

Historic Bhairav yatra of Rajouri gets national heritage recognition

LG congratulates District Admin, Culture Deptt for turning dream into a reality

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday extended his heartiest congratulations to the Rajouri District Administration and Department of Culture, J&K on inclusion of historic Bhairav Yatra of Rajouri to the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: “Proud moment for Rajouri! The district’s historic Bhairav Yatra has officially been added



to National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of India. Congratula-

tions to the Rajouri District Administration and the J&K’s Department

of Culture for turning this dream into a reality. This prestigious recognition will go a long way in documenting, preserving, and celebrating the area’s deep spiritual and cultural roots. This national honor validates the generations of devotees who kept this tradition alive. The inclusion of Bhairav Yatra in National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage will strengthen Rajouri’s unique cultural footprint on the national stage and it will open the door for research, cultural exchange, and sustainable heritage tourism.”

J&K Govt Reconstitutes Fee Fixation Committee for Professional Colleges

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday reconstituted the Committee for Fixation of Fee Structure of Professional Colleges in the Union Territory, appointing retired High Court judge Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir as its chairman for a tenure of one year or until further orders. The panel has been constituted in compliance with Supreme Court directions to regulate fees charged by private professional institutions.

According to Government Order No. 1210-JK(GAD) of 2026 dated July 15, issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the committee has been reconstituted in supersession of Government Order No. 1120-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated May 31, 2024, read with Government Order No. 1496-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated August 13, 2024. The order states that the reconstitution has been carried out in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 350 of 1993, Islamic Academy of Education and another versus State of Karnataka and others.

The committee will be headed by Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir (Retd.) as Chairman. The Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, will serve as Member Secretary for matters relating to the Health and Medical Education Department, while the Administrative Secretary, Skill Development Department, and the Administrative Secretary, Higher Education Department, will function as Member Secretaries for issues concerning their respective departments.

The panel also includes a representative of the National Medical Commission (NMC), formerly the Medical Council of India, and a representative of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) as members.

In addition, a chartered accountant of repute will be nominated by the chairman as a member of the committee. Primary & Secondary Schooling (K-12)

The government has designated the Health and Medical Education Department to provide administrative and secretarial support to the committee. The order specifies that the committee’s tenure shall be one year or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

As per the terms of reference, the committee shall function strictly in accordance with the directions issued by the Supreme Court in the Islamic Academy of Education judgment governing the regulation of fee structures in private professional educational institutions.

The government has also ordered that the terms and conditions of service of Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir as chairman of the committee shall be governed by Rule 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Private Schools (Fixation, Determination and Regulation of Fee) Rules, 2022.

The order, issued by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government M. Raju, IAS, has been circulated to the offices of the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, the Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the National Medical Commission, AICTE, and the concerned departments for implementation. It also states that Hindi and Urdu versions of the order will follow.

The committee is responsible for examining and regulating the fee structure of professional colleges in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that fee determination remains transparent, fair and in conformity with the legal framework laid down by the Supreme Court while balancing the interests of educational institutions and students.

DC Kupwara flags off exposure tour of fish farmers under ATMA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Srikanth Suse Wednesday flagged off an exposure tour of 40 fish farmers organised by the Department of Fisheries under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the immense potential of the fisheries sector in Kupwara and emphasized the importance of exposure visits in enabling farmers to learn scientific and modern aquaculture practices. He urged the participants to make optimum use of government schemes to enhance fish production, improve productivity, and generate sustainable livelihoods.

Assistant Director Fisheries, Kupwara Dr. Salman Rauof Chalkoo, informed that the exposure tour has been organised to provide practical exposure to successful fisheries units within the district. He said the participating fish farmers will interact with progressive farmers and technical experts to gain first hand knowledge of scientific trout farming, water quality management, feeding practices, disease prevention, and improved farm management techniques.

The participating farmers expressed gratitude to the Department of Fisheries for organising the programme and appreciated the initiative, stating that such exposure visits provide valuable practical knowledge to improve fish farming practices and increase income.

The Department of Fisheries reiterated its commitment to strengthening the fisheries sector through regular capacity-building programmes, training, demonstrations, and exposure visits under ATMA and other government initiatives.

DC Srinagar reviews preparations for upcoming Chinara Book Festival

Stress laid on coordinated efforts for successful conduct of literary festival

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To ensure successful conduct of 3rd edition of upcoming “Chinar Book Festival” scheduled from July 18 to July 26, 2026, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo chaired a comprehensive meeting here Wednesday at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The nine-day event is organized jointly by the National Book Trust (NBT) and the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)

The Book Festival is being organized through the collaborative efforts of the National Book Trust, India (Ministry of Education, Govt of India), National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), and the District Administration Srinagar at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC).

At the outset, the DC reviewed the detailed arrangements and prepara-



tions being put in place for the literary festival ensuring that the literary festival is organized in a well coordinated manner and provide an engaging platform for readers, authors, publishers, artists, and students from across the country, while promoting a vibrant reading culture and encouraging greater participation among literary enthusiasts.

On the occasion, the DC stressed timely coordination among line departments, particularly regarding participant mobilization, transportation, sanitation, etc to ensure the seamless and smooth conduct of the literary festival. He highlighted the festival’s potential to inspire youth towards

reading, writing, and cultural engagement, while also promoting Jammu & Kashmir’s rich literary heritage on a global stage.

During the meeting, it was informed that the 2026 edition of the Chinar Book festival is expected to offer a rich tapestry of book launches, author meet-and-greets, panel discussions, poetry recitations and storytelling sessions. In addition, the festival will showcase local literary talent, children’s activities, cultural performances and workshops aimed at promoting reading and writing among youth.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Additional

Secretary Culture Academy, Adeel Saleem, Joint commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, Additional CEO SCCL, Suhail ul Islam, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Programme Officer ICDS, Bureeda Majid, Officers from Higher Education, School Education, Principles of Government Polytechnic Colleges & Industrial Training Institutes, Medical Superintendents, Executive Engineers, concerned District Officers and others.

Chief Convenor Chinar Book Festival, Amit Wanchoo, Coordinator National Book Trust, Shobha Kapoor and other concerned also participated in the meeting.

DDC Kulgam chairs comprehensive review meeting of District Capex Budget

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of works proposed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Executive Engineers, District Officers, and representatives of the concerned executing agencies.

At the outset, the Chief Planning Officer, Kulgam briefed the Chair about the status of the District Capex Budget and informed that



around 1,500 new works have been taken up during the current financial year across various sectors aimed at strengthening public infrastructure and improving service delivery in the district.

Reviewing the progress, the District Development Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure that the estimation process for all the new

works is completed within one week’s time without any delay. He stressed that timely preparation and approval of estimates is essential for the early commencement of developmental works. He further instructed all executing agencies to immediately initiate execution of works after the completion of the estimation process and make every effort to complete the works within one month. He emphasized that no laxity or unnecessary delay would be tolerated in the implementation of development projects.

Highlighting the importance of close monitoring and accountability, the DDC informed the officers that work-wise weekly review meetings will be conducted to assess the physical and financial progress of each project. He directed all executing agencies to maintain regular coordination with the Chief Planning Officer’s office and ensure timely updating of progress so that bottlenecks, if any, are resolved promptly.

DC Kulgam presides over Public Outreach Programme at Frisal

Listens to Public Grievances and Developmental demands

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Under the Public Outreach Initiative aimed at taking governance to the doorsteps of the people, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, on Wednesday visited Frisal and presided over a Public Outreach Programme to hear the grievances and developmental demands of the local population.

During the programme, residents of Frisal and adjoining areas projected several public issues and developmental demands. These included upgradation of the Primary Health Centre (PHC), proper solid waste management, repair and restoration of street lights in the market, establishment of Fire & Emergency Services Station, desilting of Lakki Kul, construction of a footbridge over Badi Kul to facilitate farmers’ access to their agricultural land, strengthening of flood protection bunds, construction and macadamization of link roads, enhancement of PHH/BPL ration quota, ensuring adequate and uninterrupted irrigation water through canals, provision of filtered drinking water, and deploy-

ment of doctors at Kujjar Hospital and other developmental requirements of the area.

During the interaction, officers of the concerned departments also briefed the gathering on the issues raised and informed them about the measures being taken for their resolution.

The Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to all the grievances and demands and assured the public that every genuine issue would be examined and taken up with the concerned departments for timely redressal. He directed the officers to address issues falling within their jurisdiction on priority and ensure prompt follow-up and effective implementation of decisions.

Emphasizing the importance of sanitation, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned authorities to ensure proper collection and scientific disposal of solid waste.

He added that the Public Outreach Initiative is aimed at strengthening people-centric governance by promoting direct interaction with citizens, ensuring transparency, accountability and the timely delivery of public services.

ADDC Shopian chairs Block Diwas at Chitragam

Stresses responsive governance, timely public service delivery



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone Wednesday presided over the Block Diwas programme at Block Chitragam, where an extensive public outreach programme was conducted to hear and address the grievances and developmental concerns of local residents. At the outset, a Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan pledge was administered to all participants, reaffirming their commitment to building a drug-free society. The attendees pledged to abstain from the use of drugs and intoxicants, spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and actively support the vision of a healthy and drug-free India.

During the programme, people from different panchayats projected demands

relating to road connectivity in Chitragam, drinking water, power supply, healthcare, education, irrigation, sanitation, widening and macadamization of roads, shifting of electric poles, resolving of pipeline leakage issues, illegal mining, seizing of vehicles operating without number plates, removal of encroachments, establishment of dumping sites, desilting of streams and other essential public services.

The ADDC gave a patient hearing to every issue and directed the concerned officers to ensure prompt redressal within stipulated timelines.

He directed the concerned officers present on the occasion to take immediate action for on the spot redressal of the issues needing urgent attention, while instructing that other matters be taken up on priority and resolved at the earliest.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

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

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail: - hakeemmushatq.75316@jk.gov.in | Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

GIST of Detailed e- NIT No :- 30/JS-PHE/GWDS/ Mech. of 2026-27.

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for “registered experienced Contractors of Machine Drilled Hand pump wells” as per details given below The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	S. No of AA	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money (EMD) Rs.	Cost of Tender Document Rs.200/-	Time of completion 10 Days	Major Head / Programme U.T Capex Budget (Tribal) 2026-27).	Technical Sanction JS-PHE/GWDS/ U.T Capex Budget/09 of 07/ 2026, Dt: 09-07-2026	Tender Call 1 st
1	10	Construction of Borewell with submersible Motor at Pujwal Mohalla Upper Ward No.01 (Rakhi Brah, Chittergul in District Anantnag).	Rs. 5.25 Lacs	Rs. 15,750/- Lacs	Rs.200/-	10 Days	U.T Capex Budget (Tribal) 2026-27).	JS-PHE/GWDS/ U.T Capex Budget/08 of 07/ 2026, Dt: 09-07-2026	1 st
2	11	Construction of Borewell at Nagbal (Vail Nagbal, K Pora in District Anantnag).	Rs. 5.25 Lacs	Rs. 15,750/- Lacs	Rs.200/-	10 Days	U.T Capex Budget (Tribal) 2026-27).	JS-PHE/GWDS/ U.T Capex Budget/08 of 07/ 2026, Dt: 09-07-2026	1 st

Position of Funds :- Available:

➤ Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the District Development Commissioner Anantnag Vide Order No: 287-DDCA of 2026, issued under endorsement No. DDCA/ Tribal-Capex/2026-27/3708-14, Dated: 10-07-2026

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://www.jktenders.gov.in> From 16.07.2026 (10:00 AM) to 03.08.2026 (01:00 PM)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: <https://www.jktenders.gov.in>

As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

Table-II	
1.	Publishing Date 16-07-2026 (10:00 A.M)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids 16-07-2026 (10:00 A.M) upto 03-08-2026 (01:00 P.M).
3.	Period of Submission of bids 16-07-2026 (10:00 A.M) upto 03-08-2026 (01:00 P.M).
4.	Date of opening of Tender. 04-08-2026 (01:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer ,Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011
6.	Cost of Tender Document : To be deposited online (if available) or Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/ deposited to Account Head 0215 or in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply) Note: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD /TR/ the hard copies shall have to be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2 nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT (if needed)
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in

No instrument—such as an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Treasury Receipt, or Challan-generated prior to the publication of the tender document will be accepted. Any bid submitted contrary to this requirement is liable for summary rejection. In the event the tender is retendered due to government exigencies or otherwise, an instrument shall be considered valid only if generated after the date of the initial tender publication.,

The cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 04-08-2026 (01:00 PM) If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No:- JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/4631-42
Dated:- 14-07-2026.
DIPK-3309-26
DT: 15-07-2026

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

CEL seeks audit, inquiry into sanitation, finances at Baba Reshi shrine

Urges Waqf Board to suspend shrine administrator pending inquiry

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: A day after highlighting sanitation and environmental concerns at Baba Reshi shrine, the Centre for Environmental Law (CEL) has sought an independent inquiry into the shrine administration's functioning, including an audit of funds utilised for sanitation and environmental management.

Amicus Curiae and Chief Executive Director of CEL, Advocate Nadeem Qadri, in a detailed representation submitted to the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, alleged violations of environmental laws, poor waste management practices and possible irregularities in the utilisation of funds meant for maintenance and cleanliness of the shrine.

The representation cited alleged non-compliance with the directions of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh regarding scientific management of municipal solid waste, besides provisions of



the Jammu and Kashmir Non-Biodegradable Material (Management, Handling and Disposal) Act, 2007, Solid Waste Management Rules, Plastic Waste Management Rules and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

CEL Director Qadri alleged that the shrine premises have witnessed issues related to the accumulation of solid waste, improper litter disposal, inadequate sanitation infrastructure, poor plastic waste management and alleged discharge of untreated sewage and

wastewater into nearby water bodies.

The representation stated that such conditions pose risks to public health and the environment while affecting the religious and tourism importance of the Babareshi shrine.

Seeking intervention from the Waqf Board, the CEL urged authorities to initiate an inquiry into the allegations and take necessary action against those found responsible. It also sought the suspension of the shrine administrator or, if warranted, disciplinary proceedings, pending

the outcome of the inquiry.

The organisation called for the restoration of scientific waste management systems, improved sanitation facilities, proper sewage treatment measures, and the preparation of a comprehensive environmental management plan for the shrine.

Qadri sought the constitution of a high-level inquiry committee comprising representatives from the district administration, Pollution Control Committee, Forest Department, Forest Protection Force, Rural Sanitation authorities, Waqf Board's Audit Department and other concerned agencies.

The committee, as sought in the representation, should examine the utilisation of funds sanctioned for sanitation and environmental protection, verify the execution of works, assess compliance with environmental laws and recommend appropriate action wherever required—(KNO)

SMC reaches out to coaching centres to support education of sanitation workers' children



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has reached out to coaching institutions across the city to explore a collaborative framework for extending scholarship-based coaching and academic support to meritorious children of its sanitation workers.

Chairing an interaction with representatives of coaching institutions, the Commissioner, SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb, called upon the city's educational community to partner with the Corporation in creating meaningful educational opportunities for children of sanitation workers, who remain at the frontline of maintaining Srinagar's cleanliness, sanitation and public health.

The proposed programme envisages voluntary participation by coaching institutions, which may earmark a limited number of seats for deserving students and extend educational scholarships and other academic support, including study material, test series, mentoring and career guidance.

The Commissioner said

the initiative was part of the Corporation's broader efforts to strengthen the welfare of its sanitation workforce, with an emphasis on education as a means of long-term empowerment and inter-generational social mobility.

"Those who work tirelessly to keep Srinagar clean make an invaluable contribution to the city every day. Supporting the education and aspirations of their children is one of the most meaningful ways in which the larger community can acknowledge that contribution," the Commissioner said.

The SMC proposes to put in place a transparent mechanism for identifying eligible students based on merit and objective criteria and facilitate their placement with participating coaching institutions.

The modalities of the programme will be finalised in consultation with the coaching institutions, with the Corporation seeking to build a sustainable partnership between the civic administration and the educational community for the educational advancement of sanitation workers' children.

Baramulla to host interfaith dialogue on July 19



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: A preparatory meeting for the upcoming "Mulaqat" Interfaith Dialogue, scheduled to be held in Baramulla on July 19, was held on Wednesday to review arrangements for the event, organisers said.

The meeting was chaired by Save Youth Save Future Foundation Chairman Wajahat Farooq Bhat and attended by the foundation's office-bearers, including Women's Wing President Anika Nazir, Zonal President (South Kashmir) Mudassir Ahmad Dar, district coordinators and core committee members.

The participants reviewed the programme schedule, finalised coordination arrangements and discussed logistical preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of the conference, the organisers

said.

Following the meeting, a delegation of the foundation called on Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Syed Fakhruddin Hamid and briefed him on the preparations for the event.

The deputy commissioner appreciated the initiative and assured the organisers of the district administration's cooperation, they said.

The "Mulaqat" Interfaith Dialogue, to be held at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla, is expected to bring together religious leaders, civil society members, government officials, youth and members of the public to promote communal harmony, mutual respect and constructive dialogue.

The organisers said they hoped the conference would contribute to strengthening peace, unity and social cohesion in the region.

NMC releases MBBS seat matrix for 2026-27

Directs medical colleges to admit students only against approved seats

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has released the MBBS Seat Matrix for the 2026-27 academic session, directing all medical colleges across the country to ensure admissions are made strictly against the number of seats approved by the Commission.

In an official communication issued by NMC Secretary Dr Raghav Langer, the Commission informed Directors, Principals and Deans of all medical colleges that had submitted applications under the NMC public notice dated December 22, 2025, as well as the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC), about the approved undergraduate seat matrix for the upcoming academic year.

According to the communication, accessed, the NMC stated that the seat matrix has been issued in accordance with a public notice released by the

Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB). However, it clarified that the published seat matrix will remain subject to revision, if required, based on decisions taken by the Appeal Committee or any other competent authority.

The Commission instructed all medical colleges and institutions to strictly adhere to the approved intake capacity and emphasised that no admissions should be made beyond the number of seats authorised for the 2026-27 academic session.

"All Medical Colleges shall strictly ensure that admissions are made only against the approved number of seats for the Academic Year 2026-27," the communication states.

The NMC also asked the Medical Counselling Committee and other concerned counselling authorities to follow the revised seat matrix while conducting the counselling and admission process.

Secretary RDD chairs Steering Committee on Lakhpati Didi Initiative

Calls for Mission-Mode Convergence to Transform Rural Women's Livelihoods

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Wednesday chaired the meeting of the Union Territory Level Steering Committee on the Lakhpati Didi Initiative under the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM-UMIED), directing all stakeholder departments to adopt a mission-mode approach for transforming women Self-Help Group (SHG) members into sustainable entrepreneurs through effective convergence, skill development and financial inclusion.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma; Director, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, J&K; Directors, Animal Husbandry, Jammu and Kashmir; Directors, Social Welfare, Jammu and Kashmir; Chief Operating Officer, Himayat (DDU-GKY), J&K; Additional Secretary RDD, Waseem Raja, Deputy Director, Fisheries, Kashmir; and other senior officers.

Addressing the meeting, the Secretary said the Government is accelerating implementation of its flagship Lakhpati Didi Initiative with a renewed focus on enabling rural women to establish sustainable micro-



enterprises and achieve annual household incomes exceeding ₹1 lakh.

Aijaz Asad informed that 2.40 lakh women in Jammu & Kashmir have already attained Lakhpati Didi status, while the overall target for the Union Territory has been fixed at 3.64 lakh women by 2029, requiring focused efforts to cover an additional 1.24 lakh beneficiaries through convergence, enterprise development, access to credit and skill enhancement.

Emphasising convergence as the cornerstone of the initiative, Secretary directed all stakeholder departments to integrate their flagship schemes with JKRLM and prioritise eligible SHG households under their respective programmes.

He stressed the need for preparing household-level enterprise plans, ensuring timely institutional credit, providing continuous hand-holding support, and facilitating market linkages for women entrepreneurs. He

called upon every department to identify convergence opportunities under its schemes and communicate clear beneficiary targets and implementation strategies.

The Secretary instructed all line departments to prepare a comprehensive convergence blueprint indicating the number of beneficiaries they can support in sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, livestock, dairy, poultry, fisheries and other allied activities, ensuring coordinated implementation down to the village level.

Highlighting the importance of quality skill development, he directed the Mission to strengthen partnerships with reputed national institutions and specialised training organisations while studying and adopting best practices from leading States. He also advised organising exposure visits for officials and stakeholders to replicate successful livelihood models in Jammu & Kashmir.

Aijaz Asad further directed the Mission to engage

with leading private apparel brands and manufacturers to explore outsourcing opportunities for women-led enterprises, observing that such partnerships could create sustainable employment and significantly enhance household incomes. He emphasised the need to upgrade the existing skill ecosystem to meet industry standards and improve market competitiveness.

He stressed that capacity building should go beyond classroom-based training and focus on practical, market-oriented skills that enable women to establish viable enterprises. Departments including Agriculture and Horticulture were directed to provide hands-on technical training in scientific farming, apple cultivation, vegetable cultivation, protected cultivation and other high-value agricultural activities capable of generating sustainable incomes.

The Secretary also called for expanding convergence beyond traditional sectors by involving institutions working in digital services, handicrafts, handloom, apparel manufacturing, food processing and other emerging livelihood sectors, observing that a diversified livelihood portfolio would create greater economic resilience for rural women.

In 2 days, stray dogs injure three dozen people in Budgam

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: Nearly three dozen people have been injured in a series of stray dog attacks reported from different areas of Central Kashmir's Budgam district during the past two days, triggering panic among residents and prompting demands for immediate intervention by the authorities.

Locals said that the attacks were reported from Chadoora, Sanzipora and Chattergam areas, where men, women and children



were among those bitten by stray dogs.

They said several of the injured were shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Chadoora, while others were treated at Chattergam Hospital. All the victims were adminis-

tered Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV), they added.

Block Medical Officer (BMO) Chadoora, Dr Riyaz said that the hospital has received more than 20 dog-bite cases over the last two days.

"We have received over 20 patients with dog bites. The matter has been taken up with the higher authorities, and we have written to them seeking immediate and appropriate action to prevent further attacks," the BMO said.

Local resident Ashraf

Ahmad said, "People, especially children, women and the elderly, are scared to step out of their homes. The administration must act immediately by launching a comprehensive stray dog control drive before more people become victims."

Residents said the stray dog menace has become a serious public safety issue and urged the district administration and the concerned departments to take immediate measures to prevent further incidents—(KNO)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION ZAINPORA

e-mail:- randb-zainapora@jk.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (up to Rs. 2.50 Crores)

NIT No: 29/ZNP/RnB/e-Tendering/2026-27 | Dated: 15-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head	Tentative Advertised Cost (In lacs) (Including GST)	Earnet Money Deposit (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)
1	Stage Contract for R&B Sub Division Zainapora	3054 Stage Contract 2026-27	27.00 (Subject to Actual Requirement)	54000/-	AAV/BEE	F.Y 2026-27	1100/-
2	Stage Contract for R&B Sub Division ImamSahib	3054 Stage Contract 2026-27	15.00 (Subject to Actual Requirement)	30000/-	BEE/CEE/DEE	F.Y 2026-27	600/-

Position of funds:- Committed

Chief Engineer R&B Department South Kashmir's Authorization No: ARD/CESK/2026-27/01 Dt: -09-04-2026. Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama-Shopian's Authorization No: SE/PS/499-501 Dated: 15-04-2026

The Payment shall be made strictly as per the release of funds by the Competent authority.

1.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any) , 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 dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-07-2026
2	Document downloading Start Date.	15-07-2026
3	Document Downloading End Date.	28-07-2026
4	Bid submission Start Date.	15-07-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date.	28-07-2026
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	29-07-2026 at 12:30 P.M

2.

Bids must be accompanied by a Bankers pay receipt of Tender fee (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in the Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account No. 0470010200000099 as the cost of the tender document.

Note: -

The Date of Bankers pay receipt of Tender fee and EMD must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3.

Participation in the tender shall be subject to the bidder depositing the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Fee exclusively through the online payment gateway linked to the Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account No. 0470010200000099, established for e-tendering purposes. This requirement is in pursuance of the instructions contained in Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and endorsed by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, South Kashmir, vide Endorsement No. CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 dated 05.06.2026, as amended from time to time. Accordingly, submission of EMD in the form of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR), Term Deposit Receipt (TDR), Call Deposit Receipt (CDR), Bank Guarantee (BG), or any other offline/physical instrument shall not be accepted and such bids shall be treated as non-responsive. The bidder shall ensure that the requisite EMD and Tender Fee are successfully remitted through the prescribed online mode on or before the bid submission deadline. Any bid not accompanied by proof of successful online payment of the prescribed EMD and Tender Fee within the stipulated time shall be liable to rejection at the technical evaluation stage without any further notice.

3.1

The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @5% of advertised cost in cash to the designated authority/Account which shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) beyond 60 days.

3.2

Unbalanced Bid:
The successful bidder L1 shall have to deposit an additional performance security in cash to the designated authority/Account before award of contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply there to:-

3.21

Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

3.22

Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee Percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

3.23

The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

3.24

The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance security shall be taken only after approval of next higher authority.

4.

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 Division Zainapora (Tender Receiving Authority).

5.

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

49.

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) as well this NIT.

No: R&B/ZNP/DIV/NIT/1916-25

Dt: 15-07-2026

DIPK-3339-26

Dt: 15/07/2026

Sd/-
(Er. H.M Jahangir)
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Zainpora

CMYK

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Peace Cannot Be Selective

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's appeal for dialogue, restraint and respect for human rights in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir may sound timely, but it also raises an uncomfortable question: can the language of peace be selective? When unrest erupts across the Line of Control, calls for dialogue become loud and immediate. Civilian deaths are described as tragic, human rights become the central concern, and governments are urged to exercise restraint. These are principles that deserve support everywhere. But they lose their moral force when they are not applied consistently.

For decades, Jammu and Kashmir has suffered from violence, terrorism, targeted killings and the pain of thousands of innocent families. Every civilian life lost, whether in Poonch, Rawalakot, Srinagar or Rajouri, carries the same value. Every mother who loses a son and every child who loses a parent deserves equal compassion, not compassion determined by geography or politics. If leaders truly believe that dialogue is the only way forward, then that principle must be upheld without exceptions. It cannot be reserved for one side of the LoC while remaining muted when innocent civilians, security personnel, elected representatives or minority communities become victims elsewhere.

The debate over constitutional rights, political representation and governance is legitimate. However, these discussions should never overshadow the immediate need to reject violence in all its forms. Peace cannot be achieved by issuing statements only when events suit a particular narrative. Jammu and Kashmir has paid a devastating price for conflict. The region needs voices that speak with one moral standard, voices that condemn bloodshed wherever it occurs, defend human rights for everyone, and encourage democratic engagement over confrontation.

Selective outrage only deepens divisions. Consistent principles build credibility. If peace is the destination, then empathy, accountability and respect for human life must know no borders. Only then will appeals for dialogue carry the weight they deserve.

Coins That Tell The Story Of An Entire Civilization

AFREEN JAN

Long before paper currency, digital payments, and banknotes became part of everyday life, the people of Kashmir relied on coins that carried far more than monetary value.

They bore the symbols of kingdoms, the names of rulers, the influence of religions, and the marks of cultures that flourished across centuries. Every coin that has passed through Kashmir's hands is a silent witness to its remarkable history.

The journey of Kashmir's currency began over two thousand years ago with simple punch-marked silver and copper coins. These early coins, stamped with small symbols instead of portraits, were among the first organized forms of money used in the region. They helped replace barter and encouraged trade, laying the foundation for a growing economy.

As history unfolded, Kashmir welcomed new rulers and new ideas. The Indo-Greeks introduced beautifully crafted coins featuring realistic portraits and Greek inscriptions, while the Kushan rulers transformed coinage into works of art.

Under Emperor Kanishka I, coins displayed kings alongside gods and goddesses from different religious traditions, reflecting the rich cultural diversity of the time. These coins also remind us that Kashmir was once an important crossroads connecting South Asia, Central Asia, and beyond.

The Hindu dynasties that followed created one of the most enduring coin designs in South Asian history. For centuries, their coins commonly featured a standing king on one side and a seated goddess on the other. This remarkable consistency reflected not only artistic tradition but also the political continuity that defined medieval Kashmir.

A new chapter opened in 1339 with the establishment of the Kashmir Sultanate. Persian inscriptions replaced earlier designs, and coins became expressions of Islamic art and calligraphy. Gold Dinars, Silver Sasnus, Copper Punchshis, and Bronze Kaseras circulated across the valley, supporting trade while symbolizing the authority of the Sultans.

The arrival of the Mughals in 1586 connected Kashmir to one of the world's greatest empires. Standardized Gold Mohurs, Silver Rupees, and Copper Dams made commerce more efficient and linked Kashmiri mar-



kets with cities such as Lahore, Delhi, Agra, and Kabul. Coins became symbols of economic integration as much as political power.

Later, Afghan, Sikh, and Dogra rulers each left their own imprint on Kashmir's monetary history. During Dogra rule, an important milestone was reached with the introduction of paper currency in the nineteenth century, marking the transition from a purely metallic economy toward a modern financial system.

Today, the Rupee is the official currency used in Jammu and Kashmir.

Yet the ancient coins preserved in museums, archaeological collections, and private holdings continue to speak across generations. They remind us that history is not found only in books or monuments—it can also be held in the palm of a hand.

For historians, archaeologists, and collectors, these coins are priceless records of Kashmir's political changes, artistic achievements, and economic development. For ordinary readers, they offer something equally valuable: a chance to connect with a shared heritage that stretches back

As history unfolded, Kashmir welcomed new rulers and new ideas. The Indo-Greeks introduced beautifully crafted coins featuring realistic portraits and Greek inscriptions, while the Kushan rulers transformed coinage into works of art.

more than two millennia.

In an age when money is increasingly digital and invisible, the old coins of Kashmir invite us to pause and remember that currency is more than a medium of exchange. It is a reflection of identity, culture, and history. Every coin carries a story, and together, they tell the extraordinary story of Kashmir itself.

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Beyond The Statistics

The Human Toll Of Drug Addiction In Valley

SHAHID NAZEER

In Kashmir, public discourse has long been dominated by conversations around politics, security and development. Yet, another challenge has steadily unfolded in homes, classrooms and neighbourhoods a silent crisis that threatens not only individual lives but the social fabric of the Valley. The neighbourhoods: of substance abuse has emerged as one of the most pressing public health concerns of our time, demanding not only law enforcement measures but also empathy, professional care and collective action.

Drug addiction is often described through numbers, the number of arrests, seizures or patients admitted for treatment. But behind every statistic is a human story, a student whose education has been interrupted, a family struggling to hold itself together, or a young individual searching for a second chance. These stories remind us that addiction is not merely a personal failure; it is a complex medical and social challenge that requires understanding rather than stigma.

Against this backdrop, the Drug De-addiction and Counselling Centres stands as an encouraging example of how institutions can work together to address one of society's most difficult challenges. In Baramulla, Drug De-addiction and Counselling Centre Established in February 2014 under the aegis of the Dagger Division of the Indian Army, the Centre has, over the years, evolved into more than a treatment facility. It has become a place where recovery is mea-



sured not only by freedom from addiction but by the restoration of confidence, dignity and hope. One principle lies at the heart of meaningful rehabilitation: recovery begins the moment a person believes that change is possible. Professional treatment can guide the journey, but determination, family support and community acceptance sustain it.

The Centre's approach reflects this understanding. Every individual is treated with sensitivity through psychological assessment, counselling, psychiatric consultation where required and continued follow-up. Rather than focusing solely on medication, the emphasis is placed on understanding the emotional and social circumstances that often accompany addiction. Such an approach recognises that healing is not achieved in isolation but through rebuilding relationships, restoring self-belief and reconnecting individuals with society. Equally significant is the Centre's work beyond its counselling rooms. Through awareness programmes conducted in schools, colleges and community institutions, it seeks to address the problem before it begins. Preventive education is perhaps the strongest defence against addiction, particularly among young people navigating academic pressure, unemployment, peer influence and emotional distress.

Prevention is always more powerful than rehabilitation. Every young person guided away from addiction represents a life protected before it reaches a point of crisis. According to the Centre's annual report, thousands of individuals have benefited from counselling and rehabilitation services since its establishment, while awareness campaigns have reached hundreds of students and community members across the district. The collaborative model supporting the Baramulla Centre offers valuable lessons. The Indian Army's role in facilitating such initiatives demonstrates that community welfare and public health can complement broader institutional responsibilities. Alongside partners such as ONGC

Drug addiction is often described through numbers, the number of arrests, seizures or patients admitted for treatment. But behind every statistic is a human story, a student whose education has been interrupted, a family struggling to hold itself together, or a young individual searching for a second chance.

through its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative and the implementing agency ASEEM Foundation, the Centre reflects how collaboration can create sustainable social impact.

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Good Morning

Kashmir

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Sopore's Ancient Catch

SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT

Before discussing the Sopore Fish Market, it is necessary to understand the historical background of Sopore, because the origin, location, and growth of this market are closely connected with the town's history, geography, and its relationship with the River Jhelum. Sopore is one of the oldest towns in North Kashmir. In ancient times, it was known as Suyyapura, founded in the 9th century by the famous Kashmiri engineer Suyya during the reign of King Avantivarman. At that time, the region frequently suffered devastating floods caused by landslides that blocked the natural flow of the River Jhelum. These floods destroyed crops, damaged agricultural land, and made permanent settlement difficult. Suyya identified the real cause of these floods and introduced innovative river-management techniques to restore the natural flow of the Jhelum. After the floods were controlled, the land became fertile, agriculture was restored, and permanent settlements were established. Gradually, Suyyapura became Sopore, which formed the basis of trade, markets, and urban life.

During the mediaeval period, Sopore gained further importance under Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin (Budshah). The bridge constructed over the River Jhelum made Sopore an important centre of trade and transportation. Goods, people, and ideas passed through the town, strengthening its economy and cultural life.

Due to its commercial prosperity, Sopore came to be known as 'Chhota London'. This historical development created the conditions for the growth of traditional markets, such as the Sopore Fish Market.

The Sopore Fish Market is mainly located in and around Chota Bazar, near the River Jhelum. It is more than a coincidence that it is located; it is closely related to the geography of Sopore. The town is close to the largest freshwater lake in Asia, Wular Lake, and the Jhelum, which have traditionally been abundant sources of freshwater fish. These water bodies naturally promoted fishing as a traditional activity among the local communities.

Fishing has been practised in Sopore for centuries. Families residing along the riverbanks and around Wular Lake relied on fishing as a source of food and income. As Sopore developed into a trading town, the need for an organised place to sell fish emerged. Over time, the Sopore Fish Market emerged as a permanent and popular fish trading hub in North Kashmir.

The fish market is a busy place in the morning. Fishermen carry their fresh catch along the River Jhelum and Wular Lake, and traders and buyers meet to buy fish to serve households, restaurants, and local markets. Gaad (trout or carp), Zob (local white-fleshed fish), and Bilose (a small fish) are popular local fish varieties that play a significant role in Kashmiri cuisine. The freshness of the fish and the direct connection between fishermen and consumers give the Sopore Fish Market a distinct identity.



The market is still very traditional in terms of trade practices. Fishing seasons, water conditions, and fish quality are transmitted across generations. Prices are often determined through bargaining, trust and long-standing relationships between the sellers and buyers. Unlike modern commercial markets driven by technology, the Fish Market relies on experience, skill, and community cooperation.

The Sopore Fish Market is an important part of the town's local economy. It supports fishermen, traders, transporters, and vendors. For many families, income from Fishing and trade is the main source of income. The market also connects rural fishing communities to urban consumers, which boosts the regional economy and provides a stable

supply of fresh fish.

Apart from its economic importance, the market holds strong social and cultural value. It is a place where individuals meet daily, share news, and discuss local issues related to the locality. The market is a mirror of the social values of hard work, cooperation, and resilience that characterize the town.

The Sopore Fish Market is also directly related to the River Jhelum, which has always been a dual factor in the history of Sopore. The river was destructive in the past due to floods, but it was later the source of agriculture, trade, and fishing. The fish market is a reminder of how the people of Sopore adjusted to their natural surroundings and transformed adversities into opportunities.

In recent decades, the Sopore Fish Market has faced challenges. Fishing activities have been impacted by pollution, environmental degradation, decreased water flow, and dwindling fish populations. Demand has also been affected by urbanisation and changing food habits. Despite these challenges, the market has been incredibly resilient. Traders have responded by enhancing transport, storage and sourcing practices so that the market does not come to a halt.

Nowadays, Sopore is commonly referred to as a major commercial centre of North Kashmir, particularly because of Asia's second-largest fruit market, often described as the backbone of the local economy. Alongside this mass trade, the fish market continues to hold its position as a representation of traditional livelihood. The presence of both the fruit mandi and the fish market underscores the balanced economic system of Sopore, where modern business and ancient traditions coexist.

The Sopore Fish Market is more than a place for buying and selling fish. It is a living institution shaped by history, geography and human effort. It is based on the waters of the River Jhelum and Wular Lake, and it reflects Sopore's long association with nature, trade, and community life. The fish market itself is a strong symbol of resilience, tradition, and continuity, making it an indispensable element of Sopore's identity even in the modern world.

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■ The Last Harvest? Securing Kashmir's Orchards In A Warming World

MUHAMMAD YASIR MALIK

There was a time when the changing seasons in Kashmir could almost be predicted by looking at its apple orchards. The arrival of spring brought blossoms that painted entire landscapes in shades of white and pink, while autumn transformed the Valley into a sea of crimson and gold as millions of apples ripened for harvest. For generations, this rhythm of nature shaped not only the agricultural calendar but also the hopes, livelihoods, and identity of countless Kashmiri families. Today, that rhythm is becoming increasingly uncertain.

Climate change, once perceived as a distant global concern, has become a lived reality for orchardists across Kashmir. The Valley is witnessing warmer winters, erratic snowfall, prolonged dry spells, unseasonal rainfall, hailstorms, and rising temperatures—changes that are quietly but steadily reshaping one of its most cherished economic lifelines. The challenge before us is no longer whether climate change is affecting Kashmir's apple industry; it is whether we are prepared to protect it before the damage becomes irreversible.

Apple cultivation is far more than a seasonal activity in Kashmir. It is the backbone of the region's horticultural economy and a source of livelihood for hundreds of thousands of families. From growers and labourers to traders, transporters, packaging workers, and exporters, an entire economic chain depends on a successful apple harvest. Every healthy orchard contributes to rural prosperity, while every failed harvest sends ripples through local markets and household incomes.

What makes the current situation particularly concerning is that the changes are often gradual and therefore easy to underestimate. A slightly warmer winter, a delayed snowfall, or an unexpected spell of rain may seem insignificant in isolation. Yet together, these shifts are altering the delicate environmental balance that apple trees depend upon.

Apple trees require adequate winter chilling to ensure healthy flowering and fruit development. When winters become shorter or warmer, this natural process can be disrupted. The consequences may include irregular blooming, poor fruit setting, reduced yields, and inconsistent quality. Farmers who have spent decades understanding nature's rhythm now find themselves confronting weather patterns that no longer follow familiar rules.

Rainfall, too, has become increasingly unpredictable. Instead of steady seasonal precipitation, many areas experience prolonged dry periods followed by sudden heavy showers. Excessive rain during flowering can reduce pollination, while downpours close to harvest increase the risk of fruit damage and storage losses. Hailstorms, which have affected several orchard belts in recent years, can destroy months of painstaking labour within minutes, leaving growers with significant financial losses and little opportunity to recover before the next season.

Water, once considered one of Kashmir's greatest natural strengths, is emerging as



another challenge. Many orchards depend on springs, streams, and traditional irrigation systems that are under increasing pressure due to changing precipitation patterns and environmental degradation. During critical stages of fruit development, inadequate water can affect both yield and quality, placing additional stress on growers already coping with rising production costs.

Climate change also influences the spread of pests and plant diseases. Warmer temperatures and changing humidity create favourable conditions for insects and fungal infections that were previously less common or less severe. As a result, orchardists often spend more on plant protection while facing greater uncertainty about returns. For small and marginal farmers, whose incomes depend heavily on a single harvest each year, these additional costs can become a serious financial burden. Yet the future of Kashmir's apple industry should not be viewed only through the lens of crisis. Every challenge also presents an opportunity to rethink, innovate, and adapt.

Across the world, farmers are responding to changing climates through science, technology, and sustainable agricultural practices. Kashmir can do the same. Climate-resilient apple varieties, efficient irrigation systems such as drip irrigation, improved soil management, scientific pruning techniques, and better pest monitoring can strengthen the resilience of orchards. Equally important is ensuring that these innovations are accessible to every grower, regardless of the size of the orchard.

Timely weather forecasting deserves particular attention. Accurate local forecasts and early warning systems can help orchardists prepare for frost, hailstorms, heavy rainfall, and heat stress. Mobile technology now makes it possible to deliver this information directly to farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions that protect both crops and income.

Research institutions, horticulture departments, agricultural universities, and extension services must also work more closely with farming communities. Scientific knowledge should not remain confined to laboratories or conferences; it must reach the orchards where it can make a meaningful difference. Continuous farmer training, field demonstrations, and practical advisory services are essential if Kashmir's horticulture sector is to remain

competitive in an era of climate uncertainty.

At the same time, protecting apple orchards requires protecting the environment that sustains them. Forests, wetlands, springs, and water catchments are not isolated ecosystems; they are part of the same natural network that supports agriculture. Conserving these resources is therefore not simply an environmental responsibility but an economic necessity. Sustainable development and environmental conservation must move hand in hand.

Policy support will also be crucial. Expanding crop insurance, improving access to affordable credit, strengthening cold storage infrastructure, promoting value addition, and ensuring fair market access can help farmers withstand climate-related shocks. Investments in research and rural infrastructure should be viewed not as expenditures but as long-term investments in Kashmir's economic resilience.

The responsibility, however, does not rest solely with governments or scientists. Consumers, educational institutions, civil society organisations, and local communities all have a role to play. Supporting local produce, encouraging sustainable farming practices, reducing food waste, and raising awareness about climate change contribute to a stronger and more resilient agricultural future.

Kashmir's apple orchards have always stood as symbols of patience, perseverance, and hope. They have survived economic challenges, changing markets, and difficult times through the determination of generations of growers. Climate change may be the most complex challenge they have faced, but it is not beyond our collective ability to confront. The true measure of our commitment will not be found in speeches or policy documents alone. It will be seen in the actions we take today to safeguard the orchards that have nourished our economy and shaped our identity for generations.

If we act with vision, scientific wisdom, and collective responsibility, future generations will continue to witness the breathtaking bloom of Kashmir's apple orchards each spring, not as a memory of what once was, but as a living testament to resilience, adaptation, and hope. Protecting these orchards is ultimately about protecting the future of Kashmir itself.

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■ Equity, Innovation Decoding The Vision Of NEP 2020

BHAT MANZOOR

To meet the challenges of the rapid changes in the knowledge landscape and future of jobs, India recently launched a very progressive National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for the 21st century, which is holistic in nature and culminates the traditional Indian system (as it was based in Nalanda) and the modern education system. The foundational pillars of this policy are access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability.

The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) is not only the new education policy framed and implemented in India after a gap of 34 years but is also the first education policy of the world in the twenty-first century that aims to revamp all aspects of the education sector in India by fostering revolutionary changes in infrastructural development, curricular reforms, pedagogical innovation, augmentation of human resources, administrative reforms, institutional governance, restructuring of the evaluation and examination system, harnessing research innovation, skill development, community outreach activities, student exchange programmes, industry-academia interaction, innovation and start-up incubation, promotion of open learning, e-governance and workflow automation.

The vision of NEP-2020 focuses on strengthening India's educational infrastructure and making quality education accessible and affordable to every citizen, thus enabling the creation of a vibrant and knowledgeable society. All the three pillars on which higher education stands, namely the teachers who teach, students who are taught and the curriculum that is taught, are going to witness a paradigm transformation under the auspices of NEP-2020.

This policy aims to foster creative, analytical and critical thinking among students so that they become well-rounded, engaged, productive and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive and progressive society and thereby achieve the goals of education in the real sense.

The new National Education Policy envisages an education system that contributes to an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all. The policy will facilitate an education system that promotes recognition, identification and fostering of the unique capabilities of each student by sensitising teachers as well as parents to support each student's holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres.

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Women Harvesters

women develop skin rashes after working in the lake," she said.

Their concerns have gained significance following a recent study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, which detected traces of heavy metals, including cadmium, chromium, nickel, zinc and iron, in edible water chestnuts collected from Wular and other major wetlands in Kashmir.

The researchers warned that increasing pollution in freshwater wetlands could pose risks to both aquatic ecosystems and human health, and recommended continuous environmental monitoring, improved wastewater treatment and stricter pollution-control measures.

For the women who depend on the lake for their livelihood, however, the changes have been visible for years.

"We don't need any scientific report to tell us that Wular is deteriorating," said Shareefa Begum, another harvester. "We see the water changing every season. We smell the pollution every day and feel it on our skin. Our livelihood is disappearing before our eyes."

The women said the shrinking harvest has made it increasingly difficult to support their families, with many returning home after hours of labour with only a fraction of what they once collected.

They also urged authorities to accelerate conservation efforts and involve local women, who spend months working inside the lake every year, in its restoration.

"We know this lake better than anyone because we live with it every day," one of the harvesters said. "If Wular dies, our work, our income and a tradition passed down through generations will disappear with it."—(KNO)

Ensuring Smooth,

manage the heavy influx of devotees throughout the yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that officials must closely monitor Meteorological Department's predictions and remain alert to any weather vagaries.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar informed the meeting about the legal action initiated against the individuals caught engaged in fraudulent practices. The Lieutenant Governor further directed that administrative and legal measures be taken against any official found involved in misconduct.

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the devotees of Shri Amarnathji and wished them a safe, peaceful and blessed pilgrimage.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Amol V Homkar, IGP CRPF Jammu Sector; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and senior officials from civil administration, police and security forces.

AI Should Strengthen

world. Today we stand on the threshold of a similar new era, and AI has already reached our homes, schools, hospitals, industries, farms and government systems. It has become part of our lives. Even in far flung villages, AI is changing lives. A local health worker can now run medical checkups, farmers get instant weather and crop advice, and students get top-quality lessons in their own language," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that a mature society should use modern and new technology like AI with sensitivity and keeping future requirements in mind. He said India has for centuries been the bearer of a shared heritage of knowledge, innovation and humanity and our country taught the world that science and ethics are not opposites but complements.

"So when AI brings new opportunities before us, our duty is not only to adopt it but also to guide it in the right direction. I firmly believe that when technology is used for human welfare, it democratizes opportunity. It brings possibilities to people who were previously deprived of them. That is why we should welcome this change. The need today is not to compare humans and machines. Rather, we must ensure that machines extend human capabilities, not replace them.

History reminds us that every great leap forward brings a moment of friction. Just as society evolved past the

scriptorium after the printing press and abandoned the hand-plow for the tractor, we cannot turn back the clock on Artificial Intelligence. AI represents our best path forward, not as a replacement for human potential, but as a force multiplier. By absorbing the friction of routine and repetitive tasks, AI would elevate our uniquely human strengths. The future belongs to a symbiotic partnership where technology handles the mechanics, allowing the human work force to focus on what truly matters," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that we must build a future where science becomes the means of progress and humanity determines its direction.

"Every technology revolution closes some doors but opens many new ones. The real challenge today is not about lack of opportunity but speed of change, making rapid reskilling our most urgent duty in various sectors. We should also be prepared to deal with challenges of AI-generated deep-fakes which blurs the line between fact and fiction. Today, we also face an even deeper crisis that is the erosion of truth. For innovation to succeed, it must walk hand-in-hand with public trust. Citizens have a fundamental right to know where their information comes from. Today, in an AI dominated era, transparency is a necessity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon the young generation to grab the opportunity today and focus on problem solving and critical thinking with scientific temper.

"Today vast trove of knowledge is available in the palm of your hand. This is an extraordinary opportunity, and the future belongs to those who know how to use it to find solutions and who can work collaboratively with diverse ideas, and who have the courage to make ethical decisions. In the times ahead we must cultivate environments in our schools and universities where Science and Sanskar develop in balance. Along with technical competence, creativity, communication, empathy and responsibility should be given equal importance. I believe ultimately the society that progresses most will be the one that makes its young people skilled, capable and sensitive. Therefore, balance must be our path," the Lieutenant Governor added.

Padma Bhushan Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, President, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA); Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; members of Dr. Suresh Awasthi Smriti Nyas, distinguished speakers, academicians, eminent literary personalities and students participated in the lecture series through virtual mode.

Kashmir Set For Hottest

5-8°C above the seasonal average, significantly increasing heat stress.

It said Srinagar could witness its highest temperature of the season, with the mercury likely to rise to 36-37°C, while similar conditions are expected across other plain areas of Kashmir.

For the Jammu region, the forecaster said no significant rise in daytime temperatures is expected as monsoon-like conditions are likely to continue.

The MeT department has forecast partly cloudy skies with light to moderate rain or thundershowers at many places on July 18 and 19, with the possibility of brief intense heavy showers at isolated places in the Jammu division during the late night of July 18 and the morning of July 19.

Between July 20 and 23, the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy with light to moderate rain or thundershowers at most places, with peak rainfall activity on July 21 and 22. Heavy rain or brief intense showers are also likely at a few districts in both the Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

The weather office has advised that heavy rainfall, flash floods, landslides, mudslides in vulnerable areas of the Chenab Valley, Pir Panjal Range and some hilly areas of Kashmir, along with waterlogging in low-lying areas, are possible between July 20 and 22.

Authorities have advised people, especially those living in vulnerable areas, to remain alert and follow official weather advisories—(KNO)

‘Don’t Judge Kashmir

we met. Their warmth and generosity made this journey unforgettable," they said.

They said they felt safe throughout their visit and found locals willing

to help at every step. However, they expressed disappointment that many trekking routes and remote tourist destinations remained inaccessible.

"We wanted to explore more of Kashmir, especially places like Gurez Valley and other hiking destinations, but many of them were closed due to restrictions. We hope to return once they reopen because there is still so much of Kashmir left to discover," they said.

The visitors also praised Kashmiri cuisine, particularly the traditional Wazwan, calling it one of the highlights of their journey.

Describing Kashmir in three words, they said: "Hospitable, genuine and unforgettable."

The couple urged travellers, particularly those from Argentina and other parts of the world, to visit Kashmir with an open mind.

"Don't come only for the landscapes. Meet the people, learn about their culture and experience their hospitality. That's what truly makes Kashmir special," they said.

"If we could tell the world one thing after this visit, it would be this: don't judge Kashmir only by what you see in the news. Its true spirit lives in its people, culture and extraordinary landscapes," they added—(KNO)

cs Reviews

towards inclusive economic growth, formalisation of employment, improved working conditions and transparent labour governance in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts made by the Labour & Employment Department in advancing implementation of the Labour Codes and emphasised the need to complete the remaining procedural formalities within the stipulated timeframe.

He directed the Department to expedite final notification of the remaining Rules, strengthen coordination with the Government of India for operationalisation of digital platforms, complete constitution of the statutory Boards and continue intensive awareness programmes so that workers, employers and all stakeholders are fully prepared for seamless implementation of the new labour law framework.

The Secretary L&E, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan while speaking highlighted that the Labour Codes constitute one of the most significant labour reforms undertaken in independent India, replacing 29 Central Labour Laws with four comprehensive Codes, namely the Code on Wages, 2019, Industrial Relations Code, 2020, Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. The reforms aim to create a simplified, transparent, technology-driven and worker-centric labour governance framework while simultaneously enhancing the Ease of Doing Business.

Giving the progress made by the Department, the Secretary further informed that Jammu & Kashmir has made substantial progress in implementing the Labour Codes and is among the leading States and Union Territories in completing the statutory rule-making process.

The Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh informed the meeting that Rules under all four Labour Codes have been framed. The Rules under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 have already been finally notified in the Official Gazette after their approval by the authorities.

Similarly the Rules under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 are at the final stage of notification, while the Rules under the Code on Wages, 2019 and the Code on Social Security, 2020 have been pre-published after approval and are presently undergoing the statutory consultation process before final notification.

The meeting was informed that extensive awareness and outreach programmes have already been undertaken across the Union Territory. As many as 617 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) camps have been organised across all twenty districts, sensitising nearly five lakh workers, employers and stakeholders regarding the provisions and benefits of the new Labour Codes.

Simultaneously, it was added that 283 capacity-building programmes have been conducted, benefiting over 7,200 officers, employers, trade unions and other stakeholders, besides specialised training programmes conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

During the presentation, the Department highlighted several transforma-

tional reforms introduced under the Labour Codes. These include universal minimum wage protection for all employees irrespective of occupation, introduction of a National Floor Wage, a common definition of wages across all four Codes for ensuring higher Provident Fund, gratuity and other social security benefits to the workers.

The Chief Secretary was informed that implementation of the Labour Codes would require constitution of four statutory bodies, namely the State Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers, Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board, State Advisory Board on Wages and Industrial Relations, and the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board, which shall provide policy guidance and oversee implementation of various welfare measures envisaged under the Codes.

The Labour & Employment Department also presented a comprehensive implementation strategy involving establishment of a dedicated Project Management Unit, deployment of block-level Shram Sahayiks, strengthening of IT infrastructure, integration with national labour portals, extensive awareness campaigns and institutional capacity building. A proposal amounting to Rs. 10.44 crore has already been submitted to the Finance Department to facilitate mission-mode implementation of the Labour Codes across Jammu & Kashmir.

3.24 Lakh Pilgrims

interacted with deployed personnel and pilgrims, reviewed the security framework on the ground and stressed the need for maintaining operational readiness, continuous vigilance and seamless coordination among all stakeholder agencies.

The DG CISF chaired a high-level security review meeting with senior officers of the CAPFs, J&K Police, Intelligence Bureau, Indian Army and other stakeholder agencies. Commending the dedication, professionalism and seamless coordination among the security forces, he expressed confidence in their continued commitment towards ensuring the smooth, safe and incident-free conduct of the Amarnath Yatra-2026—(KNO)

Kashmir Opposition

take the final decision," he said. Khursheed further recalled that the AIP had advised the NC at the time of government formation in October 2024 not to take oath until the restoration of statehood—(KNO)



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Foot-over bridge, attendant accommodation coming up at Children’s Hospital Bemina

Patients, attendants to get relief: DC, says four more tankers approved for Srinagar water supply

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: In a significant relief for patients and their families, the Srinagar district administration has initiated the construction of a much-awaited foot-over bridge at the 500-bed Children’s Hospital Bemina. It also announced plans to build an accommodation facility for attendants, addressing two long-pending issues at the premier pediatric healthcare institution.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who visited the hospital on Wednesday, said the foot-over bridge has been planned after the administration assessed the difficulties faced daily by patients, attendants and hospital staff. “The bridge will connect different hospital blocks and will be equipped with staircases as well as an escalator to ensure easier movement, particularly for critically ill children and their caregivers,” the DC said.

The development comes against the backdrop of repeated concerns raised by patients and attendants over the absence of a safe crossing outside the hospital. Earlier, families had complained that



they were forced to cross the busy road amid heavy traffic due to the lack of a zebra crossing or foot-over bridge, exposing children and attendants to the risk of accidents.

Attendants had also pointed out that ambulances often faced delays in reaching the hospital because they were required to take a U-turn nearly two kilometres ahead before entering the hospital premises, causing inconvenience during medical emergencies.

The Deputy Commissioner said the bridge project is expected to substantially improve accessibility and make movement within and around the hospital safer and more convenient for thousands of people who visit the facility from different parts of the Kashmir Valley.

In another major initiative, the DC announced that the district administration will construct a dedicated accommodation facility (Sarai) for atten-

dants through the District Mineral Fund (DMF).

The proposed facility, he said, will include around 15 rooms, two large dormitories, a dining hall, toilets and washrooms, allowing attendants accompanying children from far-flung districts to stay close to the hospital at an affordable cost during prolonged treatment.

The absence of such a facility has long been a concern, with many attendants forced to spend nights in hospital corridors, open spaces or rented accommodation due to the lack of affordable lodging near the hospital.

Labroo said administrative approval for the project will be secured shortly, following which construction work will begin.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of other developmental works in the district. He said construction of the new Tehsil office is progressing satisfactorily, while work on the

SDM office and SDM West office will be allotted soon.

Responding to questions regarding drinking water shortages in several parts of Srinagar, Labroo said multiple projects under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme are being executed to strengthen the city’s water supply infrastructure. “Works related to source augmentation, improvement of distribution networks and enhancement of water quality are nearing completion in areas including Nishat, Batamaloo, Soura and Rajbagh,” he said.

Acknowledging that some localities continue to face water scarcity, he said water tankers will remain in service until the ongoing projects are completed.

To further strengthen the emergency water supply, the district administration has approved the procurement of four additional water tankers through the District Mineral Fund, the DC added—(KNO)

CRPF ASI dies of cardiac arrest in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Assistant Sub-Inspector, died after suffering a cardiac arrest in south Kashmir’s Kulgam district on Wednesday morning, officials said.

Officials said that the ASI, posted with the 18th Battalion of the CRPF in Kulgam, suffered a fall

while on duty.

He was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, where octors declared him dead on arrival and said he had suffered a cardiac arrest. He was later identified as Jai Prakash, a resident of Haryana.

Meanwhile, officials said that further proceedings have been initiated—(KNO)

Man dies after shooting stone hits car near Ramban

AGENCIES

RAMBAN: A man was killed after a shooting stone hit his car on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Ramban on Wednesday, officials said.

An official said that the man was returning home after dropping another person in Ramban town when a boulder rolled down from a hillside and struck his vehicle near Trishul Morh.

He said the man was immediately rescued from the vehicle and shifted to the District Hospital Ramban, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased was later identified as Mohammad Iqbal Tantray, a resident of Seri village in Ramban district.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated further investigation—(KNO)

PM Modi approves Rs 11,000 crore elevated corridor in Varanasi to ease pilgrimage to Baba Vishwanath



IANIS

NEW DELHI: In a major boost to infrastructure development in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s parliamentary constituency, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Modi, on Wednesday approved the construction of a 43.218 km link corridor along the banks of the Varuna River in Varanasi.

The ambitious project, estimated at a total capital cost of Rs 10,998.32 crore, aims to significantly reduce traffic congestion in the holy city and improve connectivity for pilgrims visiting Baba Vishwanath (Kashi Vishwanath Temple).

It will be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM).

The corridor will be a predominantly elevated 6/4-lane facility featuring a main carriageway, flyovers, loops, ramps and service roads. It will connect NH-31 to the Varanasi Ring Road, providing seamless access to key locations, including Kashi Railway Station, Varanasi Airport, Varanasi Junction, Ramnagar Port, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, the famous ghats, and the Chandauli region.

Taking to the social media platform X, PM Modi

said the government was committed to expanding connectivity and making visits to Baba Vishwanath in Varanasi easier and more convenient. He added that the elevated corridor would serve as a model for other culturally significant cities while improving the daily lives of residents.

The project is expected to slash travel time between NH-31 and Kashi Railway Station from 40 minutes to just 20 minutes—a reduction of nearly 50 per cent.

Designed for an operating speed of 80-100 km/hour, it will enhance road safety, lower vehicle operating costs and ensure smoother movement of passenger and freight traffic.

The corridor forms a vital part of the Varanasi decongestion plan and aligns with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan. It will strengthen multi-modal integration and boost economic activity by improving access to agricultural, industrial and logistics nodes in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The project includes Rs 4,565.33 crore for civil construction and Rs 934.91 crore for land acquisition. Once completed, it is expected to significantly boost tourism, ease pilgrim movement and support sustainable economic growth in the region.

Police attach properties of 3 drug peddlers worth Rs 1.50 crore in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant action under the ongoing 100 Days Campaign, Police in Kulgam, in coordination with the Revenue Department, have attached immovable properties with an estimated market value of approximately Rs 1.50 crores in District Kulgam as part of sustained efforts to curb unlawful activities and dismantle the infrastructure supporting such offences.

A police spokesperson said the action was carried out by Police Station Kulgam under the directions of SSP Kulgam. The attached properties comprises three residential houses belonging to Ikhtlaq Mubarak, son of Mubarak Ahmad Nengroo, resident of Amnoo; Aqib Mubarak Dar, resident of Brazloo, Kulgam; and Showkat Ahmad Rather, son of Wali Mohd Rather, resident of Ashmuji,

Kulgam have been attached in accordance with the relevant provisions of law pursuant to the orders of the competent authority.

This action reflects the firm commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir Police to ensure that proceeds of crime and properties linked to unlawful activities are dealt with strictly in accordance with the law, he said.

J&K Police reiterated its resolve to maintain peace, uphold the rule of law, and take stringent legal action against individuals involved in activities prejudicial to public order and the security of the Union Territory.

The general public has been urged to continue cooperating with the police and share information regarding any unlawful activities in their respective areas so that collective efforts towards maintaining peace, security, and the rule of law can be further strengthened.

India registers rise in employment in June

IANIS

NEW DELHI: Both the overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in the country registered an increase in June over the same month of the previous year, reflecting a year-on-year increase in employment, the data released by the Ministry of Statistics on Wednesday showed.

On a year-on-year basis, the urban unemployment rate (UR) declined from 7.1 per cent in June, 2025 to 6.6 per cent in June, 2026, a reduction of 0.5 percentage points. The overall UR and rural UR remained broadly stable over the same period, according to the official statement.

The overall LFPR in June 2026 registered a modest increase of 0.2 percentage points compared to June 2025.

Rural LFPR also recorded a notable rise of 0.5 percentage points over the same period, while the urban LFPR experienced a decrease of 0.3 percentage points.

Urban LFPR experienced marginal increase to 50.1 per cent in June, 2026, from 49.8 per cent in May 2026

The overall female LFPR for persons aged 15 years and above stood at 32.7 per cent in June 2026, marking an increase of 0.7 percentage points over June 2025 (32 per cent). In rural areas, female LFPR rose to 36.6 per cent in June 2026, higher by 1.4 percentage points compared to 35.2 per cent in June 2025. In urban areas, female LFPR moderated slightly to 24.8 per cent in June 2026, as against 25.2 per cent in June 2025, reflecting a decline of 0.4 percentage points.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
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SRINAGAR
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

NOTICE INVITING OFFER (NIO) FOR E-AUCTION NIO NO: 03of 2026
DATED: 15/07/2026

SUBJECT: ALLOTMENT OF BUILT-UP SHOPS AND OFFICE HALLS AT HABBA-KHATUN COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, PARIMPORA
Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) invites online offers through the GeM Portal for the allotment of built-up shops and office halls at the Habba-khatun Commercial complex at Parimpora. This auction is conducted on an “as is where is” basis, and the space is deemed public premises under the Jammu & Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of unauthorized occupants) Act 1988.

I. OFFICIAL BIDDING SCHEDULE

S. No	Description	Critical Dates and Details
01	NIO No. & Date	03 of 2026 15/07/2026
02	Name of the Complex	Habba-Khatun Commercial Complex at Parimpora
03	Starting Price	As per Annexure-I
04	Start of Online Training & Help Desk Support	15/07/2026 onwards 11 AM to 4 PM
05	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	10 % of starting price for each unit
06	EMD Submission Start and End Date	20/07/2026 to 27/07/2026
07	Actual Online Bidding Window (GeM Portal)	30/07/2026 to 31/07/2026

II. MANDATORY FINANCIAL & LEGAL TERMS
1. Eligibility: Individuals, companies, or partnership firms are eligible. Minors are excluded.
2. The allotment shall initially be granted for a period of ten (10) years, providing adequate tenure to the allottee for establishing and operating the business in a commercially viable manner. Upon expiry of the initial term, a further extension of up to ten (10) years may be considered by the Competent Authority, subject to satisfactory performance, compliance with all terms and conditions of allotment, timely payment of dues, proper maintenance of the premises, and the Corporation's assessment of public interest and asset management requirements. The grant of any extension shall not be automatic and shall remain at the sole discretion of the Competent Authority.
3. Starting Price and Rent Structure: As specified in Annexure-1 of the bid document.
4. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): A mandatory 10% of the Starting Price per unit must be submitted via Demand Draft/ FDR pledged to the FA/Chief Accounts Officer, SMC.
5. Bidding Increment: The minimum bid increment value is Rs. 25,000/-.

III. MANDATORY COMPLIANCE FOR BIDDERS
1. Registration: Bidders must register on the GeM portal. Assistance is available at the SMC Help Desk, Corporate Office, Karan Nagar.
2. Required Documents (Scanned): EMD Demand Draft, PAN Card, Aadhar Card, a declaration for the allotment name, and a cancelled cheque.
3. Payment Deadlines: The H1 bidder must pay the difference to reach 25% of the quoted price within 7 days of the LOI. The remaining 75% balance is due within 45 days.
4. Operational Rules: No subletting or change of name is permitted. Units are for general commercial use only; manufacturing and repair work are strictly prohibited.
5. Penalty: A penalty of Rs. 10,000/- per month applies for failure to take possession by the specified date.
6. Caution: Bidders are advised to complete submissions early to avoid last-minute system or power failures. SMC reserves the right to reject any bid without assigning reasons. The decision of the Commissioner, SMC, shall be final and binding.
Detailed documents and terms are available at www.smcsrinagar.in and the GeM Portal.

IV. FACILITATION & ASSISTANCE
A dedicated Help Desk has been established at the SMC Corporate Office, Karan Nagar, Srinagar, to assist bidders with registration and e-auction procedures during working hours, in Room No. 207/208, Block- C, SMC, with the following composition:

S.No	Name	Phone No.
01	Mr. Zahoor Ahmad	+91- 7006482906
02	Ms. Tahira Parveen	+91- 9006976308
03	Mr. Adil Shafi Rangrez	+91- 9796765830
04	Mr. Javeed Ahmad Matta	+91- 7006966432
05	Mr. Danish Nazir	+91- 7006009917

Interested bidders are advised to visit the property before participating in the auction. An official Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Sofi, Contact No:- +91- 9906589927 has been deployed as ‘Property Guide’ at the site for assistance of the bidders.

PURCHASE & PROCUREMENT OFFICER,
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
ANNEXURE-I
E- Auction Matrix Details

S.No	Name of Commercial Property	HSN Code	Description	Unit	Qty	Unit Price/ Starting Price	GST	Total Amount Inclusive of all taxes
GROUND FLOOR								
01	Shop at Parimpora 12’x16’6” 198 sft	997222	SHOPS@ GROUND FLOOR	No	6	30,05,074.00	Nil	30,05,074.00
02	Shop at Parimpora 12’x17’6” 210 sft	997222		No	5	31,87,200.00	Nil	31,87,200.00
FIRST FLOOR								
01	Shop at Parimpora 12’x16’6” 198 sft	997222	SHOPS@FIRST FLOOR	No	6	25,92,000.00	Nil	25,92,000.00
02	Shop at Parimpora 12’x17’6” 210 sft	997222		No	5	27,49,000.00	Nil	27,49,000.00
SECOND FLOOR								
01	Shop at Parimpora 12’x16’6” 198 sft	997222	SHOPS@SEC-OND FLOOR	No	6	22,28,000.00	Nil	22,28,000.00
02	Shop at Parimpora 37’3”x16’6” 615 sft	997222		No	1	49,78,500.00	Nil	49,78,500.00
03	Shop at Parimpora 24’9”x16’6” 408 sft	997222	HALLS@SECOND FLOOR	No	1	33,08,000.00	Nil	33,08,000.00

RENT STRUCTURE

01	Ground Floor	@ of INR 34.00 per sft per month
02	First Floor	@ of INR 30.00 per sft per month
03	2 nd Floor	@ of INR 28.00 per sft per month per shop @ of INR 33.00 per sft per month per Hall

The above rent rate will be fixed for three years and then revised @10% above the existing. For example, at the end of the 1st three year rent will be re fixed as (INR 34.00 +3.40= INR 37.40) for the next three years and so on.

No: SMC/PPS/646-55
Dated: 15/07/2026

DIPK-NB-1105-26
DT: 15/07/2026

Sd/-
Commissioner,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

Court Restrains JKCA Apex Council Member from Representing Srinagar Cricket Club

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, the Court of the 2nd Additional District Judge, Srinagar, has granted interim relief in favour of the real and original members of the Srinagar Cricket Club in a civil suit instituted through the Club's original President.

The suit challenges the alleged illegal induction of members, the conduct of elections based on such inductions, and the recognition accorded on the strength of the impugned electoral process. According to the suit, these actions were undertaken in complete violation of the Club's Trust Deed, Constitution and Bye-laws, thereby undermining the democratic functioning and institutional integrity of one of Kashmir's oldest cricket clubs.

Upon considering the pleadings and material placed before it, the Court held that the plaintiffs had established a prima facie case, that the balance of convenience lay in their favour, and that refusal of interim protection would result in irreparable loss and injury.

Accordingly, by its order dated 11 July 2026, the Hon'ble Court restrained Anil Koul, an Apex Council Member of the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association and others, from representing the Srinagar Cricket Club until further orders.

The interim order has generated widespread discussion among cricket stakeholders across the Union Territory. The proceedings have brought into focus the participation of an individual who served on the Apex Council of JKCA while claiming to represent the Srinagar Cricket Club. According to the pleadings, the legality of that representation, the authority under which voting rights were exercised, and the recognition allegedly granted on that basis are all under judicial scrutiny.

Senior members of the Srinagar Cricket Club have maintained that the representation extended to the said individual was contrary to the Club's Trust Deed, Constitution and Bye-laws. They have asserted that the office bearers and representa-

tives of the Club must derive their authority strictly from the governing documents of the institution and through a lawful and transparent electoral process.

The Court's interim order has also evoked



strong reactions from cricket lovers and former members of the cricket fraternity, many of whom have welcomed the judicial intervention as a step towards restoring transparency, accountability and the rule of law in cricket administration. They expressed confidence that the judicial process would thoroughly examine the issues raised in the suit and ensure that only those lawfully entitled to repre-

sent affiliated clubs within JKCA. Several stakeholders also voiced hope that the proceedings would bring an end to what they described as the influence of "paratrooped" elements in the Association and help restore the credibility of cricket administration in Jammu and Kashmir.

The members of the Srinagar Cricket Club have welcomed the interim protection granted by the Hon'ble Court, describing it as an important step towards safeguarding the legacy, autonomy and constitutional framework of one of Kashmir's oldest cricket institutions. They reiterated their unwavering commitment to transparent, democratic and constitutionally compliant administration, while expressing full faith in the judiciary and confidence that the truth will ultimately prevail through the due process of law. If this is intended for publication in a newspaper or online news portal, this version is firm and impactful while clearly distinguishing the court's findings from the parties' allegations.

Employees' Cricket, Table Tennis Tournaments conclude at KU

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, University of Kashmir, on Wednesday concluded the Employees' Cricket and Table Tennis Tournaments with a prize distribution ceremony held at Ground "A".

The tournaments witnessed enthusiastic participation from employees representing various teaching departments, administrative units, and satellite campuses.

The tournaments were aimed at developing physical well-being and cohesiveness among employees. The tournaments received an overwhelming response throughout their duration.

Vice Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan in her message congratulated the winners and appreciated all participants for their enthusiastic involvement in the tournaments. She said that sports play a vital role in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, teamwork, and a healthy work culture.

In the cricket tournament, the final was played between Team Lidder and Team Sindh. Winning the toss and electing to bat first, Team Sindh posted a total of 142 runs in the allotted overs. In reply,



Team Lidder chased down the target in 14 overs, thereby emerging as champions of the tournament. Mudasir scored 61 runs for Team Lidder. The final match witnessed quality cricket, competitive spirit, and enthusiastic support from employees and spectators present at the venue.

The Men's Table Tennis Championship produced equally exciting contests. In the final, Inam-ul-Rouf, Joint Registrar (Transport), defeated Dr. Yahya Bakhtiyar of the Department of Zoology by 3 sets to 1 to clinch the title. The third place was secured by Mirza Irshad Hussain from the Examination Wing after an impressive performance.

In the Women's Table

Tennis Championship, Sakeena Akhter, Cricket Coach, displayed excellent skill and consistency to defeat Surjeet Kour, Lady Sports Assistant, by 2 sets to nil in the final to lift the title. Dr. Basharat Ali secured the third position after a commendable performance during the tournament.

Speaking on the occasion, Coordinator, Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, Dr. Surjeet Singh, congratulated all the winners and participants for exhibiting remarkable sportsmanship, discipline, and competitive spirit throughout the tournaments.

Assistant Directors Dr. Basharat Ali and Dr. Nadeem Ahmad Dar also

addressed the gathering and highlighted the multifarious benefits of organizing inter-employee sporting competitions. They remarked that such tournaments cultivate a spirit of unity, mutual respect, and healthy competition while encouraging employees to adopt active lifestyles.

The medals and trophies were distributed by Dr. Surjeet Singh among the winners and runners-up teams and players.

The tournaments were coordinated by Assistant Directors Dr. Nadeem Ahmad Dar and Tausif Bhat, while the proceedings of the prize distribution ceremony were conducted by Football Coach Sajid Yousuf Dar.

DYSS Begins 5 Day Chess Arbiter Course in Collaboration with All India Chess Federation

GMK SPORTS DESK

JAMMU: Reinforcing its commitment to strengthening the professional capabilities of its field functionaries and promoting technical excellence in sports administration, the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, (DYSS) J&K, under the leadership of Anuradha Gupta, Director General, YSS has begun a 5 day Chess Arbiter Course in collaboration with the All India Chess Federation (AICF) at Jammu, from 14th to 18th July, 2026.

The specialized training programme is designed to enhance the technical knowledge and officiating skills of Physical Education Masters (PEMs), Physical Education Teachers (PETs), and Rehbar-e-Khel (ReKs) by providing comprehensive training on the Laws of Chess, FIDE regulations, tournament management, Swiss and round-robin pairing systems, score sheet management, dispute resolution, and the roles and responsibilities of arbiters. The course aims to prepare departmental officials to conduct chess competitions professionally and in accordance with national and international standards.



Interacting with the participants, Inder Jeet Singh Parihar, Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports, Jammu lauded the visionary leadership of DG YSS for initiating a series of professional development programmes aimed at upgrading the technical competencies of the department's workforce. He emphasized that continuous capacity building is essential for ensuring quality sports administration and nurturing a strong sporting culture at the grassroots level. He further urged the participants to effectively utilize the knowledge gained during the course for organizing scientifically managed chess competitions across educational institutions in Jammu & Kashmir.

The inaugural ceremony was also graced by the Planning and Development Programme Coordinator, All India Chess Federation,

who appreciated the Directorate's proactive efforts in promoting chess through structured training initiatives. He highlighted AICF's continued commitment to developing a strong pool of qualified arbiters and technical officials across the country and encouraged participants to uphold the highest standards of fairness, professionalism, and integrity while officiating chess events.

Baldev Raj, former President, J&K Chess Association, also addressed the gathering and shared his rich experience in the development of chess in the region. He appreciated the collaborative initiative of the Directorate and AICF, describing it as a significant milestone in strengthening the technical ecosystem of chess in Jammu & Kashmir.

Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing: India clinch three gold, 10 silver, four bronze in women's section

IAN'S

JAKARTA: India capped off a stellar campaign in the women's section of the Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing Championships, securing a total of five gold, 10 silver, and four bronze medals across U-19 and U-23 categories in the finals held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Wednesday.

In the U-19 women's category, India secured two gold and six silver medals, underlining the depth of its youth programme.

Chandrika Bhoresh Pujari (51kg) delivered a dominant performance to clinch gold with a 5:0 win over Uzbekistan's Nazokat Mardonova, while Prachi also secured gold with a convincing victory over Indonesia's Dira Artika.

India's other finalists in the U-19 category put up strong fights but settled for silver, contributing to the team's overall tally.

In the U-23 women's cat-



egory, India registered an equally impressive showing with one gold, four silver, and four bronze medals.

Nisha (54kg) led the charge with a commanding 5:0 victory over Japan's Koin Kokufu to clinch gold. India's other gold medallists in the category continued their strong form to finish on top of the podium.

Meanwhile, Nikita Chand (60kg), Kajal (65kg), and Muskan (75kg) fought hard in their respective finals but settled for silver after facing strong opponents from Uzbeki-

stan. The bronze medals came from semifinal finishes, further highlighting India's consistency across weight categories.

With these results, India once again showcased exceptional depth and dominance at the youth level, particularly in the women's division, with a clean sweep into the finals.

India's overall performance in the women's section reflects its growing dominance in age-group boxing at the continental level, with a strong pipeline of talent delivering across both U-19 and U-23 divisions.

FIFA WC: Rodri praises 'sensational' Yamal, criticises officiating after Spain's semi-final triumph

IAN'S

TEXAS: Spain midfielder Rodri hailed teenage winger Lamine Yamal for his selfless display in the FIFA World Cup semi-final against France while also calling for greater protection from match officials after La Roja secured a 2-0 victory to reach the final.

Although Spain booked their place in the title clash with a composed performance, Rodri voiced his concern over the repeated challenges on the 19-year-old Barcelona star, saying referees need to intervene more consistently to prevent defenders from targeting creative players.

"What is clear is that we have been dealing with this



situation of the number of fouls for three games now,"

Rodri told TVE after the match as quoted by Goal.

com. "I understand that some might not be fouls, but we're talking about 10 or 15 fouls where the kid goes to the ground, gets tackled, and they have to call it, because otherwise the defenders are going to keep doing the same thing. The permissiveness has been quite blatant today," he added.

Yamal once again played a key role in Spain's attack despite facing close marking throughout the contest. His movement and pressing also helped Spain maintain control as they shut down France's attacking threats on the way to another World Cup final.

Rodri was particularly impressed by the young-

ster's contribution without possession, highlighting the maturity he has shown on the biggest stage.

"Lamine Yamal played a fantastic game, especially off the ball; he was sensational and helped us a lot," he said.

The Manchester City midfielder also reflected on Spain's achievement after reaching the final, where they will meet the winner of the other semi-final.

"Very happy, very proud, especially of my team, of my country, of what this represents for us. We have to rest and recover well because we surely have the most important match of our lives ahead of us. Rest and a huge match," Rodri added.

NOW SHOWING



DHAMAAL 4

(HINDI ATMOS)

U/A 13+



EVIL DEAD BURN

(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

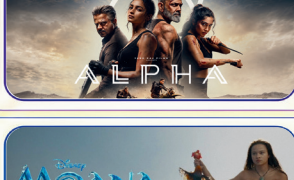
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WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

(HINDI)

U/A 16+



ALPHA

(HINDI)

U/A 16+



MOANA

(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

U



MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA

(HINDI)

U/A 16+

10:45 AM

01:40 PM

04:35 PM

07:30 PM

11:35 AM

07:40 PM

11:30 AM

02:00 PM

02:45 PM

05:15 PM

05:35 PM

INNOX

SRINAGAR

THURSDAY

16

JULY

WHY CHOOSE INNOX

 HINDI ATMOS SOUND

 PREMIUM COMFORT

 DELICIOUS SNACKS

 EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE

 CALL FOR TICKET ASSISTANCE

95416 13868



CMYK