

Good Morning

Kashmir

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Flood Response Activated

Jhelum Crosses Flood Declaration Mark At Ram Munshi Bagh



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The water level of River Jhelum at the Ram Munshi Bagh and gauge station in Srinagar crossed the flood declaration mark on Thursday evening, prompting the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department to activate flood response measures and direct officers and officials assigned flood duty to report to their respective locations.

According to the flood monitoring data, accessed, the water level at Ram Munshi Bagh was recorded at 18.04 feet, marginally above the flood declaration level of 18.0 feet. However, it remained well below the danger level of 21.0 feet and was increasing at a slow pace.

The data further revealed that the Sangam gauge station recorded a water level of 20.24 feet, remaining below its warning level of 21 feet. Pampore also crossed the flood declaration level and

was placed under the warning category, while Asham and Wular continued to remain below warning levels.

Among the tributaries, Vishow Nallah at Khudwani, Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi, Lidder Nallah at Batkoot, Doodhganga at Barzulla and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama were all flowing below their respective warning levels, indicating that the rise in water levels was largely confined to the main river.

Earlier, anticipating a further increase in the river level, the Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir, directed all officers and officials of departments assigned flood duty in South and Central Kashmir to immediately report to their designated duty stations.

The department also advised the general public to remain cautious and avoid venturing near rivers, streams and other water bodies.

Meanwhile, **●P-06**

Intensify Anti-Terror Operations To Neutralise Emerging Security Threats: LG To Officials

Chairs High-Level Security Review Meeting With Senior Officials

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday chaired a high-level security review meeting with senior officials from the Army, J&K Police, Civil Administration, CAPFs, and key security agencies. He directed officials to remain highly vigilant, step-up intelligence-led anti-terror operations and proactively neutralise emerging security threats.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command; Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri S.J.M.Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Lt Gen Balbir Singh, GOC 15 Corps; Lt Gen P K Mishra, GOC 16 Corps; Shri Chandekar Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home; Shri Pankaj Thakur, Additional Director, Intelligence Bureau; Dr Man-deep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO SASB; Shri Nitish Kumar, ADGP, CID; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Com-



missioners, IGPs, senior officials of Civil Administration, Police, Army, Security forces, Intelligence Agencies and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

The Lieutenant Governor also comprehensively reviewed logistics and safety arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in light of the recent inclement weather and heavy rainfall across the region.

The Lieutenant Governor instructed all departments to maintain seamless coordina-

tion and ensure the safety, well-being and convenience of all pilgrims of Baba Barfani.

He directed for comprehensive department-wise review of all amenities including rigorous audits of fire and emergency services, power grids, and water supply infrastructure.

More than 3,91,000 pilgrims have performed darshan at the holy cave in the first 20 days.

The Lieutenant Governor said the resumption of the Yatra is strictly contingent upon weather conditions.

HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR CONTINUOUS OPERATIONAL READINESS, focusing on round-the-clock disaster response preparedness, ensuring clean tracks and well-maintained sanitation facilities and adequate reserves of rations, LPG, kerosene, and emergency medical supplies.

Flood Threat Pushes South Kashmir To Edge



JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG: Continuous rainfall over the past several days has pushed major rivers and streams across South Kashmir close to flood declaration levels, triggering panic among residents.

According to the details available, officials are monitoring the situation as the water level in the River Jhelum and its tributaries continues to rise. Low-lying areas are on high alert amid fears of further inundation if the rainfall persists.

Several low-lying areas of South Kashmir are witnessing waterlogging. Orchards, paddy fields and residential localities have been inundated in many places, causing concern among farming families whose livelihoods depend on agriculture and horticulture.

A flood-like situation has emerged in Sakhra, where flood waters have entered residential areas, leaving families worried as the situation continues to deteriorate.

In Avoora, Pahalgam, the swollen Lidder River washed away **●P-06**

81.26% Rural Households In J&K Have Tap Water: Centre

RAJA SYED

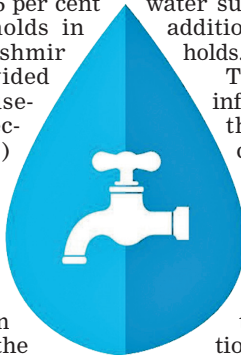
SRINAGAR: The Centre on Thursday informed Parliament that 81.26 per cent of rural households in Jammu and Kashmir have been provided Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), with more than 9.89 lakh new tap water connections added in the Union Territory since the launch of the scheme in August 2019.

Replying to a starred question in the Lok Sabha, Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, said Jammu and Kashmir has 19.25 lakh rural households, of which 5.75 lakh households (29.90 per cent) had tap water connections when the mission was launched on August 15,

2019. As of July 18, 2026, the number has increased to 15.64 lakh households (81.26 per cent) after providing tap water supply to 9.89 lakh additional rural households.

The minister informed the House that across the country, around 15.89 crore rural households, accounting for 82.09 per cent of the total rural households, have tap water connections as on July 18, 2026, compared to 3.23 crore households (16.71 per cent) at the launch of the mission.

The Centre said the government has approved the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission up to December 2028 under JJM 2.0, with the total financial outlay enhanced from Rs 3.60 lakh crore to Rs 8.69 lakh crore. **●P-06**



Govt Will Back Innovation, Young Entrepreneurs Should Not Fear Failure: CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday reaffirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's startup ecosystem, assuring young entrepreneurs of sustained support to transform innovative ideas into successful enterprises.

Addressing the ASCEND 2026 Startup Summit at SKICC, organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), the Chief Minister described the two-day summit as a vibrant platform where ideas, innovation, investment, mentorship and government policy converge to foster entrepreneurship and accelerate economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Acknowledging that governments are traditionally cautious about investing in ventures with-



out guaranteed outcomes, the Chief Minister said that building a robust startup ecosystem requires a fundamental shift in approach.

"If we fund 10 startups, possibly eight will not succeed. But the two that do succeed will more than make up for the eight that failed," he said.

Reiterating the government's commitment, the Chief Minister said it was prepared to take that risk.

"We are not afraid to fail. The only thing we are afraid of is not putting enough support behind

all of you," he said, adding that the government would do everything possible to strengthen both the startup culture and the ecosystem that sustains it.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister distributed seed fund cheques of 5 lakh each to seven startups to support their entrepreneurial ventures.

Highlighting the innovative spirit of Jammu and Kashmir's youth, the Chief Minister said he draws hope from the practical, ground-level **●P-06**

CS Directs Departments To Fast-Track AI Use Cases To Enhance Public Service Delivery

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress made on the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance in Jammu and Kashmir and the establishment of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence here.

The meeting besides the concerned Administrative Secretaries was attended by the Representatives from Indian Institute of Technology Jammu; BISAG and other concerned officers of the Union Territory.

While reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary observed that Artificial Intelligence has the potential to



fundamentally transform governance by improving efficiency, transparency, responsiveness and quality of public services. He maintained that the Government must leverage emerging technologies not merely as digital tools but as strategic enablers for better governance, faster decision-making and enhanced citizen service delivery.

He emphasised that technological solutions should complement the existing digital ecosystem instead of creating parallel systems, thereby ensuring optimal utilisation of public resources and seamless integration with existing platforms.

The Chief Secretary called upon the Administrative Departments to proactively engage with the Information Technology **●P-06**

Anantnag Attack

3,500 OGWs Detained In Major Security Sweep Across Kashmir

High Alert Across Valley, Frisking, Naka Checking Intensified

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Security forces have launched a massive Valley-wide crackdown and placed Kashmir on high alert after a policeman was killed in a terror attack in Anantnag, with over 3,500 suspected Over Ground Workers (OGWs) detained for questioning and intensified frisking, naka checking, vehicle inspections and search operations being carried out across all districts, sources said on Thursday.

Sources said that security has been significantly tightened across the Valley, with forces intensifying surveillance, strengthening checkpoints, increasing vehicle checks and carrying out widespread search operations in several districts.



In a post on X, the Srinagar sector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) said security across Kashmir had been put on high alert following the attack.

"Security forces have intensified surveillance, strengthened checkpoints

and launched search operations to maintain law and order. Citizens are urged to remain vigilant and cooperate with security forces," the CRPF said.

The heightened security measures come a day after

Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi was shot dead by terrorists at point-blank range in the busy Lal Chowk area of Anantnag on Wednesday afternoon.

Official sources said security agencies launched one of the largest counter-terror operations in recent months, detaining more than 3,500 suspected Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and terror sympathisers for questioning across Kashmir. OGWs is a term used for individuals accused of assisting or facilitating terrorist activities.

Intensive frisking, naka checking, vehicle inspections and cordon-and-search operations have been carried out across all districts of Kashmir as part of the security sweep, sources said. **●P-06**

98% Of Srinagar Smart City Projects Completed: Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of India on Thursday said that 157 out of 161 projects (98 per cent) under the Srinagar Smart City Mission have been completed as of March 31, 2026, with works worth Rs 3,530 crore executed out of the total sanctioned cost of Rs 3,633 crore.

Replying to an unstarred question by MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu, said the Smart City Proposals (SCPs) are planned at the local level after consultations with citizens and other stakeholders and are approved by the State High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC).

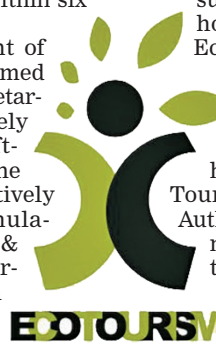
The minister said the projects have been designed to address local urban requirements across multiple sectors, including smart mobility, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), smart **●P-06**

J&K Govt To Finalise Eco-Tourism Policy Within 6 Months

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is in the process of formulating an Eco-Tourism Policy, which is expected to be finalized after extensive consultations with stakeholders. "The draft Eco-Tourism Policy is being finalized after detailed consultation with all concerned stakeholders including Tourism Development Authorities, line departments, environmental experts, local communities, tourism industry representatives, and other relevant agencies," the reply added.

According to the Government, the policy will be finalized and notified within six months following completion of the consultation process and approval of the competent authority. **●P-06**



DC Sgr visits Shrine of Makhdoom Sahib (RA), reviews arrangements for upcoming Urs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Thursday visited the Shrine of Hazrat Sultan-ul-Arfeen Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom (R.A.) at Makhdoom Sahib in Shahr-e-Khaas to review preparations for the forthcoming annual Urs.

He also visited Sharika Devi temple at Hari Parbat and participated in the Sharika Jayanti celebrations.

During both visits, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of arrangements, interacted with shrine and temple management members, devotees and Officers and emphasized coordinated efforts by all concerned departments to ensure smooth, peaceful and hassle-free observance of the religious occasions.

During the visit to Makhdoom Sahib Shrine, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, City, KPDC, Senior Officers of Police & Traffic departments, besides, members of Makhdoom



Sahib Shrine Management and other concerned.

The DC reviewed the arrangements being put in place for the annual Urs, including water supply, uninterrupted electricity, transport services, parking and traffic management, sanitation and cleanliness measures, street lighting and medical facilities.

Interacting with local representatives, the DC sought their suggestions for further improving facilities for devotees expected to participate in large numbers.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure availability of adequate drinking water at the shrine and maintain cleanliness in and around the premises. He instructed the Srinagar Municipal Corporation authorities to take necessary measures for sanitation, address the stray dog menace and ensure that all street lights in the area remain functional.

Similarly, KPDC Engineers were directed to ensure uninterrupted power

supply during the Urs days. The DC also instructed the Health Department to establish a first-aid camp at the shrine for providing immediate medical assistance to devotees.

He directed all line departments to ensure timely completion of all arrangements and maintain close coordination for the peaceful, safe and smooth conduct of the annual Urs.

Later, on the auspicious occasion of Sharika Jayanti, the Deputy Commissioner visited Sharika Devi Temple at Hari Parbat and participated in the religious celebrations, which were observed with great devotion, spiritual fervour and enthusiasm.

The DC paid obeisance at the revered temple and extended his warm greetings to devotees on the religious occasion. He interacted with devotees and officers and reviewed the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the celebrations.

The event was organized

in a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere with the active participation of devotees, volunteers and members of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the coordinated efforts of all line departments, temple management members and volunteers for ensuring the successful conduct of the celebrations.

Meanwhile, the District Administration Srinagar and concerned departments had made elaborate arrangements to ensure the convenience, safety and comfort of devotees.

Pertinent to mention that, Sharika Jayanti is one of the most revered religious festivals of the Kashmiri Pandit community and holds immense spiritual and cultural significance. The festival is celebrated with traditional rituals and prayers, symbolizing faith, harmony and the rich composite cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Judicial Academy organizes capacity-building programme on Juvenile Justice

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Under the guidance of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Chairperson, Committee under the Juvenile Justice Act, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy Thursday organized a Capacity-Building Programme on Juvenile Justice for the Principal Magistrates of the Juvenile Justice Boards.

The programme was conducted in hybrid mode, with the Principal Magistrates from the Kashmir Division participating physically at the Academy's Mominabad Campus, Srinagar, while those from the Jammu Division joined virtually. The programme was also attended by the Newly Selected Civil Judges (Junior Division), Batch-2026, presently undergoing the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme.

The programme was organized pursuant to the approval of the Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, based on a comprehensive Training Needs Assessment undertaken by the Office of the Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee. It was also aimed at facilitating implementation of the directions issued by the Supreme Court of India in Juvenile Delinquent v. State of U.P. & Others (Criminal Appeal No. 2010 of 2026), along with the Standard Operating Pro-



cedure and the communication issued by the Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Director, Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar who highlighted the significance of the programme in strengthening the implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. He emphasized the need for a child-centric and reformative approach while underscoring the importance of continuous judicial education in enhancing the capacity of judicial officers.

The inaugural session was jointly conducted by Tabassum Wani, Joint Registrar Inspection, High Court Wing, Srinagar, and Dr. Khair-ul-Nisa, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee.

The resource persons discussed the key provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, including the powers and functions of Juvenile Justice Boards, child-friendly

inquiry procedures, preliminary assessment under Section 15, Social Investigation Reports, the role of experts and important judicial precedents. The session featured interactive discussions and case studies emphasizing a child-centric and reformative approach.

The second session, conducted by Tabassum Wani, focused on non-custodial measures, diversion and rehabilitation of children in conflict with law. Through practical case studies and discussions, the participants deliberated on bail under Section 12, preliminary assessment under Section 15, claims of juvenility, the distinction between children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, and the importance of safeguarding the identity and confidentiality of children.

The post-lunch sessions were jointly conducted by Tabassum Qadir, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar and Dr. Khair-ul-Nisa, who deliberated on restorative justice in juvenile justice adminis-

tration. They highlighted victim-offender mediation, family group conferencing, accountability, rehabilitation and social reintegration. They emphasized trauma-informed judicial approaches, community participation and coordinated institutional support for the welfare and long-term rehabilitation of children in conflict with law.

The programme witnessed active participation from the Principal Magistrates of Juvenile Justice Boards and the newly inducted Civil Judges (Junior Division), who engaged enthusiastically in the discussions and interactive sessions throughout the day.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, reaffirming the commitment of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the Juvenile Justice Committee and the J&K Judicial Academy towards continuous judicial education and capacity building for ensuring a sensitive, rights-based and effective juvenile justice delivery system in the Union Territory.

HEAVY RAINFALL

DC Anantnag visits high risk areas, takes stock of situation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Amid continuous inclement weather and heavy rainfall, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Thursday conducted an extensive tour of various high-risk locations, vulnerable riverside areas, and major streams (Nallahs) across the district to assess the situation on the ground.

The DC toured critical sites including Mehndi Kadal, Danter Bridge, Ashajipora Bye Pass, Deva Colony, Rooh, and Aang to observe the ground situation. He was accompanied by ADC, Dr. Muzamil Maqbool Beig; SE Hydraulics, Sareer Ahmad Wani; SE PWD, Syed Ishfaq Ahmad; ACR, Tariq Ahmad Malik; Tehsildar Anantnag, Ex-En Flood Control, CEO and Secretary MCA and officials from other essential services.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the water levels of key water bodies, including the Aripat, Bringi, and Liddar Nallahs, and evaluated the safety and mitigation measures implemented by the Flood Control, Public Works Department (R&B), Revenue, Police, SDRF, and other concerned agencies. He inspected the dewatering station at Mehndi Kadal and asked the concerned officers



to closely monitor the water levels and act immediately when required, to avoid water logging in main town.

The DC was informed that dewatering pumps have been actively deployed at crucial choke points and waterlogging has been cleared at major spots, including KP Road, Janglat Mandi, Ganjiwara, General Bus Stand, town interiors and other roadside areas. He was further informed that a number of nomadic, labor, and vulnerable families have been safely relocated to fully operational evacuation centers at Brakpora, Hiller, Aang, Bijbehara, and other high risk places. Further, strengthening of river embankments by Sand and EC Bags has been carried out at various breach prone places including Batengu, Mehndi Kadal, Deva Colony, GMC Anantnag, Pushwara and Sagam.

Taking stock of the situation, the DC directed that all

departments must remain in a high state of alert and readiness to prevent any untoward incident related to life of residents and to minimise property damage. He called for seamless pre-positioning of joint response teams comprising officials of Revenue, Police, SDRF, CRPF, and civil administration at safer and strategic locations to ensure swift rescue operations, if required. He instructed for the prompt evacuation of nomadic groups, and labour communities residing near water bodies to nearby emergency shelters equipped with essential facilities.

Interacting with local residents during his visit, the DC urged citizens to remain calm, avoid venturing near rivers and streams, restrict unnecessary travel until the weather improves, and strictly adhere to official advisories.

DC Srinagar visits Flood Control Room at Ram Munshi Bagh

Assesses situation arising of inclement weather

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of the inclement weather, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Thursday visited the Flood Control Room at Ram Munshi Bagh and reviewed the prevailing situation and preparedness measures put in place.

During the visit, the DC chaired a comprehensive review meeting with senior Officers and assessed the current water levels, gauge readings, discharge trends and readiness of the departments to respond effectively to any emerging situation.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed about the latest gauge readings, status of River Jhelum and its tributaries and the mechanism established for round-the-clock monitoring and dissemination of real-time information. He also reviewed the contingency measures being implemented by various departments to tackle any emerging situation.

Stressing the need for constant vigilance, the DC directed the Irrigation & Flood Control Department



and other line departments to maintain uninterrupted monitoring of all gauge stations and vulnerable locations. He instructed Officers to closely track the evolving situation, maintain real-time data analysis and ensure timely dissemination of updates to facilitate prompt decision-making.

The Chairman DDMA directed the concerned Departments to undertake strengthening and protective measures at all identified vulnerable spots well in advance and ensure swift action in case of any emergent situation.

Emphasizing the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders, the DC called for an efficient preparedness and response mechanism to evolving situation. He directed Officers to remain in a state of readiness by mobilizing manpower, machinery and resources, particularly at vulnerable locations.

The DC/Chairman DDMA underscored the need for seamless coordination among the Revenue teams, Police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Srinagar Municipal Cor-

poration (SMC), Fire & Emergency Services and other concerned agencies for seamless and coordinated preparedness efforts. He directed the concerned agencies to pre-position adequate manpower, rescue teams and essential equipment besides mobilizing field staff in advance, especially in vulnerable areas, to effectively deal with any weather-related emergencies.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, CEO DDMA, Aadil Fareed, Director IMD Srinagar Station, Mukhtar Ahmad, IAS Probationer Alfred Thomas, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, SP Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineers Hydraulics, Er Annmbreen Anjum, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDC, UEED, Mechanical Irrigation, I&FC, SMC, Executive Engineers, all Tehsildars, Officers from NDRF, SDRF, Health, Legal Metrology, Fire & Emergency, Forest, FCS&CA, Civil Defence and other Departments.

FDA conducts 148 inspections, lifts 99 Food Samples across all Districts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K conducted inspections and sampling across the Union Territory to check compliance with food safety requirements.

During the drive, 148 food business establishments were inspected and 75 enforcement samples were lifted.

Further, six Improvement Notices were issued to Food Business Operators (FBOs) for deviations from hygiene and sanitary requirements. Six FBOs were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and a fine of ₹6,000 was imposed.

In view of the prevailing rainy season, consumers were advised to use boiled drinking water, avoid pre-cut fruits and food kept in unhygienic conditions, and ensure proper storage of food items.

FDA has requested consumers to report any suspected unsafe or adulterated food product through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

DC Kulgam reviews functioning of FCS&CA Department

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning and performance of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department in the district.

The meeting focused on the implementation of various public distribution schemes, availability of essential commodities, ration distribution, Aadhaar seeding, e-KYC progress, grievance redressal, and overall service delivery under the Public Distribution System (PDS).



The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of ration card management, distribution of food grains, and measures taken to ensure transparency and timely delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

The DC stressed the importance of maintaining adequate stocks of essential commodities and ensuring uninterrupted supplies across all areas of the district. He focussed on prioritising the timely distribution of essentials along with strengthening the grievance redressal mechanism.

Emphasizing accountability and efficiency, the DC directed the concerned officers to address public grievances promptly, strengthen monitoring mechanisms, and ensure that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of entitlements under government welfare schemes.

B'pora Admin to work with School Ecology Clubs for waste Management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Thursday chaired a preliminary meeting with Eco Club Incharges of High and Higher Secondary Schools across the district, along with students from NMBHSS and GHSS Bandipora, to discuss the urgent need for effective waste management and environmental conservation.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the important role of educational institutions in promoting environmental awareness and called for revitalising Eco Clubs across the district. She stressed the



need for regular monitoring of Eco Club activities and urged the Incharges to identify and encourage committed students and teachers to lead environment protection initiatives in their respective institutions.

The meeting also discussed the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules and deliberated on the role of Eco Clubs in promoting waste segregation at source, waste reduction and sustainable waste

management practices.

To strengthen practical learning and encourage greater awareness, the Deputy Commissioner urged the participants to undertake exposure visits to key district initiatives, including the Knowledge Centre, Jal Shakti Kendra, NRLM Women Self-Help Group-run Cafeteria and Project Insaniyat, to gain first-hand experience of sustainable and community-driven initiatives.

Three medical shops closed in surprise inspection in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Acting on the directions issued during the NCORD review meetings, Drugs Control Department, Shopian Thursday conducted surprise inspections of pharmacies in Keegam and Keller to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules framed thereunder.

During the inspection drive, officials verified the functioning of Computerized Billing Systems (CBS) and CCTV cameras besides examining purchase and sale records of scheduled formulations, stock registers, invoices and the availability of qualified persons at licensed premises.

The inspection also assessed adherence to licence conditions

and statutory requirements. During the enforcement drive, several violations of licence conditions were detected, including the absence of qualified persons at licensed establishments. Consequently, three medical shops were ordered to be closed on the spot under the relevant provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules framed thereunder.

The department also initiated further regulatory action against the defaulting establishments in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Rules.

The enforcement drive was aimed at strengthening regulatory oversight, preventing the misuse and diversion of scheduled drugs and ensuring strict compliance with drug control laws.

Jammu-Srinagar Highway Partially Restored, LMVs Allowed Towards Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

Jammu: Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was Thursday partially restored for traffic, with authorities permitting the movement of Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) towards Srinagar following an improvement in road conditions.

Traffic officials said LMVs have been allowed to proceed from Jakhani

in Udampur towards Srinagar after restoration work on the highway made the route partially motorable.

Authorities, however, said traffic movement remains regulated and commuters have been advised to follow the directions of traffic personnel and adhere to official advisories while undertaking the journey.

The highway, the only

all-weather road connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country, had witnessed disruptions due to adverse weather and landslides at several vulnerable stretches.

Restoration work is continuing at affected locations, and officials said the movement of other categories of vehicles would be decided based on road conditions and weather. [KNT]

CS reviews adoption of Chandigarh's online PMS for Housing Colonies in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday in a meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) reviewed the adoption of Chandigarh's Property Management System (PMS) developed by their National Informatics Centre (NIC) for digitising the management of housing colonies under the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), here.

The initiative aims at providing transparent, efficient and citizen-centric online services to the allottees of government housing colonies across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC); Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC); Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority (JDA); Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority (SDA); SIO, NIC J&K; Managing Director, J&K Housing Board; Director, ULB, Kashmir/Jammu and other senior officers.



Officers from NIC Chandigarh joined the meeting through virtual mode.

Emphasising the importance of leveraging technology to improve public service delivery, the Chief Secretary observed that adoption of the Property Management System would mark significant step towards digital governance in the Housing & Urban Development Department.

He said that the online platform would simplify property-related procedures, minimise physical interface between citizens and government offices, reduce processing time and provide greater convenience to the allottees of government housing colonies across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary

directed the concerned departments and implementing agencies to ensure time-bound implementation of the project by working in close coordination with NIC Chandigarh and NIC J&K. He stressed the need for completing the required customisation, ensuring data accuracy, undertaking comprehensive testing and completing the security audit before rolling out the system for public use.

He also called for adequate capacity building of the concerned staff to facilitate smooth implementation of the project.

At the outset, the Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur apprised about the salient features and progress achieved in adopting the

Property Management System, which has been successfully implemented by the Chandigarh Administration for delivering online property management services.

She added that the system has been designed to provide an end-to-end digital platform for processing ownership and lease-related services through an online workflow, thereby ensuring greater transparency, accountability, efficiency and ease of access for citizens.

During the meeting, the NIC Chandigarh team gave a comprehensive live demonstration of the online Property Management System and showcased its various modules, functionalities, workflow and opera-

tional efficiency. The team explained the citizen-centric services and features of the portal and demonstrated the complete digital processing of applications from submission to final disposal through a structured online workflow.

The demonstration highlighted various online services proposed to be made available to the allottees, including transfer of ownership based on registered deeds, transfer of lease rights, issuance of No Objection Certificates for transfer of lease rights, grant of permission to mortgage properties and issuance of No Dues Certificates. The system also enables applicants to monitor the status of their applications online, thereby ensuring greater transparency and timely delivery of services.

On this occasion the VC, JDA, Rupesh Kumar detailed out that the Property Management System incorporates several advanced digital features, including a dedicated citizen web interface, electronic payment gateway, automated calculation of applicable charges.

Dy CM reviews flash flood restoration in Nowshera, emphasizes swift recovery

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Nowshera to assess the progress on restoration works and emergency response measures being undertaken in the aftermath of the recent flash floods. He reviewed the preparedness and response of all concerned departments and directed the officers to ensure speedy restoration of essential services and effective relief measures for the affected population.

The Deputy Chief Minister conducted a department-wise review of the restoration works and stressed the need for expediting the restoration of roads, drinking water supply, electricity and other essential public services. He directed all the departments to complete a comprehensive assessment of losses at the earliest so that appropriate relief and restoration measures can be taken up without delay.

Emphasising the importance of long-term disaster mitigation, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to prepare and submit a comprehensive plan within five days suggesting both immediate and permanent measures to minimise the impact of flash floods and prevent similar damage in



the future. He underscored the need for scientific planning, strengthening vulnerable areas and adopting sustainable flood management strategies.

The Deputy Chief Minister also instructed the officers to maintain close coordination among the departments, closely monitor the progress of restoration works and ensure that all affected families receive timely assistance. He reiterated that the government is committed to extend every possible support for rehabilitation of flood-affected people and restoring normalcy at the earliest.

Appreciating the prompt and coordinated response of the district administration and all line departments during the flash flood situation, the Deputy Chief Minister lauded the dedication and commitment displayed by the officers and officials in carrying out rescue, relief and restoration operations under challenging circumstances. He urged them to maintain the same

momentum and continue working with unwavering commitment to ensure the early restoration of normalcy and timely assistance to every affected family.

Earlier, Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa, presented a detailed briefing on the damage caused by the flash floods. He informed about the loss to life and property and the damage caused to schools, roads, houses, standing crops, dug wells and other public infrastructure. He also highlighted the impact on PMGSY roads, health institutions and infrastructure under the Agriculture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry and Jal Shakti Departments.

The ADC further informed that dry ration has been distributed among all affected families and that the administration, in coordination with the concerned departments, is ensuring that relief and rehabilitation measures reach every affected household in a timely manner.

Tarigami chairs Environment Committee meeting

Reviews eco-tourism policy, emphasizes destination specific master plans for sustainable growth

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: MLA, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami Thursday chaired a meeting of the Committee on Environment here at Legislative Assembly Complex to assess the implementation of the J&K Eco-Tourism Policy and environmental safeguards across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Legislators Professor Gharu Ram, Dr Sajjad Shafi, Showkat Hussain Ganie and Javid Riyaz Bedar.

The Committee was apprised that the J&K Eco-Tourism Policy is in the advanced stages of formulation and aims to establish a framework for conservation of natural resources, regulation of tourism activities and promotion of community-based sustainable livelihoods.

The Chairman laid special emphasis on the preparation of destination specific Master plans for all eco tourism destinations in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure planned development, regulation of carrying capacity, scientific waste management and protection of biodiversity.

The Committee directed



that these Master Plans be finalized in consultation with the experts, local communities and relevant stakeholders to ensure environmentally sustainable tourism growth across the UT.

The Committee undertook a comprehensive appraisal of major eco-Tourism destinations, revenue trends over the last five years and environmental challenges confronting the sector.

The Chairman reviewed the measures taken to promote eco-friendly tourism, including declaration of tourist and religious destinations as plastic and polystyrene-free zones.

The Department informed that awareness programmes are being conducted under national campaigns such as Travel for Life: Tourism for Tomorrow and Swachhata Hi Seva. Besides, enforcement mechanisms have been strengthened at destinations like Doodhpathri and Youmarg. He directed all CEOs of Tourism Development Authorities to submit destination-wise details on plastic-free initiatives and its enforcement.

The Committee reviewed

environmental compliance by Tourism Development Authorities, the status of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), including proposed mini-STPs, water quality, pollution control, solid waste management, carrying capacity of tourist destinations and implementation of tourism master plans. Particular concern was expressed over environmental issues related to Tawi Golf Club, Jammu, degradation of wetlands and illegal constructions and encroachments in tourist areas. The Committee directed the concerned authorities to submit comprehensive reports and ensure time-bound corrective measures.

The chairman of the committee, M. Y. Tarigami informed that Baldev Raj Sharma, MLA, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Constituency Katra, had submitted a representation highlighting serious environmental concerns in Katra, including the Village Tun, Panchayat Arli Hansali, Katra besides environmental concerns relating the Shalimar Park Water Filtration Plant, water tanker filling stations at Chamba and

Jhajjar, the proposed Inter Modal Station (IMS), and illegal dumping of waste along the Katra-Reasi Road. The Tourism Department and JKPCDC were directed to examine the issues and submit detailed reports with remedial measures.

The Committee reviewed the status of encroachments on wetlands, lakes, water bodies and tourism department land. It stressed for protection of environmentally sensitive areas in coordination with the District Administration, Revenue and Police departments. Further, the Committee directed that all cases of unauthorized occupation be monitored regularly and retrieval actions be expedited.

The Committee also examined the preventive and remedial measures undertaken by the Department including installation of waste segregation facilities, scientific waste management, restriction on single-use plastics, promotion of eco-friendly mobility solutions and strengthening community participation in conservation.

Taking cognizance of the incessant rains currently prevailing across Jammu and Kashmir, the Chairman of the Committee directed the Flood & Irrigation Department to take all requisite measures and ensure full preparedness to deal with any emergent situation arising out of continuous rainfall.

J&K Assembly Privileges Committee Summons Waheed Para

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has convened a meeting today to examine a privilege case against PDP legislator Waheed-ur-Rehman Para.

According to an official bulletin issued by the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, the meeting will be held at 11:00 am on July 24 in the Meeting Hall of the Assembly Secretariat at Srinagar.

The meeting will be chaired by the Committee on Privileges Chairman, Bashir Ahmad Veeri. Members of the committee have been requested to attend the proceedings.

The committee members include Bashir Ahmad Shah (Veeri), Showkat Hussain Ganie, Khurshid Ahmed, Zafar Ali Khatana, Vijay Kumar, Rajeev Kumar and Darshan Kumar.

The bulletin states that Waheed-ur-Rehman Para has also been requested to appear before the committee on the scheduled date and time in connection with the privilege case. [KNT]

LoP Sharma Accuses CM Omar of Patronising Main Accused in MBBS Entrance Scam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Kumar Sharma, on Thursday accused Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of patronising the main accused in the 2012 MBBS entrance examination scam, alleging that he was granted an extension in service and later appointed as a consultant after retirement.

In a statement, Sharma said Omar Abdullah should not speak on transparency and accountability, claiming that his government had protected the principal accused in the alleged Common Entrance Test (CET)-2012 paper-selling case.

He alleged that Mushtaq Peer, whom he described as the main accused in the sale of question papers for the 2012 Common Entrance Test in return for money, was first given an extension and later appointed as a consultant for the fast-track recruitment of Class IV posts.

Sharma questioned who had approved the extension



and post-retirement appointment, alleging that the then Omar Abdullah-led government had patronised the accused.

The BJP leader also questioned the response of the investigating agencies functioning under Omar Abdullah when he served as Chief Minister and held the Home portfolio, alleging that action was initiated only after the intervention of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Referring to the court proceedings, Sharma said the intervention followed submissions by the Amicus Curiae that reports had surfaced of JK CET-2012 question papers being sold before the examination for large sums

of money. He alleged that despite specific complaints, the Vigilance Organisation and the Crime Branch failed to act until the matter reached the High Court.

Sharma further alleged that the Chief Minister was displaying "selective memory" by referring to later recruitment controversies while ignoring earlier allegations. He also claimed that allegations of a paper leak had surfaced during the Junior Engineer (Electrical) examination conducted in 2025.

The allegations were made in response to recent remarks by Omar Abdullah concerning recruitment examination paper leak cases in Jammu and Kashmir.

Heavy Rains Anwar Khan Asks Administration to Remain on Toes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State General Secretary Anwar Khan on Thursday urged the Jammu and Kashmir government and district administrations to remain on high alert amid incessant rainfall and the growing threat of floods across the Union Territory.

Referring to the prevailing weather conditions and forecasts of continued heavy rainfall, Khan said the administration must adopt a proactive approach to prevent any loss of life or property.

"The administration needs to remain on its toes. Every precautionary measure must be taken immediately to avert any unfortunate incident," he said while speaking to the media.

Khan called upon the authorities to identify flood-prone and landslide-vulnerable areas and, where necessary,



evacuate residents to safer locations before the situation deteriorates. He also appealed to people living near overflowing streams, low-lying areas, and vulnerable hill slopes to exercise caution and cooperate with emergency response teams.

The BJP leader further urged party workers to actively participate in relief efforts by forming local volunteer groups to assist people affected by the adverse weather conditions.

"Our workers must remain vigilant and proactive on the ground. They should organise local self-help groups and ensure every possible assistance reaches stranded and affected families," Khan said.

Emphasising the need for an effective response, Khan asked the government to continuously assess the damage caused to residential properties, agricultural land, and public infrastructure due to the heavy rains.

He also called for prompt rehabilitation of affected families and urged the administration to ensure timely compensation and relief without bureaucratic delays.

Khan maintained that protecting human lives, providing immediate relief, and restoring normalcy should remain the top priorities of the government as Jammu and Kashmir continues to witness intense rainfall.

Javed Rana reviews flood relief, restoration measures in Mendhar Asks for immediate repair of breached flood-protection works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest Ecology Environment and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmed Rana Thursday chaired a review meeting at Mendhar with the senior officers of the district administration and the concerned departments to assess the progress of relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures in the flood-affected areas.

The officers briefed the Minister on the extent of damage to public infrastructure, restoration of essential services, relief operations and the status of damage assessment.

The Minister directed the officers to expedite restoration works, ensure timely assistance to the affected families and maintain close inter-departmental coordination to facilitate early return to normalcy.

Javed Rana directed the district administration to receive and scrutinise all relevant documents submitted by the affected people to

ensure that all genuine cases are processed expeditiously for relief, compensation and rehabilitation in accordance with the prescribed norms.

Addressing the affected residents, the Minister appealed to them to extend full cooperation to the administration in accurate assessment process. He assured them that the government would examine every eligible case with sympathy and provide all possible assistance.

The Minister directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to take immediate measures for restoration of breaches at various vulnerable points along the Mankote Nallah and other affected locations. He also issued on-the-spot instructions to the department to prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for all sites damaged by the floods, covering both the temporary restoration works for immediate relief and permanent measures to strengthen flood protection infrastructure and mitigate future risks.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

ECLGS 5.0

Don't Let Procedural Hurdles Defeat The Purpose

The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was conceived as a lifeline for businesses struggling to cope with financial distress and economic uncertainty. Its objective was simple: ensure that viable enterprises receive timely financial support to sustain operations, protect jobs and revive economic activity. If genuine borrowers are unable to access this assistance because a guarantor has passed away, become seriously ill or moved away, then the very spirit of the scheme is being defeated.

The concerns raised by borrowers associated with J&K Bank deserve immediate and serious attention. Many traders and industrial units reportedly maintain satisfactory repayment records and have operational businesses, yet they are unable to avail the additional 20 per cent working capital under ECLGS 5.0 due to the unavailability of their original guarantors. This is not a question of unwillingness to repay; it is a procedural roadblock that has little to do with the financial health of the borrower.

Banking institutions are expected to safeguard public money, and no one disputes the need for prudent lending practices. However, prudence should not become rigidity. If a borrower has demonstrated financial discipline over the years and is willing to provide a fresh, financially sound third-party guarantor, there appears to be little justification for denying access to a government-backed credit guarantee scheme solely because the original guarantor can no longer fulfil that role.

A practical solution is both possible and reasonable. J&K Bank can examine each case individually, assessing repayment history, business performance, financial viability and the credentials of the proposed substitute guarantor before granting approval. Such an approach would protect the bank's interests while ensuring that deserving businesses are not unfairly excluded. The stakes are high. Working capital is the lifeblood of any enterprise. Delays in accessing funds can disrupt production, delay payments to suppliers, affect salaries, reduce business confidence and ultimately impact employment. In Jammu and Kashmir, where businesses have already endured years of economic disruptions, every avoidable procedural hurdle further weakens the fragile commercial ecosystem.

ECLGS 5.0 was introduced to support businesses, not to trap them in technicalities. The scheme's success should be measured by how effectively it reaches deserving borrowers, not by how many are turned away due to circumstances beyond their control. J&K Bank has long projected itself as a partner in the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing this issue with flexibility and fairness would reinforce that commitment. At the same time, the administration and financial regulators should facilitate policy clarity wherever required so that procedural bottlenecks do not undermine a scheme designed to strengthen the business community.

The message is clear: genuine borrowers should not be punished for circumstances they neither created nor can control. Banking rules must protect the system, but they must also serve the people they are meant to support. When policy and practicality move together, businesses grow, jobs are protected and the economy benefits.

Climate In Transition

When The Weather Breaks



SYED SUHAIL GEELANI

This summer has felt different. The season began with prolonged heat, rising temperatures, drying landscapes, and visible signs of moisture stress across many areas. Before these conditions could settle into a typical summer pattern, the weather shifted abruptly. Intense rainfall followed, leading to rapid changes in river discharge, soil erosion, and landslides across parts of the northwestern Himalaya. To many, it appeared to be an unexpected turn of the season. Scientific observations suggest that such transitions are becoming increasingly frequent in many parts of the world. They reflect the combined influence of atmospheric processes, geological conditions, and anthropogenic changes that are altering the behaviour of regional climate systems.

The atmosphere responds directly to changes in temperature and moisture. The Clausius-Clapeyron relation explains that for every one-degree Celsius increase in air temperature, the atmosphere can hold approximately seven per cent more water vapour. During periods of extreme heat, evaporation increases from oceans, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and land surfaces, enriching the atmosphere with moisture. When favourable atmospheric conditions develop, including moisture convergence and low-pressure systems, this accumulated moisture can be released as intense rainfall.

Large-scale atmospheric circulation also plays an important role. Variations in jet stream behaviour and atmospheric blocking patterns can influence the persistence and movement of weather systems. These conditions may allow periods of prolonged heat or persistent rainfall to remain over the same region for longer than usual, contributing to greater seasonal variability.

Atmospheric processes determine how weather develops, but geological conditions largely determine how the land responds. Prolonged dry conditions reduce the infiltration capacity of soils. In some soils, particularly those rich in organic matter, temporary water repellency, known as soil hydrophobicity, may develop. In many



other soils, repeated drying leads to surface sealing and crust formation, both of which restrict the downward movement of water.

When intense rainfall occurs over such surfaces, a larger proportion of water becomes overland flow rather than infiltrating into the ground. This accelerates soil erosion, increases sediment transport, and causes rivers and streams to respond more rapidly to heavy rainfall.

Across the northwestern Himalaya, geological conditions further influence this response. Much of the terrain is characterised by weathered rocks, fractured bedrock, steep slopes, and unconsolidated slope deposits. During prolonged rainfall, water infiltrates these materials and increases pore water pressure, reducing their shear strength and making slopes more susceptible to landslides and slope failures. These are well documented geological responses to intense rainfall in mountainous environments.

Natural processes explain how these weather fluctuations occur. Human activities have increasingly amplified both

their intensity and their consequences.

The continued rise in greenhouse gas concentrations has warmed the atmosphere, increasing its capacity to retain moisture and creating conditions that favour more intense rainfall under suitable atmospheric conditions. At the same time, deforestation has reduced vegetation cover that stabilises slopes, protects soil, and regulates the movement of water. The resulting increase in erosion adds more sediment to rivers and gradually alters natural drainage systems.

Rapid urbanisation has also transformed the behaviour of the landscape. The replacement of permeable ground with concrete and asphalt reduces infiltration, increases surface runoff, and places greater pressure on drainage networks. Encroachment upon natural floodplains and drainage channels further limits the landscape's ability to accommodate periods of intense rainfall.

The weather experienced this summer should not be viewed as an isolated seasonal event. It reflects the interaction of atmospheric dynamics, geological

processes, and anthropogenic changes that are gradually reshaping the way landscapes respond to climate.

Reducing the impacts of future weather extremes requires a scientific approach to land and environmental management. Protecting forests, conserving wetlands, restoring natural drainage channels, limiting construction on geologically vulnerable slopes, and integrating geological assessments into development planning can improve the resilience of both natural landscapes and human settlements. Alongside these measures, reducing greenhouse gas emissions remains essential to limiting further changes in the climate system.

The changing character of this season reminds us that weather is no longer changing only in intensity. It is also changing in rhythm. Understanding why that rhythm is shifting is just as important as responding to its consequences.

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Unbroken Yearning For Peace

Kashmir's Long Journey Beyond Violence



DR. RIZWAN RUMI

The killing of a policeman in Anantnag once again brought Kashmir face to face with a tragedy that has haunted the region for decades. Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who was shot by terrorists in the crowded market of Lal Chowk in Anantnag, became yet another victim in a conflict that has consumed countless lives since the eruption of militancy in the early 1990s. Behind the news reports and official statements lies a grieving family that has lost a son, a husband and a father. His death is not an isolated incident; it is part of a painful cycle that has repeatedly shattered families across Jammu and Kashmir.

For more than three decades, Kashmir has witnessed violence that has spared no section of society. Civilians, policemen, soldiers, political workers, teachers, journalists and ordinary labourers have all paid a heavy price. According to data released over the years by the Ministry of Home Affairs and various security assessments, thousands of civilians and security personnel have lost their lives in militancy-related incidents. Entire generations have grown up amid uncertainty, curfews, shutdowns and the constant fear that accompanies conflict.

The history of violence in Kashmir stretches back to the late 1980s and early 1990s, when militancy took root in the Valley. What followed was a prolonged period of bloodshed that transformed the social and political landscape of the region. Villages and towns that once echoed with the sounds of ordinary life suddenly found themselves caught between militancy and counterinsurgency operations. Families mourned loved ones, children grew up

amid instability and communities struggled to preserve normalcy in extraordinary circumstances.

The burden of this conflict has been shared by people from all walks of life. Civilians have suffered immensely. Shopkeepers opening their stores in the morning, labourers heading to work, students travelling to schools, and farmers tending to their orchards have often found themselves caught in the crossfire of events beyond their control. Every casualty represents not merely a statistic but a human story—a mother waiting for her son to return home, a child searching for a father who will never come back, and a family trying to cope with an irreplaceable loss.

Particularly significant is the role played by local policemen in Kashmir. Unlike security personnel posted from other parts of the country, local police officers belong to the same communities they serve. They are sons of the soil, raised in the same neighbourhoods, educated in the same schools and connected to the same social fabric. When a local policeman is killed, the pain extends far beyond his immediate family. Entire villages and communities mourn because they have lost one of their own.

In recent years, militants have increasingly targeted local police personnel and political workers. Village heads, panchayat members, and elected representatives have faced threats and attacks for participating in democratic institutions. Many have continued to perform their duties despite enormous risks, believing that governance and development are essential for the future of Kashmir. Their sacrifices underscore the difficult choices faced by ordinary Kashmiris who strive to build a peaceful and prosperous society.

The human cost of violence cannot be measured solely in deaths. Thousands of children have grown up without parents. Many women have been left to shoulder the burden of raising families alone. Psychological trauma has become an invisible but pervasive consequence of



decades of unrest. Mental health experts have repeatedly pointed to rising levels of anxiety, depression and stress among people who have lived through years of uncertainty and conflict. For many young Kashmiris, memories of violence form an inseparable part of their childhood.

At the same time, the economic consequences have been profound. Kashmir possesses immense natural beauty and enormous economic potential. Tourism, horticulture, handicrafts and agriculture have long sustained the livelihoods of millions. Yet every episode of violence disrupts this fragile ecosystem. Tourists cancel their plans, businesses suffer losses, markets shut down and daily wage earners bear the brunt of instability.

The tourism sector illustrates this reality vividly. The snow-covered mountains of Gulmarg, the serene waters of Dal Lake, the meadows of Sonamarg, and the valleys of Pahalgam attract visitors from across the world. Tourism provides employment to hoteliers, taxi drivers, pony owners, guides, artisans and countless others. However, whenever violence erupts, the first casualty is often the sense of security that tourism depends upon. Years of effort invested in rebuilding the image of Kashmir can be undermined by a single incident.

Similarly, Kashmir's horticultural sector, particularly its apple industry, remains vulnerable to disruptions. Farmers depend on stable roads, functioning markets and uninterrupted transportation to sustain their livelihoods. Instability affects supply chains and creates uncertainty for thousands of families who rely on agriculture as their primary source of income.

Yet despite these hardships, one reality remains unmistakably clear: the people of Kashmir overwhelmingly desire peace. Across villages and towns, there exists a shared aspiration for normalcy—a longing to live without fear, to educate children in safe schools, to conduct business without disruption, and to look towards the future with hope rather than apprehension.

This yearning for peace transcends political affiliations and ideological differences. It is rooted in the universal human desire for security, dignity and stability. The people of Kashmir have endured immense suffering, but they have also demonstrated extraordinary resilience. Communities have rebuilt homes, reopened schools, revived businesses, and preserved their cultural traditions despite decades of adversity.

The younger generation, in particular, seeks opportunities that were often unavailable to previous generations. Many aspire to excel in education, entrepreneurship, technology, sports, and the arts. They

dream of careers and achievements that allow them to contribute positively to society. For these aspirations to flourish, peace is not merely desirable—it is indispensable.

The responsibility for safeguarding peace cannot rest solely on institutions. It requires a collective commitment from society as a whole. Religious leaders, educators, civil society groups, parents and community elders all have a role to play in promoting dialogue, tolerance and coexistence. Violence has repeatedly demonstrated its inability to provide solutions; instead, it has deepened wounds and prolonged suffering.

The tragedy in Anantnag serves as a reminder that every life lost leaves behind an irreplaceable void. Behind every fallen policeman stands a grieving mother whose prayers remain unanswered, a wife carrying an unbearable sorrow, and children who must navigate life without a parent. Behind every civilian casualty lies a family whose dreams have been shattered.

For more than thirty years, Kashmir has carried the weight of loss. Entire generations have lived with the consequences of a conflict they did not create. The Valley has witnessed funerals, tears, and moments of despair, but it has also witnessed remarkable endurance and an unwavering hope for a better future.

The silence that follows every act of violence poses a difficult question: how many more lives must be lost before peace prevails? The answer lies not in the barrel of a gun but in the collective determination to reject violence and embrace humanity. Kashmir deserves to be known not for bloodshed and grief but for its culture, its people, and its extraordinary beauty.

The people of Kashmir have suffered enough. They deserve mornings unbroken by fear, evenings free from anxiety and a future shaped not by violence but by hope. Above all, they deserve peace, a peace that is lasting, meaningful and worthy of the sacrifices made by generations.

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Good Morning Kashmir

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Connected, Yet Alone: What Are We Missing?

MOHD ABASS DAR

Not very long ago, people knew very little about life beyond their own towns and villages. Today, things have changed completely. A student sitting in Kashmir can watch a

classroom in Japan, listen to a lecture from England, or talk to a friend living in Canada within a few seconds. In fact, the world has become so connected that distance no longer

feels like a major barrier. Yet, there is a strange irony (i.e., something surprising that is opposite to what we expect). Although we have become closer through technology, many people seem to have grown farther apart in their hearts. We become angry more quickly, judge more easily, and listen less patiently. Think about it for a moment. If we have so many ways to connect with one another, why do so many people still feel divided? The answer does not lie in technology. It lies in the way we understand—or fail to understand—one another. That is exactly where empathy becomes so important.

It reminds me of a famous English poet, John Donne, who once wrote, "No man is an island." These simple words carry a powerful truth. No one lives completely alone. Our lives are connected in ways we often fail to notice. The happiness of one family, the suffering of another, the kindness of a stranger, or even the anger of a single person can influence many lives around them. Once we understand this connection, we begin to realise why empathy is not just a good quality but a necessity.

But what exactly is empathy? Many people hear this word but never stop to think about its real meaning. To put it simply, empathy means trying to understand another person's feelings by imagining yourself in that person's place. It is quietly asking yourself, "If I were living this person's life today, how would I feel?" It should be borne in mind that empathy does not mean agreeing with every opinion or defending every action. Instead, it means understanding before judging. It asks us to look beyond appearances because appearances often tell only a very

small part of the story. The same idea is expressed by the famous American writer Harper Lee, through the char-



acter Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird". He says, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view." In many ways, that single sentence explains empathy better than long definitions ever could. If we take a simple example from everyday school life. Imagine a student who suddenly becomes very quiet. He no longer laughs with his friends. He avoids conversations and spends most of the day sitting alone. Some classmates may immediately label him as proud, rude, or unfriendly. However, what if his father recently

lost his job? What if someone close to him has passed away? What if he is struggling with anxiety (i.e., constant worry or fear) but does not know how to talk about it? Suddenly, the same behaviour looks completely different. In other words, empathy reminds us that people are often carrying struggles that cannot be seen with our eyes. Once we understand this, we stop judging so quickly and start showing more patience. However, many people also confuse empathy with sympathy. The two words sound similar, but they are not the same. Sympathy means feeling sorry for someone. Empathy goes much deeper because it tries to understand what another person is actually experiencing. Imagine a hungry child standing outside a bakery, looking through the glass at fresh bread. Sympathy makes us feel sad for that child. Empathy asks bigger questions. Why is the child hungry? What does it feel like to watch others eat while your own stomach is empty? What can I do to help? As a result, empathy does not stop with emotion. It moves towards action. After all, understanding another person's pain means very little if it never inspires kindness.

In this context, The English playwright "William Shakespeare" understood this truth

different. Different food, different clothes, different traditions, and different beliefs have existed throughout history. Then why do these differences sometimes become reasons for hatred?

Its answer lies in the fact that people stop listening and start assuming (i.e., believing something without knowing the real truth). They decide who another person is before even speaking to them. As a result, misunderstandings begin to grow. Misunderstandings create fear. Fear slowly turns into anger, and anger often becomes hatred. After all, it is difficult to hate someone once you truly know their story. The great Irish writer "George Bernard Shaw" once observed, "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." In simple words, many people believe they have understood each other, when in reality nobody has truly listened.

Now a days, we see that social media has made this challenge even greater. Every day we scroll through hundreds of posts, videos, and comments. News reaches us within seconds. Unfortunately, so do rumours. Sometimes people become angry after reading only one sentence without checking whether it is true. A careless comment written in a few seconds may hurt another

to reply. Parents who understand their children's fears build trust. Children who understand the sacrifices made by their parents become more thankful. Besides, when respect becomes a habit inside the home, it naturally becomes a habit outside the home as well. This is why many strong societies are built upon strong families. Schools offer another opportunity to practise empathy. Education is not only about securing high marks or passing examinations. It is also about becoming a good human being.

Imagine that a new student

The same idea is expressed by the famous American writer Harper Lee, through the character Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird". He says, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view." In many ways, that single sentence explains empathy better than long definitions ever could. If we take a simple example from everyday school life.



enters a classroom for the first time. Nobody speaks to him. Nobody invites him to sit with them. He spends the entire day feeling lonely. Now imagine one student walking over with a smile and saying, "Come and sit with us." That sentence takes only a few seconds to say, yet it may become the reason that the new student begins to feel accepted. Small acts often create the biggest memories. More importantly, they remind us that kindness costs nothing but may mean everything to someone who desperately needs it. The same lesson continues in our workplaces. A manager who understands the difficulties faced by employees earns genuine respect instead of simple obedience. In the same way, employees who understand the responsibilities carried by

very well. In The Merchant of Venice, he wrote, "The quality of mercy is not strained." Mercy (i.e., kindness shown to someone who is suffering) cannot be forced. It grows naturally in a heart that understands another person's pain. At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that our society is becoming more divided. People often separate themselves because of religion, language, caste, nationality, political opinions, or even because of what they read on social media. Yet, differences themselves are not dangerous. Human beings have always been

person for years. But what happens when empathy enters the picture? We slow down. We ask ourselves whether the information is true. We think before we write. We remember that behind every screen is a real human being with real emotions. Those few extra moments of thought often prevent arguments that could have lasted much longer.

Empathy first begins at home. Long before children learn lessons from books, they learn lessons by watching their parents. A family becomes stronger when people listen to understand instead of listening only

their managers cooperate more willingly. Trust grows because understanding grows first. Good teamwork is rarely built through fear. It is built through mutual respect (i.e., both sides respecting each other).

Yet empathy becomes even more valuable when people disagree. Every person believes that his or her opinion is correct. That is natural. The problem begins when people completely stop listening. How does this affect society? Conversations disappear and arguments take their place. Friends become strangers. Neighbours stop greeting one another. Families become divided over issues that could have been discussed calmly. Empathy reminds us that listening is not weakness. In fact, listening carefully often requires more courage than speaking loudly. Books quietly teach this lesson every day. Whenever we read a novel, poem, or short story, we step into another person's life. We experience their joys, fears, hopes, failures, and dreams. We may never personally experience war, poverty, disability, or loneliness, yet literature allows us to understand those experiences through the lives of its characters. For this reason, literature is often called a mirror of life (i.e., something that reflects real human life) because it shows us not only events but also the emotions hidden behind those events.

The writer C. S. Lewis beautifully captured this idea when he said, "We read to know we are not alone." Literature reminds us that our struggles are shared by millions of people across different countries and generations. Suddenly, another person's story begins to feel a little like our own. But what can we learn from all this? We learn that empathy is not simply a feeling. It is a way of living. It changes the words we choose, the decisions we make, and the way we treat people every single day. A teacher becomes more patient with a struggling student. A doctor speaks more gently to a frightened patient. A neighbour notices an elderly person living alone and quietly offers help. Society becomes better not because a few extraordinary people perform great acts, but because ordinary people perform small acts of kindness every day.

The celebrated writer George Eliot asked a question that remains meaningful even today: "What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" Perhaps there is no better summary of empathy than this. Our success means much more when it also makes someone else's life a little easier. Above all, empathy reminds us that every human being wants the same basic things—to be respected, to be heard, to be treated fairly, and to live with dignity (i.e., self-respect and honour). Our languages may be different. Our religions may be different. Our cultures and political opinions may also be different. Yet our hearts are remarkably similar. We all celebrate success. We all fear loss. We all experience love, disappointment, hope, and pain.

The American poet Maya Angelou expressed this beautifully when she wrote, "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike." Her words remind us that our shared humanity is

always greater than our differences. In the end, the future of our world will not depend only on faster technology, stronger economies, or taller buildings. It will also depend on whether we choose to understand one another despite our differences. Empathy cannot remove every disagreement, nor can it solve every problem overnight. Still, it can completely change the way we respond to those problems. Sometimes peace does not begin in parliaments or international conferences. Sometimes it begins with one ordinary person choosing to listen before judging, to understand before criticising, and to show kindness before expecting it from others. Perhaps that simple choice is exactly what our divided world needs today.

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J&K rolls out four-bin waste segregation campaign across ULBs

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: In a bid to strengthen solid waste management, the Jammu and Kashmir Housing and Urban Development Department has begun a UT wide sticker campaign to encourage segregation of waste at source through a four bin system in all urban areas.

Officials told that the municipal bodies, including the Srinagar and Jammu Municipal Corporation, have started distributing and pasting instructional waste segregation stickers in residential areas, commercial establishments and other high footfall locations under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, to ensure compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026.

They said Community Mobilisers and Swachhata Executives are carrying out



door to door awareness campaigns in every municipal ward across the UT, interacting with residents and placing colour coded stickers at waste collection points to encourage segregation of waste at source.

The initiative aims to

improve waste processing, reduce the burden on dumping sites and ensure safer handling of waste by sanitation workers, officials added.

As per the four bin system, blue stickers are meant for dry recyclable waste such as paper,

plastic, glass, metal, cardboard and Tetra Paks, while green stickers are for biodegradable wet waste including food leftovers, fruit and vegetable peels, tea leaves, coffee grounds and garden waste.

Similarly, red stickers are meant for hygiene waste such as sanitary pads, diapers, tissues, wet wipes and menstrual cups, while black stickers are designated for household hazardous waste including used batteries, expired medicines, thermometers, tube lights, bulbs, chemicals and nail polish products.

The Housing and Urban Development Department appealed to residents, shopkeepers and institutions to cooperate with field staff and adopt the four bin waste segregation system to help build a cleaner and healthier Jammu and Kashmir.

CRPF Trains 15 Underprivileged Youths In Basic Computer Skills Under CAP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The 132 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Srinagar, under the aegis of Srinagar Sector, on Thursday concluded a one-month Basic Computer Course for unemployed youth and orphans from economically weaker families under the Civic Action Programme in Jammu and Kashmir.

The training programme, conducted in collaboration with Kashsoft Computers, Red Cross Road, Maisuma, was held from June 17 to July 23 as part of the Human Resource Development initiative aimed at enhancing digital literacy and improving employment prospects among disadvantaged youth.

A total of 15 trainees, including nine girls, successfully completed the course. Participants were imparted essential computer skills to help them



navigate modern technology and improve their chances of securing employment.

The valedictory function was presided over by Commandant of 132 Battalion CRPF, Shri W. R. Josuah, in the presence of officers and personnel of the battalion, General Secretary of J&K Yateem Trust Mushtaq Ahmad Untoo, Director of Kashsoft Computers Sajad Ahmad Kanth, faculty members, trainees and local residents of Maisuma.

Course completion certificates were distributed among all the participants, enabling

them to strengthen their job applications and pursue better employment opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, Mushtaq Ahmad Untoo, General Secretary of J&K Yateem Trust, and Sajad Ahmad Kanth, Director of Kashsoft Computers, expressed their gratitude to the 132 Battalion CRPF for organizing the training programme under the Civic Action Programme. They appreciated the initiative, saying it would empower underprivileged youth with valuable digital skills and open new avenues for their future.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Jhelum Crosses Flood

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Thursday said that the rising water level in the River Jhelum is being monitored closely by field teams and that all preventive and remedial measures are being coordinated round the clock.

In a post shared on X, Garg said Control Rooms at both the divisional and district levels are functioning round the clock to monitor the situation and coordinate the response.

He appealed to people residing near the embankments not to panic, but to remain vigilant and strictly follow the advisories being issued by the local administration.

He also asked the public to contact the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), Srinagar, at 0194-2740003 for any assistance or support, if required.

Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Kashmir, Showkat Hussain, appealed to people not to panic, saying the situation is under control and the river was expected to start receding in the coming hours.

He said the water level at the Sangam gauge station had risen by around half a foot and was expected to start receding after 11 PM. "The water level at Ram Munshi Bagh may continue to rise slightly by around half to one foot till nearly 12 midnight, after which it is expected to start receding," he said.

Hussain said nearly 24,000 cusecs of water was currently flowing through the Jhelum against its carrying capacity of around 40,000 cusecs, leaving sufficient room for the river to accommodate the flow.

"There is absolutely no need to panic. The situation is under control and people can remain relaxed while continuing to follow advisories issued by the administration," he added—(KNO)

Intensify Anti-

ensure all equipment is functional, and issue timely weather alerts. He also directed that every tent must have a fire extinguisher and specialized wildlife units be stationed along the tracks.

He also commended the hard work and dedication of J&K Police, Indian Army, Civil Administration, Security Forces, Shrine Board, service providers, volunteers, stakeholders, and the citizens for making the holy Yatra of Shri Amarnathji safe and successful.

Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Shri Ashwani Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, Shri Anil Kumar Singh; Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Commandant General, Home Guard / CD & SDRF, Shri A. G. Mir; Nodal Officer for Pahalgam Axis, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary; Nodal Officer for Baltal Axis, Shri Rahul Yadav; Administrative Secretaries and senior officials of all the line departments also attended the meeting.

Flood Threat

a temporary diversion that had been constructed after the recent cloudburst to restore road connectivity.

The incident has once again disrupted movement in the area and highlighted the intensity of the river's flow following continuous rainfall.

Authorities also closed the Sakdas Bridge for vehicular movement after the water level rose dangerously, saying the precautionary measure was necessary to ensure public safety.

Local residents expressed growing anxiety, recalling the devastating floods of previous years and urging the administration to remain fully prepared.

"We have not seen the rain stopping for days. Water has already entered our orchards and paddy fields. If it continues to rain through the night, the situation could become much worse," said Ghulam Mohammad, a resident of Khudwani.

Another resident, Abdul Rashid from Anantnag, said people living near the river are spending sleepless nights. "The river is rising every hour. Families are constantly monitoring the water level. We request the administration to remain alert and ensure that rescue teams are kept ready," he said.

Apple growers said prolonged waterlogging could severely affect orchards at a crucial stage of fruit development.

"Our orchards are already submerged at several places. Excess water can damage the roots and affect this year's crop. We hope the rains stop soon," said Mohammad Yousuf, an orchardist from south Kashmir.

Officials said field staff have been deployed to monitor vulnerable locations and appealed to people residing near rivers, streams and flood-prone areas to remain vigilant. They advised the public to avoid unnecessary travel near overflowing water bodies and strictly follow official advisories.

With the Meteorological Department predicting the possibility of more rainfall over the coming hours, anxiety continues to grow across south Kashmir as residents hope the weather improves

before rivers and streams cross critical flood levels.

In view of the ongoing spell of rainfall across Kashmir the Department of Horticulture has issued a detailed advisory asking orchardists to take immediate precautionary measures to protect fruit orchards from weather-related damage and minimise potential crop losses.

The department has advised growers to ensure proper drainage in orchards to prevent waterlogging, particularly around the root zone of fruit trees, warning that prolonged stagnation of water can severely affect root health and overall plant growth.

Orchardists have also been urged to remove excess water from their orchards without delay to avoid damage to the root system and maintain the health of the trees.

Keeping in view the possibility of strong winds accompanying rainfall, the advisory asks farmers to provide adequate support to young fruit trees and high-density plantation orchards to prevent uprooting, bending, or other structural damage.

The department has further advised growers not to spray pesticides, fungicides, or foliar nutrients during rainfall, stating that such applications are ineffective under wet conditions and may result in unnecessary losses.

The advisory states that once the rainfall ceases and weather conditions improve, orchardists should undertake need-based plant protection measures strictly in accordance with the recommendations issued by SKUAST-Kashmir to safeguard orchards against pest and disease outbreaks.

To reduce the spread of diseases, growers have also been directed to maintain proper orchard sanitation by removing broken branches, fallen debris, and other damaged plant material from orchards.

The Horticulture Department has further requested orchardists to immediately report any significant damage caused by adverse weather to the concerned Horticulture Development Officer so that timely assessment, technical guidance, and necessary assistance can be provided.

The department also advised growers to remain in close contact with their respective Horticulture Development Officers for immediate field assistance, inspections, and expert guidance during the prevailing weather conditions—(KNO)

81.26% Rural

"The central share has been increased from Rs 2.08 lakh crore to Rs 3.59 lakh crore, with the revamped mission focusing on structural reforms in the rural drinking water sector, water quality monitoring and community participation," it said.

The ministry said an independent third-party functionality assessment conducted in 2024 found that 98.1 per cent of surveyed households had tap water connections, 87 per cent received water during the previous week, 84 per cent received water as per schedule, 80 per cent received at least 55 litres per capita per day (LPCD), while 76 per cent of household tap connections were found to be fully functional after assessing quantity, quality and regularity of supply.

The government said implementation of JJM is being monitored through a multi-level mechanism, including the JJM Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), online dashboards, third-party inspections, geo-tagging of assets, sensor-based monitoring, district dashboards and strengthened community participation to ensure timely and sustainable rural water supply—(KNO)

Govt Will Back

solutions being developed by young entrepreneurs to address everyday challenges.

He cited innovations ranging from sensor-based systems that prevent water pipes from freezing during winter to digitally connected water-usage meters designed to curb wastage, as well as hailstorm protection nets, carbon monoxide detectors and automatic gas regulator shut-off devices.

"ASCEND 2026 is about telling our youngsters that no idea is a bad idea. Every idea has potential; it simply needs refinement," the Chief Minister said, adding that promising concepts should be nurtured until they are ready to attract venture capital investment.

Noting that Jammu and Kashmir currently has around 1,300 to 1,400 registered startups, he expressed confidence that the number would double—and double again—by the time ASCEND 2027 is held.

Referring to a local solar energy entrepreneur as an example, the Chief Minister said timely support to promising startups can help create many more success stories from Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence that ASCEND 2026 would become the launchpad for some of Jammu and Kashmir's future unicorns.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the young entrepreneurs who showcased their innovations at the exhibition and thanked the delegates and industry experts from outside Jammu and Kashmir for sharing their expertise and supporting the region's growing

startup ecosystem.

The Chief Minister also launched the Junior Level Idea Challenge 2026 for the Under-18 school category, Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 for college and university students, the Compendium of Business Opportunities in J&K, the Himalayan Journal, and the Startup Coffee Table Book.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Vikramjeet Singh, thanked participants from across the country for attending the summit, saying their presence reflected growing confidence in Jammu and Kashmir's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir's startup ecosystem has witnessed remarkable growth, with a significant increase in registered startups and MSME registrations, while the government continues to improve the ease of doing business and expand opportunities for entrepreneurs. Describing Jammu and Kashmir as a frontier market with immense potential across multiple sectors, he said investors undertaking due diligence stand to reap substantial returns.

Sharing his views, MLA Pampore Hasnain Masoodi described unemployment as a major challenge and stressed the need to promote entrepreneurship as a means of generating employment. He urged young entrepreneurs to persevere despite challenges, called for simplifying procedures to encourage innovation, and appreciated JKEDI's role in nurturing startups and strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his address, Director JKEDI, Mohammad Younis Malik, said ASCEND 2026 is more than just a summit and reflects the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence that the event would open new avenues for the startup ecosystem and pave the way for meaningful collaborations in the years ahead.

CS Directs Departments

Department for expeditious implementation of the identified use cases. He directed the departments to nominate dedicated nodal officers wherever required and ensure timely sharing of quality datasets essential for development, testing and validation of AI solutions.

He further stressed that data quality, interoperability and departmental ownership would remain critical to the successful deployment of AI applications across government.

Calling for a structured implementation framework, the Chief Secretary directed that sector-specific workshops be organised with all departmental nodal officers, technology partners, domain experts and implementation agencies to comprehensively assess data availability, infrastructure readiness, operational workflows and field-level requirements before commencement of pilot projects.

He observed that such collaborative exercises would facilitate preparation of realistic implementation roadmaps while enabling departments to identify operational challenges at an early stage.

The Chief Secretary also emphasised that progress achieved under each AI initiative shall be monitored on a regular basis through defined milestones and outcome indicators so that implementation bottlenecks are resolved in a time-bound manner. He stressed the need for close coordination among all stakeholder departments to ensure that the identified AI initiatives translate into measurable improvements in governance across the Union Territory.

Earlier, a detailed presentation was made by the Commissioner Secretary IT, Saurabh Bhagat on the organisational framework, implementation strategy, current status and future roadmap of the Centre. The presentation also highlighted the action taken on the decisions of the Union Territory Level Steering Committee, the progress achieved on the identified AI use cases and the proposed roadmap for pilot implementation across departments.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the progress achieved in establishing the MeitY Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence at IIT Jammu, conceived as a mission-mode national initiative to accelerate AI adoption across governance and public service delivery.

He was informed that the Centre is being readied for operationalisation, with around 10,000 square feet of space already earmarked and infrastructure being prepared for occupancy by August this year.

It was added that the implementation roadmap and key performance indicators have been finalised in consultation with the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, while procurement of high-performance computing infrastructure has been initiated for hosting the AI Digital Public Infrastructure (AI-DPI).

Moreover the meeting was also presented with a detailed status report on the Artificial Intelligence adoption programme being implemented across the Union Territory pursuant to the decisions of the Union Territory Level Steering Committee (UTLSC) on AI.

A comprehensive review was undertaken of the twenty AI use cases identified across eight priority sectors, namely Education, Skill Development, Agriculture, Power Development, Public Governance, Health & Medical Education, Transport & Infrastructure

and emerging sectors including Tribal Welfare and Security.

The Chief Secretary was informed that consultations have been held with several premier academic institutions, technology companies, start-ups and research organisations for developing practical AI solutions tailored to the requirements of the Government. Multiple solution providers have expressed willingness to undertake pilot implementations in collaboration with the concerned departments, with several pilot proposals already under technical evaluation.

The meeting reviewed the progress achieved in respect of AI-enabled interventions for foundational literacy and numeracy, multilingual learning platforms, precision agriculture, hyper-local weather intelligence, digital governance, utility demand forecasting, infrastructure health monitoring, urban flood modelling, oral cancer screening, clinical decision support systems and several other technology-enabled public service applications. The status of departmental consultations, technical validations, pilot planning and stakeholder engagements undertaken for each use case was also reviewed in detail.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all participating departments and partner institutions to work for expeditious implementation of the AI roadmap, with the objective of harnessing Artificial Intelligence as a key driver of transparent, efficient and citizen-centric governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

3,500 OGWs Detained

As part of the ongoing crackdown, authorities on Thursday demolished the houses of two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Officials said that the demolished houses belonged to families of Aadil Ahmad Thokar of Guree village in Bijbehara and Haroon Ganai of Hassanpora.

The action came a day after the killing of the policeman in Anantnag, with officials describing the demolitions as part of efforts to dismantle terror networks and their support infrastructure.

"The demolition was part of the ongoing crackdown against terrorists and their support infrastructure in the district," officials said—(KNO)

98% Of Srinagar

governance, smart energy and environment. As reported by Srinagar Smart City Limited, 157 projects have been completed while the remaining four are yet to be finished.

The query had sought details on whether the Centre had taken cognisance of the widespread waterlogging and flood-like situation witnessed in Srinagar after recent rainfall despite substantial expenditure under the Smart City Mission, whether the project included works related to storm-water drainage, flood mitigation and urban water management, the reasons for continued waterlogging despite Smart City works, and whether any technical audit or accountability mechanism had been initiated to assess the quality and effectiveness of the drainage infrastructure.

In its reply, the ministry did not provide project-wise details on storm-water drainage, flood mitigation works or an assessment of the causes of recent waterlogging. Instead, it stated that Smart City proposals were formulated based on local needs and that the projects covered various urban sectors, including WASH.

On the issue of audits and accountability, the Centre said that under the Companies Act, 2013, the audit of Smart City Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) is conducted by the State Auditor General. It added that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has established a multi-level monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Smart Cities Mission.

According to the ministry, project implementation is monitored at the national level by an Apex Committee headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, at the State/UT level by the High Powered Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary, and at the city level through the Smart City Advisory Forum (SCAF), which facilitates coordination and collaboration among stakeholders—(KNO)

J&K Govt To Finalise

In the reply, the Department maintained that it is committed to promoting sustainable, responsible, and environment-friendly tourism, while maintaining a balance between tourism development and preservation of the fragile ecological resources of the Union Territory.

"Pending formal notification of the policy, the Department and its subordinate Tourism Development Authorities are already implementing sustainable tourism practices under existing environmental laws, statutory guidelines, and government directions," reads documents submitted by the Tourism department—(KNO)

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Javed Rana visits flood affected areas of Mendhar

“Govt will not rest until life is fully restored across Jammu and Kashmir”



GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday undertook an extensive tour of the flood-affected areas of Mendhar in Poonch district to assess the damage caused by the recent heavy rains and flash floods and review the ongoing relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures.

During his visit, the Minister was accompanied by SDM Mendhar, Imran Kataria and senior officers from various departments. He inspected the flood-affected areas of Chajila, Mankote, Dabraj, Balnoi, Bhatidhar and Salwah to assess the damage caused by the recent flash floods.

He also interacted with the affected families and local residents to assess their losses and understand their immediate concerns and requirements. He assured the affected people that the government stands firmly with them during this difficult time and every possible assistance would be extended for their relief, rehabilitation and recovery.

“We are in this together. The recent floods have caused extensive damage to infrastructure and private property across the Pir Panjal region. The government stands firmly with every affected family and we will not rest until relief reaches everyone, damaged infrastructure is restored and normalcy is fully restored across

Jammu and Kashmir,” Rana maintained.

The Minister said that restoration of damaged infrastructure and rehabilitation of affected families is the government's top priority. He assured that adequate resources would be mobilised to restore normalcy at the earliest and rebuild the damaged public infrastructure.

The Minister observed that the devastation caused by the flash floods has highlighted the need for long-term planning to reduce the impact of such disasters. He stressed the importance of strengthening the flood protection infrastructure, improving drainage systems, undertaking scientific slope stabilisation, enhancing disaster preparedness and adopt-

ing sustainable mitigation measures to minimise the losses caused by recurring natural calamities.

During the visit, the local residents apprised the Minister of the extensive devastation and the immense losses suffered by the affected communities.

“We stand shoulder to shoulder with the affected people in this hour of crisis. The administration is committed to ensure immediate relief, speedy restoration of damaged infrastructure and comprehensive rehabilitation of every affected family. At the same time, we must work towards long-term measures that make our vulnerable regions more resilient against such disasters in the future,” asserted the Minister.

ATT held at GMC Anantnag to strengthen emergency care services

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, in collaboration with the Emergency Medicine Academy, Manchester (UK), on Thursday conducted a full-day Advanced Trauma Training programme at the college to strengthen trauma management and emergency care services.

The programme, accredited with four credit hours by the J&K Medical Council, was organised under the supervision of Principal, GMC Anantnag, Prof. (Dr.) Junaid S. Wani, and coordinated by the Department of Pediatrics.

The training programme was aimed at supporting GMC Anantnag in establishing a full-fledged Emergency Medicine Department and enhancing the capacity of healthcare professionals in advanced trauma management.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal GMC Anantnag, reiterated the institution's commitment to promoting academic excellence and improving patient care through such capacity-building initiatives. He said GMC Anantnag will continue to support academic programmes that enhance clinical skills and expressed confidence



that the college would soon realise its vision of establishing a dedicated Emergency Medicine Department.

Course Director, Dr. Mehdi Hassan and Deputy Course Director Dr. Hamid Zafar of the Emergency Medicine Academy, Manchester, assured continued academic and technical support to GMC Anantnag in strengthening emergency and trauma care services in the region. They said the academy remains committed to assisting the institution at every level to establish emergency medi-

cine services in line with international standards.

Around 60 participants, including Medical Officers, Consultants, Faculty Members and Resident Doctors from various departments, attended the training programme.

The programme focused on the A-to-E assessment of trauma patients and a structured, hands-on approach to conducting the complete primary survey.

The event also featured special case discussions and practical demonstrations of advanced emergency procedures, including

chest drain insertion using the Seldinger technique, intraosseous (IO) cannulation, open surgical chest drain insertion, eFAST scan and resuscitative thoracostomy, where feasible. Hands-on training was also provided using manikins and sheep carcass models to enhance procedural skills in realistic simulation settings.

The organisers said the initiative marks a significant milestone in strengthening trauma management capabilities and advancing emergency medical care at GMC Anantnag.

Six-Year-Old Injured After Leopard Enters House in South Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A six-year-old girl was injured after a leopard entered a residential house in the forest area of Laitri Wali Behak in the Keller area of south

Kashmir's Shopian district on Thursday.

An official said that the leopard entered the residential house in Keller and attacked the minor girl, leaving her injured.

He said the injured girl was immediately shifted to District Hospital Shopian for treatment, where she is undergoing medical care.

The girl was later identified as Aafia Jan

(6), daughter of Farooq Ahmad Tedwa, a resident of Zrakam Shalidar, Keller in Shopian.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated an investigation. (KNO)

B'la Admin Bans Unauthorised Donation Drives, Warns of Strict Action

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The District Magistrate of Baramulla on Thursday prohibited the collection of donations and funds by individuals, organisations, NGOs and trusts without prior permission from the competent authority, citing concerns over transparency and the potential misuse of public goodwill.

The order, No. 8/DMB/2026, was issued following a report from the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Baramulla, stating that certain non-local individuals and women were found collecting money from the public in Baramulla town on the pretext of providing relief to victims of natural calamities.

According to the order, verification revealed that the individuals concerned failed to produce any valid authorisation, supporting documents or permission from any government authority, non-governmental organisation or

charitable institution to undertake the fundraising activity.

The District Magistrate observed that such unauthorised collections raise serious concerns about transparency and accountability and could lead to the exploitation of citizens through fraudulent fundraising campaigns.

Under the order, no individual, organisation, NGO or trust shall collect donations or raise funds anywhere in the district without obtaining prior permission from the competent authority.

The SSP Baramulla, SSP Sopore and all Executive Magistrates have been directed to enforce the order strictly and initiate legal action against anyone found violating the directive.

The district administration said the measure had been introduced to regulate, verify and monitor fundraising activities and safeguard the public from unauthorised and potentially fraudulent donation campaigns.

J&K Bank Borrowers Seek Guarantor Relaxation to Avail ECLGS 5.0 Benefits

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A large number of borrowers associated with J&K Bank have urged the bank to relax guarantor-related requirements under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0, saying the existing condition is preventing genuine businesses from accessing much-needed additional working capital.

Reports said that many traders and industrial units maintaining satisfactory loan accounts with J&K Bank are unable to avail the additional 20 per cent working capital sanctioned under the Central Government-backed ECLGS 5.0 because the guarantors attached to their original loan accounts are no longer available.

The affected borrowers have stated that in several cases the original guarantors have passed away, are suffering from serious illness, have migrated outside Jammu and Kashmir, or are otherwise unable to continue as guarantors due to personal circumstances.

Business representatives have maintained that the issue is procedural rather than financial, asserting that many of the affected borrowers have operational businesses, satisfactory repayment records and genuine working capital requirements. They have

appealed to J&K Bank to permit the substitution of fresh third-party guarantors in deserving cases so that eligible borrowers can avail the benefits of the government-backed credit guarantee scheme.

The business community has argued that allowing replacement of unavailable guarantors would not dilute the bank's credit safeguards, as every request could be examined on its own merits, taking into account the borrower's repayment history, business viability and the credentials of the proposed guarantor.

Industry representatives have also stressed that delays in the release of working capital could adversely affect business operations, employment and market activity, particularly at a time when enterprises are grappling with economic uncertainty and rising operational costs.

The Central Government had introduced ECLGS 5.0 to provide additional credit support to businesses facing financial stress arising from global economic uncertainties. However, stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir have urged J&K Bank and the administration to evolve a practical solution to ensure that genuine borrowers are not deprived of the benefits of the scheme due to procedural constraints. [KNT]

Four Booked Over Alleged Fraud Involving Supply of High-Value Shawls

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Kashmir, of the Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir has filed a charge-sheet against four persons in connection with an alleged cheating case involving the supply of shawls worth more than ₹2.50 crore.

The charge-sheet has been filed before the Court of the Sub Judge Small Causes, Srinagar, in FIR No. 55/2022 registered under Sections 420, 120-B and 201 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC).

According to the Crime Branch, the accused have been identified as Arshid Ahmad Shora alias Bilal of Pakhribal Botakadal, Lalbazar; Firdous Ahmad Mir of Abikarpura, Rainawari, presently residing at Mallabagh; Firdous Ahmad Bhat of Amda Kadal, Lalbazar; and Aftab Ahmad Shah of Khawabazar, Nowhatta, all residents of Srinagar.

The case originated from a complaint alleging that the accused, allegedly led by Arshid Ahmad Shora alias Bilal, induced the complainant to supply shawls valued at more than ₹2.50 crore by promising profitable returns. However, after taking delivery of the consignments, they allegedly failed to make the agreed payments.

During the course of investigation, the Economic Offences Wing recovered 338 shawls valued at approximately ₹68 lakh. The recovered articles were subsequently handed over to the complainant under the directions of the competent court.

Following completion of the investigation, the Crime Branch concluded that sufficient evidence existed to prosecute the accused and accordingly filed the charge-sheet before the court for judicial proceedings. [KNT]

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

Tenders invited vide this office NIT No. 27 of 2026-27/3701-10 DATED: 23/07/2026 Item no. 01 Upgradation/ Modernization of Trout Fish Farm Achabal Anantnag is hereby cancelled due to error in creation of tender

No. - EE/R&B/V/3753-57 -Sd/-
Dated: 27.03.2026
DIPK-3650-26
DT: 23/07/2026
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division vailoo

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No.13 OF R&B/QAZIGUND/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/1800-1815 DATED:13-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited 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 (In Rs)	Basic Cost (In Rs)	GST Amount (In Rs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of drain from link road Salayaloo to Nallah Near Land of Ishfaq Hussain Bhat and Nisar Ah and Others at W.No. 02 Kurigam.	393661.67	333611.59	60050.08	200/=	7873/=	45 Days	Normal Resources	DEE Class
2.	Construction of RCC Culvert at RD 0 m of Sadiwara Nadoora Road	1938669.44	1642940.21	295729.23	800/=	38773/=	60 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27	BEE & CEE Class
3	Construction/ Upgradation of road from Khahgund to Wangund.	2898129.74	2456042.16	442087.58	1100/=	57963/=	90 Days	District Capex Budget 2026-27	AAY & BEE Class
4	Strengthening and Modernization of Fish Farm Wanpora.	1917601.06	1625085.65	292515.41	800/=	38352/=	45 Days	HADP 2026-27	BEE & CEE Class

Position of AAA: Accorded vide order No.685/DULB/Plg of 2026 Dated: 06-07-2026 (Item No.01)

Position of AAA: Accorded vide order No.282-DDCA of 2026 Dated: 09-07-2026 (Item No.2, 3)

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Fisheries order No.376 of 2026 Dated: 07-07-2026 (Item No.4)

Position of TS: Accorded

- 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	13.07.2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 15.07.2026 (11:00 AM) To 29.07.2026 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 15.07.2026 (11:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 29.07.2026 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	30.07.2026 (11:00 AM)
In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.		

- Bidders shall deposit the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Fee through online mode into the designated Centralized Pooling Account No. 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) (M/S Centralized Pool Account PW R&B), strictly in accordance with Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and Office Order No. CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 dated 05.06.2026 issued by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, South Kashmir. Submission of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee or any other instrument shall not be permissible. Documentary proof/ receipt evidencing successful remittance of the EMD and Tender Fee shall be uploaded along with the bid, failing which the bid shall be liable for rejection as non-responsive.
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce Performance Security (5%) within 07 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work. Notwithstanding the above, the Bid Security deposited by the successful bidder(s) shall stand retained and shall be credited to the account of the concerned Division as Performance Security and adjusted under the applicable Performance Security Deposit Head, In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be furnished by the bidder in cash to the designated authority.
- All the Bidders have to submit/upload Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities. The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding GST. GST @18Percent shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.
- All other terms and conditions are assumed laid in PWD Form 25.

No. 1800-1815
DATED:13-07-2026

DIPK-3631-26
DT: 23/07/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PW (R&B) Division QAZIGUND

Trump role in World Cup red-card ruling for Balogun pushes Norway toward FIFA ethics complaint

AGENCIES

GENEVA: U.S. President Donald Trump's role in clearing Folarin Balogun from a mandatory one-game ban at the World Cup is set to provoke a formal complaint to FIFA ethics investigators.

The Norway soccer federation said Thursday its board of directors will consider filing the complaint at its next meeting, likely on Aug. 6.

"We need our leader in FIFA to say that this was an error," Norwegian federation president Lise Klaveness told London daily The Times in an interview published Thursday.

After Trump called FIFA president Gianni Infantino, a one-game ban for Balogun's red-card tackle against Bosnia-Herzegovina was deferred so he could play against Belgium with a quarterfinals place at stake.

Belgium beat the U.S. 4-1 after a chaotic 36 hours at the World Cup. The Belgium players were seemingly fired up by one of the all-time controversies in tournament history.

Trump called the refer-



ee's red card for Balogun after video review a "horrible" call and took credit for getting FIFA to review what should routinely have been a one-game ban.

"We all know that this verdict was influenced from external forces and did not have the proper process," Klaveness told The Times of the FIFA ruling that was unprecedented in the past 60 years at World Cups.

"When you bend a rule like this, you're on a slippery slope that will put the whole game at risk," said the former Women's World Cup player for Norway, who is an elected member of European soccer body UEFA's executive commit-

tee. Soccer's conscienceKlaveness is a lawyer and judge who has positioned the Norwegian federation as a conscience in world soccer since her election in 2022.

"It is a worry for the game when you compromise fundamental rules of the game," she said Thursday about not enforcing Balogun's ban.

Norway previously joined a London-based NGO's complaint to the FIFA ethics committee alleging Infantino breached a statutory duty of political neutrality, including by creating a peace prize to award to Trump at the World Cup

draw in December.

The close personal and political ties between Trump and Infantino include the U.S. president believing the soccer official could be a good pick as next secretary general of the United Nations, the New York Post reported this week.

Olympics complaint: The human rights NGO, FairSquare, also has filed an ethics complaint about the Balogun incident to the International Olympic Committee, where Infantino is an elected member, about breaching its rules on political neutrality.

FIFA and the IOC rarely acknowledge or provide updates on potential cases before their ethics bodies.

The independence of FIFA's process to handle complaints alleging unethical conduct has been questioned since the lead investigator and judge both were replaced in 2017, in the second year of Infantino's presidency.

FIFA has yet to publish documents explaining how its disciplinary judges reached verdicts about Balogun or other World Cup players.

Youth Hockey's Asian C'ship

Indian women's & men's teams continue unbeaten runs with impressive wins

IAN5

MUSCAT (OMAN): The Indian sub-junior women's and men's teams continued their unbeaten runs in their respective Elite Pools at the FIH Youth Hockey5s Asian Championship 2026 in Muscat, Oman, with both scoring big wins on Thursday. The women's team enjoyed a dominant 10-0 win over Kazakhstan while the men's team defeated Bangladesh 8-3.

The Indian women's team started the game strongly, with Nushreen Naz scoring two goals in the first minute itself and leading 2-0 at half-time. They upped the ante in the second half by scoring six goals to assert their dominance.

'Player of the match' Sandeepa Kumari (11', 16', 18') scored a hat-trick while Nushreen went a step further to complete her four-goal haul (1', 1', 15', 20'). Kiran Ekka (15'), Nilam Topno (17') and Pushpa Manjhi (19') completed the rout.

For the men's team, the



first half of their match against Bangladesh saw a closely contested encounter as the scoreline read 3-2 in India's favour, thanks to goals from captain and 'Player of the match' Ketan Kushwaha (4', 8') and Shahrux Ali (3'). Goals from Md Hosen (6') and Soharab Soton (8') kept Bangladesh close on India's heels.

India built on the scoreline in the second half with two more goals from Kushwaha (12', 15') and one each from Romit Pal (13'),

Prahalad Rajbhar (14') and Rahul Yadav (18'). Bangladesh could score just one more goal as Soton (11') completed his brace.

The women's team will next play China and Uzbekistan while the men's team will take on Oman and Pakistan on July 24.

The tournament is also the Asian qualifier for the inaugural FIH Youth Hockey5s World Cup.

Earlier, the Indian men's and women's teams made winning starts in their

respective campaigns at the FIH Youth Hockey5s 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.

1st T20I: Today's performance gives everyone some confidence, says Iyer after win over Zimbabwe

IAN5

HARARE: India captain Shreyas Iyer expressed delight after securing his first win as T20I skipper, adding that winning the series opener over Zimbabwe by seven wickets at the Harare Sports Club will give everyone some confidence for future matches.

India restricted Zimbabwe to 125/7 before chasing down the target with seven wickets in hand, with the victory powered by two-wicket hauls from Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi hitting an 18-ball fifty – his first half-century in international cricket.

"I think the boys were tremendous. Couldn't have

been happier with my first win. There was bounce from good length, and it was also variable. I felt it was there in both innings. The start Mayank gave was great.

"We are going to play two more matches here, so today's performance gives everyone some confidence. I think Vaibhav has played here - he got 175 in the U-19 World Cup final - so he knows the conditions," Iyer said after the match ended.

Mayank, the Player of the Match, said he relished bowling on the helpful pitch. "It always feels great when you contribute in a win. So it was a very special moment for me. The wicket was very good. After playing in India, I

was enjoying bowling here.

"It's my first time here in Zimbabwe. The bounce I got and the seam movement was a great help for me. We got a good start from the very first ball, and the way they (Prince and Ashok Sharma) were squeezing from their end was really good."

Fellow pacer Prince, meanwhile, highlighted the team's disciplined execution. "I'm very happy with my performance. But even more importantly, we won the match. There was quite a bit of assistance at the start. If you bowled the right length, the ball carried nicely and nipped around a little. The key for us was to keep hitting those lengths consistently till the

end, and that worked in our favour.

He was also in praise of his bowling counterparts Mayank and Ashok. "We performed well as a bowling unit too. Mayank bowled well, Ashok bowled well - in fact, all our fast bowlers bowled really well. The most important thing is that we won the match, and that feels great."

"The coaches and Shreyas kept telling us one thing - bowl the right lengths. If a batter hits a good shot off a good ball, that's absolutely fine. We have no problem with that. But as long as we keep bowling good balls consistently, everything remains in our control," he concluded.

Spinner Rohit picks four-for as India U-19 defeat Sri Lanka U-19 by 211, win series 1-0

IAN5

COLOMBO: Leg-spinner Rohit Yadav starred with a four-wicket haul as the India Under-19 team overcame stubborn resistance from Sri Lanka Under-19 to register a resounding 211-run victory in the second Youth Test at the R Premadasa Stadium here on Thursday.

With this win, India also sealed the two-match series 1-0 after the opening match ended in a draw. It marked a spirited turnaround for the visitors following their 2-1 defeat in the preceding Youth ODI series.

Chasing a daunting target of 472, Sri Lanka resumed their second innings at 155/4 on the final day. However, they failed to hold out against a disciplined Indian bowling attack, eventually get-



ting bundled out for 260 in 76.5 overs shortly into the post-lunch session.

The hosts put up a fight early in the morning as overnight batter Vimath Dinsara and Kavija Gamage extended their fifth-wicket partnership

to 40 runs off 26.3 overs. Dinsara, starting the day on 55, eventually fell for 64 off 129 balls.

Once the breakthrough was made, India picked off the remaining wickets

with relative ease. Gamage offered resistance with a grinding 36 off 152 balls - the longest stay in Sri Lanka's second innings, before Yadav broke through.

Yadav (4-49) was the pick of the bowlers, running through the lower order after pacer Chigurupati Venkata (3-27) had done the damage. There was some late hitting from Sethmika Seneviratne, who struck six boundaries and a six in

a quickfire 49-ball 42, but it only delayed the end. Off-spinner J Hemuchudeshan wrapped up the innings by dismissing Seneviratne to seal the comprehensive victory for India Under-19.

Brief scores:

India Under-19 411 and 208/3 dec beat Sri Lanka Under-19 148 and 260 (Senuja Wekunagoda 64, Vimath Dinsara 64; Rohit Yadav 4-49, Chigurupati Venkata 3-27) by 211 runs

CWG 2026: Putul Sonowal stuns World Champ in men's singles after Pinki, Rupa give India good start in Bowls



IAN5

GLASGOW: Putul Sonowal continued India's superb start in the bowls competition in Glasgow on Thursday, pulling off a major upset on his Commonwealth Games debut by beating reigning World Champion and World Bowls Hall of Fame inductee Ryan Bester in men's singles sectional play category.

Sonowal started his campaign in Section D of the preliminary competition, defeating Canada's Bester in a thrilling encounter that went down to the wire and was decided in a tiebreaker. Sonowal won the tiebreaker after Match 2 in Round 1 of Section D had ended 1-1 in regulation time.

Ranked 21st in the world,

the Indian clinched a close first set 5-4 to take the lead against Bester, a two-time CWG silver medallist. But the Canadian came back and took the second set with a 7-3 scoreline.

Bester, who claimed a bronze in Men's Singles in the 2006 edition in Manchester before claiming a silver each in 2014 in Glasgow and 2018 Gold Coast editions, won the toss and had the first roll in the tiebreak. The Canadian is very experienced, as he has also won seven medals in World Outdoor Championships in Singles and Pairs, including a gold and a bronze in Singles and Pairs in the 2023 edition.

However, reigning Asian champion Sonowal's opening attempt landed close to the kitty, which ultimately

proved enough to seal the win. Sonowal will next face Cecil Alexander of Falkland Islands in his next Section D match on Friday.

Earlier in the day, the Indian combine of Pinki Singh and Rupa Rani Tirkey battled past Malta in a dramatic tiebreak in women's pairs to open their campaign with a hard-fought victory in the sectional Group Play stage.

Competing in the discipline's new indoor format, now officially called Bowls for the first time in Commonwealth Games history, the Indian pair overcame a spirited challenge from sisters Rebecca Louise Rixon and Connie-Leigh Rixon, recovering from a tense second set before Pinki produced the decisive bowl in the tiebreak to seal the contest.

India made an assured start, taking control from the opening end. After Rupa Rani Tirkey settled into her rhythm, Pinki capitalised with accurate deliveries that earned India two points for an early 2-0 advantage.

The Rixon sisters responded in the next end to trim the deficit to 2-1, but Pinki once again rose to the occasion in the third end. With Malta appearing to hold the advantage, the Indian skip delivered a bowl that initially looked short before a closer inspection confirmed it was nearest to the jack, allowing India to extend their lead.



JAN NETA

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(A)

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DHAMAAL 4

Hindi

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