

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

Amit Shah
@AmitShah



India's young talent shines with gold. Kudos to Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Anant Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shreshth Suraiya, and Svarit Joshi on winning the Gold at the 56th International Physics Olympiad 2026, held in Colombia. Your grand success is the mirror of your genius and the unbeatable potential of our youngsters, who are ready to lead the world in the field of science.

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Amarnath Yatra Set To Cross 3-Lakh Mark Today

24,259 Pay Obeisance On Monday; 12Th Batch Arrives In Kashmir



UMAISAR GULL GANIE

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra is all set to cross the three-lakh pilgrim mark on Tuesday. According to the details 24,259 (twenty four thousand two hundred and fifty nine) pilgrims comprising of 17,076 men, 6,407 women, 295 children, 182 sadhus, 18 sadhvis, seven transgender pilgrims and 274 security personnel paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Monday, taking the total number of devotees who have performed darshan to 2,75,618 (two lakh seventy five thousand six hundred

and eighteen) An official said that the steady surge in pilgrim arrivals has also been seen at the Jammu base camp, where the daily number of yatris embarking on the journey has continued to rise. The 12th batch of pilgrims departed from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu during the early hours of Monday under multi-layer security arrangements. According to details, from Base Camp Bhagwati Nagar Jammu, 7,754 pilgrims left for the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam in a convoy of 303 vehicles and arrived in Kashmir. ●P-06

Amarnath Pilgrims Among 18 Injured In Multi-Vehicle Collision In Ramban

AGENCIES
RAMBAN: At least 18 pilgrims were injured after two Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corpora-

tion (JKRTC) buses and a car carrying pilgrims for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra collided near the Chanderkote Langar Point on the ●P-06

NC Following Congress' Statehood Protest; Yet To Take Call On Joining: Karra

PIRZADA SHAKIR

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra said on Sunday that the party would decide whether to join the National Conference's proposed protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi after consultations with the Congress central leadership. The National Conference has invited 52 prominent leaders across national and regional political and religious outfits to their protest for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on July 20. Speaking to Good Morning Kashmir, Karra welcomed the National Conference's decision to raise the demand for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, saying the Congress had been spearheading the campaign for more than a year. "It is a matter of happiness for us. What we started one-



and-a-half years ago, they have finally reached that stage," Karra said. He said the Congress had organised protests across all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, held chain hunger strikes, staged demonstrations in Srinagar, Jammu and Delhi, and mobilised hundreds of supporters for a protest at Jantar Mantar in July 2025. Karra said the Congress had invited all political parties to join its earlier campaign, including through public appeals ●P-06

Ladakh To Get Autonomous Hill Development Councils In All Seven Districts

RISHI SURI

LADAKH: The Union Territory Administration of Ladakh has announced that Autonomous Hill Development Councils will be established in all seven districts of the region, marking what officials described as a significant step towards democratic decentralisation and grass-roots governance. Addressing a press conference in Leh on Monday, Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra said the administration had decided to constitute a Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) for each of the seven districts. He noted that Section 3(1) of the LAHDC Act already provides for a Council in every district, with only necessary amendments, constituency delimita-



tion and formal notification in the Gazette remaining before implementation. The announcement follows the expansion of Ladakh from two to seven districts in April 2026, when Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass were officially notified as new districts. Until now, elected representation had remained limited to the existing Hill

Councils in Leh and Kargil. According to the administration, all seven Councils will enjoy the same powers currently exercised by the Leh and Kargil Hill Councils. These include authority over land ownership and land allotment within their respective districts, recruitment and promotion for district cadre posts, preparation of district development

plans, and oversight of key sectors such as health, education, tourism, local infrastructure and social welfare. The new Councils will also have their own dedicated Council Funds and the authority to levy taxes and fees, providing each district with an independent revenue base. Chief Secretary Kundra further announced that the administration is proposing the creation of a Union Territory-level body above the seven Councils under a customised framework based on Article 371 of the Constitution. The proposed institution is expected to exercise legislative, executive, financial and administrative powers. He said the model would be unique and draw upon the best features of similar govern-

Chugh Seeks Sedition Case

BJP Serves Legal Notice To CM Omar Over Cash-For-Defection Claim

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has initiated legal action against Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, issuing a formal notice regarding his recent accusations that the BJP attempted to destabilize his government. The party has dismissed the claims as entirely false and has demanded a retraction and an unconditional public apology, failing which it has threatened civil and criminal proceedings. The controversy stems from a speech made by Abdullah last week at a National Conference (NC) gathering in Hazratbal, where he alleged that the BJP was plotting to engineer a split within his party to bring down the administration. The legal notice demands that the Chief Minister withdraw his allegations in writing, issue a public apology within seven days, and immediately refrain from making any further defamatory statements. The BJP has warned that if these conditions are



not met within the stipulated time, it will pursue legal remedies, including filing a defamation suit seeking Rs 100 crore in damages, alongside other civil and criminal actions. In response, the BJP's

Jammu and Kashmir president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Paul Sharma, through his advocate Parimoksh Seth, served a legal notice to the Chief Minister. The three-page notice refutes the allegations, ●P-06

THE LEGAL NOTICE DEMANDS THAT THE CHIEF MINISTER WITHDRAW HIS ALLEGATIONS in writing, issue a public apology within seven days, and immediately refrain from making any further defamatory statements. The BJP has warned that if these conditions are not met within the stipulated time, it will pursue legal remedies,

'Can't Ignore Me'

Omar's 'Love Letter' Jibe At BJP Over Rs 100 Crore Legal Notice

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reacted to the Bharatiya Janata Party's defamation notice against him over his claim that the saffron party was trying to poach National Conference MLAs. Calling the notice a "love letter", Abdullah said that he was a "political force that they cannot ignore". "I have not been issued any summons. I have received a letter from a lawyer. I consider this a great honour because I am the only politician in J&K who has bestowed with this love letter. I am a political force that they cannot ignore. At the same time, I think it is also symbolic of the way the BJP fights. They take political fights and hide behind the courts," he said.

'Glorifying Separatists' Three Publishers Arrested In J&K Over Banned School Books

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A court in Jammu has remanded three publishers to 10-day police custody in connection with the alleged publication and circulation of books allegedly glorifying separatist leaders, officials said on Monday. The Counter Intelligence Unit in Jammu arrested the three publishers on Sunday as part of its ongoing probe into the controversy over certain books supplied to government libraries that were allegedly found to contain material glorifying separatists. The books in question are 'Personalities and Legends of J-K', authored by Hilal Ahmad and Santosh Meena, and published by Jammu-based Oberoi Book Service, and 'Great Personalities of Jammu and Kashmir', authored by Sushant Giri and published by the Delhi-based Anurag Prakashan. The arrested publishers, Inderpaul from Oberoi Book Service and Amardeep Singh and Girish Arora from the Noida-based Dominant Publishers, were virtually produced before the court, which granted the police remand to facilitate further investigation into the case, officials said. ●P-06



DGP Nalin Prabhat Reviews Security Arrangements In Downtown Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday conducted a comprehensive review of the security situation in downtown Srinagar, undertaking an on-ground inspection of deployments and operational preparedness in view of the restrictions imposed on the occasion of July 13. The DGP, accompanied by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir V.K. Birdi, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Central Kashmir and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, assessed the prevailing security situation and reviewed arrangements put in place to maintain law and order across the old city. During the visit, Prabhat inspected the deployment of security personnel near the Naqshband Sahib shrine, where he interacted with officers and



personnel on duty. He reviewed the operational preparedness of the police and other security agencies and directed officials to remain vigilant and ensure effective security management. The security review comes as authorities imposed restrictions around the Mazar-e-Shuhada (Martyrs' Graveyard) at Naqshband Sahib to prevent gatherings and visits by political leaders and members of the public intending to pay tributes to the 1931

martyrs. Police officials said the review was aimed at ensuring peace, maintaining public order and strengthening security deployment across sensitive areas of Srinagar in view of the significance of the day. July 13 is observed by many in Kashmir as the anniversary of the 1931 incident in which protesters were killed after being fired upon by the forces of Maharaja Hari Singh. ●P-06

CS Reviews Formulation Of Comprehensive Cancer Care Strategy For J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a high-level meeting to assess the initial formulation of a comprehensive Cancer Care Strategy for the Union Territory aimed at creating an integrated, accessible and technology-enabled cancer care ecosystem across Jammu & Kashmir. Among others, the meeting was attended by Director, SKIMS; Mission Director, National Health Mission; Director, Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Chandigarh; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director, Health Services, Kashmir; Jammu; Faculty Members of GMCs and other senior officers of the Health & Medical Education Department. The strategy, prepared by the Health & Medical Education Department in consultation



with leading oncology experts and national institutions, envisages a holistic framework covering cancer prevention, early detection, screening, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care, research, capacity building and digital health interventions. Reviewing the proposed roadmap, the Chief Secretary observed that cancer is emerging as a major public health challenge and called for a coordinated, evidence-based and patient-centric response to improve health outcomes across the Union Territory. He directed the department to ensure time-bound implementation of all proposed interventions through effective institutional coordination, regular monitoring and measurable outcomes. The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of establishing a robust preventive oncology framework across all ●P-06

SC Seeks Centre's Airfare Regulation Rules In Sealed Cover Within 2 Weeks



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to place before it, in a sealed cover within two weeks, the rules it has framed to regulate airfares, after the government informed the court that the proposed framework is ready and will be placed before Parliament within 30 days. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was hearing a petition seeking regulatory guidelines to address unpredictable fluctuations in airfares and alleged exploitative pricing by airlines.

During the hearing, the Centre told the court that rules to regulate airfare pricing have already been framed and are expected to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within the next 30 days. Taking note of the submission, the bench directed the government to submit a copy of the rules before the court within two weeks, irrespective of whether they have been tabled in Parliament. "Considering the submissions, we grant two weeks' time to place before this court the rules which have been framed, ●P-06

Kashmir University celebrates Amir Khusru

Vusat Iqbal from Delhi Gharana enthralled audiences

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Kashmir University Monday organised a grand musical event celebrating the poetic and spiritual legacy of great Indian poet, Sufi ascetic & musician Amir Khusru at Ibn-e-Khaldoon auditorium.

Famed Sufi singer Vusat Iqbal of Delhi Gharana presented the Kalam of Amir Khusru. Registrar of the University Prof Nasir Iqbal was the Chief Guest while as the Director of Global Sufi Foundation Ajmer Syed Riyazuddin Chisti was the guest of honour.

The programme was graced by the Controllor



of Examinations, Deans, Heads of departments, faculty from various departments, invited guests from different walks of society, scholars and students.

The Programme was organised by Sheikh-ul-Alam Centre for Multi-disciplinary Studies in collaboration with Pran Kishore Institute of

Music & Fine Arts and Allama Iqbal Library. Prof Nasir Iqbal said in his address that by celebrating Amir Khusru, we are celebrating a vibrant spiritual tradition which binds people.

Prof Satish Vimal of Sheikh-ul-Alam centre gave a presentation on the contribution of Amir Khusru in his spiritual approach to bridge the divides between philosophies, faiths and cultures. Vusat Iqbal impressed the audiences by her melodious renderings of Hazrat Amir Khusru. The vote of thanks was presented by Prof Aadil Amin Kaak, the Chairman of Markaz-e-Noor.

Sanjeev Verma chairs preparatory meeting for Electoral Literacy Conference in Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, Sanjeev Kumar Verma, Monday convened a preparatory meeting with the senior officers at Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, here to discuss arrangements for the proposed conference aimed to strengthen the electoral literacy in the UT.

The meeting discussed various other issues including participation of educational institutions, Universities and other stakeholders to ensure successful conduct of the conference.

Addressing the officers, the CEO informed that the Election Commission of India has initiated a programme to strengthen the network of Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs). In



this regard, a conference is being organized at Jammu with the aim to familiarize the participants with ECI Net and to discuss the role of Universities and educational institutions in promoting electoral literacy, democratic values and meaningful participation. Sanjeev Verma said the conference will also focus on strengthening the network of ELCs across schools, colleges and Universities at UT, district, ACs and polling station

level throughout J&K as a vibrant platform for continuous electoral and democratic learning.

The CEO directed the senior officers of concerned departments and district administrations to ensure wide participation of students, faculty members and nodal officers of ELCs. He stressed on proper coordination with the Higher Education and School Education Departments for maximum outreach.

Sanjeev Verma further

directed all the concerned officers to complete venue identification and other preparatory arrangements at the earliest. He asked to seek any assistance from the CEO office for smooth conduct of the proposed conference.

All the District Election Officers (DCs), Senior officers of Election Department, Higher Education, School Education, Tourism, Universities and other concerned departments attended the meeting in person and through video conferencing.

MAJOR BOOST TO MEDICAL EDUCATION IN J&K

NMC approves increase of 50 MBBS seats at GMC Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant development for the medical education sector and aspiring medical students in the Union Territory, the Health and Medical Education Department Monday announced that the National Medical Commission (NMC) has granted permission to increase the annual MBBS intake capacity at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu.

The Medical Assess-

ment and Rating Board (MARB) of the NMC has issued the Letter of Permission (LoP) approving an additional 50 MBBS seats for the college. With this approval, the total annual intake capacity of GMC Jammu will rise from the existing 200 seats to 250 seats, effective from the upcoming Academic Year (A.Y.) 2026-27.

It is pertinent to mention that earlier, on 10.07.2026, the NMC has granted permission in favour of GMC Srinagar for additional 50

MBBS Seats, thereby raising the total intake of GMC Srinagar to 250 seats.

Expressing satisfaction over the allocation of additional seats in these GMC's, the Health and Medical Education Department has stated that the expansion reflects the government's steadfast commitment to upgrading medical infrastructure, improving human resource capacity, and providing greater opportunities for local youth to pursue medical careers within the region.

DC Kulgam visits TO Pahloo to oversee process of latest Digitized Jamabandi



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Monday visited the Tehsil Office to oversee the process of Jamabandi reading of the latest digitized Jamabandi, prepared after digitization and incorporation of mutations.

The Jamabandi reading was conducted in the presence of the public, who had been duly informed about the process.

It was informed that the latest digitized Jamabandi is available on the Zameen Sudhar Portal (jkzameensudhar.jk.gov.in), enabling

every estate holder to check their land-related records.

The DC stated that the public can verify their land records and identify if any corrections are required.

It was informed that non-quasi-judicial errors can be corrected at the level of the concerned Tehsildar.

Later, the DC visited newly constructed Tehsil building and directed Exen R&B to complete the remaining work in a time bound manner. He also visited the Patwar Halqa Pahloo and Zangalpura and assessed the progress of Agri stack.

DC G'bal reviews implementation of Mission YUVA; approves 267 cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Monday chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA to review the progress of the flagship self-employment programme and consider beneficiary cases for approval.

At the outset, the DC reviewed the pace of sanctioning and disbursement of approved cases. He directed the concerned departments, financial institutions and implementing agencies to expedite the process so that aspiring entrepreneurs receive timely financial assistance to establish their ventures.

Stressing the need to improve the overall performance under the scheme, the DC called for enhanced coordination among all

stakeholders to ensure faster processing of cases and timely achievement of programme targets. He also directed the concerned officers to strengthen output tracking and closely monitor the progress of units established under Mission YUVA to ensure that beneficiaries receive continuous handholding and their enterprises become sustainable.

Highlighting the importance of skill development and entrepreneurship, the DC instructed the concerned departments to organise capacity-building and orientation programmes without delay so that beneficiaries are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to successfully manage their enterprises.

Special emphasis was laid on extending the benefits of Mission YUVA to members of Self Help Groups, particularly Lakh-

pati Didi beneficiaries. The DC directed the concerned officers to proactively identify eligible women entrepreneurs and facilitate their coverage under the scheme to promote sustainable livelihoods and women-led economic empowerment.

During the meeting, the District Level Implementation Committee approved 267 beneficiary cases under Mission YUVA for financial assistance.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad; General Manager District Industries Centre, Assistant Director Employment, District Social Welfare Officer, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, District Development Manager NABARD, Cluster Head J&K Bank, Lead District Manager and other members of the District Level Implementation Committee.

FDA intensifies Food Safety Drive in Tourist Destinations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Food Safety Wing of the Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, has intensified enforcement and surveillance activities in major tourist destinations of Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Srinagar to ensure availability of safe, hygienic and quality food for tourists and the general public.

During the enforcement drive, teams of Food Safety Officers inspected 56 hotels, restaurants and other food establishments to assess compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, including hygiene and sanitation practices, food

handling, storage conditions and other statutory requirements.

As part of the drive, 31 enforcement samples including 20 from Pahalgam, five from Sonamarg and six from Srinagar of various food articles were lifted and sent to NABL-accredited Food Testing Laboratories for analysis of prescribed safety and quality parameters. During inspections, violations related to unhygienic and insanitary conditions were detected, following which two cases were initiated under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Further, a penalty of ₹10,500 was imposed and recovered from three Food

Business Operators for violation of hygiene and sanitation requirements.

The Food & Drugs Administration under the overall supervision of the Health & Medical Education Department shall continue its efforts to enforce compliance with the regulatory norms and ensure availability of safe and wholesome food in food establishments, especially in tourist areas witnessing heavy footfall. It was further informed that regular enforcement inspections and surveillance drives shall continue across the Union Territory to safeguard human health and curb malpractices on the part of some unscrupulous Food Business Operators (FBOs).

SWD Srinagar organises PMMVY drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW, Srinagar organised a comprehensive awareness and registration drive under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) at the Maternity Hospital, Lal Ded (LD) Hospital, Srinagar.

The programme was

organized with the objective of enhancing awareness among pregnant and lactating women about the benefits of the flagship maternity benefit scheme.

The drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from expecting mothers, their attendants, health-care professionals, and field functionaries. Officials of the SWD provided detailed information regarding the

eligibility criteria, registration process, documentation requirements, and the financial assistance available under the scheme. On-the-spot registration and facilitation support were also extended to eligible beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar highlighted that PMMVY is a flagship maternity benefit

scheme of the Government of India aimed at improving the health and nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The scheme seeks to encourage timely antenatal care, institutional deliveries, and improved maternal and child health outcomes.

The Department reiterated its commitment to

ensuring that every eligible beneficiary is enrolled under the scheme and receives the entitled benefits without delay. The officials also appealed to all eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers to approach their nearest Anganwadi Centre or the concerned Social Welfare Office for registration and assistance under PMMVY.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER SRINAGAR

Subject:- Final Seniority list of District Cadre posts of Junior Health Inspectors, Junior Assistants, BHWs, Junior Drivers, Junior Pharmacists, Junior Lab Technicians, Junior Dental Technicians, Junior X-Ray Technicians, FMPHWs, MMPHWs, Jr. Grade Nurses and Junior Theatre Technicians.

CIRCULAR

On the basis of information received from subordinate offices and as per the available records in this office, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tentative Seniority Lists of the above categories of the district Srinagar were issued vide this office Circular No. Est/CMO/Sgr/1879-90 dated 04.05.2026, No. CMO/Sgr/2086-93 dated 12.05.2026 and No. CMO/SGR/2755-62 dated 18.06.2026, respectively. The same were circulated among all concerned through the respective ZMOs and also published in local newspapers for inviting objections.

Whereas, in response to the publication of the 1st tentative seniority list, certain representations were received. The same were examined and, after verification of the relevant documents, necessary corrections were made and the names were incorporated in the seniority lists of the respective categories at appropriate places.

Whereas, 2nd tentative seniority list of the aforesaid categories were issued vide this office No. CMO/Sgr/2086-93 dated 12.05.2026. However, one representation has been received by this office from Rukhsana Parveen FMPHW posted at Police hospital Sgr duly forwarded by Medical Superintendent Police Hospital Sgr vide NO:- PHS/Estt/F-10/26/4133-35 DATED:- 17.06.2026 requesting therein for inclusion of her name in the seniority list of FMPHW District cadre Sgr. The same were examined and, after verification of the relevant documents, necessary corrections were made and the names were incorporated in the seniority lists of the respective categories at appropriate places.

Whereas, 3rd tentative seniority list of the aforesaid categories were issued vide this office No CMO/SGR/2755-62 dated 18.06.2026. However, two representations has been received by this office from Mr. Mohd Ayoub Beigh Junior Assistant posted at District Hospital, Budgam and Ms. Ishey Angmo, FMHW duly forwarded by the Medical Superintendent, JLNH Hospital, Srinagar vide letter No. MS/JLNMH/1881-82 dated 29.06.2026 and requesting therein for inclusion of their names in the seniority list of Junior Assistant and FMPHW, District cadre Sgr. The same were examined and, after verification of the relevant documents, necessary corrections were made and the names were incorporated in the seniority lists of the respective categories at appropriate places.

Now, therefore, the Final Seniority List of the above categories (2210 officials) is hereby notified and circulated among all through the concerned ZMOs/Medical Superintendent JLNH/Police Hospital Sgr/Gousia Hospital etc for information and necessary action.

CMO/SGR/ 3176-87
Dated: 11/07/2026

DIPK-3176-26
DT: 13/07/2026

Chief Medical Officer,
Srinagar

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, CENTRAL DIVISION SRINAGAR POLICE GOLF CORSE, BOULEVARD ROAD SRINAGAR.



Abdul Rasheed Chopan,
S/o: Abdul Razaq Chopan,
R/o: Akhal Kangan

No: WLWC/Estt/2026-27/ 605-15

Dated: 11/07/2026

Subject: Final Eviction Notice under section 34A of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act-1972.

Reference: This office letter No. WLWC/Estt/2026-27/368-78 dated 18/06/2026.
Ganderbal Range Officer's letter No. ROG/WL/Sindh/2026-27/116-30 dated: 23.05.2026.
Block Forest Officer, Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary report bearing No. TWB/BO/WO/2025-26/77 dated 06/06/2026.

- Whereas Government has notified Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary vide SRO No 156 Dated 19:03 1987 under Section 18 of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- Whereas Section 27 of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 prohibits entry of a person In Wildlife areas.
- Whereas Section 27(3) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 prohibits the alteration, destroying or defacing any boundary mark of a sanctuary with intent to cause damage to any such boundary mark or to cause any wrongful gains.
- Whereas Section 29 of Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972 says that no person shall destroy, exploit or remove any Wildlife Including forest produce from a wildlife sanctuary or damage or divert, stop or enhance the flow of water into or outstand the sanctuary except under and in accordance with a permit granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- Whereas Range Officer, Ganderbal vide his office letter No. ROG/WL/Sindh/2026-27/116-30 dated: 23.05.2026 read with Block Forester Officer, Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary report No. TWB/Bo/WO/2025-26/77 DATED: 06.06.2026; wherein it has been brought under the notice of Undersigned that you have un-authorizedly installed temporary Tea stall with the notified limits of Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary at the foot hills of Thajwas Glacier as such you have caused damage to fragile ecosystem for your greedy and selfish benefits. The report is annexed with Geo-tagged photographs which substantiates that you have violated the provision of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- Whereas Section 34 A (1) (a) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 has empowered Officer not below the Rank of Assistant Conservator of Forests to evict any person from a sanctuary or national park, who has un-authorizedly occupied Government Land. The Section 34 A (1)(b) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 has also empowered the Officer not below the Rank Deputy Conservator of Forests to remove any unauthorized structures, buildings or constructions erected on any Government Land within any sanctuary or National Park.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 34-A of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 final notice is issued upon you to evict from unauthorized occupied Land and to remove the encroachment within 10 days from the date of issuance of this final notice and show cause within 07 days why action (including confiscation of tools and Belongings) shall not be taken against you for un-authorizedly occupying the Government Land.

DIPK-3201-26
DT: 13/07/2026

Pervaiz Ahmad Wani
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Wildlife Warden
Central Division Srinagar

J&K Govt notifies Tenancy Rules to codify landlord-tenant relations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the authorities have notified the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Rules, 2026, unveiling a comprehensive framework for landlord-tenant relations across the Union Territory.

The Rules, issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department, will facilitate implementation of the Jammu & Kashmir Tenancy Act passed by the Assembly.

On April 15, 2026, the government had placed the draft Rules in the public domain. However, no suggestions or objections were received within the stipulated 15-day period, officials said.

As per the notified Rules, every tenancy agreement must be reported to the Rent Authority within two months of execution, either physically or electronically. The Rent Authority will allot a Unique Identification Number and issue an e-receipt to both parties within seven working days.

The Rules mandate that the Rent Authority must establish a digital platform, in local or official language,



es, within the time specified by the Act, to enable submission of documents.

The Rent Authority is also required to take all necessary measures to maintain the privacy and security of data, including all documents and details submitted by the parties. “The details of the tenancy, including cases of renewal, extension, addendum, supplementary agreement and other related applications informed by the parties through the digital platform, shall be accessible only to the concerned parties and to such persons as may be authorised by the Rent Authority, and shall not be accessible to the public or to any unauthorised person,” the Rules state.

The Rules further define the procedure for resolving

disputes between landlords and tenants regarding revision of rent or other charges. The Rent Authority will hear both parties, consider relevant factors such as prevailing rates in the locality, and then determine the revised rent or charges payable. It also has powers to appoint government-recognized property valuers to assist in determining revised rent and charges.

As per Rules, tenants may deposit rent directly with the Rent Authority if landlords refuse to accept payments.

Besides, landlords who fail to refund advance rent or security deposits will be liable to pay interest equivalent to the Jammu and Kashmir Bank’s Marginal Cost of Lending Rate—(KNO)

CS reviews roadmap for commercial cultivation of Medicinal, Aromatic Plants in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday convened a meeting to evaluate the roadmap prepared by the Agriculture Production Department (APD) for promotion of commercial cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at unlocking the sector’s vast economic potential and transforming the Union Territory to become a hub in high-value Himalayan medicinal plants.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Vice Chancellors of SKUAST-Kashmir and SKUAST-Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; MD, HADP; Director Agriculture, Kashmir/Jammu; Representatives from CSIR-IIIM, Jammu; Senior Faculty from Agriculture Universities and other senior officers of the Agriculture Production Department, Forest Department.

The Chief Secretary observed that Jammu and Kashmir possesses immense natural advantages in terms of biodiversity, climate and availability of several high-value medicinal plant species which provide a strong foundation for developing a globally competitive medicinal plant economy.

He said the sector has enormous potential to diversify agriculture, enhance farmers’ incomes, generate employment for rural youth and women, promote entrepreneurship and significantly strengthen the Union Territory’s bio-economy.



ritory’s bio-economy.

He stressed that the roadmap should be implemented with clearly defined timelines, measurable outcomes. He directed the Agriculture Production Department to work in close coordination with the Forest Department, AYUSH, research institutions and the private sector to build a complete value chain from cultivation to global markets.

The Chief Secretary further underscored the importance of attracting private investment in cultivation, processing and value addition while ensuring scientific conservation of valuable medicinal plant resources. He called for adopting cluster-based cultivation models and facilitating stronger market linkages so that farmers receive higher returns from cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants.

While speaking the ACS, Agriculture Production Department, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma outlined a comprehensive ₹150 Cr mission proposed to be implemented over six years for developing an integrated ecosystem encompassing conservation, scientific cultivation, quality planting material, research, processing, value addition, branding, marketing and exports of Medicinal and Aromatic

Plants.

He further maintained that although Jammu and Kashmir possesses one of the richest repositories of Himalayan medicinal plants, its current contribution to the national MAP sector remains below potential due to limited organised cultivation, inadequate processing infrastructure, dependence on wild collection, fragmented marketing systems and limited industry participation. The roadmap seeks to address these challenges through a comprehensive strategy integrating conservation, cultivation, processing, research and marketing.

Detailing out further MD, HADP, Dr. Sagar Doifode Dattatray informed that the proposed mission comprises six major intervention areas, namely conservation and cultivation, establishment of processing infrastructure, branding and marketing, translational research and development, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building of stakeholders.

Elaborating it, the MD made out that the roadmap proposes geo-spatial mapping of MAP-rich niche zones across Jammu and Kashmir, restoration of 1,500 hectares of degraded forest ecosystems, establishment of 51 specialised

MAP nurseries, expansion of cultivation outside forest areas, strengthening of 225 Biodiversity Management Committees and financial support for 500 farmers to obtain Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) and Organic Certification.

Regarding value addition, it was informed that the mission envisages establishment of six primary processing centres in the private sector besides creation of two advanced extraction units too. These facilities would substantially strengthen processing capacity, improve product quality, reduce post-harvest losses and facilitate production of high-value herbal extracts and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

The meeting was further informed by the Nodal Officer, MAP in APD, Dr Abhimanyu that nearly 40 per cent of the total project cost has been earmarked for branding and marketing initiatives, including establishment of two FPO/MFP Parks, two mega MAP clusters in Public-Private Partnership mode, two model MAP villages, creation of an Export Promotion Cell, development of a dedicated digital marketing platform and constitution of a Herbal Innovation Fund to support 80 start-ups in the medicinal plants sector.

GOC White Knight Corps reviews operational preparedness in Rajouri sector

SAJID RAINA

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps, Lt Gen P K Mishra, on Monday visited forward military formations in Rajouri district and reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness.

Lt Gen Mishra, visited the headquarters of the Ace of Spades Division and the Counter-Insurgency Force (CIF) Romeo, where senior officers briefed him on the prevailing security scenario and measures being taken to enhance operational capabilities.

The Corps Commander was apprised of developments related to surveillance systems, precision strike capabilities and initiatives aimed at improving preparedness for emerging security challenges and future warfare.

During the visit, Lt Gen Mishra also interacted with troops deployed in the area and lauded them for maintaining a high level of professionalism and operational readiness. He commended all ranks for their vigilance, operational efficiency and sustained efforts in ensuring peace and stability in the region, the officials said.

The visit forms part of the Army’s periodic review of operational preparedness along the counter-insurgency grid in the Jammu region, they added—(KNO)

Fake ‘Vote for Me’ links on X target users in new phishing campaign

Cyber expert urges users not to click suspicious voting links

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A cyber security expert on Monday warned users of a phishing campaign spreading rapidly on social media platform X, where hackers are using compromised accounts to send fake voting requests aimed at stealing users’ login credentials and taking over their accounts.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir, Tahir Ashraf said users are receiving fraudulent “vote for me” messages from accounts that have already been hacked. He cautioned that clicking on the embedded link could instantly compromise an account.

According to the advisory, accessed, once victims click the malicious link and enter their credentials on a fake login page, attackers seize control of the account, change login details, demand payment to restore access, and use the compromised account



to send similar phishing messages to friends and followers, allowing the scam to spread further.

The SSP urged users not to trust unexpected voting requests, even if they appear to come from someone they know and advised verifying such requests through another communication channel before clicking any links.

Cyber security experts say such attacks rely on social engineering rather than technical vulnerabilities. Victims are tricked into visiting fake websites that closely resemble legit-

imate login pages, where their usernames and passwords are harvested by attackers.

“Vote for me” phishing scams have increasingly surfaced on X in recent months, targeting journalists, public figures, businesses and ordinary users alike. Once an account is hijacked, attackers exploit the victim’s trusted contacts to expand the campaign, making the fraudulent messages appear genuine and increasing the likelihood of more users falling victim—(KNO)

Div Com visits SKIMS Soura, Reviews Medical Care of Amarnath Yatris



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Monday visited the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, to review the medical care and treatment being provided to Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris admitted to the hospital with various health issues.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner interacted with the yatris undergoing treatment and enquired about their health, well-being, and the quality of medical care being provided. He assured them of the administration’s full support and commitment to ensuring the best possible healthcare and assistance throughout their stay.

Reviewing the arrangements, Garg instructed the hospital administration and senior doctors to closely monitor treatment protocols and ensure the availability of all essential medical facilities. He directed the concerned officials to provide prompt, comprehensive, and quality healthcare to every admitted yatri.

Director SKIMS, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, informed the Divisional Commissioner that the hospital has earmarked a dedicated ward with exclusive medical and support staff to provide specialized care to the pilgrims.

He further stated that SKIMS has received 44 yatris for treatment so far, out of which, 28 have been discharged after recovery.

The visit was attended by the Medical Superintendent, SKIMS, the Assistant Commissioner Central, and other senior medical officials and staff.

Min Sharma reaffirms commitment to people-centric governance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Monday met several deputations from different districts of the Jammu division and held detailed interactions on a wide range of public issues concerning infrastructure, civic amenities, public services and developmental requirements.

The deputations, comprising representatives of social organisations, trade bodies, youth groups and local residents, apprised the Minister of issues pertaining to road connectivity, drinking water supply, power infrastructure, sports facilities, ration distribution, digital services, employment opportunities and other development-related matters. They also put forth several area-specific demands aimed at improving the quality of life of the people.

Giving a patient hearing to each deputation, Satish Sharma reiterated the Jammu and Kashmir Government’s unwaver-



ing commitment to ensure transparent, accountable and people-centric governance. He said the present dispensation is working with the sole objective of taking governance to the grassroots and ensuring that every citizen has access to quality public services and modern infrastructure.

“The government is committed to deliver state-of-the-art facilities across Jammu and Kashmir. Our focus is not merely on creating infrastructure but on ensuring that every development initiative directly benefits the people and improves their quality of life,” the Minister said.

He emphasized that public participation remains the cornerstone of effective governance and said regular interac-

tion with citizens helps the government understand ground realities and formulate policies that are responsive to people’s aspirations. He assured the deputations that all genuine issues raised during the meeting would be examined on priority and taken up with the concerned departments for early resolution.

The Minister further stated that under the leadership of the Chief Minister, the government is making sustained efforts to strengthen the public infrastructure, improve service delivery, promote digital governance and create greater opportunities for youth through enhanced sports infrastructure, technology-driven initiatives and inclusive development programmes.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) SOPORE

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

FRESH NIT No 41 /RnB /Sopore of 2026-27 Dated: 11 -07-2026(6sth call)

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) incl. cost of tar & GST	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Positing of AAA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Macadamization of inner links of Dangerpora by way of Providing and laying of Providing and laying of 75 mm WBM WBM, 75 mm thick WMM, 50 MM thick BM amd 25 mm thick semidense incld seal coat and Berm filling by way of GSB.	78.44	156880/-	1600/-	30 days	C&T sector Capex Budget 2026-27	AAY	Accorded by SE R&B Circle Bla vide his order No/17 of 2026-27 dated: 16.5.2026	SE R&B Circle Baramulla vide his order No:18 of 2026-27 dated: 18.5.2026
2	Macadamization of Rampora Rajpora and Sampora Road by way of Providing and laying WBM Grade-2nd in Patches/ Stretches , 75 mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam and 25 mm thick semidense incld 6 mm thick IRC type seal coat and Berm filling by way of GSB	58.829	117658/-	1600/-	30 days	C&T sector Capex Budget 2026-27	AAY	Accorded by SE R&B Circle Bla vide his order No/ 18 of 2026-27 dated: 16.5.2026	SE R&B Circle Baramulla vide his order No:17 of 2026-27 dated: 18.5.2026
3	Macadamization of inner links at Hathlangoo road by way of 75 mm thick WBM, 75 mm WMM, 50 Bitiminous Macdam and 25 mm thick semidense,6 mm thick IRC type seal coat with GSB for Berms	39.13	78260/-	1100/-	20 days	C&T sector Capex Budget 2026-27	AAY/ BEE	Accorded by SE R&B Circle Bla vide his order No/22 of 2026-27 dated: 16.5.2026	EE/R&B Sopore 04/TS of 2026-27 EE/R&B Sopore 04/TS of 2026-27

Project Authority:- Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) North Kashmir.

Position of funds: Partially available.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-07-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11-07-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	11-07-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	20 -07-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21 -07-2026 11:00 AM

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and Serial 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.

Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photographs before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

2. 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 (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) otherwise the tender will be rejected. 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 to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the contract cost, in single CDR/FDR/BG which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

Special Conditions regarding Specifications and Quality control for Machine laid B.T. Works:

- All work components shall be executed strictly in accordance with the specifications laid out in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways publication “Specifications for Road and Bridge Works” and any amendments made up to the date of issuance of N.I.T.
- A periodic sieve analysis of each type of aggregate, as well as a periodic check of aggregates at the gradation control unit, shall be performed to ensure that the specified proportion of aggregates is complied.
- Conducting mandatory quality control tests in the lab and/or field for various components of the advertised work, such as thickness tests, impact value tests, stripping, flakiness, gradation of aggregates, determination of Binder content in bituminous mix, density tests, Viscosity test, and other tests as prescribed in MORTH at the frequency recommended therein, will be the sole responsibility of the contractor, as will the correct execution of the work.
- The location of the Hot mix plant of adequate capacity capable of yielding a mix of proper and uniform quality, from which bituminous macadam is to be transported to the site in clean, tarpaulin covered vehicles/Tippers, and shall be placed in such a way that the manufacturing laying/ spreading and rolling temperatures are kept within the specified limits.

No: 3588-97
Dated: 11 -07-2026

DIPK-3226-26
DT: 13/07/2026

Sd/
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Sopore

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

A Lesson That Should Never Have Been Taught

The arrest of three publishers in the controversial school textbooks case has finally cast a harsh, unforgiving spotlight on a deeply disturbing question: how did books containing allegedly objectionable and divisive content infiltrate government school libraries in the first place? While the dragnet has reached those who printed the pages, the rot goes far deeper than the printing press. This is not a mere bureaucratic oversight; it is a profound, collective failure of the state's educational apparatus. Educational material destined for children is supposed to be subjected to rigorous, multi-layered vetting. If toxic or highly sensitive content managed to bypass these safeguards, it reveals a terrifying reality: the approval and procurement process is either hopelessly broken or dangerously compromised. Schools are meant to be sanctuaries for nurturing young minds, not breeding grounds for confusion or ideological division. Every book placed on a library shelf carries the weight of institutional responsibility. Parents surrender their children to the education system under a sacred trust—that they will be provided with balanced, factual, and age-appropriate knowledge. That trust has been callously betrayed. The government's initial response, withdrawing the books, suspending mid-level officials, blacklisting publishers, and ordering an inquiry, is a necessary damage-control exercise. But the public deserves more than performative, reactionary outrage. We deserve uncompromising answers: The ongoing investigation by the Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) must proceed without fear or favor. If the publishers knowingly printed and peddled subverted material, the law must hit them with full force. However, the buck cannot stop with the vendors. The officials who failed in their duty to protect students must face identical, if not harsher, consequences. This crisis must serve as a final wake-up call for the Education Department. The current mechanism for selecting literature is clearly unfit for purpose. It must be replaced by a transparent, airtight screening process helmed by vetted, independent academic experts. The classroom is where the future of our society is forged. To compromise on the integrity of what our children read is to sabotage that future. The children of Jammu and Kashmir deserve literature that expands their horizons, fosters critical thinking, and promotes social harmony, not texts that double as evidence in a criminal investigation. The ultimate lesson of this sordid episode is clear: institutional accountability must be absolute, and systemic reform must be permanent. Anything less is an insult to the public's intelligence and a gamble with our children's future.

Amarnath Yatra: Sometimes The Journey Calls For Patience



RISHI SURI

The Amarnath Yatra is one of India's most significant annual pilgrimages. Every year, lakhs of devotees travel through the Himalayas to pay their respects at the holy cave shrine, undertaking a journey that is as much about personal faith as it is about endurance, discipline and hope. This year has presented an unusual situation. The naturally formed ice Shivaling has melted earlier than usual, even as the Yatra has witnessed an exceptionally high turnout of pilgrims. These circumstances invite us to reflect on an important aspect of pilgrimage itself: devotion is not measured solely by reaching a destination. It is also reflected in the wisdom, patience and responsibility with which the journey is undertaken. The significance of the Amarnath Yatra has never rested only on a single physical symbol. For generations, devotees have travelled to the shrine seeking spiritual fulfilment, inner peace and a deeper connection with their faith. That connection does not disappear because circumstances change. Faith is ultimately a deeply personal experience, one that cannot be reduced to whether a particular milestone is reached on a particular day. Pilgrimages have always demanded discipline. The challenging terrain, unpredictable weather and logistical complexities of the Amarnath Yatra are reminders that nature ultimately sets its own terms. Respecting those realities is not a sign of diminished devotion but of sound judgement. There are



times when waiting, adjusting plans or choosing another opportunity is the most responsible decision a pilgrim can make. Every devotee also shares a collective responsibility towards fellow pilgrims. Large crowds place pressure on infrastructure, security arrangements and emergency services that work tirelessly to ensure the Yatra proceeds safely. Decisions made with patience and consideration help reduce unnecessary strain and contribute to a safer experience for everyone. The Yatra is also an important part of Jammu and Kashmir's cultural and social fabric. It brings together pilgrims, local communities, security personnel, volunteers and civil administrators in a remarkable annual effort that demonstrates cooperation under demand-

ing conditions. Preserving the dignity and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage is therefore a shared responsibility. The holy cave is more than a destination on a map. It is a place of immense spiritual and cultural significance whose sanctity deserves to be protected. Respecting that sanctity includes respecting the natural environment, following official advisories and recognising that preserving the pilgrimage for future generations is just as important as completing it today. Throughout history, faith has often been accompanied by patience. A meaningful pilgrimage is not defined only by arrival but by the values displayed along the way: humility, discipline, resilience and respect for others. Sometimes, the decision to wait is not a compromise but an affirmation of

those very values. For those who may postpone their journey this year, their devotion remains no less meaningful. The Amarnath Yatra has endured for centuries and will continue to inspire generations to come. There will be another opportunity to undertake the pilgrimage under more favourable circumstances. Ultimately, the Amarnath Yatra is about far more than reaching a cave in the Himalayas. It is about the spirit in which the journey is made. If this year's experience teaches us anything, it is that faith and patience are not opposing virtues. Often, they go hand in hand.

Rishi Suri is a senior editor covering international affairs at The Daily Milap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan A Collective Resolve Towards A Drug-Free Jammu And Kashmir



GOWHER AHMAD BHAT

The launch of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir marks a defining moment in the fight against drug abuse. The campaign, formally kick-started by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, reflects a firm commitment to protecting the youth from the devastating effects of substance abuse and building a healthier and more productive society. More than a government initiative, the campaign has now evolved into a people's movement, bringing together the administration, educational institutions, civil society, trade unions and most importantly, the youth. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor deserves immense appreciation for spearheading this noble mission with determination and vision. His unwavering emphasis on youth welfare, social responsibility and community participation has infused new energy into the campaign. By personally launching and monitoring the initiative, he has sent a strong message that the fight against drugs is among the highest priorities of the Union Territory's administration. His leadership has inspired every stakeholder to contribute wholeheartedly towards achieving the dream of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir. Equal appreciation is due to the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, whose wholehearted support has strengthened this mission. Under his leadership, the Council of Ministers has demonstrated remarkable unity in backing the campaign. The collective commitment shown by the Cabinet reflects the government's recognition that the menace of drug abuse cannot be tackled through law



enforcement alone, it requires awareness, education and community engagement. Their active participation has reinforced public confidence and encouraged citizens from every walk of life to become partners in this important cause. A special word of appreciation is reserved for the Deputy Commissioners of all the participating districts who organised grand rallies and awareness programmes with exemplary dedication. Their meticulous planning, effective coordination and enthusiastic mobilisation transformed the campaign into a massive public movement. The rallies witnessed the participation of thousands of citizens carrying banners and placards, taking pledges against drug abuse and spreading the message of a healthy lifestyle. Such district-level initiatives have ensured that the campaign reaches even the remotest corners of the Union Territory. The Education Department has emerged as one of the strongest pillars of this campaign. Director School Education Kashmir and Chief Education Officers deserve commendation for providing dynamic leadership and ensuring the enthusiastic participation of educational institutions. Their coordination with field officers and school heads resulted in the successful organisation of awareness rallies, seminars, debates, poster-

making competitions, pledge ceremonies and community outreach programmes. The contribution of Cluster Heads, Principals, Zonal Education Officers and Headmasters has been equally remarkable. They transformed schools and colleges into centres of awareness and social responsibility. Through interactive sessions, motivational talks and student-led activities, they ensured that the message against drug abuse reached every classroom. Their commitment demonstrates that educational institutions are not merely centres of academic learning but also institutions for character building and nation building. The most inspiring aspect of the campaign has undoubtedly been the enthusiastic participation of students from universities, colleges and schools. Their energy, creativity and commitment transformed the campaign into a vibrant social movement. Carrying banners, raising slogans and engaging with local communities, the students became ambassadors of positive change. Their involvement reflects the belief that the youth are not merely beneficiaries of the campaign but its strongest champions. When young minds unite for a noble cause, they possess the power to transform society and inspire future generations. The role played by teachers throughout the campaign

deserves the highest appreciation. Teachers are the architects of society and their influence extends far beyond the classroom. They educated students about the harmful consequences of drug addiction, motivated them to adopt healthy lifestyles and inspired them to become responsible citizens. Their guidance and personal examples have made the campaign more meaningful and impactful. Among the various organisations that actively supported the initiative, the Jammu and Kashmir General Line Teachers Forum (JKGLTF) deserves special recognition. The Forum has consistently stood at the forefront of social and educational causes reaffirming that teachers are not only educators but also nation builders. Its active participation in rallies, awareness drives and community mobilisation has significantly strengthened the campaign. The enthusiastic involvement of its members reflects the Forum's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the future of the younger generation and contributing to the broader cause of social reform. Drug addiction is not merely an individual problem, it affects families, communities and the entire social fabric. It deprives society of productive human resources, fuels crime and undermines the aspirations of young people. Combating this challenge requires coordinated

efforts from government agencies, educational institutions, parents, civil society organisations, religious leaders and responsible citizens. The Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan has successfully demonstrated that when all sections of society work together, even the most complex social challenges can be addressed effectively. However, the success of this campaign should not be measured solely by the scale of rallies or awareness programmes. Its true success will depend upon sustained follow-up, continuous community engagement and the collective resolve of every citizen to reject the menace of drugs. Awareness must be transformed into action and pledges must translate into lasting behavioural change. Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan has ignited a new hope for Jammu and Kashmir. It has united the administration, educational institutions, trade unions, students and the public under one common objective, a drug-free society. The exemplary leadership of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the wholehearted support of Honourable Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his Cabinet, the dedicated efforts of district administration, the tireless work of education officers and school heads, the enthusiastic participation of students and the invaluable contribution of organisations such as the Jammu and Kashmir General Line Teachers Forum together represent a shining example of collective responsibility. With sustained commitment, public participation and unwavering determination, Jammu and Kashmir can emerge as a model for the entire nation in combating drug abuse. The campaign has begun with great promise, and it is now the responsibility of every citizen to ensure that this promise is fulfilled and that future generations inherit a healthier, safer and addiction-free society.

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Good Morning

Kashmir

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

■ Society Behind Addiction

Understanding Addiction As A Social Process

ASIYA AKHTER

When a young person falls into addiction, society rarely asks what happened before the first dose. We are quick to condemn, quicker to label, and quickest to distance ourselves. Addiction is often explained as the consequence of poor choices, weak character, or moral failure. While individual responsibility cannot be ignored, reducing addiction to a personal weakness oversimplifies a problem deeply rooted in society. If addiction were merely about individual choice, awareness campaigns and punishments alone would have solved it. Yet the problem continues to grow.

I believe the real question is not why people become addicted. But what kind of society creates conditions where addiction becomes an escape? As human beings, we know that no child dreams of becoming addicted. Every child begins life with aspirations, curiosity, and the hope of becoming someone. The journey towards addiction rarely begins with drugs. It often begins with loneliness, unresolved emotional pain, unemployment, family conflict, social isolation, peer influence, academic failure, or the feeling that one's future has already been decided. By the time substance abuse becomes visible, many invisible struggles have already accumulated.

This is why I believe addiction should be understood as a social process rather than a single event. What begins as experimentation can gradually become abuse and eventually dependence. Addiction is sustained by much more than biology. It is also shaped by a broader social and economic environment. Modern drug culture has evolved into a parallel



social system with its own networks, identities, economic interests, and relationships. Publicly, society condemns drugs. Yet the illegal drug economy continues to expand because it generates enormous profits for traffickers, suppliers, and organised criminal networks. This contradiction should force us to ask uncomfortable questions. If drug abuse continues to flourish despite widespread condemnation, then the problem extends beyond individual users.

Another dimension that often receives little attention is money. Addiction is expensive, and as dependence grows, so does the financial burden. When legitimate resources and personal savings are exhausted, some individuals resort to theft, deception, drug peddling, or other unlawful means. This does not mean addiction automatically produces crime, but it shows how dependence can push vulnerable

people towards desperate choices. The relationship between drugs and crime is therefore often driven by survival rather than intention.

In my opinion, the greatest damage caused by addiction is neither physical nor financial; it is social. The moment an individual's addiction becomes publicly known, society starts to replace understanding with stigma. Families lose trust. And friends also withdraw. Even educational institutions distance themselves. Communities begin to identify the individual as bad and evil as an addiction, not by their humanity. And this social rejection creates another tragic irony. While mainstream society excludes the individual, drug-using groups often provide acceptance, identity, and belonging. The very behaviour that leads to exclusion from one social world becomes the basis for inclusion in another. Here we fail to help recovery as a result, recovery then becomes more than overcoming a chemical

dependency; it becomes a struggle to regain a place in society.

So this cycle explains why criticism alone rarely transforms lives. Constant rejection often pushes individuals deeper into the very environment society wants them to leave. Once mainstream relationships collapse, drug networks may become the only remaining source of acceptance, reinforcing the cycle of addiction.

The vulnerability of young people deserves particular attention. Across many societies, young adults face growing uncertainty that creates addiction. Unemployment alone does not create addiction; it's prolonged uncertainty, economic insecurity, educational inequality, family dysfunction, peer influence, social exclusion and absence of meaningful opportunities.

Recognising the seriousness of the issue, the administration launched the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan under Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The campaign combined public awareness, action against drug trafficking, rehabilitation, and counselling. These efforts reflect an important institutional commitment to tackling substance abuse.

Their importance cannot be denied. Strong law enforcement disrupts supply chains. Public awareness encourages communities to remain vigilant. Rehabilitation services offer individuals a chance to rebuild their lives. Yet these efforts also invite a deeper sociological reflection. Can awareness campaigns and policing alone eliminate addiction if the social conditions that make addiction attractive remain unchanged?

A young person may attend an anti-drug awareness programme in the morning and return home in the evening to unemployment, family conflict, untreated depression, academic pressure, social isolation, or a neighbourhood where drugs remain

easily available. Awareness may increase knowledge, but knowledge alone cannot replace hope, opportunity, or belonging. So, preventing addiction requires more than telling young people what they should avoid. It requires creating conditions where education leads to opportunities, families provide support, and young people can see a future to work for. So we can build a drug-free society.

I believe prevention begins long before the first drug is consumed. We as a society also make the greatest mistake by taking addiction as if it belongs only to addicts. But in reality, addiction reveals something about society itself. Addiction tells us that this is not just an individual story. It reveals the kind of society we have built. It reveals where opportunities exist only for some, where emotional suffering remains invisible until it becomes a crisis, where communities notice addiction but overlook the loneliness and exclusion that often precede it. By the time a person is labelled an addict, society has usually missed many earlier moments when intervention was still possible.

We should ask ourselves at all levels of institutional systems, from the bottom to the top. What conditions make addiction easier to choose than hope? And that attitude will guide our attention from the individual alone to the environment in which that individual is trying to survive. Laws are important to dismantle trafficking networks. Awareness campaigns can inform communities. Rehabilitation is helpful for people to recover. In my opinion, we cannot build a drug-free society simply by removing drugs. We must build a society where young people no longer feel the need to escape their reality. That, I believe, is where the real solution begins.

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Hold The Line

Fulfil The 2027 End TB Commitments Without Shifting Goalposts

SHOBHA SHUKLA

BOBBY RAMAKANT

Can we ever end tuberculosis (TB) - the deadliest infectious disease on Earth - without ensuring that every single person who takes an initial TB test receives a truly effective one? A test that accurately and rapidly detects active TB disease. A test that misses no one. Because finding TB early and accurately is not optional - it is the indispensable lynchpin, the non-negotiable gateway to the entire treatment and care pathway.

"If we miss people with active TB disease due to a poor test, then we fail to reduce avoidable human suffering and risk of TB death. More worrying is that the infection keeps spreading," said Prevent-Find-Treat ALL TB campaign leader Shobha Shukla. "There is no excuse for inaction since WHO recommended portable molecular tests are available since 2010. We must eliminate deadly delays between scientific breakthroughs and the time by when they translate into public health impact."

As per the latest WHO Global TB Report 2025, almost half (46%) of the TB patients in 2024 worldwide received a poor test - microscopy. Microscopy misses finding TB accurately in half (or more) of those who take this test. It is being used since last 144 years ago when Dr Koch made this TB scientific breakthrough. But in the last two decades, science has gifted us some highly sensitive and specific portable molecular tests to find TB early and accurately - and quite a few of these are WHO recommended.

That is why the highest-level leadership of the UN health agency - World Health Organization (WHO) - had called upon the governments (Find.Treat.All) in 2018 to completely replace microscopy with upfront WHO recommended molecular tests by 2027.

Prior to this, Government of India's National TB Elimination Programme had released its National TB Elimination Strategy 2017-2025 under the visionary leadership of the then-head (Deputy Director General) Dr Kuldeep Singh Sachdeva. This strategy had also set forth an ambitious time plan to radically scale up upfront molecular TB testing in India during 2017-2025. Indian government programme has surpassed several of the indicators enlisted in that strategy. In 2023, world leaders of 193 countries unanimously adopted the Political Declaration to end TB at United Nations General Assem-

bly High Level Meeting. This Political Declaration also re-echoed the promise to replace microscopy completely with WHO recommended molecular test as an upfront or initial TB test by 2027.

Few days ago, a sign-on of 'Bangkok Declaration' is circling around on social media that is asking people to sign in their 'personal capacities' to replace microscopy with upfront molecular testing for TB by 2028. This supposedly came out from a meeting funded by Gates Foundation and organised by Stop TB Partnership on near point-of-care TB tests in Thailand. But the 'Bangkok Declaration' does not mention who organised it. This 29 words Bangkok Declaration reads as follows: "We commit, in our personal capacities, to a phased replacement of smear microscopy with WHO-recommended molecular testing for the initial diagnosis of tuberculosis, to be completed by 2028."

It is absolutely undeniable what this Bangkok Declaration states - "to phased replacement of smear microscopy with WHO-recommended molecular testing for initial TB diagnosis." But we do not agree with the timeline of 2028 - because we can do better now!

Why shift the 2027 goalpost?

With around 1 year 5 months left to deliver on 2027 TB targets enshrined in the Political Declaration endorsed by all world leaders unanimously in 2023 at UNHLM, why should we shift the goalpost on TB testing by a year? Ensuring that the first initial or upfront TB test is a molecular test is a non-negotiable when it comes to TB disease elimination strategy by 2030. This is very doable too as most countries have significantly rolled out upfront molecular testing worldwide. For every one US\$ invested in TB prevention and control, there are health and economic returns of US\$ 43. So, TB investment is a smart investment too.

Deadly gap

As per the latest WHO Global TB Report 2025, globally, 54% of all TB patients notified in 2024 were diagnosed with an upfront molecular test. In African region, 53% of all TB patients notified in 2024 were diagnosed with an upfront molecular test. This number dips to 41% for Southeast Asian region though. 38% of all notified TB patients in India, 56% in South Africa, 65% in Indonesia, 69% in Nigeria, and 74% in Philippines got an upfront molecular test in 2024.

It is evident that since some years now, different countries are at different stages of replacing microcopy with upfront molecular test TB diagnosis. 100% upfront molecular TB testing for



high TB risk homeless and migrant populations is possible, then why not for everyone else?

In India - a country with highest TB burden - and in Delhi state - a state with the country's highest TB incidence, the government TB elimination programme in partnership with Humana People to People India was able to achieve 100% upfront molecular test diagnosis among populations at very high TB risk: homeless and migrants. When we can achieve 100% upfront molecular testing in high risk populations in Delhi, then why cannot we ensure this for everyone else? Best time to do the right thing was years back - second best time is now.

There are more examples: Goa state in India had completely replaced smear microscopy with upfront molecular test TB diagnosis 5 years ago. Lakshadweep, a Union Territory in India, had also achieved 100% upfront molecular test diagnosis and recently was declared TB free. Dr Rakesh PS, a noted TB elimination consultant presented at AIDS 2026 Affiliated Independent Event on the theme: Rethink, Rebuild and Rise to Put People First and deliver on ending AIDS and TB in next 54 months (by 2030). Dr Rakesh PS shared that there were months every year when 10 of the inhabited Lakshadweep islands were very difficult to reach due to rough sea or bad weather. TB diagnostics was decentralised with WHO recommended molecular test in each of the 10 islands. Better technology alone is not enough but designing public health systems that respond to local realities of the people they serve is critical. Taking services closer to the communities was a game changer along with empowering local health workers to lead the response.

In the past five years, Stop TB Partnership's introducing new tools project had also rolled out artificial intelligence enabled handheld ultraportable X-Rays along with portable battery-

operated molecular test Truenat and demonstrated strong impact in terms of finding TB early and accurately - and helping save lives. The uncomfortable question is why were these high impact interventions not taken to scale, with urgency and immediacy? So asked Sumit Mitra, a noted thought leader on bridging the deadly diagnostic divide in the Global South, who was also among the key speakers at AIDS 2026 Affiliated Independent Event hosted by over 30 organisations collectively with Prevent-Find-Treat ALL TB campaign, CNS and UNAIDS.

All is not so bleak as there is hope too - again from a country with highest TB burden - India. Indian government's National TB Elimination Programme which was then-headed (DDG) by Dr Urvashi B Singh, made a foundational shift in how it finds TB on 7 December 2024. AI-enabled X-Rays and portable molecular test were supposed to be taken in a van (Ni-Kshay Vahan) to high-risk communities and offer them TB screening and test closer to their homes. In first 100 days, government's programme found over 285,000 asymptomatic people with active TB disease - none of them would have been found so early if such an approach was not driving the TB case finding. Dr Urvashi B Singh was speaking at AIDS 2026 Affiliated Independent Event.

India's health minister told on World TB Day 2026 that in one year, Indian government could find over 1 million (10 lakhs) asymptomatic people with active TB disease - none of them would have been found so early if such a science-based approach was not driving the efforts. Early and accurate TB case finding is critical to prevent the spread of infection as well as link people to lifesaving TB treatment, care and support. Unless we use the right TB test and stop missing TB cases among those who take a TB test, how will we ever eliminate TB? Most strategic advocacy demand should not be to shift the 2027

goalpost but instead call for rapid scale up of upfront molecular testing as soon as possible - and latest by end of 2027 as promised by world leaders at the 2023 General Assembly.

The latest update to WHO TB Diagnostic Guidelines around World TB Day 2026 was an important turning point as, among other important recommendations, it also recommended near point-of-care portable molecular test (30 minutes TB test). The list of WHO recommended molecular tests is expanding but the pace at which these tests are being rolled out on the ground is not matching the public health emergency and crisis which TB has posed against us historically.

As per the latest WHO Global TB Report 2025, there were an estimated 10.7 million people worldwide with active TB disease in 2024, but four-fifth of them were diagnosed and linked to care. One-fifth (2 million) is the global gap between those we reach and we need to reach to find ALL TB and link them to lifesaving care. In 2024, in African region, out of estimated 2.6 million people with TB disease, 1.9 million were notified. In Southeast Asia region, out of 3.7 million estimated people with TB disease, 3.1 million were found. In the same year, out of 2.7 million people with TB, 2.5 million were notified. Out of 249,000 people with TB in South Africa, 183,000 were notified. Out of 510,000 people with TB in Nigeria, 402,000 were notified. And out of 724,000 people with TB in Philippines, 544,000 were notified. Unless we reach ALL people with active TB disease early and diagnose ALL of them accurately, and link ALL of them to standard TB treatment, care and support, how will we end TB? Infection prevention remains cornerstone. No one should get infected with a disease that is preventable.

TB diagnostic technology alone is not enough. Most essential is to ensure that health and social support services of the government, including those for TB, are person-centred, rights-based and gender transformative. We need to dismantle social, structural and systemic barriers people face in accessing health and social services. When populations - who are most-at risk of TB - are able to access public services with equity, safety and dignity, then only a real change will be possible in helping save lives from an ancient disease like TB.

(Shobha Shukla leads Prevent-Find-Treat ALL TB campaign. Bobby Ramakant works with CNS

Amarnath Yatra

The Baltal-bound convoy, carrying 2,896 pilgrims in 133 vehicles, left at 2:44 a.m., while the Pahalgam-bound convoy, comprising 4,858 pilgrims in 170 vehicles, departed at 3:28 a.m.

The batch included 5,383 men, 2,071 women, 16 children, 222 sadhus, 58 sadhvis and four transgender pilgrims.

Officials said the sharp rise in pilgrim numbers is the outcome of sustained efforts by the administration and security agencies to provide a safe, smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage. Enhanced accommodation, transport, sanitation, medical facilities and round-the-clock security have significantly improved the overall experience for devotees.

Besides official measures, positive word-of-mouth from pilgrims has emerged as a major driving force behind the growing footfall. Devotees returning after darshan have been widely appreciating the arrangements, encouraging more people from across the country to undertake the pilgrimage.

"I had heard a lot about the improved arrangements this year, but after reaching here, I found everything even better than expected. From security to accommodation and medical facilities, everything is well managed. I will definitely encourage my family and friends to undertake the Amarnath Yatra because the entire experience has been peaceful, safe and spiritually fulfilling," a devotee from Maharashtra said.

Officials said the increasing number of registered pilgrims leaving Jammu every day, along with the heavy rush at on-the-spot registration counters, shows the growing enthusiasm for the Yatra.

They said that all arrangements are being continuously reviewed to ensure every pilgrim has a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience

Amarnath Pilgrims

Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district on Monday, officials said.

A joint rescue operation was launched by the Civil Administration, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police, following which all the injured were shifted to the district hospital for treatment.

CRPF Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Manish Kumar Sachar said all the injured pilgrims had been discharged and were being shifted to another convoy.

"At 7.21 AM, there were two buses that were going to the convoy. Almost 18 travellers faced minor injuries. We brought them to the Ramban hospital. Everyone has been discharged from the hospital and is being shifted to another convoy," Sachar said.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Aliyas Khan said the accident occurred when the Yatra convoy reached the Chanderkote Langar Point.

"At around 7.20 AM, when the Pahalgam Yatra convoy reached the Chanderkote Langar Point, there was a collision between two SRTC buses. A car was also hit during the incident. Eighteen people were injured," Khan said.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Ramban Dr Kamal Jee Zadoo said all the injured pilgrims were in stable condition.

"A few vehicles collided, resulting in injuries to a total of 18 people. Our medical team stationed at the camp provided on-the-spot treatment and first aid, after which we referred them to the district hospital. At the district hospital, they underwent further evaluation and tests, and all were found to be in stable condition. We have discharged all the patients," he said.

The accident comes amid heightened security arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Security has been intensified along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway with regular night domination exercises, increased Quick Response Team (QRT) patrolling, and enhanced vehicle checking at strategic locations to ensure the safe movement of pilgrims.

Joint teams of security forces have been conducting extensive surveillance and checking operations, including in Ramban district's Banihal area. The CRPF has also deployed Road Opening Parties (ROPs) along National Highway-44 and established a 24x7 Mobile Health Camp at Chanderkote in Ramban to provide medical assistance to pilgrims and locals.

The 57-day Amarnath Yatra began on July 3 and will conclude on August 28 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

BJP Serves Legal

calling them "false, baseless and defamatory," and asserts that they were intentionally made to malign the

party's reputation. The BJP contends that the statements have caused significant harm to its public standing.

The notice specifically references Abdullah's claim that a senior BJP functionary, who is also a Supreme Court lawyer, was involved in the alleged bribery attempts. Furthermore, Abdullah had linked the offers to the restoration of statehood.

Three Publishers

Previously, both Oberoi Book Service and Dominant Publishers had been blacklisted by the government. Counter-intelligence teams conducted raids on their premises on July 6.

On July 4, the Counter Intelligence Unit registered an FIR under Sections 49 (abetment), 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 152 (endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India), 196 (promoting enmity, disharmony) and 353 (publishing, or circulating false statements, rumours, or reports) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), besides Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The case was registered shortly after Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha suspended eight officials from the School Education Department, dismissed a contractual staff member, and ordered an inquiry into the two controversial books that contained "highly inappropriate content."

NC Following Congress'

and written invitations, but many did not participate at the time.

"As far as joining this protest is concerned, we will first consult our central leadership. There are certain internal matters that need discussion before any decision is taken," he said.

The senior Congress leader said the protest would have benefited from wider consultations among political parties, adding that a broader consensus could have strengthened the campaign.

He said the Congress' demand extended beyond restoration of statehood and included constitutional safeguards for Jammu and Kashmir.

"When we began this movement, our slogan was that statehood should be restored along with constitutional guarantees available to other states in one form or another," Karra said. "This is a struggle for all 14 million people of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of religion or caste."

Karra said the Congress had maintained the same position since October 16, 2024, when the Union Territory government was being formed.

He reiterated that the party had decided not to join the Jammu and Kashmir government until full statehood, along with constitutional guarantees, was restored.

"It is a matter of principle. Unless complete statehood is granted along with constitutional guarantees, we do not wish to be part of the government," he said, rejecting suggestions that the party had been denied cabinet positions.

On National Conference president Omar Abdullah's allegation that BJP had attempted to lure NC legislators with money, Karra said neither he nor members of the Congress had been approached.

"Nothing of that sort has happened," he said.

DGP Nalin Prabhat

The day was earlier observed as a public holiday in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, with an official function held annually to honour the martyrs.Legal

Following the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories in August 2019, the administration removed July 13 from the list of gazetted holidays in 2020, and the official state commemoration has since been discontinued.

CS Reviews Formulation Of

Government Medical Colleges in the Union Territory to promote early detection and timely intervention against cancer. He stressed the need for simultaneously strengthening both human resource capacity and the requisite healthcare infrastructure so that quality diagnostic and treatment facilities are made available closer to the patients, thereby minimizing the need for travelling to distant facilities.

He directed the Health Department to undertake a phased capacity-building programme by training the required specialist manpower, including Radia-

tion Safety Officer (RSO)-certified personnel, while concurrently upgrading the necessary medical equipment and infrastructure in all medical colleges. He observed that these interventions would significantly enhance the quality and accessibility of cancer care services across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary further instructed that the entire strategy should be implemented in a well-defined, phase-wise manner over the coming years to ensure equitable distribution of oncology facilities across the Union Territory. He also directed each of the expert committees constituted under the Cancer Care Strategy to prepare detailed, time-bound implementation plans within their respective domains.

He said that these implementation plans should be examined and harmonised by the Apex Committee chaired by Dr. Sudeep Gupta, Director, Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Mumbai and other experts here to ensure their technical soundness, feasibility and effective execution.

Highlighting the strategic collaboration with the Tata Memorial Centre, the Chief Secretary observed that the partnership with one of the country's premier cancer care institutions would provide invaluable technical guidance, facilitate adoption of national best practices and significantly accelerate the implementation of the Cancer Care Strategy on the ground, ultimately leading to improved patient outcomes across Jammu & Kashmir

The meeting was informed by MD, NHM, Akriti Sagar that a Steering Committee-cum-State Cancer Registry Coordination Unit has already been constituted to establish a robust Population-Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) and Hospital-Based Cancer Registry (HBCR) network across Jammu & Kashmir.

She added that the initiative would facilitate systematic collection of cancer incidence data, strengthen disease surveillance and support evidence-based planning under the National Cancer Registry Programme.

The MD further informed that following the notification declaring cancer as a notifiable disease in the Union Territory, the Government has initiated the process for executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Non-Communicable Disease Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE), Bengaluru, for technical support in establishing a modern cancer registry system here.

The meeting also reviewed the existing oncology infrastructure available in the Union Territory, including the State Cancer Institute at Government Medical College Jammu, SKIMS Soura, Government Medical College Srinagar, AIIMS Vijaypur, newly established Government Medical Colleges and district-level Day Care Chemotherapy Centres established under the National Health Mission.

To strengthen diagnostic capabilities, the strategy proposes establishment of advanced Molecular Oncology Laboratories across Government Medical Colleges equipped with modern technologies including molecular pathology, immunohistochemistry, genomic profiling and next-generation sequencing.

The meeting was apprised that proposals have already been submitted to ICMR under the DiaMONDs Project for establishment of molecular oncology laboratories in selected medical colleges while additional funding support is being explored for expansion across the UT.

The strategy also recommends augmentation of cancer imaging facilities through phased establishment of mammography units, PET-CT scanners, MRI facilities, gamma cameras and endoscopy services to ensure timely diagnosis and improve early detection of various cancers.

The Chief Secretary reviewed proposals for strengthening cancer treatment services through expansion of radiotherapy infrastructure, enhancement of surgical oncology services, establishment of additional Bone Marrow Transplant and Stem Cell Transplant facilities and creation of multidisciplinary oncology teams across major tertiary healthcare institutions.

The meeting further reviewed proposals for extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns through print, electronic and digital media, schools, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Anganwadi Centres and community-based platforms to promote awareness regarding cancer risk factors, warning signs, screening services and healthy lifestyle practices.

As proposed the Cancer Care Strategy seeks to build an integrated continuum of care covering prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, palliative care and research, with the ultimate objective of reducing cancer burden, improving survival outcomes and ensuring equitable access to quality oncology services for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Ladakh To Get

arrangements elsewhere in the country. The structure and powers of the

proposed UT-level body will be finalised through consultations between Ladakh's representatives and the Government of India, and may involve a rebalancing of powers between the Hill Councils and the new institution.Geo-graphic Reference

The Chief Secretary also clarified that Panchayati Raj institutions will continue to function alongside the Hill Councils, resulting in a three-tier system of elected governance at the village, district and Union Territory levels.

Hot, Humid Weather

division may experience brief spells of heavy rainfall.

From July 20 to 22, the MeT Centre has predicted a further increase in rain activity, saying many parts of both Kashmir and Jammu divisions are likely to receive light to moderate rainfall, while isolated locations could witness heavy rain or intense showers.

The weather office has also issued an advisory warning of heavy rainfall during the late hours of July 18, the morning of July 19 and again between July 20 and 22, particularly during the early morning and late afternoon hours.

It cautioned that the expected rainfall could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides at vulnerable locations, especially in the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal range, and advised people to avoid venturing near streams, nallas and landslide-prone areas during the forecast period.

SC Seeks Centre's

irrespective of whether they have been placed before the Parliament or not, in sealed cover. List on August 3," the court ordered.

The petition seeks directions to the Centre and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to frame binding rules governing airfare pricing. It has also sought measures to cap surge pricing, regulate baggage and other ancillary charges, prescribe uniform cancellation and refund norms, and establish an independent aviation regulator with powers to protect consumer interests.

The issue had come under sharp scrutiny during an earlier hearing on January 21, when the top court expressed concern over steep increases in airfares during festivals and major events.

"Look at the exploitation you did during Kumbh," Justice Mehta had remarked, referring to the sharp spike in ticket prices during the Kumbh Mela.

"Not only Kumbh, but every festival," Justice Nath had added.

Justice Mehta had also pointed to airfare trends for Prayagraj and Jodhpur, observing that ticket prices during festival periods were nearly three times the normal fares.

The matter will now be taken up again on August 3 after the Centre places the draft rules before the court.



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Main Altaf chairs DISHA meeting at Shopian, reviews govt schemes

Underscores need for increasing outcomes under public welfare initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Member of Parliament for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, Mian Altaf Ahmad Monday chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at Mini Secretariat, Shopian, to review the implementation and progress of government flagged schemes and major developmental projects across the district.

The meeting was attended by MP, Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Mian Altaf Ahmad Monday chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at Mini Secretariat, Shopian, to review the implementation and progress of government flagged schemes and major developmental projects across the district.

District Development Commissioner (DDC), Shopian, Shishir Gupta gave a comprehensive presentation highlighting the physical and financial progress of flagship schemes and development initiatives being implemented in the district.

During the meeting, the progress and achievements recorded under centrally sponsored schemes including MPLADS, MGNREGA, PMAY-G, PMGSY, PMAY- U, SBM-Grameen & Urban, HADP, JKICP,



FRA, PMFBY, PM SVANidhi, AMRUT 2.0, JJM, POSHAN 2.0, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PM Vishwakarma, Samagra Shiksha, RDSS, PM Surya Ghar, along with Urban Development, Social & labour welfare, social security, self employment and skill development initiatives and schemes were presented by the DDC during the department wise review. He also flagged off department wise issues and manpower deficits before the chair.

The MP, Chairperson DISHA reviewed the status of major infrastructure projects, including the Shopian town beautification, de-congestion works, development of adjoining villages, tribal welfare projects, 50-bedded Critical Care Block, District

Integrated District Public Health Laboratory, road connectivity projects, water supply schemes and irrigation works alongwith other public welfare works.

Emphasising effective implementation of public benefit programmes, Mian Altaf called upon officers to ensure timely completion of all ongoing projects, enhance public outreach regarding government schemes and expedite works aimed at improving infrastructure and public service delivery.

The MP stressed that special focus should be laid on promoting schemes for agriculture & allied sectors, sheep and animal husbandry besides focusing on tribal welfare and employment generation to maximise benefits for the people. He underscored the

importance of extensive awareness among people regarding the scheme benefits of centrally and UT sponsored schemes.

The MP also called for speedy disposal of Forest Rights Act claims, improved civic amenities, better road connectivity and adequate facilities for tourists and commuters, particularly along the Mughal Road.

During the meeting, MLAs of Zainapora and Shopian raised several constituency-specific issues, including the augmentation of public infrastructure, strengthening of healthcare and education facilities, drinking water supply, irrigation and expeditious implementation of ongoing developmental works.

Responding to the concerns, the chairperson assured the legislators that all genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments and higher authorities for prompt redressal. He emphasized that equitable and inclusive development of all constituencies remains a priority and directed district administration officers to address the issues in a time-bound and coordinated manner.

Lack of female ECG staff in J&K hospitals worries women patients

Health Min urged to ensure deployment of trained female technicians in ECG rooms

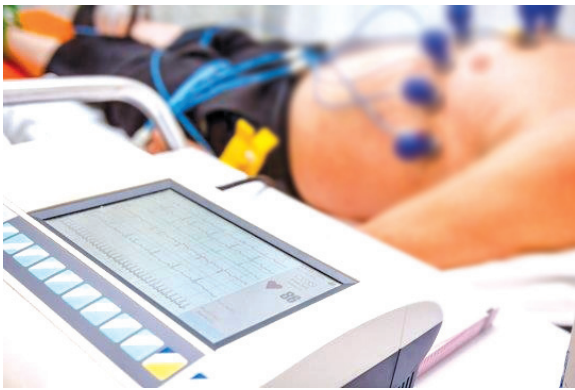
JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The lack of female staff in Electrocardiogram (ECG) rooms across several government hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a significant concern, with women patients saying they often feel uncomfortable undergoing the diagnostic procedure in the presence of male technicians.

Many women and their attendants said that the absence of female technicians not only causes embarrassment but also discourages some patients from undergoing the test promptly, potentially delaying diagnosis and treatment of serious heart-related conditions.

Rukhsana Bano, a patient who recently visited a district hospital in south Kashmir, said she postponed her ECG for several hours after learning that only a male technician was available.

"I was advised to undergo an ECG immediately, but I felt extremely uncomfortable when I found that only a male technician was present. I waited for hours, hoping a female staff member would become available, but there was none. Such situations



create unnecessary stress for women patients and can even delay treatment," she said.

A woman from north Kashmir narrated a similar experience, saying that the procedure requires exposure of the chest area, making many women hesitant when no female staff member is available.

"Many women feel embarrassed during the test. Some even choose to skip the ECG despite medical advice because there is no female technician. The government should ensure that female staff are posted in ECG rooms for women patients," she said.

Medical professionals acknowledged that patient comfort and privacy are crucial components of quality healthcare. A senior physician, request-

ing anonymity, said an ECG is often the first and most important investigation in diagnosing cardiac emergencies.

"An ECG is a simple, quick and frequently life-saving diagnostic test. If patients delay or refuse the procedure because they are uncomfortable, it can adversely affect timely diagnosis and treatment. Ensuring the availability of trained female staff would improve patient confidence and healthcare outcomes," the doctor said.

Health experts believe the issue can be addressed through a simple administrative measure by ensuring that every hospital has at least one trained female technician or healthcare worker available to assist women patients during

ECG examinations.

They expressed hope that Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo, being a woman herself, would appreciate the sensitivity of the issue and take appropriate steps to address it.

Patients and attendants have appealed to the Health and Medical Education Department to formulate a policy ensuring the availability of female staff in ECG rooms across all district hospitals, sub-district hospitals and other healthcare institutions.

"Female staff are routinely deployed in departments where women's privacy is a priority. A similar arrangement should be made in ECG rooms as well. It is not only about convenience but also about preserving the dignity, privacy and comfort of women patients," said Haseena, an attendant at a hospital in Pulwama.

The patients have urged Health Minister Sakeena Itoo to intervene and issue necessary directions so that trained female staff are made available in ECG rooms, enabling women across Jammu and Kashmir to access essential diagnostic services without hesitation or discomfort—(KNO)

Pulwama Admin, IRCS organise mega Drug De-Addiction Awareness Programme in Tral

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Jammu & Kashmir, Monday organised a Mega Drug De-Addiction Awareness Programme at Government Degree College, Tral to educate students and the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society.

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Tral, Rafiq Ahmad Naik attended the programme as the chief guest. Among others present were Treasurer, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K, G.A. Qureshi; Principal, Government Degree College Tral; Chief Medical Officer Pulwama; senior officers from various departments; social workers; faculty members; and a large gathering of students.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA appreciated the series of activities organised across the district under the ongoing campaign. He advised the youth and students to remain vigilant against the dangers of substance abuse and urged them to channel their energies towards education, sports and other constructive

pursuits. He also appealed to parents to remain closely connected with their children, monitor their activities and provide timely guidance to prevent them from falling prey to drug addiction.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers highlighted the harmful effects of drug abuse and the need for a coordinated and community-driven approach to eradicate the menace. They stressed the importance of sustained awareness, early intervention, counselling, rehabilitation and active participation of educational institutions, families and civil society in protecting the younger generation from substance abuse.

Medical experts, on the occasion, also conducted awareness sessions on the physical, psychological and social consequences of drug addiction. They encouraged students to adopt healthy lifestyles, make informed choices and become ambassadors of a drug-free society.

Furthermore, during the programme, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Pulwama screened an awareness film highlighting the devastating impact of drug abuse on individuals, families and society. The audio-visual presentation highlighted the campaign's message of awareness, prevention and community participation.

Enforcement Drive intensified in Gurez to Curb Single-Use Plastic



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Continuing its sustained efforts to preserve the fragile ecology of Gurez Valley, the District Administration Bandipora on Monday intensified enforcement against the use of banned single-use plastic (SUP) while conducting extensive cleanliness drives across Dawar Market and nearby tourist locations.

An enforcement drive was carried out at Dawar Market by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gurez, Mukhtar Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Lone; and Block Development Officer (BDO) Gurez, Lateef Ahmad Mantoo, along with a police team led by the Station House Officer (SHO) Gurez.

During the drive, around 18 kilograms of single-use plastic was seized, while a penalty of Rs 13,000 was imposed on four shopkeepers found violating the ban on single-use plastic.

A cleanliness drive was also conducted in the Main Market, Dawar, under the supervision of the SDM Gurez and ACP Bandipora. Officials, field staff and sanitation workers participated in the campaign to collect waste and enhance public cleanliness.

Another cleanliness drive was undertaken at the Badi Dassi camping site under the supervision of BDO Gurez, Lateef Ahmad Mantoo, during which a substantial quantity of waste was collected and scientifically disposed of to restore the site's cleanliness. The District Administration reiterated that strict enforcement against banned single-use plastic will continue alongside regular sanitation drives to safeguard the pristine environment of Gurez Valley.

The Administration appealed to citizens, traders and visitors to cooperate by avoiding the use of single-use plastic and maintaining cleanliness at all public places and tourist destinations.

Director Agriculture inaugurates District-Level MIDH Workshop

Urges Farmers to embrace modern Agriculture for sustainable growth

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Department of Agriculture, Kashmir, Monday organized a One-Day District-Level Workshop-cum-Exhibition under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) at Srinagar, aimed at creating awareness among farmers about the various interventions, incentives, and opportunities available under the scheme.

Farmers from the Qamerwari, Brain, and Harwan zones participated enthusiastically in the programme.

The workshop was presided over by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, in the presence of Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar, Aijaz Hussain Dar, senior officers of the department, technical experts, and field functionaries.

Addressing the gathering, Director Agriculture

Kashmir emphasized the immense potential of the agriculture sector in transforming the rural economy and enhancing farmers' livelihoods. He highlighted that the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture is a key initiative of the Government aimed at promoting scientific agriculture through financial assistance, infrastructure development, technology dissemination, and capacity building.

"Our objective is to empower farmers by connecting them with modern technologies and innovative agricultural practices. Through MIDH, we are providing the necessary support to enhance productivity, improve quality, reduce post-harvest losses, and increase farm income. Farmers must take full advantage of these opportunities to build resilient and profitable farming enterprises," the Director said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION DIVISION USHP-II, KANGAN

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e- NIT No. USHP-II/GD/06 of 2026-27 | Dated: 11-07-2026

e-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of Managing Director JKPCDC, online e-bids in double cover system are invited (Cover-I-Techno-Commercial Bid and Cover-II-Price Bid) from authorised firms/ contractors/Self Help Groups/MSME registered with J&K government or any organization owned by PSUs/ State Government/ Central Government having sufficient related experience

S. No	Name Of Work	Qty	Cost Of Tender Document	Estimated cost (Rs)	EMD @ 2% (Rs)	Time Completion
1.	Overhauling of Sumbal Junction Gate by way of replacement of seals, rollers, modification of guides and associated equipments.	As per Scope of Work	Rs 500/-	2.27 lacs	4600/-	Within 45 days from date of LOA

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 details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website jktenders.gov.in or www. jkspdc.nic.in as per schedule of dates given below.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-07-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding document	13-07-2026 to 02-08--2026
3.	Bid submission Start Date	13-07-2026 1400 hrs
4.	Bid submission End Date	02-08-2026 upto 1600 hrs
5.	Deadline for receiving Hard Copies (Proof of Cost of tender document and EMD only)	03-08-2026 upto 1600 hrs
6.	Date and time of opening of Bid (online)	04-08-2026 or any other convenient date.
7.	Venue for submitting the hard copy of DD Cost of tender document / EMD	Office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, USHP-II, Kangan, Ganderbal, Kashmir.

Position of AAA - Accorded
Technical Sanction - Sanctioned
Position of Funds - Available

- The entire process of bidding shall be online. The bidding document consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the government website jktenders.gov.in or www.jkspdc.nic.in. The bidder has to submit the bids (complete in all respects) online on the said website.
- The following documents are to be uploaded along with the bid; otherwise the bid shall be liable for rejection:
 - Details of Contractor along with working phone no. and e-mail id on the letter head of contractor.
 - Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Demand Draft only in favour of the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan.
 - Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan.
 - Copy of Valid Registration Certificate.
 - Copy of GST Registration Certificate.
 - Copy of PAN Card.
 - Experience/ Relevant Work Orders' and Completion Certificates copies.
 - Income tax Certificate for the latest years.
 - Information regarding the current litigation (if any) in which the bidder is involved; parties concerned and disputed amount on registered affidavit/ stamp paper of Rs 10/-.
- The bidders need to submit the proof/ cost of e-bid document as stated above table through Demand Draft only pledged to the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan.

The original demand draft shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer Generation Division, USHP-II, Kangan and should reach before the cutoff date. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bids.

- All the e-bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BG only, pledged to the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan.

Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be submitted to the Office of the Executive Engineer Generation Division, USHP-II, Kangan and should reach up to the dates mentioned in above table.

- 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 the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Superintending Engineer Generation Circle-II Bemina Srinagar Kashmir.
- No price bid / Commercial Technical bid will be accepted in physical form. The original Demand Draft / EMD only is required to submit in the Office of the Executive Engineer Generation Division, USHP-II, Kangan.
- The bidders are advised to visit the site for assessment and go through the contents of the SBD before quoting the rates.
- Modification in scope of work and extension of period of download of tender specification, closing opening date if required will be notified through corrigendum.
- The Instruction to Bidders (ITB) and General Conditions of Contract (GCC) as per Standard Bidding Document uploaded separately against this NIT shall form integral part of this NIT/SBD.

No:-USHP-II/GD/353-61

Dated:- 11-07-2026

DIPK-NB-1062-26

DT: 13/07/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Generation Division
USHP-II, Kangan

J&K Sports Council begins U-14 girls' football team selection trials



GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: Around 75 young footballers from across Jammu and Kashmir participated on the opening day of selection trials on Monday for the Union Territory's Under-14 Sub-Junior Girls Football Team, which will represent J&K in the AIFF Sub-Junior Girls National Football Championship 2026.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the opening day of the trials witnessed around 75 footballers participating from across the Union Territory. Approximately 60 players from the Kashmir Division and 15 players from the Jammu Division showcased their skills in pursuit of a place in the J&K team.

He said the selection process was conducted by

a technical committee constituted by the J&K Sports Council, comprising experienced football experts and qualified coaches. The committee evaluated the participants on various parameters, including technical ability, tactical awareness, physical fitness and overall game understanding, to identify the most promising talent.

"As per the notified schedule issued by the J&K Sports Council, the divisional selection trials are being held on July 13 and 14, 2026, at the Mini Stadium, Parade Ground, Jammu and the Synthetic Turf Football Stadium, TRC, Srinagar," said the spokesperson.

He said shortlisted players from both divisions will participate in the final selection trials, scheduled

to be held on July 16 and 17, 2026, at the Synthetic Turf Football Stadium, TRC, Srinagar.

He said the players selected through the trials will represent Jammu & Kashmir in the AIFF Sub-Junior Girls National Football Championship 2026. The J&K Sports Council will bear the complete cost of the team's participation, including travel, boarding, lodging and all other championship-related expenses.

"The initiative is part of the Sports Council's sustained efforts to strengthen women's football in the Union Territory by providing equal opportunities to young athletes and creating a robust pathway for talented footballers to compete and excel at the national level."

2026 FIFA WC: World-class Bellingham reminds John Terry of French legend Zinedine Zidane

IAN S

MIAMI: Three Lions legend John Terry has hailed Jude Bellingham's brilliant performance in England's run to the semi-finals of the FIFA World Cup 2026, claiming that the young star has been so influential that he is beginning to resemble the great Zinedine Zidane.

Terry made his comments in the latest episode of the FIFA podcast about the semifinal lineup. In the podcast, Terry also explained why he is not fearing Argentina in the semifinals.

Bellingham scored both goals in England's quarter-final win over Norway, building on his double in the epic 3-2 victory over co-hosts Mexico City in the Round of 16. Because of these two sensational outings, former England captain Terry has likened Bellingham's heroic performances to Zidane's impact during France's path to glory in 1998 and to the final in 2006.

Terry told the FIFA Podcast: "I said at the start of this World Cup, he reminds me of Zidane. He's dragging this team through at



the moment. I think he's world-class. Also, you listen to him off the pitch; he's got a real calmness about him as well."

Bellingham's brace in Miami saw him become the first midfielder to score six goals at a World Cup and set England on a collision course with old enemy Argentina in Atlanta. While wary of the threat posed by the holders and their captain Lionel Messi, Terry believes the stars are aligning for England as they eye a first World Cup triumph since 1966.

"I'm not worried about Argentina, if I'm honest," Terry added. "I don't look at Argentina and sit here being worried about them being better than us. I

think, man for man, we're better than Argentina. "You know what I like about this England side at the minute? We've had big moments. We've got a good side, but it feels like everything's going for us. It feels like it's England's time," he said.

The FIFA Podcast takes fans to the heart of the FIFA World Cup 2026 with exclusive access, expert analysis, and unforgettable stories from across Canada, Mexico, and the USA. Hosted by Olivia Buzaglo and Christian Vieri, the show features FIFA legends, current football stars, and celebrity guests reflecting on the tournament's biggest moments.

Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing: Nine Indian boxers enter finals; six bronze medals secured in U-19 category

IAN S

JAKARTA: India continued its dominant run in the Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing Championships with nine boxers advancing to the finals across U-19 men's and women's categories, while six boxers secured bronze medals following the semifinal bouts in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Monday.

In the U-19 Women's category, all eight Indian boxers delivered outstanding performances to reach the finals.

Chahat (60kg) secured a commanding 5:0 win over Pei-Chun Tsai (TPE), while Anshika (75kg) registered an RSC win in the first round against An-Chi Tseng (TPE). Megha Sheokand (80kg) advanced after her opponent from Viet-



nam was unable to continue (abandoned bout), and Prachi Tokas (+81kg) sealed her place in the final with an RSC victory in the first round against Shu-Shian Wang (TPE). Along with earlier winners, India confirmed all 8 finalists in the U-19 women's category.

In the U-19 men's category, two Indian boxers progressed to the finals.

Aditya (55kg) delivered a strong performance, defeating Korea's Hyeon-

min Lee via RSC in the second round, while Shubham Rajput (90kg) secured a hard-fought 3:2 victory over Kyrgyzstan's Aitbek Berdimuratov. India also added six bronze medals from semifinal finishes.

In the U-19 men's category, bronze medals were secured by Sikander (60kg), Mausam Suhag (65kg), Devendra Chaudhary (75kg), and Sagar (85kg) after their respective semifinal losses.

Mithali, Rahane, Pathan lead plaudits as cricket fraternity celebrates India's historic win at Lord's

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India's cricket fraternity rose in unison to celebrate the national team's historic victory in the first-ever women's Test at Lord's with former India captain Ajinkya Rahane, all-rounder Irfan Pathan and women's team captain Mithali Raj leading the tributes after Harmanpreet Kaur's side crushed England by 270 runs in a memorable performance at the Home of Cricket.

Rahane celebrated the achievement on social media, writing, "What a special win! Congratulations to Harmanpreet Kaur and the entire team for making history at Lord's. A performance to remember." (IPL T20)

Former India women's captain Mithali Raj said, "A complete team performance to seal a legendary, historic Test win in England! Two names added to the iconic Lord's honours board in a single game, huge congratulations to @yastikabhatia for her sensational hundred and Kranti Gaud for her clinical five-wicket haul, brilliantly set up by @mandhana_smriti's exceptional composure across both innings."

Off-spinner Sneha Rana excelled with figures of 4-42 as India secured a solid victory on Monday, bowling England out for



186 while defending a challenging target of 457. Deepti Sharma contributed with 2-36, breaking down England's lower order in the opening session of the fourth day.

Starting with 130/6, England's slim hopes relied on overnight half-century Amy Jones. However, Sneha struck early, dismissing her for 54. Deepti then took out Issy Wong and Lauren Bell while Sneha finished the match by bowling Sophie Ecclestone, who had earlier made her maiden Test fifty, through the gate.

This decisive win gave India their seventh victory in the last 11 women's Tests and maintained their unbeaten record in red-ball cricket on English soil. Tributes flooded in

after this historic victory. Former England captain Michael Vaughan praised India's all-around performance, while National Cricket Academy head VVS Laxman congratulated the team on their important win and highlighted the significance of conquering Lord's.

"A truly special win. Congratulations to the Indian Women's team on a memorable Test victory at Lord's. Your skill, resilience, and fighting spirit have made the whole nation proud. Keep it up @BCCI," Laxman posted on X.

"Fantastic win for India at Lord's in the historic test match. India completely dominated an England team that once again fell far short

of where they should be. Two showcase moments for the women's game this past week. I enjoyed watching," Vaughan wrote on X.

BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla also praised the team for making history with their strong performance at the famous venue. (IPL T20). "Congratulations to Team India for winning against England @BCCI."

India's victory was supported by outstanding performances over all four days. Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana scored 83 and 70; Yastika Bhatia hit a remarkable 113—the first century by a woman in a Test at Lord's—while Richa Ghosh smashed an unbeaten 50 off just 52 balls. Kranti Gaud

also made her mark in the record books with the first five-wicket haul in a women's Test at the venue.

Former India cricketer Irfan Pathan posted, "Victory with a touch of class. Well done, Indian Women's team on the test match victory vs England w. Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Kranti Gaud, Yastika Bhatia, Richa Ghosh, Sneha Rana. You all were amazing. Well done, Captain Kaur."

Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan joined the chorus in praising the team for the memorable victory at Lord's.

"Champions don't wait for history to happen. They create it. Congratulations to Team India Women on a memorable victory at Lord's. @YastikaBhatia's century, @mandhana_smriti's outstanding performance, and Kranti's brilliant bowling will be remembered for a long time. Proud moment for Indian cricket," Dhawan said in a post on X.

The win took place in front of batting legend Sachin Tendulkar, who spoke to the team before play began, along with ICC chairman Jay Shah, BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla, and secretary Devajit Saikia. This capped a dominant performance by India in the first women's Test held at Lord's in its 142-year history.

LSG's Mukul, Akshat touchdown in Manchester for off-season training camp

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Monday announced that their promising young batters, Mukul Choudhary and Akshat Raghuvanshi, have landed in Manchester for a specialised off-season training camp.

The duo will train under the watchful eyes of LSG head coach Justin Langer

and the franchise's strategic advisor and ex-New Zealand captain Kane Williamson. "New conditions. New challenges. New learnings. Mukul & Akshat have landed in Manchester for a training camp with Justin Langer and Kane Williamson" wrote LSG on their social media accounts on Monday.

Both Langer and Williamson are currently in England in preparation for the upcoming season of

The Hundred men's competition, where they will be in coaching capacities for the Aiden Markram-led Manchester Super Giants (MSG), a franchise also owned by LSG's parent company, the RPSG Group.

Wicketkeeper-batter Choudhary, who plays domestic cricket for Rajasthan, showcased his finishing capabilities during the recent IPL season via a match-winning 54 not out to take LSG over the line

in a thrilling chase against the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Eden Gardens, though the side eventually finished at the bottom spot of the points table.

In all, Choudhary made 170 runs in ten games at a strike-rate of 141.66. Meanwhile, Raghuvanshi, who represents Madhya Pradesh in the domestic cricket circuit, played three games, but could only make 29 runs.

With the duo now in England, their stint under

Langer and Williamson will focus heavily on technical adaptations for succeeding on England's pitches and how to level up as modern-day batters in the ever-evolving world of T20 cricket.

Last month, LSG brought in left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav into their set-up for Rs 13.5 crore for next year's season after trading their former captain Rishabh Pant to the Delhi Capitals.

MOVIES SCHEDULE

DHAMAAL 4
(HINDI ATMOS)
U/A 13+

10:45 AM
01:40 PM
04:35 PM
07:30 PM

EVIL DEAD BURN
(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
A

11:35 AM
07:40 PM

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
(HINDI)
U/A 16+

11:30 AM
02:00 PM

ALPHA
(HINDI)
U/A 16+

02:45 PM

MOANA
(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
U

05:15 PM

MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA
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U/A 16+

05:35 PM

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