

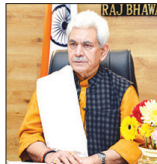
Good Morning

Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Manoj Sinha

@manojsinha_



I am deeply saddened by the news of veteran leader Dr. Mustafa Kamal's passing away. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family, well-wishers, and admirers. Om Shanti!!

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Amarnath Yatra Sets New Record, Crosses 3 Lakh Pilgrims In 12 Days

Witnesses 37% Surge In Footfall; LG Lauds Stakeholders As Pilgrimage Gains Momentum



UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra has scripted history this year, with the pilgrimage crossing the three lakh pilgrim mark within just 12 days, registering a nearly 37 per cent increase in footfall compared to the previous year.

Official figures available reveal that 26,308 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Tuesday, taking the total number of devotees since the commencement of the Yatra on July 3 to 3,01,926 (three lakh one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six).

During the same period in 2025, a total of 2,20,511 (two lakh twenty thousand five hundred and eleven) pilgrims had undertaken the pilgrimage. The latest figures indicate an increase of 81,415 pilgrims, translating into a

36.92 per cent (approximately 37%) rise this year.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha commended all the officials, service providers and volunteers for their valuable contribution to the holy Amarnath pilgrimage.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has set a historic new record, crossing the 3 lakh mark in just 12 days. I commend all the officials, service providers and volunteers. Their dedication and hard work have made this holy pilgrimage smooth and memorable for every devotee of Baba Barfani. Har Har Mahadev!"

Meanwhile, the 13th batch of pilgrims undertaking the annual pilgrimage left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu during the early hours of Tuesday under multi-layered security arrangements and

Community Participation Crucial For Reintegration Of Drug Abuse Victims Into Mainstream: LG Sinha

Reviews 'Rehabilitation, Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme' For Drug Abuse Victims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the proposed Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026. The Scheme is aimed at establishing a comprehensive, convergence-based framework for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of individuals recovering from substance use disorders across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department; Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department and other senior officers.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez gave a detailed presentation highlighting the salient features of the proposed Scheme.

The Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme envisages a structured three-year rehabilitation cycle comprising Phase I – Treatment and Stabilization, focusing on medical treatment, counselling



and preparation of Individual Rehabilitation Plans (IRPs); Phase II – Reintegration and Livelihood Activation, aimed at facilitating education, skill development, employment and family reintegration; and Phase III – Sustained Monitoring and Social Inclusion, providing continued follow-up, relapse prevention, community support and long-term social reintegration through coordinated interventions of multiple departments.

It was further informed that a dedicated Rehabilitation Monitoring Portal (RMP) is being developed to facilitate digital case management, monitoring of Individual Rehabilitation Plans, inter-departmental convergence and real-

time tracking of rehabilitation outcomes while ensuring confidentiality of beneficiaries.

The Scheme has been prepared by a Task Force constituted under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Home Department, pursuant to the directions of the Chief Secretary, with the Social Welfare Department as the Nodal Department. The Task Force, comprising representatives of all key stakeholder departments, was mandated to formulate a comprehensive framework for rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of drug abuse victims through a coordinated inter-departmental approach.

The Lieutenant Governor

appreciated the comprehensive and collaborative approach adopted by the Task Force in formulating the Scheme. He emphasized the need for a coordinated, humane and outcome-oriented rehabilitation framework that ensures sustained recovery, social inclusion and livelihood opportunities for individuals affected by drug abuse.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that community participation, family support, skill development and continuous monitoring must remain the cornerstone of the rehabilitation process.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination for successful

Veteran NC Leader Mustafa Kamal Passes Away



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Veteran National Conference leader and brother of party president Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, passed away on Monday at a private hospital in Srinagar.

The 87-year-old leader, who was serving as NC's Additional General Secretary, breathed his last at 5:00 PM at Paras Hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment.

Kamal had been unwell for several months, and his condition deteriorated further over the past four days.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced the news of his death in a post on X.

"My father's younger brother Dr. Mustafa Kamal passed away earlier this evening at Paras Hospital in Srinagar. Uncle Mustafa had been unwell for some months but took a turn for the worse four days ago. He put up a brave fight, holding on against the odds. The doctors and staff treating him were amazing, but Allah called him for his final

NIA Court Issues Non-Bailable Warrant Against Hafiz Saeed

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A court in Jammu has ordered the issuance of a non-bailable warrant against Hafiz Saeed, the chief of the proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). This action follows the National Investigation Agency (NIA) naming the Pakistan-based terrorist leader as the principal conspirator in a supplementary chargesheet submitted earlier this month.

According to investigative sources, Saeed, who is believed to be sheltered by Pakistan's military establishment, will face legal proceedings without being physically present in court.

The charges stem from one of the deadliest terrorist strikes in Jammu and Kashmir since the 2019 Uri garrison attack. Last April, Pahalgam witnessed the massacre of 26 individuals, the vast majority of whom were civilians.



The NIA's latest chargesheet elaborates on Saeed's direct involvement in orchestrating and overseeing the Pahalgam operation, bolstered by new forensic evidence retrieved from the scene of the crime. The agency had previously filed its initial chargesheet in December 2025, which named the three perpetrators who physically carried out the assault. Those individuals were neutralized in July 2025 during Operation Mahadev, a coordinated offensive involving the

Only 2,300 Apply For Haj-2027 Against 8,000-Seat Quota

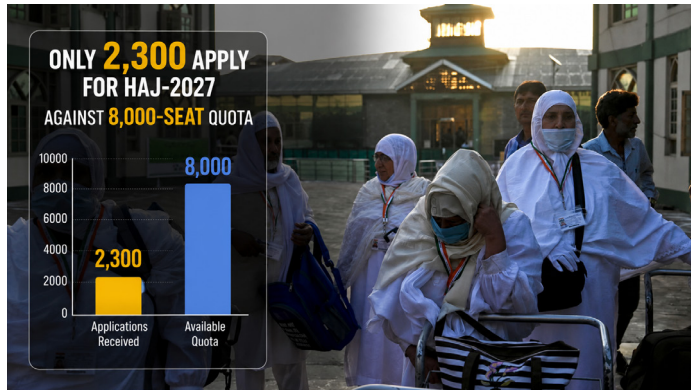
Haj Committee Urges Eligible Aspirants To Submit Forms Before Jul 20 Last Date

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: With less than a week left before the application window closes, the Jammu & Kashmir Haj Committee has appealed to eligible pilgrims to apply for Haj-2027, saying only around 2,300 applications have been received so far against the Union Territory's quota of 8,000 seats.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the J&K Haj Committee, Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, said that the response has remained much below expectations, with only around 2,300 applications received so far.

He said the last date for submission of Haj application forms is July 20, 2026 and urged all eligible aspirants possessing valid passports to complete the appli-



cation process without waiting for the deadline.

Qureshi appealed to people to spread awareness among relatives, friends and other intending pilgrims so that no eligible applicant misses the opportunity

to perform Haj pilgrimage. He reiterated that a valid passport is mandatory for submitting the application and advised applicants to avoid the last-minute rush.

A total of 4,351 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir

Chief Secretary Reviews PMGSY Progress In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works being executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including the ACS, Public Works (R&B) Department; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Chief Engineer, PMGSY, Jammu/ Kashmir and field functionaries connected with the implementation of the flagship rural road connectivity programme.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive stock of the physical and financial progress achieved under PMGSY Phases I, II and III, besides examining the implementation strategy and future roadmap for PMGSY-IV, which is the largest rural connectiv-



ity programme undertaken in Jammu & Kashmir so far.

While reviewing the implementation of PMGSY-IV, the Chief Secretary described the scale of investment envisaged under the programme as phenomenal, observing that it reflects the Government's unwavering commitment towards strengthening rural infrastructure and ensuring equitable development across Jammu & Kashmir.

He said the unprecedented investment in rural road connectivity would not only provide all-weather access to far-flung habitations but also serve as a catalyst

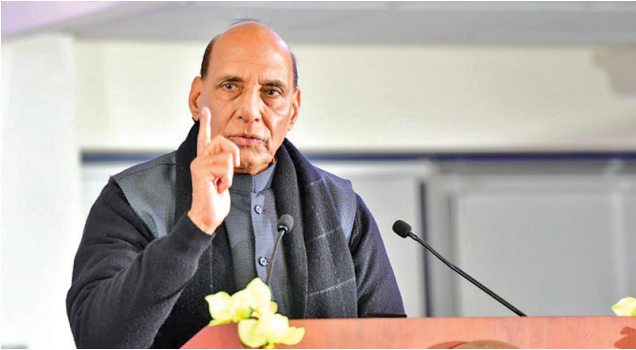
Kargil Victory Reflects India's Resolve To Respond With Full Might To Any Threat: Rajnath Singh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Indian soldiers reclaimed every peak, hill and bunker from enemy control during the Kargil war, their victory representing the country's enduring resolve to "respond with full might" to any hostile gaze upon its land, identity and honour, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

Addressing the flag-off ceremony, Singh paid homage to the brave soldiers who fought in the Kargil conflict, describing their victory as a symbol of India's unwavering determination to safeguard its sovereignty.

"The victory in the 1999 Kargil War represents India's enduring resolve to respond with full might to any hostile gaze upon our land, identity and honour," the Defence



Minister said.

Recalling the difficult conditions in which the war was fought, Singh said Indian soldiers displayed unparalleled courage and resilience while fighting at altitudes of nearly 20,000 feet in temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius.

"Our soldiers reclaimed every peak, hill and bunker

from enemy control and upheld the honour of the Tricolour. They wrote a golden chapter of courage, patience, discipline and unmatched patriotism that militaries across the world continue to study with respect," he said.

The Defence Minister also paid tribute to all the soldiers who participated in Operation

Vijay, making special mention of Param Vir Chakra awardees Captain Vikram Batra, Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey, Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (Retd) and Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Sanjay Kumar (Retd). He said their courage continues to inspire India's youth and future generations.

During the journey, the riders will pay homage at several prominent military memorials, including the Chandimandir War Memorial, Rezang La War Memorial and Leh War Memorial. They will also interact with and felicitate Veer Naris, recognising their resilience and sacrifice.

The expedition will culminate at the Kargil War Memorial on July 26, marking Kargil Vijay Diwas.

Govt Announces 13-Day Summer Break For J&K Colleges



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has announced summer vacations for all government degree colleges in the Kashmir division and the winter zone of the Jammu division from July 21 to August 2.

An order, issued by the Higher Education Department, said that all government degree colleges falling in the Kashmir division and the winter zone of the Jammu division shall observe the summer break for 13 days beginning July 21, 2026.

The directive has been communicated to all principals concerned, as well as the Director Colleges, JK, and the Registrar, officials added.

Ruhullah Rejects Reports On New Party, To Skip NC's Jantar Mantar Protest

NAVEED UL HAQ

SRINAGAR: Budgam National Conference Member of Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday dismissed speculation about floating a new political party, saying the media appeared more eager than him to see such a development.

Speaking to reporters in Budgam, Ruhullah, said he has not formed any party yet. "It is the media that seems more desirous than me to form a new party. If you want to make a new party, do it, then I will see whether it is a good party and join it."

On the National Conference's proposed Jantar Mantar protest, Ruhullah reiterated that he would not participate, saying the people's mandate was for the restoration of Article 370 and not merely statehood.



"I have made it clear that I am not joining the protest. Our responsibility is to fight for Article 370 because it is linked to our identity and dignity. People gave us the mandate for Article 370, not for statehood," he said.

He alleged that shifting the political discourse towards statehood alone suited the BJP's agenda.

"It is the BJP's agenda that we forget everything else and demand only statehood. The last 70 years have shown that whatever has been snatched from us has never been returned. If we fail to learn from history, it will not be good," he said.

Responding to a question on allegations of horse-trading and attempts by the BJP to engineer defections within the National Conference, Ruhullah said horse-trading had no place in a democracy, irrespective of the political party involved.

Chief Minister's Office condole demise of Dr Mustafa Kamal

Officers, staff express condolences to CM, bereaved family

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Chief Minister's Office Tuesday expressed their heartfelt condolences to the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, on the passing of his uncle, Dr Mustafa Kamal.

Dr Mustafa Kamal, a former Minister and senior leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, passed away after a brief illness at a private hospital here.

Dr Kamal was the son of the legendary leader and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, and the brother of former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah.



The officers and staff of the Chief Minister's Office expressed profound grief over the demise of Dr Kamal and conveyed their deepest sympathies to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the entire bereaved family.

They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and wished strength and fortitude to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

HS Vijipara organises 'Maa Se Guft-a-Gu' Programme under NMBA



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Government Secondary School Vijipara on Tuesday organised the "Maa Se Guft-a-Gu" programme under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan to raise awareness about the growing threat of drug abuse and reinforce the crucial role of mothers and families in preventing substance addiction among children.

The programme was attended by Dr. Asima Hassan, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Bandipora, as the chief guest. Also present were the Headmaster of HS Vijipara, staff members, Sanjeeda Hashmi, CDPO, ICDS Project Sumbal-Hajin, officials of the ICDS Department, mothers, and a large number of students. Speaking on the occasion,

Dr. Asima Hassan expressed concern over the increasing incidence of drug addiction among youth and urged parents, particularly mothers, to maintain open communication with their children and closely monitor their emotional well-being and behaviour.

On the occasion, Sanjeeda Hashmi highlighted the need for coordinated efforts by families, schools, and government agencies to protect the younger generation from the dangers of substance abuse.

The Headmaster, Faculty members also addressed the gathering, stressing the importance of awareness, early intervention, and collective responsibility in combating drug addiction and building a healthy, drug-free society.

CS IT reviews JaKeGA Initiatives; Calls for Stronger Digital Governance Framework

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology Department, Saurabh Bhagat, Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA) to review the progress of key digital governance initiatives and chart the roadmap for strengthening the Union Territory's digital infrastructure, cybersecurity and citizen-centric service delivery.

The meeting reviewed the modernization of the Jammu & Kashmir State Data Centre (JKSDC), eOffice implementation, State Wide Area Network (SWAN), cybersecurity initiatives, software development framework, Digital Village Centres, Artificial Intelligence initiatives, human resource issues and the rollout of the Chief Minister's Internship Programme.

Emphasizing the need for an integrated and secure digital ecosystem, the Commissioner Secretary directed JaKeGA to prepare a comprehensive policy framework for establishing the Jammu & Kashmir State Data Centre as the sole Gov-



ernment Data Centre of the Union Territory with world-class infrastructure and robust cybersecurity capabilities. He also called for phased consolidation of departmental data centres into the State Data Centre to improve efficiency, optimize resources and enhance security.

To strengthen governance of Government digital assets, Saurabh Bhagat directed formulation of a uniform Software Development Policy covering project approval, ownership, source code handover, maintenance and lifecycle management. He also stressed adoption of standardized technology frameworks to eliminate duplication and ensure long-term sustainability.

Commissioner Secretary further directed JaKeGA to prepare road-

maps and DPRs for key initiatives, including an Integrated Command and Control Centre, Cyber Security Disaster Recovery framework, AI adoption across Government, expansion of Digital Village Centres, integration of Government services with WhatsApp, strengthening of SWAN connectivity and implementation of a resilient IP Telephony solution. Reviewing eOffice implementation, Saurabh Bhagat appreciated JaKeGA for extending the platform up to the Tehsil and Block levels and directed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure its optimum utilization for transparent, efficient and paperless governance.

He also instructed JaKeGA to immediately develop the building allotted by the Anti-Corruption

Bureau at Jammu into a Centre of Excellence for Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, innovation, startup incubation and internship programmes.

Commissioner Secretary reviewed the human resource issues of JaKeGA and directed that all genuine pending matters be resolved on priority. He also instructed JaKeGA to expedite the online registration process for the Chief Minister's Internship Programme to ensure maximum participation of eligible engineering students and fresh graduates across Jammu & Kashmir.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to technology-driven governance, the Commissioner Secretary directed all concerned officers to ensure time-bound implementation of the decisions taken during the meeting through close coordination and periodic review.

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA, Asha Chaudhary Malhotra, senior officers of the Information Technology Department and JaKeGA, while officers from outstation offices participated through virtual mode.

DC Sgr conducts inspection of ongoing road upgradation works along Dr Ali Jan Road



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday conducted an onsite inspection of the ongoing road upgradation works along Dr Ali Jan Road to assess the progress of the project aimed at improving traffic flow on the busy stretch leading to SKIMS Soura.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B North Circle, Shabir Ahmad, Executive Engineer R&B, Arif Hazari, Executive Engineer UEED, Shabir Ahmad, Tehsildar Eidgah, Mohammad Iqbal and other concerned Officers.

On the occasion, the DC took stock of the ongoing road upgradation measures along the 425-meter road stretch adjacent from Aali Masjid including augmentation of drainage network system. He also took stock of the possible traffic decongestion measures on the road connecting Eidgah-SKIMS Soura corridor aimed at decongesting the area and

improving connectivity to ensure smooth vehicular movement, particularly for ambulances in and around the hospital.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of the ongoing upgradation works on the 425-metre road stretch adjacent to Aali Masjid, Eidgah, where civil works are underway to decongest the key Eidgah-SKIMS Soura corridor and improve connectivity, ensuring smoother vehicular movement, particularly for ambulances and other emergency services. He also inspected the augmentation of the drainage network being developed alongside the road to facilitate efficient drainage and prevent waterlogging on the stretch, especially during heavy rainfall.

On the occasion, the DC was informed about the status of the work, the execution timeline and the measures being taken to minimise inconvenience to commuters during the construction phase. He emphasised the importance of maintaining the quality of work while ensuring that the project progresses within the stipulated timeframe.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Badampora-Dab Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Dab, Batpora, Rabitar and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 16 & 20 July 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Wanpoh-Qaimoh line will be

observed due to which power supply to Qaimoh, Khudwani, Redwani, Ghat and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 15, 18 & 21 July 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Kulgam-Devsar line will be observed due to which power supply to Ashmuji, Chambugund, Kilam, Devsar, Sopat, Akhal, Pombai and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 15 & 18 July 2026.

JK Radio Taxi Drivers Association Elects New Office Bearers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The JK Radio Taxi Drivers Association successfully conducted its organizational elections today at its office in Bemina, Srinagar, under the supervision of the Jammu and Kashmir Labour Department. The election process, which saw 13 contestants vying for various positions, concluded with the selection of seven members who will serve a two-year term.

Shabeer Ahmad Basmati was elected unopposed as the President of the association. The other elected office bearers include Shaheen Ahmad Sheikh as Vice President, Irfan

Ahmad Gujri as General Secretary, Inayat Basheer Mir as Accountant, Majid Altaf as Secretary, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat as Organizer, and Nasir Mukhtar Bhat as Public Organizer.

The association expressed its heartfelt gratitude to the Jammu and Kashmir Labour Department for their valuable supervision, guidance, and for ensuring a transparent election process.

According to the constitution of the JK Radio Taxi Drivers Association, the next elections will be conducted after the completion of the constitutional two-year term of the current body.

Mobile TB Diagnostic Van reaches LOC villages in Kupwara to ensure 100% screening

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Special TB screening camp was held Tuesday at Budnamal village in Medical Block Kupwara, to improve TB detection and care in the area.

In light of objective to ensure 100 % screening in vibrant villages in the district, mobile TB screening van has been deployed in vibrant villages.

It is an initiative by District Administration Kupwara and Supported by IREDA under its CSR program. Project being implemented by TYCIA under overall super-

vision of District TB Center Kupwara.

The mobile unit delivers doorstep screening and diagnostic services to underserved, hard-to-reach communities, helping ensure early detection, prompt diagnosis, and timely treatment under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Since its flag-off by the Lieutenant Governor Jammu & Kashmir, the DTC-Mobile Medical Unit has conducted similar camps in Tangdhar, Keran, and Machil before reaching Budnamal.

DC Kulgam presides over DLC Meeting on PMAY-U 2.0 Beneficiary Scrutiny

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) for scrutiny and verification of beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 was held Tuesday, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, in his office chamber.

The meeting was attended by Altaf Ahmad Khan, Additional District Development Commissioner, Kulgam; Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Kulgam; District Social Welfare Officer, Kulgam; Tehsildar Kulgam; Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Kulgam; Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Devsar;



and Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Yaripora.

During the meeting, the District Level Committee reviewed the status of applications received under PMAY-U 2.0 and examined the eligible cases placed before it in accordance with the scheme guidelines.

After detailed scrutiny and deliberation, the Committee approved 10 Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC) cases for further processing under PMAY-U 2.0. Of these, seven cases pertain to Municipal Committee Yaripora and three cases pertain to Municipal Committee Devsar.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner directed the concerned officers to ensure the timely completion of all remaining formalities, including geo-tagging, documentation, and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), so that the approved beneficiaries receive the benefits of the scheme without delay. He emphasized transparency, accountability, and strict adherence to the PMAY-U 2.0 guidelines during the implementation process.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all concerned departments to expedite the implementation of PMAY-U 2.0 and ensure that the benefits of the flagship housing scheme reach all eligible beneficiaries in a transparent and time-bound manner.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

VERINAG DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

E-BID DOCUMENT (Auction ID:)

Subject: Outsourcing of Shop/Kiosk No. 01 at Verinag on "As Is Where Is Basis" through GeM Portal for a period of 03 years.

E-AUCTION NOTICE NO: 10-VDA OF 2026

DATED: 09/07/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, E-Auction is invited through GeM Portal for Outsourcing the "Shop/Kiosk No. 01 at Verinag" on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", for a period of 03-years. The details are as under:

S. No	Particulars	Date/Amount	Remarks
1	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	11-07-2026 at 11:00 AM	Nil
2	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	16-07-2026 at 04:00 PM	Nil
3	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment Date & Time	17-07-2026	Nil
4	EMD Start Date	18-07-2026 10:00 AM	Nil
5	EMD End Date	20-07-2026 04:00 PM	Nil
6	EMD (Bid Security) Amount	Rs.6800/- (Six thousand and eight hundred only)	To be pledged in favor of Accounts Officer Verinag Development Authority
7	Bid Submission / Auction Start Date	21-07-2026 10:00 AM	Nil
8	Bid Submission / Auction End Date & Time	22-07-2026 02:00 AM	Nil
9	Minimum Reserve Bid Amount	Rs.68000/- (Sixty-eight thousand only)	Per year with 10% escalation for each successive year

The e-auction has been finalized by the Outsourcing Committee under the Chairmanship of Director Tourism, Kashmir. Reliable/ resourceful and experienced agencies/persons, who fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PRE QUALIFICATION) detailed as under shall only be eligible to participate in the E-Auction process

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GEM-PORTAL)

1.

The bidder shall have to upload latest GST Clearance Certificate for the last year.

2.

The bidder should be a domicile of J&K and shall have to upload Valid Domicile Certificate.

3.

The bidder shall have to upload PAN and Aadhaar Card.

4.

The bidder shall have to upload Character Certificate duly certified by Police Station concerned. The character certificate shall be within the time limit.

5.

The bidder shall have to upload Income Tax return of the last year.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1.

The minimum bid amount shall be Rs. 68000/- (Sixty-eight thousand only) per year initially for a period of 03 years' subject to satisfactory performance by the outsourcee with 10% compound escalation for each successive year, thereafter to be deposited before the start of every year.

2.

The asset shall be maintained and operated in an aesthetic manner on professional lines, any innovations or modifications in the structure facelift or cladding should be approved by recognized architects and shall be subject to the approval by the competent authority. Only professional and qualified staff shall be employed.

3.

The successful bidder shall be bound to serve oriental and continental food prepared by branded restaurant chains as per letter of intent submitted by the bidder.

4.

The bidder participating in the e-bid process must apply in his/her name or in the name of firm duly registered in his/her name as indicated in the uploaded PAN/ GST Certificate.

5.

The interested parties should compulsorily visit & inspect the asset before participating in the e-bidding process and see the physical position of the asset. As such, no claim of any deficiency, addition, alteration, rectification in the asset would be entertained during/ after bidding process.

6.

Eligible persons shall be allowed to participate in the e-bidding process only after uploading of relevant documents mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria and EMD in the shape of CDR, amounting to Rs. 6800/- (Six thousand and eight hundred only) pledged in favor of Accounts Officer Verinag Development Authority.

7.

That the successful bidder shall have to pay all the taxes i.e. GST, Income Tax and other taxes in vogue at his/her own. The bid amount received by the department is excluding the taxes mentioned above. Allottee shall be responsible to maintain proper record of daily revenue collection showing separately the amount of GST and Income Tax.

DIPK-NB-1074-26

DT: 14/07/2026

J&K to Loop in Local Tech Talent for Smarter Governance

STAFF REPORTER

SRINAGAR: In a major push to modernize how the government works, Jammu and Kashmir is opening its doors to local engineering students and fresh graduates, inviting them to help build the Union Territory's digital future.

The initiative aims to harness the fresh perspective and tech skills of local youth to drive the administration's "technology-driven governance" model. Rather than relying solely on external agencies, the government is looking to build solutions utilizing talent right from Jammu & Kashmir's own colleges and universities.

Emphasizing that digital transformation must translate into real-world convenience for citizens, the Commissioner Secretary of the IT Department made it clear during a high-level review meeting that these digital initia-

tives cannot afford delays. Officers were instructed to work in close coordination to ensure all projects are rolled out on a strict, time-bound schedule.

"Technology-driven

The meeting saw active participation from key policymakers, including Asha Chaudhary Malhotra, Chief Executive Officer of the J&K e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), alongside senior



governance is not just a policy—it is a commitment to making public services seamless and transparent," the Commissioner Secretary noted, calling for regular updates and periodic reviews to keep the projects on track.

officers of both the Information Technology Department and JaKeGA. In a nod to the very digital culture they are promoting, several departmental heads from outstation offices joined and contributed to the discussions virtually.

CM Omar meets delegations; assures examination of public, industry-related issues



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday met several public delegations at the Civil Secretariat here and gave a patient hearing to their issues and demands, assuring them that all genuine concerns would be examined for appropriate action.

A delegation led by President Bat Manufacturers Association Kashmir, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, called on the Chief Minister and sought government support for the cricket bat manufacturing industry in Kashmir.

The delegation high-

lighted various issues concerning the sector and requested measures for its promotion and sustained growth.

Another delegation headed by President Srinagar International Airport Taxi Stand Drivers Union, Riyaz Thakur, apprised the Chief Minister of the concerns of taxi operators at Srinagar International Airport.

Later, a delegation led by Hot Mix Plant Owners Association, Kashmir, Bashir Ahmad Khan, met the Chief Minister and discussed the challenges being faced by the association.

Another delegation of

Industrial Estate Pampore also called on the Chief Minister and appraised him of the issues concerning the industrial estate.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured them that their genuine grievances and demands would be examined sympathetically in consultation with the concerned departments for appropriate resolution.

A delegation of ICICI Bank called on the Chief Minister today and discussed ways to strengthen Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and expand financial inclusion across Jammu & Kashmir.

Inquiry sought into alleged irregularities at J&K House

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Serious allegations of employee harassment, administrative irregularities and misuse of outsourcing arrangements have surfaced at the Jammu & Kashmir House, prompting demands for an independent government inquiry.

According to a representation submitted to the authorities, junior employees have allegedly been subjected to prolonged harassment and exploitation, while officers posted from the Union Territory continue to hold the same positions for extended periods, resulting in the continued victimisation of lower-level staff.

The representation also alleges significant irregularities in the engagement of outsourced employees. It claims that the number of outsourced workers is nearly three times the sanctioned strength and that, despite annual changes in the outsourcing agency, the same personnel have continued in service for years. It further alleges that some outsourced workers have been issued official government identity cards and extended facilities that may be contrary to prescribed rules.

Concerns have also

been raised over attendance monitoring, with the representation alleging that while biometric attendance is mandatory in most government offices, only a local attendance system is being used at J&K House, raising questions about transparency and accountability.

The complainants have further alleged that staff shortages and poor work distribution have created an unhealthy work environment, with Class IV employees reportedly being assigned responsibilities meant for multiple higher-level posts. They claim this has resulted in excessive workload, employee dissatisfaction and frequent disputes, including reports of verbal and physical altercations among staff.

Seeking immediate intervention, the representation urges the Government to order a comprehensive inquiry into the alleged irregularities, ensure accountability and provide justice to employees who have allegedly suffered discrimination or unfair treatment, including reinstatement wherever warranted.

The allegations could not be independently verified, and there was no immediate response from the authorities concerned.

Chief Secy reviews progress of JKCIP with IFAD Supervision Mission

Calls for accelerating implementation, ensuring timely realization of project outcomes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting with the visiting International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Supervision Mission, led by its Country Coordinator, Meera Mishra, to assess the progress achieved under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP), a flagship initiative jointly financed by IFAD, the Government of India and Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

The IFAD Supervision Mission, presently on a two-week visit to the Union Territory from 2nd to 14th July, 2026, is undertaking an extensive field appraisal across Jammu and Kashmir to obtain a first-hand assessment of the implementation, quality and impact of interventions executed under the project.

The meeting was



attended by senior officers of the Agriculture Production Department including ACS, APD; MD, HADP; Project Management Unit (JKCIP), and other stakeholders associated with the implementation of the project.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was presented with a comprehensive overview of the project's progress, achievements and future roadmap through a detailed presentation highlighting physical and financial accomplishments, implementation status, digital governance initiatives and the Annual Work Plan and Budget for the coming financial year.

While appreciating the progress achieved, the Chief Secretary

emphasized that the project should now focus on translating approvals into tangible assets and sustainable livelihoods on the ground. He directed all implementing agencies to further expedite field execution and ensure that benefits reach eligible beneficiaries within stipulated timelines.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the status of credit linkage under the project. He observed that although over 2,550 applications have been forwarded to financial institutions, the pace of loan disbursement needs more focus to improve the outcomes. Stressing the critical role of institutional finance in promoting rural enterprises, he

called for close coordination with banks and financial institutions to remove procedural bottlenecks and ensure timely sanction and release of credit to beneficiaries.

The meeting was apprised by the ACS, APD, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma that farmer registrations on the portal have increased to 58,307, while applications received have crossed 64,750. More than 39,900 applications have already been approved and 7,406 livelihood units established across the Union Territory, registering substantial growth over the previous review period.

The presentation made by the MD, HADP highlighted that the Climate Smart and Market-Led Production component continues to account for the largest share of project interventions, followed by significant progress under support to vulnerable communities and gradual expansion of the agribusiness ecosystem.

Min Sharma mourns demise of veteran leader Dr. Mustafa Kamal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of veteran political leader Dr. Mustafa Kamal.

Describing Dr. Kamal as a distinguished public figure who dedicated decades of his life to public service and democratic values, the Minister said his demise marks the end of an important chapter in the political history of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Dr. Kamal earned respect across political and social spheres for his steadfast commitment to public welfare and unwavering engagement with the people.

Satish Sharma said that Dr. Mustafa Kamal's contribution to the political discourse of Jammu and

Kashmir and his efforts towards strengthening the democratic institutions will be remembered for years to come. He added that his legacy of public service and dedication will continue to inspire future generations.

Expressing his heartfelt sympathies, the Minister conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved family, relatives, friends, colleagues, well-wishers and countless admirers of the departed leader. He prayed that the Almighty grant eternal peace to the departed soul and bestow strength and courage upon the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

"In this moment of profound grief, my thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family. May the Almighty grant Dr. Mustafa Kamal the highest place in his eternal abode and give strength to all those mourning this huge loss," the Minister said.

Dy CM condoles demise of Dr. Mustafa Kamal; lauds his invaluable contribution

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Tuesday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Dr. Mustafa Kamal, describing him as a seasoned political leader and a compassionate public figure.

He said that the late leader was a committed social worker whose invaluable contributions to public welfare and the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir will be remembered with deep respect and admiration.

The Deputy Chief Minister conveyed his deepest sympathies to former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, other members of the bereaved family and



all those mourning the irreparable loss.

He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this immense loss with courage and fortitude.

He added that Dr. Kamal's rich legacy and selfless service would continue to inspire the generations to come. The Deputy Chief Minister prayed that the departed soul may attain eternal peace and solace.

Chairs maiden UTLSC on Vibrant Villages Programme

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired the maiden meeting of the Union Territory Level Screening Committee (UTLSC) under the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), convened by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD), to review and finalize the development roadmap for the identified border villages across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments and Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts.

Taking a comprehensive review of the district-wise proposals, the Chief Secretary undertook a first-hand appraisal of the projects envisaged under the programme across the identified border villages spread over eight districts of the Union Territory. He emphasized that all developmental interventions should be implemented

in a mission mode, ensuring optimum utilization of resources and coordinated execution by different departments for creating tangible improvements in the quality of life of the people residing in these remote border areas.

He observed that the Vibrant Villages Programme offers a unique opportunity to transform the socio-economic landscape of these strategically important villages through integrated planning and timely execution of projects. He called upon all departments and district administrations to ensure seamless coordination so that the benefits of various Central and UT schemes reach the targeted population in an effective and time-bound manner.

Introducing the agenda of the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, R. Alice Vaz, highlighted the vision and objectives of the Vibrant Villages Programme. She informed

that the programme envisages focused interventions in selected border villages aimed at creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through the promotion of tourism and cultural heritage, skill development, entrepreneurship, cooperative development, agriculture and horticulture, besides encouraging the cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs.

She further stated that the programme also prioritizes strengthening basic infrastructure by improving road connectivity to unconnected habitations, providing quality housing and village infrastructure, enhancing energy access including renewable energy, and ensuring television and telecom connectivity. The overarching objective of these interventions, she said, is to generate adequate economic opportunities and improve living standards, thereby encouraging people to continue residing in these border villages.

Sakeena Itoo expresses grief over demise of two SED Lecturers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic demise of two lecturers of the School Education Department who lost their lives in a road accident at Magam.

The deceased, identified as Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Lecturer in Physics, and



Shabir Ahmad Dar, Lectur-

er in Chemistry, belonged to the Gulmarg area of Baramulla district.

Expressing heartfelt condolences, the Minister described the untimely demise of the two dedicated educators as an irreparable loss to the School Education Department and the teaching fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families during

this hour of immense grief. I pray that Almighty Allah grants the departed souls the highest place in Jannat and bestows strength and patience upon their loved ones to bear this irreparable loss," the Minister said.

The Minister prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and extended her deepest sympathies to the families, colleagues and all those affected by the unfortunate tragedy.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Phone:-01933-295302

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No: 62 / EEP / RNB / of 2026-2027 / 3385-95 Dated: 13 / 07 / 2026

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
1	Upgradation of Interior roads of Pulwama BWO GSB, RCC Spun Pipes, PCC R wall and PCC drain.	38.82	1100/-	2% of ADV. Cost	90 working days	BEE/AAY	District capex Budget	AAA: 100-DDCP of 2026 dt.09.07.2026	Ist call
2	Upgradation of Tahab Bongam Visservani road taking off from PMGSY road BWO RBM stone solling, WBM G-II, RCC Pipes.	24.16	800/-	2% of ADV.cost	60 Working Days	CEE/BEE	District capex Budget	AAA: 100-DDCP of 2026 dt.09.07.2026	Ist call
3	Construction of 2 mtr RCC Box type Culvert on Litter Pirtakiya road.	14.59	600/-	2% of ADV.cost	45 working days	DEE/CEE/BEE	District capex Budget	AAA: 100-DDCP of 2026 dt.09.07.2026	Ist call

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13 - 07-2026
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	13 - 07-2026 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	13 - 07-2026 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	27 - 07-2026 upto 0 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	28- 07-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)/ Tender Fee	Upload a Copy of bid Security (EMD)/ Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No:0470010200000099 IFSC: JAKAOLALANG) Account Name: Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank PW(R&B) Zone South .

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

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender Document Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG).
- All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG)
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Pulwama MC Holding Account Executive Engineer R&B Pulwama Bearing Account no. 0054010200003470 ,IFSC: JAKAOGOLDEN), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.

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

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

Head Draftsman

DIPK-3280-26
DT: 14/07/2026

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Pulwama

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Not Just Tracking Numbers

Adhaar authentication now mandatory for registering on the Drug De-addiction Registry Portal (DDRP). Means it's about transparency, keeping clean records, stopping duplicate entries, and making sure vital de-addiction medications get to the people who truly need them. A smart digital registry can give health officials the tools they need to monitor patient care, regulate high-risk medications, and make recovery programs run more smoothly.

A person stepping through the doors of a rehab center isn't just a digital entry or a statistic to be managed. A daughter, a son, a parent, or a friend who has gathered every ounce of their remaining courage to ask for a second chance. They are usually carrying a heavy burden of fear, deep emotional pain, and the crushing weight of social stigma. When someone finally reaches out for help, the hand that meets them should be welcoming and warm—not cold, rigid, or intimidating.

It is incredibly reassuring that the government has promised no one will be turned away simply because they don't have an Aadhaar card yet. But this promise cannot just stay on paper; it needs to be lived out by every staff member at every single clinic. When a life is on the line, compassion must always beat paperwork.

A Matter of Trust: Medical records involving addiction are deeply personal. If patients fear that their struggles will be exposed, leading to shame or discrimination, they simply won't show up. The government must treat this data with the highest level of confidentiality. Privacy isn't just a legal requirement here; it is the foundation of trust required for recovery. At the end of the day, beating a public health crisis takes far more than digital check-ins. Dismantling trafficking networks, creating accessible counseling, building long-term rehab structures, fostering family support, and providing real jobs so people have a future to look forward to. Treatment is just the starting line—recovery is a lifelong journey.

An efficient registry is a helpful tool, but efficiency alone won't cure a crisis of the soul. True success won't be found in how many profiles are verified or how seamless the database runs. It will be measured in the quiet victories: the lives saved, the futures restored, and the families finally brought back together.

Eradicating Prostate Cancer With Robotic Surgery



DR. SHAFIQ AHMED

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers affecting men worldwide. The good news is that when detected early, it is highly treatable and, in many cases, completely curable. Advances in medical technology have transformed the way prostate cancer is treated, with Robotic-Assisted Radical Prostatectomy (RARP) now considered the preferred surgical approach for many patients with localized prostate cancer.

The prostate is a small gland located just below the bladder and surrounding the urethra, the tube that carries urine out of the body. Because it lies deep within the pelvis and is closely surrounded by nerves and blood vessels responsible for urinary control and sexual function, surgery in this area requires exceptional precision.

Why Robotic Surgery?

Many people believe that a robot performs the surgery on its own. This is a common misconception. The robotic system never replaces the surgeon—it is an advanced surgical tool that is completely controlled by an experienced uro-oncologist.

Using a specialised console, the surgeon operates highly precise robotic instruments that provide greater flexibility and accuracy than the human hand. The robotic system also offers a magnified, high-definition 3D view of the surgical area, allowing the surgeon to clearly identify the cancer while protecting healthy tissues.

Better Precision, Better Outcomes

The primary goal of prostate cancer surgery is to completely remove the cancer while preserving the patient's quality of life. Robotic surgery makes this possible by enabling highly precise, nerve-sparing surgery.

The benefits of robotic-assisted prostatectomy include:

- Complete removal of localized prostate cancer with excellent cancer control.
- Better preservation of the nerves responsible for urinary continence and erectile function, whenever medically feasible.
- Smaller keyhole incisions instead of a large abdominal cut.
- Significantly less blood loss during surgery.
- Reduced post-operative pain and lower risk of infection.
- Shorter hospital stays and faster recovery.
- Earlier return to normal daily activities.

Many patients are encouraged to walk within 24 hours after surgery and can resume most routine activities much sooner than with traditional open surgery.

Preserving Quality of Life

One of the biggest concerns for men diagnosed with prostate cancer is whether treatment will affect their ability to control urine or maintain sexual



function. While these outcomes depend on factors such as the stage of cancer, age, and overall health, robotic surgery provides the precision needed to preserve these functions whenever it is safe to do so.

By carefully separating the prostate from the surrounding nerves and reconstructing the urinary passage with great accuracy, robotic surgery has significantly improved functional recovery for many patients.

Early Detection Saves Lives

The greatest advantage in the fight against prostate cancer is early diagnosis. Unfortunately, prostate cancer often develops without noticeable symptoms in its early stages. This is why regular screening is extremely important.

Men aged 50 years and above, and those 45 years or older with a family history of prostate cancer, should discuss annual prostate health screening with their doctor. A simple Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test, combined with a clinical examination, can help detect prostate cancer at an early and potentially curable stage.

The Take-Home Message

A diagnosis of prostate cancer is no longer something to fear as it once was. With early detection and modern robotic surgery, patients can achieve excellent cancer control while maintaining a good quality of life. Robotic-Assisted Radical Prostatectomy has redefined prostate cancer surgery by offering greater precision, faster recovery, and better functional outcomes.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with localized prostate cancer, consult an experienced uro-oncologist to understand whether robotic surgery is the right treatment option. Early action can make all the difference.

Author is a Senior Director Urology, Andrology & Renal Transplant, BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital, Delhi

Shadows Of Silence

From Structural Blame To Radical Empathy

DR. RIZWAN RUMI

There is a cruel, persistent paradox at the heart of how modern society treats survivors of sexual violence. When a person is robbed, the legal system does not audit the brand of their wallet. When someone is assaulted on a city street, public discourse does not demand to know why they failed to scream louder, nor does it question why they were walking alone at night. Yet, when the crime is sexual assault, the spotlight of suspicion instantly swivels away from the perpetrator and locks onto the victim.

For millions of survivors worldwide, the immediate physical and emotional trauma of an assault is merely the first layer of suffering. The deeper, more enduring tragedy is the institutional hostility, social isolation, and systemic scepticism they are forced to navigate in the aftermath—for a crime they did absolutely nothing to cause. To write honestly about sexual violence requires looking past individual incidents and examining the structural mechanics of victim-blaming, neurobiological trauma, and a deeply flawed justice system.

The Scale of the Crisis: Dismissing the "Stranger Danger" Myth

To understand why the societal response to sexual assault is so profoundly broken, we must first look at the cold reality of global data. Sexual violence is not an isolated anomaly or a series of rare, unfortunate incidents; it is an ongoing public health epidemic that transcends geographic borders, socioeconomic classes, and cultural divides.

According to data compiled by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Women, approximately one in three women globally, amounting to nearly 840 million people—will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. When accounting for underreporting and broader definitions of sexual coercion, advocates estimate this figure is significantly higher.

However, the disconnect between public perception and

statistical reality begins with who commits these crimes. Popular culture, media coverage, and fictional thrillers have conditioned the public to believe in the myth of the stranger, the idea that sexual assault is primarily committed by a hooded assailant leaping out of a dark alleyway or an abandoned building.

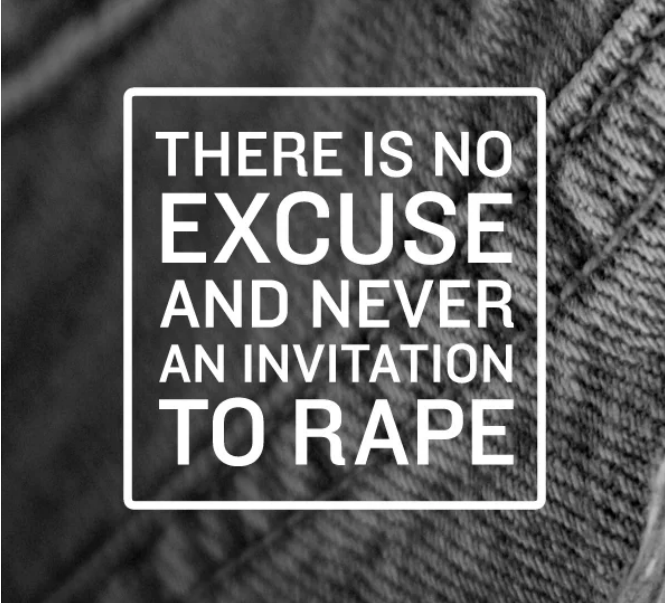
The empirical data tells a completely different, far more unsettling story: Between 80% and 85% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the survivor knows. These perpetrators are intimate partners, acquaintances, colleagues, friends, or family members.

This reality doubles the weight of the trauma. It means the assault does not just violate the survivor's body; it shatters their entire ecosystem of safety, destroying their trust in their social circles, workplaces, or homes. When the perpetrator is a known and respected member of a community, the survivor faces an immediate, uphill battle to be believed.

The Iceberg of Silence and the Myth of the "Perfect Victim"

Society frequently asks a damaging, surface-level question in the wake of delayed disclosures: "If it was truly that bad, why didn't they report it immediately?" This question betrays a fundamental ignorance of the immense psychological, biological, and social barriers that survivors confront the moment a violation occurs. What is captured by law enforcement and public legal registries represents merely the tip of a massive iceberg. UN Women data reveals that fewer than 40% of women who experience sexual violence ever seek help of any kind, whether from family, friends, or medical professionals. Even more striking, less than 10% of those who do seek help ever report the crime to law enforcement.

Survivors stay silent because society has made the cost of speaking out devastatingly high. They are subjected to an unwritten, impossible cultural standard known as the "perfect victim" archetype. If a survivor were drinking, if they were revealing clothing, if they had a past sexual history, or if they tried



to cope with the trauma by acting numb rather than visibly weeping, their credibility is instantly dissected.

Furthermore, public misunderstanding of human biology is weaponised against survivors. During moments of extreme terror, the human brain does not always choose "fight or flight." Instead, it frequently triggers an involuntary evolutionary survival mechanism known as "tonic immobility"—a temporary, state-dependent paralysis where the body freezes entirely.

When a survivor does not fight back, it is not an act of consent; it is a hardwired neurobiological response to trauma. Yet, because the public and legal systems lack education on this response, survivors are left to blame themselves for freezing, while defence attorneys use their lack of physical resistance to absolve the perpetrator.

The Institutional Gauntlet: Examining the "Justice Gap"

For the brave minority who choose to come forward and seek legal recourse, the path to justice often feels less like a process of healing and more like a secondary victimisation. In criminology, the concept of "attrition" refers to the way criminal cases drop out of the legal system at various stages. For sexual assault, this drop-off curve is steeper than for almost any other violent crime.

The systemic failure can be mapped across four distinct institutional barriers:

- **The Reporting Stage:** Survivors are forced to recount the most intimate, traumatic moments of their lives to law enforcement officials who are rarely trained in trauma-informed interviewing techniques. Sarcasm, scepticism, and invasive questioning about the victim's behaviour often cause immediate retraumatisation, leading many to withdraw their complaints entirely.
- **The Investigation Stage:** Because sexual assault rarely leaves a perfect forensic paper trail, investigations are routinely shelved or classified as "unfounded" due to a perceived lack of physical evidence. This ignores the reality that many assaults involve verbal coercion, intoxication, or settings where physical struggle—and therefore physical evidence—is absent.
- **The Prosecution Stage:** In the rare event that a prosecutor takes a case to trial, the courtroom layout frequently shifts the burden of proof. While the legal standard states that the defendant is on trial, the defence strategy

almost universally centres on putting the survivor's character, mental health, and personal history on trial to create reasonable doubt.

- **The Conviction Stage:** As a consequence of these compounding structural hurdles, conviction rates for sexual assault remain devastatingly low. Globally, depending on the jurisdiction, only about 2% to 7% of reported sexual assaults result in a criminal conviction. When measured against the total estimated number of assaults committed, the percentage of perpetrators who face legal consequences plummets to a fraction of a percent.

From Structural Blame to Radical Empathy

The social stigma surrounding sexual violence thrives on the deeply ingrained, patriarchal idea that a survivor is somehow "ruined", "stained", or "compromised" by what occurred. This is the ultimate lie of victim-blaming. It shifts the moral ledger, assigning the shame of the crime to the person who endured it, rather than the person who chose to commit it.

Language is a vital tool in dismantling this narrative. Shifting our societal vocabulary from "victim" to "survivor" is not a mere exercise in political correctness; it is an act of structural restoration. "Victim" defines an individual by an act of violence committed against them; "survivor" emphasises their agency, resilience, and identity beyond the trauma.

To close the justice gap and erase the stigma, society must undergo a structural shift. We must stop auditing the clothes, the habits, the timing, and the expressions of survivors and start holding perpetrators entirely and unconditionally accountable for their actions. True justice cannot exist in a system that greets a bruised human being with suspicion. It begins when a survivor can step out of the shadows of silence, entirely certain that they will be met with belief, institutional dignity, and unwavering systemic support.

The author can be mailed at rizwanroomi2012@gmail.com

Good Morning

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Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors

Mir Suhail

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

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Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

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Women In Shakespeare's Creative Canvas

DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Shakespearian England was a patriarchy when men held the power and women were expected to be obedient and submissive. After the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1558, Queen Elizabeth famously said, "I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king," reflecting her desire to establish her strength as a leader. This ever-virgin Queen insisted that she was married to her kingdom and subjects, though the Marriage Question was a key political issue of the era which highlighted the expectation of the society of women in 16th-century England regardless of their role in society or politics. The Scottish reformer John Knox wrote The First Blast of the Trumpet against the monstrous regiment of women, which attacks female monarchs by arguing that female rule is blasphemous.

The vitriolic diatribe against female authority, however, did not have much impact on the plays of Shakespeare. At that time of Elizabeth's rule over England, Mary, the Queen of Scots, ruled Scotland. Interestingly enough, Shakespeare enjoyed the patronage of Queen Elizabeth. True, women in general in England did not enjoy the same freedom that they do today. It was a time of strict social hierarchies and stringent rules about how women should behave in the home and in public. In A Midsummer Night's Dream Shakespeare wrote, "Though she be but little, she is fierce." Shakespeare's depiction of such fierce women opens for us the window to a new lighthouse which shows directions towards a rapid change coming to the society.

In the plays of Shakespeare, we have on the one hand seen fierce ladies like Lady Macbeth or Goneril and on the other hand the soft-tempered, sweet, sophisticated ladies like Ophelia, Cordelia, Juliet, Rosalind or Viola. Shakespeare, being one of the best dramatists of all time and ages, ever managed the varied positions in which women are depicted to play their different roles, and he perfectly dramatised them as women of real flesh and blood. Shakespeare's female characters mirror the image of women in the Elizabethan era, where they were to be virtuous and tractable, while they can be equally vicious and devilish. He created all types of women, good and innocent like Ophelia and Desdemona or Cordelia and also the female villains like Goneril, Regan or Lady Macbeth.

In a play like The Merchant of Venice, women characters are given central roles. In Julius Caesar women



are friends to husbands. In Antony and Cleopatra we get pictures of wileful women who are courageous and even diplomatic. Many of these women also knew how to use their beauty as in our modern times and showed incredible knowledge, essentialness and a solid feeling of individual autonomy, which made Shakespeare a victor of woman-kind, as he seems to understand women more than the women understand themselves.

He is a pioneer who went beyond stereotyped portrayals of females. The conception still prevails that in the tragedies of Shakespeare women look more dependent on men than they are in the comedies. Thus, Portia of Julius Caesar is different from Portia of The Merchant of Venice. Heroines of the comedies play more pivotal roles than their male counterparts. Despite reflecting the age-old man-made concept about race, gender, female sexuality and power, Shakespeare's plays suggest themselves to be at odds with patriarchal gender assumptions. Cleopatra and Katherine dare to defy the existing norms and stand out prominently in their own spheres. They suffered for this defiance of conventional roles, though the audience were able to guess their intellectual superiority.

Shakespeare's England did not observe Women's Day, nor did Shakespeare have to establish himself as a feminist writer to uphold the rights of women. But if one reads his plays, one is bound to be amazed to see how the

ever-great dramatist of the world is still unparalleled in his impartial and realistic depiction of women even in his romances, and his keen sensibility and width of visionary horizon amaze all of us till today for the faithful portrayal of women as humans. Very few writers of the world can claim this infinite variety in the portrayal of the female mind and psychology. The plays of this greatest dramatist of the world, are unthinkable without women, who form half the sky of the Shakespearean universe in the realistic sense of the term.

Though the four plays which A.C. Bradley selected as his representative tragedies are male-centric, women have no less important roles in them. But still, can we ever think of Macbeth without Lady Macbeth, or Hamlet without his mother and Ophelia, or King Lear without his three daughters, or Othello without Desdemona? Shakespeare's artistic genius in presenting his women characters is outstanding, as they throw light on the situation of women in the public arena in the Elizabethan era. We have seen the varied types – trapped, tragic, comic and stoic women. The women of the history plays reflect the uncertain status of Elizabethan women, yet Shakespeare questions their predetermined roles and identities.

In Macbeth, Hamlet and Merry Wives of Windsor, there are several points in these plays which deal with women and their rights. Shakespeare's plays have a big relation to feminism, as

they pay more attention to the rights of women and their true identity. In fact, they represent the voice for equality between men and women. The plays of Shakespeare reflect the social situation during the Renaissance when consciousness about women's rights and capability was a big issue. We saw Juliet sighing over Romeo or Rosalind and Celia fleeing through the Forest of Arden, and then we saw them as boys or young men in dresses. There were no laws which explicitly forbade women from acting. It was common to see traditionally masculine roles in Shakespeare's plays portrayed by women – several of Shakespeare's plays make gender switching a key part of the plot, also highlighting the inequalities of power in his society.

We see in his plays also men pretending to be women – Thisbe in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Bartholomew clothed as a woman to confuse Christopher Sly in The Taming of the Shrew, and Falstaff dressed as 'the fat woman of Brentford' to avoid Ford finding him in his wife's house in The Merry Wives of Windsor. But by far the bigger examples, with characters switching gender for large sections of the plays, involve women pretending to be men. They include Portia and Nerissa, who pretend to be lawyers (Balthazar and his clerk) in the courtroom scene in The Merchant of Venice – they can be taken seriously and use their intelligence to resolve an impossible situation. Rosalind pretends to be Ganymede in As You

Like It – this allows her to be safer in the forest with her cousin, Celia, than if they were two women. Viola in Twelfth Night becomes Cesario so she can work for the Duke. Imogen dresses up as a boy, Fidele, to travel to her exiled husband in Cymbeline. Julia pretends to be Sebastian so she can travel safely to Milan in The Two Gentlemen of Verona. Historians suggest that Shakespeare's female relatives, including his mother and wife, may have inspired many of

Though she be but little, she is fierce."

Shakespeare's depiction of such fierce women opens for us the window to a new lighthouse which shows directions towards a rapid change coming to the society.

his female characters and the themes he explored in his plays. Despite the limitations placed on women in Elizabethan society, Shakespeare created an infinite variety of complex and memorable female characters who reflected intelligence, independence, and magnetism whose beauty cannot be withered by time or staled by custom.

Author is a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University USA. He can be mailed at profratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

J&K's New Tenancy Rules

A Timely Reform That Must Deliver On The Ground

MOHAMMED AMIN MIR

The notification of the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Rules, 2026 marks an important milestone in the evolution of urban housing governance in the Union Territory. While tenancy laws often receive limited public attention, they directly influence the lives of thousands of families, students, migrant workers, professionals, small businesses and property owners who rely on rental housing and commercial premises.

The new Rules, framed under the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Act, seek to replace informality with transparency, establish clear rights and responsibilities for landlords and tenants, and introduce a digital system for managing tenancy agreements. If implemented effectively, they have the potential to modernise a rental market that has long depended on oral understandings, handwritten agreements and uncertain legal remedies.

The significance of these reforms extends beyond legal procedure. They represent a shift in how housing is governed in a region experiencing rapid urbanisation, changing demographics and increasing demand for rental accommodation.

For decades, rental arrangements in Jammu and Kashmir have largely operated outside a structured regulatory framework. Many agreements were never formally registered, leaving both landlords and tenants vulnerable in the event of disputes. Questions relating to rent revision, security deposits, eviction, maintenance responsibilities or the duration of tenancy often ended up in prolonged litigation or informal negotiations that favoured whichever party held greater bargaining power.

The newly notified Rules seek to change this landscape by requiring

tenancy agreements to be reported to the Rent Authority within a stipulated period. The allocation of a Unique Identification Number for every tenancy introduces a formal record that can significantly reduce ambiguity and strengthen legal certainty. Such documentation protects not only tenants but also landlords, who often struggle to establish contractual obligations in the absence of registered agreements.

Another notable feature is the emphasis on digital governance. The requirement for a dedicated online platform reflects broader efforts to digitise public services and reduce bureaucratic delays. Electronic submission of tenancy agreements, renewals and related applications can make compliance easier while improving administrative efficiency.

Equally important is the inclusion of safeguards for data privacy. Rental agreements contain sensitive personal and financial information, and the Rules appropriately restrict access to authorised parties. In an era where digital governance is expanding rapidly, incorporating privacy protections from the outset is both necessary and reassuring.

The provisions dealing with rent revision also deserve attention. Rental markets are dynamic, influenced by infrastructure development, commercial activity and changing demand. The Rules empower the Rent Authority to hear both parties before determining revised rent after considering prevailing market conditions and other relevant factors. This approach seeks to balance the legitimate expectations of landlords for fair returns with the need to shield tenants from arbitrary increases.

Similarly, the provision allowing tenants to deposit rent with the Rent Authority if a landlord refuses to accept payment is a practical safe-



guard. It prevents tenants from being unfairly labelled as defaulters while ensuring that landlords cannot exploit procedural gaps to initiate unnecessary legal action.

The Rules also introduce greater accountability in the handling of security deposits by requiring landlords to return refundable amounts within the prescribed framework, failing which interest becomes payable. This addresses a common source of conflict in rental relationships across the country.

Yet, as with many legislative reforms, the real test lies not in the drafting of the Rules but in their implementation.

The success of the new framework will depend on whether Rent Authorities possess adequate institutional capacity, trained personnel and technological infrastructure. A digital portal, however well designed, cannot substitute for efficient administration if applications remain pending for months or disputes continue to take

years for resolution.

Public awareness will be equally important. Many landlords and tenants, particularly in smaller towns and rural areas, may remain unaware of the new legal requirements. Without sustained outreach campaigns, compliance could remain limited, defeating the objective of formalising the rental market.

Another challenge concerns digital accessibility. While online services improve efficiency, they must be complemented by offline assistance centres to ensure that elderly citizens, those with limited digital literacy and residents of remote areas are not excluded from the new system.

There is also a broader policy question. Jammu and Kashmir continues to witness increasing urban migration driven by education, employment, healthcare and commerce. The demand for affordable rental housing is rising steadily, particularly in cities

such as Srinagar and Jammu. Legal reform alone cannot address housing shortages. The Tenancy Rules should therefore be viewed as one component of a wider housing policy that encourages investment in rental accommodation, promotes affordable housing and improves urban planning.

International experience suggests that well-regulated rental markets benefit both property owners and tenants. Predictable legal frameworks encourage investment, reduce disputes and create confidence among all stakeholders. In this regard, the new Rules are a step in the right direction.

However, their effectiveness will ultimately be measured by outcomes rather than intentions. Are tenancy agreements actually being registered? Are disputes resolved promptly? Are security deposits refunded without unnecessary litigation? Has public confidence in the rental market improved? These are the questions that will determine whether the reform succeeds.

The notification of the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Rules, 2026, deserves recognition as a progressive initiative that seeks to bring clarity, transparency and accountability to landlord-tenant relations. It signals a willingness to modernise housing governance in line with contemporary administrative practices.

But legislation is only the beginning. Consistent implementation, institutional capacity, public awareness and accessible dispute resolution will determine whether these Rules become a transformative reform or simply another statute on paper. For a region where housing demand is evolving rapidly, ensuring that this framework works in practice is now the government's most important responsibility.

The author can be mailed at mira-min354@gmail.com

Speaker reviews fund utilization for strengthening healthcare services in Charar-i-Sharief

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Hospital Development Fund (HDF) Committee of SDH Charar-i-Sharief and SDH Pakherpora falling in Medical Block Charar-i-Sharief and SDH Kremchore falling in Medical Block Khansahib to review the proposals for utilization of HDF for the financial year 2026-27.

The Speaker was apprised that the Hospital Development Fund is generated through various sources, including charges collected for pathological tests, X-ray services, hospital registration/prescription tickets and other user charges.

It was informed that the funds are utilized for payment of wages to HDF employees, procurement of essential medicines and medical equipment, minor repairs and renovation of hospital infrastructure, purchase of sanitary items and other patient-care requirements aimed at improving the quality of healthcare services.

The meeting was informed that all the three



Sub-District Hospitals in Block Charar-i-Sharief have been accredited under the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS), reflecting their commitment towards maintaining high standards of patient care and healthcare delivery.

It was also highlighted that SDH Nagam had received the prestigious Kayakalp Award for cleanliness during the previous year while SDH Pakherpora has been conferred with the same award this year with rank one in J&K. Notably, SDH Charar-i-Sharief has consistently received the Kayakalp Commendation Award for the last three consecutive years in recognition of its sustained efforts towards cleanliness, hygiene and quality healthcare services.

The Speaker also reviewed the proposed uti-

lization of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS) Fund for the financial year 2026-27. He examined the priorities identified for improving the healthcare facilities and patient amenities across the hospitals.

During the meeting, the Speaker stressed that every rupee available under the HDF and RKS should be utilized judiciously, transparently and strictly in accordance with the prescribed guidelines, with the primary objective of improving patient care and strengthening healthcare infrastructure.

He directed the concerned authorities to accord priority to procurement of essential medicines and modern medical equipment, maintenance of hospital infrastructure, sanitation and other facilities that directly benefit the patients.

Emphasizing accountability and efficient financial management, the Speaker instructed the hospital authorities to ensure optimum utilization of available resources, avoid unnecessary expenditure and maintain complete transparency in execution of works undertaken through these funds. He also called for periodic monitoring of expenditure and timely implementation of approved proposals so that the intended benefits reach the public without delay.

The Speaker appreciated the healthcare staff for securing quality certifications and national recognition under the NQAS and Kayakalp initiatives. He urged them to sustain these achievements by maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness, patient care and hospital management, while continuing to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare services to the people of the area.

The meeting was attended by CMO Budgam Dr. Gulzar Ahmad, BMO, Charar-i-Sharief, Dr. Tasavur Khan, BMO Khansahib Dr. Arshid Ahmad along with other members of the Hospital Development Fund Committees.

Sanitation woes overshadow Baba Reshi's religious, tourism significance

'Sewage discharge into stream supplying downstream areas'

WARIS FAYAZ

BARAMULLA: Poor sanitation and inadequate civic infrastructure have cast a shadow over Baba Reshi's religious and tourism significance, with traders and local stakeholders alleging official neglect despite the revered shrine attracting thousands of devotees and tourists every day.

Stakeholders said that heaps of garbage have accumulated around the shrine complex and adjoining market, while poor maintenance has affected the overall experience of visitors.

They claimed that Baba Reshi receives nearly 20,000 visitors on busy days, but sanitation arrangements have failed to keep pace with the growing footfall.

"The authorities are paying no attention to this destination. While the Waqf chairperson has initiated developmental works at the shrine, the employees responsible for maintenance are not performing their duties. Garbage remains scattered across



the area, causing inconvenience to devotees and tourists," they said.

The stakeholders said the deteriorating condition of the shrine surroundings is affecting Babareshi's reputation as one of Kashmir's prominent religious and tourist destinations.

"People are now reluctant to visit after seeing the unhygienic conditions. The drainage system is defunct and basic facilities are missing. The Waqf collects rent from shopkeepers, but sanitation, public washrooms and infrastructure continue to remain neglected," they alleged.

They also expressed concern over the disposal of waste from public washrooms, claiming that it flows into a nearby stream which serves several downstream localities.

President of the local market association, Bilal Ahmad, said repeated representations to the Waqf authorities have yielded little response.

"We have requested the Waqf authorities several times to improve sanitation and upgrade the infrastructure. We have been forced to highlight these issues through the media because action is taken

only after public attention is drawn," he said.

Bilal said traders had also staged peaceful protests and observed a market shutdown to press for their demands.

"We suspended business to register our protest. It was only after police intervention and assurances that we resumed our activities. Despite that, our concerns remain unresolved," he said.

Meanwhile, repeated attempts to seek a response from the Waqf administration remained unsuccessful as the officials did not respond to phone calls from the news agency.

Located about 13 kilometres from the famous ski resort of Gulmarg, Baba Payamuddin Reshi, popularly known as Baba Reshi, is one of Kashmir's most revered Sufi shrines. Dating back to the 15th century, the shrine attracts thousands of devotees and tourists throughout the year, making it an important centre of faith as well as a key destination on Kashmir's tourism circuit—(KNO)

Secy RDD undertakes Two-Day inspection of Amarnath Yatra Route Reviews Sanitation along Pahalgam and Baltal Axis

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BALTAL: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Muhammad Aijaz Asad, Tuesday concluded a comprehensive two-day end-to-end on-foot inspection of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra route, traversing both the traditional Pahalgam axis and the Baltal axis to review sanitation arrangements and ensure the highest standards of cleanliness, hygiene and waste management throughout the pilgrimage corridor.

The inspection commenced from the Nunwan Base Camp on the Pahalgam axis and culminated at the Baltal Base Camp after covering the entire Yatra route upto the Holy Cave . Undertaken entirely on foot across the challenging Himalayan terrain, the inspection enabled the Secretary to personally assess sanitation facilities, cleanliness, waste management systems and the functioning of field teams at every major transit point, camp and halt along both Yatra routes.

On the Pahalgam axis, the Secretary inspected sanitation arrangements at Nunwan Base Camp, Chandanwari, Pissu Top, Zojibal, Nagarkoti, Sheshnag, Wavbal, MG Top, Poshpathri, Dardkot, Kelnar, Panjarni, Sangam Top, Lower Holy Cave and Upper Holy Cave.

During the inspection, he thoroughly reviewed the condition and maintenance of toilet and bathing facilities, waste collection and disposal systems, cleanliness of camps, deployment of sanitation workers and the overall upkeep of sanitation infrastructure established for the Yatra. He also interacted extensively with sanitation personnel on the ground and issued necessary directions to ensure uninterrupted sanitation services despite the difficult terrain, adverse weather conditions and heavy pilgrim footfall.

After completing the inspection of the Holy Cave area, the Secretary descended via the Baltal axis, continuing the inspection on foot through Kalimata Track, Y Junction, Brarimarg, Rail Pathri, Domail Camp and Baltal Base Camp. At each location, he examined the functioning of toilets and bathing units, reviewed solid waste management systems, monitored the cleanliness of camps and assessed the deployment of sanitation personnel to ensure that the Baltal route was being maintained to the highest standards of hygiene.

Throughout the two-day journey, Muhammad Aijaz Asad interacted with Yatris, Langar operators, sanitation workers and field officials to obtain firsthand feedback regarding the facilities being provided and valuable suggestions for further improvement from the Yatris on track. The Secretary assured them that administration is fully committed to make the best experience for every Yatri.



DLSA Budgam conducts 3rd UTRC Meeting for Year 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, convened its 3rd quarterly UTRC meeting for the year 2026 in the office Chamber of Chairman DLSA Budgam, Tuesday.

The meeting was chaired by O.P Bhagat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA) Budgam, who brought together key stakeholders from the judiciary, police, administration, and medical fraternity to address the significant issue of ensuring fair and expedited trials for under trial prisoners. The collaborative forum underscores the importance of a collective approach in safeguarding the rights of individuals awaiting trial.

Three cases involving under trial prisoners already identified as per SOPs were meticulously reviewed. Each case underwent thorough discussion and deliberation to understand the specific circumstances. The committee formulated recommendations aimed at streamlining the judicial process and upholding principles of equity and justice.

O.P. Bhagat emphasized the vital role of UTRC meetings in strengthening the criminal justice system and protecting the fundamental rights of under trial prisoners. He stressed on the importance of ongoing initiatives to ensure a fair and efficient legal process, promoting justice and transparency.

DLSA Budgam remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring fair and speedy trials for under trial prisoners. The UTRC meetings serve as a crucial mechanism in this endeavor, contributing significantly to a more equitable and efficient Legal system.

The meeting was convened by Tabassum Qadir Parray, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Budgam, and attended by Primrose Bashir, SDM Chadoora; Suhaib Ashraf, CPO Budgam; Shakeel Ahmad, Collector Defense; Sajad Malik, Dy Superintendent Police HQ, Budgam; Shahbaz Hussain, Dy Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar; Saalim Javid, Sr. PO, DPO Budgam; Dr. Suhail Jan Senior, Medical Officer, Central Jail Srinagar; Manzoor Ahmad Lone, I/C Legal Aid Section CJ Srinagar and Lateef Ahmad Khan, Chief LADC, Budgam.

FDA intensifies Food Safety checks in Tourist areas

44 Food Samples collected from Srinagar and Gulmarg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food Safety Wing of the Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, has intensified food safety inspections across the Union Territory, particularly in tourist areas, to ensure the availability of safe, hygienic and quality food products for consumers.

During a special inspection drive conducted in Srinagar and Gulmarg, 63 food establishments were inspected and 44 food samples of Ghee, Edible Oils, Honey, Spices and other food products were lifted and sent to NABL-accredited laboratories for testing.

During the inspections, some deficiencies related to hygiene and sanitary practices were noticed. 12 Food Business Operators (FBOs) were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, for minor violations and fine of Rs 17000 was imposed .

All the enforcement authorities have been directed continue strict surveillance and enforcement activities, especially in tourist destinations and high-footfall areas. Consumers are requested to remain cautious while purchasing food items and report any suspected unsafe or substandard food product to FDA, J&K, through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of the general public that Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Rather, S/o Mohammed Amin Rather, presently residing at Rehmat Lane, A-7, New Colony, Lal Bazar, near Police Station, Srinagar, has purchased a property from Mr. Gulzar Ahmad Banday, S/o Ghulam Hassan Banday, R/o New Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar. The purchaser intends to have the existing electricity connection pertaining to the said property, bearing Consumer ID: _0204040008375 and Installation No.: 10890_, transferred from the name of the previous owner to his own name. Anyone having any objection regarding transfer of the said electricity connection, he/she may submit the same in writing, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the concerned authority or the undersigned within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Ghulam Mohammad Rather (Purchaser)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K,

Subject: Compassionate Appointment In favour of Smt. Sushma W/o Late Sh. Ram Lal (Ex-Driver) R/o Pindi Charkan, Tehsil Arnia, District Jammu, as MTS in the Health & Medical Education Department earmarked vacancies under SRO-43 of 1994.

NOTICE

Consequent upon the approval of the Competent Authority conveyed by the General Administration Department, vide O.M. No. GAD-SRO/536/2023(7374691) dated 25.05.2026, the below mentioned candidate, is hereby informed through the medium of this notice to submit her e-mail IDs and Mobile Numbers before the Nominated Nodal Officer, Special Secretary to the Government (A) Health & Medical Education Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar in person within a period of 21 days, positively from the date of issuance of this notice for filling up of e-verification rolls for obtaining Prior Character and Antecedents from the Criminal Investigation Department.

If the candidate fails to submit her Personal Verification Roll (PVR) within a period of 21 days, in terms of Government Order No. 1003-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated: 27.09.2021 read with Circular No. 18-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 20.05.2022 issued by General Administration Department, shall forfeit her right to appointment under SRO-43 of 1994 forthwith without any further notice.

ANNEXURE

S. NO.	Form No.	Date of Application	Name	Husband Name	Address	DOB	Disability	Category	Remarks
01	--	25.12.2017	Smt Sushma	Late Ram Lal	R/o Pindi Charkan, Tehsil Arnia, District Jammu	04.04.1976	-NA-	SC	Fill up personal details within the period of 21 days

No. HD-NG-J/41/2024-02 (7416179)
Dated: 06.07.2026

DIPK-3257-26
DT: 14/07/2026

Under Secretary to the Government
Health & Medical Education Department



Government of Jammu & Kashmir PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & MONITORING DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

Subject: Appointment of Assistant Director (E&S) in the J&K Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department.

Reference: 1. Select list/Recommendation from Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission vide letter No. PSC/DR/AD(P)/2023-24/(7417142) dated: 30-12-2025.
2. Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K's letter No. DES-HRM/1/2026-1/891-92, dated: 10.06.2026

**Government Order No.:- 74 -JK(PD&MD) of 2026
Dated:- 08.07.2026**

As recommended by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of following candidate against the posts of Assistant Director (E&S) in the Pay Level-8 (47600-151100) in Jammu and Kashmir Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, with immediate effect:

S.No.	S.No. in the Select list (Annexure-B)	Roll No	Name	Parentage	Address	Date of Birth	Cat.	Marks
1.	76	7105083	Arti Shanna	D/O Rattan Lai Sharma	H.No. 110 Ward No. 3 Gurgi Dhaki Akhnoor	28-Apr-1989	EWS	282.48

The appointee shall be on probation for a period of two years, during which she shall undergo such training and pass the departmental examination as prescribed under the rules.

The appointee shall report to the Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K, Jammu/Srinagar, within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order, failing which she shall forego her right to appointment, and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

The appointee shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates/documents (in original) to be verified subsequently:-

- Academic Qualification Certificate(s).
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Domicile Certificate.
- Relevant Category Certificate, if any.
- Any other certificate required under rules.

The appointee shall give undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that, if on verification, the submitted certificates/documents viz Qualification Certificate(s), Date of Birth Certificate, Domicile Certificate, Category Certificate or any other certificate issued by concerned issuing authority, are found fake, forged or invalid, the claim of the appointee for appointment as Assistant Director (E&S) shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio, and legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against her.

The inter-se seniority of the above appointee shall be determined subsequently as under rules.

The appointment shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petition(s), if any pending adjudication before any Competent Court(s).

It shall be incumbent upon the Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K to certificates verified and in case any certificate being found fake/forged or invalid or issued from a fake/unrecognized University/Institute, the appointment shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.

This is in continuation to Government Order No. 54-JK(PD&MD) of 2026 dated-11.05.2026 issued by the Planning Development & Monitoring Department.

By Order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

No.-: PDMD- HRM/38/2022 (Part-2) (7761982)
Dated:- 08 .07.2026
DIPK-3232-26
DT: 14/07/2026

Sd/-
(R. Alice Vaz), IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government,
Planning, Development & Monitoring Department.

Over 570 Sports Infrastructure Projects Underway Across J&K

Commr Secy Reviews First Quarterly Progress of YSS Expansion Programme

GMK SPORTS DESK

JAMMU: More than 570 sports and youth infrastructure projects with an estimated investment exceeding ₹650 crore are presently under various stages of planning and execution across Jammu & Kashmir during current financial year, under the Department of Youth Services & Sports, marking one of the most comprehensive infrastructure development programmes undertaken by the Department in recent years.

The progress of this ambitious programme was reviewed today by Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, chairing the first quarterly review of the implementation roadmap initiated earlier this year.

The meeting was attended by Director General, Youth Services & Sports, Special Secretary YSS, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, FA/CAOs, JDP, senior officers of the Administrative Department, engineering agencies, Heads of Wings, District Youth Services & Sports Officers from all twenty districts and officers of the J&K Sports Council.

The review covered Capital Expenditure, Special Assistance to Capital Investment (SASCI), Centrally Sponsored Schemes including the Khelo India Mission, Revenue Expenditure, Budget Announcements and district-wise implementation of sports infrastructure projects. The Commissioner/Secretary said that the Department's infrastructure strategy is fully aligned with the vision of the Khelo Bharat Niti, with emphasis on creating an equitable, accessible and future-ready sports ecosystem capable of serving every region and every section of society.

Dr. Choudhary observed that while significant investments have already transformed sports infrastructure over the past few years, the current phase represents a strategic



shift from isolated project execution to a planned, data-driven expansion of sports infrastructure across urban centres, rural areas, border districts, tribal habitations, remote mountainous regions and other underserved locations. He said the objective is to ensure that every young person in Jammu & Kashmir has access to quality sports facilities within reasonable proximity, while simultaneously creating centres of excellence capable of nurturing national and international sporting talent.

The meeting reviewed the progress of 315 CapEx projects being implemented by the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports during 2026-27, including 167 ongoing works, 140 new projects and eight non-construction initiatives, in addition to projects under SASCI, Budget Announcements and other flagship programmes. The J&K Sports Council is simultaneously implementing 263 infrastructure projects, comprising 195 ongoing works, 57 new works and 11 SASCI Disaster Component projects, reflecting an unprecedented scale of coordinated infrastructure development across the Union Territory.

A comprehensive district-wise review was undertaken of all major projects. The Commissioner/Secretary reviewed progress on development of Khel Gaon, Nagrota as a flagship multi-sport hub through establishment of a Lawn Tennis Academy, new Directorate headquarters, Strength & Condition-

ing Centre, Youth Hostel and remodelling of cricket infrastructure. Progress was also reviewed on major new projects including construction of Khel Bhawans and integrated residential sports facilities at Rajouri, Ramban, Samba, Srinagar, Anantnag, Kulgam, Poonch, Jammu. and Nagrota; two Border Sports Academies; the proposed Centre for Mountaineering & Skiing at Sanasar; youth hostels at Nagrota, Wazir Bagh and Government College of Physical Education, Ganderbal; multi-purpose indoor halls; mini stadiums; sports academies; and playfield development works across districts.

The review also covered major projects being executed by the J&K Sports Council, including synthetic football and hockey turfs at Bandhuraakh, Jagti, Gassu Hazratbal, Azad Gunj Baramulla and Draggad Shopian; Olympic-standard swimming infrastructure and toddler swimming facilities at Gindun Rajbagh; athletic tracks at Khour, Mendhar and Tulibal; sports stadiums at Sogam, Birpur, Panthan Thathri, Rehal Bishnah, Budgam and Bhalwal; water sports facilities at Manasbal; Sports Complex at Nilandrus; Cricket Academies at Srinagar, Jammu, Udhampur and Anantnag; Gymnastics, Archery and Shooting Centres; High Performance Taekwondo Centres; and Centre of Cricket Excellence projects presently under execution.

The meeting noted significant progress under the Playfield Development Programme, under which

108 playfields are being developed across Jammu & Kashmir this year at an estimated cost of over ₹39 crore, besides implementation of 118 additional sports infrastructure projects, including indoor stadiums, multipurpose halls, youth hostels, volleyball courts, badminton courts, pickleball courts, cricket practice facilities, sports office buildings and allied infrastructure aimed at strengthening grassroots participation and community engagement in sports.

Reviewing implementation under the Khelo India Mission, the Commissioner Secretary also assessed progress relating to Khelo India Centres, procurement of sports equipment, strengthening of centres of excellence, cricket academies and athlete support infrastructure, directing that these initiatives should complement the rapidly expanding physical infrastructure to create a complete sporting ecosystem across the Union Territory.

In a significant policy direction, Dr. Choudhary reviewed the creation of the Department's first comprehensive geo-spatial inventory of sports infrastructure by geo-tagging every stadium, playfield, indoor hall, youth hostel, academy, sports complex and allied asset under both the Directorate and the J&K Sports Council. The integrated GIS-based platform will support scientific infrastructure planning, lifecycle maintenance, utilisation assessment, convergence with other development programmes and identification of infrastruc-

ture-deficit areas requiring future investment.

He further directed preparation of district-wise infrastructure gap analyses based on population, accessibility, sporting potential and regional requirements so that future investments are guided by objective assessment rather than incremental expansion. Particular emphasis, he said, should be placed on border areas, tribal regions, remote habitations, hilly districts and emerging urban settlements, ensuring balanced regional development and equitable access to sports infrastructure.

Calling for strict adherence to timelines, the Commissioner/Secretary instructed all executing agencies to expedite DPR preparation, statutory approvals, tendering and execution while maintaining the highest standards of engineering quality, transparency and financial discipline. He also directed institution of digital project monitoring, periodic field inspections and outcome-based review mechanisms to ensure timely completion of every sanctioned project.

Dr. Choudhary said that investment in sports infrastructure is ultimately an investment in the aspirations of the youth of Jammu & Kashmir. He observed that the Department's vision extends beyond construction of physical assets to creation of vibrant community spaces that encourage participation, discover talent at the grassroots, promote healthy lifestyles and enable young sportspersons from every district to compete at national and international levels.

He expressed confidence that the ongoing infrastructure expansion, supported by the Khelo India Mission and the policy framework envisaged under the Khelo Bharat Niti, would lay a strong foundation for making Jammu & Kashmir a leading sporting destination while creating enduring opportunities for generations of young people.

J&K Sports Council commences selection trials for Sub-Junior Girls Football Team



GMK NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council Momday commenced the selection trials for the formation of the J&K Under-14 Sub-Junior Girls Football Team that will represent the Union Territory in the forthcoming AIFF Sub-Junior Girls National Football Championship 2026.

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. 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. 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.

The players selected through the trials will represent Jammu & Kashmir in the AIFF Sub-Junior Girls National Football Championship 2026.

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.

FIFA WC: Closing ceremony to celebrate historic tournament ahead of the final

IANs

NEW YORK: Tom Cruise, Laura Pausini, Nicole Scherzinger, Robbie Williams, and iShowSpeed will be among those performing during the closing ceremony of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which will celebrate the historic tournament leading up to the summit clash.

As the largest sporting event in history reaches its conclusion, the FIFA World Cup 2026 closing ceremony, which will take place ahead of the final match at the New York New Jersey Stadium on Sunday (July 19), will celebrate the 48 teams' unforgettable journey across the three host countries and 16 Host Cities throughout the tournament.

This star-studded show will feature performances from Laura Pausini, Nicole

Scherzinger, Robbie Williams, and iShowSpeed, as well as a special appearance by Tom Cruise, bringing together some of the world's biggest names in music and entertainment for an unforgettable celebration before kick-off, FIFA informed in a report on its official website.

Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Award winner Jennifer Hudson will deliver a special rendition of the United States national anthem ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 final. One of the world's most celebrated performers, Hudson's powerful performance, will set the stage for football's biggest match and the most anticipated moment of the tournament.

Produced in creative partnership with Balich Wonder Studio, the closing ceremony will cel-

ebate the passion, emotion, and global spirit that have defined the 23rd FIFA World Cup: a game-changing event featuring 48 teams that has shattered records and inspired a new generation of girls and boys around the world to dream. More artists and special guests will be announced over the coming days.

"Echoing the spirit of the opening ceremonies, which welcomed the world to the greatest stage in Canada, Mexico and the United States, the closing ceremony will bring the FIFA World Cup 2026 full circle through music, culture and football, before we kick off the highly anticipated match that will crown the champions of this groundbreaking tournament," said Heimo Schirgi, Chief Operating Officer - FIFA World Cup 2026.

Srinagar hosts Indian Soft Tennis Team's National Camp ahead of 2026 Asian Games



GMK SPORTS DESK

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council Tuesday inaugurated the second National Coaching Camp of the Indian Soft Tennis Team at Gindun Sports Stadium, Rajbagh.

The month-long camp, approved by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India, is being organised by the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India in collaboration with the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association and the J&K Sports Council, and will continue until August 13, 2026.

The Opening Ceremony of the 2nd National Coaching Camp of the Indian Soft Tennis Team, was conducted in preparation for the 20th Asian Games, Japan 2026.

Nuzhat Gull, Secretary,

J&K Sports Council, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. During her interaction with the Indian National Team players and the coaching staff, she encouraged the sportsmen and assured them of every possible support from the J&K Sports Council throughout their stay in Srinagar. She extended her best wishes to the team for the forthcoming Asian Games and expressed confidence that their dedication, hard work, and determination would bring laurels to the nation.

The J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association expressed its gratitude for being entrusted with the responsibility of hosting this prestigious National Coaching Camp.

The Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India and the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association look forward to

hosting many more national and international events in the future with the same spirit of excellence, cooperation, and sporting dignity.

Among the distinguished officials of the J&K Sports Council present on the occasion were Gh Rasool, Administrative Officer; Yasir Sab, Chief Accounts Officer; and Jahangir Ahmad, Public Relations Officer (PRO). The officials of the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India who attended the ceremony included Aniket Khodadhar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Hashmukh Vegda, National Coach; Dr Gh. Hassan, Executive Member; ASTFI and National Coaching Camp Coordinator; Sudesh Sangte, National Team Coach; and Shakir Ashraf, General Secretary, J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association.

SHOW TIMINGS



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)

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MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA

(HINDI)

U/A 16+

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