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Kashmir

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Tourism in Jammu Kashmir must be seen as a celebration of this heritage, and ethical tourism must be the guiding principle for its future, the Lieutenant Governor stated.

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Gol Sanctions Multiple Tourism Projects For J&K



RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) has sanctioned multiple tourism infrastructure projects for Jammu and Kashmir under various flagship schemes, including Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD, with several destinations across the Union Territory receiving central financial assistance.

According to information tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Tourism, the primary responsibility for developing tourism destinations rests with States and Union Territory administrations, while the Centre supplements these efforts through schemes such as

Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, PRASHAD, Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) and SASCI.

The ministry said these schemes focus on improving tourism infrastructure, connectivity, sanitation, safety and visitor amenities while promoting sustainable and responsible tourism. It also informed Parliament that the National Board for Sustainable Tourism has been constituted to coordinate sustainable tourism initiatives, while the Travel for LiFE programme encourages environmentally responsible tourism practices.

As per the annexure to the parliamentary

LG Stresses Eco-Friendly Tourism In J&K

Says Tourism Must Be Inclusive, Should Empower Boatmen, Pony Owners, Artisans, Homestay Families



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lauding that tourist arrivals in Jammu and Kashmir have reached record levels, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday stressed the need for heightened sensitivity towards the environment while promoting tourism in the Union Territory.

Addressing an “Ethical Tourism Conclave” organised by the Tourist Trade Interest Guild here, Sinha underscored the imperative of developing a tourism model that is responsible, sustainable and inclusive.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor extended heartfelt congratulations to the organizers for the conclave,

which he described as a significant step in redefining tourism as a moral responsibility for the tourism stakeholders. He emphasized that the theme “Responsible Today, Sustainable Tomorrow, Beneficial for All” reflects the collective duty of society to safeguard natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Jammu Kashmir has historically been regarded as “heaven on earth” for the unique harmony between nature and culture.

“Tourism in Jammu Kashmir must be seen as a celebration of this heritage, and ethical tourism must be the guiding principle for its future,” he

stated.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the remarkable progress achieved in the tourism sector.

“Tourist arrivals have reached record levels, confidence among domestic and international travellers has been restored, investments have increased, and employment opportunities have expanded. However, the true success lies not in numbers alone but in ensuring that prosperity reaches local communities and contributes to social inclusion,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that “Responsible Tourism” must ensure that every visitor departs

LG Chairs The Governing Board Meeting Of GMC Sgr



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday chaired the introductory meeting of the newly constituted Governing Board of Gandhi Memorial College Srinagar, at Lok Bhavan.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shri Shailendra Kumar; Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shri Ram Niwas Sharma; Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Achal Sethi; Director Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) S. Ajaz Bashir; President, Hindu Education Society Kashmir

'J&K Reported 3 Organised Wildlife Crime Cases Since 2021'

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has not reported any organised wildlife crime case to the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) in the last three years, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Replying to Unstarred Question on “Data on Wildlife Crimes,” Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh, said the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 mandates the WCCB to collect and collate intelligence related to organised wildlife crime activities, disseminate it to States and enforcement agencies, and establish a centralised wildlife crime databank.

According to Annexure-I of the reply, Jammu and Kashmir reported two organised wildlife crime cases in 2021 and one case in 2022. However, the Union Territory reported no organised wildlife crime cases (NR – Not Reported) during 2023, 2024 and 2025.

The ministry also furnished another set of data in Annexure-II, which showed that Jammu and Kashmir recorded 10 wildlife crime cases in 2021, while no cases were reported from 2022 to 2025 under that category.

Fresh Landslide Leaves 1700 Trucks Stranded On Jmu-Sgr NH

AGENCIES

JAMMU: A fresh landslide on Monday blocked the 250-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in the Udhampur district, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded, while the main bridge in the Doda

district was temporarily closed to vehicular movement after suspected cracks triggered a safety inspection, officials said.

A massive landslide struck the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway at Dewal in the Udhampur district

'J&K Received 9 Central Environmental Clearances In Five Years'

'All NGT Directions Are Acted Upon By Ministry's Concerned Divisions'

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir received nine Environmental Clearances (ECs) from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the Central level during the last five financial years, the Union Government informed Parliament on Monday.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha,

Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh, said proposals requiring Environmental Clearance are appraised under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) at the Central level and the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) at the State/UT level after examining



■ 64.8 Per Cent Of Sanctioned Target

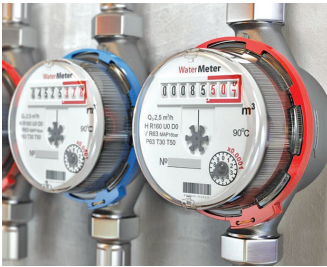
J&K Installs 9.71 Lakh Smart Meters Under RDSS: Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has installed 9,70,776 smart meters against 14,97,690 sanctioned under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) as of June 30, 2026, achieving about 64.8 per cent of its sanctioned target, according to the Union Ministry of Power.

The data, presented by Minister of State for Power Shripad Naik in a written reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 950 on Monday, show that the Union Territory has installed 9,36,905 consumer meters against 14,07,045 sanctioned, along with 32,419 distribution transformer (DT) meters against 88,037 sanctioned and 1,452 feeder meters against 2,608 sanctioned.

Jammu and Kashmir's over-



all installation rate of about 64.8 per cent is above the national RDSS average of around 28.2 per cent, based on 5,73,31,930 meters installed against 20,33,88,297 sanctioned across the country. Its consumer-meter installation rate of about 66.6 per cent is also substantially higher than the national rate of around 27.9 per cent.

Among the States and Union Territories listed in the annex-

ure, Jammu and Kashmir is among the better-performing regions in terms of the proportion of sanctioned RDSS smart meters installed. Its 9.71 lakh installations are, however, below the absolute numbers recorded in larger States such as Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

The Ministry of Power said the Government launched the RDSS in July 2021 to improve the quality and reliability of electricity supply through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient distribution sector. Smart metering of consumers, distribution transformers and feeders is a key intervention under the scheme.

At the national level, the Centre has sanctioned smart metering works

CS Reviews Implementation Of ABDM In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular focus on the progress achieved under its key components, adoption of digital health solutions, and their impact on healthcare delivery at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department; Mission Director, National Health Mission; Managing Director, ABDM J&K; Principal, GMC, Srinagar/Jammu; Director, Health Services, Jammu; senior officers of the Health & Medical Education Department, and other concerned officers.

During the review, the



Chief Secretary underscored that the core objective of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is the creation of comprehensive digital health records for every individual, and stressed that the Mission must remain aligned with this fundamental goal.

He observed that while substantial progress has been achieved in creation of ABHA IDs and digital health infrastructure, the ultimate measure of success would be the availability of complete, secure and interoperable digital health records for every citizen.

To realise this objective, Dulloo directed the Mission to put in place a well-defined implementation strategy with clearly identified milestones for progressively enhancing the generation and linkage of electronic health records

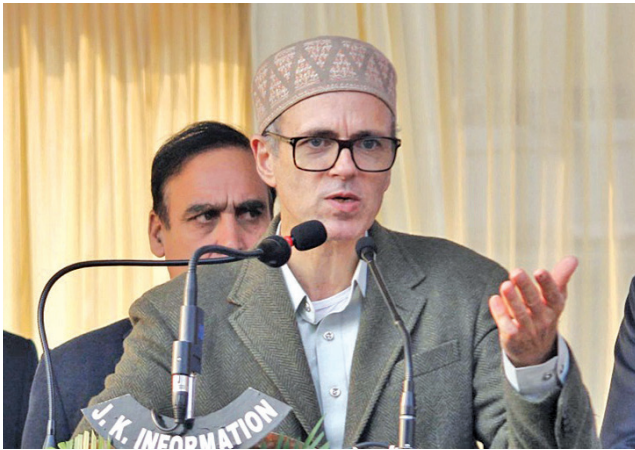
Only PM Modi, HM Shah Can Restore J&K Statehood: CM Omar

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR- Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah can take a decision on the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

“The decision on restoration of statehood can be taken by only two persons – the prime minister and the home minister. That is why we held the protest for statehood in Delhi,” Abdullah told reporters in Anantnag district.

The chief minister was responding to a reported statement by Leader of Opposition in J-K Assembly, Sunil Sharma, claiming that neither statehood nor Article 370 will be restored in Jammu and Kashmir.



“He issues 10 statements every day. I don't have so much free time. I don't think they (Modi and Shah) will consult him on these issues,” Abdullah said.

He also said that Sharma will one day wake up from sleep and read in the newspapers that statehood has been restored.

Abdullah, along with

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary and Forest Minister Javed Rana, visited the Halmulla cricket bat manufacturing hub in Anantnag to interact with the bat manufacturers' association.

“They had three main demands, and we have promised to find a way for all three. Their major demand is ensuring the supply of raw material, which is under stress,” he said.

The chief minister said while a large number of willow trees were cut around the Wullar Lake, no fresh plantation is allowed there due to a high court order.

Another major demand is uninterrupted supply of electricity to the bat manufacturing units, he said.

MeT Forecasts Heavy Rain, Flash Flood Risk Across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast a fresh spell of rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir from July 28, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall, flash floods, landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas over the coming days.

Director of the Meteorological Centre, Mukhtar Ahmad, said light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at most places across the Union Territory between July 28 and July 31. He said a few districts, particularly in the Jammu division, are likely to witness brief but intense heavy showers, with peak weather activity expected on July 30 and 31.

According to the forecast, Udhampur and adjoining areas are expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall, especially during late night, morning and afternoon-evening hours.

For July 27, the department predicted rain and

J&K Has Two Central Universities, Ladakh One: GoI

'Sindhu Central University Among Newest In Country'

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has two Central Universities, while neighbouring Union Territory of Ladakh has one, with Sindhu Central University being among the two new Central Universities established in the country during the last five years, the Government of India (GoI) informed Parliament on Monday.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Education Dr Sukanta Majumdar, said there are 57 Central Universities currently operational in the country, of which 47, excluding the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education.

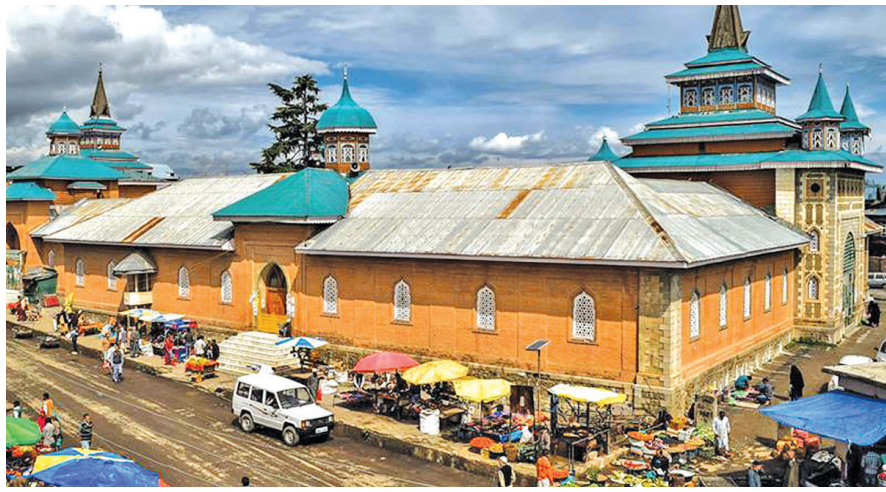
The ministry said all Central Universities are statutory autonomous insti-



tutions established under Acts of Parliament and are empowered to take academic and administrative decisions through their respective statutory bodies.

According to the annexure to the parliamentary reply, the Central University of Kashmir, headquartered at Sonwar in Srinagar, was established in 2009, while the Central University of Jammu, located at Bagla, Samba, was established in 2011. The Sindhu Central University in Ladakh was established in 2021.

J&K govt approves Rs 16.36 crore for two major heritage conservation projects



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has approved two major heritage conservation projects worth ₹16.36 crore for the revival and restoration of the historic Jamia Masjid Sharief in Shopian and the Sarvadhara Chaumanda

Mata Mandir in Ramban. The Government has sanctioned ₹6.05 crore for the revival and restoration of the historic Jamia Masjid Sharief in Shopian on heritage lines. The project aims to preserve the mosque's distinctive architectural character while safeguarding its rich cultural and historical legacy for future generations.

In another significant decision, the Government has approved ₹10.31 crore for the revival and restoration of the Sarvadhara Chaumanda Mata Mandir in Ramban. The project seeks to conserve and strengthen the temple's historic and religious significance while ensuring the preservation of its architectural heritage.

Haryana CM Graces 'Utkarsh 2026' at GNK Group of Institutions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Yamunanagar: In a grand celebration of academic excellence, skill development and community empowerment, GNK Group of Institutions, in collaboration with Jamna Auto Industries Ltd. (JAI), organised 'Utkarsh 2026' at Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Yamunanagar, Haryana. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Nayab Singh Saini, as the Chief Guest accompanied by Agriculture Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana, Mayor of Yamunanagar, Smt. Suman Bahmani and local MLA.

Applauding the initiative, the Chief Minister commended GNK Group of Institutions and JAI for creating a platform that celebrates student achievements while advancing education, employability, sports, women's empowerment and social welfare through CSR initiatives. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was warmly welcomed by S. Randeep Singh Johar, President, Board of Governors, GNK Group of Institutions. The program was attended by Prof. (Dr.) Peer G. N. Suhail, Group CEO, Other Committee members of GNK Group of Institution, Principals of the Institutes, CSR Head, Faculty members, Students, industry representatives, public representatives and other distinguished guests.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Nayab Singh Saini congratulated the students and beneficiaries for their remarkable achievements and appreciated the collaborative efforts of GNK



laborative efforts of GNK Group of Institutions and support of Jamna Auto Industries Ltd. (JAI) in integrating education, skill development, placements and community welfare on a common platform. He stressed that empowering youth with quality education and industry-relevant skills is essential for building a self-reliant and prosperous Haryana. He also highlighted the importance of creating opportunities that enable young people to become educated, skilled, employable and capable of contributing meaningfully to nation-building. He was very happy to see the holistic development of the students attending the GNK Group of Institution for dedicatedly providing education, manners, skill to all the students for a brighter career. He applauded that the Institutions for following the principal as well as the teachings of Sh. Guru Nanak Dev ji and was telling the parents that their child is in safe hands of GNK Group of Institutions.

The event lived up to its name, 'Utkarsh', which signifies progress, excellence and the aspiration to rise above one's limitations. It brought together

meritorious students, successful placement achievers, sportspersons and community beneficiaries whose lives are being positively transformed through education and livelihood initiatives.

During the ceremony, Hon'ble Chief Minister felicitated Twenty students who secured placements through recent campus recruitment drives and are set to begin their professional careers. Twenty students were awarded scholarships in recognition of their outstanding academic performance, while Ten students were honoured for their achievements in sports at State & National levels. The awards reflected the institution's commitment to nurturing academic excellence, employability and holistic personality development.

A major highlight of the event was the recognition of several community welfare initiatives implemented under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program of Jamna Auto Industries Ltd. Beneficiaries from different sections of society were invited to the stage and honoured in the august presence of the Chief Minister of Haryana Sh. Nayab Singh Saini.

Court of Adjudication acts tough on food safety violators in Shopian

Imposes Rs 62,000 fine under Food Safety and Standards Act

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The Court of adjudication under the Food Safety and Standards Act was convened Monday by the Adjudicating Officer (Additional Deputy Commissioner) Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz during which 12 cases related to violations of food safety norms were disposed of.

During the proceedings, a total penalty of Rs 62,000 was imposed on food business operators found selling substandard milk and edible oil, besides committing other violations under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

The ADC emphasized that there will be zero tolerance for the sale of



substandard and unsafe food items, warning that strict legal action, including hefty penalties, will be taken against anyone found violating food safety regulations.

The Court directed the Food Safety Department to continue intensive market inspections across the district to ensure the availability of safe and quality food

products for consumers. Food business operators were instructed to strictly adhere to prescribed food safety standards, failing which stringent action will follow.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment for safeguarding public health through regular market checking drives and strict enforcement of food safety laws.

DC, SSP Sgr review intensified anti-drugs enforcement measures

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday chaired a comprehensive meeting of the District-Level NCORD Committee here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office to review the progress of the intensified anti-drug enforcement drive launched under the 100-Day Jammu & Kashmir Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in the District.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. Sundeep Chakravarthy, also attended the meeting, which assessed the impact of coordinated enforcement measures against drug trafficking and substance abuse.

The meeting was attended by Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Qazi Irfan, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi-Din, DSWO, Mohammad Yousuf and Officers from Excise, Drug Control Organisation, DYS&S, heads of ATF's and Officers of other concerned departments.

At the outset, the meeting undertook a comprehensive assessment of the District's anti-drug strategy, focusing on enforcement measures, preventive interventions, rehabilitation measures and the outcomes of the recently concluded 100-day Jammu and Kashmir Nasha Mukta Abhiyan.



During the meeting, it was informed that the intensified enforcement operations, coupled with coordinated efforts by the Police, Civil Administration, and other stakeholder departments, have yielded significant outcomes across Srinagar district.

The multi-pronged action has focused on dismantling drug trafficking networks, disrupting the financial ecosystem supporting illicit activities, and ensuring strict legal action against those involved in the illegal trade of narcotics. The NCORD Committee was informed that the ongoing crackdown has resulted in the registration of 169 FIRs and the arrest of 238 alleged drug peddlers. In addition, illegal movable and immovable properties worth about Rs 103 crore

linked to drug traffickers have been attached, while 89 bank accounts have been frozen as part of financial investigations.

The Committee was further informed that 101 driving licences, 59 vehicle registration certificates (RCs) and 70 chemist licences have been suspended for violations related to narcotics. The enforcement agencies also reviewed action taken to dismantle drug supply networks through coordinated legal, financial and administrative measures.

Further more, authorities have recommended suspension of passport and Aadhaar numbers of various accused under relevant laws.

Reviewing the progress of the campaign, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP appreciated the coordinated efforts of the Civil Administration, Police and allied Departments and stressed the need for sustained, intelligence-driven enforcement to eliminate the drug menace and ensure lasting outcomes under the ongoing

campaign.

On the occasion, the DC directed all concerned departments to further strengthen inter-departmental coordination and intensify action against drug peddlers and trafficking networks to ensure a drug-free and safer environment in the District. He emphasized renewed focus and coordinated efforts to curb drug abuse and dismantle the ecosystem supporting narcotics trafficking in Srinagar District.

The DC further stressed the importance of a multi-pronged strategy combining strict law enforcement with awareness generation, counselling and rehabilitation measures to effectively tackle the menace of drug abuse, particularly among youth.

The SSP reiterated the commitment of the Police in collaboration with civil authorities towards sustained action against narcotics-related activities and called for active support from the public in identifying and reporting drug-related offences.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Monday chaired a meeting of officers of district administration, Kulgam to review the arrangements for the smooth and successful celebration of 79th Independence Day 2026 across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of all preparations and finalized the District Police Lines (DPL), Kulgam, as the main venue for the district-level function. The National Flag will be hoisted by the Chief Guest, followed by march past.

A detailed deliberation was held on all aspects of the event, including security arrangements, traffic management, seating plans, Full Dress Rehearsal, venue decoration & branding, cultural programmes, public address system, uninterrupted power and drinking water supply, transportation, sanitation, illumination, medical facilities, parking management, and other logistical arrangements to ensure the successful conduct of the celebrations.

The Deputy Commissioner assigned specific

responsibilities to the departments and directed them to put in place comprehensive, foolproof, and well-coordinated arrangements well in advance. He emphasized the importance of close inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of all assigned tasks to ensure that the national celebration is conducted in a befitting, dignified, and grand manner.

Besides the district level function, the sub divisional, block and institutional level functions shall also be held across the district to mark the celebration of 79th Independence Day.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Altaf Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Viqar Ahmad Giri, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Noorabad Bashir-ul-Hassan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Riyaz Ahmad Shah, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bilal Ahmad Kamgar,

Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Malik Suheel, Tehsildars, Executive Engineers of R&B and Jal Shakti Departments and other officers from civil and police administration.

Preparations for I-Day Celebrations 2026 reviewed at Sumbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, on Monday chaired a meeting of officers to review preparations for the smooth and successful celebration of the forthcoming Independence Day 2026 across the Sub-Division.

The meeting held a comprehensive review of the arrangements to be put in place for the national event. Detailed discussions were held regarding the venue, seating arrangements, invitation of dignitaries, flag hoisting ceremony, participation of contingents, band performances, cultural programmes, illumination of government buildings, medical facilities, fire and emergency services, floral decorations, sanitation, drinking water supply, Electricity supply and transportation facilities.

The SDM directed the concerned departments to ensure that all arrangements are completed well in advance and in a coordinated manner. He stressed the importance of maintaining the dignity and solemnity of the national

celebrations while ensuring the convenience and safety of participants and the general public.

Regarding cultural programmes, the SDM instructed the concerned committee to closely monitor rehearsals and ensure quality performances reflecting the spirit of patriotism and national integration. He also directed the Education Department and other concerned agencies to introduce more students in contingents, bands and cultural items so as to encourage wider participation of youth in the celebrations.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for parade contingents and directed the concerned departments to ensure timely rehearsals and proper coordination among all participating teams.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildar Sumbal, Syed Shabbar Sarwar; Block Development Officers, Executive Engineers, officers of various line departments, who briefed the chair regarding the status of preparations and assured timely completion of all assigned responsibilities.

JKBOSE Revises Schedule for Annual Private, Bi-Annual 2026 Exams

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Monday issued a revised date sheet for the Annual (Private)/Bi-annual 2026 examinations that were postponed earlier, announcing a fresh schedule for Class 10, 11, 12 and the Jammu and Kashmir State Open School (JKSOS) examinations.

According to an official notification, the revised timetable covers the Secondary School Examination (Class 10), Higher Secondary Part-I (Class 11), Higher Secondary Part-II (Class 12), and JKSSOS Class 12 examinations.

The Board has directed all stakeholders, including educational institutions, examination staff and candidates, to ensure smooth and fair conduct of the examinations at the designated centres in accordance with the revised schedule.

Students have been advised to download the updated date sheet from the official JKBOSE website and contact their respective schools or examination centres for any clarification regarding the revised examination programme.

ADC Sopore visits Flood Prone Areas of Sub-division

Stresses proper strengthening and maintenance of flood protection bund

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Dr. S.A. Raina, along with a team of officers, Monday conducted a comprehensive field visit to Warpora and adjoining areas of Sub-Division Sopore to inspect flood protection bunds along the River Jhelum and Wular Lake.

The ADC conducted an on-site assessment of the bund and interacted with the concerned officers regarding its present condition and the progress of maintenance works.

Stressing the importance of timely preventive measures, the ADC directed the concerned departments to ensure proper strengthening and maintenance of the flood protection bund to minimise the risk of inundation during the heavy rainfall spells.

The ADC also emphasized close coordination among all stakeholder departments for the timely completion of necessary works and instructed officials to remain vigilant and respond promptly to any emerging situation.

ADC Sopore holds meeting with Fertilizer Dealers, stresses fair pricing

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Dr. S.A. Raina Monday chaired a meeting with all fertilizer dealers of Sub-District Sopore to review the quality, pricing and standard weight of fertilizers being supplied to farmers.

The meeting was held to ensure that farmers receive quality agricultural inputs at government-approved rates and in prescribed quantities. The ADC stressed that all fertilizer dealers must strictly adhere to the notified rates, maintain standard weights and ensure the supply of genuine and quality products.

He warned that any deviation from the prescribed norms or involvement in overcharging, underweight supply or sale of substandard products would invite strict legal action.

Dr. Raina directed the concerned stakeholders to maintain transparency in their business practices and cooperate with the Agriculture Department and enforcement agencies in safeguarding the interests of the farming community.

The meeting was also attended by Law Enforcement Inspector, Baramulla, Hilal Ahmad, who emphasized the importance of strict compliance with the relevant laws and regulations governing the sale and distribution of fertilizers.

The participants assured the chair that they would fully comply with the prescribed guidelines and continue to provide quality services to the farming community.

NEWS

CM Omar meets public representatives, industry leaders at Raabita

Discusses public issues, startup ecosystem, trade & commerce, skill development initiatives



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday met public representatives, entrepreneurs and industry leaders at Raabita here, holding discussions on a range of issues concerning public welfare, economic growth, entrepreneurship, trade and skill development.

Former MLA Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat called on the Chief Minister and discussed key issues pertaining to his area.

Founder and CEO of YourStory and the Bharat Project, Shradha Sharma, met the Chief

Minister to deliberate on Jammu and Kashmir's startup and entrepreneurship ecosystem, innovation-driven initiatives and the Government's efforts to promote inclusive economic growth.

President, Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Arun Gupta, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues concerning trade, commerce and industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Managing Director and CEO, Infinitech Services and Solutions, Saiyed Owais Ahmad, met the Chief Minister and discussed proposals for implementing indus-

try-led skill development and higher education initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir through partnerships with leading global technology companies.

The Chief Minister assured the visiting public representatives and industry leaders that the Government remains committed to fostering inclusive development, strengthening entrepreneurship and industry, promoting trade and commerce, and expanding employment and skill development opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir through collaborative partnerships.

Sakeena Itoo visits GDC Women Zakura Srinagar

Announces Rs. 529 lakhs new Academic-cum-Library Block for College

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Monday announced the construction of Academic Block with Library at GDC (Women) Zakura "at an approximate cost of Rs. 529.02 lakhs.

The Minister made this announcement during her visit to Government Degree College (GDC) Women Zakura here today.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar; Director Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir and other senior officers of Higher Education Department and other line departments during the visit.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed the academic and infrastructural requirements of the college and held detailed discussions with the college administration regarding its future developmental needs. She said that the newly sanctioned Academic-cum-Library Block would significantly



augment the institution's infrastructure, provide improved learning facilities and cater to the growing academic requirements of students.

Interacting with students from various departments, Sakeena Itoo encouraged them to pursue academic excellence with dedication and discipline. She urged them to embrace innovation, strengthen their skills and contribute meaningfully towards the progress of society and the nation. The Minister also listened to the students' aspirations and suggestions, assuring them that the Government remains committed to creating a conducive environment for quality higher

education.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reiterated that the Omar Abdullah Government is focused on upgrading educational infrastructure and ensuring that higher educational institutions are equipped with modern facilities to meet contemporary academic standards. She said that investment in education is an investment in the future and remains among the Government's highest priorities.

MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar appreciated the efforts of the college administration in promoting quality education and expressed confidence that the new Academic-cum-Library Block would fur-

ther strengthen the institution's academic ecosystem.

Director Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, also highlighted the importance of continuously improving educational infrastructure and assured all possible support for the overall development of the college.

Principal of the college, along with the faculty and staff, expressed gratitude to the Minister for sanctioning the new Academic-cum-Library Block and for her continued support towards the growth of higher education. They said the new facility would greatly enhance the teaching-learning environment and benefit generations of students.

DC Rajouri visits flood-affected Madina Colony, directs restoration of services

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, Monday visited the flood-affected Madina Colony in Rajouri town to assess the situation on the ground and review the restoration of essential services.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure restoration of electricity supply by this evening. He also instructed the Jal Shakti Department to restore water supply at the earliest and ensure the availability of water tankers to meet the immediate drinking water needs of the affected residents.

Emphasising the importance of public health and hygiene, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Municipal authorities to undertake intensive sanitation and cleanliness drives in the affected area to prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Tehsildar Rajouri to conduct a detailed assessment of the losses suffered by the affected households due to the recent floods so that necessary relief measures could be taken in accordance with the established norms.

The DC also directed the Executive Engineer, PHE, to make the existing borewell functional at the earliest in consultation with the Executive Engineer, Ground Water and the Executive Engineer, Mechanical, to ensure a reliable water supply for the affected residents.

Srinagar records 230 good AQI days in 2025; Pampore monitored for first time: Centre

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Srinagar recorded 230 days with 'Good' air quality and only four 'Bad' air quality days during 2025, while Pampore was brought under the national ambient air quality monitoring network for the first time this year, the Union Government informed Parliament.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha on air pollution, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change placed city-wise Air Quality Index (AQI) data for 2023, 2024 and 2025.

According to the data, Srinagar recorded 92 Good, 105 Satisfactory, 33 Moderate and four Poor AQI days in 2025, with no Very Poor or Severe air quality days. Overall, the city registered 230 Good AQI days (AQI 0-100) and four Bad AQI days (AQI above 100) out of 234 monitored days this year.

The data also showed



that Srinagar's air quality improved in 2025 compared to the previous two years. In 2024, the city recorded 138 Good AQI days with no Bad AQI day across 138 monitored days, while in 2023 it registered 206 Good AQI days and one Bad AQI day out of 207 monitored days.

Meanwhile, Pampore figures in the AQI database for the first time in 2025. The monitoring station recorded four Good, four Satisfactory, one Moderate and three Poor AQI days, taking the total monitored days to 12, of which nine

were Good AQI days, and three were Bad AQI days. No AQI data was available for Pampore in 2023 and 2024.

The ministry informed Parliament that the Centre has taken several measures to improve air quality across the country, including implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), stricter emission norms for industries and vehicles, expansion of the air quality monitoring network and promotion of electric mobility and cleaner fuels—(KNO)

DMRR&R frames roadmap for strengthening Disaster Management across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday assessed the progress achieved by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR) on the implementation of its comprehensive five-pronged roadmap for strengthening the disaster management framework across the districts of J&K.

The meeting besides ACS PWD; Principal Secretary, Home; and Commandant, SDRF was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Divisional Commissioners; Secretary, RDD; Commissioner, JMC/SMC; Director, IMD; Chief Engineer, I&FC; Representatives from BRO, NHAI, NHIDCL and other concerned officers. Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary conducted a comprehensive review of the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken during the previous review meetings and assessed the progress achieved by various departments in implementing key disaster risk reduction initiatives.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that investments made in disaster risk reduction today would significantly reduce future

economic losses, safeguard critical infrastructure and save precious human lives. He called upon all departments to adopt a whole-of-government approach in implementing the roadmap and work to build a safer, more resilient and disaster-ready Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasising the urgent need for strengthening disaster resilience in Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary observed that the Union Territory remains highly vulnerable to a wide spectrum of natural hazards including earthquakes, floods, landslides, cloudbursts, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), avalanches and forest fires. He said that our strategic geographical location demands a proactive, scientific and future-oriented disaster management framework capable of reducing risks before disasters occur.

While speaking the Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti stated that substantial progress has been made on several priority initiatives, including formulation of Standard Operating Procedures under the Disaster Management Act, preparation of Detailed Project Reports for landslide mitigation measures in vulnerable districts.

Additionally he revealed that a Memorandum of Understanding is being

Javid Dar chairs 45th AGM of JKHPMC; reviews Corporation's performance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Monday chaired the 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce, Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) at the Civil Secretariat, here.

The Annual General Meeting unanimously adopted the audited accounts of the Corporation for the financial years 2019-20 to 2023-24.

Addressing the meeting, the Minister underscored the pivotal role of JKHPMC in strengthening the horticulture value chain and creating better marketing opportunities for the growers. He directed the Managing Director to institutionalize biannual review meetings to regularly assess the Corporation's performance, monitor implementation of decisions and formulate a forward-looking strategy for sustainable growth.

Javid Dar stressed the need to identify new areas of expansion and innovation in agricultural and horticultural marketing, processing and value addition so that the farmers receive better returns for their produce. He called upon the Corporation to adopt a result-oriented



approach and align its activities with the evolving needs of the farming community.

The Minister directed the officers to undertake a comprehensive assessment of all Corporation assets and ensure their proper maintenance, effective monitoring and optimum utilisation. He said that efficient asset management and timely execution of development projects would significantly enhance the Corporation's operational capacity and financial sustainability.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to the holistic development of the agriculture and horticulture sectors, the Minister said that JKHPMC has a vital role in promoting post-harvest management, value addition, market linkages and processing infrastructure. This would immensely contribute towards higher farm incomes and sustain-

able rural economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Managing Director, JKHPMC, Mohammad Farooq Dar; Shareholders of the Corporation; members of the Board of Directors and senior officers of JKHPMC.

Earlier, the Managing Director made a detailed presentation highlighting the Corporation's performance, achievements, financial position and key initiatives undertaken during the review meeting. He also apprised the meeting of the status of statutory audits, progress made in clearing the backlog of audited accounts and the roadmap for completing the remaining audit process within the stipulated timeline.

'J&K, Ladakh record improvement in school enrolment'

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have registered improvements in several key school education indicators, including Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and girls' retention rates, according to the latest UDISE+ data tabled in Parliament by the Union Ministry of Education.

Replying to an unstarred question on the closure of government schools, the ministry, said the data relates to school education indicators for 2024-25 and 2025-26 across the country.

As per the annexures, Jammu & Kashmir's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for Scheduled Castes (SCs) at the foundational level increased from 98.9 in 2024-25 to 101.2 in 2025-26. At the preparatory level, it stood at 135.2, while the middle level GER was 91.7 and the secondary level improved from 61.0 to 62.9 during the period.

For Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Jammu & Kashmir, the foundational



GER increased from 116.2 to 123.5, the preparatory level from 147.7 to 160.0, the middle level from 98.4 to 102.9, while the secondary level rose from 56.3 to 62.8 in 2025-26.

In Ladakh, the SC GER remained exceptionally high, with the foundational level increasing from 457.1 to 459.9, while the preparatory level stood at 574.1, the middle level improved sharply from 258.3 to 354.7, and the secondary level was recorded at 298.1 in 2025-26.

For ST students in Ladakh, the foundational GER stood at 59.4, preparatory at 76.0, middle at 62.7,

while the secondary GER was 49.7 during 2025-26.

The parliamentary reply also showed an improvement in the overall retention rate for girls in Jammu & Kashmir. At the primary level, the retention rate increased from 79.8 per cent to 80.5 per cent, elementary from 75.1 to 75.4 per cent, secondary from 55.6 to 69.1 per cent, and higher secondary from 39.7 to 40.4 per cent.

In Ladakh, girls' retention at the primary level improved from 77.6 per cent to 78.6 per cent, while the elementary level increased from 71.9 to 73.7 per cent. The secondary retention rate, however, declined slightly from 75.6 to 73.6 per cent, while higher secondary retention dipped from 53.3 to 49.9 per cent, according to the data.

The ministry said the figures are based on UDISE+ data for the academic years 2024-25 and 2025-26 and form part of its reply on issues relating to government schools—(KNO)

Chief Secy inaugurates 'CSC Digital Excellence Centres' across districts

Calls for leveraging CSC network to deepen citizen-centric governance in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday in a review meeting assessed the performance of Common Services Centres (CSCs) across Jammu and Kashmir and discussed measures for leveraging the extensive CSC network to strengthen citizen-centric governance by taking public services to the doorsteps of the people.

Besides the ACS Finance and Commissioner Secretary, IT the meeting was also attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries; CEO, JaKeGA and many senior officers of the IT Department. Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary e-inaugurated 12 CSC Digital Excellence Centres for e-Governance established in Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar,

Kathua, Jammu, Reasi, Kulgam, Ramban and Samba districts.

These centres have been conceived as dedicated hubs for promoting digital governance, enhancing the capacity of Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), improving digital literacy and facilitating seamless delivery of Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services.

The centres are expected to serve as focal points for awareness generation, adoption of emerging digital platforms and effective implementation of flagship Government programmes, thereby strengthening last-mile governance across the UT.

Emphasising the transformative role of CSCs in public service delivery, the Chief Secretary observed that the vast network of over 15,500 active CSCs has the potential to become the backbone of grassroots digital governance in Jammu



and Kashmir. He stressed that this network should be optimally leveraged to ensure that every citizen, irrespective of geographical location, has timely access to Government services at or near their doorstep.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to direct the Revenue Department, Deputy Commissioners and the CSC SPV to jointly work out an acceptable operational framework for undertaking the digital crop survey through CSCs. He observed that the extensive CSC network could ensure completion of the exercise in a time-

bound manner and advised them to keep September deadline in focus for achieving this milestone.

He maintained that timely completion of the exercise would be a major step towards making Jammu and Kashmir eligible for the incentives under the AgriStack programme.

The Chief Secretary further instructed the Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Revenue Department to prepare a detailed roadmap for completion of the creation of Farmer IDs under AgriStack by 15 August, asking

the district administrations to accord the highest priority to these initiatives.

He also directed that CSCs should assume the responsibility of BharatNet Udyam at the Panchayat level under the amended BharatNet Programme to further strengthen digital connectivity and service delivery in rural areas.

Calling for expansion of services being delivered through CSCs, the Chief Secretary instructed the Information Technology Department and CSC SPV to integrate additional Government services over and above the existing 350 services already available on the platform.

He laid particular emphasis on expediting integration of the Labour Department services, Single Window System, YUVA initiative, JKICP, SEHAT, besides ensuring seamless onboarding of all pending citizen-centric services.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Double Standards Cannot Defend Democracy

Democracy completely falls apart the moment justice becomes conditional. Human rights don't shift with geography, and the protections of a constitution shouldn't depend on whether you happen to live in Delhi or Kashmir. That's why the recent stir over Mehbooba Mufti's comments at Jantar Mantar has hit such a raw nerve. Her remarks drew a troubling distinction: suggesting that using force against protesters in Delhi is unacceptable, but somehow understandable in Kashmir because of ongoing militancy. It's a dangerous line to walk, one that quietly undermines the very democratic values she purports to champion.

For decades, people in Jammu and Kashmir have been asking for basic dignity, equal rights, and fair treatment. Implying that militancy justifies heavy-handed tactics, whether that's excessive force, arbitrary arrests, blocked passports, or silencing peaceful dissent, effectively normalizes treating an entire population like an exception to the rule. No leader in a free society should be sending that message. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah nailed the core issue with a question that cuts straight through the noise: Does militancy suspend the Constitution? Does it make injustice okay? If the answer is no, and in any genuine democracy, it has to be no, then you can't logically defend applying one set of rules to Kashmir and a completely different set to the rest of India.

What makes this even more frustrating is the attempt to brush off the backlash as an "AI-generated fake," despite multiple news outlets capturing the moment on video. When leaders refuse to stand by their own words and try to gaslight the public on clear evidence, it chips away at the basic trust that keeps a political system functioning. We expect political leaders to show a bit of spine and integrity. If you say something that hurts people or contradicts your stated principles, admitting you messed up isn't a sign of weakness, it's a sign of maturity. Double-down on a flawed argument only digs the trench deeper.

Jammu and Kashmir has paid a terrible price over the last thirty years, enduring constant violence, instability, and fear. The last thing Kashmiris need is to be told that their constitutional guarantees are negotiable whenever security concerns pop up. Yes, security requires vigilance, but it should never serve as a blank check to override basic rights. This goes way beyond a single speech or a single political feud. It gets at the fundamental issue: Are Kashmiris equal citizens with equal rights under the law? The answer has to be a clear, unambiguous yes.

Political parties will always disagree on policy, but they shouldn't disagree on equal justice. Democracy simply cannot survive on double standards. If excessive force is wrong in Delhi, it's just as wrong in Kashmir. Anything else isn't democracy, it's just selective justice.

Good Morning Kashmir

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Beyond Borders

Inspiring A New Generation Through J&K's Agricultural Exports

SEHREENA MAQBOOL

Every spring, the orchards of Kashmir produce fruits and crops that are cherished across India and beyond. From crisp apples and succulent cherries to the world's finest saffron, walnuts, almonds, and honey, the region possesses an agricultural legacy that few places can rival. However, despite consumers seeking authentic and premium products from Kashmir, youngsters in the Himalayan valley are slowly turning away from agriculture in search of opportunities elsewhere.

There remains a critical question: how do we transform agriculture into a field of ambition, innovation, and global opportunity? Beyond connecting our farms with international markets, we must connect our growers with global consumers and inspire our youth with a vision of agriculture as modern, entrepreneurial, and internationally competitive.

Changing the Narrative
Earlier agriculture was often associated with uncertainty and modest returns. Today it is supported by technology, quality certification, branding, food processing, logistics and digital commerce. The process has changed entirely. Success is no longer measured only as quantity of the harvest but the value created throughout the supply chain.

A premium carton of Kashmir produce displayed on a supermarket shelf in an international marketplace represents that. It embodies scientific cultivation, careful post-harvest management, world-class packaging, international quality standards and the confidence to compete on a global market. Agriculture today's beyond farming, it is entrepreneurship with global reach.

Exports as a Catalyst for Rural Prosperity
Agricultural exports should be seen beyond mere creating opportunities. As it strengthens an entire ecosystem of growers along with Farmer Producer Organisations, packhouses, transporters, laboratories, logistics providers, exporters. Considering that horticulture is the backbone of Jammu & Kashmir's economy. Exports represent not merely commercial success but sustainable rural transformation. For many years, the



Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been steadily strengthening the agricultural export ecosystem by opening doors to global markets.

APEDA has been ensuring that Indian agricultural products meet the highest international standards, it helps farmers from developing export infrastructure and quality assurance systems to promoting traceability, branding, buyer engagement and market access across the Gulf, Europe, Southeast Asia and beyond.

From Kashmir's Orchards to the World's Tables

Among other achievements, the export of premium Areko Cherries and Scentrose Plums from Shopian and Pulwama to Singapore by APEDA has been transformative. Building upon earlier promotional consignments to the United Arab Emirates, these exports demonstrate that Kashmir's temperate fruits possess the quality, consistency and distinctiveness demanded by discerning international consumers. Supported by APEDA's interventions in quality assurance, traceability, export facilitation and market development, these partnerships have strengthened international confidence in Jammu & Kashmir's produce.

Today, the region's global footprint extends well beyond cherries and plums. GI-certified Kashmir Saffron is reaching Middle Eastern markets; premium apples and black carrots are finding buyers in Saudi

Arabia; snow peas have entered the United Kingdom; and the celebrated GI-tagged Mushqubdi rice is being promoted in Japan.

Alongside these, walnuts, almonds, Bhaderwah Rajmash, Sulai Honey and several other niche products continue to expand their presence in international markets.

Building an Export Ecosystem

Sustaining this momentum requires much more than market access. It demands world-class infrastructure. To strengthen these foundations, APEDA has supported the establishment of the Regional Cum Referral Quality Assessment (RCRQA) Laboratory at SKUAST-Kashmir, significantly enhancing the region's capacity for internationally compliant testing and certification. Through export awareness programmes, buyer-seller meets, stakeholder consultations and capacity-building initiatives.

Beyond the Apple Economy

While apples will always remain the backbone of our horticultural economy, our future cannot rest on a single crop alone. Overdependence on apples limits our ability to fully realise the region's potential. Kashmir can cultivate a remarkable range of premium products. The need is to embrace diversity and expand our export basket. "The future of Jammu & Kashmir's agriculture will not be defined by one iconic crop, but by the extraordinary diversity that the world is only beginning to discover."

Reimagining Agriculture for the Next Generation

Young people should consider agriculture not as a profession inherited by circumstance, but as a sector driven by innovation and entrepreneurship. When a young entrepreneur witnesses locally grown cherries commanding premium prices in Singapore or saffron reaching discerning consumers across the Middle East, agriculture acquires a new identity.

The future therefore belongs to agri-entrepreneurs and innovators who will redefine the sector for generations to come. APEDA is helping create an ecosystem where agriculture offers not merely livelihoods, but leadership, prosperity and purpose.

Future Ahead

Jammu & Kashmir possesses all the ingredients to emerge as one of India's leading exporters of premium agricultural produce. The responsibility is to continue investing in building infrastructure. Our story of agricultural exports goes beyond yearly harvests. It will be defined by our vision for the future, innovation-driven mindset and creating avenues for new opportunities. Because I strongly believe the future will be shaped not only in our orchards; it will be shaped by bright young minds who will believe that the world's markets can begin in the fields of Jammu & Kashmir.

Author is a Regional Head, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Jammu & Kashmir.

SOCIETY AT THE CROSSROADS

Reclaiming Kashmir's Moral Compass

When Modesty Gives Way To Exhibitionism, Fre Edom Is Mistaken For Licence, And Parents Surrender Their Role To Smartphones And Social Media, Society Pays The Price.



DR. FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI

It is nearly midnight. The cafés are still buzzing. Loud music spills into the streets. Cars crawl past with tinted windows, their occupants laughing over blaring songs. Young boys and girls, many barely out of school, move from one gathering to another. Smartphones glow brighter than the streetlights as every moment is filmed, posted and applauded online. A few kilometres away, anxious parents believe their children are still attending tuition classes or studying in hostels. Elsewhere, a mother waits at the door, glancing repeatedly at the clock. And then comes the phone call every parent dreads. In recent years, Kashmir has witnessed disturbing changes—not only in crime statistics but also in social behaviour. What was once whispered has become normalised. What once embarrassed society is now celebrated as "being modern". The line separating freedom from licence, privacy from exhibitionism, and confidence from vulgarity is becoming increasingly blurred. Then came the horrific Budgam tragedy. A little girl left home carrying the Holy Qur'an for her darsah. She never returned alive. Some crimes do not merely shock a community; they force it to look into the mirror. That mirror now stands before Kashmir.

The horrific murder of a young girl in Budgam has shaken every conscience in Kashmir. She left home carrying the Holy Qur'an for her darsah and never returned alive. Some crimes are so horrific that they transcend criminal law and force society to confront

uncomfortable truths. They compel us to ask not only who committed the crime, but what kind of society we are becoming. Kashmir stands at a moral crossroads. For centuries, our society was built upon haya (modesty), family honour, mutual trust and community responsibility. Every child belonged to the neighbourhood. Every daughter was everyone's daughter. Parents knew where their children were. Elders corrected without hesitation. Moral boundaries existed—not because of fear of law alone, but because of conscience. Today those boundaries are steadily disappearing. Faith Islam, which is practised by the majority, welcomes knowledge, science, education and progress. It does not oppose modernity. What it rejects is moral decay masquerading as freedom. The blind imitation of the worst aspects of Western consumer culture—obscenity, promiscuity, pornography, substance abuse, vulgar entertainment, hypersexualisation, and the glorification of pleasure without responsibility—is not progress. It is cultural erosion. Freedom without morality soon becomes licence. The signs are increasingly visible. Drug addiction is devastating our youth. Pornography is accessible in every pocket. Social media rewards exhibitionism over character. Late-night parties centred around drinking, drugs and reckless behaviour, once alien to our culture, are becoming fashionable among a section of young people. Relationships outside marriage, normalised elsewhere, are being quietly imitated despite being incompatible with our religious and cultural values.

Even public behaviour has changed. Displays of intimacy once considered private are increasingly visible in parks, markets and on roads. Many dismiss this as harmless modernity. Yet every civilisation draws moral boundaries. Once those boundaries disappear, society gradually loses its ability



to distinguish modesty from vulgarity and dignity from display. The greatest tragedy is not change itself. Every society changes. The tragedy is abandoning principles while embracing fashions. Parents must ask themselves difficult questions. Do we really know where our children spend their evenings? Who are their closest friends? What occupies their phones for hours behind closed doors? Have we mistaken providing expensive gadgets for responsible parenting? Many parents believe their responsibility ends once a child leaves for school, tuition or hostel. It has only begun. Character cannot be outsourced, nor can parental vigilance or supervision. How many surprise visits one makes at school, coaching centres or hostels or to check the bags.

A relative working in the cosmetology profession recently remarked that some young clients routinely leave bags containing suspicious items before cosmetic procedures. Whether these ultimately relate to substance abuse or other harmful habits is for families and authorities to examine. The anecdote itself is less important than the larger reality: parents should not remain strangers to the lives of their own children. Trust is essential. Blind trust is dangerous. Parents should know their children's friends, monitor digital exposure, remain engaged with hostel life, and maintain open communication. Supervision is not

spying. It is responsible parenting. The first school is the home. A boy learns respect by watching how his father treats his mother. He learns justice from how his parents treat his sister. He learns honesty by observing integrity, not by listening to lectures. For too long we have focused almost exclusively on protecting daughters while neglecting the responsibility of raising sons.

A safe society is created not by imposing endless restrictions upon girls but by producing men whose character prevents them from violating another person's dignity. Schools must also reclaim their moral mission. Academic excellence alone cannot produce civilised citizens. Emotional intelligence, digital ethics, respect for women, civic responsibility and self-restraint deserve equal importance alongside mathematics and science. Religious institutions must address contemporary challenges instead of limiting themselves to rituals alone. Mosques should openly discuss pornography, addiction, cyber exploitation, domestic violence and moral responsibility. The Prophet saw and said, "The best among you are those who have the best character." Character is not an optional virtue.

It is the very essence of faith. Government alone cannot solve a moral crisis. Police can arrest criminals. Courts can punish offenders. Laws can deter crime. But none of them can manufacture conscience. Only families, schools,

religious institutions and society can do that. We must also abandon selective outrage. After every tragedy social media overflows with hashtags, condolences and demands for justice. A week later everything returns to normal until another child becomes tomorrow's headline. Outrage without introspection changes nothing. Kashmir does not need to reject modernity. We need not choose between technology and tradition, education and ethics, progress and faith. We can embrace scientific advancement while preserving modesty. We can use digital technology without becoming enslaved by it. We can educate our children for global success without sacrificing the values that define us.

The real question is not whether morality still matters. The question is where we draw the boundary. History repeatedly teaches that civilisations seldom collapse because they lack wealth or technology. They decline when they lose their moral compass. If we wish our daughters to walk fearlessly, we must raise sons who possess honour before ambition, restraint before desire and conscience before convenience. Kashmir's future will not be secured merely by better roads, larger institutions or economic growth. It will be secured by rebuilding homes where faith is practised, parents remain engaged, teachers shape character, and society once again values modesty, dignity and responsibility. The Budgam tragedy must not become another forgotten headline. It must become our moment of reckoning. Because when a society loses its moral boundaries, it ultimately loses far more than its innocence—it loses its future. For the strength of a society is ultimately measured not by its prosperity, but by its character.

Author is senior Surgeon, healthcare policy analyst, quality and patient safety expert, and columnist on healthcare ethics, public policy, reforms and social issues.

■ 54 Months To End Aids And TB

Communities Say "Trust Us To Lead Or Miss The Target"

SHOBHA SHUKLA

From India to Eswatini, Kenya to Georgia, Nepal to South Africa, people living with HIV and TB survivors warn that slogans and declarations alone will not deliver the 2030 goals. Only real people power, funding and partnership will.

With just 54 months left until the global deadline to end AIDS and TB, community leaders from more than a dozen countries delivered a blunt message: nothing will change if people living with HIV remain mere consultees. They must be trusted to design, deliver and drive the response.

The warning came during the Naresh Yadav Memorial PLHIV Leadership Summit, part of the AIDS 2026 Affiliated Independent Event organised by National Coalition of People living with HIV in India (NCPI+), Global Network of People living with HIV (GNP+), CNS and partners around the 26th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2026).

2030 is not just a date
"2030 is not just a date," said Leadership Summit Chairperson Manoj Pardeshi who co-founded National Coalition of People Living with HIV in India (NCPI+). "By 2030 we have globally aimed to end and eliminate a number of diseases. So my question is: is it possible? and if yes, then how?"

His closing words cut deeper. "Nothing changes when communities are merely 'consulted.' At the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in June 2026, everyone was saying that 'we need to engage communities.' But nobody was talking how to do so. Nothing will change when communities are only consulted or just mentioned in declaration or in strategy papers or slogans. Everything will change when communities are trusted to lead, allowed to play a role in designing, delivering and driving the response."

We are not beneficiaries alone - we are the solution

Daxa Patel, a former President of NCPI+ and a woman living with HIV for more than two decades, answered Pardeshi's question with lived proof. "Yes, it is possible because our more than two decades life is giving one of the best examples... because we are here. HIV is like not death but stigma, discrimination and inequality still there which is one of the barriers."

She reminded participants that treatment works, prevention works, and community-led responses work. "I proudly say that I, living with HIV, have never transmitted the virus to anyone. I am one of the persons who is preventing HIV. Positive prevention works."

Patel's call was practical and urgent. "What we need now is the courage to put people first. Rethink - let's start to rethink the HIV response. Stop designing programmes for us but take us in the designing process. We are not merely beneficiaries, we are partners, leaders and part of the solution."

Do not count the next 54 months - make the next 54 months count

She listed clear demands: rebuild trust so no one fears a health facility because of stigma; integrate HIV and TB services; protect human rights; fund what works; and listen to lived experience. "Do not count the next 54 months - make the next 54 months count. The world does not need another declaration. It needs implementation, accountability and leadership that puts people first."

Leadership that reaches where systems cannot

Albertina Nyatsi of Positive Women Together in Action in Eswatini defined community leadership in action. People living with HIV and TB survivors, she said, "are not passive receivers of care but planners, implementers, monitors, advocates and decision makers." This is what enables them to reach populations missed by formal health systems.

"Nothing about us without us," she declared. Communities understand local realities, build trust,



reduce stigma, improve adherence, identify service gaps, influence policy and strengthen health systems. In Eswatini her organisation mobilises women, sensitises parliamentarians and traditional lead-

ers, runs outreach on undetectable equals untransmittable (U=U) and TB case finding, and creates support groups that reduce isolation. The results are measurable: more HIV and TB cases found, higher

viral suppression and treatment success, lower loss to follow-up, and reduced stigma. What is still missing, Nyatsi said, is government funding for community-led organisations, recognition of people with HIV as leaders, stronger community systems, mental health services, and true integration of HIV, TB, sexual and reproductive health and social protection services.

Youth impacting change
Pooja Mishra who leads Youth Lead Voices offered hard numbers that demonstrate what peer-led approaches can achieve. Through a virtual peer support initiative the network identified 1,857 individuals for testing, recorded a 27% HIV positivity rate among those reached, registered 1,156 young people living with HIV, and supported 788 of them to achieve viral load suppres-

sion. Achieving viral suppression is important because a person lives healthy and there is zero risk of any further infection transmission as per the WHO - because U=U.

"Viral suppression not only improves individual health outcomes but also plays a critical role in preventing HIV transmission in advancing the national 95-95-95 targets," Mishra said. The model works because young people reach other young people who formal systems often miss. She was referring to the goals of 95% of persons living with HIV should know their status, 95% of them should be receiving life-saving antiretroviral therapy, and 95% of them should be virally suppressed. Government of India has set an even higher goal of 95-95-99, thankfully.

From emergency to sustainability

Florence Riako Anam, Co-Executive Director of the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), placed the discussion in the context of the recent UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting held in June 2026.



149 countries voted in favour

data, Anam insisted, and communities must lead with it, especially as HIV services integrate into primary healthcare and universal health coverage. She issued a direct challenge on financing: "Everyone was talking about investment in communities... I do not think anyone talked about how they will be funded." If countries want to reduce donor dependence, they must help community networks develop sustainable business models that survive beyond external grants. Treatment innovation, self-testing and long-acting options are available; communities need the skills and market access to ensure they reach the people who need them.

Community-led integrated health responses

Nelson Otswana of Kenya's NEPHAK called for integration of HIV and TB services into universal health coverage, which must include non-communicable diseases such as hypertension. After external funding disruptions, governments must invest not only in commodities but in community systems so people living with HIV can take charge of

their own health through self-care approaches.

Women left behind across regions

Sita Shahi, who represents the International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia Pacific, asked the fundamental question: "If we already know how to end AIDS and TB, why are people still being left behind?" The answer, she said, is not lack of science or tools. It is unequal, unsafe and undignified access.

Women across Asia Pacific still face stigma in clinics, gender inequality, violence and economic insecurity. When community-led organisations are under-funded, one of the strongest forces for better outcomes disappears. Shahi's four demands were unambiguous: meaningful involvement at every stage (not token consultation); integrated, person-centred services; elimination of stigma, punitive laws and gender inequality; and sustained funding for community-led organisations.

Georgia-based Medea Khmelidze leads the Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA) as its Executive Director. She described an even harsher environment. Across Eastern Europe and Central Asia, women living with HIV - especially those who use drugs, sell sex, migrate, live in rural areas, identify as LGBT or experience violence - face intersecting discrimination and criminalisation. Civic space is shrinking; independent organisations struggle to survive.

"We cannot expect communities to lead when they are constantly fighting for survival," Khmelidze said. Community-led monitoring produces evidence that improves programmes even when formal accountability mechanisms are weak. These responses are not 'complementary extras'; in many places they are the only trusted points of care. Long-term, flexible, direct funding and a safe operating environment are non-negotiable if the 2030 promise is to be kept, she said.

Bridging the Know-Do Gap

Anna Maalsen serves as Manager of Thematic Cluster on Key Populations, Community Engagement and Responses, the Global Fund. Anna framed the entire discussion as a single challenge: how to close the gap between what is known to work and what is actually implemented. The tools exist - evidence-based, science-based and community-led. What is missing is scaled-up, sustained financing for person-centred, rights-based solutions delivered with urgency and accountability.

Community systems are essential

Community systems, she said, are essential. Communities are often the first to know who is being missed. Key and vulnerable populations face the widest gaps. Human rights and gender equality are not optional add-ons; they determine whether services are used. Integration must be practical and organised around people's actual lives, not programme silos, says Anna. The Global Fund's Grant Cycle 8, she noted, prioritises greater investment in community systems even in difficult fiscal times. The requirements now are clear: sustainable financing for community-led organisations; genuine engagement in planning, budgeting and review; scaled-up community-led monitoring; stronger human rights and gender programming; and data that reveals who is still left behind.

"As we approach 2030, the question is not whether we know what works. We already do," Anna Maalsen concluded. "The question is whether we can act with the scale, focus and partnership required. If we put people and communities at the centre, we can move from evidence to equity, from access to dignity, and from knowing what works to doing what works." With 54 months remaining, the science, the tools and the lived expertise already exist. What is still missing is the political will to stop treating communities as 'afterthoughts' and start treating them as the leaders they have always been.

(Shobha Shukla is a feminist, health and development justice advocate)

Gol Sanctions

reply, Jammu and Kashmir received sanction for several projects under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. These include development of the Jammu-Srinagar-Pahalgam-Bhagwati Nagar-Anantnag-Salamabad Uri-Kargil-Leh circuit at a sanctioned cost of 77.33 crore, development of tourist facilities in Jammu-Rajouri-Shopian-Pulwama at 81.60 crore, construction of tourism assets damaged in the 2014 floods under the Prime Minister's Development Package at 90.43 crore, development of tourist facilities at Mantalai and Sudhmahadev at 91.99 crore, tourism infrastructure in Anantnag-Pulwama-Kishtwar-Pahalgam-Zanskar Padum-Daksum-Ranjit Sagar Dam at 86.39 crore, and development of tourist facilities in Gulmarg-Baramulla-Kupwara-Kargil-Leh at 96.75 crore.

The ministry further informed Parliament that under the PRASHAD scheme, the Centre sanctioned 40.46 crore for the development of Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, of which 34.30 crore has been released and utilised.

The reply also noted that no project from Jammu and Kashmir figures in the lists of projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0, CBDD and SASCI included in the latest parliamentary statement—(KNO)

Fresh Landslide

early Monday, forcing authorities to suspend vehicular traffic from both directions, a traffic department official said.

He said the closure of the highway left around 1700 trucks and numerous passenger vehicles stranded between Udhampur and Banihal, which were being cleared through the single carriage way while repairs to the bumpy road surface were underway.

"Priority is being given to passenger vehicles," he said, clarifying that no fresh vehicles from Jammu towards Srinagar, Doda, Ramban and Patnitop or vice versa would be allowed until the restoration work is completed.

He said the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) had deployed men and machinery to clear the debris and restore traffic at the earliest.

"Commuters are advised to avoid travelling on the highway until it is declared safe and reopened for traffic, as there is a risk of further landslides and shooting stones. People are also urged not to pay heed to rumours and to rely only on updates issued through the Traffic Police's official social media handles for the latest road status," the spokesman said.

However, officials said a fresh batch of 3,823 Amarnath pilgrims, travelling in a 140-vehicle convoy to the Baltal base camp under tight security, was allowed to cross the affected stretch after authorities restored one-way traffic on the highway.

Officials said normal traffic would resume once the second tube becomes operational within the next few hours. They said the temporary suspension of vehicular traffic was intended to enable the restoration agency to carry out the work swiftly and without any disruption.

Traffic on the highway had resumed on Sunday after remaining suspended for three days due to multiple landslides and shooting stones triggered by heavy rainfall. However, following the passage of the Amarnath Yatra convoy, vehicular movement was once again suspended for almost the entire day to facilitate landslide clearance operations in the Gangroo area along the Ramban-Banihal stretch.

Authorities closed the Pul Doda bridge late Sunday night after reports of visible cracks raised safety concerns.

Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (PWD), Anil Mehra said an inspection by engineers found that the markings were not structural cracks but were likely caused by concrete overlap at shuttering joints during construction.

"There were speculations that cracks had developed on the bridge (following recent heavy rainfall). As a precautionary measure and from a safety point of view, we closed it to vehicular traffic during the night. After a detailed inspection this (Monday) morning, our initial assessment indicates that these are not structural cracks," he said.

He said an expert team from Design Inspection and Quality Control had also been called in to independently assess the bridge and conduct quality checks to ensure there were no structural defects.

"Once the bridge is certified as safe, it will be reopened for vehicular traffic. At present, traffic has been diverted through the alternate Ganpat bridge. If the expert team identifies any defect, it will be rectified immediately before the bridge is reopened," he said.(PTI)

LG Stresses Eco-

with cherished memories while natural resources should also thrive. He called for heightened sensitivity towards forests, lakes, and rivers, and reiterated that development must proceed in balance with conservation.

He emphasized the importance of inclusivity, stating that boatmen of Dal Lake, pony owners serving mountain trails, artisans engaged in crafts such as pashmina and papier-mache, and families running homestays in Gurez and Bangus must be equal stakeholders in the tourism journey.

"Profits should not remain confined to large enterprises. Tourism must provide dignified incomes, training, and opportunities to all stakeholders to ensure sustainability. Together, let us ensure that prosperity reaches to the last village, the last family, and the last citizen in the queue,"

he said.

Highlighting the dimension of "Beneficial to All," the Lieutenant Governor stated that the success of tourism can be achieved when lives of artisans and small entrepreneurs are transformed and the sector provides fair value for local labour and creates dignified livelihood opportunities for youth and women.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that sustainable tourism is an approach where nature and progress are partners. He urged that infrastructure such as roads, hotels, and facilities must be developed with zero ecological impact. He called for eco-friendly tourism to become a mass movement, encouraging tourists and stakeholders to adopt practices such as avoiding single-use plastics, proper waste management, prudent use of water and energy, and respect for wildlife.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all stakeholders to translate discussions at the conclave into concrete action plans with clear goals, timelines, and evaluation mechanisms. He proposed certification standards for eco-friendly homestays and hotels to encourage healthy competition, comprehensive training programmes for youth to become protectors of nature and guardians of culture, and use of digital platforms to connect tourists directly with local communities.

"If local communities and youth combine innovation with sensitivity, link technology with culture, and development with environmental conservation, then I am confident that Jammu Kashmir can emerge as a model of sustainable tourism for the entire nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Zahoor Ahmed Karnai, Chairman, Tourist Trade Interest Guild; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir; Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Rajiv Pandey, DIG CKR; Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; industry leaders, heads of various business organizations, members of Tourist Trade Interest Guild, and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present.

LG Chairs The

, Prof. B. L. Zutshi; other members including Prof. Ashok Aima, Prof. Veena Pandita, Prof. Verinder Rawal, Shri VK. Raina, Shri M. K. Jalali; Dean Academic Affairs, University of Kashmir, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada; Dean, College Development Council, University of Kashmir, Prof. (Dr.) Aneesa Shafi, Principal, Gandhi Memorial College, Prof. Masood Ahmad Malik and other senior officials.

The Governing Board, which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, discussed various matters of academic and administrative importance, to further improve the overall functioning of the College.

The Lieutenant Governor directed for laying out a comprehensive policy aimed at streamlining the administrative and operational framework across the institution.

The Board also held detailed deliberations on adoption of the Rules of Business of the Governing Board; Grant-in-Aid to G. M. College of Education, Bantalab, Jammu; streamlining recruitment process; pensionary benefits for existing staff and retired employees w.e.f. 2002; augmentation of campus infrastructure; revision of existing curriculum, and the introduction of new courses aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP).

'J&K Reported 3

Responding to queries on the availability of a national wildlife crime database, integration of records maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and WCCB, public access to WCCB data, and the number of cases not reflected in NCRB's Crime in India report, the ministry said the WCCB already collects and collates intelligence on organised wildlife crimes from States and Union Territories and maintains a centralized wildlife crime databank under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

The parliamentary reply includes state-wise and year-wise data on wildlife crimes reported to the WCCB for the period 2021 to 2025—(KNO)

'J&K Received 9

environmental impacts and issues raised during public consultation.

The minister said environmental clearances are granted after incorporating necessary environmental safeguards and mitigation measures under the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). He added that the EIA Notification mandates prior Environmental Clearance for projects falling under 38 specified categories.

As per the state-wise data annexed to the reply, Jammu and Kashmir was granted nine Environmental Clearances by the ministry between FY 2021-22 and FY 2025-26.

Regarding compliance with National Green Tribunal (NGT) orders, the Ministry said all directions issued by the Tribunal are followed up by the concerned divisions and sectors for necessary action and compliance, while the Tribunal is informed of the action taken wherever required—(KNO)

J&K Installs 9.71

covering 19.79 crore consumers, 52.53 lakh distribution transformers and 2.05 lakh feeders,

amounting to 20.33 crore smart meters. As of June 30, 2026, 5.73 crore meters had been installed under RDSS, comprising 5.53 crore consumer meters, 18.50 lakh DT meters and 1.85 lakh feeder meters. Including installations undertaken by States under their own plans and other schemes, the total number of smart meters installed across the country stood at 7.24 crore.

The highest installation numbers under RDSS were recorded in Maharashtra at 1,29,73,051, followed by Uttar Pradesh at 97,53,753, Rajasthan at 47,58,801 and Madhya Pradesh at 41,90,181. By contrast, several States had very low or no consumer-meter installations against sanctioned targets, including Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and Goa, according to the annexure.

The Centre said the initial implementation of smart metering faced challenges, including delays in tendering and awarding works, inadequate consumer engagement and difficulties in integrating smart metering systems with other digital systems used by distribution utilities. It said steps had since been taken to address these issues and the pace of installation had increased. The sunset date of the RDSS is March 31, 2028.

On complaints concerning inaccurate billing, excessive charges, technical failures and faulty readings, the Ministry said electricity supply and distribution are matters under the respective State Governments and distribution utilities. Such complaints, including those involving smart meters, are handled by the concerned utilities under the guidance of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and State Governments.

The Government said utilities have internal grievance-redressal mechanisms, while a multi-tier system of Consumer Grievance Redressal Forums (CGRFs) has been established under the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020. Consumers dissatisfied with the resolution provided by a utility can approach the CGRF and subsequently the Electricity Ombudsman.

To improve transparency and consumer confidence, the Centre said smart meters must comply with relevant technical and quality standards under Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification. It has also advised random installation of check meters to verify smart-meter readings and made check meters mandatory where consumers raise complaints.

Other measures include restrictions on imposing penalties based on maximum demand recorded by smart meters, mechanisms to recover past arrears through easy instalments, bill rebates to encourage prepaid meter installation, mobile applications for near-real-time consumption monitoring, small-denomination recharges, low-balance and emergency-credit alerts, multiple recharge options and consumer feedback and complaint-resolution mechanisms.

The Ministry also said distribution utilities and Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Providers conduct consumer-awareness programmes through pamphlets, banners, awareness canopies, audio messages in local languages and social media outreach. Installation of smart meters in government establishments and among commercial, industrial and high-load consumers is being prioritised to demonstrate their benefits to other consumers.

CS Reviews

across the Union Territory.

He emphasised that implementation of the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) should be expedited in all healthcare institutions, with primary focus on public health facilities, so that every patient interaction contributes towards building comprehensive digital health records.

He further directed that the number of ABHA IDs created should progressively be brought at par with the number of Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards issued in the Union Territory, with targets fixed and closely monitored as important milestones towards achieving universal digital health coverage.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the need to maximise utilisation of citizen-centric services available through the JK Sehat App. He called upon the department to promote greater public uptake of home healthcare services, online doctor appointment booking, tele-consultation facilities and doorstep delivery of medicines through local pharmacies, observing that these services have immense potential to improve accessibility, convenience and quality of healthcare delivery for the people.

Appreciating the JK Sehat App as a comprehensive digital healthcare platform, the Chief Secretary observed that the Department has developed an excellent online product catering to the needs of citizens as well as healthcare professionals.

He directed that the application should be further strengthened by enriching its knowledge repository with additional academic resources, digital library content and medical courses for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students, thereby transforming it into a robust learning and knowledge-sharing platform alongside its healthcare service delivery functions.

The Chief Secretary further instructed the department to undertake a comprehensive assessment of operational bottlenecks affecting implementation of various digital health initiatives and resolve them in close coordination with all stakeholders, including healthcare institutions, technical agencies and implementing partners, so as to ensure seamless delivery of services and achievement of the Mission objectives within the prescribed timelines.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M.Rajuremarked that Jammu and Kashmir has made significant strides in implementing the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and has emerged as one of the leading performers in the country.

He apprised that the Union Territory was recently conferred the National Award by the Health Authority for achieving the highest Health Record Linking per lakh population among medium-sized States and Union Territories. Earlier this year, J&K was also rec-

ognised for its best-performing model healthcare facilities under the Mission.

Reviewing the progress achieved since the last assessment, the Chief Secretary was informed by MD, ABDM, Ananth Dwivedi that over 1.12 crore ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) IDs have been created in the Union Territory, covering nearly 83 percent of the estimated population. The number of ABHA-linked electronic health records has increased substantially, while more than 1.34 crore Scan & Share tokens have been generated, reflecting increased citizen adoption of digital healthcare services.

He further divulged that 100 percent registration of public healthcare facilities, doctors and nurses on the Health Facility Registry (HFR) and Health Professional Registry (HPR) has been achieved, ensuring complete onboarding of the public healthcare ecosystem onto the national digital health platform. The action points identified during the previous review meeting, including universal registration of public doctors, generation of unique health records and integration of radiology and imaging reports with ABHA IDs, have also been successfully accomplished.

Reviewing district-wise performance, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioners, Chief Medical Officers and district health authorities to intensify focused campaigns in districts requiring further improvement so that universal ABHA coverage is achieved within the stipulated timeline. He stressed that every eligible citizen visiting a health institution should be facilitated in creating an ABHA ID at the point of service, while sustained awareness campaigns and inter-departmental convergence should continue to accelerate saturation across the Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) under the JK e-Sahaj platform and the transition to the Next Generation e-Hospital solution. He was informed that JK e-Sahaj has already been implemented in more than one hundred healthcare facilities across the Union Territory, while 85 hospitals have already been onboarded onto the Next Gen HMIS platform. The remaining identified institutions are expected to be onboarded within the next two weeks, after which phased implementation of registration, IPD, pharmacy, laboratory and radiology modules will be undertaken.

Moreover the progress of Scan & Share, Electronic Medical Record (EMR) generation and digital health record linkage across healthcare facilities was also reviewed in detail. It was revealed that the majority of patients visiting government hospitals are now availing digital registration services through Scan & Share, while continuous efforts are being made to improve EMR generation and strengthen linkage of laboratory, pharmacy and radiology reports with ABHA IDs.

The meeting was further apprised about the increasing adoption of the JK Sehat App, which provides citizens access to a wide range of digital health services including Scan & Share, ABHA creation, health record viewing, blood bank services, online appointments, tele-consultation, ambulance services, home healthcare and pharmacy services to the citizens.

The platform has registered over 15.5 lakh citizens, while lakhs of users have availed different healthcare services through the application. Officers informed that the latest version of the application now includes Health Locker and enhanced digital health functionalities for greater citizen convenience.

While reviewing the roadmap ahead, the Chief Secretary directed the department to achieve 100 percent ABHA saturation, strengthen generation of ABHA-linked electronic health records, maximise utilisation of Scan & Share services in hospitals, and expand ABDM-enabled HMIS implementation across all healthcare institutions of the UT.

MeT Forecasts Heavy

thundershowers at many places towards late afternoon and evening, followed by an improvement in weather conditions.

The MeT Centre said Kashmir division is likely to witness a few spells of light to moderate rain at most places from July 28 to 31, with isolated districts experiencing brief intense showers during the early morning and late afternoon or evening.

The Jammu division is expected to receive more intense rainfall during the same period, with heavy rain, torrential downpours and brief intense showers likely in a few districts.

The weather is expected to remain unsettled on August 1 and 2, with one or two spells of rain and thundershowers at many places. Similar conditions are forecast for August 3 and 4, with the possibility of heavy rain, torrential downpours and intense showers in parts of the Jammu division.

The MeT Department warned that heavy rainfall between July 28 and 31 could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas. It advised residents, tourists, travellers and transporters to follow official advisories and avoid vulnerable locations during the forecast period.

J&K Has Two Central

The minister further informed Parliament that Sindh Central University in Ladakh and Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana are the only two Central Universities established in the country during the last five years.

"Except Sindh Central University, all Central Universities under its administrative purview are currently offering undergraduate programmes. At present, 3,09,542 students are enrolled in the 47 Central Universities under the Ministry of Education," the minister said.

On sustainable campus development, the minister informed Parliament that Central Universities have undertaken various eco-friendly initiatives, including rooftop solar power generation, solar water-heating systems, rainwater harvesting, wastewater and solid waste management, plantation drives and biodiversity conservation—(KNO)

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Kashmir software firm launches clinic management platform with flat-fee model

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A local software firm has introduced a clinic management platform designed to help doctors move away from paper registers and the percentage-based commissions charged by larger booking portals, beginning its rollout in Kashmir this week. The platform, named Medisray, integrates appointment scheduling, billing, and patient records into a single system and charges clinics a flat monthly subscription rather than a cut of each consultation, according to its developer, CyberX Info System. The company said the product went live this week, with clinics across the Kashmir Valley among the first to onboard before availability widens to other regions in phases.

While clinic management software is a crowded category in the Indian market, CyberX said Medisray is built specifically for how small and mid-size clinics actually operate day to day, rather than adapting enterprise hospital systems downward. The company chose Kashmir as the launch market deliberately, citing the region's mix of urban practices, smaller-town clinics, and

variable internet connectivity as a demanding proving ground. A platform that performs reliably there, CyberX argues, will hold up anywhere in the country. Clinics in the Valley registering during the launch phase will receive priority onboarding and setup support.

Most small and mid-size clinics in India still run on a paper register, a WhatsApp group and a receptionist's memory, the company said. That setup, CyberX argues, leads to missed appointments when reminders depend on busy staff, billing errors, and long delays retrieving a returning patient's history. Medisray is built around three core functions: online and walk-in appointment scheduling with automated SMS and WhatsApp reminders; GST-compliant invoice generation with tracking for paid, pending and partially paid accounts; and a searchable store for prescriptions, vitals, lab reports and scans, shareable with patients directly over WhatsApp.

The company is leaning heavily on its no-commission structure as a differentiator. Many booking portals charge 10 to 15 percent, and sometimes more, of the value of each con-

sultation booked through them, CyberX said. By its own calculation, a clinic seeing 200 patients a month at a ₹500 consultation fee could lose ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 a month to such cuts. Medisray charges a flat subscription instead, the company said, leaving consultation fees with the doctor.

CyberX said it built the product around the operating realities of clinics across India: patchy internet connectivity in smaller towns, staff who default to WhatsApp over email, and patients who still prefer a phone call to an app. The platform includes a low-bandwidth mode intended to keep it functional on slow connections, and sends reminders to any phone number without requiring an app download. On data protection, the company said patient information is encrypted at rest and in transit, backed up daily, and hosted on ISO 27001-certified infrastructure located within India, with handling practices aligned to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. These claims could not be independently verified.

Faisal Saleh, CEO of CyberX Info System, said doctors kept telling them

the same thing – they were losing money to portals and time to paper, and no one was building for the way their clinics actually work. He said Medisray keeps every rupee of the consultation fee with the doctor and replaces the paper register with something a receptionist can learn in an afternoon, calling that the entire product philosophy. He added that they are starting the rollout with clinics in Kashmir, and what they learn there will shape how they scale across the rest of the country.

Medisray is available now, with the launch phase open to clinics in Kashmir and registrations from other regions being onboarded in phases. The platform includes a free tier that requires no card or hardware and a setup process the company describes as taking minutes. Solo practices and multi-location clinics can register at www.medisray.com. CyberX Info System is an Indian software company building technology products for the healthcare sector, and Medisray is its clinic management platform, designed for the operating conditions of clinics across India, from metro practices to smaller towns.

Guftugu-e-Kashmir: When a Conversation Becomes a Bridge

There are places that are spoken about every day, yet rarely heard

HAROON IMTIAZ

For generations, the Valley has occupied front pages, television debates, documentaries, and political speeches. It has been analysed, interpreted, defended, criticised, romanticised, and debated, often by people looking at it from a distance. Yet, amid this constant attention, one question has quietly remained unanswered: Who listens to the people behind the headlines?

Who listens to the artist who paints memories onto canvas? The musician pre-serving centuries-old melodies? The teacher shaping young minds in silence? The entrepreneur building opportunities where others see limitations? Or the public figure whose story extends far beyond the office they hold?

It is within this silence that Guftugu-e-Kashmir finds its purpose. An initiative by Narinder Sharma, founder and host of Rawhit Talks, Guftugu-e-Kashmir is not merely another podcast series. It is an invitation, to pause, to listen, and to rediscover Kashmir through the people who live it every day. Now returning with its second edition, the initiative continues to bring together voices from across the Valley, political leaders, artists, musicians, writers, educators, entrepreneurs,



social workers, and countless individuals whose journeys deserve attention not because they seek the spotlight, but because they carry stories capable of inspiring others. At first glance, it appears to be a series of interviews. Spend a little time with it, however, and something else becomes evident. These are not interviews. They are conversations. And there is a profound difference between the two. An interview searches for information. A conversation searches for understanding. That distinction defines the soul of Guftugu-e-Kashmir.

In an era where algorithms reward speed over substance and outrage over empathy, Rawhit Talks has consciously chosen the slower road. It allows conversations to breathe. Guests are not reduced to headlines, viral clips, or carefully rehearsed statements. They are allowed something increasingly rare in today's media landscape, the dignity of being fully

heard.

Perhaps that is why the initiative feels different. It does not attempt to tell audiences what Kashmir is. Instead, it allows Kashmir to speak for itself. Each episode gently reminds viewers that a society cannot be understood through a single narrative. It is shaped by countless lives, by poets and policymakers, singers and scientists, artists and administrators, dreamers and doers, each carrying a different fragment of the same landscape.

Collectively, these voices create a portrait far richer than any stereotype ever could. There is also quiet courage in such an approach. Stories of conflict often travel faster than stories of compassion. Negativity has always possessed greater commercial value than hope. Yet Guftugu-e-Kashmir deliberately chooses a different editorial instinct. Rather than amplifying noise, it amplifies nuance. Rather than chasing controversy, it documents contribution.

This is not about replacing one narrative with another. It is about completing an incomplete picture. At the heart of this journey stands Narinder Sharma, not merely as a host asking questions, but as someone creating space for others to answer them honestly. His

role is less that of a presenter and more that of a patient listener, allowing conversations to unfold without unnecessary performance or interruption. In doing so, he reminds us of something journalism occasionally forgets: Listening is also a form of storytelling.

As the initiative enters its second chapter, its significance extends beyond digital media. It is slowly becoming an archive of contemporary Kashmir, one conversation at a time. Years from now, these episodes may not simply be remembered as podcasts. They may serve as snapshots of an era, preserving the voices, aspirations, struggles, and achievements of people who shaped their communities in ways both visible and invisible.

There is something deeply reassuring about projects like Guftugu-e-Kashmir. They do not ask audiences to agree. They simply ask them to listen. And perhaps that is where every meaningful dialogue begins. Because places are never defined solely by their geography. They are defined by the people who continue to create, imagine, heal, teach, lead, sing, build, and hope within them. Kashmir has always had those voices. Guftugu-e-Kashmir is simply making sure they are finally heard.

World Head & Neck Cancer Day

‘J&K faces rising burden, early detection key’

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Head and Neck Cancer Day, a leading ENT and Head & Neck Surgical Oncologist has called for greater public awareness, early diagnosis, and stronger preventive measures to tackle the growing burden of head and neck cancers in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a message marking the day, observed globally on July 27 under the theme "Raising Awareness, Inspiring Hope, Building a Better Tomorrow", Dr Aamir Yousof, Associate Professor and Head of the

Department of ENT and Head & Neck Surgery at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, said that while head and neck cancers remain a major public health concern, they are among the most preventable and curable cancers if diagnosed at an early stage.

Drawing from his clinical experience, he said the contrast between patients diagnosed early and those seeking treatment at advanced stages is striking. "Many patients are completely cured because they approach doctors when the disease is still in its initial stages. Unfortu-

nately, many others arrive months later, when treatment becomes more complicated, expensive, and less successful. Awareness is often the deciding factor," he said.

According to Global Cancer Observatory (GLOBOCAN) 2022 estimates, nearly 9.4 lakh new head and neck cancer cases are reported globally every year, leading to around 4.8 lakh deaths annually. Dr Yousuf said India bears one of the highest burdens, with lip and oral cavity cancers accounting for nearly 1.44 lakh new cases and around 80,000 deaths annually.

Nearly one-third of the world's oral cancer cases occur in India, accounting for about 30 per cent of all cancers among Indian men.

He said the high incidence was primarily due to tobacco use in both smoking and smokeless forms, gutka, khaini, areca nut (supari), excessive alcohol consumption, poor oral hygiene, HPV infection, and delayed medical consultation. "Nearly 70 per cent of patients in India are diagnosed only after the disease has progressed to Stage III or Stage IV, making treatment more extensive and survival comparatively lower," he said.

GBHSS Humhama organizes Drug De-Addiction Awareness Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: PM SHRI Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Humhama, Budgam organized a Drug De-Addiction Awareness Programme under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan to create awareness among students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The programme was graced by Bashir Ahmed Ganie, Chief Education Officer, Budgam, as the Chief Guest. In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized the vital role of educational institutions in protecting the younger generation from the menace of drug addiction. He urged students to stay away from drugs, remain focused on their studies, and become responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.

CORRECTION NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that I, Mubarak Alam have changed my name to Mubarak Alam Khan. Consequently, the account maintained with J&K Bank shall henceforth be operated in the name of Mubarak Alam Khan. All previous references to my former name, Mubarak Alam, in any records, documents, or correspondence should be treated as referring to my new name. This change is being made for personal reasons and is duly supported by the necessary documents. I request all authorities, institutions, and individuals to take note of this correction and update their records accordingly.

Mubarak Alam Khan
(Formerly Mubarak Alam)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT RAMHALL KUPWARA

Subject: Tentative Merit List of Sangni (Anganwadi Workers) of Poshan Project Ramhall.

(PUBLIC NOTICE)

Whereas, Pursuant to the Human Resource Policy for recruitment of Sangnis (Anganwadi Workers/AWWs) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers/AWHs) issued vide Government Order No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated 30-11-2022 and Government Order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated 28-04-2023, the vacancies of Sahiyikas (Anganwadi Helpers/AWHs) have arisen due to various reasons, i.e., attaining the age of sixty, resignation etc.

Whereas, this office submitted the vacancy position to the District Programme Officer, Kupwara vide No. CDPO/RAM/Ess/Vacancy/26/52 Dated: 24-04-2026, who further submitted it to the Mission Director, Poshan Jammu and Kashmir for accord of approval for recruitment of Sahiyikas (Anganwadi Helpers) at vacant positions.

Whereas, the Mission Director, Poshan J&K, accorded approval for the recruitment of Sahiyikas (Anganwadi Helpers) vide letter No. MD/POSHAN/22263-73 Dated: 18-06-2026 which was further communicated by the District Programme Officer, ICDS Kupwara to this office vide letter No. DPO/POSHAN/Kup/26/4749-59 Dated: 19-06-2026.

Whereas, this office advertised (01) vacant posts of Sangni (Anganwadi Worker) against Anganwadi Centre Cherpawa (PH Lalim Ward No. 10), vide this office advertisement notification No. 02-CDPO-RAMHALL of 2026 Dated: 01-07-2026 & under endorsement No: CDPO/POSHAN/RAMHALL/ADV/2026/222-33 Dated:-01-07-2026 & published in leading newspapers of the valley through Joint Director Information Kashmir.

Whereas, in response to the said advertisement notice, the following number of applications were received within the prescribed/ Stipulated time; the details are as under

S.No	Name of Anganwadi Center	Ward No	No of Applications Received
01.	Cherpawa	10	01

Whereas, the requisite screening has been conducted as envisaged in Government Order No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated 30-11-2022 and Government Order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated 28-04-2023, and a merit panel has been prepared.

Whereas, the merit list along with the tentative selection list was prepared as per the criteria laid down in the said Govt. Orders and placed before the committee. After thorough deliberations and analysis, the Selection Committee approved the merit list cum tentative selection list for wide publication in local newspapers, display at the offices of all committee members, respective Panchayats Ghars, and on the department's website, as well as the NIC website at the Deputy Commissioner's office, inviting objections (if any).

Therefore, the merit-cum-tentative selection list attached at Annexure-A and Annexure-B of this notification is hereby send for publication to JD Information Kashmir for inviting appeals/objections (if any). The appeal/objection (if any) against the said merit-cum-tentative selection list shall be filed in the office of the Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project (ICDS) Ramhall, against proper receipt, within ten days from the date of publication of the merit cum tentative selection list during working hours (up to 4:00 PM). No appeal/objection shall be entertained after the lapse of the last date.

ANNEXURE-A

Tentative Merit List of candidate who have applied for the post of Sangni (Anganwadi Worker) for Anganwadi centre Cherpawa ward 10 PH Lalim.

S No	Index No.	Name of Panchayat Halqa	Ward No	Name of AWC advertised	Parentage/ Spouse Name	D.o.B	Qualification			12 th %
							12th marks	Whether any relation with Retired AWW	Additional 02 % points	
1	01	Lalim	10	Cherpawa	ULFAT JAN D/O GHULAM HASSAN WAR W/O . RAIES AHMAD WANI	17-03-1999	289/500	Nil	Nil	57.8

ANNEXURE-B

Tentative Selection list for the post of Sangni (Anganwadi Worker) AWC Cherpwa PH Lalim, Ward No. 10.

S No	Index No.	Name of Panchayat Halqa	Ward No	Name of AWC advertised	Parentage/ Spouse Name	D.o.B	Qualification			10 th %
							10 th	Whether any relation with Retired AWW	Additional 02 % points	
1	01	Lalim	10	Cherpawa	ULFAT JAN D/O GHULAM HASSAN WAR W/O . RAIES AHMAD WANI	17-03-1999	289/500	Nil	Nil	57.8

DIPK-3781-26
DT: 27/07/2026

Sd/=
Child Dev. Project Officer
Poshan Project Ramhall

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

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



CORRIGENDUM 1ST. FOR SL. NO 07 VIZ 67

Subject: Typographical error in the nomenclature at Sl. No. 07 of e-NIT as corresponding to Sl. No. 67 of AAA.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 37/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/5155-66, dated: 18-07-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_317596_7

Due to a typographical error in the nomenclature at Sl. No. 07 corresponding to Sl. No. 67 of the AAA of the above mentioned e-NIT under reference, the name of the work may kindly be read as:
Installation of Machine Drilled Bore Well NLO Ab Gani Kanu at Chandar Mohalla, Kreeri (Kreeri, Shangus), District Anantnag.

“Instead of”

Bore Well at Cheer Bagh (Krad-A, Shangus), District Anantnag.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged and shall be applicable as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide the above-referred endorsement numbers.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./ 5681-91

Dated: 25-07-2026.

DIPK-3771-26

DT: 27/07/2026

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

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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

BOHU, AWANTIPORA, PULWAMA - 192122

Email: rb-awantipora@JK.gov.in



NO.-T-1/EEA/ 3686-87

M/S: Bismillah Road Construction Company

F/O: Mushtashim Bashir

R/O: Panthachowk Srinagar.

Dated: 27/07/2026

FINAL NOTICE

Subject: Upgradation of Khrew Tulhar road till culvert to wadjen.

Reference's:

1. Allotment No: T-1/EEA/ 6439-41 dated:06-11-2025.

2. This office Notice No.T-1/EEA/ 1930-31 dated:12-06-2026.

3. Assistant Executive Engineer R&B Sub Division Pampore's Notice No. N-13/P/280-81 dated:01-06-2026 and Final Notice No.N-13/P/552-53 dated:20-07-2026.

In connection with the above mentioned subject and reference's, it is to convey that the execution of above subject work stands entrusted to you vide above quoted reference. The alignment of work was provided to you but due to some unknown reasons the Macadamization process was not completed by you.

Whereas you were directed through above referred Notices to start the Macadamization process but you have paid no heed towards the direction and did not start the work. The delay on your part will definitely hamper the target of completion of work.

In this regard, you are hereby given last opportunity through this Final notice to start the work within Two days positively failing which action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against you, which may include termination of contract and balance work will be put to fresh tender at your risk and cost.

It is pertinent to mention here that if you fail to resume the work within Two days there will be no further communication with you from this office and it will be presumed that you are not interested to start the work and action under rules will be initiated against you which you should note.

DIPK-3769-26

DT: 27/07/2026

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

CMYK

J & K player Majid Magray to lead India in mixed disability cricket series against England

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Differently Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI) on Monday announced a 16-member Indian squad for the upcoming Mixed Disability Cricket Series against England, scheduled to be played from August 5 to 19 across England.

Majid Ah Magray has been named captain, while Sai Akash Saivamani will serve as the vice-captain.

India will begin the seven-match IT20 series with the opening two matches at OurCoop County Ground, Derby, on August 5 and August 7, followed by the third IT20 at Uptonsteel Grace Road, Leicester, on August 9.

The fourth match will be played at the County Ground, Hove, on August 12, before the action shifts to Arundel for the fifth and sixth IT20s on August 15 and August 16, respectively.

The series will conclude with the seventh and final IT20 at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground on August 19. All matches are scheduled to begin at 2:30 PM local time.

DCCI Secretary Ravi Kant Chauhan said, "Majid Magray's appointment as captain is a proud moment not only for Jammu & Kashmir but for the entire differently abled cricket fraternity. His leadership will inspire many aspiring cricketers from the region



to pursue the sport with greater confidence and determination."

DCCI vice president Sumit Jain said, "I wish the entire team and support staff a successful tour and hope they inspire many more aspiring differently abled cricketers through their performances."

The Indian Mixed Disability Cricket Team is currently undergoing a preparatory training camp at Chhawla, near Dwarka, New Delhi, as part of its preparations for the upcoming Mixed Disability Cricket Series against

England.

The support staff for India's Mixed Disability Cricket Series against England will be led by former Rajasthan Ranji captain Rohit Jhalani, who has been appointed as the Head Coach. He will be assisted by Dev Dutt as coach, while Rohit Sharma will serve as the fielding coach.

Ramswaroop Saini has been named the Strength & Conditioning Coach, and Mayank Pushkar will accompany the team as the Physiotherapist, ensuring the players are in peak physical condition throughout the tour.

Jammu & Kashmir is represented by Majid Ah Magray (captain), Rizwan Altaf Bhat, and Hilal Ahmad Wani. Tamil Nadu has Sai Akash Saivamani (vice-captain) and Sudar-sun Elangovan, while Haryana is represented by Kuldeep Singh and Tarun. Karnataka has Rajesh Irappa Kannur and Shiva Shankara Guntigana-palli Subbarayappa in the squad.

The remaining players include Yashwanth Naidu Ravuri (Andhra Pradesh), Vivek Kumar (Uttar Pradesh), Arjun Rajesh Gawre (Vidarbha), Ravindra Gopinath Sante (Mumbai), Yogender Singh Bhadoria (Madhya Pradesh), Vrushant Sandip Gunjal (Maharashtra), and Jayesh Parmar (West Bengal).

CM assures full government support to safeguard Kashmir's cricket bat industry

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SANGAM: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday reaffirmed his government's commitment to protecting and strengthening Kashmir's iconic cricket bat industry, asserting that it is the government's responsibility to ensure the traditional sector not only survives but flourishes for generations to come.

Interacting with members of the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association at the Hallamulla Sangam Industrial Estate here, the Chief Minister said the government would take all necessary steps to address the concerns of manufacturers, particularly regarding the sustainable availability of willow wood, uninterrupted power supply, infrastructure support and ease of doing business.

Responding to the concerns raised by the association, the Chief Minister said that immediate steps were necessary to safeguard the cricket bat industry, adding that preserving traditional industries was as important as attracting new ones.

Describing the cricket bat industry as one of Jammu and Kashmir's unique strengths, Omar Abdullah said it is backed by locally available raw material, skilled craftsmen and a well-established market across the country and abroad.



The Chief Minister said that the industry possessed all the strengths needed to succeed, including locally available raw material, skilled workers and a ready market, and that the government was committed to ensuring its continued growth.

Addressing the key concern of shrinking willow resources, the Chief Minister observed that the demand for scientific willow plantation was reasonable and that continuous harvesting without replantation posed a serious threat to the industry's future.

Drawing examples from international best practices, he said the government would promote systematic replantation of willow trees to ensure a continuous and sustainable supply of raw material.

He added that the government would ensure systematic replantation of willow trees and examine improved varieties

to secure a sustainable supply of raw material.

The Chief Minister also assured the manufacturers that the government would take effective measures to curb illegal movement of willow clefts by strengthening monitoring mechanisms and check-posts.

Responding to demands for better infrastructure, Omar Abdullah said a proposal for improving electricity supply to the industrial estate would be prepared and taken up with the Power Development Department for approval.

He further assured that workers employed in the industrial estate would be provided better medical support in case of accidents and that the demand for a fire and emergency unit would also be addressed.

On the proposal for revival of Common Treatment Facility Centre in the vicinity, the Chief

Minister asked the Industries Department and the local MLA to jointly examine the requirement and identify a suitable location for the facility.

He also directed the Industries Department to simplify procedural requirements and remove unnecessary bottlenecks to facilitate the smooth functioning and expansion of the cricket bat industry.

He said that the government's objective was to ensure the sustained growth of the cricket bat industry and reaffirmed its full support for the sector.

Later, the Chief Minister visited a cricket bat manufacturing unit in the industrial estate, where he observed the intricate process of cricket bat production from willow clefts to finished bats. He interacted with workers and artisans engaged in various stages of manufacturing, appreciating

their craftsmanship and contribution to preserving Kashmir's globally acclaimed cricket bat industry. The Chief Minister also enquired about their working conditions and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening the sector through sustained policy support and improved infrastructure.

Earlier, members of the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association highlighted several issues before the Chief Minister, including sustainable willow plantation and availability of raw material, allocation of compartments for willow harvesting, uninterrupted 24x7 power supply with an essential feeder to the industrial estate, establishment of a permanent Fire and Emergency Services unit, medical facilities for workers in case of accidents and measures to check illegal movement of willow clefts.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment Javed Ahmed Rana, MLA Bijbehara-Srigufwara Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Director Industries Kashmir, Chief Executive Officer JKBOW-WB, Director Rakhs and Farms, Director Handloom and Handicrafts, representatives of the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

A result of discipline and commitment: Rajnath Singh, Mandaviya hail Indian weightlifters' medal show at CWG 2026

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Indian weightlifting delivered the biggest highlights of Day 4 at the Commonwealth Games, with Mirabai Chanu winning gold in the women's 48kg final, while Rishikanta Singh and Mathupandi Raja securing silver in the men's 60kg and 65kg finals, respectively.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya lauded the Indian weightlifter's performance in Glasgow.

Rishikanta opened India's weightlifting campaign with a silver medal in the men's 60kg event. Then, Mirabai won the gold in the women's 48 kg, completing a hat-trick of weightlifting titles at CWG. Raja secured India's third weightlifting medal of the day with a silver in the men's 65kg final, finishing with a total lift of 286kg.



"Congratulations to Raja Muthupandi on securing the silver medal in the Men's 65 kg Weightlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2026. This outstanding performance is a result of his discipline, resilience and unwavering commitment. The entire nation celebrates his achievement and wishes him continued success in his future endeavours," Rajnath Singh posted on X.

"Congratulations to Mirabai Chanu on winning the gold medal in weightlifting at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026. Her unwavering

determination and relentless pursuit of excellence have brought glory to the nation. This remarkable achievement reflects the spirit of perseverance and dedication that continues to inspire millions of young Indians. Wishing her continued success and many more laurels in the years to come," he said in another post.

"Proud Moment for Indian Weightlifting! Many congratulations to Raja Muthupandi for clinching silver in men's 65 kg weightlifting," Mandaviya shared on X.

"A hat-trick of GOLD medals! Congratulations to @mirabai_chanu on clinching the gold medal at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Your unwavering dedication, remarkable consistency, and extraordinary strength continue to make India proud on the global stage," the sports minister wrote on X.

Jr Women Academy Hockey: Roundglass Academy sets new record with 41-0 win

IAN S

GWALIOR: Roundglass Hockey Academy girls rewrote the record book on Monday by registering a staggering 41-0 victory over the Tamil Nadu Hockey Academy at the 4th Hockey India Sub Junior Women Academy Championship 2026 - Zone A & B. The scoreline in the Pool C encounter, held in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, now stands as the biggest victory in the history of the tournament.

In other matches on the second day of competitions, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy emerged victorious in the Sub-junior competition, while Raja Karan Hockey Academy and Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy Sonepat secured wins in the Junior competition in the 4th Hockey India Sub Junior Women Academy Championship 2026 - Zone



A & B and the 4th Hockey India Junior Women Academy Championship 2026 - Zone A & B continued in Gwalior.

From the opening whistle, the Roundglass Hockey Academy showcased attacking hockey, pinning the opposition in their own half and demonstrating clinical finishing. The squad's relentless offensive pressure resulted in an 8-0 lead by the end of the first quarter, which quickly ballooned to 19-0 at halftime following an 11-goal blitz in

the second quarter.

The team added 9 more goals in the third quarter and a remarkable 13 goals in the final 15 minutes, completely overwhelming the Tamil Nadu defense while maintaining a perfect clean sheet at the other end.

The historic goal-fest was spearheaded by a phenomenal individual performance from Saloni, who found the back of the net an incredible 12 times and was named the Player of the Match.

Civil Society Forum Lauds Stay Fit Stay Healthy Team for Shaping Healthier Future

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Civil Society Forum Kashmir (Health) has issued a high-praise commendation acknowledging the extraordinary impact of the "Stay Fit Stay Healthy" initiative, a pioneering movement dedicated to advancing preventive healthcare, physical wellness, and public health awareness across Jammu and Kashmir.

At a critical juncture when lifestyle-related diseases, sedentary habits, and the growing menace of substance abuse pose severe threats to public health, the "Stay Fit Stay Healthy" team has stepped forward as a beacon of positive change. Through



targeted health awareness drives, expert-led discussions, sports-centric campaigns, and direct community engagement, the initiative is actively reshaping public attitudes toward wellness. Crucially, by steering young people toward physical fitness

and sports, the movement serves as a formidable shield against drug addiction and ensures constructive youth engagement across the region.

What sets this crusade apart is its powerhouse multidisciplinary alliance, uniting prominent voices

from medicine, public service, sports, engineering, and law enforcement. The Civil Society Forum proudly highlighted the landmark contributions of key panel members, including musculoskeletal and sports injury specialist Dr. Mir Ishfaq Hussain, SSP Traffic Srinagar Ajaz Bhat (IPS), renowned pulmonologist Prof. Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah, eminent endocrinologist Prof. Dr. Shariq R. Masoodi, popular television presenter and cultural figure Azhar Hajini, and Er. Farhan Manzoor Shah, who serves as Additional Secretary of the NIT Srinagar Alumni Association.

The Forum noted that this unique fusion of expertise demonstrates an

exemplary model of civic leadership and community participation. By integrating physical health, mental well-being, disease prevention, and active law enforcement perspectives, the movement provides a comprehensive blueprint for societal betterment.

Extending its warm compliments and best wishes, the Civil Society Forum Kashmir (Health) expressed high hopes that the "Stay Fit Stay Healthy" mission will continue to expand its footprint across educational institutions, local sports clubs, and grassroots communities throughout Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for a healthier, fitter, and completely drug-free society.

Golf: Rookie Koivun wins 3M Open on PGA Tour

IAN S

BLAINE (USA): Rookie Jackson Koivun held his nerve to secure his first PGA Tour title at the 3M Open in only his third start as a pro and held at bay the world's top-ranked player, Scottie Scheffler.

Koivun won the 3M Open by three strokes, holding off Scheffler with a closing 5-under 66 for a tournament-record 25-under 259 total.

Indian-origin Sudarshan Yellamaraju missed the cut, while Hero-backed Akshay Bhatia and Sahith Theegala did not start this week.

"All throughout the crowd I kept hearing, 'Scottie's coming. Scottie's coming,'" the 21-year-old Koivun said. "I just tried to tune that out and keep playing the golf I knew I could."

Scheffler, who played five groups ahead of Koivun, surged into contention with a 63 but settled for his fifth runner-up finish this season. His lone win this year was in his first start at The American Express in California.

Four players, Hideki Matsuyama, Brian Harman, Chandler Phillips and Denny McCarthy, tied for third at 20 under.

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