

Good Morning

Kashmir

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Cyber Crime Cases Cross 1 Lakh In 2024; J&K Records 114: MHA



RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Cyber crime cases across the country crossed the one-lakh mark in 2024, with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) registering 1,01,928 cases, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Replying to an unstarred question in Parliament, the Ministry said Jammu and Kashmir recorded 114 cyber crime cases in 2024, compared to 185 in 2023, while Ladakh reported one case during the year.

According to the NCRB figures, accessed, J&K registered 120 cases in 2020, 154 in 2021, 173 in 2022, 185 in 2023 and 114 in 2024, whereas Ladakh reported one, five, three, one and one case respectively during the same period.

The Ministry informed Parliament that the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has launched

the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS). Till June 30, 2026, the system has helped save more than 11,158 crore in over 32.80 lakh complaints. From 2021 to 2025, more than 65.89 lakh financial fraud complaints involving over 55,050 crore were reported, while more than 8,189 crore was marked under lien and over 1.95 lakh FIRs were registered.

The Centre said it has strengthened cyber crime investigation through initiatives including the Samanvaya platform, Sahyog portal, Joint Cyber Coordination Teams, CyTrain training portal, Cyber Commando programme, National-Digital Investigation Support Centres and financial assistance of 132.93 crore to States and Union Territories for cyber forensic infrastructure and capacity building—(KNO)

J&K Administration Will Eradicate Drug Cartels, Narco-Terror Networks: LG Sinha

Attends Commemorative Event Following Successful Completion Of 100 Days Of 'Drug-Free J&K Campaign'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said the administration is determined to neutralise drug cartels and narco-terror networks that target the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing an event organised by the Department of Social Welfare, commemorating the successful completion of 100 days of 'Nasha Mukta (drug-free) J&K', Sinha said while the milestone marks significant progress, the mission is far from over.

"We are determined to neutralise the drug cartels and narco-terror networks that target our youth. We continue to strengthen our key priorities of dismantling illicit trafficking ecosystems, enhancing public awareness, and providing robust rehabilitation to help affected individuals reintegrate into society. The first 100 days of the campaign laid the foundation for the rigorous path ahead. The road ahead will certainly be tough, but our resolve to completely wipe out narco-terrorism is stronger



than ever," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that during this 100-day campaign, he traveled across every region of the Union Territory, connecting with communities in all 20 districts through Padyatra. He recalled meeting many parents burdened by fear for their children's futures.

"Standing alongside families in their darkest moments allowed me to truly grasp

the depth of their anguish. Yet amid that pain, I saw an unwavering hope of a shared conviction that our youth can break free from addiction and reclaim their lives. During my Padyatra, I saw both pain and courage. I witnessed despair and also glimpses of hope, and I can proudly say that such unprecedented public support for this campaign has never been seen in the history of Jammu Kashmir. ●P-06

LG Addresses "Shakti Mimamsa" National Symposium

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Tuesday addressed the "Shakti Mimamsa" national symposium, a collaborative initiative by the Central Sanskrit University (Jammu Campus), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. He said the deliberation on the spiritual heritage of the 51 Shakti Peethas over next 4-days will allow us to reconnect with the ancient Sanatana consciousness that has long defined India's soul.

"Shakti is the very heartbeat and sustaining consciousness of the cosmos. It manifests in all motion and creation, shining through compassion, knowledge, love, patience, and life itself. From Vedic hymns and Upanishadic philosophy to the Devi Mahatmya, every facet of India's spiritual heritage highlights that the Supreme Reality and Shakti are eternally inseparable," the Lieutenant Governor said. ●P-06

Govt Extends Summer Vacation Till July-26



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday extended the summer vacation for all government and recognised private schools in the Kashmir Division and the Winter Zones of Jammu Division till July 26 in view of the prevailing weather conditions.

Announcing the decision, Education Minister Sakina Itoo said the extension had been granted keeping the safety and well-being of students, teachers and their families as the government's foremost priority.

According to the Minister, schools will now reopen on Monday, July 27.

Sakina Itoo appealed to students, parents, teaching staff and the general public to remain cautious and strictly follow the advisories issued by the concerned authorities in view of the ongoing adverse weather conditions.

She also wished everyone good health and safety, expressing hope that the weather situation would improve ●P-06

Massive Flash Floods Ravage Beerwah, Khag; Man Swept Away



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Torrential rains triggered massive flash floods in Beerwah and Khag areas of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday, sweeping away a man and causing widespread damage to markets and residential areas, while rescue teams intensified the search for missing persons in the flood-hit districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu division.

An official said that, a man identified as Shabir Ahmad Poswal, of Drang village in Khag, was swept away near Gujarpati, Drung Khag. "He is feared dead and search for the body is on," the official added.

In Budgam's Beerwah town, the Sukhnag stream overflowed following incessant rain, triggering flood-like conditions that swept away dozens of shops along its banks and caused extensive damage to public infrastructure.

Officials and local residents said the swollen stream washed away several shops, including parts of a municipal shopping complex near the main bus stand, forcing traders to scramble to shift their goods to safety.

The floodwaters also damaged a temporary alternative road serving as the only link connecting Beerwah with Budgam and Khansahib while a new bridge ●P-06

Waterlogging Exposed Serious Flaws In Srinagar Smart City Project: CM Omar

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday announced that the Jammu and Kashmir Government would order an inquiry into the implementation of the Srinagar Smart City Project, saying the widespread waterlogging witnessed across the city following heavy rainfall had exposed glaring deficiencies in one of the Valley's biggest urban infrastructure programmes.

Addressing a press conference, Omar Abdullah described the situation as "shameful", pointing out that even the ground floor of the Civil Secretariat was inundated after the downpour.

"If the Civil Secretariat itself gets flooded, it reflects the gravity of the problem and raises serious questions about the quality and planning of the works executed under the Smart City Project,"



he said.

The Chief Minister alleged that while the project had focused extensively on beautification of the Jhelum riverfront and other cosmetic improvements, fundamental civic infrastructure, particularly storm-water drainage and flood management, had

failed to receive the attention they deserved.

"The banks of the Jhelum were beautified, but the rest of the city remains in a mess," he remarked, adding that the recent rains had exposed weaknesses in the city's drainage network despite years of Smart City works.

Omar Abdullah said the government had already decided in a Cabinet meeting to conduct an independent third-party audit of the Srinagar Smart City Project, but the formal government order was yet to be issued. He said the audit would objectively examine whether the works executed under the project matched the original Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), whether public funds had been utilised efficiently, whether the quality of construction met prescribed standards and whether the project had actually delivered the outcomes promised to the people. ●P-06

J&K Cognisable Crimes Drop To 22,577 In 2024: NCRB

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 22,577 cognizable crimes under the IPC/BNS in 2024, marking a decline from 25,127 cases in 2023 and 25,915 in 2022, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data tabled



THE FIGURES were shared by the Ministry of Home Affairs in response to an unstarred question in Parliament.

in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. Ladakh reported 460 cognizable crime cases in 2024, marginally up from 459 in 2023 and 439 in 2022.

The figures were shared by the Ministry of Home Affairs in response to an unstarred question in Parliament.

The Ministry said the latest

published NCRB report pertains to the year 2024 and is compiled after collecting and validating crime data digitally from all States, Union Territories and metropolitan cities through a dedicated software application.

According to the data, accessed, Uttar Pradesh registered the highest number of cognizable crimes in 2024 with 4,30,552 cases, followed by Maharashtra (3,83,044), Madhya Pradesh (2,82,874), Delhi (2,75,402) and Bihar (2,38,753). Across the country, a total of 35, ●P-06

■ NEET Paper Leaks

Strong Action Taken To Ensure No One Plays With Future Of Youth: PM Modi

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that strong action was taken against those involved in the NEET paper leaks so that no one plays with the future of the youth, and said states should join hands with the Centre to tackle the menace in national interest.

Modi made the remarks at a meeting of the NDA MPs here, a day after thousands of students led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) took part in the 'Sansad Chalo' march against irregularities in the NEET exam and to demand Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

Briefing journalists after the NDA Parliamentary Party



meeting, which was named 'Mangal Milan' since it is held mostly on Tuesdays, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the prime minister told the MPs that the government acted immediately after reports of the paper leak surfaced, and 13 people

were arrested and sent to jail.

"At the same time, the prime minister said, to ensure that students' future was not affected, the NEET re-examination was given priority, conducted successfully, and the results were declared without delay," Rijiju said after the

hour-long meeting.

He said the prime minister also said that strict steps have been taken to prevent such paper leaks in the future.

Modi told the NDA MPs that those found involved in the paper leak racket have been arrested and jailed.

The prime minister also told the ruling alliance's MPs that those guilty in paper leaks should be given the strictest possible punishment, with the support of the country's top lawyers, so that those involved in such a grave offence face exemplary action and such incidents do not recur.

"The prime minister said strong action has been taken to ensure that no one plays with the future of ●P-06

BSF Apprehends Pak National Along IB In Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Tuesday apprehended a 53-year-old Pakistani national who allegedly attempted to cross the International Border into Indian territory in the Khour sector of Jammu district, officials said.

The individual was intercepted by alert BSF personnel during surveillance along the International Border and was taken into custody at Border Outpost (BOP) Malabela.

Officials said the Pakistani national was apprehended while allegedly trying to enter Indian territory. His identity has not been disclosed.

The apprehended individual is currently being questioned by security agencies to ascertain the circumstances and motive behind the alleged border crossing. Officials are also trying to determine whether the intrusion was inadvertent or deliberate.

Further legal ●P-06

Adverse Weather 'All Depts On High Alert, 24X7 Control Rooms Activated'



UMAISAR GULL

KULGAM: The Kashmir administration on Tuesday placed all departments on high alert and activated round-the-clock control rooms across the Valley in view of the adverse weather forecast, with Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir Anshul Garg saying the entire administrative machinery has been mobilised to respond to any emergency.

Talking to reporters in Kulgam, Garg, said district administrations, disaster management authorities, police, emergency services

and other line departments have been directed to maintain close coordination and remain fully prepared to deal with any weather-related situation.

"All departments have been put on high alert and asked to remain prepared. We have activated 24x7 control rooms across Kashmir to monitor the situation and ensure a prompt response wherever required," he said.

Garg said field officers have been instructed to keep constant watch on vulnerable areas and take timely measures to minimise any loss of life or property.

On the ●P-06

FCS&CA to undertake advance lifting, distribution of foodgrains for Aug–Oct

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step to ensure uninterrupted availability of foodgrains to beneficiaries during the forthcoming monsoon season, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), J&K has decided to undertake the advance lifting and distribution of foodgrains allocated under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Non-Priority Household (NPHH) schemes for the months of August, September and October 2026.

The decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to address any logistical and transportation challenges that may arise during the rainy season and to ensure uninterrupted food security across the Union Territory.

Accordingly, the Department has made advance allocation of foodgrains for the three months, enabling the beneficiaries to receive their entitled



ration through a single transaction. The entire distribution process has been targeted for completion on or before 31st August, 2026.

To facilitate smooth implementation of the initiative, the NIC, J&K has been requested to enable the one-time transaction facility in the e-PoS devices for distribution of foodgrains pertaining to the months of August, September and October 2026.

The Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, while speaking in this regard, said that the advance lifting and distribution of foodgrains

would strengthen the departmental preparedness and enable an effective response to any situation arising during the monsoon season.

He said that the initiative would ensure uninterrupted availability of foodgrains and safeguard the food security of eligible beneficiaries throughout the Union Territory.

The Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, reiterated that the advance lifting, transportation and distribution of foodgrains shall be undertaken in close coordination with all the

stakeholders, including the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the Jammu & Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) and the district administration.

Necessary instructions were passed on to the Director, FCS&CA, Jammu and the Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir to personally monitor the lifting, transportation and distribution of the allocated foodgrains. This will ensure that the exercise is completed within the stipulated timeline and that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of his or her entitlement, he added.

The Department issued necessary directions to all concerned officers, Fair Price Shop dealers and other stakeholders to ensure timely lifting, transportation and distribution of the allocated foodgrains, with the entire exercise to be completed by 31st August, 2026, in the interest of public convenience and uninterrupted food security.

PM Vishwakarma awareness programme organised in Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A PM Vishwakarma awareness programme on Branding and Marketing was organised Tuesday in Auditorium of Mini Secretariat Kulgam, by the Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Administration, Kulgam.

The programme aimed to strengthen the entrepreneurial and marketing capabilities of PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries and enhance their access to financial services, digital tools, and market opportunities.

An awareness sessions were held by the officials of the Ministry of MSME and the District Industries Centre, highlighting the objectives of the programme and the progress of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in Kulgam.

The technical sessions covered important topics including banking and credit facilitation, QR code generation, entrepreneurship development, product packaging, branding, digital marketing, e-commerce, Udyam Registration, and various schemes available through the District Industries Centre.

A special session on Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Product Branding and Market Promotion introduced participants to practical AI tools that can help artisans improve product promotion, reach wider markets, and

enhance their business prospects.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, while addressing the gathering, highlighted the significant role of traditional artisans in preserving the district's rich cultural and economic heritage. He emphasized that initiatives like the PM Vishwakarma Scheme are aimed at empowering artisans by providing them with access to skill upgradation, modern tools, financial assistance, branding, marketing support, and digital platforms.

Stressing the importance of convergence among government departments and stakeholders, he reaffirmed the District Administration's commitment to ensuring effective implementation of the scheme and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for artisans, thereby contributing to the socio-economic development of the district.

Earlier, GM DIC Kulgam, Bashir Ahmad Lone encouraged artisans to fully utilise the benefits available under the scheme for sustainable livelihood and economic growth.

The program was also attended by Saheel Alagband (IEDS), Assistant Director, Ministry of MSME Govt of India; LDM, Itikhar Ahmad Padder; PM Vishwakarma SLPMTU team and other officers along with the participation of PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries from across the district.

Successful wildlife operation concludes in Ompora, three leopards captured

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Wildlife Department in close coordination of District Administration Budgam safely captured two leopards during the intervening night of July 19 and 20, taking the total number of leopards captured from the area to three. One leopard was captured on June 21, following sustained surveillance and coordinated field operations.

Ompora and its adjoining localities had remained a persistent hotspot for leopard movement, prompting the Department of Wildlife Protection to establish a temporary Man-Animal Conflict (MAC) Camp in the area in May. In view of continued leopard sightings and

Farooq, while the field team was headed by Block Officer Bashir Ahmad. Their sustained efforts, professional handling of the situation and close coordination with supporting agencies were instrumental in the successful completion of the operation.

The District Police Budgam, district administration and local authorities extended vital support in ensuring public safety and facilitating field operations.

The coordinated efforts of all the participating departments ensured the safe and humane capture of the three leopards, significantly reducing the immediate threat to residents of Ompora and adjoining areas.



growing public concern, the camp was subsequently upgraded into a 24x7 MAC Control Room.

The MAC team remained stationed at Ompora for nearly three months, carrying out round-the-clock surveillance, responding promptly to public reports and maintaining trapping arrangements under challenging field conditions.

The operation was led by Range Officer Sajid

Appreciating the dedication and professionalism of the MAC team of the Wetlands Division, Kashmir, and all supporting agencies, Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division Kashmir, Altaf Hussain, said the successful operation exemplifies effective inter-departmental coordination in managing human-wildlife conflict while ensuring the safety of both people and wildlife.

100-Day Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

87 drug peddlers arrested, Rs 1.5 Crore property attached in Budgam

DC urges citizens for responsible contribution towards drug-free district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Administration Budgam and Police has achieved significant success under the 100-Day Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, intensifying its crackdown on drug peddlers and strengthening preventive, enforcement and rehabilitation measures across the district.

During the 100 day campaign, launched by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha across Jammu and Kashmir on April 11 this year, as many as 87 drug peddlers were arrested, while nine notorious offenders were detained under the PIT-NDPS Act.

During the crackdown, six properties both movable and immovable worth Rs 1.50 crore belonging to drug peddlers were attached, while six illegally constructed properties were demolished. During the campaign, 89 cases under the NDPS Act were registered against drug peddlers in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan said the fight against the drug mafia will continue with full vigour. He appealed to parents, educational institutions, community leaders and society at large to actively contribute towards making Budgam a drug-free district.

He said that the campaign received massive



public participation, with rigorous, a million awareness cum outreach activities including seminars, essay, painting competition, interactive sessions, door to door campaigning, debates, plantation, cleanliness drives, sports events etc, were conducted by various departments across the district on day basis during the 100-day programme.

The Pad Yatra organised on May 5 further re-energised the anti-drug campaign and reinforced the message of collective responsibility.

The campaign launched under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, witnessed massive public participation across Budgam District, with people from different walks of life volunteering to contribute to curb the drug menace in the society.

Among other strict administrative measures taken during the campaign, 136 Aadhaar numbers were recommended for flagging, two passports were recommended for cancellation,

one arms licence and one driving licence were suspended, while 20 vehicle registrations were suspended or blacklisted.

To curb the illegal sale of narcotic substances through medical outlets, 47 pharmacy licences were suspended, 30 unlicensed medical shops were sealed, and three drug licences were cancelled. Besides, four FIRs were registered for serious violations of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

In its drive against illegal cultivation of narcotic crops, the administration registered six FIRs against poppy cultivators and destroyed illegal poppy and cannabis cultivation spread over more than 56 kanals of land across the district.

On the rehabilitation front, the Deputy Commissioner said 48 patients are currently undergoing treatment through OPD and IPD services at the Drug De-addiction Centre, while 12 recovered individuals have been rehabilitated under various self-employment schemes

during the campaign. At the Addiction Treatment Facility, 93 patients were registered, and 3,450 psychological and clinical follow-up sessions were conducted.

The Deputy Commissioner further said that nearly 100 CCTV cameras have been installed at identified drug hotspots jointly by the civil administration and police to strengthen surveillance. Intensive awareness campaigns were also conducted through eight Nasha Mukht Panchayats, five Urban Local Bodies, 296 Youth Clubs and 285 Mahila Samitis, ensuring widespread community participation in the movement against drug abuse.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that the administration, in close coordination with the police and all stakeholders, will continue its sustained and uncompromising campaign against drug trafficking while simultaneously focusing on awareness, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation to build a drug-free Budgam.

B'pora admin participates in UT-level valedictory function of 100 Days NMJKA Campaign



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with SSP Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, and senior officers from the civil and police administration participated virtually in the UT-level valedictory function of the 100 Days Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), presided over by the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha at SKICC Srinagar.

The UT-level function marked the successful culmination of the 100-day campaign launched across Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen awareness, prevention and community participation against drug abuse.

Speaking after the culmination of the UT level event, the DC said that the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan has emerged as a strong platform for promoting awareness

and mobilising communities against the menace of drug abuse. She said sustained awareness, active public participation and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders are essential to achieve the vision of a drug-free society.

The DC appreciated the efforts of all departments, Police, educational institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions, volunteers and civil society organisations for their contribution towards the successful implementation of the campaign in the district. She reiterated the commitment of the District Administration to continue working in coordination with all stakeholders to sustain the momentum generated under the campaign. On the occasion, all participants renewed their pledge to continue working collectively towards realising the vision of a Drug-Free Bandipora and contributing to the larger objective of a Nasha Mukht J&K.

Young Dramatists Society Stages "Waliv Badlaw" at Chinar Book Festival

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Young Dramatists Society presented the theatre play "Waliv Badlaw" at the Chinar Book Festival 2026, under the sponsorship of the National Book Trust (NBT). The performance attracted a large and enthusiastic audience, who appreciated the play's powerful message and engaging presentation.

The play was written by Sheikh Fatima and directed by Altaf Hussain. The cast included Mohammad Shafi Khan, Sheikh Mushtaq, Sabir Rather, Numan Manzoor, Faiza Gul, Munazher Yousuf, and Arjmand, all of whom delivered impressive performances. Imran Latief looked after the technical aspects of the production, ensuring a smooth and effective presentation. The audience responded warmly to the performance, applauding the cast and crew for their dedication and artistic excellence.

The successful staging of Waliv Badlaw added to the cultural vibrancy of the Chinar Book Festival 2026 and reaffirmed the Young Dramatists Society's continued commitment to promoting meaningful theatre and enriching the region's cultural landscape.

SWD Sgr holds Awareness Programme on PC&PNDT Act for Teachers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW, Srinagar organized a one-day awareness programme on Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PC&PNDT Act) for teachers of Government and Private educational institutions.

The programme, held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi Bagh, Srinagar, was aimed at sensitizing teachers about the objectives and provisions of the PC&PNDT Act and highlighting

their vital role in promoting gender equality, protecting the rights of the girl child, and creating awareness against sex selection and female foeticide. As educators and opinion leaders, teachers were encouraged to foster positive social attitudes towards the girl child and disseminate awareness among students, parents, and the community.

Resource persons from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, and the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Office, Srinagar, delivered informative sessions on the legal, medical, and

social dimensions of the PC&PNDT Act. They elaborated on the objectives of the Act, its key provisions, the legal consequences of violations, and the collective responsibility of society in preventing gender-biased sex selection. The speakers also emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts by educational institutions, government departments, and the community to safeguard the rights and dignity of the girl child.

The programme witnessed active participation from teachers representing Government and Private schools, who engaged in interactive discussions and

reaffirmed their commitment to spreading awareness through school-based activities and community outreach initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Staff of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar reiterated that awareness and education are essential tools in addressing gender discrimination and ensuring the effective implementation of the PC&PNDT Act. The Department of Social Welfare, Srinagar, remains committed to organizing such awareness and capacity-building programmes to promote gender justice and uphold the rights of women and girls.

सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES

DISTRICT KUPWARA

adfisherieskup-336@jk.gov.in; adfishkup336@gmail.com

Subject: Auction of Standing Trees at Carp Fish Farm, Kohru, Langate, Handwara.

General public is hereby informed to participate in the public auction of standing trees available at Carp Fish Farm, Kohru, Langate, Handwara. The auction shall be conducted as per the following details:

S. No.	Species	No. of Trees	Volume (CFT)	Reserved Rate	Amount
1	Poplar	34	882.10 CFT	Rs. 253.70 per CFT	2,23,763.00
2	Willow	3	138.58 CFT	Rs. 187.62 per CFT	25,989.00
Total					2,49,752.00

The public auction shall be held on 27.07.2026 at 2.00 PM at Carp Fish Farm, Kohru, Langate, Handwara.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1.

Every intending bidder shall deposit an Earnest Money Deposit of Rs. 5,000.00 along with Aadhar Card before the commencement of the auction. No person shall be permitted to participate without depositing the prescribed earnest money.

2.

The auction shall commence from the reserved rates mentioned above. Bids below the reserved rates shall not be entertained.

3.

The highest bid shall be subject to confirmation by the competent authority. The Designated Auction Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason.

4.

The successful bidder shall remit the full bid amount in cash immediately after confirmation of the bid against a proper Government receipt issued by the Department.

5.

The Earnest Money Deposit of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded immediately after completion of the auction process. The Earnest Money Deposit of the successful bidder shall be adjusted towards the bid amount or forfeited in case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the stipulated time.

6.

Removal of the auctioned trees shall be carried out only after obtaining written permission from the Department and shall be completed within the 15 days of the bidding process.

7.

The successful bidder shall bear all expenses related to felling, loading, transportation, labour, taxes, levies, and other statutory charges, if any.

8.

Any damage caused to Government property during felling or removal of the trees shall be made good by the successful bidder at his own cost.

9.

The Department shall not be responsible for any loss, accident, or injury occurring during felling, loading, or transportation of the timber.

10.

For further information, interested persons may contact the Office of the Assistant Director Fisheries, Kupwara during working hours.

No. ADF/KUP/2026/1781

Dated: 21-07-2026

DIPK-3528-26

DT: 21/07/2026

Assistant Director Fisheries

Kupwara

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CMYK

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LG directs officials to assess damage caused by flash floods in Poonch, Rajouri



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday spoke to the senior officials and the Deputy Commissioners of Rajouri and Poonch to assess property and public infrastructure damage caused by heavy rainfall, floods, and landslides.

The Lieutenant Governor is continuously monitoring the situation and has directed all district administrations and departments to work around the clock in close coordination to lead rescue, relief, and restoration efforts.

He has also urged the citizens to avoid non-essential travel in vulnerable areas

and strictly follow safety advisories issued by local district administration.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "I spoke with senior officials and the DCs of Rajouri and Poonch to assess the damage to houses and key public infrastructure caused by heavy rains, flash floods, and landslides.

The Divisional Commissioner and IG Jammu are currently on the ground, and I have instructed all departments to work around the clock in close coordination to manage rescue, relief, and restoration efforts. Our main focus is reopening key roads and restoring power and water

supplies. I was informed that out of 435 damaged roads, 356 have already been restored. I urge citizens to avoid non-essential travel in vulnerable areas and strictly follow safety advisories issued by local district administration.

Teams from the SDRF, NDRF, Army, BRO, NHAI, J&K Police, and Civil Defence are working together, while Quick Response teams are deployed in vulnerable areas. I am deeply anguished by the tragic loss of lives in this natural calamity. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Prayers for the swift recovery of all those injured."

CS participates in Murti Pratishthan Divas Celebrations in Anantnag



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday visited the Mata Uma Bhagwati Shrine at Umanagri, Brariangan, Shangus, to participate in the celebrations of the Murti Pratishthan Divas, being observed with religious fervour through a two-day Yagya and other spiritual programmes organised by the Uma Bhagwati Asthan Trust here.

The Chief Secretary, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, paid obeisance at the shrine and sought the blessings of the deity for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He also participated in the Kalash Pooja

and the sacred rituals performed as part of the Murti Pratishthan celebrations.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud-Din Bhat, along with senior officers of the district administration and a large gathering of devotees and members of the Trust, was also present on the occasion.

Referring to the ongoing heritage conservation initiatives at the shrine, the Chief Secretary said that the Government remains committed to safeguarding such places of immense historical and spiritual importance. He added that the project being undertaken for the shrine would be incorporated with additional works required for improving facilities and

preserving the sanctity of the shrine in a holistic manner.

On this occasion, the Uma Bhagwati Asthan Trust expressed its gratitude to the Chief Secretary for sparing time to participate in the celebrations and for his assurance of continued support towards the preservation and development of the historic shrine.

The Trust also placed on record its appreciation for the proactive role played by the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, in ensuring effective coordination among all concerned departments for making comprehensive arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the religious function.

Div Com, IGP Jammu review relief operations in flood-hit Poonch

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti Tuesday visited the flash-flood affected areas of Poonch district to assess the situation and review the ongoing restoration works.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner and IGP Jammu visited Sangla village in Tehsil Surankote, where they met the families who had lost family members in the recent flash floods and expressed heartfelt condolences.

The officers took stock of the situation and assessed the ongoing restoration works in the affected areas. The Divisional Commis-



sioner directed officers concerned to expedite restoration works and ensure early restoration of essential services and infrastructure.

He asked officers concerned to provide timely assistance and necessary support to all affected families and directed departments concerned to take all required measures for the safety and well-being of the affected population.

The Divisional Commis-

sioner and IGP Jammu were accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, DIG Rajouri Poonch Sandeep Wazir, SSP Poonch Shafket Hussain Bhat, Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch Tahir Mustafa Malik, ACR Muhammad Sayeed, SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, besides senior officers of the administration, police and line departments.

Satish Sharma visits Flood-Hit Rajouri, Reviews Relief Operations

Assures Full Government Support to Affected Families

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Tuesday undertook an extensive visit to the flood-affected areas of Rajouri district to assess the damage caused by the recent flash floods, review the ongoing rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures, and take stock of the restoration of essential public services.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to ensuring timely relief and rehabilitation of every affected family, the Minister said that the administration has been directed to leave no stone unturned in extending immediate assistance and restoring normalcy in the affected areas.

The Minister began his visit by inspecting the flood-ravaged Baila Bus Stand, one of the worst-affected locations in Rajouri town. He took stock of the extensive damage caused to the bus stand infrastructure and inspected several vehicles that were severely damaged after being caught in the flash floods. He directed



the concerned officers to conduct a detailed assessment of the losses and expedite restoration measures to ensure the early resumption of public transport services.

Interacting with local residents and transporters, Satish Sharma expressed deep concern over the hardships faced by them due to the natural calamity. He assured them that the Government is closely monitoring the situation and all genuine cases of damage and loss would be addressed in accordance with the established norms.

Subsequently, the Minister visited the Relief and Rehabilitation Centre established by the District Administration at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS), Rajouri, where families displaced by the floods have been provided temporary shelter.

The Minister spent con-

siderable time interacting with the affected families, listening to their concerns and enquiring about their immediate requirements. He assured them that the Government stands shoulder to shoulder with them during this difficult period and that every possible measure would be taken to ensure their safety, welfare and dignified rehabilitation.

During the visit, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma briefed the Minister on the rescue operations conducted immediately after the flash floods, the ongoing relief measures and the rehabilitation plan being implemented by the district administration. He informed that the administration has made comprehensive arrangements at the relief centre, including safe accommodation, nutritious food, clean drinking water, uninterrupted electricity, sanitation facili-

ties, healthcare services, medicines, counselling support and other essential amenities to ensure the well-being of the displaced families.

The Minister also conducted a comprehensive review of the availability and restoration of essential public services in the affected areas. He assessed the status of ration supply, drinking water, electricity, road connectivity, transport services, healthcare facilities and other civic amenities. He directed the officers of the concerned departments to work in close coordination to restore all damaged infrastructure and public utilities on a priority basis while ensuring uninterrupted delivery of essential services to the affected population.

Emphasising the importance of coordinated disaster response, Satish Sharma instructed all departments to maintain close coordination, remain on alert and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances. He stressed that relief efforts should continue until every affected family is adequately rehabilitated and normal life is fully restored.

The Minister appreciated the dedicated efforts

of the District Administration, Police, SDRF, Civil Defence, volunteers and all line departments for their swift response in carrying out rescue and relief operations despite challenging conditions. He observed that their timely intervention helped minimise the impact of the disaster and ensured the safety of many residents.

"The Government is fully committed to providing every possible assistance to the flood-affected families. All departments have been directed to work with urgency and compassion so that relief reaches every deserving person without delay. Restoration of essential services and rehabilitation of affected families remain our highest priority," the Minister said.

MLA Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed and MLA Thanamandi Muzaffar Ahmad Khan accompanied the Minister during the visit and interacted with the affected families and local residents.

Senior district and sectoral officers were also present and briefed the Minister on the prevailing situation, the progress of relief operations and the measures being taken to restore normalcy across the affected areas.

Govt constitutes Committee to examine career progression of Panchayat Accounts Assistants

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards addressing the long-pending service concerns of Panchayat Accounts Assistants (PAAs), the Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted a high-level committee to examine and finalize a comprehensive proposal on the Assured Career Progression (ACP) of the cadre.

The move is expected to provide a major impetus to resolve the long-pending service matters of nearly 1,700 Panchayat Accounts Assistants, who have been awaiting a structured career progression framework, including service rules and promotional avenues, since their recruitment through the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB).

According to Government Order No. 109-JK (RD&PR) of 2026, issued by the Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the five-member committee has been entrusted with

examining all aspects of the matter and preparing a comprehensive proposal for the career progression of Panchayat Accounts Assistants serving in the department.

The committee will be headed by the Director, Rural Development, Kashmir, as Chairperson. Its members included the Director Finance, RDD&PR; the Additional Secretary (Works), RDD&PR; the Deputy Legal Remembrance (P), RDD&PR and the Under Secretary (R), RDD&PR, who will function as the Member Secretary.

The committee has been directed to submit its recommendations, along with the relevant records, to the Administrative Department within a stipulated timeframe to facilitate consideration of the proposal by the Government.

Secretary, RDD&PR, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, said the committee has been constituted to undertake a comprehensive examination of the issue and submit its recommendations in a time-bound

manner so that the matter can be placed before the Government for an appropriate decision. He said the initiative reflects the department's commitment to address the genuine service concerns of Panchayat Accounts Assistants through a structured, transparent, and consultative process.

Highlighting the important role played by PAAs, the Secretary said they are responsible for managing financial operations at Block Development Offices and facilitating the implementation of flagship rural development programmes, including VB-G RAM G, Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), PMAY-G and other centrally sponsored schemes.

The Secretary expressed confidence that the committee would comprehensively examine all aspects relating to the career progression of Panchayat Accounts Assistants and submit a well-reasoned proposal within the stipulated timeframe, enabling the Government to take an informed decision on the matter.

CM Omar expresses grief over Poonch landslide tragedy

Announces ₹6 lakh ex gratia for victims' families



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed profound grief and anguish over the tragic loss of seven lives in a landslide at Domail Dhok in the Nandichool area of Loran, Poonch district. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls.

The Chief Minister said the tragic incident has caused immense sorrow and expressed solidarity with the affected families

in this hour of grief. He prayed for strength and courage to the bereaved families to bear the irreparable loss.

As an immediate measure of support, the Chief Minister announced an ex gratia relief of ₹6 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased. The assistance will comprise ₹4 lakh from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and ₹2 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF).

To ensure close supervision of relief and rehabilitation measures, the Chief Minister has deputed Ministers Javed Ahmed Rana and Satish Sharma to visit the affected areas in Rajouri and Poonch. The Ministers will assess the ground situation, oversee the ongoing relief efforts and ensure that all necessary assistance reaches the affected families without delay.

CM Omar condoles demise of father of Shaleen Kabra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed profound grief over the demise of Ramprasad Kabra, father of Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department and Financial Commissioner (Revenue), Shaleen Kabra.

In his condolence message, the Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to Shaleen Kabra and the entire bereaved family during this difficult time.

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

Israeli National Held with Suspected Narcotic Substances in Zanskar

AGENCIES

ZANSKAR: Police in Zanskar have arrested an Israeli national after recovering suspected narcotic substances during checking at the Kargyak Check Post, officials said on Tuesday.

According to police, the foreign national was intercepted during routine checking at the Kargyak Check Post, where officers allegedly recovered substances suspected to be charas, ganja and a heroin-like substance from his possession.

Following the seizure, the accused was taken into custody and shifted to the

police station for further legal proceedings.

Police have registered an FIR (No. 23/2026) under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and an investigation has been initiated to ascertain the source of the contraband and whether the accused had any links to a wider narcotics network.

Officials said the seized substances have been taken into custody and will be subjected to forensic examination to determine their exact nature and quantity.

Police said further investigation into the case is in progress. [KNT]

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Nature Just Sent Us Another Warning

When sudden flash floods tore through the quiet villages of Budgam, swallowing roads and overflowing streams in Kangripora, Rawatpora, Khanpora, and Shunglipora—it felt like a familiar nightmare. Thankfully, no lives were lost this time. But as waters receded, they left behind a uncomfortable truth: our weather is becoming more unpredictable, and our defenses are falling behind. First, give credit where it's due. The district administration didn't wait around; they saw the weather advisories, put teams on alert, and set up control rooms. That kind of quick, proactive response deserves real appreciation. The Big Question: Emergency control rooms are great for managing a crisis, but what are we doing to stop the crisis before it starts? Putting teams on alert is crucial, but true safety comes from fortified riverbanks, clear drainage systems, and early-warning networks that give families enough time to prepare. The reality is that Kashmir's climate is changing fast. Cloudbursts, sudden downpours, and rapid flash floods aren't rare anomalies anymore, they're becoming our new normal. The infrastructure we rely on was built decades ago for a different era. Today, streams overflow in a matter of hours, made worse by, Unchecked construction right along delicate water channels, encroachment on natural pathways where water used to drain safely, and poorly maintained drains choked with silt and debris. We can't keep playing catch-up every time it pours. Real, long-term resilience requires a shift in how policymakers view disaster management, Map the Danger Zones: Use modern science to pinpoint exactly which areas are at risk, clear the Pathways: Regularly desilt streams and nallahs so water has somewhere to go, protect Natural Drains: Enforce strict penalties for building over natural water channels, and build for Tomorrow: Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure meant to withstand extreme weather. Authorities can't do it alone. As communities, we need to respect weather advisories, avoid building on vulnerable floodplains, and take part in local preparedness programs. When neighbors know how to look out for neighbors, lives are saved. What happened in Budgam wasn't just a random bad weather day; it was a clear warning. Every time we escape a flood without making lasting structural changes, we simply raise the stakes, and the cost, for the next storm. We can no longer afford to wait for the sky to fall before we start building a roof.

Wular Lake: Why We Must Act Now To Protect It



IRFAN BASHIR SOFI

Wular Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India and is considered one of the most beautiful natural places in Jammu & Kashmir. The location of this lake is in the Bandipora district, and a small portion of it is located in the Baramulla district. and is 60 km away from Srinagar. It is situated between Bandipora and Sopore and stands at a height of approximately 1,580 m above sea level. The size of the lake keeps changing depending on the seasonal variations caused by rain and snowmelt. The wetlands, marshes, agricultural land, and channels surrounding the lake act as a habitat for different plant and animal life. Besides being an attractive place, Wular Lake holds great ecological, economic, and cultural importance in the Kashmir valley. It helps to provide a living to many people and maintains the ecological balance in the Kashmir valley. Due to its importance, Wular Lake is listed as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Wular Lake has a rich history and is an essential part of the culture of Kashmir. For years, this lake has served as a medium for trade, fishing, transportation, etc., and has helped the people residing there. According to historians, the lake was formed many years ago due to geological changes in the Himalayan mountain range. The name 'Wular' is said to be derived from the Sanskrit word 'Ullola', which means 'stormy water' or 'high waves'. The name refers to the strong winds blowing on the lake and creating waves. Over the years, many travellers, poets, and rulers have appreciated the beauty of Wular Lake through their writings. Wular Lake has played an important role in developing many legends and traditions. There are several islands in Wular Lake. The most popular islands are Zaina Lank and Rupa Lank. Zaina Lank is a man-made island constructed by Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin, who is also known as Budshah. These islands add to the charm of the lake and also reflect the historical importance of Kashmir. This lake is of great importance to the environmental protection of the Kashmir Valley. When there is heavy rainfall and melting snowfall, the extra water is stored by this lake, thereby reducing floods in the neighbouring regions. It also increases the underground water level, stabilises climate conditions, and improves water quality. The



wetland in this area has been filled with reed, grass, and other aquatic plants and thus provides a habitat for many kinds of fish, birds, and animals. The biodiversity of Wular Lake is very much enriched. There are numerous kinds of fish, like Schizothorax, locally known as 'Ale Gad'. This lake is a source of livelihood for local people, as it provides food sources for them. In the winter season, thousands of migratory birds arrive at Wular Lake from Central Asia, Siberia, and Europe. The significance of Wular Lake for the livelihood of people residing around it is immense. The occupation of many locals depends on fishing in the lake and selling fresh fish in the markets of the Kashmir region. This helps them earn a daily income. The lake supplies water for the purpose of irrigation, which makes cultivation of crops like rice, vegetables and fruits possible. The Fertile soil of the region helps them cultivate. People residing in the region collect Singhara (Gaer) and reeds from the lake. Singhara is used as food, whereas reeds are used for making handicrafts, feed for the cattle and building traditional roof structures. The lake also attracts a lot of tourists every year. Tourism generates employment opportunities for the people of the region in various forms, such as boatmen, guides, shopkeepers and hotel owners. The Lake holds great cultural significance in the context of Kashmir's heritage. For centuries, it has been inspiring poets, writers, and artists with its unique beauty

and serene surroundings. It serves as the symbol of the picturesque beauty of the Kashmir Valley. People who live by this lake maintain deep cultural ties with it due to the fact that for many generations, this lake has been providing them with everything they needed to survive. For most people living in Kashmir, Wular Lake plays a significant role in their lives, as it offers food, employment, and livelihood for them. The Government, as well as some other environmental organisations, are making efforts to conserve and manage Wular Lake. There are some projects initiated by the Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA). The project focuses on removing excess mud, planting trees, restoring wetlands, and improving water quality. Awareness programmes are also being conducted by schools, colleges, and other organisations regarding the significance of the conservation of Wular Lake and its environment. Since Wular Lake is a Ramsar Site, efforts for the conservation of Wular Lake are getting support due to its significance at the international level. In addition to this, there is an important role for every citizen towards the lake. People must make efforts to keep the lake clean, should not throw plastic and other types of waste into the water, wisely use natural resources, and contribute towards conservation work. There are numerous opportunities available for eco-tourism at Wular Lake, and a lot of tourists come to visit the site. They visit the place to take part in activities

like boating, bird watching, fishing, taking pictures, and enjoying the natural surroundings. It is a good destination for relaxation, as it has a peaceful environment with picturesque surroundings. There are also hills near the lake that provide good views of the lake. Therefore, if tourism is conducted in an eco-friendly manner, it will generate employment and revenue for the locals without damaging the environment. In addition, it will motivate tourists to respect nature, keep the lake clean by avoiding any littering and protect the wildlife there. The future of the Wular Lake is dependent upon the actions of both the government and the people. All of us have a duty towards this amazing lake, which includes making sure that it remains clean and free from pollution. People must avoid dumping plastics and waste in the lake and plant trees. Thus, if we all work together, we can conserve the Wular Lake and its beauty for future generations. Wular Lake is a beautiful lake that plays an integral role in providing numerous benefits to the people of Kashmir. The lake serves as a means of earning a livelihood for thousands of families, a habitat for various flora and fauna species, flood mitigation, and tourism to various parts of the world. As citizens, it is our duty to conserve this invaluable natural resource through maintaining its cleanliness, avoiding pollution and supporting conservation.

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Vikram-1: Charting India's Cosmic Future

LALIT GARGG

India has once again demonstrated that when determination, scientific vision, and innovation converge, the sky is no longer the limit—it is merely the beginning of limitless possibilities. The successful launch of Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket, is not merely a technological milestone; it is a powerful declaration of an Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India), an innovation-driven economy, and a science-led future. Launched under Mission Agaman from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, this historic mission has added a glorious new chapter to India's space history. It has unequivocally established that space exploration is no longer the exclusive domain of government institutions; India's private enterprises are now prepared to compete and lead on the global stage. Vikram-1 marks the dawn of India's private space revolution and symbolizes the nation's soaring scientific aspirations. The success of Vikram-1 is also a fitting tribute to the visionary scientist Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme, who firmly believed that space technology was not a luxury for a developing nation but an essential instrument of national development. Today, that vision finds a modern expression in Skyroot Aerospace, which has scripted history with its very first orbital launch. India has now joined the select group of nations whose private companies have successfully developed orbital launch vehicles. Just as SpaceX transformed the global commercial space industry, India has unveiled its own indigenous model of private space innovation. Technologically, Vikram-1 is an outstanding achievement. Constructed almost entirely from advanced carbon-composite materials, the rocket is lighter, stronger, and significantly more cost-effective than conventional launch vehicles. Extensive use of 3D printing technology has substantially

reduced manufacturing costs. This innovation positions India to become a major player in the rapidly expanding global market for launching small satellites. As demand for small satellites continues to rise across sectors such as telecommunications, weather forecasting, agriculture, defence, disaster management, internet connectivity, and artificial intelligence, India's reputation for delivering reliable and economical launch services could become a significant competitive advantage. The naming of the rocket after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai is itself deeply meaningful. By christening its first launch vehicle "Vikram-1," Skyroot Aerospace has paid homage to the architect of India's space programme while conveying an inspiring message to Indian industry—that commercial success and national heritage can go hand in hand. It recalls April 1975, when India's first satellite was named Aryabhata, honouring the legendary mathematician and astronomer. Such traditions reinforce the nation's respect for its scientific legacy. This achievement is not solely the success of one company; it is also the outcome of visionary policy reforms. By opening the space sector to private participation, establishing institutions such as IN-SPACE, and liberalising foreign direct investment norms, the Government of India has created an enabling ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship. Today, numerous Indian space startups are making remarkable progress in satellite manufacturing, launch systems, space communications, and data services. These developments are laying a strong foundation for a knowledge-based economy. Yet, every milestone brings new challenges. While Vikram-1's maiden mission has been successful, sustainable success in the space industry requires consistency rather than a single achievement. Skyroot Aerospace must now compete with established global players such as SpaceX, Rocket Lab, and several rapidly growing private Chinese space companies. Securing regular



customers, ensuring timely launches, maintaining cost competitiveness, achieving high reliability, and eventually developing reusable launch technologies will determine its long-term success. In the space business, credibility is built through repeated excellence. This historic accomplishment also raises an important concern: Can ISRO retain its finest scientific talent? In recent years, several experienced scientists have been drawn towards the private sector—not merely because of higher salaries, but also due to greater research freedom, faster decision-making, improved work culture, and stronger support for innovation. ISRO has earned worldwide admiration through landmark missions such as Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, Aditya-L1, and the upcoming Gaganyaan programme. Achieving world-class results despite limited resources has become its hallmark. However, if a gradual migration of scientific talent continues, India's long-term research capabilities and national space ambitions could face challenges. Therefore, ISRO's greatest responsibility today extends beyond launching new missions—it must also inspire, reward, and retain exceptional scientific minds. The government should strengthen ISRO by introducing globally competitive compensation, state-of-the-art research infrastructure, greater institutional autonomy, and policies that actively encourage innovation. Rather than fostering competition between public institutions and

private enterprises, India should build a collaborative ecosystem. Just as NASA and SpaceX complement one another in advancing America's space ambitions, a strong partnership between ISRO and India's private space companies can propel the country towards global leadership. Equally important is the need to bring space science into schools and universities. Science must become a national movement rather than remain confined to laboratories. Young scientists, engineers, and innovators should be encouraged to embrace entrepreneurship through targeted support for space technology startups. If every state establishes Space Technology Innovation Centres, strengthens research partnerships between universities and industries, and expands investments in advanced space technologies, India could emerge as one of the world's foremost centres of space innovation within the next decade. To prepare the foundation for future achievements, several strategic initiatives deserve priority:

- Launch joint research programmes between ISRO and private space companies.
- Invest aggressively in reusable launch vehicles and green propulsion technologies.
- Strengthen indigenous manufacturing and supply chains for space systems.
- Create dedicated funding mechanisms to promote space entrepreneurship among young innovators.
- Simplify and modernise India's

space regulations to make them more transparent and investment-friendly. Simultaneously, equal emphasis must be placed on managing space debris, protecting the space environment, and expanding international cooperation, because the future of space exploration is not merely a technological challenge but also an environmental and ethical responsibility. Vikram-1 has proved that India is no longer merely a nation reaching space; it is becoming a nation capable of shaping the global space economy. This achievement reflects the confidence of a new India, the brilliance of its youth, and the triumph of scientific thinking. It tells the inspiring story of a country that once transported rocket components on bicycles and bullock carts, and today is making a powerful mark in the international commercial space industry through private enterprise. In essence, Vikram-1 is far more than a rocket—it is a soaring symbol of India's scientific confidence and technological renaissance. It reminds us that when visionary policies, scientific talent, entrepreneurial spirit, and national determination move in harmony, even the impossible becomes achievable. The success of India's private space sector is a clarion call to every young dreamer passionate about science: "Space pioneers, march forward—the entire sky belongs to you." India must now treat this historic accomplishment not as a destination but as the beginning of a far greater journey. By combining ISRO's glorious legacy with the dynamism of private enterprise, the nation can build a robust ecosystem of research, innovation, and technological excellence. Only then will it truly be possible to say that not only the Earth, but the vast expanse of space itself has become the next frontier of India's remarkable development story.

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J&K Administration

Padyatra in every district sent a strong message that we will not allow our youth or our future to be stolen. Over the past 100 days, we backed that resolve with decisive action. 2,581 drug traffickers arrested, nearly 1,431 kg of narcotics including 23.29 kg heroin seized, and over Rs. 188.89 crore in assets confiscated to cripple narco-terror financing.

By revoking hundreds of driving licences, vehicle registrations, recommending suspension of hundreds of passports and by taking action against non-compliant pharmacies, we have sent a clear message that no offender is above the law. Most importantly, thousands of young people have received treatment and are now rebuilding their lives in the mainstream,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that rehabilitation transforms lives, restores families, and secures our future. He observed that the administration will soon launch the “Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026,” starting with a pilot in the two sensitive districts of Jammu as well as Kashmir Division.

He observed that the initiative, built on a structured 3-year cycle, guides individuals through medical care and therapy in Phase 1, education and employment in Phase 2, and long-term relapse prevention with community support in Phase 3.

“The past 100 days have awakened a new consciousness among the people of Jammu Kashmir, and with their cooperation narco-terrorists will be wiped out and their networks dismantled link by link. The foundation on which smugglers built their empire of narco-terror will be completely destroyed. Those who have ruined the future of our young people will receive such severe punishment that future generations will remember it. I consider this justice and a strong warning against crime. My message is absolutely clear that if you ruin others’ lives, the law will not spare your future either,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon people to speak up against drug abuse. He said the government needs support of entire community.

“We need every citizen to speak up, report local drug activity, and help those affected by addiction. If someone in your community is suffering, don’t walk away. Guide them toward treatment, support their recovery, and help them start fresh. Young people trapped by addiction are victims of circumstances and therefore need support, not ostracism, and they need the trust of society. Our goal of a drug-free Jammu Kashmir is perfectly clear. This is not merely a dream but our national resolve. We are working to establish more rehabilitation centres. Consultancy services are being strengthened, and skill development and employment opportunities are being provided to youths who complete rehabilitation,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon youth to become the greatest strength of the nation and do not sacrifice their dreams to drugs. Never let a drug dealer dictate the course of your life.

“Your energy is meant for building, your talent for creation, and your courage for moving forward. Take pride in your culture, your heritage, and who you are, and step confidently into a brighter future. I also appeal to the parents to never ignore any signs of drug use in their son or daughter. We must remember that seeking help in time is wisdom. History bears witness that whether it was terrorism or narco-terror, silence has caused the greatest harm to society. So, break the silence and spread awareness so we can save millions of lives.

I also urge all teachers and leaders of religious and social organisations to sustain the energy you have shown in these 100 days. You shape lives so keep instilling discipline and confidence in the youth and make them aware of the harmful effects of drugs. Let us pledge to turn this campaign into one of India’s broadest and most effective mass movements. Let us pledge to reach every person in need. Let us pledge to hold the hand of every young person who wants a new beginning. Let us pledge to dismantle every drug cartel that spreads poison in society and together create a Jammu Kashmir that is drug-free, terror-free, and full of hope, development and trust,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the officials of civil administration, Police, law enforcement and security agencies, volunteers, social and religious organisations, youth and Nari Shakti and all the stakeholders for their valuable contribution to the Drug-Free J&K campaign.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated outstanding performers and released a special DIPR-compiled Coffee Table Book, highlighting the widespread impact of Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Campaign.

The event also featured an impactful documentary screening by Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), an engaging short skit by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), and presentations by J&K Police and Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) J&K Chapter.

A Two- minute silence was observed in the memory of citizens who lost their lives in the recent natural calamities in J&K.

Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri S.J.M.Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Shri Chandekar Bharti, Principal Secretary Home; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Sec-

retary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Ms Shreya Singhal, Director Information; Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners; public representatives; heads of educational institutes; senior officials; members of civil society and various social organisation; prominent citizens and youth in large from across the UT attended the ceremony, in person and through virtual mode.

LG Addresses

He said the Indian philosophy and spirituality are not just found in ancient texts but they live in our everyday traditions.

“One can see this in village prayers, household Navaratri rituals, and our natural respect for motherly power. In our villages, countless women who have never read a word of Sanskrit embody the true spirit of Shakti through their daily lives. This is the heartbeat of India’s cultural and spiritual continuity. The Shakti Peethas are powerful symbols of our national unity and beacons of our shared cultural consciousness. A nation’s unity is built from shared memories, shared faiths and shared cultural journeys. The Shakti Peethas have carried out this work for centuries. They have united India not merely geographically but emotionally and spiritually as well,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that an academic focus on the Shakti Peethas is more urgent today than ever, driven by several key goals. He said, we must revive our ancient knowledge system and our youth need to realize that these sacred sites are living libraries of Indian philosophy, architecture, art, music, science, and history.

“Our ancestors chose these locations not just for spiritual reasons, but for their natural and cultural importance. Studying these sacred places is rigorous research that helps us understand India’s ancient knowledge traditions on their own terms. The second dimension is the renaissance of feminine consciousness.

The whole world knows that from ancient times India has revered women as goddesses. We worship Mother Durga, Mother Saraswati, Mother Lakshmi and Mother Shakti. Yet we must ask ourselves whether our social systems are providing every daughter, every sister and every mother the respect that our culture teaches. Remember that worship of the Goddess becomes meaningful only when respect for women becomes a natural part of our conduct. True worship of Shakti lies in ensuring equality, safety, dignity and opportunities for women in society,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the third goal is preserving our heritage. The Lieutenant Governor observed that many of our ancient manuscripts, inscriptions, folktales, and architectural wonders are fading away and without proper documentation today, future generations will lose this priceless legacy.

“This four-day symposium is a vital national mission to safeguard our cultural memory. The fourth goal is building national confidence. While many societies worldwide face an identity crisis, India stands strong with its unique cultural unity. The network of Shakti Peethas has kept our nation connected through shared faith and culture for centuries.

Our youth should take immense pride in this. Through facts, evidence, and rigorous study, they can discover the true depth of Indian civilization. This knowledge will not only boost their confidence but also help present India’s rich cultural identity to the world more effectively,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Padma Shri Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri; Prof. Shrinivasa Varkhedi, Vice Chancellor, Central Sanskrit University; Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University; Shri Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Prof. R.G. Murali Krishna, Registrar, Central Sanskrit University; Prof. Satish Kumar Kapoor, Director, Shri Maharaja Ranbir Singh Campus, Jammu; distinguished scholars, and students attended the national symposium.

Govt Extends

in the coming days.

The extension comes amid persistent rainfall across several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, which has triggered flash floods, landslides, waterlogging and disruption of normal life in many districts.

Massive Flash Floods

is under construction. Vehicular movement was disrupted after the road suffered extensive damage.

A drinking water supply pipeline was also damaged, affecting potable water supply to parts of the area. Embankments along the stream were eroded, raising fears of further flooding if rainfall persists.

Residents urged the administration to restore road connectivity, repair the damaged water supply network and strengthen flood protection measures. Officials said an assessment of the damage was underway.

Meanwhile, heavy rains lashed Jammu city and several parts of the region for the third running day on Tuesday, disrupting normal life, inundating roads, and prompting authorities to maintain a high alert amid forecasts of continued moderate to heavy rainfall over the next two days.

According to the details accessed by the

KNO the India Meteorological Department (IMD) recorded the highest rainfall in Katra, the base camp for the Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage, which received 107.1 mm of rain during the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m.

Poonch recorded 61.5 mm, followed by Reasi with 54.5 mm, Rajouri 49 mm and Jammu city 35 mm during the same period.

Heavy rainfall since early morning caused widespread waterlogging in several parts of Jammu city, affecting vehicular movement and disrupting daily life. Roads in many localities remained submerged, while overflowing drains and nallahs raised concerns in low-lying areas. Authorities advised residents in vulnerable locations to remain vigilant as water levels could rise further if the rainfall persists.

The ongoing wet spell has compounded the impact of the extreme weather witnessed over the past three days. According to officials, at least 23 people have lost their lives and seven others remain missing in rain-related incidents in Poonch, Rajouri and Doda districts since Sunday.

At least 23 people have died and seven others are missing in rain-related incidents in Poonch, Rajouri and Doda districts since Sunday.

However, as a precautionary measure, the Amarnath Yatra, Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra, Shiv Khori Yatra and Machail Mata Yatra remained suspended for the third consecutive day due to persistent rainfall, landslides and the heightened risk of flash floods. Pilgrims have been advised to remain at designated shelters until weather conditions improve and the routes are declared safe.

Several highways, roads and link roads across the region continued to remain affected by landslides, mudslides and shooting stones. Restoration work is underway, although intermittent rainfall has slowed efforts to clear debris and restore normal connectivity.

The administration said the situation is being monitored round the clock, with district authorities, disaster response teams and other agencies remaining on the highest level of preparedness in vulnerable areas.

The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, has forecast generally cloudy weather with intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir till July 23.

The weather office has also warned of isolated to scattered intense showers that could trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides, shooting stones and a rise in water levels in rivers, streams and nallahs, particularly in vulnerable areas of the Jammu division. Authorities have advised the public to avoid unnecessary travel, stay away from water bodies and landslide-prone areas, and follow official advisories.

Meanwhile, search and rescue operations entered the third consecutive day in Surankote area of Poonch district, with teams of the police and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) continuing efforts to trace missing persons in rain-hit areas.

Officials said operations were underway despite challenging weather conditions after flash floods and landslides caused extensive damage to roads and infrastructure across the district.

The Jammu-Poonch National Highway also remained closed after a landslide at Shiendra Maidana in Surankote triggered by heavy rain. Clearance operations were underway and commuters were advised to avoid the route.

In another incident, a 60-year-old man was injured after his mud house collapsed in Arai village of Mandi area. He was shifted to the district hospital in Poonch for treatment.

Serious Flaws In

He said the review would also assess the overall implementation of the project and identify deficiencies requiring corrective measures.

The Srinagar Smart City Project was implemented through Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), a Special Purpose Vehicle constituted under the Centre’s Smart Cities Mission, which has undertaken urban infrastructure works across Srinagar over the past several years.

His remarks came against the backdrop of growing public criticism over recurring waterlogging, prolonged construction activity, traffic congestion, inadequate parking facilities and concerns that despite expenditure running into thousands of crores of rupees, several components of the project had not delivered the expected improvements in urban infrastructure. The government has maintained that these concerns would now be independently examined through the proposed audit.

The Chief Minister said his government would deploy every available resource to permanently address the problem of waterlogging in Srinagar, adding that engineering solutions would be prioritised to improve the city’s drainage system and minimise flooding during future spells of heavy rainfall.

He further announced that the administration would undertake a detailed assessment of losses suffered by people due to waterlogging and compensate eligible victims in accordance with the existing disaster relief norms and government guidelines. [KNT]

J&K Cognisable Crimes

44,608 cognizable crimes were registered during 2024—(KNO)

Strong Action

youth. The prime minister also said that to ensure that no future paper leaks take place, all state governments and the Centre must join hands irrespective of party. This is not a matter of party politics but matter of national interests,” Rijiju said.

Modi also stressed the need to punish the guilty and collaboratively establish a fool-proof system.

The parliamentary affairs minister said the prime minister gave guidance to everyone present at the meeting.

He said at the outset the newly elected Rajya Sabha members, including BJP president Nitin Nabin, who was elected to the Upper House recently, was congratulated and wished success in Parliament.

Rijiju said the meeting was very productive as the prime minister spoke on several important issues.

The prime minister spoke about the achievements the country has made over the past few months and also briefed the NDA MPs on the free trade agreements (FTA) signed with several countries.

On the FTAs, Rijiju said, Modi assured the NDA members that the interests of farmers would be prioritised and emphasised that no harm would come to them.

The prime minister stressed that the welfare of farmers remains paramount in any FTA signed with any country and the government is ensuring that these agreements serve the best interests of both the farmers and the nation, he said.

Rijiju said the NDA would play a constructive role during the ongoing Monsoon Session.

“We are united in our resolve to ensure the passage of all important bills brought forward for the nation’s benefit. We also appeal to the opposition parties that while they may hold differing views, they should come forward to work together for the country, its future, and the youth,” he said.(PTI)

BSF Apprehends

formalities are being carried out, while security agencies have launched an investigation into the incident. [KNT]

'All Depts On High

ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, the Divisional Commissioner said all decisions regarding the movement of pilgrims and conduct of the pilgrimage would be taken strictly in accordance with weather advisories issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

“The safety and well-being of pilgrims remains our highest priority. Every decision regarding the Yatra will be based on the prevailing weather conditions and official IMD forecasts,” he said.

Appealing to residents and pilgrims to follow only official advisories, the Div Com urged people not to pay heed to rumours, saying the administration is continuously monitoring the weather situation and will issue timely updates whenever required—(KNO)

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Suspend Political Activities, Focus on Flood Relief: LoP Sharma to CM Omar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Tuesday urged the Omar Abdullah-led government to temporarily suspend all political activities and devote its full attention to relief and rehabilitation efforts as large parts of the Union Territory grapple with widespread devastation caused by heavy rains, flash floods and landslides.

Addressing a press conference, Sharma said it was unfortunate that while people across several districts were battling the impact of severe weather and natural calamities, the government's presence was not adequately visible on the ground.

"When people are facing the fury of nature, this is not the time for politics. The government should suspend all political activities and concentrate entirely on providing relief to the affected population," he said.

The BJP leader said the



focus should remain on rescue operations, restoration of essential services and immediate assistance to families who have suffered losses due to the ongoing weather-related disasters.

Appealing for a united response, Sharma said the BJP was willing to extend full cooperation to the government in addressing the humanitarian situation.

"We want to rise above politics. We assure the government that we will work with them without any political considerations in this hour of crisis," he said.

He urged the adminis-

tration to ensure prompt relief, adequate compensation and financial assistance to victims whose houses, crops, livestock and other properties have been damaged by flash floods, landslides and incessant rainfall.

Sharma said the priority should be the safety and welfare of the affected people and called for swift restoration of damaged roads, electricity, drinking water supply and other essential public services in the worst-hit areas.

He maintained that the ongoing crisis demanded

a coordinated response from all stakeholders and expressed hope that relief and rehabilitation measures would be expedited to minimise the hardships being faced by the affected population.

Large parts of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Jammu region, have witnessed widespread damage over the past few days due to torrential rains, resulting in flash floods, landslides, cloud-bursts and disruption of road connectivity, besides loss of life and property in several districts. [KNT]

SKUAST-K trains IFS Officers from 14 States in AI-led Forest, Wildlife Conservation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Thirty senior Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers from 14 states are undergoing a five-day national training program at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies for forest and wildlife conservation, reinforcing the University's growing role in technology-driven environmental governance.

The program, "Smart Conservation: Technological Solutions for Forest and Wildlife Protection," is being organized by the Division of Basic Sciences and Humanities, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K, in collaboration with the Research & Training Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India.

Held from July 20 to 24, it brings together senior forest administrators, including Principal Chief Conservators of Forests (PCCFs), Conservators of Forests (DFOs) and Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACFs), for training in AI, Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), drones, satellite monitoring and other digital tools for sustainable forest governance.

The inaugural session was presided over by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, while Principal Chief Conservator of For-



ests and Head of Forest Force, Jammu & Kashmir, Sarvesh Rai, attended as the Guest of Honor.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai stressed that conservation in the 21st century requires the convergence of forestry, agricultural sciences, climate science, data analytics and digital technologies. Highlighting SKUAST-K's strengths in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, drone technology, precision agriculture and remote sensing, he said these innovations are transforming wildlife monitoring, habitat assessment, forest health surveillance, climate-risk prediction, forest fire management and ecosystem restoration.

Emphasizing the vulnerability of the Himalayan region, Prof. Ganai said mountain ecosystems require science-based, technology-enabled management and called for stronger collaboration among universities, forest departments, research institutions and policymakers

to accelerate climate-resilient conservation.

Addressing the gathering, Sarvesh Rai, highlighted the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department's use of geospatial mapping, smart forest surveillance systems, and community-based conservation models to protect forests and wildlife. He urged participants to actively engage in the practical sessions and replicate successful conservation practices in their respective states.

Course Director Prof. Javeed Iqbal Ahmad Bhat said the program marks the third consecutive batch of IFS officers being trained at SKUAST-K under the aegis of the MoEFCC, reflecting the University's emergence as a national capacity-building partner in environmental governance. He said the program integrates advanced technologies with ecological principles and policy frameworks to address climate change, biodiversity loss and habitat degradation through technology-enabled conservation.

The program combines expert lectures, laboratory demonstrations and field-based learning. Participants will visit the Center for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (CAIML), SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship Center (SKIIE) and the Faculty of Forestry, besides undertaking field visits to Dachigam National Park and Wildlife Rescue Center, Wular Lake conservation projects, Gulmarg Biosphere Reserve and the protected forests of the Zabarwan Hills to gain first-hand exposure to ecosystem restoration, biodiversity management and smart conservation practices.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the program aims to strengthen collaboration among scientists, policymakers and forest professionals while equipping senior officers with advanced technological tools to address emerging conservation challenges across India's ecologically sensitive landscapes.

FDA intensifies Food Safety Enforcement Activities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to ensure adherence to the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and applicable rules/regulations, the Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, continued its food safety enforcement and surveillance activities across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

A total of 121 inspections of Food Business Operators (FBOs), including six dairy processing units, were conducted in various districts of the Union territory. During the drive, 70 food samples were collected for analysis.

As part of its surveillance programme, the Organization also collected 19 surveillance samples from ICDS and Public Distribution System (PDS) Centre's to monitor the quality and safety of food. In

addition, eight imported food samples were subjected to label scrutiny to verify compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Regulations.

During the enforcement drive, four Food Business Operators (FBOs) were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 for violations of sanitary and hygiene requirements, and a total penalty of 4,000 was imposed. In addition, five Improvement Notices were issued to FBOs for rectification of deficiencies observed during inspections.

Consumers have been advised to remain vigilant while purchasing milk and milk products and to report any suspected cases of unsafe, adulterated, or substandard food through the Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

ADDC Budgam chairs review meeting on Mission Yuva

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: A review meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Budgam, Vivek Agarwal to assess the pendency of cases in banks under Mission Yuva.

During the meeting, the ADDC reviewed the branch-wise status of pending cases and emphasized the need for timely disposal to ensure eligible beneficiaries receive financial assistance without unnecessary delay.

The bank Branch Managers were instructed to expedite the processing of pending applications

and maintain close coordination with the concerned departments.

The ADDC instructed clearance of targets and directed all Branch Managers to achieve the assigned targets within the stipulated timeframe. He stressed that delays in processing applications adversely affect employment generation and urged the banks to adopt a proactive approach in sanctioning eligible cases.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all participating Branch Managers to work towards the timely clearance of pending cases and improve the overall performance of their respective branches.

Training on implementation of e-Office 2.0 held in Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, a training session on the implementation of e-Office 2.0 was Tuesday conducted at the RDD Complex Kupwara.

The training, aimed at enhancing digital governance and streamlining official processes, was imparted by ICT official, Fayaz Ahmad from the IT Depart-

ment, Civil Secretariat Srinagar. The session focused on equipping officials with the necessary skills to effectively utilize the e-Office platform for day-to-day operations. Officials from various departments across the Kupwara district actively participated in the training session.

The engagement underscored the local administration's commitment to adopting the upgraded digital system as directed by the UT administration.

DLSA Shopian conducts 3rd UTRC Meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In compliance to the directions of Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India (Executive Chairman, NALSA), District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Shopian conducted 3rd Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting in District Court to expedite the identification and review of prisoners who are eligible to be considered for release, as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of UTRC and review all eligible

under-trial prisoners (UTPs).

The meeting was chaired by Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Choudhary and was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Senior Superintendent of Police, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Shopian, Mudasar Farooq, Superintendent Jails (Correctional Home), Pulwama, Dr. Aejaaz Ahmad, and Deputy Chief LADC Shopian Shah Nawaz Raina.

ADC Handwara reviews Revenue Matters, stresses timely disposal of cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

HANDWARA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting with all Tehsildars of Sub-Division Handwara to assess the progress of key revenue matters and ensure the effective implementation of various government initiatives.

During the meeting, the ADC conducted a detailed review of several important revenue-related issues, including the digitization of Jamabandis, rectification of Jamabandi errors, disposal of backlog mutations, grievance redressal, digitization and authentication of revenue maps, issuance of SVAMITVA Property Cards, Kahcharai and State Land matters, Section 27 cases, RCCM court cases, Jal Shakti assets, land acquisition cases, grievances received through JK Samadhan, CPGRAMS and Migrant Grievance Portals, besides cases under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA).

The ADC emphasized the need for timely disposal of all pending revenue cases, strict adherence to timelines, and greater accountability in the implementation of government programmes. He directed the Tehsildars to ensure regular monitoring of all revenue matters, improve public service delivery, and maintain transparency and efficiency in revenue

administration.

In view of the prevailing weather conditions and the possibility of heavy rainfall, the ADC also reviewed flood preparedness measures and issued necessary directions to all Tehsildars. He instructed that Tehsil-level Control Rooms be activated immediately and asked the field functionaries to identify vulnerable mohallas and houses located along nallahs and in landslide-prone areas, ensuring that timely alerts are issued through Lambardars and other field-level staff.

The ADC further directed that three-hourly situation reports from every Tehsil be submitted to the District Control Room. He also called for the immediate activation of field response teams comprising officers and officials of the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Rural Development Department, Public Works Department, Public Health Engineering Department, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Power Development Department, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, and Health Department to ensure swift response in case of any emergency.

He also instructed all Tehsildars to keep relief shelters identified and ready for activation on a Tehsil-wise basis, wherever required, so that prompt assistance can be provided to the affected population in the event of any exigency.

اطلاع عام

بر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میرا بیٹی نیلوفر گل دختر غلام محمد صوفی ساکنہ برہہ بند پورہ کا نام اکاؤنٹ نمبر میں غلطی سے نیلوفر گل کی جگہ نیلا اختر درج ہوا ہے۔ جس کو ٹھیک کرنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا مدعا سات دن کے اندر جنوں و کشمیر بینک برانچ نصر اللہ پورہ میں پیش کر سکتا ہے۔ بعد از معیار گزرنے پر کوئی بھی اعتراض یا مدعا قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نیلوفر گل

غلام محمد صوفی

برہہ بند پورہ بڈگام کشمیر

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the registration number plate of vehicle JK01X-0155 (Wagon RLXI DUO BSIII), owned by Ms. Rubiya Naqash, has been reported missing/stolen from the Haft Chinar, Near New Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar area. Anyone who finds the number plate or has any information regarding its whereabouts is requested to contact the nearest Police Station or inform the owner immediately.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION DOORU

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO 21 OF R&B/Dooru/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/ EED/HD/ 1429-34 DATED: 21-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Dooru invited e-tenders on % age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for each of the following works: -

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of R-wall and Parapets at Spots to Nowgan Shangran main road to KVK Nowpora Keerl length 0.7 Km	4.93 lacs (4.18 + 0.75)	200	9860	2 Years	District Capex Budget 2026-27'	DEE Class only/MSM E
2	Construction Upgradation of road from Mehmoodabad Bridge to Tarigam via Zarenlath Phase I.	29.17 lacs (24.72+ 4.45)	1100	58340	2 Years	District Capex Budget 2026-27'	AAY& BEE Class only/MSM E
3	Upgradation of Peerpora mantipora road Phase II	19.45 lacs (16.49 + 2.96)	800	38900	2 Years	District Capex Budget 2026-27'	CEE& BEE Class only/MSME

Position of AAA ; Accorded.

Position of TS: Accorded.

The date of completion is subject to the availability of funds.
The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S.No.	Particulars	Dated	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		21-/07/2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From To	22 /07/2026 28-07-2026 (6:00 Pm) (06:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	22 /07/2026 (6:00 pm)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	28/07/2026 (06:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		29/07/2026 (11:00AM)

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date (NIT No and Name of work/ Item No. should be mentioned on Treasury Challan) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU (Tender receiving Authority).

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 03 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Note: a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs 500/- whichever is lower. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower.

5. The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding 18% GST.

6. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.

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

8. The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
c) Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
d) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

9. The tenders shall be opened and allotted to ist lowest responsive bidder only when the funds are released/ available on Beams. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
f. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
g. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) clearly mentioning name of work and NIT No and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
h. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
i. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
j. In case of CRF and other specified project, the relevant guideline/ standard bidding document shall be followed.
k. The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement as laid down in NIT
l. Performance Security shall be released after DLP is over successfully.
m. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

No:EED/HD/1429-34
Dt: 21/07/2026

DIPK-3512-26
Dt: 21/07/2026

Er Mohd Ashraf Khan
Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Division DOORU

‘They cannot touch Virat, Rohit if they want to play’: Ashwin backs senior stars for 2027 WC

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has thrown his weight behind Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli amid renewed debate over their future, insisting the veteran duo have earned the right to decide when they step away from the game.

Speaking after Rohit's 138 in the series decider at Lord's against England, Ashwin said the two batting stalwarts remain untouchable as long as they are willing to continue representing India.

"They cannot touch Virat and Rohit if they want to play. It is because of their credentials. Rohit has scored almost 12,000 runs; they cannot touch him. The other thing is that they are batters, and if you touch them, they have an army. People come to see them. If you drop them, it will just break the roof down," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel.

Praising the former



India captain's approach, Ashwin said Rohit looked in complete control once he settled into his innings and believed an even bigger score was within reach. "This is a phenomenal knock. He was set after hitting that pull to Josh Tongue. I feel that this is Rohit's road to a comeback after an injury. If he were in a slightly better state or were more confident, he could have scored 180 and won the

match for the team. I felt like Rohit was in really good form," he added.

Ashwin also suggested that Rohit's motivation now stems from his own desire to feature at the next ODI World Cup rather than from any need to answer critics or prove his credentials.

"The position he is in and the way he batted, it's not that difficult for him. We have seen him for so many years; there's nothing

left to prove. Whom does he have to prove? It is only about the internal appetite: I want to go to the World Cup, that's why I need to play like this," Ashwin stated.

Despite Rohit's masterful 138, India were restricted to 360/7 as England held their nerve in the closing overs to register a 27-run victory at Lord's and clinch the three-match ODI series 2-1.

World Cup triumph means big payday for Spanish Football Federation and players



IAN S

MADRID: Celebrations continued in Spain on Monday following the country's second World Cup triumph, with Ferran Torres' injury-time winner against Argentina on Sunday earning him a place alongside Andres Iniesta, who scored the decisive goal in the 2010 final.

Beyond the honour of adding a second star to the national team shirt, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) and the 26 players in the squad also have significant financial reasons to celebrate.

Winning the 2026 World Cup earned the RFEF 50 million U.S. dollars in prize money from FIFA, while the federation also stands to benefit from increased sponsorship revenue. The Spanish national team is backed by 35 companies across sectors including travel, insurance, telecommunications, sportswear, energy, food and beverages, reports Xinhua.

Spain's status as world champion is also expected to boost the value of its television rights, while sales of replica shirts have already surged across the country. The team's off-white away shirt is now virtually sold out in Spain, with demand also likely to

rise internationally.

The triumph also means a substantial payday for the players, each of whom is set to receive a bonus of 756,000 euros (about 863,000 dollars), in addition to a World Cup winner's medal and ring.

Spanish press celebrate World Cup success

Spain's 1-0 victory over Argentina in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final on Sunday night has been widely celebrated in the Spanish press.

Ferran Torres scored the winner in extra time as Spain finally turned its dominance into victory against an opponent that only began to attack after falling behind and failed to register a shot on target in more than 120 minutes of football.

Sports daily Marca led with the headline "Superstars," while Barcelona sports dailies Mundo Deportivo and Sport kept things simple with the headlines "Champions" and "Two-Time Champions," respectively.

Among the general-interest newspapers, El Mundo proclaimed "Our boys are on top of the world", while El Pais simply ran with "Champions" and highlighted that Argentina "barely created any danger."

FIFA WC: 'I will continue to give my all,' Fernandez breaks silence after red card in FIFA WC final

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez has vowed to keep giving everything for his country after breaking his silence following the FIFA World Cup final defeat to Spain, a match that saw him sent off late before the team's title defence ended in heartbreak.

Spain edged Argentina 1-0 after extra time at New York New Jersey Stadium



on Monday, with Ferran Torres scoring the decisive goal. Fernandez's dismissal in second-half stoppage time left Lionel Scaloni's side with 10 men for the closing stages before the European champions clinched the title.

The Chelsea midfielder had already been booked for dissent before receiving a second yellow card for a late tackle on Spain defender Pau Cubarsi. A day after the defeat, Fernandez took to Instagram to thank the fans and reflect on Argentina's campaign, insisting the team's commitment extended beyond the final result.

"As time goes by, you understand that there's something much bigger

than a result. For years, this group has represented us in the best way. They teach us that competing isn't just about winning, but about giving everything for the shirt and never giving up. Being part of this group that always showed its mettle, that competed at the highest level, and that defended these colors with pride, humility, and commitment is an honor."

The 25-year-old also

expressed his gratitude to the Argentina faithful, who backed the team throughout the tournament.

"I want to thank all the Argentine fans. Thank you for always being there, for supporting us in every match, for your affection, your unconditional support, and for making us feel like we're at home anywhere in the world."

Fernandez signed off with a promise to continue serving the national team with the same commitment despite the painful end to Argentina's World Cup campaign.

"Wearing my country's shirt is the greatest honor of my career, and I will continue to give my all every time I have the opportunity to defend it."

ICC Rankings: Hayley Matthews leads West Indies surge after Ireland ODI clean sweep

IAN S

DUBAI: West Indies skipper Hayley Matthews and several of her teammates have made significant gains in the latest Women's ODI Rankings after their side completed a 3-0 series sweep over Ireland in the ongoing ICC Women's Championship.

Matthews once again led from the front with outstanding performances with both bat and ball, earning the Player of the Series award. She amassed a series-best 265 runs across the three ODIs and also claimed seven wickets, further strengthen-

ing her position inside the top 10 across all three ODI rankings categories.

The latest rankings update also brought rewards for experienced batter Stafanie Taylor, all-rounder Aaliyah Alleyne, spinner Afy Fletcher and all-rounder Deandra Dottin following their contributions during the series.

Taylor climbed one place to 22nd in the ODI batting rankings after scoring a superb century in the third and final ODI against Ireland. Alleyne also made progress, moving up four places to 73rd among ODI

batters after contributing an innings of 33 in the same match.

In the ODI bowling rankings, Fletcher gained one spot to move into equal 21st after finishing the series with eight wickets, the highest tally by any bowler across the three matches.

Dottin also enjoyed a notable rise in the bowling rankings, climbing six places to 75th following her performances during the series. The clean sweep lifts the Caribbean side to fourth in the ICC Women's Championship standings with eight points.

Despite suffering a 3-0 series defeat, Ireland had a number of positives in the latest rankings update.

Captain Gaby Lewis moved up three places to 18th in the ODI batting rankings after consistent performances during the series. Teammate Orla Prendergast also made progress, climbing three spots to 31st in the ODI bowling rankings.

Ireland's bowling unit received further recognition as Jane Maguire rose four places to 47th among ODI bowlers, while Aimee Maguire jumped five positions to move into equal 71st.

Messi reflects on 'immense pain' following World Cup final loss

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Lionel Messi has described his "immense" pain after Argentina's 1-0 loss to Spain in the World Cup final, saying only time would help the team overcome the result.

Ferran Torres' extra-time goal in New Jersey ended Argentina's hopes of back-to-back titles on Sunday and denied Messi a chance to cap his decorated career with a second World Cup title.

The 39-year-old is not expected to play at the next World Cup in 2030, although he is yet to announce any retirement plans.

"The pain is immense, and this wound will take time to heal. But I also hold onto all the good things," Messi wrote on social

media.

"The matches we turned around by giving it our all - moments that will remain in our memories forever - and the support of an entire country which, combined with this group's hard work and effort, brought us back among the world's elite once again."

Argentina cruised through the group stage before relying on late goals in its next four knockout games to progress to the final. Messi finished the tournament with eight



goals and four assists and was considered unlucky by some not to win the Golden Ball award for the tournament's best player.

The former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star praised his teammates and expressed pride at the team's performance.

"It is hard to fully appreciate our achievement right now, but this group reached two consecutive World Cup finals," he said. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for every greeting and message. Once again, we managed to unite as a country and stand together, sharing the immense pride of being Argentine. I also want to congratulate Spain on winning the championship."

Dominant wins for Indian men's and women's teams on opening day of Youth Hockey's Asian C'ship



IAN S

Muscat (Oman): The Indian sub-junior men's and women's teams made winning starts in their respective campaigns at the FIH Youth Hockey's Asian Championship 2026 in Muscat, Oman, on Monday.

The Indian teams are placed in the Elite Pools of the men's and women's competition. The Indian women's team was the first to start its campaign on the tournament's opening day against Kazakhstan and won 8-3. The men's team faced Bangladesh in their opening match later and registered a 7-3 victory.

The women's team, led by Diya's hat-trick (14', 15', 20'), produced a dominant attacking display. Sandeepa Kumari (3', 12'), Nushreen Naz (6', 9') and Nilam Topno (7') were the others to get on the scoresheet.

India built a commanding lead in the opening half before continuing the momentum upon restart, with Diya completing a clinical second-half hat-trick to put the result beyond doubt.

Dilnaz Nigmatzhanova (17', 18') and Yasmin Seitizhan (20') scored for Kazakhstan.

The Indian men's team also impressed in its tournament opener, with goals from Rahul Yadav (2'), Karan Gautam (4'), captain Ketan Kushwaha (8', 14'), Romit Pal (10', 15') and Prahalad Rajbhar (16') securing a comprehensive 7-3 win over Bangladesh.

India maintained control for most of the contest, responding strongly whenever Bangladesh threatened to close the gap. Nure (2'), Sabbir Rahman (5') and Md. Islam (14') were the goal scorers for Bangladesh.

The tournament is also the Asian qualifier for the inaugural FIH Youth Hockey's World Cup.

Fresh from impressive performances at the U18 Asia Cup earlier this year, the Indian sub-junior men's and women's hockey teams are hoping to excel in the inaugural FIH Youth Hockey's Asian Championship 2026.

The Indian sub-junior men's team, coached by Sardar Singh, comprises players from the team that clinched the U18 Men's Asia Cup 2026 title, defeating hosts Japan 4-1 in the final. It has been placed in the Elite Pool alongside hosts Oman, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

India to play four-day warm-up game in Colombo ahead of Tests against Sri Lanka

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Indian men's cricket team will play a four-day warm-up game in Colombo starting on August 7 ahead of facing Sri Lanka in a two-match Test series starting on August 15. The Shubman Gill-led visitors are scheduled to land in Colombo on August 4 and will go through some practice sessions before playing the warm-up game at the Nondescripts Cricket

Club (NCC).

The second and final Test is scheduled to be held at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) in Colombo from August 23 to 27. Both matches are scheduled to commence at 10 am local time. The series is crucial for both teams as they look to climb the WTC standings.

As of now, India has a points percentage (PCT) of 48.15 after nine matches and is in fifth place. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, is in



Club (NCC).

"Yes, the Indian team will have its practice game from August 7 to 10 at NCC, Colombo. It will help all players to adjust to the local conditions on offer before the main series gets underway," said a source familiar with the development to IANS on Monday.

Following the conclusion of the four-day tour game, the Indian team will travel to Galle, where the opening Test match will be played at the picturesque Galle International Cricket Stadium (GICS) from

sixth spot with a PCT of 44.44. A series victory will provide a much-needed push for either side in their bid to secure a top-two finish and make the final.

The tour will also mark India's return to Sri Lanka for playing Tests after 2017, when, under the captaincy of Virat Kohli, they managed to get a 3-0 victory. India's last Test assignment saw them get an emphatic innings victory over Afghanistan in June, while Sri Lanka suffered a 2-0 series defeat to the West Indies.

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