

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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Bollywood Needs To Reflect Changing Reality

Kashmir No Longer Valley Of Blasts, Gunfire: CM Omar



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday urged Bollywood to move beyond conflict-driven portrayals of Kashmir and instead showcase the Valley's changing reality.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the of a function at the Royal Springs Golf Course here, Omar, said, "Films have too often projected the region through gunfights, explosions and violence despite the situation having transformed over the years."

He said, "Some filmmakers have distorted Kash-

mir's image for propaganda or commercial gains. Some people misrepresent Kashmir. They glamorise violence and create a false picture only for propaganda. Some do it because they think it will help their films perform better, while others do it to please the powers that be."

The Chief Minister, said it would be unfair to judge the entire film industry on that basis. "That doesn't mean all of Bollywood is bad. There are many filmmakers who tell beautiful stories that connect people and celebrate humanity. We want more such films to be made in Kashmir," •P-06

No Data On Students Admitted To Pak Medical Colleges Before 2022: Centre

'Security Clearance Issued By MHA Based On Inputs From Security Agencies'

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Friday informed Parliament that the National Medical Commission (NMC) does not maintain data on the number of Indian students who had taken admission in medi-

cal colleges in Pakistan before the advisory issued on April 28, 2022.

Replying to a question by Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi in the Lok Sabha, Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda,said the NMC seeks security •P-06

Remain Mission-Focused, Vigilant To Safeguard Peace: DGP To Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Friday asked all officers to remain mission-focused, vigilant and responsive to safeguard peace and public confidence across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a high-level security review meeting at Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir, here DGP Prabhat, said, "Coordinated action and sustained preparedness are essential to maintain peace."

During the meeting the DGP assessed the prevailing security scenario and other emerging challenges



across the Union Territory. The meeting was attended by Special DG Coord J&K, ADGP HQ J&K, ADGP CID J&K, IGP POS, IGP Kashmir Zone, IGP Jammu Zone, IGP Security J&K, IGP Railways J&K, IGP Traffic J&K, IGP CID J&K, IGP Crime J&K, DPT J&K, •P-06

Martyr's Devotion To Duty, Love For Motherland Will Inspire Generations: LG

Visits Family Of Martyr Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, Assures Every Possible Support



NAVEED UL HAQ

SRINAGAR: Stating that entire nation is proud of brave-heart Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that his courage, sacrifice and devotion to duty will remain etched in our collective memory forever.

According to the details available, LG Sinha visited Lalpora, Beerwah, Budgam to meet the family members of martyr J&K Police's Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who laid down his life in the line of duty during a terror attack in Anantnag earlier this week.

The Lieutenant Governor paid heartfelt tributes to the brave policeman and conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

He said the entire nation is proud of brave-heart Ashiq Hussain Qureshi. "Martyr's ideals of love for duty and honor for the motherland will continue to inspire generations in building a peaceful and prosperous Union Territory," LG Sinha said.

He assured the family that the administration stands firmly with them and will ensure their well-being and dignity. The Lieutenant Governor also assured full support to the

family until martyr Ashiq Hussain Qureshi's son finishes his studies and becomes eligible for a compassionate government appointment.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the significant progress achieved under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in dismantling the terror ecosystem and reaffirmed his resolve to eliminate terrorism from Jammu Kashmir.

He urged the entire society, especially youth of Jammu Kashmir, to draw strength from the martyr's dedication and devotion to Maa Bharti and remain united in the fight against terrorism—(KNO)

MARTYR'S IDEALS OF LOVE FOR DUTY AND HONOR FOR THE MOTHERLAND WILL continue to inspire generations in building a peaceful and prosperous Union Territory,"

India Raised Cross-Border Terror Issue To 33 Nations Post-Pahalgam Attack: GoI

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) on Friday said it has consistently raised the issue of cross-border terrorism, with a particular focus on Jammu and Kashmir, at bilateral and multilateral forums, while seven parliamentary delegations visited 33 countries following the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack to present India's perspective on terrorism.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, said the government closely monitors developments in the neighbourhood that have a bearing on national security and continues to take all necessary measures to safeguard the country's interests.

The minister said India has placed high emphasis on international cooperation to combat terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, and has consistently highlighted its impact on the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir at all relevant international platforms. "The Ministry of External Affairs has established Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism with 31 partner countries and actively participates in various multilateral groupings where such issues are regularly discussed," he said.

The government further



informed the House that following the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025, seven parliamentary delegations were sent to 33 countries to present India's position on the menace of cross-border terrorism before the international community.

The minister said the government accords high priority to the safety, welfare and development of people living in the border areas of the Jammu region—(KNO)

informed the House that following the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025, seven parliamentary delegations were sent to 33 countries to present India's position on the menace of cross-border terrorism before the international community.

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CS Reviews Arrangements For 80th Independence Day Celebrations

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SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a high-level meeting of senior officers of the Civil Administration and Police to review the preparations for the 80th Independence Day celebrations across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, ADGPs, IGP, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, Director Information, Directors of School Education (Jammu/Kashmir), Directors of Health Services (Jammu/Kashmir), senior officers of the Police and Civil Administration, besides representatives of various security agencies.

The Chief Secretary took a comprehensive review of the arrangements being put



in place for the main Independence Day functions at Srinagar and Jammu, besides celebrations to be held at the district, sub-division, tehsil, block and Panchayat levels across the Union Territory.

Emphasising the significance of the national occasion, Dulloo directed all the concerned departments to ensure meticulous planning and seamless coordination for the successful conduct of the celebrations. He stressed that all arrangements should be completed well in advance to facilitate smooth participation of dignitaries, students and the general public.

Reviewing the cultural programmes, the Chief Secretary called for showcasing the rich cultural heritage and composite traditions of Jammu and Kashmir through high-quality performances. He •P-06

Amarnath Yatra To Resume From Both Routes Today: Officials

Over 3.9 Lakh Devotees Have Paid Obeisance So Far

UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: The Amarnath Yatra, which remained suspended for six days due to inclement weather, will resume on Saturday (today) from Pahalgam and Baltal routes, officials said on Friday.

A top official said that preparations are underway for the resumption of the pilgrimage following an improvement in weather conditions.

The yatra was suspended earlier this week after incessant rainfall rendered the tracks unsafe for pilgrims.

The official said the pilgrimage will resume on both the traditional Pahalgam route and the shorter but steeper Baltal route tomorrow.

The official said that the decision to resume yatra was taken after weather improved and restoration work on the



tracks was completed.

The Official advised pilgrims to follow directions issued by the administration and security agencies and undertake the yatra only as per the scheduled arrangements.

Pertinently, a robust security framework has been put

in place, with thousands of personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Jammu and Kashmir Police, and other security agencies being deployed along the routes.

Around 20,000 pilgrims are camping at different locations and are eagerly awaiting the

resumption of the yatra.

So far, more than 3.9 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine during the ongoing pilgrimage.

The 57-day pilgrimage commenced on July 3 and will conclude on August 28, coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan—(KNO)

J&K Cancer Cases Rise From 13,060 To 14,493 In 4 Years: Centre

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: The Centre has informed Parliament that the estimated number of cancer cases in Jammu & Kashmir increased from 13,060 in 2021 to 14,493 in 2025, according to data compiled under the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP).

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said cancer screening for oral, breast and cervical cancers is being carried out under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCDD), with services available through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and trained frontline health workers.

The ministry also said a nationwide HPV vaccination campaign for around 1.2 crore eligible 14-year-old girls was launched on February 28, 2026, while cancer treatment •P-06

Jhelum's Fluctuating Water Levels Give Sleepless Nights To Residents Along Banks

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Continuous rainfall across Kashmir has left thousands of people residing along the banks of the Jhelum River and other water bodies gripped by fear, with many spending anxious nights closely watching fluctuating water levels amid concerns of possible flooding.

Residents from several low-lying areas said the persistent rains have revived painful memories of the devastating floods of September 2014, which caused widespread destruction across the Valley. They said the changing water levels throughout the day have

created uncertainty, leaving families unable to sleep.

"We spend the entire night checking the river. One hour the water level appears to recede, and the next hour it rises again. Every rainfall reminds us of the 2014 floods," Arif Ahmad, a resident of Sethar, Anantnag, living close to the Jhelum, said.

Another local said that despite repeated assurances from the authorities after the 2014 disaster, people continue to live under the constant threat of flooding whenever heavy rains lash the Valley.

"After the devastating floods, we were told that comprehensive flood management projects •P-06



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Weather conditions improved across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday after a prolonged spell of heavy rainfall triggered flash floods, landslides, highway closure and widespread disruption across the Union Territory, while the Meteorological Department (MeT) said brief spells of rain and thundershowers will continue before another wet spell commences from July 28.

In its latest weather update, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, said weather has improved across most places as expected after the extended rainfall event.

The department said brief spells of rain and thundershowers are likely over the next few days, with a fresh wet spell expected to affect Jammu and Kashmir from July 28.

The cumulative rainfall data for the period from July 19 to July 24 showed that Reasi recorded •P-06

BJP delegation from B'la calls on LG Sinha, project developmental demands



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A delegation led by Shafqat Abdullah, BJP Youth President of Baramulla, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here on Friday and projected a range of developmental issues pertaining to the district.

The delegation brought to the fore the urgent need for the upgradation of sports infrastructure in

Baramulla, besides pressing for welfare measures for minority communities and youth empowerment initiatives. Various other developmental concerns of the district were also raised during the meeting.

Amanjeet Singh, District President of the Minority Morcha, Baramulla, was also present and accompanied Shafqat Abdullah during the inter-

action with the Lieutenant Governor.

The deputation apprised the LG of the issues and sought his personal intervention for the timely resolution and execution of various projects in the region.

The Lieutenant Governor assured the delegation that their demands would be looked into and necessary action would be taken on merit.

SKUAST-K trains KVKs on Kisan Sarathi 2.0 to boost digital farmer advisory services



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), through its Directorate of Extension in collaboration with KVK Ganderbal, organised a one-day capacity-building workshop on Kisan Sarathi 2.0 to strengthen digital agricultural extension and enhance technology-driven advisory services for farmers.

Around 60 extension professionals, including Programme Coordinators, Subject Matter Specialists, faculty members and representatives from all Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of Kashmir, were trained in creating, disseminating and managing digital advisory content through the

Kisan Sarathi 2.0 portal. Director Extension and Dean, Faculty of Horticulture, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, called for greater adoption of digital tools in agricultural extension and urged scientists to contribute high-quality technical content to the portal for wider dissemination of scientific recommendations among farmers.

Addressing the valedictory session, Dr. Parvender Sheron, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone-I, Ludhiana, said digital platforms such as Kisan Sarathi 2.0 can significantly strengthen last-mile delivery of scientific advisories by providing authentic, location-specific and farmer-centric information, thereby bridging the gap between research and farming communities.

The technical session was led by Dr. Ashish Santosh Murai, Senior Scientist and Nodal Officer, Kisan Sarathi 2.0, who demonstrated the portal's features, including content creation, multimedia dissemination, farmer query management and expert advisory services. He encouraged participants to actively use the platform to enhance farmer-scientist interaction and improve digital extension services across the region.

The workshop concluded with interactive discussions on digital communication strategies and preparation of quality extension content, with participants expressing confidence that the training would strengthen digital advisory delivery across Kashmir.

FDA conducts 118 inspections, 54 Food Samples lifted for Quality Testing

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Food & Drugs Administration (FDA) conducted 118 inspections of Food Business Establishments and lifted 54 enforcement samples of various food articles for laboratory analysis to assess their quality and safety.

In addition, 16 surveillance samples were lifted from ICDS Centres to assess the quality and safety of food being served to beneficiaries. Three Improvement



Notices were also issued to Food Business Operators for deficiencies observed during the inspections.

Further, FDA, J&K, has conducted 1,642 inspections with effect from 1st July 2026 till date and lifted 878 enforce-

ment samples and 223 surveillance samples, comprising of 250 samples of Milk and Milk Products, 217 samples of Oils and Fats, 178 samples of Cereals and Cereal Products, 243 samples of Spices, and samples of other food commodities. 89 Improvement Notices were also issued to Food Business Operators.

Consumers are requested to report any suspected cases of unsafe or adulterated food through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

ASCEND J&K 2026 concludes on high note

Two startups secure funding, investment commitments

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's largest-ever Startup Ecosystem Summit, "ASCEND J&K 2026 – Where Mountains Meet Momentum," concluded at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, on Friday, marking a major step towards connecting promising startups from the Union Territory with national investors, accelerators, mentors and ecosystem leaders.

Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) under the aegis of the Industries and Commerce Department, the two-day summit witnessed high-level panel discussions, startup pitching sessions, investor meetings, masterclasses and networking engagements aimed at strengthening the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The summit generated significant investment interest, with 20 startups from Jammu and Kashmir pitching their business ventures before 14 investors and investment networks. Seven startups were short-listed for further evaluation and due diligence, creating potential pathways for investment, acceleration and strategic partnerships.

Among the major outcomes, two startups secured funding support and investment commitments of up to ₹1 crore, reflecting growing investor confidence in



ventures emerging from Jammu and Kashmir.

Srinagar-based startup EcoBuddy received an investment commitment in the range of ₹75 lakh to ₹1 crore from LetsVenture, a leading technology-enabled platform for investment in early-stage startups across sectors.

Founded by Muhammad Farukh Usman, Eco Buddy provides technology-driven waste-management solutions and eco-friendly packaging materials, addressing emerging environmental and sustainability challenges.

Another Srinagar-based startup, Curve Electric, attracted funding support from Build3 Accelerator and angel investor Komal Nailwal, further strengthening the region's startup investment landscape.

The concluding day commenced with a panel discussion on "Role of Incubators in Scaling J&K's Startup Ecosystem." Moderated by Chintan Bakshi of IIM Ahmedabad, the session brought together incubation leaders from prominent national and local incubation centres.

The panellists deliber-

ated on the evolving role of incubators in nurturing innovation, providing technical and managerial support, facilitating technology transfer, enabling market access and helping startups scale sustainably. They emphasised the need for stronger collaboration among academia, industry, government institutions and incubators to build a vibrant and globally competitive entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Union Territory.

The second panel discussion, titled "From Mountains to Momentum: Building the Next Generation of Startup Ecosystems," featured successful founders from Jammu and Kashmir who shared their entrepreneurial journeys, challenges and experiences of building enterprises from the region.

Moderated by Shradha Sharma, Founder of YourStory, the session highlighted how startups from Jammu and Kashmir are developing innovative solutions across diverse sectors and expanding their presence at the national level. The founders encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to

remain resilient, strengthen their business models and leverage technology, mentorship and market networks to achieve sustainable growth.

The summit concluded with an interactive masterclass on "How to Be Investment-Ready," delivered by noted investor and entrepreneur Shanti Mohan.

The masterclass offered practical guidance on building scalable business models, understanding investor expectations, preparing for fundraising, strengthening financial and operational planning and developing compelling investment pitches. The session helped participating startups identify gaps in their investment preparedness and better position their ventures for future growth.

Running parallel to the panel discussions and masterclasses, structured investor-pitching sessions and one-on-one meetings enabled startup founders to directly engage with venture capital firms, angel investors, accelerators and investment networks.

The interactions focused on business models, market potential, scalability, revenue strategies, funding requirements and long-term growth plans. These engagements provided founders with valuable feedback and opened opportunities for further discussions, mentorship and investment partnerships.

The second day witnessed enthusiastic participation from startup found-

ers, investors, incubators, mentors, industry experts, academicians and ecosystem stakeholders from across the country. The quality of discussions and investment engagements reaffirmed ASCEND J&K 2026 as a significant platform for connecting local innovation with national capital, expertise and markets.

ASCEND J&K 2026 brought together startups, venture capital funds, investors, policymakers, industry leaders, academicians, incubators, mentors and ecosystem enablers on a common platform, transforming the summit's theme, "Where Mountains Meet Momentum," into meaningful investment conversations and growth opportunities.

Organised under the J&K Startup Policy, the summit reflects the Government's commitment to building a robust, inclusive and innovation-driven startup ecosystem that enables young entrepreneurs to transform ideas into sustainable enterprises, attracts private investment and generates employment opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir.

With startups securing funding support, investment commitments and further investor consideration, ASCEND J&K 2026 concluded as a landmark initiative in Jammu and Kashmir's journey towards becoming an emerging hub of entrepreneurship, technology and innovation.

Machail Mata Yatra deferred till July 27 due to inclement weather

Online Registration, RFID mandatory for pilgrims: DC Kishtwar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma Friday informed that Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2026 is officially scheduled from July 25 to September 8. However, inclement weather has stopped the Yatra for three days and it stands deferred till July 27. The district administration will review the weather situation thereafter and the Yatra will commence only after conditions turn favourable.

The Deputy Commissioner said the Holy Kapaat of the sacred shrine of Shri Machail Mata Ji will reopen on the 25th as per the rituals, with the priests and locals at Machail performing the traditional rituals. Thereafter, keeping in view the prevailing weather, the pilgrimage for devotees will start from July 28, subject to an assessment of favourable weather conditions.

The new SOPs introduced this year are aimed primarily at the safety and convenience of pilgrims. Registration has been made 100 per cent online and mandatory and an RFID system has been introduced.

Under the RFID system, the movement of every pilgrim will be tracked. The necessary infrastructure

has already been installed to monitor pilgrim movement and ensure that vulnerable areas, including steep gorges and landslide-prone stretches, do not witness overcrowding.

The DC informed that the Yatra starts from Jammu. The total distance from Jammu to Machail Bhawan is 304.7 km, of which only 1.7 km has to be covered on foot, while the remaining stretch is motorable. At the last motorable point, Darshini Deodi, drinking water, power, sanitation, toilets and parking have been arranged. A small bus stand with a holding capacity of 50-70 vehicles has been established at Darshini Deodi, Machail, which will carry pilgrims from Gulabgarh.

Pilgrims will be allowed to travel only between 5:00 AM and 5:00 PM. A daily cap of 8,000 pilgrims has also been fixed and once the limit is reached, the remaining registered pilgrims will be allowed to proceed the following day.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all pilgrims to complete their registration before commencing the Yatra. Online registration can be completed through the official portal <http://www.srimachalmatayatra.com>, which carries step-by-step guidelines. Pilgrims are required to register

their mobile number, verify it through OTP and add the details of accompanying family members.

Two RFID Yatra Registration Counters have been established at the Base Camp, Gauri Shankar Temple, Sarkoot, Kishtwar and six to seven counters set up at Gulabgarh according to the expected influx of pilgrims. The DC clarified that no pilgrim will be allowed to proceed beyond the first security check at Deondi Morh without an RFID card.

RFID has been made mandatory for all pilgrims, including children, as it will enable authorities to monitor crowd movement, identify gatherings at vulnerable locations and ensure timely guidance and assistance. Police personnel have been deployed at vulnerable locations to generate awareness among pilgrims against halting there.

SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh said Police, NDRF, SDRF, Army and Special Police pickets have been deployed along the Yatra route to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims.

The SSP appealed to devotees to read and strictly follow the SOPs, observe the prescribed travel timings and cooperate with the administration.

ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal was also present on the occasion.

DC Kulgam visits Gudder, Laisoo areas; takes on-ground assessment



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today visited the flood-prone areas of Gudder and Laisoo to take an on-ground assessment of the prevailing rainfall situation and review the preparedness of the district administration in view of the ongoing inclement weather.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected vulnerable locations and inspected road damages, reviewed the water level in the Vishow river and assessed the precautionary measures put in place by the concerned departments to safeguard lives and property. He directed the officers to remain vigilant and ensure round-the-clock monitoring of all flood-prone areas, besides maintaining close coordination for timely response to any emergency.

The DC appealed to the public to avoid venturing near rivers, streams, and other water bodies during the ongoing spell of heavy rainfall and urged them

to follow the advisories issued by the district administration.

Later, the DC visited Rescue Centre located in Government Middle School Gudder, where nomadic families have been temporarily accommodated as a precautionary measure. He interacted with the families, enquired about their well-being and inspected the facilities being provided at the shelter.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure the availability of all essential amenities, including safe drinking water, food, electricity, sanitation, healthcare, bedding, and other basic necessities for the relocated families.

The DC was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vikar Ahmad Giri; Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), D H Pora, Bashir ul-Hassan; AEE, PMGSY D H Pora; AEE, Flood Control and officers from concerned departments, who briefed him about the preparedness measures and the ground situation.

DC Kupwara reviews MY Bharat implementation; Calls for mission-mode registration drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) initiative in the district, with emphasis on accelerating youth registration and strengthening inter-departmental coordination.

At the outset, the District Youth Officer, MY Bharat, gave a detailed presentation on the objectives, registration process and activities being undertaken under the initiative. He informed that nearly 45,000

youth have been registered on the MY Bharat portal against the district target of 1.05 lakh registrations.

The District Youth Officer informed that MY Bharat, established by the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, is a technology-driven national platform aimed at empowering youth through volunteerism, experiential learning and active civic engagement. The platform connects young people with government departments, educational institutions, industry, voluntary organisations and communities, enabling



them to participate in leadership development, skill-building, mentorship, community service, national campaigns and other nation-building initiatives. It also provides digital credentials and



opportunities for youth to build their professional profiles through meaningful participation in developmental activities.

Reviewing the progress, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to adopt

a mission-mode approach to achieve the registration targets within the stipulated timeframe. He directed all stakeholder departments to strengthen coordination and intensify awareness campaigns to maximise the enrolment of eligible youth. He particularly emphasized mobilising students through schools, colleges and ITIs, besides leveraging outreach activities of the Health Department and other line departments to expand the registration drive.

The Deputy Commissioner observed that greater participation under MY Bharat would

not only foster leadership, social responsibility and community service among youth but also enable them to contribute meaningfully towards inclusive development and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Chief Medical Officer (CMO), District Information Officer (DIO), Superintendent ITI Kupwara, Lead District Manager (LDM) and other concerned officers and representatives of stakeholder departments.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name)

Munawar Bashir Ahmad Akhoon to (new name)

Munawar Bashir Ahmad . In future i will be known as
(new name)

Munawar Bashir Ahmad .

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact
passport office srinagar, within & 7 days. After 7 days

no objection will be accepted.

Media line advrt

FLOOD SCARE

Jhelum records fresh surge at Sangam, water level recedes at Ram Munshi Bagh



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: After receding through most of the day, the River Jhelum recorded a fresh rise at key gauge stations on Friday evening, with the water level at Ram Munshi Bagh in Srinagar remaining above the flood declaration mark, while officials maintained that the river is expected to follow an overall receding trend.

According to the gauge update issued by the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department, the water level at Ram Munshi Bagh stood at 18.96 feet and was on an increasing trend. The gauge remained above the flood declaration mark of 18 feet, but below the danger mark of 21 feet.

The Sangam gauge also registered a fresh increase, reaching 19.77 feet, while Pampore remained stable at 5.09 metres.

Further downstream, the river was rising at Asham, where the level reached 12.74 feet, while the Wular Lake level increased to 1576.10 metres. Both, remained below their respective flood declaration levels.

Among the tributaries, Vishow Nallah at Khudwani receded to 7.05 metres, Lidder Nallah at Batkoot fell to 0.96 metres, while Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi remained stable at 2.27 metres.

Earlier in the day, the I&FC Department had said that moderate to heavy rainfall over the southern catchment of the Jhelum basin during the morning led to a marginal rise in tributary levels, slowing the rate of recession at Sangam.

It had stated that the slowdown would also reflect at Ram Munshi Bagh over the following hours, but stressed that the

river was still expected to maintain an overall receding trend.

The department said the situation is being closely monitored and urged people not to panic or pay heed to rumours circulating on social media or other unofficial sources. It advised the public to rely only on official updates, remain vigilant and cooperate with the administration.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng said intermittent rain is likely to continue in parts of Jammu and Kashmir through the night, with isolated heavy showers remaining possible.

He cautioned that intense spells of rain could trigger localised flash floods, landslides, shooting stones and a sudden rise in streams and nallahs, urging people to avoid vulnerable areas and follow official advisories—(KNO)

CM Omar presides over curtain raiser for J&K International Film Festival

Idea is to rebuild Kashmir's historic bond with cinema: CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday presided over the curtain raiser for the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) at the Royal Springs Golf Course here, describing the forthcoming festival as a landmark initiative to revive Jammu and Kashmir's historic association with cinema and establish J&K as a preferred destination for filmmaking.

The launch event was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, eminent filmmaker and Padma Shri awardee Muzaffar Ali, renowned filmmaker and writer Imtiaz Ali, filmmaker Sajid Ali, Director Information Shreya Singhal, Secretary in Information Department, Munir ul Islam, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Haris Ahmad Handoo, Joint Director Information Shahnawaz Bukhari, senior government officers and members of the film fraternity.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the festival marks the beginning of a renewed partnership between Jammu and Kashmir and the film industry, recalling a time when Kashmir was an integral part of Indian cinema.

"There was a time when filmmaking in Bollywood and Kashmir was synonymous. No film was considered complete unless it had at least one sequence shot in the Valley. Even if an entire film was not shot here, at least one memorable song



was," he said.

Highlighting the vision behind IFFJK, Omar Abdullah said the festival seeks to rebuild that historic bond while creating new opportunities for local talent, strengthening the creative economy and showcasing Jammu and Kashmir to audiences across the world.

"Our loss has been many other countries' gain. Had Kashmir remained consistently open for filmmaking, many productions that went elsewhere would have continued to come here. Today, we stand at the cusp of rebuilding that relationship," he said.

The Chief Minister stressed that the Government is working to create a filmmaker-friendly ecosystem by simplifying procedures, reducing production costs and developing a skilled local workforce to support film production.

"We need to make it easier for filmmakers to come here, cheaper for them to shoot here, and ensure

that our young people are equipped with the skills required to support filmmaking activities," he said, adding that the necessary groundwork has already begun.

Referring to filmmaker Muzaffar Ali's long-awaited project Zooni, Omar Abdullah expressed happiness that the unfinished work had now been completed by Muzaffar Ali's son. Originally conceived in the late 1980s with Vinod Khanna and Dimple Kapadia in lead roles, he said the film would present Kashmir in a way not seen over the past four decades.

"If what has been completed carries even a fraction of the vision with which it was originally conceived, it will showcase Kashmir in a way it has not been presented for decades. Screening it at a Film Festival in Kashmir would elevate the festival to an entirely different level," he said.

Expressing confidence that IFFJK would become

a permanent fixture on the global film calendar, the Chief Minister said the Government envisions it evolving into an internationally recognised film festival with parallel screening in Jammu and Gulmarg.

"This is the first, but certainly not the last. Great film festivals acquire an identity and brand of their own. We hope that, in the years ahead, the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir will stand alongside the finest festivals in the country and eventually earn recognition among the best in the world," he said.

The Chief Minister also welcomed the decision to keep Srinagar Airport operational during the festival period, saying it had removed a major logistical concern and would ensure smooth participation by filmmakers, artists and guests from across the country and abroad.

He thanked Muzaffar Ali, Imtiaz Ali and Sajid Ali for

supporting the initiative and for their longstanding association with Jammu and Kashmir.

"Your presence here is encouraging not merely because of your words but because your actions over the years have demonstrated your deep association with Jammu and Kashmir. Your support gives this initiative tremendous strength, and we look forward to welcoming you all back for the festival in September," he said.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo said that this curtain raiser ceremony is a historic occasion which reminds the great partnership of J&K with Bollywood. He added that this platform is a great occasion to establish the bond with Bollywood.

The Chief Secretary also said that J&K has a goldmine of talent and potential and we need to give platform like this to our budding filmmakers to showcase their talent.

Padma Shri awardee and noted film maker, Muzaffar Ali, while speaking on the occasion highlighted that Kashmir has special place in the Bollywood from the very beginning. He also remembered his association with the Kashmir while shooting for various remarkable films here.

In his address, renowned filmmaker and writer Imtiaz Ali said that Kashmiri youth are brightest as far as talent is concerned. He also remembered his association with Kashmir while shooting for various Bollywood blockbusters in the valley.

CM Omar meets public representatives, delegations at Raabita



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday met public representatives and various delegations at Raabita here and heard a range of issues concerning development, public welfare and matters of public importance.

MLA Budgam, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues pertaining to his constituency.

MLAs Vijay Kumar (Hiranagar) and Rajeev Kumar (Bishnah) also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various developmental issues and public welfare concerns relating to their constituencies.

Former MLA Inderwal, Qazi Jalal-u-Din, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues of public importance concerning his area.

Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin, met the Chief Minister and discussed matters pertaining to the university.

Senior journalist Abdul Mehjoor, along with several other individuals, also called on the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and individuals and assured them that their genuine concerns would be examined and addressed in a time-bound manner.

Javid Dar hears public grievances; assures prompt redress



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Friday held a public grievance redress programme at the Civil Secretariat here, where he met scores of public delegations and individuals from across Kashmir and listened to their grievances, demands and developmental concerns.

The delegations, representing Kupwara, Baramulla, Sopore and several other districts of Kashmir Division, projected a wide range of issues pertaining to public infrastructure, rural development, agriculture, civic amenities, employment, social welfare and other matters of public

importance.

Giving a patient hearing to each delegation, the Minister reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to responsive, transparent and people-centric governance. He assured the delegations that all their genuine demands would be examined on merit and addressed in a time-bound manner.

The Minister issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for speedy redress of several grievances. He instructed them to maintain close coordination with the district administrations to ensure swift disposal of public issues. He emphasized that the Government remains steadfast in its resolve to strengthen the public service delivery by addressing the concerns of people at the grassroots level.

.....INDUS FOOD AHMEDABAD 2026

JKTPO strengthens global market linkages for J&K products

GMK NEWS NETWORK

AHMEDABAD: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, is proudly showcasing the region's diverse Food, Agriculture and Horticulture products at the prestigious Indus Food Ahmedabad 2026, being held from 24-26 July, 2026 at the Helipad Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat under Raising and Accelerating MSME Programme (RAMP) intervention of Ministry for MSME.

The event is being participated by the leading stakeholders from the food processing, packaging, retail, exports and agri-food sectors on a single platform, strengthening the Western India's role in global food trade.

The event being organised by the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), aims to further consolidate India's position as a trusted and competitive partner in global food supply chains by bringing together the leading Indian food producers, international buyers, policymakers, industry leaders and global institutions on a single platform to facilitate trade collaborations, bilateral engagements and



long-term partnerships. The show is B2B sourcing event with 300+ exhibitors participating, 40+ retail chains and 15,000 trade visitors are expected to visit the show. Indusfood Ahmedabad will provide 03 days of powerful networking, strategic partnerships and high-value business engagements, all under one roof. The show will provide an opportunity for leading brands, buyers, retailers and decision-makers to come together to connect, source and grow their businesses.

The event will serve as a strategic gateway connecting the global buyers, retail chains, importers, distributors and institutional procurement agencies with India's rapidly growing food manufacturing ecosystem, particularly from Gujarat and Western India. The show is expected to witness participation from supermarkets, retail chains, distributors, wholesalers, food importers, exporters, hospitality buyers, food service operators, packaging com-

panies, engineering firms and technology solution providers.

The Jammu & Kashmir Pavilion, located at Hall No. 2, provides a vibrant platform for MSMEs, FPOs and women entrepreneurs to showcase their premium offerings. The Pavilion highlights Jammu and Kashmir's world-renowned Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged products such as Saffron, Rajmah, Sulai (Acacia) and multifloral honey, along with organic honey, essential oils, herbs, grounded spices, pulses, dry fruits, dehydrated fruits and vegetables, reflecting the region's authenticity, quality and excellence. The platform not only provided exposure and experience but also facilitated substantial business opportunities for the entrepreneurs from Jammu & Kashmir. The region's exceptional products and culinary traditions stood out, contributing to the success of Indus Food 2026 as a significant avenue for promoting India's diverse food industries.

Hasnain Masoodi chairs Committee on Privileges meeting, examines Breach of Privilege case



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: MLA, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi Friday chaired a meeting of Committee on Privileges here at Legislative Assembly Complex to discuss and examine Breach of Privilege case against Waheer Rehman Para, MLA in accordance with the established parliamentary practices and procedures governing the privileges of the House.

The meeting was attended by Legislators Showkat Hussain Ganie, Khurshid Ahmad, Zafar Ali Khatana, Vijay Kumar, Rajeev Kumar and Darshan Kumar.

The Committee took note of a written communication dated 23-07-2026 received from Waheed ur Rehman Para wherein he has conveyed his inability to appear before the Committee as he is required to appear before the NIA Court, Jammu in connection with a matter already fixed for hearing. Citing this unavoidable circumstance, he has humbly requested the Committee to

adjourn his appearance and grant him a fresh date at the convenience of the Committee. He further assured the Committee of his fullest respect, cooperation and readiness to appear on any other date as may be fixed by the Committee.

The Committee took note of the request and observed that the reason cited by the MLA was genuine and unavoidable. Accordingly the Chairman accepted the plea for adjournment and allowed the member to appear before it on 7th August 2026 which shall be notified in due course.

During the meeting, the Committee reiterated the constitutional importance of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Members of the Legislative Assembly. These privileges are fundamental to enable the Members to discharge their legislative duties without fear or hindrance. They inter-alia included Freedom of Speech in the House and its Committees as provided under Article 194 of the

Constitution of India.

Secretary Legislative Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandita apprised the committee about the Privileges of Members of the Legislative Assembly and their special rights and immunities that enable Legislators to perform their legislative duties independently and effectively. The ultimate source of these privileges is Constitution of India: Article 194 of the Constitution of India provides for the, powers, privileges and immunities of State Legislatures and of the Members and Committees.

The Committee further observed that the House and its Committees are vested with specific powers to ensure accountability and effective functioning of the Legislature. Such privileges are intended to uphold the dignity, authority and independence of the Legislature as a core institution of democracy.

The meeting was also attended by officers and officials of Assembly Sec-

Min Rana visits landslide-hit Nandi Chool, consoles bereaved families

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Friday visited remote Nandi Chool area of Tehsil Mandi in Poonch district, to meet the families devastated by the recent landslide and flash floods that resulted in the loss of several lives and caused extensive damage.

Amid the grief-stricken surroundings, the Minister met the bereaved families, listened to their accounts of the tragedy and expressed deep sympathy with them. He



conveyed his heartfelt condolences, assuring the affected families that the Government stands firmly by them during this difficult time.

Expressing profound grief over the loss of lives, the Minister said the tragedy had deeply saddened the

entire district.

"No words can truly lessen the pain of losing a loved one but I want every bereaved family to know that the Government stands firmly with them in this hour of grief. We are committed to extend all possible sup-

port and ensure that every affected family receives the assistance needed to rebuild their lives with dignity," said Minister Rana.

Taking stock of the situation on the ground, the Minister directed the district administration and concerned departments to ensure immediate relief, proper rehabilitation and timely disbursement of ex-gratia relief to the next of kin of the deceased. He also issued instructions for a thorough assessment of damages and swift restoration of essential services in the affected areas.

CM Omar-led Govt approves ₹15.22 crore augmentation of Kathua Grid Station

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has approved the augmentation of the Grid Station at Kathua by enhancing its capacity from 3x50 MVA to 4x50 MVA, along with the execution of allied infrastructure works, at an estimated cost of ₹15.22 crore.

The project is aimed at strengthening the power transmission network in the region to meet the growing electricity demand and ensure a more robust and

reliable power infrastructure. The augmentation will significantly improve the reliability and stability of the transmission system, reduce overloading, and enhance the overall quality of electricity supply to consumers in Kathua and adjoining areas.

The initiative forms part of the Government's sustained efforts to modernize and expand Jammu & Kashmir's power infrastructure, ensuring dependable, efficient, and quality electricity supply while supporting the region's economic growth and development.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Every Highway Closure Reminds Kashmir Of Its Fragile Lifeline

For most parts of the country, the closure of a highway is an inconvenience. For Kashmir, it is much more than that, it is a disruption that touches every home, every business, and every family waiting for a loved one to return. Friday's closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, triggered by landslides and continuous shooting stones in Ramban, is another painful reminder of how vulnerable the Valley remains. Whenever this single road is blocked, life in Kashmir slows down. Passengers are stranded, truckloads of essential goods are delayed, businesses suffer losses, and uncertainty takes over.

The decision to suspend traffic is undoubtedly the right one. No journey is worth risking human lives. The men working tirelessly to clear debris and restore the road deserve appreciation, especially as they continue their work in dangerous weather conditions. But while nature may be beyond our control, the consequences of these recurring disruptions should no longer be accepted as inevitable. Every year, heavy rains expose the same weak spots on the highway, and every year Kashmir pays the price. The economic losses mount, supply chains are interrupted, tourism takes a hit, and thousands of travellers are left waiting with no certainty about when the road will reopen.

The special train services between Srinagar and Katra have brought much-needed relief to stranded passengers, showing how alternative transport can help during emergencies. Yet these are temporary measures. They cannot substitute for a reliable, all-weather road network that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have long been promised. Kashmir deserves more than short-term fixes after every landslide. It needs lasting solutions, safer highways, stronger slope protection, better drainage, and faster completion of critical infrastructure projects. These are not just development goals; they are essential for the region's economy, connectivity, and peace of mind.

Until that happens, every spell of heavy rain will continue to bring the same anxiety. And every closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway will once again remind the people of Kashmir that their only road lifeline remains far too fragile.

Legacy Of Values

The Silent Curriculum Of Home



RAKSHANDA GUL

When we talk about the development of young people, our minds often go to schools, colleges, or social media. These things certainly influence today's generation; I believe that the first and most lasting influence comes from home. A child spends the early years of life with family, and during this time, many habits, values, and ways of thinking begin to develop. Long before children understand the outside world, they learn by watching the people around them. This is why the family environment plays a very important role in shaping their worldview. A home where people care for one another, respect, and solve problems peacefully gives children a strong foundation for life.

Culture exists within each family. For example, some families value the tradition of having meals together, while other families consider it important to get together with relatives or be helpful to people. The above-mentioned habits might seem insignificant, but they gradually become a part of a child's daily life. The child who was raised in a polite environment will definitely carry that trait into adulthood. Just as when parents act responsibly and honestly, children automatically start imitating them.

I can confidently say that I have noticed children remember the simplest family moments for a long time. For instance, the father helping the old woman, the mother behaving respectfully towards other people, and grandparents telling their grandchildren about honesty and hard work- all this seems insignificant, but still leaves a trace in their lives.

It is also the parents' job to inspire their kids to use reason rather than simply accept all the information they receive without thinking. The kids are naturally curious and have numerous questions as a result. The families must support their questioning. A proper discussion allows kids to understand the rationale behind various values and decisions. Being inspired to think and analyze, compare different options and share one's opinion acceptably increases one's confidence and teaches one to make sensible choices instead of following the examples of other people blindly.

The children nowadays have numerous information sources at their disposal. With the help of mobile phones and the Internet, they get exposed to new ideas constantly. There is some that is misleading. Parents cannot accompany their kids all the time;



Culture exists within each family. For example, some families value the tradition of having meals together, while other families consider it important to get together with relatives or be helpful to people.

however, they can teach them to think before believing or disseminating any information. It will be very helpful for kids to have such practice since every stage in one's life requires reasoning.

Communication is yet another aspect that plays an essential role in a family. In most cases, members of a family are engaged in various activities such as work, studying, or other responsibilities. Members may live

in one house and never get the opportunity to communicate. Any parent needs to spend even a few minutes communicating at the end of the day. It is good to ask children about their day, listen to them attentively, and appreciate their point of view. They will be comfortable talking about their successes and concerns.

I think children do not necessarily expect their parents to find solutions to all their problems. Most often, they just need someone to listen to them without any kind of judgement. When parents keep calm when having conversations, children feel relaxed enough to share everything.

Things may not turn out the way we plan all the time. All young people have had moments of disappointment in their lives; for example, bad grades in exams, losing a contest, or being rejected. Such moments may either demotivate them or make them stronger. The way in which the family deals with such situations makes a big difference. A family that encourages the young person to learn from failures teaches him or her the following lesson: that failure is just a chance for improvement. With this mentality, one becomes resilient and gets the motivation to try again.

Simple responsibilities around the house can help make a young person strong. For instance, organizing one's desk for studies, contributing to household chores, or looking after younger children helps instil discipline and a sense of responsibility. This way, a child learns that all family members have different roles. With age, one develops the

ability to take up bigger responsibilities.

Respect among family members also contributes to how youngsters will act in society. Kids pay attention to how adults deal with each other. They see how arguments between family members are discussed and resolved either patiently and respectfully or aggressively and disrespectfully. Children understand that problems can be worked out in a civilized manner. Such knowledge will remain with them in life as respectful behaviour leads to healthy relationships and successful workplaces.

The strength of a society depends on how strong families are in society. The knowledge is obtained in schools, and opportunities exist in society, but the lessons are learned at home. An ideal family is not necessary, but people who love and support each other and are ready to listen, communicate, and learn from one another should exist there.

To sum up, family plays an important role in the development of one's personality. The family culture influences behaviour; dialogues teach people to think independently; open dialogue builds trust; emotions contribute to forming resilience. Families that spend much time, effort, and energy raising their kids will help create responsible, loving and confident citizens of the future society.

The Author writes on themes related to women's empowerment, rural livelihoods, entrepreneurship, health, and changing social realities in the Kashmir Valley. She can be mailed at rakshandagul629@gmail.com

FERTILITY CANNOT WAIT

Why Timely Action Matters More Than Ever



DR. MANNAN GUPTA

For millions of young Indians today, life follows a familiar trajectory, higher education, career growth, financial stability, and then starting a family. While this shift reflects changing aspirations and greater opportunities, our biology has not evolved at the same pace. Fertility remains governed by age, and delaying parenthood without understanding its biological implications is becoming one of the biggest reproductive health challenges of our time.

As we observe World IVF Day on July 25, the conversation around fertility must move beyond celebrating medical breakthroughs to encouraging awareness, early intervention, and informed choices. IVF has undoubtedly transformed reproductive medicine, but the larger message is that couples should not wait until IVF becomes their only option.

According to global estimates, nearly one in six couples experience infertility during their reproductive years. India is witnessing a steady rise in fertility-related concerns, driven by delayed marriages, sedentary lifestyles, obesity, diabetes, stress, environmental factors, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), endometriosis, and declining reproductive health. Despite



this growing burden, infertility continues to be viewed through the lens of stigma rather than science.

One of the most common misconceptions is that infertility is primarily a woman's problem. Medical evidence tells a different story. Male factors contribute to nearly half of all infertility cases, either independently or in combination with female factors. Yet, in many households, women continue to shoulder the emotional burden, often undergoing repeated investigations while the male partner delays even a basic fertility assessment. Fertility is a shared responsibility, and evaluation should always involve both partners from the outset.

Another widespread myth is that IVF is recommended to every couple struggling to conceive. In reality, IVF is only one of

several evidence-based fertility treatments. Many couples conceive successfully with lifestyle changes, medications, ovulation induction, treatment of hormonal disorders, minimally invasive surgeries, or intrauterine insemination (IUI). IVF is advised only after a comprehensive clinical evaluation, taking into account the woman's age, ovarian reserve, sperm quality, duration of infertility, and previous treatment history.

The most important factor that couples often underestimate is time. Female fertility begins to decline gradually after the age of 30 and more rapidly after 35, primarily because both the number and quality of eggs reduce with age. While advances in reproductive medicine have significantly improved success rates, medical science cannot

completely reverse the natural ageing process of the ovaries. This is why women over the age of 35 should seek fertility evaluation after six months of unsuccessful attempts to conceive, while younger couples should consult a specialist after one year.

The good news is that fertility care today is more advanced than ever before. Modern IVF is no longer the physically demanding and uncertain treatment it was decades ago. Innovations such as advanced embryo culture systems, time-lapse embryo monitoring, highly efficient embryo freezing techniques, improved laboratory conditions, minimally invasive egg retrieval procedures, and genetic testing in selected medical situations have made treatment safer and more effective. Importantly, fertility treatment is increasingly personalised, ensuring that each couple receives a protocol tailored to their unique medical profile rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

Equally significant is the growing role of fertility preservation. Many women today choose to delay pregnancy due to education, career aspirations, or personal circumstances. Others may require cancer treatment or have medical conditions that threaten future fertility. Egg and embryo freezing now offer scientifically validated options that provide greater reproductive flexibility, although these decisions should always be made after detailed medical counselling.

However, successful fertility treatment is not just about technology. Emotional wellbeing is an equally important pillar of care. Couples undergoing fertility treatment often experience

anxiety, self-doubt, financial stress, and emotional exhaustion. Compassionate counselling, psychological support, and open communication between clinicians and patients are essential to improving not only treatment outcomes but also the overall patient experience.

As clinicians, we also have a responsibility to promote fertility awareness before infertility develops. Simple lifestyle measures—including maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, managing chronic illnesses, avoiding tobacco and excessive alcohol consumption, reducing stress, and seeking timely medical advice for menstrual irregularities or reproductive health concerns—can positively influence fertility and improve pregnancy outcomes.

World IVF Day is not merely a celebration of scientific innovation. It is a reminder that infertility is a medical condition—not a personal failure, a social taboo, or a reason for shame. Couples deserve empathy instead of judgment, scientific guidance instead of myths, and timely medical care instead of delayed reassurance.

The dream of parenthood has become achievable for millions because of advances in reproductive medicine. But the greatest success of fertility care will not be measured only by the number of IVF pregnancies. It will be measured by how effectively we educate people to understand their fertility, seek help without hesitation, and make informed reproductive choices before time becomes the biggest obstacle.

Author is Chairman Obstetrics, Gynaecology & IVF Expert, Elantis Healthcare, New Delhi

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■ Where The Border Breathes

The Rise Of Frontier Tourism In Kashmir



DR. RIZWAN RUMI

For generations, the names Keran, Tangdhar, Uri and Gurez evoked images of conflict rather than curiosity. These frontier villages, nestled along the Line of Control (LoC), were known for military bunkers, ceasefire violations and stories of displacement. Their breathtaking landscapes remained hidden behind security restrictions, and for many, they existed only in news reports whenever tensions escalated along the border.

Today, a quiet transformation is unfolding. The very villages that once symbolised uncertainty are emerging among Kashmir's most sought-after travel destinations. Families, photographers, bikers, trekkers and nature lovers are making their way to these remote settlements, not merely to admire snow-clad mountains and crystal-clear rivers, but to experience something profoundly unique: the feeling of standing at the edge of a nation.

Border tourism has become one of the most compelling chapters in Kashmir's evolving tourism story. It is not merely about visiting scenic places; it is about witnessing how peace, development and human resilience can redefine landscapes once overshadowed by conflict.

The renewed ceasefire understanding along the Line of Control in February 2021 significantly altered life in many frontier areas. With a marked decline in cross-border shelling, villages that had long lived under the shadow of uncertainty began witnessing a gradual return to normalcy. Improved road connectivity, better telecommunications and government initiatives promoting rural tourism have together opened a new chapter for these remote regions.

The resurgence of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir provides the backdrop for this transformation. Official figures show that the Union Territory welcomed more than 2.35 crore tourists in 2024, the highest ever recorded. While destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg continue to dominate tourist itineraries, an increasing number of visitors are now seeking experiences beyond the conventional circuit. Border villages have emerged as the newest attractions, offering a blend of breathtaking landscapes, history, culture and national significance.

What attracts people to these distant settlements is not luxury or adventure alone. It is a curiosity.

There is something deeply compelling about standing on the banks of the Kishanganga River in Keran and looking across at homes in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The mountains are identical. The forests mirror each other. The river flows uninterrupted across political boundaries.



Yet history has drawn an invisible line separating communities that once shared language, culture and everyday life.

Unlike many international frontiers marked by towering walls and fences, parts of the LoC pass through rivers, valleys and mountain ridges that appear almost untouched by political divisions. Visitors often describe the experience as surreal. Within a few metres lies another country, visible across flowing water, where everyday life unfolds against the same Himalayan backdrop.

This rare experience has made border tourism one of the fastest-growing travel interests in Kashmir. People no longer visit these villages solely for photographs; they come to understand the geography of the frontier and the lives of those who have called it home for generations.

Keran perhaps best symbolises this remarkable transition. Once difficult to access due to security restrictions, the village has evolved into a thriving rural tourism destination. Traditional wooden homes now welcome visitors as homestays, while local cafés, tea stalls and handicraft outlets have sprung up to cater to growing tourist numbers. Young residents who once looked beyond the valley for employment are now working as trekking guides, photographers, transport operators and hospitality entrepreneurs.

The economic implications are significant. Tourism contributes nearly 7 to 8 percent of Jammu and Kashmir's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and supports around five lakh direct and indirect livelihoods. Every traveller who spends a night in a village homestay, hires a local guide or purchases locally made products contributes directly to strengthening rural economies that were once dependent primarily on agriculture, seasonal labour or government employment.

Government efforts to promote community-based tourism have further accelerated this transformation. Rural tourism initiatives and homestay schemes have enabled hundreds of families across Jammu and Kash-

Border tourism has become one of the most compelling chapters in Kashmir's evolving tourism story. It is not merely about visiting scenic places; it is about witnessing how peace, development and human resilience can redefine landscapes once overshadowed by conflict.

mir to diversify their income while preserving traditional architecture and local culture. In many frontier villages, tourism has become an engine of economic empowerment, allowing young people to remain in their native places rather than migrate elsewhere in search of employment.

Tangdhar presents another compelling example. Once synonymous with cross-border shelling, it is today celebrated for its dramatic mountain landscapes and warm hospitality. The drive across the majestic Sadhna

Pass itself has become an attraction, offering spectacular views of snow-covered peaks, alpine meadows and dense forests before visitors descend into the valley.

Nearby Teetwal occupies a unique place in Kashmir's history. Situated along the Kishanganga River, it has long served as a reminder of families divided by partition and the Line of Control. The revival of the ancient Sharada Temple has added another dimension to its identity, attracting pilgrims, historians and cultural travellers alongside nature enthusiasts.

Uri, too, is gradually shedding its image as merely a strategic frontier town. Rich in history and blessed with remarkable natural beauty, it offers visitors an opportunity to witness landmarks such as the Kaman Post and Aman Setu, symbols of both division and dialogue. These sites remind visitors that borders are not merely barriers; they are places where history, politics and humanity intersect.

Further north, Gurez Valley remains one of Kashmir's most extraordinary frontiers. Home to the Dard-Shin community and framed by the majestic Habba Khatoon Peak, the valley offers pristine landscapes rarely matched elsewhere in the Himalayas. Its untouched beauty, distinctive culture and strategic location have increasingly drawn travellers searching for authentic experiences beyond commercial tourism.

Yet border tourism is unlike conventional tourism. People visit these places not only for nature but also to understand life along one of the world's most sensitive frontiers. They witness army posts overlooking tranquil rivers, hear stories of resilience from local residents and experience communities that have endured decades of uncertainty with remarkable courage. In doing so, they gain a deeper appreciation of both the region's beauty and its complexities.

However, this growing popularity also presents serious challenges. The Himalayan ecosystem is exceptionally

fragile. Unregulated tourism, plastic waste, indiscriminate construction and increasing pressure on water resources threaten the ecological balance of these pristine valleys. Climate change has already intensified landslides, erratic weather and extreme rainfall across the Himalayas, making sustainable tourism more essential than ever.

Equally important is preserving the cultural identity of frontier communities. The traditional wooden architecture, local cuisine, indigenous customs and distinct dialects of these villages constitute an invaluable heritage. Tourism should strengthen these traditions rather than dilute them through unchecked commercialisation.

Security, too, remains an unavoidable reality. The Line of Control continues to be one of the world's most sensitive military frontiers. Tourism in these regions must therefore evolve in harmony with legitimate security considerations, ensuring that visitor access and local economic growth complement rather than compromise national security.

If managed wisely, border tourism has the potential to become one of the most transformative models of rural development in Jammu and Kashmir. It creates employment where opportunities were once scarce, encourages infrastructure development, supports local entrepreneurship and integrates remote communities into the broader economy. More importantly, it enables visitors to engage with the lived realities of people residing at the nation's frontiers.

Standing beside the Kishanganga River in Keran, one cannot help but reflect on the quiet symbolism of the landscape. The river flows freely across political boundaries. The mountains rise with equal grandeur on both sides. Nature recognises neither conflict nor cartography. It simply endures.

Perhaps that is why border tourism resonates so deeply. It allows travellers not only to witness geography but also to contemplate history, resilience and hope. It reminds us that while borders define nations, they need not define the limits of human connection, empathy or aspiration.

The success of Keran, Tangdhar, Teetwal, Uri and Gurez demonstrates that peace carries tangible dividends. Villages once remembered for the sound of shelling are increasingly known for the warmth of their hospitality. Roads that once carried military convoys now welcome travellers seeking understanding rather than headlines. Communities long associated with conflict are finding new confidence through tourism, entrepreneurship and cultural pride.

Kashmir's frontier villages are no longer merely the nation's outermost settlements. They are becoming living examples of how peace, when nurtured, can transform landscapes of uncertainty into destinations of opportunity. In the end, the greatest attraction of border tourism is not simply standing at the edge of a country—it is witnessing how resilience, hope and humanity flourish even at the edge of history.

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GMK

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MAIL YOUR LETTER

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Letter To Editor

Many friends have often been asking me why Kashmiri Pandit families who have moved outside Kashmir predominantly speak Hindi at their homes instead of their native Kashmiri language. What I understand is that preserving a language and its identity requires its native speakers to stay mostly around the same place. Community spirit strengthens the language, ensuring its unhindered propagation and circulation. The scattering of a community not only harms the language and literature but also leads to a decline in the number of its speakers over time. While those residing in Kashmir valley continue to speak the language, those displaced may, on the contrary, find it crucial to actively preserve their language to sustain their identity. To save their existence is, perhaps, more important than saving their language. It is only in times of peace that language, culture and its literature thrive, but during conflicts and displacements, they obviously face challenges or decline. The environment in which one chooses to live or is destined to live plays a vital role in influencing one's cultural identity, including the language one speaks. All in all, you cannot evade the comprehensive influence of the socio-cultural environment in which you and your family reside.

DR.S.K.RAINA
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(Govt. of India)

J&K has 4 fast-track special courts, including 2 POCSO courts: Centre

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir has four functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including two Exclusive POCSO Courts, the Centre informed Parliament on Friday, saying the centrally sponsored scheme has been temporarily extended till September 30, 2026 to ensure speedy trial of rape and child sexual abuse cases.

Replying to a starred question

in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, said that 775 Fast Track Special Courts, including 398 Exclusive POCSO Courts, are functional across 29 States and Union Territories as of April 30, 2026. The scheme, launched in October 2019, has been extended twice and was last valid till March 31, 2026, before being temporarily extended till September 30 this year.

The minister informed the House that the Centre has released 2.32 crore in 2023-24, 1.48 crore in 2024-25 and 1.74 crore in 2025-26 to Jammu & Kashmir under the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme.

"Since the inception of the scheme, the Centre has released 1,259.51 crore to States and UTs for the smooth functioning of FTSCs," the minister said. "The government is also conducting regular review meetings with States, UTs

and High Courts to improve case disposal and ensure compliance with timelines prescribed under the POCSO Act and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita."

The minister added that recruitment of judges and court staff is the responsibility of the respective State/UT governments and High Courts, while the Centre continues to provide financial assistance for strengthening judicial infrastructure across the country—(KNO)

Over 20 lakh teleconsultations conducted through eSanjeevani in J&K: GoI

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) on Friday informed Parliament that more than 20.05 lakh teleconsultations have been conducted through the eSanjeevani National Telemedicine Service in Jammu & Kashmir, aimed at improving access to healthcare in remote and border areas.

Replying to an

unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said Jammu & Kashmir has 512 operational hubs and 1,903 operational spokes under the eSanjeevani platform. Of the total teleconsultations, 18.58 lakh were provided through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, while 1.46 lakh consultations were conducted through the eSanjeevani OPD service.

The ministry said the eSanjeevani service is operational across all States and Union Territories, including remote and border areas, and is supported by regular training, specialist consultations and an AI-based Clinical Decision Support System to strengthen digital health infrastructure and improve access to quality healthcare—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Kashmir No Longer

he said.

Referring to movies shot in the Valley, Omar said many filmmakers use Kashmir's breathtaking landscapes but continue to portray it as a place consumed by violence.

"They shoot here but show the locations as somewhere else. And when they do show Kashmir, it is often only through gunfights, houseboat explosions and firing. Kashmir is no longer that place. The story of Kashmir has changed, and we want filmmakers to show that changed reality to the world," he said.

CM Omar said the upcoming International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir aims to encourage authentic storytelling while giving long-overdue recognition to local talent.

"Our local filmmakers and documentary makers possess immense talent but rarely get a platform. That is why the festival will have a dedicated section and special awards for them so they can showcase their work before a wider audience," he said.

He said the government hopes the festival will inspire filmmakers from across India and abroad to tell stories that capture the region's beauty, culture and changing social landscape instead of relying solely on conflict narratives.

Responding to a question on the ongoing protests in New Delhi, CM Omar said the Centre should engage with the protesters rather than allow the situation to drag on.

"I think the Centre should talk to these youngsters. From what I have seen, this protest has gone beyond any one organisation. Many of those on the streets are ordinary young people expressing their anger. It is now for the Centre to decide how it wants to address their concerns," he said—(KNO)

Amit Shah Speaks

Absar, the son of martyred Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi; enquired about the well-being of the family; and assured them of the government's full support and assistance.

"Visited the home of martyred Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi in Budgam to pay respects and offer heartfelt condolences to his family. In this difficult time, prayers remain with the bereaved family, wishing them strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss," Sunil Sharma posted on his social media handle.

"Grateful to Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji for personally speaking to the martyr's son and assuring the family of the government's full support and assistance during this challenging period," he added.

Speaking to reporters after meeting the family, Sharma said Union Home Minister Amit Shah personally spoke to the martyr's son over the phone, conveyed his heartfelt condolences, and assured the family of all possible assistance from the central government.

He said the family also shared their concerns directly with the home minister, who reaffirmed that the Government of India stands firmly with them during this difficult time and would extend every possible support and assistance.

Heavy Rain Eases

the highest rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir at 473.2 mm, followed by Udhampur (417.5 mm), Rajouri (349.9 mm), Ramban (293.4 mm), Poonch (290 mm), Kathua (270.4 mm), Jammu (262.6 mm), Samba (213 mm), Doda (120.1 mm) and Kishtwar (77 mm).

In Kashmir division, Kulgam recorded the highest cumulative rainfall at 201.1 mm, followed by Shopian (145.2 mm), Srinagar (144.7 mm), Pulwama (136.8 mm), Anantnag (130.8 mm), Baramulla (119.7 mm), Kupwara (115.9 mm), Ganderbal (115.9 mm), Bandipora (63.7 mm) and

Budgam (37.3 mm).

The latest update comes days after the Meteorological Centre Srinagar had issued a weather advisory forecasting a major wet spell between July 19 and July 23 due to moisture incursion from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, coupled with the northward shift of the monsoon trough.

The advisory had warned of widespread moderate to heavy rainfall, isolated extremely heavy rainfall over Reasi and Udhampur, flash floods, landslides, mudslides, shooting stones, waterlogging in low-lying areas, disruption of surface transport and a significant rise in water levels of rivers and streams.

The forecast largely materialised as heavy rains lashed Jammu and Kashmir over the past five days, triggering flash floods and landslides in several districts, damaging roads and public infrastructure, inundating low-lying areas, swelling rivers and streams, forcing repeated closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and leading to the suspension of the annual Amarnath Yatra for nearly a week.

Meanwhile, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) remained closed for vehicular movement on Friday afternoon due to intermittent landslides and shooting stones at multiple locations caused by the recent heavy rainfall.

Traffic Police said restoration work was underway but advised commuters to avoid travel until the highway is declared safe for movement, warning of the possibility of fresh landslides and shooting stones. The authorities also urged people to rely only on official traffic advisories and verified updates regarding the road status.

Official weather observations showed that Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 24.8 degrees Celsius, which was 5.1 degrees below normal, while Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kukernag, Banihal, Batote and Bhaderwah also recorded significantly below-normal daytime temperatures.

The Meteorological Department has advised people, particularly those living in flood- and landslide-prone areas, to remain vigilant and continue monitoring weather updates as rainfall activity is expected to increase again from July 28—(KNO)

No Data On Students

clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for students who had secured admission in medical colleges in Pakistan before April 13, 2022, from time to time.

The minister said the MHA issues security clearance based on inputs received from security agencies. After receiving the clearance, the NMC processes the applications expeditiously for the issuance of Eligibility Certificates (ECs), the House was informed—(KNO)

Remain Mission-Focused,

DIG CID Kashmir, all Range DIGs of J&K, DIGs Traffic Kashmir/Jammu, DIG Pers PHQ, DIG Hqr PHQ, DIG Crime J&K, DIG IR Jammu, DIG Security J&K, DIG Railways J&K, SSP PCR Kashmir, all District SSPs of J&K, all Commandants of JKAP/IRP Bns of J&K, AIG (CT. & Int.) PHQ J&K, SSPs APCR Jammu/Kashmir, SSPs Telecom Jammu/Kashmir, SSP Cargo Srinagar/Jammu and other officers.

The participating officers presented a comprehensive assessment of the prevailing security scenario across the Union Territory, including the current operational environment, threat perception and preparedness of field formations.

DGP Prabhat directed the officers to intensify area domination and night domination, particularly in vulnerable and urban areas, to deter anti-national elements and maintain a strong police presence. The DGP emphasized strengthening the security grid around critical infrastructure while reinforcing intelligence collection and coordination among all security and intelligence agencies.

Reviewing the counter-terrorism framework, the DGP instructed officers to intensify intelligence-led operations to identify, track and neutralize residual terror networks. He stressed the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders to facilitate swift operational responses and effectively counter any attempt to disturb public order or undermine the security environment.

Highlighting the critical role of reliable communication in policing, DGP Prabhat stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted telecommunication connectivity and resilient communication networks across all police formations.

Furthermore, the DGP called for heightened situational awareness across all formations and directed officers to maintain continuous oversight of weather-related preparedness. The DGP also emphasized that communication networks and field-level coordination must remain fully operational to address any emergencies arising out of inclement weather—(KNO)

CS Reviews Arrangements

emphasised greater participation of school students and youth to instil patriotism and national pride.

He also directed the Police and Traffic authorities to ensure comprehensive security arrangements and effective traffic management around all venues so that participants and visitors do not face any inconvenience.

In view of the prevailing weather conditions, Dulloo instructed the concerned departments to make adequate arrangements for drinking water, shaded seating, medical assistance and emergency response facilities, particularly for school children and other participants.

The Chief Secretary further stressed upon maintaining high standards of sanitation, uninterrupted power supply, proper illumination and beautification of venues. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that all public utilities remain fully functional during the celebrations.

He asked the Information Department to install and thoroughly test the Public Address System (PAS) and other audio-visual equipment well before the full-dress rehearsal, while maintaining adequate backup arrangements to address any unforeseen eventuality.

Dulloo also instructed all Heads of Departments, Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to illuminate major government buildings, offices, bridges and other iconic public infrastructure to commemorate the 80th Independence Day celebrations.

He directed the district administrations to issue invitations to public representatives, freedom fighters, ex-servicemen, families of martyrs, eminent citizens and other invitees well in advance to facilitate their participation in the celebrations.

During the meeting, officers informed that contingents of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Armed Police, CRPF, BSF, IRP, Lady Police, Fire & Emergency Services, NCC, NSS and various educational institutions would participate in the ceremonial parade and cultural programmes at the main venues.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements relating to sanitation, healthcare, drinking water, power supply, transport, seating, parking, emergency services and other logistical requirements. The concerned officers assured the Chair that all arrangements would be completed in a timely manner and reviewed regularly to ensure flawless conduct of the celebrations.

It was informed that full-dress rehearsals for the Independence Day celebrations would be conducted prior to August 15 to ensure smooth execution of all ceremonial events across the Union Territory.

J&K Cancer Cases Rise

is being supported through Ayush-

man Bharat PM-JAY, Jan Aushadhi, AMRIT pharmacies and the expansion of cancer care infrastructure across the country—(KNO)

Jhelum's Fluctuating

would significantly reduce the risk. Billions of rupees have reportedly been spent over the years, but every spell of heavy rainfall still leaves us terrified. We want to know how much the carrying capacity of the Jhelum has actually increased," he said.

Residents questioned the effectiveness of flood protection works undertaken over the past decade, including dredging, embankment strengthening, and channel improvement.

"We are not against development works, but we deserve transparency. The government should explain what has been achieved after so many years. Has the river's carrying capacity improved? If yes, by how much? Why do people still fear flooding every time it rains?" another resident asked.

Locals urged the authorities to regularly desilt river channels, remove encroachments, improve drainage systems, and strengthen vulnerable embankments to minimise the risk of inundation in low-lying areas.

They said that while departments remain on alert during periods of heavy rainfall, long-term solutions are needed to restore public confidence and ensure that communities living close to rivers and streams do not have to spend every rainy night in fear.

Residents appealed to the government to place in the public domain the status of flood mitigation projects launched after the 2014 floods and provide a clear assessment of their impact, particularly on enhancing the carrying capacity of the Jhelum River and reducing flood vulnerability across Kashmir.

"We do not want another tragedy like 2014. We only want assurance backed by visible results so that people can sleep peacefully even when it rains," a resident said.

They have sought immediate attention along with reports from the department in this regard and what is in the pipeline, as such conditions are now arising almost every year—(KNO)

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CMYK

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CS reviews progress of BISAG-N-supported IT-enabled projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress of various Information Technology (IT) and e-Governance projects being implemented across multiple departments of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir taken-up in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N).

The meeting besides the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Saurabh Bhagat; and Special Director General, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur; was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, senior police officers, representatives from the National Informatics Centre, and other stakeholder agencies.

A comprehensive department-wise review was undertaken to evaluate the implementation status of ongoing digital governance projects, identify bottlenecks, review timelines and accelerate completion of technology-enabled initiatives aimed at improving governance, enhancing transparency and making public services more accessible, efficient and citizen-friendly.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored that digital transformation is a key pillar of governance reforms and directed departments to ensure close coordination with BISAG-N for timely completion of all pending modules. He emphasized that every digital intervention must ultimately translate into improved public service delivery, simplified procedures, enhanced accountability and greater convenience for citizens.

He further emphasized that all technology-enabled projects should remain



focused on improving ease of living for citizens by ensuring transparent, efficient and time-bound delivery of public services.

He took the occasion to impress upon the departments to adhere strictly to project timelines and ensure seamless integration of departmental databases for effective implementation of digital governance initiatives. He stressed the need for continuous monitoring, timely resolution of technical issues and adoption of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, wherever feasible to improve governance outcomes.

Reviewing the progress of the Finance Department's AI-based GST Analytics and Fraud Detection Portal, the meeting was informed that the platform has significantly strengthened tax compliance through advanced analytics and fraud detection mechanisms. More than 4,300 notices have been issued based on analytics generated by the portal, resulting in substantial revenue recovery. The system has also been strengthened through enhanced reporting modules, Action Taken Report monitoring and improved processing capabilities.

While reviewing the End-to-End Energy Tracking and Management System (EETMS) of the Power Development Department, the meeting was informed that the project has entered the opera-

tional deployment phase with live dashboards, role-based access and Management Information System (MIS) reports across power sector corporations. API-based data integration and automated alerts are being operationalized, while future phases will incorporate Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for demand forecasting, predictive maintenance and advanced decision support.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS) developed for the Mining Department. The project uses satellite imagery and geo-spatial technologies for detection of illegal mining activities and GPS-enabled monitoring of mineral transportation vehicles. Thousands of mineral transport vehicles have already been integrated with the surveillance platform, enabling automated alerts and improved enforcement.

Reviewing initiatives in the School Education Department, the meeting was informed that the JK e-Pathshala Educational Television Channel is broadcasting curriculum-based educational content round the clock and has considerably expanded access to quality learning resources, particularly for students in remote areas.

The Tourism Department presented the progress achieved in development of the redesigned JK Tourism Web Portal and Mobile Application,

equipped with an AI-powered chatbot, integrated tourist information, itinerary planning, hotel and transport onboarding and digital payment facilities. The platform is expected to significantly improve the overall visitor experience while promoting tourism destinations across the Union Territory.

The meeting also reviewed progress on several important digital initiatives of the Agriculture Production Department, including Kisan Khidmat Ghar, Kisan Sathi, Daksh Kisan and the JKCIP Portal, which are aimed at strengthening digital agriculture services, improving scheme implementation, enhancing monitoring mechanisms and providing technology-enabled support to farmers.

Reviewing the JK Samadhan grievance redressal platform, the Chief Secretary was informed that substantial progress has been achieved in addressing system improvements and implementation of new functionalities. He directed the concerned agencies to ensure expeditious completion of all remaining action points to further strengthen public grievance redressal.

The Revenue Department presented the status of modernization of land records, digitization of Jamabandis, workflow automation and mutation management systems designed to improve transparency, efficiency and accessibility of revenue services.

DC Kishtwar reviews preparedness for Machail Mata Yatra 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma Friday chaired a meeting to review the preparedness and arrangements for Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2026.

SDM Paddar Dr Amit Kumar presented the arrangements on the ground and informed that sanitation workers have been deployed along the Yatra route and mobile toilet units installed at Gulabgarh, Tatapani and Darshani Gate, while parking for around 60-70 vehicles has been created at Darshani Gate, besides space at Gulabgarh. Drinking water and langar facilities are also in place.

The DC directed the Executive Engineer PMGSY to preposition machinery at vulnerable spots and maintain the stretches from Gulabgarh to Darshani Deodi, Machail and the BRO to keep landslide-prone locations, including Patharnaki under continuous watch with machinery and emergency response measures ready.

The Police Department and Traffic Police were directed to manage traffic at all critical points and the RFID card system implemented strictly, with registration mandatory for



all pilgrims.

SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh informed the meeting that Security Check Units with X-ray machines have been established at Darshani Gate and other vulnerable locations. Commanding Officer 17 RR apprised the meeting of the security arrangements and the medical units being set up along the route.

The Executive Engineer JPDCL was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply at all halting points and install an additional DG set at Darshani Gate, Machail. The DC also directed that the entire Yatra area be maintained as a plastic-free zone, with eco-friendly carry bags encouraged under the Zero-Plastic Initiative.

The CMO apprised the meeting that health centres have been established at 16 locations from Drabshalla to Machail, with six 108

ambulances at strategic locations and one additional ambulance at Darshani Gate. The Indian Army has established medical tents at Machail.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that a daily limit of 8,000 Yatris has been fixed for darshan and directed that three-hourly weather forecasts be submitted to the Control Room, DC Office Kishtwar. The Sanatan Dharma Sabha, led by its President Mahant Ram Saran Dass Ji Maharaj, along with members of the Sabha and Sarv Shakti Sevak Sanstha, raised several issues, on which the Deputy Commissioner issued directions on the spot.

The DC launched the new SOPs and advisory, under which online registration has been made mandatory. Pilgrims can register through the official portal by completing OTP

verification and adding the details of accompanying family members.

The Yatra stands deferred till July 27 due to inclement weather and will resume on July 28 subject to an assessment of the weather by the district administration.

Among those present were SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh, ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, Col N Arun Gandhi CO 17 RR, SDM Paddar Dr Amit Kumar, CMO Kishtwar Dr Sanjay Bhat, ARTO Kishtwar Tasleem Wani, DIO NIC Kishtwar Faizal Khan, Executive Engineer REW RDD Kishtwar Er Satbir Singh, Executive Engineer PWD R&B Paddar Er Gurjeet Singh, DTI Kishtwar Anil Raina, besides representatives of the Sanatan Dharma Sabha and Sarv Shakti Sevak Sanstha and officers from the Army, BRO and other departments concerned.

DDC Kupwara reviews progress of RDSS Works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress of works being executed under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) across the district.

The meeting undertook a comprehensive assessment of ongoing works under the scheme, which is aimed at improving the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient distribution sector.

Addressing the officers, the DDC underscored the need to expedite the pace of execution and directed the



concerned departments and the executing agency to complete all ongoing works within the stipulated timelines.

He laid special emphasis on prioritising works in far-flung areas and Vibrant Villages to ensure equitable access to quality power

infrastructure.

The DDC also directed for formulation of Sub-Divisional and Tehsil level committees consisting Revenue, PDD (Projects and ED), NTPC to monitor pace of work and resolve local issues urgently.

The DDC called for joint site visits by the concerned officers for on-the-spot resolution of issues and removal of bottlenecks. He conducted an area-wise and feeder-wise review of ongoing works and stressed the need for close coordination and prompt redressal of field-level issues to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of smart metering and other infrastructure works being carried out under the RDSS across the district.

The meeting was attended, among others, by the CPO Kupwara, Executive Engineers of Electric & Projects Divisions, representatives of NTPC, and officers of the concerned departments.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROJECT OFFICER TROUT FISH FARMING PROJECT KOKERNAG.
E-Mail: cpo-kokernag@jk.gov.in
AUCTION NOTICE.
It is for the information of general public that auction of 95 No.'s of already identified and marked for disposal, non-fruit bearing (standing) trees, (Willow 50, Bremji 14, Alanthus 29, Robinia 01 & Ulmus 01) existing at Trout Fish Farm Achabal is being conducted in the premises of Trout Fish Farming Project Kokernag on 04-08-2026 at 12:00 PM on the below mentioned terms and conditions:-
Terms and Conditions:-
1. The interested bidders can visit for on spot verification on any working day before the day of Auction.
2. The interested bidders shall have to deposit refundable earnest money amounting to Rs 150000/- (Rupees one lac fifty thousand only) in the form of Call deposit receipt (CDR) pledged to the "Chief Project Officer TFFP Kokernag" for participation in the Auction. The CDR should reach to this office by or before 03-08-2026 upto 4PM.
3. No CDR will be accepted on the day of Auction.
4. The Auction committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reasons.
5. The successful bidder has to deposit the whole bid amount on the date of auction.
6. The basic bid amount is fixed at Rs. 7.70 lacs (Rupees Seven Lakh and Seventy Thousand only).
7. The successful bidder must ensure that no damage is caused to the surrounding property infrastructure or other trees during the removal process. Any damage caused will be rectified at the bidder's expense.
8. The department will not be responsible for any accident, injuries or damages that occur during the removal operations.
9. The successful bidder shall be responsible for complete removal of the Auctioned trees within 15 days from the date of Auction.
10. For any information or clarification, interested bidders may contact 9906631982 or 9596166553.
CPO/KOK/2026-26/53541
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DIPK-3692-26
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(Sajad Hussain Dar)
Chief Project Officer
Trout Fish Farming Project
Kokernag

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA
e-mail, id, xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in
TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No:	M&HDB/TS/2026-27/34/1164-69
Date:	22-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs / Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	Rental Charges for Water Proof Semi - Pandal arrangement and other related items for Celebration of Independence Day-2026 at Government Boys Degree College Ground Baramulla.	2.0396	200/-	4079/-	03 days before the Independence Day-2026

Note: -

- AAA: - Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Engineer M&HD Kashmir vide No. M&HED / K / Acctt / 29 of 2026-27 Dated: - 30-04-2026.
- Technical Sanction: - Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/21 of 07/2026; Dated: - 21-07-2026.
- Executing Agency: - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	22-07-2026
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 22-07-2026 to 30-07-2026
3	Bid Submission Start Date	From 22-07-2026 (18:00 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	30-07-2026 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	31-07-2026 (13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.
Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Tender Fee equivalent to Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred Only) has to be deposited in the Departmental Common Pool Account maintained in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Residency Road Srinagar, under Account No: 0005010200000355 (IFSC Code: JAKA0CHINAR). Proof of the said Electronic / Digital Transfer has to be uploaded in Cover-I documents.
02.	EMD	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost has to be deposited in the Departmental Common Pool Account maintained in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Residency Road Srinagar, under Account No: 0005010200000355 (IFSC Code: JAKA0CHINAR). Proof of the said Electronic / Digital Transfer has to be uploaded in Cover-I documents.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The prospective bidder should have sufficient experience in deliverance of the said service at short notice for which he has to furnish / upload documentary proof

NOTE: -

- The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
- No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.
- Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
- Contractor/ Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.

A. Cover-II shall contain:

- Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
- Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar / blacklist such firm(s).
- Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
- Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to deposit additional performance security as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025.
- The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-34/ 1164-69
Dated:- 22-07-2026
DIPK-3683-26
DT: 24/07/2026
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

