

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

GMK

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Adverse Weather Forecast

Amarnath Yatra To Remain Suspended From Today



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of inclement weather forecast issued by India Meteorological Department (IMD), Amarnath Yatra shall remain temporarily suspended from both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes with effect from July 19 as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety and well-being of the pilgrims.

"In view of the forecast of inclement weather over the next few days and considering the safety and well-being of the pilgrims, Shri Amarnathji Yatra shall remain temporarily suspended from both Pahalgam and Baltal routes with effect from 19.07.2026. Accordingly, no onward movement of pilgrims will be permitted from the Baltal and Nunwan/Chandanwari base camp from 19.07.2026. Updates regarding the resumption of Yatra shall be issued in

due course of time after ensuring route safety and comprehensive assessment of the weather conditions", the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg said.

So far, over 3.7 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine during the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

In view of the inclement weather forecast along the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra route, it is hereby informed that no convoy, vehicle carrying Shri Amarnath ji yatra pilgrims will be allowed to proceed from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, towards the base camps of Baltal and Nunwan (Pahalgam) on July 19, 2026.

The decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety and well-being of the pilgrims in view of the adverse weather conditions predicted along the Yatra route.

"No fresh batch of pilgrims shall be •P-06

Omar Seeking Statehood For Abdullah Family's 'Royal Lifestyle': LoP Sharma

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Sunil Sharma on Saturday said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is seeking restoration of statehood not for J&K people but to restore the Abdullah family's "royal lifestyle."

Speaking to reporters here, Sharma, said, "The issue of statehood had always been the BJP's agenda and not that of the National Conference (NC)."

He said, "Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is seeking restoration of statehood because the Abdullah family's royal lifestyle had been affected after the constitutional changes of August 2019 and that the demand is not for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

The LoP said the BJP had



never promised statehood to the Abdullah family but had committed to restoring it to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have made that commitment and we will restore statehood at the appropriate time," he said.

He said the ruling National Conference (NC) is using the statehood campaign to divert public attention from governance failures and unfulfilled election promises.

"The Abdullah family had been entrusted with power by the people for •P-06

Chinar Book Festival

Books Inspire Change, Build A Stronger Society: LG Sinha

Says Our Goal Is To Transform Jammu Kashmir Into A National Hub For Knowledge, Culture, Creativity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Calling books the foundation of an enlightened society, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said the Chinar Book Festival is helping restore Jammu and Kashmir's legacy as a centre of learning and literature, while urging youngsters to cultivate the habit of reading beyond textbooks.

Sinha was speaking at the third edition of the Chinar Book Festival in Srinagar. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the National Book Trust and the organisers for their commendable work.

"This festival is more than just an event. It is a movement to build a vibrant community of readers, writers, and thinkers. Our goal is to transform Jammu Kashmir into a national hub for knowledge, culture, and creativity. I hope this book festival will inspire the youth to read every day, protect endangered languages, and use literature as a way to



value and respect diversity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that books are like living conversations and they force us to think deeply, ask questions, challenge what we believe, and inspire us to grow.

"Nothing matches the power of writing. Combined with a

strong imagination, it becomes a lasting strength. A vibrant book festival creates such environment and a welcoming space where literature becomes accessible, inspiring, and meaningful for everyone," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also stated that in a very short span

of time, the Chinar Book Festival has become a unique celebration of ideas, transforming into a vibrant intellectual movement across Jammu Kashmir.

"I believe writers and thinkers are like glowing lamps and blooming roses. In many ways, they mirror the majestic Chinar tree. In Kashmir, the Chinar is a living symbol of patience, beauty, and endurance. Writers and their books share this same lasting spirit, guiding human civilization through the ages. Together, we share the responsibility to restore Jammu Kashmir as a leading hub for education, literature, and youth empowerment," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Chinar Book Festival has become a strong national platform of ideas, debates and knowledge exchange. Its identity is no longer confined to stalls and book launches; it has become a means to generate new ideas, encourage •P-06

THIS FESTIVAL IS MORE THAN JUST AN EVENT. IT IS A MOVEMENT TO BUILD A VIBRANT community of readers, writers, and thinkers. Our goal is to transform Jammu Kashmir into a national hub for knowledge, culture, and creativity. I hope this book festival will inspire the youth to read every day,

Govt Extends Summer Vacation For Kashmir Schools Till Wednesday

Educational Establishments To Reopen On Thursday: Sakina Itoo

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: The government on Saturday extended summer vacation for all schools of Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division till Wednesday in view of prevailing heat weather conditions and inclement weather advisory.

Education Minister Sakina Itoo said, "Summer vacations have been extended by three more days for schools in Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division."

"The vacation has been announced in view of the prevailing heat wave and the inclement weather advisory issued by the weatherman," the minister said.

Earlier, the minister said that the Jammu and Kashmir government will take a final decision on



whether to extend summer vacations in schools after reviewing the prevailing weather conditions.

She said the health and well-being of students remain the government's top priority. "There is no doubt that weather conditions in Kashmir are changing. For us, the health of students is more important than anything else," she added.

The government had earlier

announced summer vacations for all schools in the Kashmir Division and winter zones of the Jammu Division from July 6 to July 19.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has forecast the prevailing heatwave to continue till July 19 and warned of heavy rainfall and the possibility of flash floods between July 20 and July 23—(KNO)

CS Assesses The 'Data Management Strategy' For J&K

Directs Creation Of Integrated Data Ecosystem For Seamless Citizen Services

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards advancing digital governance and ensuring hassle-free delivery of public services, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to review the proposed 'Data Management Strategy and Action Plan' aimed at creating a secure, interoperable and citizen-centric data ecosystem across Government departments in Jammu and Kashmir.

The proposed initiative seeks to establish an integrated framework for secure sharing and harmonization of government data, enabling departments to access authenticated information



through authorized digital platforms instead of repeatedly seeking the same documents from citizens. The initiative is expected to substantially improve inter-departmental coordination, eliminate duplication of records, enhance transparency and ensure faster, more efficient delivery of welfare benefits and public services.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries including Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD; MD, J&K Bank; DG, E&S; SIO, NIC; Director, Planning and HoDs from other concerned Departments.

Reviewing the proposed framework, the Chief Secretary underscored •P-06

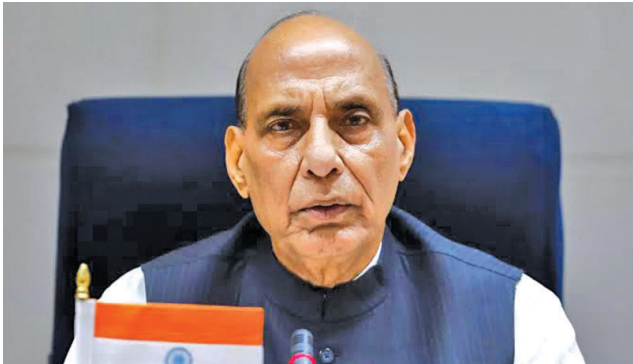
Zero Tolerance Against Terrorism Is Not Merely Statement, But A Line Of Action: Rajnath Singh

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Backed by a major boost in indigenous defence production, India is rapidly emerging as a credible global security partner, expanding its strategic footprint from the Indian Ocean to the Indo-Pacific, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.

In an address at an event, Singh, sending a firm message to Pakistan, said New Delhi has clearly articulated its perspective on terrorism before the entire world and added that "zero tolerance against terrorism is not merely a statement for us, but a Line of Action".

"We will strike against terrorism not just at the doorstep but by entering the house. The



whole world saw this during Operation Sindoor," he noted.

The defence minister also highlighted India's success in indigenous defence manufacturing.

Defence products made in India are being exported to nearly 100 countries and the total volume of the coun-

try's defence production has reached a record level of nearly Rs 1.78 lakh crore annually, he said.

"Today, India is not just manufacturing defence equipment for itself. India is becoming a credible security partner for the world. From the Indian Ocean to the Indo-

Pacific, India's role is continuously strengthening," he said in Hindi.

The defence minister added that the nation is well-positioned to hit a Rs 3 lakh crore defence production milestone by 2029.

"If a country depends on other countries for weapons, ammunition, navigation systems, missiles, radars and drones, then its strategic and military autonomy also becomes limited. We are working with the full intention of completely changing this," he said.

Singh said the success of Operation Sindoor is a testament to the trust in India's industries.

The defence minister said the "biggest step" the Modi government •P-06

NC Expels Senior Leader Over Anti-Party Activities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) on Saturday expelled Mohammad Jaffer Akhoun, Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, from the party's primary membership for six years, citing anti-party activities and indiscipline.

The decision was announced by the party in a post on its official X handle, stating that JKNC General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammad Sagar had ordered the action against Akhoun.

"The action has been taken in view of his anti-party activities and for causing indiscipline within the party," the party said.

The move comes amid months of friction within the INDIA bloc alliance in Kargil, following differences over an alleged pre-election rotational power-sharing arrangement between the National •P-06

Kashmir's Premium Cherries, Plums Reach Singapore Market For First Time

APEDA Says Committed To Connecting J&K Farmers To Global Markets



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: In another significant milestone for Jammu & Kashmir's horticulture sector, premium Areko cherries and Scentrose plums from the orchards of Shopian and Pulwama have made their debut in Singapore, marking the first-ever commercial shipment of these premium fruits to the Southeast Asian market.

The export, facilitated by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in collaboration

with exporters, growers and other stakeholders, reflects India's growing success in positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a reliable global source of high-quality temperate fruits.

The latest shipment builds upon the successful export of premium cherries and plums to Abu Dhabi and Dubai earlier this month, further expanding the international footprint of Kashmir's horticultural produce.

It also follows the successful promotion and export of locally grown cherries to Saudi Arabia and •P-06

Information Department's newly Posted Officers assume Office at JDI Kashmir

Shabir Ahmad Bhat assumes charge as FPO; Parvaiz Lone as Youth Information Officer

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Following the recent reshuffle in the Information Department, Shabir Ahmad Bhat Saturday assumed charge as Field Publicity Officer (FPO), Kashmir, while Parvaiz Ahmad Lone assumed charge as Youth Information Officer, Kashmir, at the Joint Directorate of Information, Kashmir.

Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, Deputy Director Information Headquarter Kashmir, Deputy Director, PR, Cultural Officer, Kashmir and other officials of the department welcomed both the officers on assuming their new assignments.

Soon after assuming charge, the newly appointed officers held an introductory meeting with the officials of their respective wings. They interacted with the staff and reviewed the functioning of the offices, besides taking stock of the ongoing activities and outreach initiatives.

Calling for a collaborative and result-oriented work culture, the officers urged the officials to work with renewed commitment and a sense of responsibility to further strengthen the department's outreach across Kashmir.

The officers assured the officials of their full support and cooperation in the efficient discharge of their responsibilities and stressed the importance of close coordination to strengthen the department's outreach across Kashmir.



Sajad Ahmed Shah assumes charge as DIO Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: District Administration Shopian Saturday accorded a warm welcome to Sajad Ahmed Shah, who assumed charge as District Information Officer (DIO), Shopian.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Dr.Nasir Ahmed Lone, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz and officers and officials of the District Information Centre (DIC) welcomed new DIO and conveyed their best wishes for his successful tenure in the district.

On the occasion, the DC expressed confidence that Sajad Ahmed Shah would discharge his responsibilities with dedication, professionalism and commitment while further strengthening the dissemination



of government information and public outreach initiatives in the district. Speaking on the occasion, Sajad Ahmed Shah thanked the District Administration and the officers for the warm reception. He assured that he would work with utmost sincerity and dedication to ensure timely and effective communication of government programmes and developmental initiatives to the public.

The welcome function concluded on a cordial note, with officers and officials extending their full support and cooperation to the new DIO in carrying out his responsibilities effectively.

Food Safety Deptt intensifies market surveillance in Shopian

Food Samples Lifted, FBOs Sensitized on Hygiene Norms



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The Food Safety Department Shopian Saturday conducted a comprehensive inspection drive in the main market, Shopian to ensure the availability of safe and quality food products for consumers.

During the inspection, the enforcement team lifted two food samples for detailed laboratory analysis to ascertain their quality and conformity with the prescribed standards under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

As part of the drive, the team also carried out an extensive awareness programme among Food Busi-

ness Operators (FBOs), emphasizing the importance of maintaining high standards of hygiene and sanitation in food establishments. The operators were sensitized about safe food handling practices, cleanliness of food preparation and storage areas, use of wholesome raw materials and adherence to personal hygiene by food handlers.

The Food Safety Department advised all FBOs to strictly comply with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and urged them to adopt best hygiene practices to safeguard public health and ensure the supply of safe and wholesome food to consumers.

DIPR's Cultural Unit Kashmir organises day-long cultural show at Yusmarg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Saturday organised a day-long cultural programme at the scenic tourist destination of Yusmarg, captivating visitors with vibrant performances while spreading awareness about the growing menace of drug abuse.

The event showcased the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir through a variety of traditional and contemporary performances. The major attractions included the traditional Bhaand Pather, Bacha Naghma, folk music presentations, and a thought-provoking skit based on the Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), highlighting the adverse consequences of substance abuse and the importance of collective efforts in building a drug-free society.

A large number of visitors, including tourists from different parts of the country, gathered at the venue



and thoroughly enjoyed the performances. The programme served as a unique blend of entertainment, cultural preservation and social awareness.

The event was also attended by officers and officials of the Joint Directorate of Information Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the officers highlighted the importance of organising cultural programmes at tourist destinations to promote tourism, preserve Kashmir's rich cultural heritage and create awareness about important social issues, particularly drug abuse among youth.

Tourists and visitors appreciated the initiative

of DIPR, stating that such programmes not only provide quality entertainment but also introduce audiences to the rich folk theatre, music and cultural traditions of Kashmir. They noted that the performances effectively conveyed important social messages, encouraged civic responsibility and promoted awareness about contemporary challenges facing society.

The audience lauded the Department for organising cultural outreach programmes at tourist destinations, describing them as an effective medium for fostering cultural understanding, social awareness and meaningful public engagement.

J&K Judicial Academy holds Day-33 Training for Civil Judges, Judicial Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Under the patronage of Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, Governing Committee, J&K Judicial Academy, Sanjeev Kumar and guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Chairman, Governing Committee, J&K Judicial Academy, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy Saturday conducted Day-33 of academic sessions of the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme for Trainee Civil Judges (Junior Division), Batch-2026, along with a Continuing Judicial Education Programme for the Judicial Officers of Batch-2020 at the J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The morning sessions were conducted by Justice Rajesh Bindal, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, on "Technology in the Administration of Justice" and "Artificial Intelligence for Judges."

Addressing the participants, Justice Rajesh Bindal highlighted the indispensable role of technology in strengthening an efficient, transparent and accessible justice delivery system. He underscored the judiciary's progressive transition towards digital and paperless courts through practical demonstrations of technological platforms such as the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), Electronic Supreme Court Reports



(eSCR) and the Bhashini application.

Justice Rajesh Bindal familiarized the participants with their utility in judicial functioning, legal research and access to justice.

During the session on Artificial Intelligence, he explained the concept of Artificial Intelligence and demonstrated its applications in legal research, judgment support, drafting, summarization and transcription. He emphasised that AI is only an enabling tool and can never substitute the independent application of judicial mind.

Justice Rajesh Bindal urged the judicial officers to embrace technology responsibly and ethically while ensuring that the ultimate responsibility for judicial decision-making always rests with the Judge.

The afternoon sessions were conducted by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Member, Governing Committee, J&K Judicial Academy.

Addressing both the Judicial Officers of Batch-2020 and the Trainee Civil Judges (Junior Division), Batch-2026, Justice Rahul Bharti emphasized that the essence of the judicial profession lies in continuous learning, intellectual discipline and unwavering seriousness towards one's judicial responsibilities.

Drawing from his own journey at the Bar and the invaluable lessons learnt under his senior, Justice Rahul Bharti observed that every judicial officer must cultivate the habit of constant study of law, legal history, jurisprudence and evolving judicial precedents. He stressed that every matter

DC Budgam for comprehensive preservation of manuscript heritage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan Saturday called for comprehensive preservation of manuscript heritage in Budgam district.

The Deputy Commissioner said this while chairing a meeting to assess the implementation of Mission Gyan Bharatam, aimed at preserving, documenting, and digitising available manuscript and other heritage sites.

At the outset, the DC stressed the need for coordinated and time bound efforts to identify, document, and preserve historical manuscripts and records. He directed all government departments, Tehsilddars, and BDOs to conduct surveys in their jurisdictions, including religious sites, heritage buildings, government offices, and private collections, to identify valuable manuscripts for preservation.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised systematic digitisation, scientific conservation, and public awareness to safeguard these heritage assets and make them accessible through a national digital repository.

The General Manager, DIC Budgam, briefed the meeting on the progress of digitisation, public outreach, and other activities under the Mission.

The DC called for strong inter departmental coordination, regular monitoring, and effective field-level implementation to ensure the district's invaluable manuscript heritage is preserved for future generations.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the General Manager, DIC Budgam (Nodal Officer), Joint Director Planning, ACD, ACP, CMO, CEO, BDOs, Tehsilddars, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, and other district officials.

Jammu administration cracks down on drug peddlers

Demolishes multiple properties worth nearly ₹3 crore in Nikki Tawi, Bishnah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Under the directions of District Magistrate Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas and in coordination with SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, joint teams of the District Administration and Jammu Police Saturday carried out a demolition drive against properties of drug peddlers in Jammu and Bishnah tehsils, dismantling several illegal structures built with proceeds of the drug trade.

With today's combined operations at Bishnah and Nikki Tawi, the District Administration and Jammu Police demolished illegal properties worth a cumulative nearly ₹3 crore



linked to drug trafficking, besides recovering heroin and illegal weapons from the accused.

At Ismailpur Kothey in tehsil Bishnah, SDM Jammu South Manu Hansa and SP South Vaibhav Meena supervised demolition of a double-storey structure worth approximately ₹1.5 crore.

Among those present were Tehsilddar Bishnah, SDPO Gandhinagar and the SHOs of Bishnah and Gangyal police stations.

At Nikki Tawi area in tehsil Jammu Khas, another joint team demolished

properties belonging to two more drug peddlers.

The team razed to the ground a structure spread over approximately 2.5 kanals and valued at around ₹90 lakh.

In a parallel action, the team demolished commercial structures, vacating approximately 5 marlas of land valued at around ₹40 lakh.

These two operations removed illegal properties worth around ₹1.30 crore, linked to drug trafficking, from the Nikki Tawi area under provisions of the NDPS Act.

DC Shopian reviews preparations for Independence Day-2026

Calls for grand, dignified and inclusive celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Saturday chaired a comprehensive meeting at the Mini-Secretariat to review and finalize arrangements for the smooth and successful celebration of Independence Day-2026 across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; GM, DIC, SDM, Zainapora, senior district officers, heads of departments, security agencies and other stakeholders who discussed the preparations in detail.

Reviewing the arrangements, the DC directed all departments to ensure meticulous planning and seamless coordination for the national event. He stressed that all necessary arrangements, including venue preparation, security, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, seating, medical facilities, traffic manage-

ment, parking, fire and emergency services, cultural programmes and uninterrupted public address systems, should be put in place well in advance.

The DC emphasized that Independence Day should be celebrated with patriotic fervour, dignity and enthusiasm while ensuring active participation of students, youth, ex-servicemen, freedom fighters families and the general public. He instructed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and complete all assigned responsibilities within the stipulated timeline.

The meeting also reviewed the schedule of events, cultural performances, march-past contingents, illumination of government buildings and arrangements for award presentations to ensure the celebrations are conducted in a befitting manner.

Reiterating the importance of coordinated efforts, the DC urged all departments to discharge their responsibilities with dedication to make the Independence Day celebrations memorable, peaceful and befitting the significance of the occasion.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY

UKRRDA) DIVISION BUDGAM

Tel/ Fax:- 0194-2440121,

CORRIGENDUM FOR EXTENSION OF CRITICAL DATES

Ref:-This Office E-NIT No:-06/EE/PMGSY/B/E-TENDERING of 2025-26, Dated:-09-07-2026(1st Call) under endorsement no.EE/PMGSY/B/1999-2003,Dated:-09-07-2026. Kindly refer to above mentioned e-NIT,the critical dates for submission of online bids are hereby extended as per the following schedule:-

Critical Dates:-

Sr. No	Particulars	Date Extended From	Date Extended To
01	Bid Submission closing Date	17-07-2026, 04:00PM	21-07-2026, 04:00PM
03	Date and Time of Bid opening	18-07-2026, 11:30AM	22-07-2026, 11:30AM

All other terms and conditions mentioned in the aforementioned E-NIT shall remain same. The Corrigendum shall form an integral part of the Tender Document and shall be read in conjunction with the original Tender Notice.

No.EE/PMGSY/B/
Dated:- 07-07-2026.
DIPK-3446-26
DT: 18/07/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PMGSY (UKRRDA)
Div-Budgam

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL

& HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA

e-mail, id, xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in/

CORRIGENDUM-I

Subject: - Re-Tendering of e-NIT No. 25 of 2026-27 Dated:- 07-07-2026.

Reference:- Tender IDs: - 2026_PWDJK_341899_1

Due to no response from bidders, the e-NIT for the work titled "Comprehensive Maintenance of PSA Technology based Oxygen Generation Plant (300 LPM Oxywise make) including all the Electrical Equipment and Operation of PSA Technology based Oxygen Generation Plant by way of engagement of 03 (three) semi-skilled Operators (01 in each shift) for round the clock operation of the OGP at Sub-District Hospital Kreeri for a period of One year", stands retendered as under:

S.No	Description	Re- Scheduled date
1	Date of Downloading	07-07-2025 (06:15 PM) to 29-07-2025 (06:00 PM)
2	Date of uploading	07-07-2025 (06:30 PM) to 29-07-2025 (06:55 PM)
3	Due date of opening of tender	30-07-2025 (01:00 PM)

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No: - M&HDB/TS/ 1089-94
Dated:- 18-07-2025
DIPK-3444-26
DT: 18/07/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanic & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

LG Congratulates Skyroot Aerospace on Maiden Orbital Launch of Vikram-1

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday extended his heartiest congratulations to Team Skyroot Aerospace following the successful maiden orbital launch of Vikram-1.

In his congratulatory message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Heartiest congratulations to Team Skyroot Aerospace on the successful maiden orbital launch of Vikram-1. This historic achievement is a proud moment for the nation and reflects Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision of strengthening India's space



sector through innovation and private enterprise. I applaud Team Skyroot for their pioneering spirit and dedication. May this remarkable success inspire our youth to embrace science and innovation and contribute to India's journey as a global leader in space exploration."

LG Sinha to lead 'Mulaqat' interfaith dialogue in Baramulla today

WARIS FAYAZ

BARAMULLA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will lead "Mulaqat", an interfaith dialogue initiative here in North Kashmir today.

According to the details available, the event is aimed at promoting peace, harmony and mutual understanding among different sections of society.

LG Sinha will attend the event at Dak Bunglow as the chief guest, with organisers stating that all necessary arrangements, including security preparations, have been finalised for the programme.

Chairman of the organising body, Wajahat Farooq, said the first edition of

"Mulaqat" will be held in Baramulla under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, following which the initiative will be extended to other districts of the Kashmir Valley.

"The programme will bring together religious leaders, civil society representatives, government officials, youth and the general public for meaningful dialogue aimed at strengthening peace, harmony and understanding," Farooq said.

The organisers said the platform will focus on encouraging dialogue among communities and creating greater awareness about the importance of tolerance, coexistence and social unity—(KNO)

Community volunteers plant over 100 deodar saplings in Budgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: A group of local volunteers and community members on Saturday planted over 100 deodar saplings at Rathsun in central Kashmir's Budgam district as part of a community-led initiative to promote afforestation and environmental conservation.

The drive was organised through voluntary contributions under the banner of Green Valley Revival.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the initiative was organised entirely through voluntary efforts, with members contributing their own time, resources, and funds. Working under the banner of Green Valley Revival, the volunteers share a common vision of reviving Kashmir's green cover through sustained afforestation and encouraging greater public participation in environmental conservation.

He said local community members also joined the

drive, making the plantation campaign a collective effort.

The spokesperson said those who contributed to the initiative included Irfan Mir, a tourism teacher at GGHSS Kothi Bagh, Srinagar; Faizan Arif, an independent climate analyst and environmentalist; Dr Rehana Rasheed, Abrar Zahur, Dr Tajamul Rather, Showkat Hamid, Syed Irfan-ul-Haq, Mohd Shafi Rather, Ashiq Hussain, Mushtaq Ahmad Kumar, and several other volunteers who actively participated in the drive.

"The Rathsun plantation campaign marks another step in the volunteers' ongoing environmental efforts. Earlier, around 500 deodar saplings were planted at Dignibal, and the group intends to continue similar community-led plantation drives across different areas of Kashmir to help restore and preserve the Valley's green cover for future generations," he said.

Driver killed after tractor overturns in Budgam

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: A man was killed after a tractor turned turtle in the Batapora area of Wathora in Chadoora tehsil of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Saturday.

Officials said that the tractor overturned while the man was driving it, leaving him critically injured.

He was immediately shifted to Sub-District Hospital Chadoora, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased has been identified as Ishfaq Ahmad, son of Mohammad Rafti, a resident of Hanjigund, Chadoora.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated further proceedings—(KNO)

Min Sharma flags off 'Ride with Pride 3.0' All-Women Motorbike expedition

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma Saturday flagged off the 'Ride with Pride 3.0 - Veergatha: Katha Amar Balidaniyon Ki', an all-women motorbike expedition organised by the Shakti Udgoshh Foundation to commemorate Kargil Vijay Diwas and pay tribute to the nation's brave martyrs.

MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana, who was also present on the occasion, appreciated the initiative for promoting women's participation in adventure sports while fostering patriotism and national unity. The expedition, beginning from Balidan Stambh, Jammu, will traverse through Billawar, Bani and Bhaderwah before returning to Jammu.

During the journey, the participants will interact with the families of martyrs, visit significant locations and spread the message of courage, sacrifice, women empowerment and national integration.

Addressing the participants, Satish Sharma congratulated the organisers and the women riders



for undertaking a unique expedition dedicated to the memory of the country's fallen heroes. He said the initiative is a powerful tribute to the unmatched valour of the armed forces and an inspiring example of how women are breaking barriers by actively participating in challenging adventure activities.

The Minister observed that such programmes instill a sense of patriotism, discipline and social responsibility among the youth while strengthening the bond between citizens and the

families of the nation's martyrs. He said the sacrifices of the brave soldiers can never be forgotten and every citizen has a collective responsibility to preserve their legacy for future generations.

Highlighting the importance of sports and adventure activities, Satish Sharma said the Government of Jammu and Kashmir is committed to create an enabling environment for youth, particularly women, to participate in sports, fitness and leadership-oriented initiatives. He noted that such expeditions

not only promote physical endurance and self-confidence but also inspire young people to contribute positively to society and nation-building.

MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana also commended the efforts of the Shakti Udgoshh Foundation for conceptualising an expedition that blends adventure with a noble social cause. She appreciated the enthusiasm and determination of the women participants and expressed confidence that their journey would inspire many more women to pursue

leadership roles in sports and public life.

The organisers informed that the expedition is designed as a tribute rather than a recreational ride, with the participants observing strict discipline throughout the journey while honouring the memories of India's bravehearts.

Prominent members of the Shakti Udgoshh Foundation, women riders, volunteers and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Later, the Minister attended the music video release ceremony organised by Aakarshit Films Organic at the Writer's Club, Abhinav Theatre, Jammu, where he released the production in presence of artists, filmmakers and members of the creative fraternity.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said music, films and other creative arts play a significant role in preserving the cultural heritage, nurturing young talent and promoting the rich artistic traditions of Jammu and Kashmir. He appreciated the efforts of the filmmakers in providing a platform to emerging artists and encouraged the youth to pursue innovation and excellence in the creative sector.

Speaker visits fire affected families at Pakherpora; asks for immediate relief



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Saturday visited Pakherpora in Budgam district to meet the families affected by the unfortunate fire incident that caused extensive damage to the residential houses and property.

Expressing profound grief over the incident, the Speaker interacted with the affected families, enquired about their well-being and assured them of all possible support during this difficult time.

During his visit, the Speaker directed the district administration to undertake an immediate and comprehensive assessment of the damage to residential houses, household belongings and other

property so that the extent of the losses is accurately determined.

Taking note of the immediate hardships being faced by the affected families, whose houses have been rendered uninhabitable, the Speaker instructed the administration to make prompt arrangements for temporary accommodation by providing tents and ensuring the supply of free ration and other essential relief material without delay.

The Speaker further emphasized that the damage assessment process should be completed on a priority basis to facilitate the timely disbursement of admissible relief and compensation to the affected families. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that no affected household is deprived of

the assistance to which it is entitled.

Reiterating the commitment to the welfare of the affected families, the Speaker directed the District Administration to extend immediate relief and all possible assistance, besides taking every necessary measure for their rehabilitation and restoring normalcy at the earliest.

SDM Chadoora, Executive Engineer R&B Charari-Sharief and BDO Phakerpora accompanied the Speaker during the visit.

The Speaker also visited the family of police personnel who lost his life in an accident at Bailey Bridge Chadoora to express his deepest condolences and sympathy with the bereaved family. He prayed for the strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Sakeena Itoo chairs district level farmers' awareness programme at D K Marg Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Education, Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday presided over a district level farmers' awareness programme organised by the Department of Horticulture, Kulgam, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture" (CSS-MIDH)

comprising stalls established by the Department of Horticulture and various allied departments. The stalls showcased departmental schemes, technological interventions and services available to the farmers while technical experts provided on-the-spot guidance and addressed field-level queries.

The participants were also briefed about the flagship schemes being imple-

ing material and different fruit varieties, highlighting Kulgam's rich horticultural potential.

An innovative Horticulture Help Desk was also established to provide technical guidance, grievance redressal and information on departmental schemes.

On the occasion, publication, "Building a Greener, Prosperous Kulgam," documenting the achievements made under the



at DK Marg in D.H. Pora.

The programme was organised to create awareness among the orchardists and farmers about modern horticultural practices, scientific interventions and various government schemes aimed at enhancing the farmers' productivity and income.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister stressed the need to provide farmers with proper technical guidance and continued institutional support to enhance productivity and improve livelihoods.

The Minister also inspected an exhibition

ment by the Department of Horticulture for the benefit of orchardists.

During the technical session, the experts from SKUAST-Kashmir apprised the participants of the University's research and extension initiatives for the farming community. They delivered an informative lecture on integrated insect pest management, emphasising scientific, eco-friendly and sustainable approaches for effective pest control in fruit crops.

The Department of Horticulture displayed a wide range of locally grown and exotic fruits, quality plant-

Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) during the last three years was released.

The Minister also listened to various public issues and demands raised by the people and assured them of appropriate redress.

Later, the Minister laid foundation stone for the Horticulture Development Office Complex and an additional classroom at Government Middle School Kounsarbal and Babapora.

During her visit, Sakeena Itoo also inaugurated Rapid Sand Filtration (RSF) Plant at Ahmadabad Tranzadood.

District Admin, Police intensify crackdown on drug peddlers in Budgam

Demolish multiple illegal properties in Beerwah, Khansahib Sub-Divisions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Administration Budgam, in coordination with District Police Budgam, has intensified its crackdown against drug peddlers across the district, continuing its sustained campaign to dismantle illegal assets linked to narcotics trafficking.

As part of the ongoing anti-drug drive, the District Administration and District Police on Saturday demolished three illegally constructed properties belonging to alleged drug peddlers in the Magam Sub-Division.

The demolition was carried out in the Chairu and Mazhama areas in the presence of the concerned revenue and police officials. During the operation, three illegal shops, unauthorized fencing, and encroachment over five marlas of land were removed.

The action forms part of the administration's continued efforts to dismantle illegally acquired assets of individuals involved in drug peddling and to curb the menace of narcotics in the district.

Earlier, the District Admin-

istration, along with District Police, had demolished four illegally constructed properties belonging to alleged drug peddlers in the Khansahib Sub-Division.

The demolition drive was conducted in the Parnewa and Arigam areas in the presence of revenue and police officials. During the operation, four shops, a cowshed,



and a tile factory constructed illegally were demolished.

The District Administration reiterated its firm commitment to continue stringent action against drug peddlers and to identify and demolish all illegally acquired properties linked to drug trafficking. It also appealed to the public to support the administration and police by sharing information to help eradicate the drug menace from society.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

When The Heat Becomes Too Much, Children Must Come First

Kashmir is sweating through a summer that feels entirely unfamiliar. Day after day, the relentless heat has made life uncomfortable for everyone, but for school-going children, it has become downright unbearable. As the summer break winds down and schools prepare to reopen, thousands of anxious parents are holding their breath for a government decision. Their worry isn't dramatic, it's entirely justified. Think about the daily grind: many of these kids travel long distances to get to class, crammed into stifling buses or walking under a scorching sun. Once they arrive, they are stuck in classrooms that simply weren't built with ACs or heavy-duty ventilation in mind. Spending hours in that kind of suffocating heat is a recipe for heat exhaustion and illness. Education Minister Sakina Itoo recently noted that the government will review the latest weather forecasts before making a final call. This cautious approach is exactly what's needed right now. When it comes to the health and safety of our kids, rushing into a decision is the last thing we should do. But this situation points to a much bigger, more unsettling reality: Kashmir's climate is shifting. Summers are getting harsher, and our education system is lagging behind. We are trying to run schools designed for a cooler era in weather conditions they were never meant to handle. Of course, education matters, and nobody wants to derail the academic calendar. Every missed day feels like a setback. But learning doesn't happen in a vacuum. A child can't absorb a math lesson or focus on reading when they are dripping with sweat and fighting off a headache. Forcing kids into oppressive classrooms serves no one. If the heatwave doesn't break, the government shouldn't hesitate to extend the vacation. If that's not feasible, it's time to get creative, adjusting school hours to the cooler early mornings, shortening classes, or finding other flexible workarounds. We have to balance education with basic human welfare.

At the end of the day, this isn't just a debate about extra holidays; it's about protecting our children. Lessons can always be caught up on, and books can be read later, but a child's health isn't something we can compromise on. As the government finalizes its plan, the hope is that empathy, common sense, and the well-being of every student in Jammu and Kashmir will come first.

Manasbal Lake

Kashmir's Deepest Lake That Deserves Our Deepest Care



SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT

Manasbal Lake is the deepest natural lake in Kashmir, located in the Safapora area of Ganderbal district, about 30 kilometres from Srinagar. Famous for its crystal-clear water and sprawling lotus blooms, it is a serene, off-the-beaten-path destination ideal for birdwatching and peaceful shikara rides. Unlike many crowded tourist destinations, Manasbal offers visitors an opportunity to experience the quiet side of Kashmir, where nature still dominates the landscape.

Many people visit Dal Lake and Wular Lake, but Manasbal has its own charm. The calm water, fresh air, surrounding mountains, and green fields make it one of the most beautiful freshwater lakes in the Valley. Early mornings and evenings here offer breathtaking views, with reflections of the mountains on the still water creating a picture-perfect landscape.

Surrounded by Four Beautiful Villages
Four villages surround the lake: Jarokabal, Kondabal, Nesbal, and Gratbal. These villages have been inhabited by the lake for generations, and they rely on it for their survival. Whether it is fishing, harvesting Nadru, agricultural activity, or tourism, Manasbal has continued to play a vital role in earning a livelihood.

The residents surrounding the lake have always had a strong connection with nature. Many households have the tradition of fishing and Nadru cultivation handed down from generations. It is not uncommon for one to see fishermen plying their boats on the lake early in the morning before sunrise.

The Beauty of Lotus Blooms
One of the most intriguing features of the Manasbal Lake is the lotus flowers (Nelumbo nucifera). Every year in July and August, thousands of blossoms of the lotus flower at the periphery of this lake, which adds extra beauty to its crystal-clear water. The view of the pink lotus flowers on the surface of this water body is very captivating indeed. The lotus is admired for its beauty that contributes to the lake's ecosystem. The lotus stem, popularly known as Nadru, is harvested by local people and is an important ingredient in traditional Kashmiri cuisine. Nadru dishes are enjoyed by both locals and tourists, making it one of the lake's valuable natural resources.

A Lake with Ancient History
According to the locals, Manasbal is an old lake that has been an eyewitness to the



long centuries of the history of Kashmir. Not far from the northern edge of the lake, there is a ruined fort of the Mughal period known as Jharokha Bagh. In the days of the Mughals, this region used to be a stop for the caravan passing through from Punjab to Kashmir. Today, only the ruins of this fortress are left to remind about the historical significance of the lake.

Wandering along the northern part of the lake, one feels the historical atmosphere connecting modern Kashmir with its past.

The Ancient Temple on the Eastern Shore
The other major tourist destination here is the old Hindu temple located on the eastern shore of the Lake. This temple is thought to have been built somewhere between the 8th and 9th centuries AD under the reign of the Utpala Dynasty (King Avantivarman).

This temple has been made in the old architecture of Kashmir and uses grey stone from the region. It has a special pyramidal roof with some flowers carved onto it. During restoration work at the lake area, the lower portion of the temple was found buried underground.

Today, this ancient temple attracts pilgrims travelling to the Amarnath Cave Shrine and the Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulumulla in Ganderbal district. Apart from its religious importance, it also reflects the rich architectural heritage of Kashmir.

A Lifeline for Local Communities
Manasbal Lake is much more than a beautiful tourist destination. It is an important natural resource for the people living around it. The lake provides drinking water, supports farming, and supplies fish and Nadru to nearby villages.

Fishing has remained one of the oldest occupations around the lake. Local fishermen depend upon the lake throughout the year to earn their livelihood. The fish found in Manasbal are famous for their taste because they grow naturally in the clean freshwater environment.

Similarly, Nadru harvested from the lake is considered among the finest in Kashmir. People visiting the lake often wish to taste freshly prepared Nadru dishes at nearby restaurants and homes. For many families, these natural resources

provide their primary source of income.

Tourism Supports the Local Economy

This is why Manasbal Lake's environment is very significant for all of the Kashmir Valley. Every year, it attracts many tourists who come here to have fun in water sports and boating.

Tourism has created employment opportunities for boatmen, shopkeepers, restaurant owners, guides, transport operators, and many others living around the lake. Small businesses benefit from the increasing number of visitors during the tourist season.

The lake is also popular among photographers because every season presents a different view. Spring brings fresh greenery, summer offers lotus blooms, autumn paints the surrounding trees with golden colours, and winter creates a peaceful atmosphere around the clear waters.

A Paradise for Birds

Manasbal Lake is also a natural habitat for a variety of resident as well as migratory birds. Different kinds of birds visit the lake during different times of the year, thus forming one of the most favoured places for bird watchers as well as photographers. The purity of the water, the presence of vegetation and wetlands around make it suitable for birds as well as aquatic life.

A Visit That Left Me Concerned

In fact, when I recently visited Manasbal Lake, I found it extremely picturesque. The clean water, lotus blossoms, serene environment, and fresh air contributed to making the trip extremely enjoyable.

But there was another scene that I observed.

Despite being so beautiful, this lake is now being polluted to a great extent. I could see plastic bottles, food containers, disposable plates, garbage, and other forms of waste littering the lake. Even sewage and waste from farming activities can be seen flowing into it. However, dustbins are present here; people throw trash here and there without bothering about it.

This irresponsible behaviour slowly damages the lake. Plastic waste pollutes the water, affects aquatic life, and reduces the beauty

that attracts thousands of visitors every year.

When I spoke with some residents, they expressed serious concern. They said that everyone knows the importance of the lake, yet many people fail to protect it. They believe awareness among visitors is equally important because government efforts alone cannot save Manasbal.

Restoration Efforts to Save the Lake

Recognising the ecological importance of the lake, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir established the Wular-Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) in 2007 to undertake restoration and conservation work.

Several important measures have been implemented to restore the lake and improve its environment.

These include:

1. Removal of illegal constructions around the lake.
2. Construction of an 11-kilometre pedestrian walkway along the lake's periphery.
3. Manual de-weeding to remove excessive aquatic vegetation.
4. Dredging to improve water flow and restore depth.
5. Scientific demarcation of the lake boundaries.
6. Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs).
7. Regulation of limestone extraction in the surrounding areas.
8. Afforestation of nearby mountains to reduce soil erosion and protect the lake's catchment.

These initiatives have helped improve the condition of the lake, but continuous efforts are still required to protect this priceless natural asset.

Everyone Has a Responsibility

Conservation of Manasbal Lake does not lie solely in the hands of the government authorities alone. Everyone who visits the place, lives there, studies in schools and colleges, or takes up tourism activities has a part to play in its conservation.

Small things like keeping the place clean by putting waste in dustbins, not littering plastic here and there, if dustbins are already there, and not throwing the food packages in the lake, etc., can be done on an individual basis.

Manasbal is one of the greatest gifts of Mother Nature to Kashmir. The natural beauty, heritage, culture, wildlife and economic importance make it unique. However, we will deny future generations the clear blue waters and blooming lotus flowers of the lake if we do not conserve it today.

Mother Nature has bestowed Kashmir with many lovely lakes. It is our duty to ensure that Manasbal Lake is as pretty tomorrow as it is today.

Author is a writer, social educator and researcher. He can be mailed at shoiabhat2018@gmail.com

Beyond the Goals

Football's Unifying Spirit In The Kashmir

MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Every four years, the FIFA World Cup transforms the world into one giant stadium. National borders blur, languages become secondary, and billions of people unite through a shared passion for the beautiful game. From the bustling streets of Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro to the serene landscapes of Kashmir, the tournament ignites emotions that transcend geography and culture.

While the action unfolds in stadiums thousands of kilometres away, another remarkable story plays out in the Kashmir Valley—a story of enduring passion, youthful aspiration, and football's extraordinary ability to unite communities.

As the 2026 FIFA World Cup captivates global audiences, Kashmir once again finds itself immersed in football fever. Streets adorned with colourful flags, cafés packed with enthusiastic supporters, neighbourhoods echoing with cheers late into the night, and spirited debates over tactics and star players have become familiar scenes across the Valley. During the World Cup, football is more than a sport—it becomes a shared cultural celebration that cuts across age, profession, and social background.

Kashmir's affection for football is neither recent nor accidental. Long before satellite television and digital streaming made international football accessible, the game had already established deep roots in the Valley. Introduced during the early twentieth century, football gradually became one of Kashmir's most cherished sports, finding enthusiastic followers in schools, colleges, local clubs, and neighbourhood grounds. Unlike many parts of India where cricket dominates public imagination, Kashmir has preserved a distinct football culture that continues to thrive across generations.

The FIFA World Cup strengthens this bond every four years. Families gather around television screens, friends organise commu-



nity screenings, and local youth clubs install giant LED displays where hundreds of football enthusiasts watch matches together. Across Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara, Anantnag, Budgam, Pulwama, and other districts, the atmosphere resembles a festival rather than a sporting event. Supporters proudly wave the flags of Argentina, Brazil, Portugal, France, England, Spain, Germany, and other footballing nations, celebrating the global spirit of the game.

These gatherings demonstrate football's remarkable ability to bring people together. Students, teachers, traders, doctors, artisans, and labourers celebrate under one roof, united by admiration for sporting excellence. Friendly rivalries flourish as fans support different teams, yet mutual respect for the game remains the common thread. In an increasingly divided world, football quietly reminds us that competition can coexist with friendship, diversity, and mutual understanding.

For Kashmir's youth, however, the World Cup is far more than entertainment. Every brilliant dribble, defence-splitting pass, spectacular save, and dramatic last-minute goal inspires countless young footballers practising on local grounds. They closely observe the discipline, teamwork, tactical awareness, and resilience displayed by elite players, transforming the tournament into an open classroom where lessons extend well beyond the football field.

The impact is immediately visible after every World Cup. Football academies and playgrounds witness

increased participation as children attempt to emulate their sporting idols. Coaches across the Valley frequently report higher attendance during training sessions, with youngsters eager to improve their technical skills and tactical understanding. Such enthusiasm reflects the tournament's ability to inspire a new generation to pursue sport with greater dedication.

This growing interest also carries immense social significance. At a time when societies face challenges such as substance abuse, sedentary lifestyles, and excessive digital engagement, football offers young people a constructive alternative. Participation in organised sports promotes physical fitness, discipline, teamwork, emotional resilience, leadership, and self-confidence. More importantly, it channels youthful energy into positive pursuits while strengthening social bonds within communities.

Football also contributes to Kashmir's local economy during the World Cup. Sports shops witness increased demand for footballs, jerseys, boots, scarves, and other merchandise. Local vendors selling flags and accessories enjoy brisk business, while cafés, restaurants, and tea stalls remain crowded during late-night matches. Internet service providers, electronics retailers, and hospitality businesses similarly benefit as football enthusiasts seek uninterrupted viewing experiences. Though modest individually, these economic gains collectively demonstrate how a global sporting spectacle can positively influence local livelihoods.

Educational institutions have also recognised football's broader value. Many schools and colleges organise inter-school tournaments, football quizzes, debates, and discussions on sportsmanship and fair play during the World Cup. Such initiatives encourage students to appreciate football not merely as entertainment but as a vehicle for discipline, leadership, teamwork, and international understanding.

Encouragingly, football in Kashmir is becoming increasingly inclusive. More young girls are participating in school competitions, district tournaments, and grassroots programmes. Inspired by the growing global recognition of women's football, many families are encouraging their daughters to pursue the sport. Continued investment in coaching, infrastructure, and equal opportunities can further strengthen this positive trend.

Yet the excitement surrounding the FIFA World Cup also raises an important question: can this seasonal enthusiasm be transformed into sustained football development?

The answer lies in long-term investment. Kashmir possesses immense natural talent, favourable climatic conditions, and an unmatched football culture. However, these strengths must be supported by professionally maintained infrastructure, certified coaching programmes, sports science facilities, structured grassroots leagues, and transparent talent identification systems. Regular competitions at school, district, and state levels are essential for nurturing young players and creating pathways to professional football.

Collaboration among government agencies, football associations, educational institutions, private sponsors, and corporate organisations is equally important. Investments in modern training facilities, youth academies, scholarships, and coaching education can help talented footballers compete successfully at national and international levels.

Kashmir also holds significant

potential as a destination for football tourism. Its pleasant summer climate, breathtaking landscapes, expanding network of synthetic turf grounds, and passionate football culture make it an ideal venue for national camps, youth championships, and pre-season training programmes. Such initiatives would not only strengthen sports development but also create employment opportunities and contribute to sustainable tourism.

Ultimately, the FIFA World Cup reminds us that football is much more than a contest decided by goals. It is a universal language that inspires hope, nurtures discipline, celebrates diversity, and builds lasting friendships. Every World Cup crowns a champion, but it also ignites dreams in countless young boys and girls practising on playgrounds far from the world's biggest stadiums.

When the final whistle eventually blows, the celebrations will fade and another chapter in football history will be written. Yet in Kashmir, the legacy of the tournament will endure. The cheers from neighbourhood grounds, the dreams kindled in young hearts, and the renewed enthusiasm for the beautiful game will continue long after the trophy has been lifted.

The true success of every FIFA World Cup lies not only in producing world champions but also in inspiring future generations. In the Kashmir Valley, football is far more than a game—it is a source of identity, aspiration, community, and hope. If nurtured with sustained investment, visionary planning, and collective commitment, the Valley's enduring love for football can become a powerful catalyst for youth empowerment, social harmony, and sporting excellence, ensuring that one day Kashmir is recognised not only for its passionate fans but also for producing footballers capable of shining on the world's biggest stage.

(The author is a senior analyst and environmentalist. Feedback can be sent to m.hanief@gmail.com. Twitter/X: @haniefmha)

Unfulfilled Duty: Road Safety As A Fundamental Right

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

India is among the world's most affected countries by road accidents. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, approximately 177,000 people died in road accidents in 2024. This number is no less than that of any natural disaster or epidemic. Every day, hundreds of families lose a loved one, thousands are permanently disabled, and the country suffers a loss of productive human resources and billions of rupees in economic losses. Therefore, limiting road accidents solely to driver negligence, speeding, or traffic violations is tantamount to a complete failure of public health, road infrastructure, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and administrative coordination.

The issue of road safety is directly linked to citizens' right to life, guaranteed by Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. If a citizen cannot even walk safely on the road, it not only reflects their individual negligence but also questions the state's responsibility and the effectiveness of governance. The Supreme Court has also directed governments in numerous cases to ensure safe road infrastructure, scientific road construction, and effective monitoring.

Poor road engineering is a major cause of most accidents in India. Black spots, inadequate signage, broken roads, unscientific curves, lack of lighting, and a lack of safe pedestrian access on many national and state highways contribute to accidents. Encroachment on sidewalks, illegal parking, and unplanned traffic management in cities also increase the risk of accidents. Neglecting quality and safety standards during road construction ultimately costs citizens their lives.

Another important reason is the lack of effective enforcement of laws. Despite the Motor Vehicles Act's stringent penalties, problems such as speeding, drunk driving, not using helmets and seat belts, and overloading persist. In many places, enforcement of traffic rules is limited only by the presence of police. If monitor-



ing systems are technology-based and transparent, compliance with rules may increase automatically.

Road accidents are also considered a public health crisis because the lack of timely medical care after an accident results in a large number of deaths. Many lives can be saved if victims receive proper medical attention during the Golden Hour, but in rural and remote areas, the situation becomes critical due to a lack of ambulance services, a lack of trauma centers, and delays in reaching hospitals. Lack of coordination between the police and health departments often impacts relief efforts.

Even at the administrative level, road safety is a subject of fragmented responsibility among multiple departments. Road construction is handled by one department, traffic control by the police, health services are under another department, and local bodies have their own roles. This fragmented system prevents the development of a coordinated strategy for accident prevention. Consequently, accountability remains unclear.

To ensure road safety, it is essential to ensure scientific and safe road engineering. Safety audits should be

mandatory for every road project, and accident-prone areas should be identified and remediated promptly. The needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and the disabled should also be integral to road design.

Technology-based monitoring systems should be expanded to ensure traffic law enforcement. Automated speed cameras, CCTV networks, artificial intelligence-based traffic management, and e-challan systems will reduce corruption and promote compliance. Repeat offenders need to be suspended for licenses and strict penalties imposed.

Strengthening emergency medical services is also crucial. Modern trauma centers should be established at regular intervals along national and state highways, ambulance services should be expanded, and all hospitals should be mandated to provide immediate treatment to accident victims. Effective implementation of "Good Samaritan" guidelines is also essential, so that citizens who assist an injured person are not deterred by fear of legal consequences.

Road safety is not just a matter of law, but also a question of social behavior. Road safety education

should be included in the curriculum, from schools to universities. A culture of responsible driving should be developed among citizens through public awareness campaigns. Active participation of parents, teachers, the media, and civil society can play a vital role in this direction.

Institutional reforms are also essential for long-term solutions. A coordinated road safety framework should be developed between the central and state governments, with clear policymaking, funding, monitoring, and accountability. District-level road safety committees should be given greater authority and resources. Accident data from the police, transport, and health departments should be integrated to create a reliable national database, enabling evidence-based policymaking.

If India is to progress towards becoming a developed nation, safe roads are a primary prerequisite. Road accidents are not a matter of fate or coincidence, but in most cases, are preventable. The need is to view them not as mere individual errors, but as a challenge to public health and good governance. Only through safe road infrastructure, strict and transparent

If a citizen cannot even walk safely on the road, it not only reflects their individual negligence but also questions the state's responsibility and the effectiveness of governance. The Supreme Court has also directed governments in numerous cases to ensure safe road infrastructure, scientific road construction, and effective monitoring.

law enforcement, modern emergency health services, public awareness, and effective administrative coordination can accidents be significantly reduced. Until the government makes road safety a core development agenda, millions of families will continue to suffer and the country will suffer irreparable losses every year. Safe roads are not just a convenience, but a constitutional and human right of every citizen.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Shamilat Land Under Siege

Collective Responsibility Is The Only Way To End Encroachment

MOHD AMIN MIR

Land is more than a physical asset; it is a shared heritage, an economic resource, and a public trust. Among the most important categories of public land in Jammu and Kashmir is Shamilat land. Under Section 4, such land is regarded as government land and is intended to serve the collective interests of the community. Yet, across many villages and urban fringes, Shamilat land continues to face widespread encroachment, depriving the public of valuable common resources and creating serious administrative, environmental, and legal challenges.

The eviction of encroachments from Shamilat land is often viewed as the sole responsibility of the Revenue Department. Such a perception is incomplete and counterproductive. The protection, restoration, and management of government land require a coordinated effort involving the Revenue Department, the Rural Development Department, and the Urban Local Bodies Department. Unless these line departments work in close collaboration, the objective of safeguarding public land will remain elusive.

Historically, Shamilat land has been reserved for common community purposes. It has served as grazing land, village pathways, playgrounds, ponds, cremation and burial grounds, and spaces for public infrastructure. In today's context, these lands are even more valuable as villages and towns struggle with shrinking open spaces, rapid urbanization, and increasing pressure on land resources. Shamilat land also plays a vital environmental role. Open community land contributes to groundwater recharge, biodiversity conservation, flood mitigation, and climate resilience. Protecting such land is therefore not merely a legal obligation but an environmental necessity.

Encroachments occur in different forms. Some involve unauthorized residential structures, while others include commercial establishments, boundary wall extensions, illegal cultivation, or gradual occupation over many years. In many cases, encroachments begin on a small scale but expand over time due to administrative inaction.



Several factors contribute to this problem:

- Weak monitoring and periodic inspections.
- Poor coordination among government departments.
- Delayed eviction proceedings.
- Outdated or inaccurate land records.
- Political interference and local pressures.
- Lack of public awareness regarding the legal status of Shamilat land.

The consequences extend far beyond the loss of government property. Encroachments reduce land available for community development, hinder infrastructure projects, generate avoidable litigation, and encourage further illegal occupation. The Revenue Department occupies the central position in protecting government land. Its responsibilities include maintaining land records, identifying encroachments, conducting demarcation, initiating eviction proceedings, and restoring possession to the government.

Modern technology has significantly strengthened these functions. Digital land records, GIS mapping, satellite imagery, and drone sur-

veys enable authorities to identify encroachments with greater accuracy and transparency. However, technology alone cannot solve the problem unless administrative action follows promptly. Regular field inspections by revenue officials, periodic verification of government land, and timely updating of records are essential to prevent fresh encroachments.

The Rural Development Department has an equally significant role because most Shamilat land lies within rural areas. Village Panchayats are custodians of community assets and are often the first institutions to notice illegal occupation.

Their responsibilities include:

- Reporting encroachments at an early stage.
- Preventing unauthorized construction on community land.
- Restoring reclaimed land for public purposes.
- Developing reclaimed land into parks, playgrounds, ponds, community centres, or other public facilities.
- Mobilizing community participation in protecting common property resources.

The success of any anti-encroachment campaign depends substantially

upon the vigilance and cooperation of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Rapid urban expansion has increased pressure on public land situated around municipalities and municipal corporations. Urban Local Bodies have a crucial responsibility to prevent unauthorized occupation within their jurisdiction.

Municipal authorities should:

- Ensure that building permissions do not violate government land boundaries.
- Coordinate with revenue authorities before approving development plans.
- Remove illegal structures erected on public land.
- Protect parks, roads, drainage channels, and other civic assets from encroachment.
- Urban planning cannot succeed if public land continues to disappear through unauthorized occupation.

One of the biggest weaknesses in land governance is the compartmentalized functioning of departments. Revenue officials may identify encroachments, but effective eviction often requires logistical support from police, municipal agencies, and rural development authorities.

No government machinery can protect every parcel of public land without public cooperation. Local communities must recognize that encroachment on Shamilat land is not a victimless act. Every illegal occupation reduces space meant for future generations.

Public awareness campaigns should educate citizens about the legal status of Shamilat land, environmental benefits of preserving common land, penalties for illegal occupation, and mechanisms for reporting encroachments. Civil society organizations, educational institutions, and Panchayats can play a constructive role in promoting responsible land stewardship.

While firm action against encroachment is necessary, enforcement must always respect the rule of law. Every eviction process should be transparent, legally compliant, and humane. Government land belongs neither to a department nor to any individual. It belongs to the people. Every acre lost to encroachment represents a loss of public resources, development opportunities, and environmental security.

The Revenue Department cannot fight this battle alone. The Rural Development Department, Urban Local Bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions, district administrations, law enforcement agencies, and citizens all have indispensable roles to play. Collective responsibility is not merely an administrative slogan; it is the foundation of effective land governance.

A coordinated, technology-driven, transparent, and community-oriented approach can reclaim public land, restore public confidence, and preserve these precious common assets for future generations.

The protection of Shamilat land is ultimately a test of governance. Success will depend not on isolated eviction drives but on sustained cooperation, institutional accountability, and an unwavering commitment to the public interest. Encroachment on Shamilat land is not merely a revenue issue but a governance challenge that demands coordinated action by the Revenue Department, Rural Development Department, Urban Local Bodies, and the community to protect public resources for future generations.

The author can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

Amarnath Yatra To

permitted to move from Jammu on July 19, 2026 towards kashmir in view of inclement weather advisory. Pilgrims are advised to remain at their designated accommodation centres in Jammu , Udhampur Ramban and await further instructions from the authorities, said Shri Ramesh Kumar Divisional Commissioner Jammu.

Books Inspire

dialogue and empower youth. He said in past editions, workshops, panel discussions and literary conversations have given new energy to Jammu Kashmir’s rich literary tradition.

“During this festival we have also witnessed an inspiring effort to revive our cultural heritage’s priceless treasure, the Sharada script. We have seen the spirit of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” take shape through initiatives such as Tamil–Kashmiri dialogues, and today this festival has become a strong bridge linking regions, languages and generations,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised that the success of a book festival should not be measured by sales figures.

“I believe the true success of any book festival lies in the ideas and conversations it generates. If a discussion that begins at this festival reaches a college or university, then our goal is successful. If a dialogue held here and the ideas that emerged during the festival become the basis for future collaborations, then I will consider the festival and its objectives successful. If a young person finds a book at this festival that changes the course of their life, that will be the greatest achievement of the Chinar Book Festival,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged youth to read at least one book beyond their textbooks every month, and he asked every young writer to resolve to write at least one page daily.

“Through the Chinar Book Festival we are ensuring that our children have roots to their identity as well as wings for future flight. I want to see this as a platform where local libraries and small-town book clubs also connect with the spirit of this festival, so that this celebration of knowledge reaches the public throughout the year and fosters exchanges among literary, musical and visual art forms, where words become voice, poetry takes color and stories become our shared experiences,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor visited various book stalls and interacted with the exhibitors. He released several publications in different languages. He also asked organisers to plan a similar book festival in Jammu

Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, National Book Trust; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School and Higher Education; Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust; Dr Amit Wanchoo, Chief Convener, Chinar Book Festival; Dr. Md. Shams Equbal, Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language; eminent literary personalities, book lovers, youth and students in large number were present.

Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir; Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Dr. GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; heads of various educational institutions and senior officials also attended the Chinar Book Festival.

Srinagar Records

Baramulla 34.5 degrees Celsius each, Shopian 34.4 degrees Celsius, Pulwama 33.4 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 33.1 degrees Celsius, Bandipora 32.7 degrees Celsius, Qazigund 32.6 degrees Celsius, while the famous hill resort of Gulmarg recorded 25.6 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded 35 degrees Celsius, Kathua 34.8 degrees Celsius, Poonch 33.9 degrees Celsius, Udhampur 31.8 degrees Celsius, Rajouri 31.1 degrees Celsius and Katra 31 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department said the prevailing hot and dry weather is likely to give way to widespread rain and thundershowers from July 19 to July 23.

According to the department, generally cloudy skies with intermittent spells of rain and thunderstorms are expected across the Union Territory during the period. A few places may witness intense showers, heavy rainfall and isolated torrential downpours,

particularly during the late afternoon, evening and overnight hours.

The MeT office has issued a warning for several districts, saying the risk of weather-related hazards will increase during the forecast period. Reasi and Udhampur districts are expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall, with isolated locations likely to experience extremely heavy rain.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall has also been forecast for parts of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Rajouri, Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts.

Officials cautioned that the expected rainfall could trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides, a sharp rise in water levels of rivers and streams, waterlogging in low-lying areas and localized flooding, particularly during periods of intense precipitation.

The weather is expected to improve from July 24, although a few places may continue to receive brief spells of rain or thundershowers till July 27.

The department has advised people to avoid unnecessary travel to vulnerable areas during heavy rain, follow official weather advisories and remain alert to changing conditions. Farmers have also been asked to suspend agricultural operations during the forecast period to minimize losses—(KNO)

Omar Seeking Statehood

generations, but the present government has failed to fulfil the promises it made before the 2024 Assembly elections,” he said.

Sharma said people continued to struggle for basic amenities, including electricity, drinking water, roads, schools and hospitals, while the government had become invisible on the ground.

“The promises made before the elections have been forgotten. After failing on every front, the Abdullah family has once again chosen to mislead the people by shifting the debate to statehood,” he said.

On the security situation, Sharma defended the Centre’s decision to retain control over law and order, saying the present arrangement had ensured peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said there had been no civilian killings in the Union Territory during the past one-and-a-half to two years and that not a single local youth had joined terrorist ranks during the same period.

Sharma said that while cross-border infiltration and terrorism continued, Pakistan is attempting to push infiltrators into Jammu and Kashmir, while the local ecosystem that earlier supported terrorism stands dismantled.

He said that unlike previous years, when hundreds of local youths allegedly joined terrorist ranks annually, there had been no local recruitment in the recent past, which, reflected a significant decline in terrorism.

Sharma also said that if the Abdullah government had been given control over the police and security apparatus, the security situation could have deteriorated. “Law and order should remain with the Centre until terrorism is completely eradicated and the security situation stabilises further,” he said.

The LoP said the BJP remains committed to restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir but asserted that the decision would be taken at an appropriate time, keeping in view national interest and the prevailing security situation—(KNO)

CS Assesses The 'Data

that effective governance in the digital era rests on the availability of authentic, standardized and secure data.

He observed that while Government departments generate large volumes of valuable data, its true potential can only be realised when such information is managed under a common governance framework and shared securely across departments for improving public service delivery.

The Chief Secretary further stressed that the Government’s endeavour is to ensure that citizens are not required to submit the same information repeatedly for availing benefits under different schemes.

He reiterated that the objective is to build an integrated digital governance ecosystem where authenticated data, once available with the Government, can be securely utilised by authorized departments for delivery of eligible services, while fully safeguarding privacy, confidentiality and data security, he added.

The Chief Secretary directed all Administrative Departments to extend full cooperation in implementation of the strategy and ensure standardization of departmental datasets in accordance with the prescribed data governance framework.

Atal Dulloo also called for adoption of uniform metadata standards, robust quality assurance mechanisms and secure interoperability protocols to facilitate seamless exchange of information across departments.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was made by the Planning Department on the five strategic pillars of the proposed Data Management Strategy comprising Data Governance & Standards, Base Registries & Unique Identifiers, Interoperability & Harmonization, Data Security & Privacy and Institutional Capacity & Coordination.

The strategy aims to establish a "Single Source of Truth" by preserving original departmental datasets while enabling secure, API-based exchange of information among authorized users, thereby supporting evidence-based governance, efficient planning and better monitoring of developmental programmes.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the proposed initiative involving integration of the Civil Registration System (CRS) with J&K Bank for automatic initiation of insurance claims under PMJJBY and PMSBY immediately after issuance of a death certificate. Once operational, the mechanism will enable eligible claim settlements without requiring bereaved families to submit separate applications, thereby reducing procedural delays and ensuring timely financial assistance.

The meeting also discussed integration of the Civil Registration System with the Health, Social Welfare and School Education Departments to enable automatic activation of welfare interventions from birth onwards.

Under this mechanism, registration of every birth would trigger enrolment for nutrition support, immunization and other eligible welfare schemes, while subsequent integration with APAAR ID would facilitate seamless linkage with school admissions, scholarships and other educational entitlements.

The Chief Secretary further reviewed the proposal for creation of an integrated institutional database of schools, hospitals, Anganwadi centres and other public institutions through adoption of common geographical identifiers to facilitate better planning, infrastructure mapping and resource allocation.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to prepare a time-bound implementation roadmap with clearly defined milestones for phased rollout of the strategy and emphasized strict adherence to data privacy, cyber security and governance standards at every stage.

He expressed confidence that the proposed initiative would mark a significant step towards building a modern, integrated and citizen-centric governance ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the initiative would strengthen evidence-based planning, improve inter-departmental coordination and ensure seamless delivery of Government services and welfare benefits by enabling secure and efficient sharing of authenticated data across departments.

Zero Tolerance Against

has taken towards strengthening India in the defence sector is to promote self-reliance in the defence industrial sector.

"Our vision for empowering India in the defence sector is the one that trusts India's capabilities. But the perspective of previous governments was, somehow, doubtful about India's potential and capability. They perhaps did not have as much faith in India's capabilities as our government does," he said.

"Operation Sindoor was, in itself, a splendid example of technological warfare. In this operation, along with advanced missile systems like Akashteer, Akash missile system, and BrahMos, numerous latest equipment were also utilised."

Singh said it proved that India's armed forces not only understand change but are also employing it with confidence.

"All of this is becoming possible because a new foundation has been laid over the past 12 years," he said.

In the year 2013-14, India's defence exports stood at just Rs 686 crore, but now it surged to over 38,000 crore in 2025-26, he said.

NC Expels Senior

Conference and the Indian National Congress (INC).Handicrafts from Kashmir

According to reports, the dispute intensified after Akhoon allegedly refused to honour the proposed rotational power-sharing agreement with the Congress after the LAHDC Kargil elections.

Kashmir’s Premium Cherries,

the UAE during the previous season, demonstrating the steadily rising global demand for fruits from the Valley.

The fruits were cultivated using scientific orchard management practices and harvested at optimum maturity to preserve their exceptional taste, colour, firmness and shelf life.

Before export, the consignment underwent rigorous grading, sorting, packaging and cold-chain handling in compliance with international food safety and phytosanitary standards.

Abhishek Dev, Chairman, APEDA, said the export reflects APEDA's continued commitment to creating sustainable global market opportunities for Indian farmers.

"APEDA is committed to enhancing India's global agricultural presence by opening new markets and strengthening existing ones. Jammu & Kashmir is rapidly emerging as a hub for premium temperate horticultural produce, and exports such as these demonstrate the immense potential of the region," he said.

Dev added, "Our focus is to connect farmers with premium international markets through better quality, modern infrastructure, robust cold-chain systems and strategic market promotion. We remain committed to ensuring that more products from the Himalayan region find a place on global retail shelves."

Sehreena Maqbool, Regional Head, APEDA Jammu & Kashmir, described the shipment as another important step in transforming the Union Territory into a globally recognised source of premium fresh fruits.

"This achievement is the result of the collective efforts of growers, exporters, government agencies and APEDA. Building on the successful shipments to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the Singapore market further validates the superior quality of Kashmir's cherries and plums," Sehreena said. "Our endeavour is to create sustainable export opportunities that deliver better price realisation to farmers while encouraging export-oriented production, modern post-harvest management and adherence to international quality standards."

The Regional Head said that APEDA will continue to work closely with stakeholders to strengthen export infrastructure, facilitate market access, build capacity among growers and promote Jammu & Kashmir's premium horticultural produce in new global destinations.

The successful export is expected to encourage more orchardists to adopt international quality standards and export-oriented cultivation practices, enabling them to access premium markets and improve farm incomes.

With sustained support in quality enhancement, logistics, cold-chain development and international market promotion, Jammu & Kashmir is steadily positioning itself as one of India's leading exporters of premium temperate fruits to Southeast Asia, the Gulf and European markets—(KNO)

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DC Anantnag reviews disaster preparedness, directs high state of operational readiness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: In view of the adverse weather forecast issued by the Meteorological Department for next few days, Deputy Commissioner (Chairman District Disaster Management Authority) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Saturday chaired a high-level emergency review meeting at Dak Bangalow, Khanabal.

The meeting was convened to assess departmental readiness, finalize precautionary measures, and establish a robust multi-sectoral response plan to mitigate risks arising from erratic weather patterns that may affect the district during the coming days.

CEO PDA, SDMs, SP, SEs of Jal Shakti, PDD and PWD; CPO, CMO, CEO, Tehsildar Anantnag, Exens of PWD, Flood Control and PHE; DD F&ES, DySP SDRF, ARTO, DYSSO, CEO MCA, EOs of MCs, Representatives of BSNL, Jio and Airtel and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

At the outset, a detailed presentation of the District Disaster Management Plan was run to apprise the participants about historical occurrences of floods, cloudbursts, flash floods and other disaster like incidents. A thorough discussion on the vulnerable areas and critical locations was held on the occasion.

With the MeT Depart-



ment warning of potential flash floods, landslides, and rise in river water levels which may lead to inundation and water logging in vulnerable areas, the Deputy Commissioner directed all line departments to transition into a state of high alert and operational readiness to ensure public safety and minimal disruption to essential services.

The extensive review focused on deploying immediate preventive strategies, mapping and activation of resources like boats, ropes, evacuation centres, dewatering pumps and special vehicles, mobilisation of adequate manpower including volunteers and machinery, securing critical infra-

structure, and ensuring minimal communication lag during the upcoming inclement weather cycle.

The Police and SDRF were directed to pre-position rescue teams and quick-response forces near historically vulnerable zones and low-lying areas prone to sudden water logging.

Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) were instructed to immediately activate the field teams and establish robust contact networks with field level functionaries especially Patwaris, Police Officials, Numberdars and Chowkidars.

Special emphasis was laid on keeping back up plans ready to cater to any extra ordinary situation like internet and telecom breakdowns. SDMs were

further asked to continuously monitor the developments in their jurisdictions and manage local evacuations, wherever necessary.

Hydraulic/Jal Shakti and Flood Control Departments were asked to clear drainage choke points, arrange adequate number of sand bags and station heavy machinery including dewatering pumps, in consultation with F&ES Department, at critical locations especially in main town and high risk areas. Directives were passed to the R&B Department to provide sand bags and other necessary material for preventing breaches at vulnerable points.

The DC directed the CMO to put in place a well planned strategy for providing regular and emergency medical care, if needed, in all blocks during these days. He asked the CEO to identify educational institutions located in submergence prone areas and also keep evacuation centres fully functional.

The telecom service providers were directed to ensure proper connectivity and minimise disruptions for effective communication and prompt mitigation efforts in these situations.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner called for proper functioning of District and Sub-division Level Control Rooms for real time coordination and information dissemination.

DC Ganderbal reviews implementation of HADP, JKCIP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) to review the implementation and progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) in the district.

During the meeting, the DC conducted a comprehensive department-wise review of progress under HADP and JKCIP schemes. He reviewed the performance of all Agriculture and Allied Departments and directed the concerned departments to expedite the establishment of units against the allotted targets for the year 2026-27.

He further instructed the departments to ensure that all completed units are promptly updated and marked as established on the JKCIP Portal.

The meeting also reviewed the department-wise progress of Output Tracking of established units under JKCIP. Stressing the importance of timely monitoring and evaluation, the DC directed



the Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Horticulture Planning & Marketing (HP&M) to complete the tracking of all remaining units on priority.

Reviewing the progress under the Daksh Kisan Portal, the DC directed all departments to intensify farmer registration, ensure timely enrolment of eligible beneficiaries and facilitate the completion of online training courses by registered farmers to strengthen capacity building and improve outreach under the programme.

The DC further took stock of the progress achieved under Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) registrations, including L2 and L3 targets, and instructed all departments to accelerate registrations

and improve overall performance to achieve the assigned targets within the stipulated timeframe.

He also reviewed the status of credit application cases under HADP and JKCIP and directed all concerned banks to expedite the disposal of pending cases on priority so that the benefits reach eligible applicants without delay. Similarly, the progress under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was reviewed, and banks were instructed to clear all pending KCC applications at the earliest.

During the meeting, the District Level Committee (DLC) approved 162 cases under HADP and JKCIP.

The DC emphasized close coordination among all stakeholder departments and financial insti-

tutions for effective implementation of HADP and JKCIP. He stressed the need for continuous monitoring, timely execution of targets and prompt disposal of pending cases to ensure that the benefits of these flagship programmes reach eligible farmers and allied sector beneficiaries in a transparent and time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, Cluster Head J&K Bank, Lead District Manager, Nodal Officer HADP/JKCIP, representatives of the concerned banks and officers of various Agriculture and Allied Departments.

DC Budgam stresses on adequate, uninterrupted portable water supply to people

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan Saturday asserted to ensure adequate portable water supply to the people across the District.

He said this while chairing a comprehensive review meeting to assess the distribution and rationalisation of potable water supply in Budgam.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner gave strict instructions for prompt redressal of portable water related issues, reported anyone in the district. He directed concerned to ensure adequate water supply in both rural and urban areas of the District.

Reviewing the existing water supply network, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for equitable and adequate distribution of drinking water to ensure uninterrupted supply to all habitations, particularly during the ongoing summer season.

Expressing concern over the issue of illegal tapping of water supply lines, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to launch a comprehensive drive to identify and disconnect all unauthorized connections. He underscored that such illegal practices not only lead to significant water losses but also adversely affect the availability of potable water to genuine consumers.

The DC also instructed the officers to take strict measures to curb the misuse of treated drinking water for agricultural and other non-domestic purposes. He emphasized that potable water is a precious public resource and must be utilized judiciously for its intended purpose.

Officials were directed to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and initiate appropriate action against violators.

Stressing on quality work execution and timely completion, the chair also reviewed the progress of various works being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and AMRUT 2.0 in the district.

The meeting, among others was also attended by the Joint Director Planning Budgam, SE Hydraulics Circle Budgam, Exen PHE and other concerned officials.

DDC B'pora reviews progress of District Capex, DAJGUA Works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Saturday chaired a review meeting at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora to assess the progress of works under District Capex, Revenue Capex, SASCI and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The meeting reviewed the status of ongoing and new works, besides taking stock of administrative approvals accorded, pending estimates, tendering, allotment of works, approved outlay, funds released and expenditure incurred across various sectors.

At the outset, Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool Lone, presented a detailed overview of the ongoing works and projects and briefed the chair on the expenditure performance of the executing agencies.

The meeting reviewed the progress of works in sectors including Minor Irrigation, Roads & Buildings (R&B), Elementary Education, Sec-

ondary Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, Urban Development, Public Health Engineering (PHE), NFB, United Grants, DDC Grants, BDC Grants, PRI Grants, Aspirational Block Development Scheme (ABDS), Aspirational Panchayat Development Scheme (APDS) and Samridh Seema Yojana (SSY). The status of works under Revenue Capex, SASCI and DAJGUA was also reviewed.

During the meeting, the DDC directed all concerned officers to closely monitor and follow up the works being executed by agencies including R&B, Housing Board and the Rural Development Department (RDD) to ensure timely execution and optimum utilization of funds.

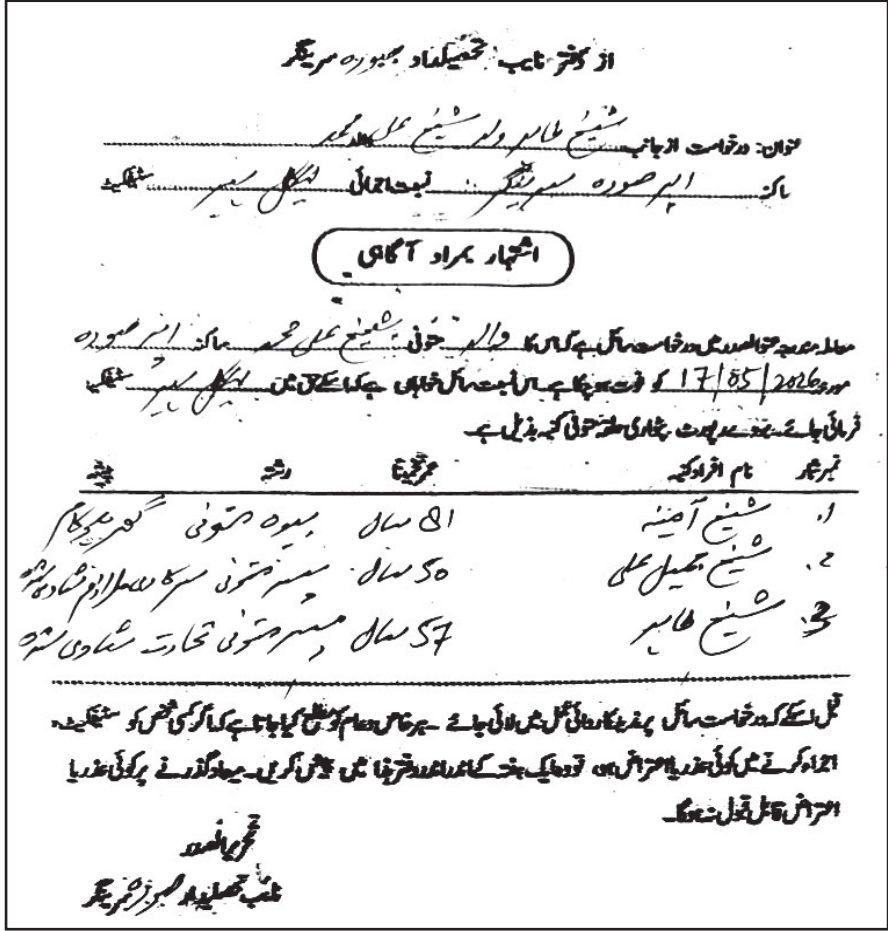
Emphasising accountability, the DDC directed that the intending departments shall be held responsible for any lapse leading to surrender of earmarked funds or low expenditure, and such responsibility should not be shifted solely to the executing agencies.

The DDC appreciated the efforts of the technical team of the Rural Development

Department for expediting the preparation of estimates under PRI Grants and BDC Grants, and urged them to maintain the same pace to facilitate timely execution of works. She further directed all departments to ensure timely submission of bills after completion of the prescribed works so that payments are processed without delay.

The DDC also directed the District Treasury Officer, to furnish department-wise details of bills submitted to the Treasury for payment to facilitate close monitoring of expenditure under various schemes.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Programme Officer ICDS, Superintending Engineer PHE Hydraulic Circle, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Block Development Officers, Executive Engineers, District Treasury Officer, District Youth Services & Sports Officer, besides other concerned officers.



Water safety in limbo as two departments issue opposing advisories in B'la villages

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: Thousands of residents across the Kreeri and Wagoora blocks find themselves trapped between contradictory official reports this week, as two key government departments have issued opposing assessments regarding the safety of the local drinking water supply.

The confusion erupted following an assessment conducted by the District Public Health Laboratory under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme. Between July 13 and July 15, officials collected tap water samples from multiple locations,

including Vizer, Kawa Chek, Dolipora, Shakwara, and the Sub-District Hospital in Kreeri. The laboratory findings revealed alarmingly high levels of Coliform bacteria contamination across all tested sites.

Consequently, the Health Department classified the water supply as unsatisfactory, declared it unfit for human consumption, and issued an urgent advisory urging citizens to boil their water for at least twenty minutes before use.

However, the public safety message was dramatically complicated less than seventy-two hours later. The Jal

Shakti Divisional Laboratory conducted a subsequent analysis of the same sectors, including consumer households and the primary Salamdedar Filtration Plant. In stark contrast, the engineering wing's report indicated that biological contamination was entirely absent, with residual chlorine levels within the standard disinfecting range, officially certifying the water as safe for drinking.

"This is deeply unsettling," said Mohammad Ashraf, a local resident. "One government department tells us our water will make us sick, and another says it is perfectly safe. Who are we supposed to believe?"

Locals have expressed outrage over the confusion, calling for immediate intervention from the higher district administration.

"Rather than publishing separate, defensive reports, the administration must commission a joint, independent inspection of the entire distribution pipeline originating from the Salamdedar facility," locals said.

The district administration has yet to issue an official response addressing the contradictory reports or outlining a timeline for the proposed joint inspection.

GOVT. OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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Sub:- Selection of candidates on the post of Veterinary Pharmacist in Animal Husbandry Deptt. Kashmir - appointment thereof.

Ref:- i) Waiting list issued by JK SSB received through Adm Deptt.vide letter No. ASHF-AHONGAZ /38/2024 (7623966) dated:08.07.2025.

ii) Adm Deptt's letter No. ASHF-AHONGAZ/38/2024(7623966) dated 23.01.2026.

ORDER NO. 418 -DAHK OF 2026

DATED: 15/07/2026

Consequent upon issuance of waiting list by the J&K Service Selection Board and subsequent instructions issued by Administrative Department vide aforesaid reference and in continuation to this office order No.80 DAHK of 2026 dt: 03.02.2026, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Sajad Ahmed Khan S/o Yar Mohd Khan R/o 266 Plera Mandi Poonch-185102 (waiting candidate) as Veterinary Pharmacist in whose favour satisfactory Character & Antecedents verification report from Special DG CID J&K via EVS portal has been received vide Form No.134192 dt:03.07.2026, in the Pay Level-4 (25500-81100) on temporary regular basis in Cadre Anantnag. The appointee shall report to CAHO Anantnag within a period of 21 days, where he shall be allowed to join on production of following documents in original:

1. Date of Birth certificate.

2. Academic qualification certificates

3. Domicile Certificate.

4. Physical Fitness Certificate.

5. Valid relevant category certificate, if any.

6. That if the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the domicile District, he/she shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He/she shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his/her salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.

Further, the appointment shall be:-

i) on probation for a period of two years during which they have to qualify the mandatory one-year Veterinary pharmacist Training Course at departmental Paravet Training Institute. However orders for the same shall be issued separately.

ii) governed by "New pension scheme" (NPS) as per SRO-400 of 2009 dt:-24-12-2009.

iii) verification of all the required documents from concerned quarters.

iv) outcome of any writ petition (s) if any pending before any court of law.

v) the appointee shall tender an affidavit duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate to the effect that he/she will serve the Department at least for 03 years failing which the appointee shall refund the salary drawn by him/her.

vi) salary shall be drawn & disbursed only after satisfactory report of their qualification & allied documents and if at any stage, documents/ information submitted proved to be fake / fabricated, their appointment shall be cancelled forthwith, for which they shall also tender an affidavit.

vii) Appointment shall have notional effect from 03.02.2026 with prospective monetary benefit, as provided under Govt. Order No:- 528-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated 21-06-2021

viii) If failed to join within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of the appointment order, the appointee shall forego his right to appointment which shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without further notice.

No.58/DAHK-EstbOEMW/37/2024-2-1/749991/2026,

Dated:- 15.07.2026

DIPK-3450-26

DT: 18/07/2026

(Dr. Rakesh Koul)

Director

Animal Husbandry Deptt.

Kashmir

