remains a strong pillar of our economy, contributing 2.3% to GDP, 13% to industrial production, and 12% to exports. As India's second-largest employer after agriculture, it provides direct livelihoods to 45 million people and sustains over 100 million indirectly, strengthening rural communities and driving financial autonomy for millions of women nationwide.

In contrast to the consolidated ecosystems of global competitors, India's textile value chain historically evolved into a geographically dispersed model. Spinning, weaving, processing, garmenting, and export activities developed independently across different states, meaning a single garment often crossed multiple borders during production. This fragmented footprint created structural barriers. It suppressed scale-up, modernisation, automation and ultimately labor productivity.

Compounding this is the high logistics burden caused by multi-modal connectivity gaps. Every hand-off between scattered production stages incurs extra handling and freight charges. Multi-stage long-distance transshipments swell cumulative logistics costs and destroy "speed to market" which is a fatal disadvantage in modern retail's high-frequency ordering cycles.

Consider the environmental imperative. Textiles account for 8% to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions and 20% of industrial water pollution. Enforcing regulations and sustainable effluent management across thousands of scattered, tiny units was historically a major administrative challenge.

To systematically dismantle these barriers, the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme in October 2021, supported by a



4,445 crore budgetary outlay. This pivotal intervention introduces a holistic model where the Central Government drives development in absolute unison with State Governments, industry players, and private partners.

At the heart of this scheme lies the visionary 5F formula of Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign, championed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This philosophy directly addresses what distinguishes India on the global stage: our complete and incredibly diverse value chain. Unlike global peers relying strictly on raw material imports or final garment assembly, India participates in the entire lifecycle of textile creation, from fields of our farmers to high-fashion runways. Because of this unique depth, our growth strategy must uniquely balance global competitiveness with absolute social equity. While scaling up, we must carefully protect the welfare of every sector so that from the humble grower and rural weaver to the apparel exporter, no one is left behind. The PM MITRA framework achieves this equilibrium.

Strategically locating these parks near major raw material hubs minimises transport costs and ensures an unhindered supply for manufacturing. More importantly, this proximity enables strict end-to-end traceability. As global brands mandate organic or sustainable certifications, these integrated parks provide a verifiable chain of custody, satisfying stringent global ESG norms and

hence paving a path for commanding premium pricing abroad.

Co-locating spinning, weaving, processing, and garmenting within contiguous 1,000+ acre parcels eliminates multi-state transshipments, drastically slashing freight costs and transport emissions while accelerating speed to market. Aligned with national logistics corridors like Dedicated Freight Corridors and expressways, the journey to foreign markets becomes highly cost-effective. Every park features plug-and-play industrial infrastructure including dedicated power substations, continuous water supply, and ready-to-move-in factory sheds alongside common facilities like advanced Common Effluent Treatment Plants utilizing Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) technology, and modern amenities, shifting the infrastructure burden away from businesses and improving our ease of doing business.

PM MITRA Parks are transitioning rapidly from blueprints to ground realities. The scheme comprises seven strategic parks: five Greenfield developments in Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu), Navsari (Gujarat), Kalaburagi (Karnataka), Dhar (Madhya Pradesh), and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), alongside two Brownfield developments in Warangal (Telangana) and Amravati (Maharashtra). To date, the scheme has captured over 69,899 crore in total investment interest, with 27,658 crore already grounded.

On May 10, 2026, Prime Minister inaugurated the first operational PM MITRA Park at Warangal, Telangana. This park has

already witnessed 3,862 crore in grounded investments and operationalizes world-class eco-infrastructure, features that represent the sustainability standards being established across all seven park sites.

Parallel nationwide execution highlights swift cooperative federalism with MoUs signed with all seven states, 100% of the land acquisition done, and environmental clearances secured. For the five Greenfield sites, JV agreements and SPVs are fully incorporated, anchoring rapid physical progress. Dhar (Madhya Pradesh), the largest park at 2,158 acres, has drawn 21,436.9 crore in investment interest, mirroring strong momentum across Gujarat (13,084 crore), Maharashtra (12,925 crore), Tamil Nadu (6,600 crore), Uttar Pradesh (5,345.8 crore), and Karnataka (1,700 crore). This effective execution is a testament to the proactive leadership of Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh. Under his able leadership the Textiles Ministry has successfully accelerated its operational frameworks, cutting through administrative bottlenecks and fostering an unprecedented level of cooperative synergy with state governments.

But numbers only tell a part of the story, the real measure lies in human impact. Each park is structurally engineered and expected to generate approximately 3 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities. Across all seven sites, this translates to over 21 lakh formal livelihoods, offering a major socio-economic lift to our rural households and women, who traditionally form the backbone of apparel manufacturing.

This large-scale infrastructure effort serves as the definitive launchpad for the textile sector's ambitious Vision 2030 for scaling India's textile industry into a \$350 billion global powerhouse by the end of this decade. By replacing historical fragmentation with world-class, integrated scale, PM MITRA is executing a profound structural shift. Guided by a strong leadership, we are transitioning India into the undisputed, sustainable, and highly competitive epicenter of textiles (PIB)

(The author is the Union Minister of State for Textiles. The views expressed are personal)

Empowering Excellence

How The Top-Class Education Schemes Shaping India's Future Leaders

SUDHANSH PANT

Across India, talented young students are translating aspirations into achievements through the Top Class Education Scheme for SC Students. By expanding access to quality education in premier institutions, the scheme is nurturing a new generation of professionals, innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs and leaders who are contributing to India's growth and development.

Implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Top Class Education Scheme for SCs seeks to ensure that meritorious students having annual family income upto 8 Lakhs have a greater access to quality higher education in institutions of national importance and other premier institutions. The scheme provides a comprehensive educational coverage towards tuition fees, living expenses, books, computers and other academic requirements, enabling students to pursue excellence with confidence and focus. Over the years, the scheme has emerged as a significant instrument for educational empowerment, creating opportunities for students to excel across diverse disciplines and contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

A Growing Footprint of Educational Empowerment

The impact of the scheme has expanded steadily since its inception in 2007-08. The number of students supported under the Scheme has increased from 195 in 2007-08 to 4,742 in 2025-26. During the same period, annual expenditure under the Scheme has risen from 2.17 crore to 117.19 crore.

Today, students supported under the scheme are pursuing higher education in premier institutions including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), National Law Universities (NLUs), National Institute of Design (NID), leading management institutions like Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and other institutions of national impor-

ance. The scheme is not only facilitating access to quality education but is also enabling students to acquire advanced skills, pursue research, embrace innovation and prepare for leadership roles in emerging sectors of the economy.

Creating Excellence in Technology and Innovation

The technology sector offers some of the most dynamic opportunities in the modern economy, and students supported under the Scheme are making their mark in this field. Thousands of students have been benefitted by the scheme, some of the success stories are illustrated below: Amul Shaturia pursued B.Tech. in Information Technology at IIT Allahabad with support under the scheme. The opportunities available through quality education, technical projects and skill development enabled him to strengthen his professional capabilities and secure placement in a leading technology company with an annual package of 56 lakh. Even though he is a son of a school bus conductor of poorer financial background, his achievement reflects how the scheme is enabling talented students to compete successfully in highly competitive technology-driven sectors.

Similarly, Sushmitha Pothuraju utilized opportunities in academics, coding activities, internships and leadership engagements during her studies at IIT Allahabad. Her placement at Amazon with an annual package of 45 lakh demonstrates the growing presence of women scholars in advanced technology careers and highlights the role of the Scheme in fostering excellence and professional achievement. These success stories illustrate how educational opportunity, combined with determination and talent, can create pathways to outstanding professional outcomes.

Strengthening Participation in Nation-Building Sectors

The impact of the scheme is equally visible in sectors that are critical to India's development journey. Thamballa Sindhu, a Civil Engineering student at IIT Palakkad, who comes from rural background, utilised the opportunities available through the Scheme to pursue professional education and industry-oriented learning.



She was subsequently selected as a Graduate Engineer Trainee at Larsen & Turbo Construction, one of India's leading infrastructure and engineering organizations.

Likewise, Nalan S, an Electrical Engineering graduate from IIT Palakkad, a first-generation student of his community, secured placement at Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence. His achievement demonstrates how the scheme is helping prepare highly skilled professionals who contribute to strategic sectors and technological advancement. Such achievements highlight the scheme's contribution in creating a skilled workforce capable of supporting India's infrastructure, manufacturing, defence and technological aspirations.

Enabling Success Across Diverse Professional Fields

The reach of the Scheme extends far beyond engineering and technology. Boggiti Shiny Jasper completed her PGDM at the Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru. The opportunities created through the scheme enabled her to focus on academics, internships and professional development, leading to successful placement in the corporate sector. Her journey highlights the scheme's role in facilitating professional advancement and creating opportunities for future leadership even to girl students.

In the field of legal education, Rishabh Bhaskar Lade pursued the B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) programme at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai. Following the successful completion of his stud-

ies, he secured placement as Assistant Legal Manager at IDBI Bank. His achievement reflects how the Scheme is enabling talented students to build successful careers in law, banking and governance. These examples demonstrate the scheme's ability to support excellence across diverse disciplines and create pathways to rewarding professional careers.

Fostering Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Research

The scheme is also encouraging students to pursue innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. Vartika Sonkar, a student of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, utilised the opportunities created through the Scheme to develop her design expertise and creative capabilities. Today, she has established herself as a professional jewellery designer and has worked with reputed organisations in the industry. Her journey highlights how the Scheme supports talent in creative sectors and encourages students to pursue entrepreneurial ambitions.

In the field of research and innovation, scholars supported under the Scheme are contributing to emerging areas of knowledge and technology. Shri Chintala Sanjay has demonstrated academic excellence through his work in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning applications, including research relating to healthcare technologies. Such accomplishments reflect the growing contribution of students supported under the Scheme to innovation-driven sectors. Many scholars are also pursuing advanced aca-

demical and research aspirations, contributing to India's knowledge ecosystem and strengthening the country's innovation capacity.

Creating a Culture of Aspiration and Achievement

Beyond educational attainment and professional success, the Scheme is helping create a culture of aspiration, confidence and achievement. Students supported under the Scheme are pursuing opportunities in academics, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and professional development with greater focus and determination. Their achievements serve as an inspiration for future generations and reinforce the transformative role of education in expanding opportunities and unlocking potential.

The impact extends beyond individual accomplishments, contributing to stronger families, more aspirational communities and a more skilled and confident workforce.

Building an Inclusive and Developed India

The Top-Class Education Scheme for SC Students reflects the Government of India's commitment to educational empowerment, inclusion and equal opportunity. The achievements of students supported under the Scheme demonstrate how access to quality education can nurture talent, encourage innovation and create pathways to leadership across sectors. From technology and engineering to law, management, design and research, these scholars are contributing to India's journey towards becoming a knowledge-driven and globally competitive nation.

Every achievement under the Scheme represents the successful convergence of talent, opportunity and determination. As the Scheme continues to expand its reach, it is helping build a generation of confident professionals, innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders whose contributions will shape the future of a developed, inclusive and self-reliant India. (PIB)

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

■ Omega Block

The Atmospheric Wall Behind Europe's Deadly Heat

DR AFTAB JAN

Europe is facing one of its most dangerous heat waves in modern history. Temperatures have crossed 40°C in several regions. Hospitals are filling with patients suffering from heat stroke, dehydration, and respiratory distress. Wildfires are spreading across forests and villages. Crops are drying before harvest.

Rivers are shrinking. Elderly people, children, and outdoor workers are among the most vulnerable. Scientists warn that these extreme events are becoming more frequent because of a powerful weather pattern called the Omega Block, combined with human driven climate change. This is no longer an unusual summer. It is a warning about how the Earth's atmosphere is changing.

The Omega Block is a large scale atmospheric pattern that traps weather systems in place for many days or even weeks. It gets its name because its shape on weather maps resembles the Greek letter Ω. Normally, weather systems move from west to east across the Northern Hemisphere because of fast moving air currents known as the jet stream.

The jet stream acts like a highway that carries storms, rain, and cooler air across continents. During an Omega Block, this highway becomes distorted. A strong dome of high pressure develops in the center, while two low pressure systems remain on either side. This creates the shape of the Greek letter Omega. Once established, the pattern becomes almost stationary. The weather underneath the high pressure system barely changes.

The high pressure system at the center of an Omega Block acts like a giant atmospheric lid. Air slowly sinks toward the ground. As it sinks, it becomes compressed and warmer through a process known as adiabatic heating. At the same time, clouds cannot develop easily because the descending air suppresses upward movement. Without clouds, sunlight reaches the Earth's surface almost without interruption from sunrise until sunset.

The ground absorbs enormous amounts of solar energy. Roads, buildings, concrete, and dry soil store this heat during the day and release it at night. This prevents temperatures from falling, creating dangerously

warm nights that give the human body little opportunity to recover from daytime heat.

The persistence of the Omega Block is what makes it especially dangerous. A normal heat wave may last two or three days before cooler air arrives. During an Omega Block, the same hot air mass remains trapped over the region for one or even two weeks.

Each day becomes hotter than the previous one because the land continues accumulating heat. Vegetation dries out rapidly. Soil moisture decreases. Less energy is used for evaporation, so more solar energy directly heats the air. Scientists call this a land atmosphere feedback, where dry ground makes the surrounding air even hotter, strengthening the heat wave further.

Europe is particularly vulnerable because many of its countries historically experienced relatively mild summers. Large numbers of homes were built to conserve heat during winter rather than remove it during summer. Air conditioning remains less common in several European nations compared with the United States.

As temperatures now reach levels once considered rare, buildings trap heat indoors, exposing millions of people to prolonged thermal stress. Cities become even hotter because of the urban heat island effect. Concrete, asphalt, and glass absorb solar radiation and slowly release it overnight. In densely populated cities, nighttime temperatures can remain several degrees higher than nearby rural areas.

The recent Omega Block has stretched across much of Western and Southern Europe. Countries including Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Greece, and parts of Germany have experienced record breaking temperatures. Some locations have exceeded historical records by several degrees.

Hospitals have reported increasing cases of dehydration, kidney injury, cardiovascular complications, and heat exhaustion. Emergency services have responded to numerous wildfire outbreaks fueled by dry vegetation and strong winds. Transportation systems have also been affected as railway tracks expand, roads soften, and electricity demand rises sharply because of cooling needs.

Heat affects nearly every organ in the human body. The brain is extremely sensitive to elevated temperatures.



Excessive heat impairs concentration, decision making, memory, and reaction time. Athletes experience reduced endurance because muscles receive less oxygen as blood is diverted toward the skin for cooling. The heart works harder to maintain circulation, increasing the risk of heart attacks, especially among older adults and those with existing cardiovascular disease.

Sweating causes large losses of water and electrolytes, leading to dehydration, muscle cramps, dizziness, and dangerous drops in blood pressure. If body temperature rises above approximately 40°C, heat stroke may develop. This medical emergency can rapidly damage the brain, liver, kidneys, and heart, and may become fatal without immediate treatment.

The lungs also suffer during prolonged heat waves. High temperatures accelerate the formation of ground level ozone, a harmful air pollutant produced when sunlight reacts with vehicle emissions and industrial gases. Ozone irritates the airways, worsens asthma, reduces lung function, and increases hospital admissions for respiratory diseases. Wildfire smoke adds fine particulate matter that penetrates deep into the lungs and bloodstream, increasing the risk of stroke, heart disease, and chronic respiratory illness.

Agriculture experiences enormous losses during Omega Block events. Crops require both sunlight and water for healthy growth. Under prolonged heat and drought, photosynthesis slows dramatically. Plants close tiny pores called stomata to conserve water, but this also limits carbon

dioxide uptake, reducing growth and grain production. Livestock suffer from heat stress, producing less milk, eating less food, and becoming more susceptible to disease. Farmers face declining harvests, while food prices rise because supply decreases.

Freshwater resources also decline during persistent heat waves. Rivers, reservoirs, and lakes lose water rapidly through evaporation. Reduced river flow affects drinking water supplies, irrigation, shipping, and hydroelectric power generation. Aquatic ecosystems experience severe stress because warmer water contains less dissolved oxygen. Fish and other aquatic organisms may die during prolonged periods of extreme heat.

Scientists have found that climate change does not necessarily create Omega Blocks, but it makes their consequences far more severe. Rising global temperatures caused by greenhouse gas emissions mean that when an Omega Block forms, it traps much warmer air than it would have decades ago.

Research also suggests that rapid warming in the Arctic may weaken the temperature difference between polar and tropical regions. This reduced contrast can influence the jet stream, causing it to become slower and more wavy. A slower jet stream increases the likelihood that blocking patterns such as the Omega Block remain stationary for longer periods, prolonging extreme weather.

The United States has also experienced severe Omega Block events. When such a pattern develops over North America, some regions endure prolonged heat while neighboring

areas experience persistent rainfall and flooding beneath the adjacent low pressure systems. This demonstrates that the Omega Block creates weather extremes on both sides of the atmospheric pattern. One region bakes under relentless sunshine while another suffers repeated storms and flooding.

Climate scientists increasingly describe extreme heat as one of the deadliest natural hazards on Earth. Unlike hurricanes or earthquakes, heat waves often receive less public attention because their destruction is less visible. Yet they silently claim thousands of lives each year through cardiovascular disease, kidney failure, respiratory illness, and heat stroke. Many deaths occur indoors, particularly among elderly individuals living alone without adequate cooling.

Protecting communities from future Omega Block events requires both adaptation and mitigation. Governments need stronger heat warning systems, greener urban planning, expanded tree cover, reflective building materials, and improved emergency healthcare. Individuals should remain hydrated, avoid strenuous outdoor activity during peak afternoon hours, wear light colored clothing, check regularly on elderly relatives, and recognize early symptoms of heat illness. At the global level, reducing greenhouse gas emissions remains essential to limit future warming and reduce the intensity of heat waves.

The Omega Block is more than a scientific curiosity. It is an atmospheric pattern capable of transforming ordinary summers into humanitarian emergencies. As climate change raises background temperatures, each future Omega Block carries the potential to become more dangerous than the last.

Europe's current crisis demonstrates that extreme heat is no longer a distant possibility. It is a present reality that challenges public health, agriculture, ecosystems, infrastructure, and economies across the world. Understanding the science behind the Omega Block is the first step toward preparing for a future in which persistent heat waves may become one of humanity's greatest environmental challenges.

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Right To Walk In Cities Or A Struggle?

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

India's cities are rapidly transforming. Wide roads, elevated flyovers, expressways, metro networks, and smart city projects are being hailed as symbols of modern development. But amidst this dazzling growth, a fundamental question has consistently been neglected—are our cities built for humans or solely for vehicles? Does a citizen truly have the right to walk safely, respectfully, and comfortably?

The 'Right to Walk' is not just a transportation issue, but a serious question of spatial justice, social equality, and human dignity in modern urban landscapes. Equal access to public spaces should be a fundamental right of every citizen in any democratic society. If a person cannot walk safely on the street, it is not just a traffic problem but a sign of a limitation of their civil rights.

Millions of people in India still travel a significant portion of their daily journeys on foot. Schoolchildren, the elderly, women, the disabled, laborers, small shopkeepers, and most people who use public transport all walk at some stage or another. Despite this, pedestrians are given the lowest priority in our urban planning. Footpaths either exist, are encroached upon, or are in such poor condition that people are forced to walk on the road. As a result, pedestrians account for a significant portion of road accidents.

Ironically, those without private vehicles are the ones who face the greatest risks. Wider roads are built for those who own cars; those without vehicles are denied even safe sidewalks. This inequality is not just an example of economic injustice, but also of spatial injustice.

Spatial justice means that all citizens have equal access to a city's public resources, spaces, and amenities. If a city's public space is devoted to vehicles, and there are insufficient facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, and people with disabilities, this reflects



an unequal distribution of public space.

Most roads in Indian cities have been developed with a vehicle-centric mindset. The primary objective of traffic management is considered to be increasing vehicle speeds, whereas the true purpose of a road should be to safely transport people from one place to another. This is why sidewalks end abruptly, electricity poles, transformers, or carts are found standing in the way, and parking lots occupy entire spaces.

Safe pedestrian paths for women are not just a matter of convenience, but of freedom. If a woman has to navigate a dark, deserted, or broken road in the evening, her mobility is limited. Similarly, high sidewalks, crossings without ramps, and high-speed traffic pose serious obstacles for the elderly. People with disabilities are often unable to use public spaces at all.

This is why the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) place special emphasis on inclusive, safe, and accessible cities. Cities will be inclusive when every citizen—regardless of income, age, gender, or physical ability—can use public spaces with equal respect.

A major irony in urban development today is that progress is often evaluated based on how fast vehicles can travel on the roads. When the true measure of a developed city should be how safe, comfortable, and easy it is to walk there.

Many countries around the world have adopted the concept of the "walkable city" over the years. They have realized that excessive vehicle dependence increases pollution, energy scarcity, mental stress, road accidents, and social isolation. In contrast, walkable cities strengthen health, the environment, the local economy, and social interaction.

When people walk, they shop more at local markets, small businesses benefit, community ties strengthen, and cities become more vibrant. Walking is also highly beneficial for public health. Regular walking reduces the risk of many lifestyle diseases, such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. If cities encourage people to walk, public spending on health could also be reduced.

The 'Right to Walk' is also crucial from an environmental perspective. Most of India's major cities face serious problems of air pollution, carbon

emissions, and traffic congestion. If people start walking even short distances, it will reduce fuel consumption, decrease pollution, and help address the challenge of climate change.

The concept of a smart city shouldn't be limited to digital technology or surveillance systems. A truly smart city is one where children can safely go to school, the elderly can access parks without fear, women can walk confidently even at night, and people with disabilities can use public spaces without obstacles.

The challenge of road safety in India is also deeply linked to the 'right to walk.' Speeding, illegal parking, encroachment, chaotic traffic, and a lack of pedestrian crossings claim thousands of lives each year. Many accidents occur simply because people lack safe access to cross the road.

It's often seen in cities that footbridges and subways are built, but their usability, distance, and accessibility are not adequately addressed. Often, the elderly, women, or the disabled are unable to use them, forcing them to cross the road. Therefore, simply building a structure is not enough; it's essential to make it human-centric.

The right to walk is also linked to social justice. Economically weaker sections of society rely more heavily on public transport and walking. If cities are not safe for pedestrians, these sections will suffer the most. On the other hand, those who own private vehicles will enjoy relatively safe and convenient travel. Thus, urban infrastructure inadvertently deepens social inequalities.

The need today is to consider pedestrians as the primary users when planning roads. Sidewalks should be wide enough, level, barrier-free, and continuous. Safe zebra crossings, traffic signals, ramps, tactile paths, and disabled-friendly facilities should be mandated at every major intersection. Effective control of illegal roadside parking and encroachment is equally important.

Urban local bodies should develop a system such as a Pedestrian Impact Assessment (PIA) with every road project to ensure that new roads are built for citizens, not just vehicles. The concept of "Complete Streets" needs to be widely adopted in urban planning, ensuring balanced space for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport, and motor vehicles.

Special "pedestrian safety zones" should be developed around schools, markets, hospitals, and public institutions, where vehicle speeds are limited and pedestrians are given priority. Even small steps like safer school routes for children, better lighting for women, and comfortable seating for the elderly can make cities more humane.

Furthermore, changes in citizens' behavior are essential. Parking on sidewalks, stopping at zebra crossings, failing to yield to pedestrians, and speeding are not only violations of traffic rules but also infringe on the rights of other citizens. The street is a shared public space, where everyone has equal rights.

Ultimately, the "right to walk" isn't a luxury. It's a fundamental civil right linked to life, equality, dignity, safety, health, and the environment. If cities develop solely for cars, they may appear economically modern, but they will remain socially unequal and humanly incomplete.

The hallmark of a civilized and sensitive city isn't its widest roads or tallest buildings, but rather the safety, ease, and dignity with which even the most vulnerable citizens can walk. Therefore, the time has come to shift the direction of urban development from a vehicle-centric approach to a human-centric one. Because only when every citizen can walk without fear, without hindrance, and without discrimination will democratic public spaces truly belong to all, and the "right to walk" will become not just a slogan but a living reality.

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NIA Chargesheets Six

slogans and delivered inflammatory speeches advocating armed struggle.

According to the investigation, the violence formed part of a larger, pre-planned conspiracy by the Hurriyat leadership to use the funeral procession as a platform to propagate separatist ideology, mobilise public support against the Government of India, provoke public disorder and incite violence against law enforcement agencies while demonstrating the Hurriyat's organisational strength in Jammu and Kashmir.

The case, registered as RC-01/2026/NIA/JMU, was originally filed at Shergarhi Police Station, Srinagar, on the day of the incident in 1996. The Ministry of Home Affairs transferred the investigation to the NIA in April 2026.

The agency said further investigation into the case is continuing.

Amarnath Yatra

Governor about the arrangements related to security, sanitation, healthcare, accommodation, water and power supply and other essential services. It was informed that an effective feedback mechanism has been put in place and immediate steps are being taken to address issues highlighted by pilgrims.

During the review meeting, it was also informed that the number of RO water installations along the yatra track has been increased to ensure adequate availability of clean drinking water for pilgrims.

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the yatis and enquired about the facilities extended to them. The pilgrims appreciated the arrangements made by the line departments, administration, Shrine Board, police, army, security forces and other stakeholders for their smooth pilgrimage.

"I invite all devotees of Baba Barfani to come, experience the darshan of Lord Shiva, and let this pilgrimage be a journey of self-discovery and spiritual joy," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Speaking to media persons, Lieutenant Governor said: "Today marks the eighth day of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, and so far, around 1,70,000 pilgrims have paid their obeisance at the holy cave. J&K administration, Police, Army, Security Forces, Shrine Board, and all other stakeholders have worked in complete synergy to ensure that the pilgrimage is hassle-free.

Compared to previous years, a significant number of pilgrims arrived without prior registration. We have successfully facilitated their journey through the necessary protocols, ensuring a smooth process. Every effort is being made to ensure that all pilgrims return home with a positive experience. I am confident that in the coming days, devotees arriving from every corner of the country will carry back fond memories of their pilgrimage.

100-bed hospitals, located at Baltal and Chandanwari, have been fully operational, handling an average of 1,300 to 1,400 OPD patients daily. These hospitals are playing a critical role in safeguarding the health of both the pilgrims and the dedicated personnel deployed along the routes.

I appeal to all pilgrims to strictly adhere to the guidelines established by the administration and the Shrine Board. The entire administrative machinery is working round-the-clock to assist you. In case of any inconvenience, please immediately inform the nearest Camp Director or deployed security personnel, and all possible assistance will be provided on priority," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Sujit Kumar, IGP Security; Shri M. Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic J&K; Shri Mohammad Aijaz, Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Rahul Yadav, Managing Director JKPDCL and Nodal Officer for Baltal Axis; Shri Rajiv Omprakashn, DIG CKR; Shri Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal; Shri Sudhanshu Dhama, SSP Ganderbal; Ms Anoo Malhotra, DG Rural Sanitation J&K, and senior officers of Shrine Board, civil administration, police and security forces.

MeT Forecasts

rainfall. The forecast said the weather is expected to remain generally hot and humid from July 13 to 16, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers at scattered places and isolated intense showers, mainly over parts of the Jammu division.

Fresh spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at many places across Jammu and Kashmir between July 17 and 19, the MeT Centre said.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained above normal in most parts of Kashmir Valley on Friday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 34.5 degrees Celsius, which was 4.8 degrees above normal, while Qazigund registered 32.0 degrees Celsius (4.1 degrees above normal). Kupwara recorded 33.0 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 31.0 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 28.0 degrees Celsius, and Gulmarg 24.9 degrees Celsius, all above their respective normal temperatures.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.5 degrees Celsius, Banihal 29.9 degrees Celsius, Batote 27.2 degrees Celsius, Bhaderwah 30.6 degrees Celsius, while Katra settled at 31.0 degrees Celsius, marginally below normal.

Leh in Ladakh recorded a maximum temperature of 23.4 degrees Celsius, according to the MeT Centre—(KNO)

J&K Police Chief Calls

updates on field-level preparedness across the Kashmir Valley. The DGP also reviewed the overall security environment and the effectiveness of the multi-tier security arrangements put in place for the safe and peaceful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

Reiterating the importance of synergy among security forces, the DGP called upon all participating agencies to work in close coordination, ensuring seamless intelligence sharing, real-time information exchange, and joint operational planning to achieve better operational outcomes. He emphasized that coordinated action and the timely dissemination of actionable intelligence remain critical for maintaining a robust security grid. The DGP instructed all agencies to intensify anti-terror operations across the Valley and maintain relentless pressure on terrorist networks and their support structures. He directed officers to keep a close watch on terrorist associates and other anti-national elements and to take timely preventive and legal action, wherever required, in accordance with the law.

The DGP J&K further emphasized the importance of area domination, enhanced night domination, and increased surveillance in vulnerable areas to deter any attempt to disturb peace and public order. He also directed the establishment of effective naka checkpoints at sensitive locations across the Valley to strengthen access control, improve surveillance, and facilitate the interception of suspicious movement.

Special emphasis was laid on strengthening security at vulnerable stretches of the Yatra route, key transit points, and other strategically significant locations. The DGP also called for enhanced security oversight of the National Highway and railway infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted movement and the overall safety of yatis. He also instructed field officers to conduct regular operational briefings for deployed personnel. The DGP further directed officers to intensify public awareness initiatives at base camps and transit locations by educating pilgrims about safety guidelines and precautionary measures.

The meeting concluded with the DGP reiterating the need for sustained coordination, operational preparedness, and proactive policing among all security agencies.

Closed Tourist

comparison with the Ladakh Marathon, he said runners from almost every state and Union Territory travel to participate in that event, expressing hope that the Kashmir Marathon would also attract participants from across the country.

"Kashmir is safe, comfortable and welcoming. People who come here to participate in the marathon will return as ambassadors of Kashmir," he said, while encouraging people, including journalists, to take part in the event.

Asked about political developments related to the National Conference, the Chief Minister declined to comment, saying the interaction had been organised to discuss the marathon.

"This is not a National Conference press conference. We have a major party programme tomorrow where all political questions will be answered," he said.

On religious tourism, CM Omar said the ongoing Amarnath Yatra has witnessed an overwhelming response, with more pilgrims arriving than the number registered, making it challenging for the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board to adhere to the Supreme Court-mandated daily ceiling on the number of pilgrims allowed on the track.

He also said the Kheer Bhawani Mela witnessed a significant rise in participation this year compared to last year, with around 10,000 devotees staying overnight and over 30,000 visiting the shrine during the fair.

The Chief Minister said religious tourism continues to grow across both Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated that while the government does not interfere in the management of pilgrimages, it provides all necessary support through infrastructure development, inter-departmental coordination and tourism-related funding.

"Our responsibility is to support the Shrine Boards. Tourism is the nodal department for pilgrimages, and every department has a role in ensuring smooth conduct of these events," he said.

Replying to a question on climate change, Omar described it as a global challenge whose effects are becoming increasingly visible in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are struggling with unprecedented summer heat. Earlier, snow remained visible on the mountains even during summer and lasted much longer during the Amarnath Yatra. Today it disappears much earlier. Climate change is a reality, and the world must first acknowledge it before it can be addressed," he said.

He said the problem cannot be tackled by Jammu and Kashmir or India alone and called for collective global action, noting that industrialised nations also have a major responsibility in addressing the crisis.

On the National Conference's programmes, Omar said the party would hold its event on Saturday, where he would respond to political questions, including those related to support from

other parties. He also said another programme is planned for July 20, subject to administrative permission—(KNO)

CS Reviews Implementation

Union Territory. Emphasizing outcome-oriented governance, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to maintain close monitoring of targets, remove implementation bottlenecks proactively and ensure optimum utilization of available funds.

He impressed upon the Administrative Secretaries to focus on timely completion of projects, saturation of eligible beneficiaries under welfare schemes and sustained field-level supervision so that the intended benefits reach every deserving citizen.

While expressing satisfaction over the progress achieved in several flagship programmes, the Chief Secretary emphasized that every department should work with greater urgency to achieve the prescribed milestones within stipulated timelines. He called for robust monitoring mechanisms, enhanced coordination among implementing agencies and regular field inspections to ensure quality execution of projects and effective delivery of public services.

Atal Dulloo further directed all the Administrative Secretaries to closely monitor both physical and financial progress of their respective schemes, ensure prompt resolution of implementation issues and maintain continuous engagement with the Government of India for timely approvals and release of funds wherever required.

Reviewing the education sector, the meeting was informed that significant progress has been achieved under Samagra Shiksha and PM SHRI Schools, with major emphasis on digital transformation, smart classrooms, ICT laboratories, Atal Tinkering Labs, vocational education, inclusive education, early childhood care, hostel infrastructure and technology-enabled governance.

The Skill Development Department informed that over one lakh youth have already been imparted industry-oriented skill training under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), while implementation of the newly launched PM-SETU programme has been initiated for transforming Industrial Training Institutes into modern Centres of Excellence through industry partnerships and upgraded infrastructure.

Reviewing the power sector, the Chief Secretary was apprised that steady progress has been achieved under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, with thousands of rooftop solar installations already commissioned across the Union Territory, enabling beneficiaries to substantially reduce their electricity bills. Simultaneously, solarisation of Government buildings is progressing at a rapid pace under the Science & Technology Department to promote clean energy and energy self-reliance.

The meeting also reviewed implementation of Smart Metering and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), under which large-scale installation of smart consumer meters and strengthening of power distribution infrastructure are underway to improve operational efficiency, reduce transmission losses and ensure reliable electricity supply across Jammu and Kashmir.

On digital connectivity, the Information Technology Department informed that substantial progress has been achieved under the BharatNet Project, with survey and execution work progressing across Gram Panchayats to provide high-speed broadband connectivity in rural areas. The meeting also reviewed the progress of the 4G saturation project and associated infrastructure works aimed at expanding seamless digital connectivity to remote regions.

The Finance Department presented the progress under financial inclusion initiatives, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, highlighting sustained expansion in banking access, insurance coverage and enrolment of beneficiaries across districts. The Chief Secretary called for intensified outreach campaigns to achieve saturation under these schemes by covering all eligible beneficiaries.

The Social Welfare Department apprised the meeting about the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Saksham Anganwadi Centres, POSHAN 2.0 and other nutrition-related interventions aimed at improving maternal and child health, nutrition and early childhood care. The Chief Secretary stressed timely processing of eligible beneficiaries and effective convergence among departments to maximize impact at the grassroots level.

The meeting also reviewed the progress achieved under major flagship programmes relating to Jal Jeevan Mission, PMAY (Urban and Gramin), Swachh Bharat Mission, Ayushman Bharat, National Health Mission, AMRUT, tourism infrastructure, fisheries development, transport connectivity and several other centrally sponsored initiatives being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that it is imperative to ensure transparent, accountable and result-oriented implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes so that the developmental dividends of these flagship programmes reach every region and every section of society across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Silent 'Digital

particularly those between the ages of 13 and 18 of Classes 7th-10th," reads the problem statement of the study.

The study finds that one of the most noticeable effects observed during the surveys was the difficulty many students experienced in main-

taining concentration, even for short periods. "Research supports these observations, indicating that media multitasking and excessive social media use are negatively associated with attention, concentration, and academic performance. Studies have shown that prolonged screen exposure contributes to measurable concentration difficulties, with evidence suggesting a bidirectional relationship between social media use and attention-related challenges," reads the study.

About the academic performance problem, the research reveals that the effects of poor concentration extend beyond attention difficulties and directly influence academic performance.

"Academic success relies heavily on cognitive functions such as attention, memory, and executive functioning, all of which have been shown to be negatively affected by excessive screen use," it reads.

Research indicates that frequent mobile device usage is associated with lower academic achievement.

"Additionally, sleep deprivation caused by late-night screen use contributes to daytime fatigue, reduced classroom engagement, and poorer educational outcomes among adolescents," the study said—(KNO)

BJP Will Not

up with new theatrics to hide their failures. I fail to understand why the people of J-K get attracted to their theatrics. They have enacted so many dramas for the last three generations. Now the third generation is enacting a drama at the Jantar Mantar. This is an eye-wash. You are indulging in corruption in the name of statehood," Sharma charged.

The BJP leader said it was unfortunate that when people seek answers, the government says they will go to Jantar Mantar and seek statehood.

Asserting that the statehood will come through Parliament and not via Jantar Mantar, Sharma said his party will not participate in the proposed protest.

"Why should we go to Jantar Mantar? With whom should we go? With these impostors, these thugs, these thieves, these corrupt people? They are taking those people along who used to speak the language of separatism, who have caused bloodshed in Kashmir. The BJP rejects such thieves, looters, and murders," Sharma said.

Referring to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's announcement on August 15 last year of a signature campaign in support of statehood restoration, he said, "A year has passed, does he remember that?"

Sharma said the BJP will start a "mass campaign" along with youth of J-K against the government's "job outsourcing" policy.

"We will begin this movement with civil secretariat gherao. We will launch an agitation from Kashmir and will take it to every corner to seek justice for the youth," he said.

He asked the government to rollback the policy.

"The BJP will not sit silent and will fight it out. I appeal to the youth to come forward and fight for justice and rights of the youth," he said, adding, the party condemns the whole process of outsourcing jobs, and feels this is a "total injustice" with the youth of J-K.

He also accused the government of indulging in corruption, and appealed to investigative agencies to come forward and probe the government. (Agencies0)

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Inter-College Poster Competition Promotes Organ Donation Awareness in Beerwah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BEERWAH: In a significant step toward promoting organ donation awareness among the youth, SAM College of Nursing & Para-Medical Sciences, Beerwah, in collaboration with the State Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), organised an Inter-College Poster Making Competition here Friday. The event, held under the theme "Leave a Legacy - Donate Organ," witnessed enthusiastic participation from leading nursing institutions across the Union Territory.

The competition brought together students and faculty representatives from six premier institutions, including Arsh Institute of Health Sciences & Technology, Khunmoh; Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Lawaypora; Ibn-Sina College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Budgam; Haneefa College of Nursing, Sopore; Ramzan Col-

lege of Nursing, Pampore; and the host institution, SAM College of Nursing & Para-Medical Sciences, Beerwah. The gathering served as a vibrant platform for inter-college interaction, learning, and advocacy for the life-saving cause of organ donation.

The programme was graced by Showkat Ahmad, Assistant Director, Hospitality & Protocol Department, as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Murtuza Bukhari, Director of SAM College of Nursing & Para-Medical Sciences, presided over the function. Also present on the occasion were Ms. Anshu Sharma, I/C Media, SOTTO J&K; Ms. Nisha Kumari, Program Assistant, SOTTO J&K; and Dr. Irfan Lone, Transplant Coordinator, SOTTO J&K.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Murtuza Bukhari emphasized that organ donation represents one of the greatest acts of humanity. "While people

leave behind memories, organ donors leave behind the gift of life," he remarked, urging students to become ambassadors of awareness and inspire their communities to support organ and tissue donation.

The resource persons from SOTTO J&K provided valuable insights into the medical, ethical, and legal aspects of organ donation while dispelling common misconceptions surrounding the subject. They encouraged informed discussions among young healthcare professionals and highlighted the critical role of public awareness in increasing donor registrations.

The poster competition showcased exceptional creativity, with students from all participating institutions presenting artworks that conveyed powerful messages about the life-saving significance of organ donation. The judges appreciated the originality and depth

of thought reflected in the entries. Winners and participants were felicitated by Assistant Director Showkat Ahmad and Director Dr. Murtuza Bukhari.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by the Principal and Head of Department of SAM College of Nursing & Para-Medical Sciences, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to SOTTO J&K, distinguished guests, participating colleges, faculty representatives, judges, students, and the organizing committee for making the event a resounding success.

The event reaffirmed the shared commitment of SAM College of Nursing & Para-Medical Sciences and SOTTO J&K to creating greater awareness, fostering collaboration among educational institutions, and encouraging society to embrace organ donation as a lasting legacy of hope and humanity.

Jal Shakti Minister, Advisor to CM review I&FC sector of Kashmir Division

Call for strengthening flood protection infrastructure, improved irrigation network

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, along with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani Friday chaired a high-level review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar to assess the functioning and progress of the Irrigation and Flood Control (I & FC) sector across Kashmir Division.



The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, senior officers of the department and representatives of various wings associated with the irrigation & flood management and PHE.

While addressing the meeting, Javed Rana stressed the need for further strengthening the flood protection infrastructure across Kashmir Valley, particularly along vulnerable stretches of River Jhelum and its tributaries, to enhance resilience against flood-related risks and safe-

guard the lives, property and public assets.

The Minister reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under various flood management and mitigation projects. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the execution of ongoing works while ensuring strict adherence to quality standards and stipulated timelines so that all critical interventions are completed ahead of the monsoon season.

Emphasising the importance of continuous monitoring, inter-departmental coordination and proactive planning, Javed Rana called for a comprehensive and pre-

paredness-driven approach to flood management in the Valley. He instructed the officers to identify and promptly address the bottlenecks hindering the progress of flood protection works. He asked to ensure their timely completion in the larger public interest and for the safety of vulnerable communities.

Rana also emphasised upon prioritising restoration of defunct irrigation canals, repair of canal breaches and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure across the Valley to ensure uninterrupted water supply to agricultural fields.

Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani underscored the need

for a proactive and long-term approach towards flood management in Kashmir. He stressed the importance of strengthening embankments, enhancing river carrying capacity and ensuring timely execution of flood protection works. He called for improved preparedness, regular maintenance of flood channels and greater inter-departmental coordination to safeguard vulnerable areas and minimise the impact of future flood events.

He emphasised the need for sustainable water use and the importance of rain water harvesting through installation and use of water storage tanks.

J&K Govt notifies framework for evaluation of books, academic material in Edu institutions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of recent concerns regarding books available in institutional libraries and the procurement of educational material, the School Education Department and Higher Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir have issued comprehensive circulars. The action has been taken in pursuance of the directions of the government.



The circulars prescribe a structured institutional framework for the academic evaluation, content verification and periodic review of books and other academic resources across all schools, colleges and universities in the Union Territory.

The framework is aimed at strengthening the institutional mechanisms governing the evaluation, recommendation, circulation, retention and periodic review of educational material. It seeks to ensure that the academic resources available in educational institutions possess established academic merit, factual authenticity, pedagogical relevance and educational value, while remaining consistent with the Constitution of India, the laws in force, the National Education Policy, the applicable regulatory framework and the curricular standards prescribed by the competent authorities.

Under the framework, all the government and recognised private schools and universities functioning under the administrative jurisdiction of the respective departments and public libraries have been directed

to undertake a comprehensive Academic and Content Audit of books, reference material, journals, research publications, dissertations, theses, digital repositories and other educational resources available in their libraries and academic units, irrespective of the year of procurement, adoption or inclusion.

The circulars further provide that no publication or academic material containing factually inaccurate, misleading, distorted, inflammatory, unlawful or otherwise objectionable content, including material that directly or indirectly promotes, glorifies, legitimises or justifies terrorism, violent extremism, secessionism, radicalisation or any activity prejudicial to the sovereignty, unity, integrity and security of the Nation, shall be procured, prescribed, recommended, retained, circulated, published, hosted or otherwise made available in educational institutions.

To ensure effective implementation, the government has institutionalised multi-tier academic and content scrutiny mechanisms across the school and higher educa-

tion sectors. These mechanisms provide for systematic academic evaluation, content verification, quality assurance, periodic review and institutional oversight through committees constituted at the institutional, district, directorate, university and administrative department levels while respecting the statutory and academic autonomy of universities within the framework of the applicable laws and University Grants Commission regulations.

The circulars also assign clearly defined responsibilities to the Vice Chancellors, Principals of Colleges, Chief Education Officers, Zonal Education Officers, Zonal Education Officers and Heads of Institutions (Hols), librarians, School Managements and other academic authorities entrusted with the academic governance to ensure meticulous implementation of the prescribed framework within the stipulated timelines. Institutional heads shall be responsible for ensuring compliance within their respective jurisdictions, and any omission, negligence or deviation from the prescribed procedures shall be viewed with utmost seriousness.

Mission Shakti organizes awareness programme at PHC Sedow to promote women empowerment

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Shopian Friday organized an awareness programme under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative at Primary Health Centre (PHC), Sedow to raise awareness about the protection, education and empowerment of the girl child.

The programme focused on promoting gender equality and encouraging the community to ensure equal opportunities for girls through education, healthcare and social support.

The Medical Officer, PHC Sedow, highlighted the importance of the pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques (PCPNDT) act, emphasizing the need to prevent sex-selective practices and safeguard the rights and healthy development of girls.

During the programme, the gender specialist, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, sensitized participants about various women-centric welfare schemes being implemented in the district. Information was shared on women's safety and protection mechanisms, available support services, emergency helpline numbers, legal rights and government initiatives aimed at empowering women and girls. Participants were encouraged to make effective use of these services whenever required.

DC Kulgam chairs meeting of Governing Body of District AYUSH Society

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A review meeting of the Governing Body/ Executive Committee of the District AYUSH Society Kulgam was held at the Mini Secretariat Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shahzad Alam.

During the meeting, Dr. Abdul Rehman Rather, Nodal Officer, AYUSH, Kulgam, presented a detailed presentation on the implementation, progress, and achievements of various schemes under the National AYUSH Mission

(NAM) in the district.

The Chair reviewed the progress of the schemes and emphasized timely implementation, effective inter-departmental coordination, and regular monitoring to ensure the successful execution of National AYUSH Mission activities and the strengthening of AYUSH healthcare services across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Executive Engineers, and other district officers.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 KV GIS Tengpora Court line will be observed due to which power supply to Batamalo, Moominabad, Court Complex and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 11 July 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Lassipora-Pulwama Ckt II (Build-tech) line will be observed due to which power supply to Koll, Tengpora, Muchpona, Tenghar, Pinglena, Gandipora, Gangoo, Pritchoo, Covid Hospital and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 02 PM on 14 July 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Sangam-II line will be observed due to which power supply to Panzgam,

Chakoora, Gulzarpora, K-koot, Charsoo, Hari and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 02 PM on 15 July 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Baramulla-1st line will be observed due to which power supply to District Court, Akbar Chowk, Police lines, Sub District Jail, Khawaja Bagh, Short Delina, Kanthbagh, Ushkura and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 13 July 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 132 KV Bermana-Rawalpora Transmission Line will be observed due to which power supply to Court Complex, Tengpora, Firdousabad, Moominabad, Batamalo, Narkara, Jawahar Nagar, KP Bagh, Mehjoor Nagar, HSHS, Magarmal, Gangbough, Hyderabad and other adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 11 July 2026.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 35 of RnB-Sopore of 2026-2027 e-tendering DATED: 09.07.2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of TS
1	Upgradation f road from Shalimar Colony to Antoo Colony	13.97	600	27940/-	60 days	18.07. 2026	DEE/ CEE/ BEE	District Capex Budget 2026-27	EE/R&B/Sopore 20 of 2026-27 dated: 09.7.2026
2	Improvement of existing culvert at Nowpora B	4.00	200/-	8000/-	60 days	18.07. 2026	DEE	District Capex Budget 2026-27	EE/R&B/Sopore 21 of 2026-27 dated: 09.7.2026
3	Upgradation of main road near Tehsil office Sopore	3.973	200/-	8000/-	60 days	18.07. 2026	DEE	District Capex Budget 2026-27	EE/R&B/Sopore 22 of 2026-27 dated: 09.7.2026
4	Upgradation of inner links of Tarzoo Amberpora	4.00	200	8000/-	60 days	18.07. 2026	DEE	District Capex Budget 2026-27	EE/R&B/Sopore 23 of 2026-27 dated: 09.7.2026

Project Authority: DDC Baramulla.
Position of funds: Available
Position of AA: Accorded by District Development Commissioner Baramulla vide his order No:121/DDC of 2026 dated: 08.07.2026

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

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	09.07.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09.07.2026 to 17.07.2026
3	Bid Submission start date	09.07.2026
4	Bid submission End date	17.07.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	18.07.2026 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division. Sopore

2, Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/ FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released after submission of a performance security of 5% of the quoted cost which will be released after completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

- 3(b) Geotag Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.
20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per e-NIT No.03 of 2026-27.
21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.
- 22: If the Contractor breaches the contract, the Department reserves the right to award the remaining work to new bidders at the defaulting contractor's expense immediately after the notice of breach has been served on the defaulter. In the event of a breach of contract by the Contractor, the Performance Security will be forfeited along with the termination of contract termination. Furthermore, the defaulting contractor will be barred from participating in future from participating in R&B Department in Bidding Processes for a period of one year. Any Subsequent Breach shall result in process of irrevocable cancellation of Registration.
- 23 The bidder must be registered on JKPWDOMS portal, while participating in the tendering process it should be ensured that all bank account of contractors mapped on JKPWDOMS must be linked with PAN No, GST No and ADHAAR No as per the circular instructions issued by the Finance Department.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, sd/
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

No : 3469-78 DIPK-3092-26 sd/
Dated: 09.07.2026. Dt: 10/07/2026 Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

B'la Admin conducts 3-Day Field Outreach under VVP-II

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In an initiative aimed at strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring effective implementation of development programmes in the border areas, the District Administration Baramulla successfully conducted a 3-day intensive field outreach under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II).

During the outreach programme District Level Officers undertook mandatory 24-hour night stays in the 18 identified Strategic/Vibrant Villages of the district.

The unique initiative, on the directions of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, was designed to provide senior officers with first-hand expo-



sure of public service delivery in the Vibrant Villages by living among the local population and directly engaging with them to understand their aspirations and concerns.

Speaking about the initiative, the DDC said that it was aimed at obtaining a first-hand assessment of the developmental progress under VVP-II, understanding the aspirations and concerns of the people, and ensuring that future interventions are aligned with the actual needs and priorities of the border

communities.

Over the course of the programme, officers stayed overnight in 18 Vibrant Villages across the border blocks of Uri, Boniyar, Bijhama and Paranpeela. During their visits, they conducted extensive inspections of developmental works and reviewed the implementation of various flagship Government schemes.

The officers also assessed the availability and quality of essential services and evaluated the status of critical infra-

structure including roads, electricity, drinking water supply, healthcare, education, mobile connectivity and other public amenities.

Meanwhile, the visiting officers held detailed interactions with Panchayati Raj Institution representatives, Village Level Nodal Officers, frontline workers, youth, women, senior citizens and other members of the local community.

These interactions enabled the administration to gather valuable grassroots feedback regarding the progress achieved under the Vibrant Villages Programme, identify developmental gaps, and understand the genuine needs and expectations of the people living in these strategically important border villages.

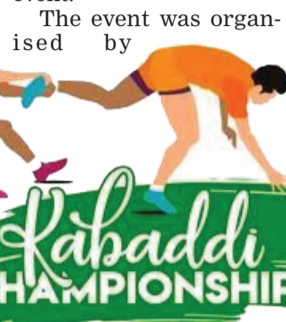
My Youth My Pride Kabaddi Tournament organised at Akhtran Kulgam

GMK SPORTS DESK

KULGAM: As part of the "My Youth My Pride" initiative of the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, a Kabaddi tournament was organised Friday at Akhtran Nawpora, Kulgam, aimed at promoting sports, encouraging youth participation, and nurturing sporting talent at the grassroots level.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from 200 athletes representing 14

teams, with a large gathering of spectators adding to the excitement of the event.



The event was organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council under the 'My Youth My Pride' programme, which continues to provide structured opportunities for youth across the Union Territory to participate in sports and showcase their talent at the grassroots level.

The tournament concluded successfully, fostering teamwork, discipline, sportsmanship, and healthy competition among participants, and received appreciation from athletes, spectators, and the local community for its organisation and contribution to grassroots sports development under the 'My Youth My Pride' programme.

FIFA WC: 'Messi's god-gifted ability to change the game single-handedly makes him different,' says Robin Singh

IAN S

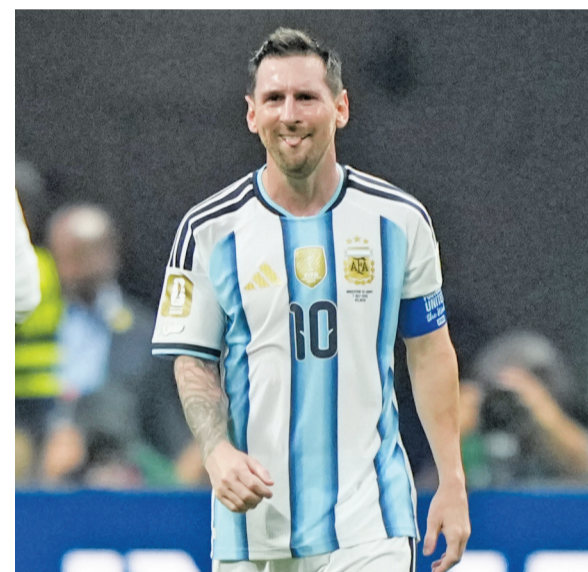
NEW DELHI: Former India striker Robin Singh believes Lionel Messi possesses a 'god-gifted ability' that sets him apart from almost every footballer in history, saying the Argentina captain's vision, intelligence, and magic on the ball allow him to influence matches in ways few others can.

Messi has once again been at the heart of Argentina's FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign, leading the defending champions into the quarterfinals with a string of match-winning displays. The 39-year-old is the tournament's leading scorer and has continued to prove why he remains one of football's greatest players.

For Robin, however, statistics alone cannot explain Messi's greatness.

"When you speak about Messi, we should all just be grateful that we have been blessed to watch him for 20 years. Two decades of magic we have seen," Robin, who is part of the Zee5 FIFA World Cup 2026 expert panel, told IANS in an exclusive interview.

While acknowledging the long-running debate between Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, the former India international refused to separate the two legends. "I think there is no



separation between Messi and Ronaldo. They are two unbelievably generational talents who have competed year after year. They are both equally unbelievable footballers."

According to Robin, Messi's extraordinary ability to decide games on his own makes him unique. "Messi is separated because of his God-gifted ability to change the game single-handedly. The magic that he can create on the ball and the vision that he has, thinking two steps ahead of everybody in his decision-making process, just makes him very difficult to understand," he said.

Robin believes that qual-

ity alone keeps Argentina among the favourites to defend their World Cup crown despite some inconsistent performances during the knockout rounds. "I have questions about Argentina moving forward after the last couple of games, but you can never count out Argentina when you have a Messi on your side," he added.

Argentina have relied heavily on their captain throughout the tournament, with Messi leading the scoring charts and producing decisive moments as the South American giants continue their quest for back-to-back FIFA World Cup titles.

One-off Test: England fight back after Smriti, Harmanpreet, Deepti fifties, leave historic game in balance

IAN S

LONDON: An absorbing and highly competitive opening day of cricketing action unfolded in the first-ever historic Women's Test at Lord's on Friday, leaving the match beautifully poised at stumps with England reaching 21/1 and trailing by 264 runs after bowling out India for 285, especially when they were cruising at 190/3.

Sophie Ecclestone and Mady Villiers ran through the middle order after Smriti Mandhana topped scored with 83 in what was also her 300th international appearance. In the process of picking a three-for, Sophie also became England's highest wicket-taker across formats, going past Katherine Sciver-Brunt, and climbed to third overall behind Deepti Sharma and Jhulan Goswami.

England's reply began shakily with Tammy Beaumont, who's playing her farewell international game, falling for two in the fourth over. But Maia Bouchier (17 not out) and Heather Knight (one not out) steadied the innings till stumps were called on the opening day. Sneha Rana found turn in her solitary over late in the evening, a sign that India's spinners could have plenty to work with on day two.

In what is also the



first-ever women's Test to be played at the iconic venue, England picked up three crucial wickets in an action-packed first session. Opting to bowl first, England found immediate movement off the ball via Lauren Bell. India suffered an early blow in the second over when opener Shafali Verma was completely squared up by a sharp, short-of-length delivery from Lauren Ficker and nicked behind to wicketkeeper Amy Jones for a duck.

Yastika Bhatia (12) joined Smriti and started confidently with a flurry of boundaries, while also surviving a close leg-before-wicket review on umpire's call off Bell. However, Bell redeemed herself soon

after, cleaning up Yastika with a brilliant inswinger that nipped away to hit the off-stump.

Jemimah Rodrigues then partnered with Mandhana to steady the innings, capitalising heavily on a wayward English bowling display that lacked discipline. Smriti looked in sublime touch, punishing the loose balls and welcoming premier spinner Ecclestone into the attack with a massive slog-sweep over midwicket for six to close out the first hour.

Smriti then brought up a sparkling run-a-ball half-century off just 50 deliveries in the 16th over and got the distinction of getting the first-ever Women's Test fifty at Lord's. The dangerous 64-run third-

wicket partnership was eventually broken against the run of play when Jemimah (35) chopped onto her stumps while going for an expansive drive against Issy Wong.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur (14 not out) then joined Smriti to safely navigate the remaining overs, ensuring India walked into the lunch break as the happier side. While the first session majorly belonged to India, England's bowlers roared back into the contest in the post-lunch session by showing discipline in their bowling and picking up the crucial wickets of set batters Smriti and Harmanpreet, who compiled 58.

Resuming from 122/3 in 25 overs, Smriti and Har-

manpreet frustrated the hosts by taking India past the 150-run mark. Smriti was in splendid touch, using her feet elegantly against Sophie and executing crisp pulls off the fast bowlers.

At the other end, Harmanpreet battled intensely through physical discomfort and needed continuous medical attention from the team physio for troubles in her hand and hamstring. Scoring mainly through the off-side, Harmanpreet reached her second Test half-century off 99 balls with a drive off Mady.

However, England's persistence soon broke the 79-run stand off 155 balls against the run of play. Issy, operating with supreme control, induced a faint outside edge from Smriti, as she fell 17 short of a historic century after being caught neatly behind by a diving Amy Jones standing up to the stumps.

England also burned two unsuccessful reviews during the session - one for a caught-behind off Smriti and another off Deepti. Just as the session seemed to be closing out evenly, Mady tossed one up beautifully outside off, and lured Harmanpreet into an expansive drive before turning sharply through the gate to castle the skipper and give England more delight at the stroke of tea break.

Wimbledon: Sinner stuns Djokovic to storm into second successive final at All-England

IAN S

LONDON: World No. 1 and defending champion Jannik Sinner produced a clinical display to outclass seven-time winner Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in the men's singles semifinal at Centre Court in London on Friday, sealing his place in the Wimbledon final with a dominant straight-sets victory.

Sinner controlled the contest from the outset with a powerful and precise serving performance. The Italian fired 16 aces, committed no double faults, and won an impressive 88 per cent of points on his first serve, leaving Djokovic with little opportunity to mount a comeback.

Although Sinner converted



only three of his 13 break-point chances, those breaks proved decisive as he wrapped up all three sets by an identical 6-4 margin. Djokovic, seeded seventh, failed to convert his lone break-point opportunity of the match.

The statistics underlined Sinner's dominance. He won 103 points compared to Djokovic's 81, claimed 41 receiving points to the Serbian's 17, and was far more effective on second serve, winning 62 per cent of those points against Djokovic's 41 per cent.

Djokovic managed eight aces but struggled with consistency, committing three double faults as he failed to reach another Wimbledon final.

The victory sends Sinner into the championship match, where

he will aim to capture his maiden Wimbledon title after one of the most commanding performances of the tournament.

In the final, Sinner will meet Alexander Zverev, who continued his remarkable Grand Slam resurgence by ending British wildcard Arthur Fery's dream run with a commanding 7-6(0), 6-2, 6-4 victory earlier in the afternoon, booking his maiden final at the All England Club and moving within one win of a second consecutive Grand Slam title following his triumph in Roland Garros.

The second seed delivered a strong performance on the Centre Court, quieting the home crowd after overcoming a tough challenge in the opening set from 23-year-old Fery.

Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing: India assures six medals in U-23 men's category

IAN S

JAKARTA: India's U-23 men's boxers delivered a strong performance at the Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing Championships, with six boxers advancing to the semifinals to assure medals following the quarterfinal bouts held on Friday in Jakarta.

Leading the charge, Asian champion Vishvanath (50kg) continued his dominant run with a convincing 5:0 win over Saudi Arabia's Ibrahim Aljohani. Ganga (55kg) matched that performance with a clinical 5:0 victory against Vietnam's Quang Loc Tran.

In the 65kg category, Vanshaj secured a solid 4:1 win over Kazakhstan's Assylkhan Kosherbay, while Hitesh (70kg) delivered a standout performance, stopping Indonesia's Radiyahyah via RSC in the first round.

Despite a few closely

contested bouts, Aryan Malik (80kg) and Rocky Chaudhary (85kg) went down fighting in 4:1 and 4:0 decisions, respectively, while Hemant Sangwan (90kg) lost to Uzbekistan's Samir Sobirov by a 5:0 decision.

With these results, India has now assured six medals in the U-23 men's competition, with the semifinalists including Vishvanath (50kg), Ganga (55kg), Vanshaj (65kg), Hitesh (70kg), Neeraj (75kg), and Ishan Kataria (+90kg).

India's strong showing in the men's category underlines its depth and consistency across weight divisions, with multiple boxers now in contention for top honours.

The Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing Championships, being held in Jakarta from July 5 to July 16, continue to provide a key platform for India's emerging talent to make its mark on the

continental stage. Earlier on Friday, India's U-19 women's boxers continued their impressive run.

Leading the charge, Chandrika Bhoresh Pujari (51kg) delivered a dominant 5:0 victory over Kazakhstan's Zhadyra Kaltay, while Joyshree Devi (54kg) registered a convincing 5:0 win against Kazakhstan's Maral Tolepbergen.

Prachi (57kg) continued her fine form with a clinical 5:0 win over Uzbekistan's Robiya Ravshanova, while Chahat (60kg) secured a comprehensive 5:0 victory against Kazakhstan's Zhasmin Abramyan.

In the 48kg category, Gunjan edged past Mongolia's Altanzul Altangadas in a closely contested 3:0 split decision, while Anshika (75kg) added to India's medal tally with a hard-fought 4:1 win over Kazakhstan's Altyngul Aitukhan.

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FOR TICKET ASSISTANCE

	<p>DHAMAAL 4</p> <p>HINDI ATMOS</p> <p>U/A 13+</p> <p>10:35 AM, 01:25 PM, 04:20 PM, 07:15 PM</p>
	<p>EVIL DEAD BURN</p> <p>ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE</p> <p>A</p> <p>11:00 AM, 04:15 PM</p>
	<p>WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE</p> <p>HINDI</p> <p>U/A 16+</p> <p>01:25 PM, 07:30 PM</p>
	<p>ALPHA</p> <p>HINDI</p> <p>U/A 16+</p> <p>11:00 AM, 04:40 PM</p>
	<p>MOANA</p> <p>ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>U</p> <p>01:50 PM</p>
	<p>MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA</p> <p>HINDI</p> <p>U/A 16+</p> <p>06:40 PM</p>