

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication



Manoj Sinha
@manojsinha_

I spoke with the DGP, Shri Nalin Prabhat and top security officials following the brutal terrorist attack in Kulgam in which a labourer from Chhattisgarh was killed. I strongly condemn this cowardly act. I have directed our security forces to step up their operations and eliminate the terrorists.

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One Killed, Another Injured In Kulgam Terror Attack

LG Condemns Terror Attack, Orders Intensified Anti-Terror OpS



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a fresh act of terror in the Kashmir Valley, one non-local worker was killed and another sustained injuries after terrorists opened fire on them in Kellam area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday evening.

According to officials, the terrorists targeted two labourers from outside the Union Territory, who were working in the area. The assailants fired indiscriminately at the workers, leaving both critically injured.

Soon after the incident, local residents and security

personnel rushed the injured to a nearby hospital for emergency medical treatment. However, one of the workers succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital, officials confirmed. The identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained.

The injured worker, whose condition is stated to be stable, has been shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in Anantnag for advanced treatment, where doctors are monitoring his condition closely, officials told Good Morning Kashmir.

Following the attack, security forces

Forces Must Be Ready To Tackle Challenges Of Asymmetric Warfare: LG

Interacts With Officers Of Higher Command Course-55

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday issued a stark warning on national security, asserting that the armed forces must be fully equipped to counter the evolving nature of asymmetric warfare. In a strong statement today, the LG detailed the administration's aggressive crackdown, stating that 'surgical firmness' has been applied against the terror ecosystem and what he termed 'conflict entrepreneurs' who are attempting to sustain violence in the Union Territory.

"The systematic infiltration of terrorist sympathizers into government machinery over the past 30 years was decisively dismantled, delivering an unambiguous message of zero tolerance to terror and public money will no longer sustain those quietly subverting the nation from within,"



said while interacting with the officers attending Higher Command Course - 55 at Army War College, Mhow.

In his address to the officers and faculty members of Army War College at Lok Bhavan, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the pressing geopolitical and geo-strategic challenges of the present era, along with a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy anchored

Future Favors Those Who See Scope, Not Stops: LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday asserted that "the future belongs to those who see possibilities rather than boundaries", as he inaugurated a series of transformative academic programmes at Cluster University Jammu.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sinha said India has resolved to become a leader in technology development and manufacturing.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the significance of the "Design Your Degree" programme, calling it a revolutionary step towards student-centric learning. He noted that the world today demands multidisciplinary thinkers who can integrate knowledge across diverse fields.

"The frontiers of

Heavy Rain Triggers Flash Floods In Kashmir



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Heavy overnight rainfall triggered flash floods in parts of north Kashmir on Friday, inundating roads and a government school in Bandipora district, while the Meteorological Department forecast intermittent rain and thunderstorms across Jammu and Kashmir over the next week.

Officials said that flash floods hit Saderkoot Bala in Bandipora, where muddy water entered the Government Primary School at Ganie Mohalla, Malpora, damaging classroom mats and forcing suspension of classes for the day.

In Baramulla district, flash floods affected the Brennara area of Sopore town, though no loss of life or damage to property was reported. Authorities said the situation was being closely monitored.

Most parts of the Valley witnessed overnight rainfall, with significant precipitation recorded in Budgam, Baramulla and Bandipora districts.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Srinagar received

Centre Intensifies Diplomatic Push To Corner Pakistan Over Terror

RAJIA SYED

SRINAGAR: The Government of India on Friday said it has intensified diplomatic efforts to build international pressure against cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan and secure greater accountability

for terrorist networks and their supporters.

The issue, was raised in the Lok Sabha by Member Parliament Pratima Mondal, who sought details of the measurable diplomatic outcomes achieved by the Government in securing stronger international

UN Raises Alarm PoJK Vote Marred By Deadly Clashes, 75 Killed



GMK NEWS NETWORK

MUZAFFARABAD: Protests during regional elections in Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) have turned deadly, with reports saying more than 75 people had been killed around one town in clashes with security forces ahead of the second round.

Witnesses and activists say the violence erupted in multi-

ple cities, including Rawalakot and Mirpur, where Pakistani troops opened fire on demonstrators rallying against soaring inflation, exorbitant electricity bills, and alleged electoral manipulation. Local hospitals have reported receiving dozens of bodies, with many victims suffering gunshot wounds to the chest and head.

The protests,

Hundreds Of Fruit-Laden Trucks Stranded As J&K Highway Closed For Restoration

Drivers Seek Early Restoration, Say Prolonged Closure May Lead To Huge Losses

UMAISAR GULL

QAZIGUND: Hundreds of fruit-laden trucks remained stranded at several locations along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Friday following the suspension of traffic for restoration works, with drivers urging the authorities to reopen the road at the earliest to prevent losses to growers and transporters.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, remained closed on Friday to facilitate restoration and slope stabilisation works on vulnerable stretches, leaving hundreds of goods vehicles stranded at different locations on both sides of the highway.

The stranded drivers said that most of the vehicles were

FILE PHOTO



carrying fresh apples and other perishable produce to markets outside Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are carrying fruit-laden trucks, and the shelf life of the produce is very limited. If the highway remains closed for long, the fruit will start deteriorating, which will lead to heavy financial losses for growers as well as transporters," Mohammad Ashraf, a truck driver, said.

He said the uncertainty over the reopening of the highway

was adding to their concerns. "We have been waiting for hours without any clear information on when traffic will resume. Every passing hour reduces the quality of the fruit, and we fear the consignment may not fetch a good price in the market," he said.

Another driver said the timely transportation of apples is crucial during the harvesting season and appealed to the administration to prioritise the movement of fruit-laden trucks

CS Launches 162 New Online Citizen Services On E-UNNAT

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday held a meeting of all the concerned Administrative Secretaries to assess Jammu and Kashmir's performance on the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) and reviewed the progress made by the Information Technology Department towards expanding the digital governance ecosystem across the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary launched 162 district-level online citizen services, developed by the Information Technology Department, which have now been integrated with the eUNNAT Portal, taking the total number of online Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services available on the platform from 1,548 to 1,710.



The newly added services, developed for 18 districts of the Union Territory, encompass a wide range of regulatory permissions and public services, including permissions for fairs and exhibitions, cultural programmes, political and religious gatherings, processions, drone operations and several other district-level services.

These services are now available through a completely digital, paperless and workflow-based platform, enabling citizens to apply online, monitor the status of their applications and receive digitally signed approvals without visiting Government offices.

Emphasising continuous improvement, the Chief Secretary directed all Administrative Departments to ensure timely compliance with all mandatory NeSDA parameters and

Terrorists Trained By Pak To Target India Have Turned Their Guns Towards Their Masters: MEA

Calls Upon International Community To Closely Examine Pakistan's Actions In PoJK

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Calling upon the international community to closely examine Pakistan's actions in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), India on Friday said neighbouring country's political leadership has admitted that terrorists once trained and armed by the Pakistani state to target India have now turned against them.

Addressing the weekly media briefing, spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal, said, "Islamabad has unleashed a violent crackdown on civilians in PoJK and it should be held accountable for the deaths of more than 40 people during recent unrest in the



region."

He said, "Pakistan's own political leadership has effectively admitted that terrorists once trained and armed by the Pakistani establishment to target India have now turned against the Pakistani state."

Jaiswal said, "The Spe-

cial Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Political Affairs has openly acknowledged that the very Mujahideen whom the Pakistani establishment trained, funded, armed and sent to bleed India have now turned their guns inwards and are

weaponising themselves against the state."

He alleged that Pakistan has used "ruthless force" against civilians in PoJK, where protests have intensified in recent weeks over rising prices, alleged administrative neglect, political discrimination and reported atrocities against minority communities.

According to Jaiswal, the security crackdown has left more than 40 civilians dead and many others seriously injured. The demonstrations are being led by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC).

He also criticised remarks attributed to Pakistan's defence minister, alleging that protesters were

'India's Highest Power Loss Stays In Kashmir'

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: The power distribution company of Kashmir has recorded the highest electricity losses in India for the third consecutive year, with more than one-third of all power it handles vanishing before reaching consumers.

The official figures revealed that in the Financial Year (FY) 2025, Jammu and Kashmir was reeling under 33.54 percent of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses against the national average of 15.04 percent.

The local Discom, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) had recorded a AT&C loss of 59.59 percent in FY23 against a target of 54 percent.

The figures further said that the AT&C had improved to 51.98 percent in FY24 against a target of 44 percent. However, the house was informed that the losses further

Inclement Weather Amarnath Yatra Remains Suspended From Baltal Route



UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra remained suspended from the Baltal route on Friday due to inclement weather and ongoing repair work on the track, even as a fresh batch of 1,605 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu for the Baltal base camp.

Officials said that the pilgrimage had already been suspended from the Pahalgam route to facilitate restoration and repair works. They said the Baltal route was also closed on Friday as a precautionary measure in view of continuous rainfall

since Thursday.

A senior government official said that the decision was taken to ensure the safety of pilgrims. "The Amarnath Yatra has been suspended for today as a precautionary measure following continuous rainfall since yesterday. With rainfall continuing in the Baltal area, authorities have temporarily halted the pilgrimage to ensure the safety of pilgrims. Further decisions on resumption will be taken after reviewing weather conditions and the overall safety situation," the official said.

He said the Yatra would resume only after

Film submission deadline for 1st IFFJK extended upto 1st Aug

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The film submission deadline for 1st International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026 has been extended until 1st August, 2026 11:59 PM, to provide filmmakers final opportunity to register their entries for participation in the inaugural edition of the festival.

The IFFJK, organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), is scheduled to be held from September 7 to 10, 2026. The festival aims to establish Jammu & Kashmir as a vibrant destination for cinema, creativity and cultural exchange while providing a prestigious platform for filmmakers from across the world to showcase their work.

The Festival is receiving tremendous response with more than 900 entries received from around 50



countries. This encouraging response from both national and international filmmakers underscores the growing confidence in Jammu & Kashmir as an emerging hub for film production, cinematic excellence and creative collaboration.

The four-day festival will feature screenings of selected films, interactive sessions, masterclasses, panel discussions and cultural engagements, offering opportunities for filmmakers, industry experts, students and cinema lovers to exchange ideas and explore new avenues of collaboration.

The festival also aims

to promote the culture of Jammu & Kashmir through Cinema, promote artistic excellence, cultural exchange, and cinematic innovation by exhibiting and recognising outstanding films from around the world.

The DIPR is planning a slew of activities to ensure participation from all stakeholders.

Pertinent to mention, the curtain raiser ceremony of the festival was held on July 17, 2026, inviting filmmakers, artists, producers and cinema enthusiasts from around the world to participate in the landmark event.



SBSP Holds Historic 'Maharally' in New Delhi, Showcasing National Unity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: A historic "Maharally" of the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) was held at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on Friday, bringing together party leaders, office-bearers, and workers from across the country in a grand show of unity and organizational strength.

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the party, led by Vivek Bali, actively participated in the Maharally. During the event, the J&K delegation received a warm welcome from the party's National Chief General Secretary, Arvind Rajbhar, and National Chief Spokesperson, Arun Rajbhar, who appreciated the participation of the Jammu and Kashmir team.

The Maharally was addressed by SBSP National President and Cabinet Minister Om Prakash Rajbhar, who highlighted the party's commitment to social justice, inclusive development, and the empowerment of marginalized communities. In his address, he called upon party workers to remain united, strengthen the organization at the grassroots level, and continue serving the people with dedication and sincerity.

The event witnessed the participation of party leaders and workers from several states across the country. Bashir Ahmad Shah, Vice President of the SBSP Kulgam unit, was also present as part of the Jammu and Kashmir delegation, reaffirming the party's growing presence in the Union Territory.

ADDC Budgam chairs MY Bharat District Advisory Committee meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Budgam, Vivek Agarwal, Friday chaired the meeting of the Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) District Advisory Committee at the Conference Hall, Budgam, to review youth engagement initiatives and strengthen coordination among stakeholder departments.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of various MY Bharat programmes aimed at promoting youth participation in nation-building, volunteerism, skill development, leadership, and community service. Discussions also focused on enhancing outreach, increasing youth registrations, and ensuring active participation of educational institutions and line departments in MY Bharat activities.

The ADDC stressed the need for greater convergence among departments to create meaningful opportunities for young people and directed the concerned officers to organise regular awareness and engagement programmes across the district.

Sale of unsafe 'New Fast Tea' Batch prohibited in Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Food Safety Department, Pulwama, has prohibited the sale of a batch of "Dust Tea (Premium Instant Mix Tea)" marketed under the brand name "New Fast Tea" (Batch No.10) after it was declared unsafe for human consumption by the National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad.

According to the Designated Officer, Food Safety, Pulwama, the sample of the tea product was procured by the Food Safety Officer, Trail, from the market and subsequently sent for analysis. The laboratory report found the product to be unsafe due to the presence of water-soluble synthetic colour Tartrazine and Sunset Yellow, rendering it non-compliant with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The department stated that the consumption of the said product may be harmful to public health and is liable to prohibition under Regulation 2.3.7 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011.

J&K Govt notifies agriculture pause periods under VB-GRAM G

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has officially notified specific agricultural "pause periods" under the newly launched Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM-G), effectively halting public works during peak farming seasons to prevent labour shortages.

The move comes as the Union Territory transitions from the erstwhile MGNREGA to the VB-GRAM-G. According to the order issued by the Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Mohammad Aijaz

Asad, the pause schedules have been tailored to the distinct agro-climatic calendars of the Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

In the Kashmir Division, no new works will be commenced or executed during three key windows: April 26 to May 10 for Kharif sowing; May 25 to June 10 for Kharif transplanting and Rabi harvesting; and September 26 to October 23 for Kharif harvesting and Rabi sowing.

For the Jammu Division, the enforced pause will occur from April 15 to April 29 for Rabi harvesting; June 15 to June 29 for Kharif sowing and transplanting; and October 15 to November 13 for Kharif harvesting and

Rabi sowing.

The notification, issued under Sections 6(2) and 6(3) of the VB-GRAM-G Act, strictly bars the initiation or execution of scheme works during these windows. However, a carve-out allows the Government to undertake specific projects during the pause period if expressly permitted by the Government of India under Section 7 of the Act on grounds of public interest.

This enforcement of a mandatory 60-day agricultural pause is a core feature of the newly notified Jammu Kashmir Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Scheme, 2026, which was formally rolled out on July 1st, 2026.

The Secretary said that the flagship programme enhances the guaranteed wage employment from the previous 100 days to 125 days annually for every eligible rural household willing to do unskilled manual work.

Aijaz Asad said that with the agricultural pause periods now legally defined, we are ensuring that our drive for rural infrastructure development does not come at the cost of farm productivity.

"The transition to 125 days of work under VB-GRAM-G, coupled with technology-driven planning, marks a significant shift towards the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047," he said.

FDA takes enforcement action against unsafe ghee, misbranded frozen meat



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K has initiated enforcement action following the declaration of four Ghee samples, namely Dairy Mohan, Apna Dairy Milk, Sahi Taj, and Milk Bite, as unsafe by the National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad.

Based on the laboratory reports, the Designated Officer, Food Safety, Anantnag, seized 1,250 litres of Ghee belonging to the affected batch numbers, valued at approximately ₹4.88 lakh, and issued a Prohibition Order under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The sale and distribution of the affected batches have also been prohibited under Section 36(3) (b) read with Section 18(1) (f) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Further, Food Safety Teams in the Jammu Division conducted inspections, collected three additional samples of the affected Ghee brands, and forwarded them

to NABL-accredited laboratories for analysis of quality and safety parameters.

During the inspections, 1,277 litres of Ghee, valued at approximately ₹4.97 lakh, were seized under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, pending receipt of laboratory analysis reports.

In a separate enforcement action, the Food Safety Team, Srinagar, conducted inspections of seven establishments dealing in meat and meat products. During the inspection, 2,600 kg of frozen meat, valued at approximately ₹5.98 lakh, was seized from an establishment at Bubghair, Kawadara, Srinagar, as the product was found to be misleading due to a mismatch between the contents of the package and the declarations made on the label, in violation of the labelling requirements prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations. The frozen meat was also found to be stored under unsanitary conditions.

40 Trainee Civil Judges visit FSL Srinagar for exposure to Forensic Science

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A batch of 40 trainee Civil Judges, accompanied by the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, Friday visited the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Srinagar as part of an exposure programme aimed at enhancing their understanding of the



role of forensic science in the criminal justice system.

The programme commenced with an introductory presentation by Sheikh Suhail Ahmad, Scientific Officer, Fingerprints Division, who briefed the participants on the mandate, organizational structure, scientific capabilities, and pivotal role of FSL Srinagar in assisting investigating agencies and the judiciary through scientific examination of evidence.

The participants were subsequently taken on a guided tour of the laboratory, coordinated by Dr. Rais Ahmad, Scientific Officer, Narcotics & Chemical Divi-

sion, and Sheikh Suhail Ahmad, Scientific Officer, Fingerprints Division.

During the visit, the trainee judges interacted with experts across various forensic disciplines and were briefed by the respective Scientific Officers on the functioning of their divisions, modern analytical techniques, sophisticated

instrumentation, quality assurance practices, and the scientific procedures followed in the examination of forensic exhibits.

Later, Dr. Qazi Danish Mushtaq, Deputy Director JKPSL Srinagar interacted with the visiting judicial officers regarding functioning of the District Mobile Forensic Units (DMFUs). He highlighted the crucial role of the mobile forensic units in providing on-the-spot scientific assistance at crime scenes, ensuring proper collection, preservation, and documentation of physical evidence, and facilitating timely forensic support to investigating agencies across the Union Territory.

Govt approves ₹13.75 Cr for heritage conservation projects at Purmandal, Imambara Zadibal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has approved two major heritage conservation projects worth ₹13.75 crore for the restoration and revival of the historic heritage site of Purmandal in Samba and the conservation and upgradation of the historic Imambara Zadibal in Srinagar. The twin initiatives reaffirm the Government's commitment to preserving Jammu & Kashmir's rich religious, cultural and architectural heritage while enhancing facilities for pilgrims, devotees and visitors.

The Government has approved a ₹7.16 crore project for the restoration and revival of the historic heritage site of Purmandal in Samba. The initiative aims to preserve the site's unique heritage character while improving essential infrastructure to enhance the experience of pilgrims and tourists visiting the revered shrine town.

The Government has also sanctioned a ₹6.59 crore project for the conservation and upgradation of the historic Imambara Zadibal in Srinagar. The project seeks to conserve the architectural and



heritage character of the centuries-old Imambara while upgrading essential infrastructure to provide improved facilities for the large number of devotees and visitors who visit the revered religious site throughout the year.

These projects form part of the Government's sustained efforts to protect and restore places of immense religious, historical and cultural significance across Jammu and Kashmir through focused investments in heritage conservation and infrastructure development.

The approval of the Purmandal and Imambara Zadibal projects follows a series of similar initiatives undertaken by the Government in recent months. Earlier, the Government sanctioned a ₹6.38 crore

project for the development of the revered holy spring of Khoo Sahib at Yarwan in Shadimarg, Pulwama. The project aims to upgrade essential infrastructure and improve facilities for devotees while preserving the site's religious, cultural and historical significance, thereby enhancing the overall pilgrim experience.

The Government has also recently 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 revered Sarvadhara Chaumanda Mata Mandir in Ramban. These projects are designed to protect important heritage structures while strengthening amenities for worshippers and visitors.

VC JKLCMA reviews progress of Lake Conservation initiatives in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Vice Chairman (VC), Jammu & Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, convened a review meeting Friday to take stock of various ongoing activities and works being undertaken by the Authority for the conservation, protection and management of water bodies in Jammu & Kashmir.

All the officers of JKLCMA participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the progress of various ongoing works and field activities was undertaken. The Vice Chairman emphasized the need for time-bound execution, effective monitoring and regular field inspections to ensure that the objectives of lake and waterbody conservation are achieved in a coordinated and sustainable manner.

The meeting also reviewed measures being undertaken for the protection of water bodies from encroachments, illegal constructions, dump-

ing of solid waste, and discharge of untreated sewage. The concerned officers were directed to maintain close coordination with the field agencies and take prompt action wherever violations affecting the water bodies are noticed.

The progress of demarcation and clearance of encroachments, cleaning and maintenance of water channels, outlets and other associated works was also reviewed. The officers were directed to intensify field-level monitoring and ensure that cleared areas are protected from re-encroachment.

Issues relating to the 19 inlet channels coming from hinterlands came up for discussion. The Vice Chairman stressed the importance of ensuring proper functioning and maintenance of the regulatory gates installed on these inlet channels. It was desired that J&K PCC, in light of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, shall be approached for banning the use of pesticides/chemicals by farmers along the hinterlands and ultimately flowing into

these inlet channels thereby deteriorating the water quality of the lake.

The functioning and maintenance of aerators, fountains and other lake conservation infrastructure were also reviewed. Directions were issued for early rectification of deficiencies and ensuring that such infrastructure remains operational and is properly maintained.

The Vice Chairman further stressed upon the officers to ensure regular submission of progress reports, proper documentation of works and close supervision of projects at the field level. The concerned officers were directed to adhere strictly to the timelines and submit updated status reports on the progress of works.

The Vice Chairman reiterated that conservation of the water bodies is a collective responsibility and called for sustained efforts, inter-departmental coordination and strict enforcement of applicable provisions to safeguard the fragile aquatic ecosystems of Jammu & Kashmir for future generations.

NEWS

373 Jan Aushadhi Kendras operational across J&K: Centre

Jammu tops the list with 85, Srinagar has 37

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: A total of 373 Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) were operational across 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir as on June 30, 2026, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Friday.

The figures, were provided by Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Anupriya Patel in reply to an unstarred question on the number of operational Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras across the country, including district-wise details.

According to the district-wise data furnished by the government, Jammu has the highest number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in J&K at 85, followed by Srinagar with 37 and Anantnag with 34. Budgam and Pulwama have 23 each, while Baramulla has 21 and Samba 20.

The data further shows that Kulgam has 16 JAKs, Kathua and Kupwara 13 each, Poonch and Rajouri 12 each, Udhampur 10, Shopian 9, and Bandipora, Ganderbal, Ramban and Reasi have eight each. Doda has seven JAKs, while Kishtwar has six.



At the national level, the Centre said 20,149 Jan Aushadhi Kendras had been opened under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana till June 30, 2026. During the financial year 2025-26, the scheme recorded sales of Rs 2,252.19 crore, resulting in estimated savings of approximately Rs 9,000 crore for citizens.

The government said district-wise sales data is not maintained by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), the implementing agency of the scheme.

On expansion, the Centre said PMBI has partnered with the cooperative sector to open Jan Aushadhi Kendras through Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies. As of

June 30, 2026, 846 such centres had been opened across the country and more than 4,250 PACS had received initial approval to open JAKs.

To prevent stock-outs, the government said stocking of 200 commonly used medicines has been incentivised since September 2024. It added that an IT-enabled supply chain connects five warehouses and 42 distributors, while 400 fast-moving products are regularly monitored to assess demand and strengthen procurement.

The Centre has set a target of opening 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by March 2027, with the scheme facilitating establishment of centres at both block and district levels—(KNO)

Ladakh holds buyer-seller meet in Srinagar to ensure better returns for Pashmina herders

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Cooperatives Department, Union Territory of Ladakh, in collaboration with the All Changthang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Society Ltd. and J&K Bank, organized a Buyer-Seller Meet today at the DIPR Auditorium, Srinagar.

The programme aimed to establish direct interaction between Ladakh Pashmina herders and leading buyers, exporters, traders and business organizations, ensuring better price realization for the actual Pashmina herders, eliminating unnecessary intermediaries, and strengthening sustainable market linkages through the cooperative movement.

The programme was graced by Nitish Rajora, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, as the Chief Guest. He highlighted the unique geographical landscape of Changthang, which is home to nearly 1.84 lakh Changra goats.

Among those present were Mr. Thinles, Secretary, All Changthang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Society Ltd.; representatives of J&K Bank, the Cooperatives Department, the District Administration, Changthang; besides members of cooperative societies, artisans, weavers, and media representatives.



The event witnessed the participation of more than 100 buyers, exporters, traders, entrepreneurs, and representatives of leading business organizations from Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of the country. The meet provided a valuable platform for direct business interaction between Pashmina growers and prospective buyers, enabling discussions on quality, pricing, long-term procurement, and market requirements.

Prominent participants included Mr. A.P. Vicky Shaw, Chairman, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI), Kashmir; Mr. Iqram Ali Shafiee, Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), J&K; Mr. Javed Ahmad Tenga, President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI); Mr. Mubashir Ahmad, President, Kashmir Pashmina Welfare Trust; Mr. Mohd. Rafiq Sofi, President, Tahafuz Society; and Mr. Muzaffar, Zonal Head,

Srinagar, J&K Bank, who interacted with the cooperative members and explored avenues for long-term collaboration.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Nitish Rajora, IAS, highlighted the global recognition of Ladakh Pashmina for its exceptional quality and emphasized that cooperative societies play a vital role in empowering nomadic herders by improving market access, ensuring fair remuneration, and preserving the authenticity of Ladakh Pashmina. He reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration towards strengthening the cooperative movement and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for Pashmina-growing communities.

During the programme, members of the All Changthang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Society Ltd. showcased authentic Ladakh Pashmina and value-added products before buyers, exporters,

and traders. The interaction enabled buyers to directly understand the production process, quality standards, and the unique characteristics of Ladakh Pashmina, while allowing herders to understand market expectations.

It was informed during the meet that a dedicated digital platform/mobile application for Pashmina growers, artisans, and cooperative members will be developed in the coming days. The proposed platform is expected to strengthen the cooperative ecosystem by facilitating digital payments, improving access to government schemes, providing market information, and creating direct linkages between producers and buyers.

An interactive open session followed, during which buyers, exporters, industry representatives, and cooperative members exchanged views on quality assurance, branding, GI certification, value addition, digital marketing, and expanding domestic as well as international market opportunities for Ladakh Pashmina.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Sachin Bali, who thanked all the participants and stakeholders for making the event a grand success.

Highway likely to be restored for two-way traffic by 11 pm, says NHAI

UMAISAR GULL

UDHAMPUR: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Friday said restoration work on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was delayed due to inclement weather and the fall of two massive boulders at Dewal in Udhampur district.

Shubham Yadav, NHAI Project Director, said that the boulders struck the highway, making their removal time-consuming and affecting the restoration work.

"The highway is expected to be restored to a two-lane surface by around 11 pm today (Friday). We have deployed 10 machines at the site, and work is going on at full pace," he said.

Yadav said authorities had declared Friday a "traffic dry day" to facilitate debris clearance and widening work at the Dewal Bridge stretch, which had become a major bottleneck.

"Although two-lane traffic was being maintained earlier, the road surface had deteriorated and become uneven, affecting the smooth movement of vehicles. The widening work is aimed at improving the surface and increasing the traffic carrying capacity to prevent congestion," he said.

Yadav added that maximum resources have been deployed at the site and the restoration work is being carried out on a war footing. "We are hopeful that the widening work will be completed by this evening, ensuring smooth movement of both Amarnath Yatra convoys and normal traffic," he said—(KNO)

In 11 years, Centre releases Rs 4,055 crore for ICDS in J&K: Centre

‘Region received Rs 260 crore in 2014-15; annual release rises to Rs 663 crore in 2024-25’

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Centre has released Rs 4,055.86 crore under the Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 scheme for Jammu and Kashmir during the period from 2014-15 to 2024-25, with the annual release rising from Rs 260.31 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 662.79 crore in 2024-25.

Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur, in response to a question seeking details of allocation, release and utilisation of funds under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) from 2014 to 2024, along with details of Anganwadi Centres and ICDS projects said: "Jammu and Kashmir received Rs 26,031.19 lakh in 2014-15, Rs 27,362.65 lakh in 2015-16, Rs 26,732.11 lakh in 2016-17 and Rs 19,328.24 lakh in 2017-18.

The release stood at Rs 37,406.56 lakh in 2018-19, followed by Rs 31,999.86

lakh in 2019-20 and Rs 28,902.02 lakh in 2020-21. In 2021-22, the Centre released Rs 40,573.74 lakh."

The Minister said, "During 2022-23, J&K received Rs 47,881.91 lakh, while the release increased to Rs 53,088.35 lakh in 2023-24 and Rs 66,279.24 lakh in 2024-25, the highest annual release during the period."

The MP sought details of the allocation, release and utilisation of ICDS funds from 2014 to 2024 on a year-wise and State-wise basis, besides details of fully funded and operational Anganwadi Centres and ICDS projects and the contribution made by States above their mandated share.

The Ministry, as per KNO, said Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with implementation falling under State Governments and UT administrations.

It said the Centre releases grants-in-aid according

to a prescribed cost-sharing ratio. For North-Eastern and Himalayan States, including Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre-State sharing ratio under the specified Anganwadi Services components is 90:10.

The Ministry further said the year-wise State/UT-wise number of Anganwadi Centres and projects under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is available on the Poshan Tracker public dashboard, while the fund-release details from 2014-15 to 2024-25 have been provided in the annexure.

It said, "Jammu and Kashmir received Rs 260.31 crore in 2014-15, Rs 273.63 crore in 2015-16, Rs 267.32 crore in 2016-17, Rs 193.28 crore in 2017-18, Rs 374.07 crore in 2018-19, Rs 320 crore in 2019-20, Rs 289.02 crore in 2020-21, Rs 405.74 crore in 2021-22, Rs 478.82 crore in 2022-23, Rs 530.88 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 662.79 crore in 2024-25 under the Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 scheme."—(KNO)

Javed Rana reviews Jal Shakti works in Zadibal constituency

Emphasizes quality work execution, timely resolution of issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of various Jal Shakti sector works in Zadibal constituency. He directed the concerned officers to ensure their

top priority to the issues raised by the MLA and ensure their resolution in a time-bound manner.

The Minister stressed that projects nearing completion should be expedited so that they are commissioned and made operational without delay, enabling the people to avail the intended benefits at the earliest. He further directed the



timely completion and effective implementation.

The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat Srinagar, was attended by M.L.A. Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq; Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, Kashmir along with other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the progress of ongoing drinking water supply and allied infrastructure works in the constituency. He also took stock of the issues and demands projected by the MLA.

Rana directed the concerned officers to accord

officers to resolve all bottle necks affecting the progress of ongoing works to ensure that no development project suffers avoidable delays.

The Minister underscored the importance of close coordination among all stakeholder departments for effective implementation of developmental projects. He also directed the officers to make judicious use of available resources, ensure optimum utilisation of funds under various schemes and maintain the highest standards of quality in execution of works.

Rana calls for revival of willow cultivation to sustain Kashmir's cricket bat industry

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Friday directed the concerned departments to launch a coordinated drive to revive willow cultivation across Kashmir and expand plantations to ensure a sustainable supply of quality timber for the cricket bat industry.

The directions were issued during a high-level review meeting convened to deliberate upon the challenges confronting the willow sector and to formulate a long-term roadmap for its revival and growth.

The meeting was attended by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K, Sarvesh Rai; Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, Irfan Rasool Wani besides senior officers of the Forest Department and other concerned departments.

Addressing the meeting, the Minister observed that Kashmir occupies a unique



position as the country's only source of the specialised willow wood used for manufacturing cricket bats, making the region the national hub of the cricket bat industry. He said that hundreds of manufacturing units, predominantly located in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, provide direct and indirect employment to thousands of people engaged in willow cultivation, timber trade and bat manufacturing.

Rana expressed concern over the declining availability of quality willow timber, describing it as one of the biggest challenges

confronting the cricket bat industry. He attributed the shortage to the indiscriminate felling of mature willow trees without adequate replantation, resulting in uncertainty in raw material supply and increased production costs for local manufacturers.

"The declining availability of willow timber is a matter of serious concern. Expansion of plantations, introduction of improved willow clones and systematic replantation must become a priority so that the industry continues to flourish without facing any shortages of raw material," Rana asserted.

The Minister also noted that the area under willow plantations has witnessed a steady decline, particularly on private lands, owing to changing land-use patterns. He stressed that unless timely corrective measures are taken, the long-term sustainability of the industry could be adversely affected.

He called upon the Forest Department to identify suitable low-lying and marshy areas across the Valley for expanding willow plantations, in coordination with the Deputy Commissioners.

It was decided that the State Forest Research Institute (SFRI) will introduce improved willow species and clones and ensure the availability of quality planting material to enhance productivity and sustainability.

"Our objective is to build a self-sustaining willow cultivation ecosystem through scientific management, quality planting material, identification of new plantation areas and greater farmer participa-

tion. This will secure livelihoods while preserving Kashmir's unique position as the country's cricket bat manufacturing hub," asserted the Minister.

The Agriculture Department was directed to identify the departmental farms and research blocks for raising quality willow planting material to support large-scale plantation drives.

The meeting also deliberated upon scientific management and expansion of government willow plantations, timely disposal of mature and over-mature trees to augment raw material availability, streamlining of the permission system for felling and transportation of willow timber, branding and Geographical Indication (GI) tagging for Kashmir willow bats. Emphasis was also laid on stronger coordination among the Forest, Agriculture, Industries & Commerce, MSME and allied departments to prepare a long-term roadmap for the sector.

No shortage of fertilisers in J&K: Nadda in Parliament

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Friday said there is no shortage of fertilisers, including Urea, DAP, MOP and NPKS, in Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to a starred question raised by Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the Lok Sabha regarding shortage of fertilisers, particularly DAP, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Jagat Prakash Nadda, said the government assesses state-wise and monthly requirements before every cropping season and supplies fertilisers through monthly supply plans.

He said that in Jammu and Kashmir during 2025-26, the requirement of Urea was 1.46 lakh metric tonnes

(LMT), against availability of 2.24 LMT and DBT sales of 1.60 LMT. The requirement of DAP stood at 0.46 LMT against availability of 0.61 LMT and sales of 0.43 LMT, while MOP availability was 0.35 LMT against a requirement of 0.21 LMT.

In 2024-25, J&K had a Urea requirement of 1.48 LMT against availability of 2.05 LMT and sales of 1.36 LMT. DAP requirement was 0.49 LMT against availability of 0.58 LMT and sales of 0.43 LMT, while MOP availability stood at 0.26 LMT against a requirement of 0.22 LMT.

The Minister said any gap between domestic production and demand is met through imports, while fertiliser movement across the country is monitored through the Integrated Fer-

tilizer Management System. State governments are also advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers to streamline supplies.

At the national level, during Kharif 2026 up to July 27, availability stood at 174.47 LMT for Urea against a pro-rata requirement of 120.16 LMT, 42.36 LMT for DAP against 34.67 LMT requirement, 14.21 LMT for MOP against 10.97 LMT requirement and 88.01 LMT for NPKS against 52.89 LMT requirement.

The Centre also said it has taken measures to increase domestic production, including establishment of six new Urea units and approval of additional projects, with indigenous Urea production capacity rising to 269.42 LMT per annum—(KNO)

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

NH-44

A Lifeline Deserves Permanent Solutions

Whenever heavy rain lashes Jammu and Kashmir, the story unfolds with painful predictability: stranded travelers, anxious families, delayed essential supplies, and businesses brought to a grinding halt. The latest closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) is just the newest chapter in an all-too-familiar saga. Holding traffic back when landslides and shooting stones menace the highway is, without question, the right call. No journey is worth a life, and safety must always trump convenience. But as we watch road crews heroically clear debris in hazardous conditions, workers who deserve far more appreciation than they usually get—we have to ask ourselves: why are we stuck in this endless cycle? NH-44 isn't just a stretch of asphalt; it is the Kashmir Valley's primary artery. It carries food, medicine, fuel, trade, tourists, and daily life. When it shuts down, the ripple effects touch every home and marketplace in the region.

Yet year after year, our approach remains purely reactive. We wait for the mountain to fall, patch up the road, and wait for the next storm. Emergency responses are no longer enough. NH-44 needs long-term resilience: Scientific Slope Stabilization: Modern engineering techniques must replace quick structural band-aids on fragile mountain faces. Overhauled Drainage Systems: Proper water runoff management is critical to preventing soil saturation and sudden collapses. Early-Warning Systems: Advanced monitoring technology can detect slope movement before it turns catastrophic. Equally critical during these crises is clear communication. The administration must provide timely, accurate updates so commuters aren't left in the dark, and travelers need to rely on verified channels rather than feeding the rumor mill on social media, where misinformation can cause as much panic as the landslides themselves.

Investing in permanent infrastructure fixes today will save lives, preserve the economy, and spare thousands of families the anxiety of being cut off from the rest of the country. Reopening a highway a few hours late is a minor inconvenience; reopening it unsafely is a tragedy waiting to happen. The recurring collapse of NH-44 shouldn't just be passed off as a weather update. It needs to be a wake-up call. Until we stop treating Jammu and Kashmir's most vital highway with temporary fixes, the Valley will remain at the mercy of every passing storm.

Why Reading Matters Now More Than Ever

ABROO MUSHTAQ

Books are one of the greatest gifts to humanity. They are our most faithful companions because they never leave us alone and always guide us with knowledge, wisdom, and inspiration. From ancient times to the modern digital age, books have played a vital role in shaping civilizations, spreading ideas, and preserving history. They introduce us to different cultures, traditions, discoveries, and experiences that help us understand the world in a better way. Even though technology has changed the way we learn, books continue to hold a special place in our lives because the knowledge they provide is timeless.

Reading books is one of the best habits a person can develop. It is a habit that benefits us throughout our lives. Every book we read adds something valuable to our knowledge and personality. Books help us explore places we have never visited, meet people we have never known, and understand ideas we may never have imagined. They expand our thinking, improve our creativity, and encourage us to look at life from different perspectives.

Books are like silent teachers who patiently guide us without expecting anything in return. They teach us lessons that cannot always be learned in classrooms. History books help us understand the past and learn from the achievements and mistakes of previous generations. Science books explain the wonders of nature and the universe. Geography books introduce us to different countries and cultures. Literature teaches us about emotions, relationships, and the beauty of language. Every type of book has something meaningful to offer.

One of the greatest advantages of reading is that it improves our language and communication skills. Reading regularly increases our vocabulary, strengthens our grammar, and improves our writing style. It helps us express our thoughts more clearly and confidently. Students who develop the habit of reading usually perform better in school because they understand lessons more easily, write better answers, and remember information for a longer time. Reading also develops logical thinking and helps us solve problems more effectively.

Books are also beneficial for our mental and emotional well-being. In today's fast-paced world, many people experience stress, anxiety, and mental pressure. Reading a good book provides peace of mind and allows us to relax. It gives our minds a healthy break from excessive screen time and social media. A few minutes of reading every day can improve concentration, reduce stress, and develop patience. It trains our minds to focus deeply, a skill that is becoming increasingly valuable in today's digital world.

Another important benefit of reading is



that it builds imagination and creativity. Storybooks and novels allow readers to create pictures in their minds, making the reading experience unique and enjoyable. This imagination helps students become more creative in writing, problem-solving, and innovation. Many great inventors, artists, scientists, and writers developed their creativity through reading books from an early age.

Books also shape our character and moral values. Through inspiring stories and real-life examples, they teach us honesty, kindness, courage, discipline, responsibility, and respect. We learn how successful people overcame failures through determination and hard work. Biographies of great personalities such as scientists, leaders, freedom fighters, and social reformers motivate us to work hard and never lose hope during difficult times. These lessons remain with us throughout our lives and help us become better human beings.

Reading also develops empathy and emotional intelligence. When we read about the struggles, happiness, and experiences of different people, we begin to understand their feelings. This helps us become more compassionate, patient, and respectful toward others. Books remind us that every person has a unique story, and understanding those stories makes us kinder and wiser.

In today's digital age, many young people spend a large part of their time watching short videos, scrolling through social media, or playing online games. Although technology offers many benefits, excessive screen time can reduce our attention span and distract us from meaningful learning. Technology should support education, not replace the habit of reading. Whether we read printed books, e-books, or audiobooks, the important thing is to continue learning

every day. A balanced use of technology and reading creates the best learning environment.

Parents and teachers play a significant role in developing the habit of reading among children. When children see adults reading books, they naturally become interested in reading themselves. Parents should read stories to young children and encourage them to ask questions. Teachers should introduce students to interesting books beyond their school textbooks. Schools should maintain well-stocked libraries where students can discover books according to their interests. Reading competitions, storytelling sessions, book fairs, and literary clubs can further encourage students to become lifelong readers.

Reading books also contributes to national development. An educated society is built on knowledgeable citizens who think wisely and make responsible decisions. Books spread awareness about health, science, environmental protection, social justice, and civic responsibilities. They encourage innovation, research, and critical thinking, which are essential for the progress of any nation. Every reader becomes a source of positive change in society.

Many of the world's greatest personalities were passionate readers. Scientists, writers, leaders, entrepreneurs, and philosophers have often credited books for shaping their ideas and achievements. Their success reminds us that reading is not merely a hobby but a lifelong investment in knowledge and self-improvement. Every page we read strengthens our mind and prepares us for future opportunities.

As the famous writer George R. R. Martin wisely said, "A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one." This beautiful quote reminds us that books allow us to experience

countless adventures, cultures, and ideas without leaving our homes. Reading opens doors to endless possibilities and enriches our understanding of life.

Dr. Seuss also beautifully expressed the importance of reading by saying, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." This quote teaches us that knowledge gained through reading creates opportunities, builds confidence, and helps us achieve success in every field of life.

Every student should dedicate at least twenty to thirty minutes each day to reading. It is not necessary to read only school textbooks. Newspapers improve general knowledge, magazines provide current information, novels improve imagination, biographies inspire us, and self-improvement books teach valuable life skills. Every type of reading contributes to our intellectual and personal growth.

Reading is not only about gaining information; it is also about developing wisdom. Knowledge tells us what is right, while wisdom teaches us how to apply that knowledge in real life. Books encourage us to think independently, ask meaningful questions, and continue learning throughout our lives. They help us become confident, responsible, and thoughtful individuals.

In conclusion, books are our greatest companions, teachers, and guides. They never expect anything from us, yet they generously give us knowledge, wisdom, confidence, and inspiration. A person who develops the habit of reading never stops growing because every book offers a new lesson and a fresh perspective. Reading strengthens our minds, enriches our hearts, and prepares us to face life's challenges with courage and intelligence. If we truly wish to build a brighter future for ourselves and society, we must make reading an inseparable part of our daily lives.

Let us promise ourselves to read every day, inspire others to do the same, and spread the light of knowledge through books. A single book can change one person's life, and one educated person can change the world.

As a writer and author, I firmly believe that books possess the extraordinary power to transform lives. They inspire us to dream beyond our limits, think with greater depth, and become kinder, wiser, and more responsible human beings. Through this article, I sincerely hope to encourage every reader, especially young students, to cultivate the lifelong habit of reading. Even a few minutes spent with a meaningful book each day can create a lasting impact on our knowledge, character, confidence, and future. Let us open a book today and discover the endless opportunities, wisdom, and inspiration that reading brings.

The author can be mailed at abroomushtaqwani@gmail.com

CULTURE OF PROTEST

Rights Must Be Matched By Responsibility

LALIT GARGG

India's democracy is not merely an electoral system; it is a vibrant framework of dialogue, dissent, and constitutional values. Within this democratic order, every citizen has the right to express their views and present their demands peacefully. The Constitution guarantees freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly. However, these rights can never be construed as a license for violence, lawlessness, destruction of public property, or attacks on security personnel. The greatest strength of democracy lies in its ability to accommodate dissent with dignity, but dissent, too, carries its own limits and responsibilities.

In recent years, certain protests have raised a serious question: can democratic rights be invoked to justify challenging the rule of law and public order? If a demonstration involves breaking police barricades, assaulting law enforcement personnel, damaging public property, or attempting to forcibly march towards the nation's highest democratic institution—the Parliament—it is unreasonable to expect the government and security agencies to remain passive spectators. The State's foremost responsibility is to safeguard its citizens and protect constitutional institutions.

The Supreme Court's refusal to impose a complete ban on the use of pellet guns, while observing that they may be employed under exceptional circumstances, reflects this balanced approach. The Court did not endorse the unrestricted use of force; rather, it acknowledged that the State must retain the necessary means to maintain law and order. If every effective tool is taken away from security forces, how can they control violent mobs? This is a question that concerns not only

the government but society as a whole.

This, however, does not imply that the police or security agencies should be vested with unlimited powers. In a democracy, every action of the State is subject to judicial scrutiny and public accountability. If force has been used excessively in any instance, there must be an impartial investigation, and those responsible should be held accountable. Such inquiries, however, must be based on facts rather than preconceived notions. Just as the grievances and suffering of protesters deserve to be heard, the injuries sustained by police officers and security personnel also merit equal attention and seriousness.

Today, there is an urgent need to reassess the culture of protest in India. During the freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi established the tradition of Satyagraha, where moral courage was the greatest weapon. Satyagraha embodied resistance without hatred, struggle without violence, determination without disorder, and conviction without chaos. Regrettably, some contemporary protests have replaced dialogue with confrontation, restraint with aggression, and reason with the power of the crowd. This is not a healthy trend for a democratic society.

The younger generation must understand that lasting democratic change is not achieved by throwing stones on the streets but through ideas, organization, public awareness, and constitutional processes. If every disagreement is allowed to escalate into violence, it is the youth—on whose behalf many movements claim to speak—who will ultimately suffer the most. Democracy is sustained not by emotions alone, but by discipline, responsibility, and respect for constitutional values.

Even if one assumes that



anti-social or violent elements infiltrated a protest organized by a political party or its supporters and attempted to steer it towards anarchy, the government's primary duty remains the protection of law and order, constitutional institutions, and the safety of ordinary citizens. Administrative intervention undertaken in a timely manner—even if it results in some unfortunate incidents—may be viewed in the broader context of preventing widespread disorder and protecting national institutions from potential harm. At the same time, it is equally expected in a democratic system that the Opposition, while representing public sentiment, should unequivocally distance itself from violence and vandalism, drawing a clear distinction between supporting legitimate demands and condemning unlawful acts. Democracy is strengthened only when the government upholds the rule of law, the Opposition acts responsibly, and public protests remain firmly within constitutional and peaceful boundaries.

Political parties, too, bear a vital responsibility in this regard. Every political organization has an obligation to channel public sentiment in a constructive direction. If any party or its supporters encourage violence, vandalism, or the taking of law into

their own hands during protests, its democratic credibility naturally comes under question. The role of the Opposition is not merely to oppose the government but also to present constructive alternatives. When mass movements are exploited solely for political gain by any side, it is democracy itself that ultimately suffers. Governments, for their part, must also engage in introspection regarding the circumstances that give rise to public anger. The doors to dialogue should always remain open. Transparent decision-making, timely communication, and effective grievance redressal mechanisms can prevent many protests from escalating into confrontation. Democratic governance is not simply about enforcing laws; it is equally about earning the trust and confidence of the people.

Looking ahead, certain guiding principles should be firmly established. Every large-scale protest should require prior permission, adherence to designated routes, and clearly defined accountability on the part of organizers. Adequate measures must be taken to protect public property, ensure the prompt identification of those responsible for violence, and guarantee impartial legal action against offenders. Simultaneously, police forces should receive continuous training in modern

crowd-management techniques based on scientific methods and the principle of minimum necessary force. Such measures would help achieve a more effective balance between protecting civil liberties and maintaining public order. The true beauty of democracy does not lie in the loudness of slogans but in the depth and sincerity of dialogue. Parliament is the supreme institution representing the aspirations of the people. Every citizen and every group has the right to have their voice heard by Parliament. However, attempting to coerce or besiege Parliament undermines democratic traditions. In a democracy, the will of the people to be expressed through constitutional processes is supreme—not the rule of the mob.

Today, as India advances not only as the world's largest democracy but also as an aspiring global leader, it must cultivate a culture of protest that serves as an example for the world. Our movements should become instruments for improving the system, not dismantling it. Our demonstrations should strengthen democratic consciousness rather than deepen divisions. Ultimately, we must remember that rights and duties are two sides of the same coin. Rights can be meaningfully protected only when duties are discharged with equal sincerity. If protests remain within the framework of constitutional values and peaceful conduct, governments, too, will become more accountable, and democracy will emerge stronger. India needs movements that inspire reform rather than disruption; that teach young people responsibility instead of extremism; and that place the national interest above partisan considerations, thereby paving the way for a more mature, disciplined, inclusive, and people-centric democracy.

The author can be mailed at lalitgarg11@gmail.com

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Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors

Mir Suhail

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

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Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

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3Rd Chinar Book Festival

Turning Pages Towards Brighter Tomorrow



SHOAIB MOHAMMAD BHAT

Between 18 and 26 July 2026, the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar hosted thousands of readers, authors, teachers, students and publishers at the 3rd Chinar Book Festival. In the last three years, this festival has become one of the biggest literary events of Jammu and Kashmir, representing the growing love of books and knowledge of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The book fair saw the presence of people from all walks of life with an equal passion for reading and learning.

People browsing the aisles came across books on literature, history, science, technology, philosophy, religion, children's books and competitive examinations, among others. Students looked for books on topics they were interested in, teachers recommended good books, parents acquainted children with the pleasures of reading and the passionate reader discovered new authors.

Books continue to link the generations together. Be it a kid with a story-book, a college student with research material, or an old man reading his favourite classic, they all enjoy the same experience of discovering some meaning. The Chinar Book Festival made use of such an opportunity and created an environment in which learning was made enjoyable and accessible to all.

This festival also provided opportunities for discussions that otherwise cannot be seen in a regular classroom environment. The authors interacted with their readers, the publishers presented their new editions and the literary lovers exchanged ideas about the books that formed their ideology.

With the third year of the festival approaching, a slogan resonated throughout the entire venue, saying, "Together We Read, Together We Live." This slogan reflected the true spirit of the celebration since it highlighted the potential of reading in bringing people together through wisdom, empathy, and understanding. Reading starts as an individual process but eventually turns into a social process as well. Every single book helps in broaden-



ing the horizons, every story promotes empathy and each reader is a part of building a wiser society.

The Chinar Book Festival breathed life into learning itself. Discussions, debates, launches, poetry reading and interaction helped people learn about various issues which were not even part of their academic curriculum. Youngsters sat with eagerness to listen, pose relevant questions, and learn that there is much more to education than just exams.

Such moments make students realize that learning never stops in life. Books are still the best friends long after formal education is over. One of the most interesting discussions at the festival was with the celebrated filmmaker Imtiaz Ali and Dr Amit Wanchoo. Talking about story-telling, spirituality and films, he mentioned how the idea of the famous song "Kun Faya Kun" took shape. He shared how the holy book of the Quran, the Rig Veda, and spiritual knowledge have shaped him as a creator.

This discussion highlighted the point that good story-telling happens by reading, contemplating and being open to various traditions. This encouraged young aspirants to derive energy from literature and write stories.

Another important guest who was there was Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who is an Indian Air Force officer as well as an astronaut, whose

interaction with students turned out to be one of the most memorable aspects of the festival. Through his experiences in his recent journey into space, he spoke about science, discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. His motivational speech instilled curiosity in the minds of students and motivated them to develop a love for reading and belief in the strength of education. Any scientific discovery always starts with a question and every such discovery keeps evolving only through learning.

The event became an excellent platform for local authors and publishers to promote their books that had elements of Kashmiri history, culture, language, and traditions. They were able to interact with the audience through books about the literary history of the Valley. Moreover, upcoming authors could feel encouraged by discussing their work with established authors and devoted readers. It is a great way of developing the literary scene in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The inclusion of guest speakers from India and other parts of the world made the festival experience more enriching still. These included Dutch environmentalist Ellis Hubertina Spaanderman, who went around visiting book stalls and engaging in conversation with students and other readers. She was impressed with the lively literary culture of Kashmir and termed the festival an inspirational

place wherein books act as bridges of communication between people from different backgrounds and generations. She felt reading creates dialogues with a feeling of social and environmental responsibility.

But the success of Chinar Book Festival is not confined to the nine-day festival itself. The real success lies in the reading culture which is developed by it even after the last book stall is closed. Reading clubs, literary discussions, interaction with authors and book distribution programmes can be organised in schools, colleges, universities, libraries and other community organizations for continuing the enthusiasm created by the book festival. Parents have a very significant role in developing a reading habit among their children. If a child spends his or her childhood in an atmosphere where books are respected, he or she develops curiosity, imagination and confidence.

Teachers will always be our first mentors and guides who lay the foundations of knowledge, principles and character. With each phase of life, classrooms change, and the journey of teachers progresses along with them, but not the company of books. The teachings of the teachers will not wear out with time. Each page carries something new to think about.

Books are a source of all the wisdom that is collected by various scholars, scientists, philosophers, poets and

other great minds who have made this world what it is today. They give us access to different histories, cultures and concepts that define our world. In times of doubt, books give us strength, a perspective and support because we can think freely on the pages of books.

The 3rd Chinar Book Festival was an elegant celebration of the unique bond between the reader and the book. Each book present on the shelves carried the potential to educate.

The atmosphere of the festival finds a beautiful reflection in these timeless Urdu verses:

"The books remind us of the past; if we listen carefully enough, they bring the seasons of the past to life in our hearts." This quote represents the beautiful essence of reading. The books hold the memories of generations, transfer the experience from one period of time to another and keep history alive through each of their pages. Books allow readers to be linked to people from other eras to learn about the past and prepare for the future.

Over the three years since its inception, the Chinar Book Festival is proof of the increasing emphasis placed on education, literature and cultural growth in Kashmir. Each festival has seen more participants, as well as an increased belief that it is through knowledge, creativity and dialogue that societies prosper. In the future of Jammu and Kashmir, which promises to be one built around innovations and learning, efforts such as the Chinar Book Festival are bound to produce opportunities that will open the eyes of young minds to their own potential. The readers of today may be teachers, scientists, authors, artists, businessmen and leaders of tomorrow.

It is a way to remind people that literature is for everyone. The festival opens its doors for children who find their first literary piece of work, students preparing for competitive exams, researchers looking for answers and people with a thirst for more knowledge. Everyone here makes up a culture where books are an integral part of people's lives.

Through simple reading, the 3rd Chinar Book Festival showcased the power of imagination and connections between people amazingly. This is what the beautiful slogan of the event states, "Together We Read, Together We Live." Every read page gets us closer to a better-educated and more understanding society. The festival will always leave with us the legacy that investment in books means investment in people and in Kashmir's future.

The author is a writer, social educator and researcher. He can be mailed at shoaibhat2018@gmail.com

Shadow Effect: Why Appreciation Follows Integrity



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

There is a simple but powerful truth hidden in the quotation, "You create appreciation." It reminds us that appreciation is not something we can force from others. It is not produced by loud claims, constant complaints, self-praise, or emotional pressure. Appreciation is earned slowly through conduct, service, patience, sincerity, and consistency. In a world where many people want recognition instantly, this message is both timely and necessary.

Today, many individuals feel ignored. A student feels that teachers do not appreciate his effort. An employee feels that the office does not value his hard work. Parents feel that children do not recognize their sacrifices. Teachers feel that society no longer respects their contribution. In all these situations, the pain is real. Human beings naturally need respect and appreciation. But the deeper question is: Are we only waiting for appreciation, or are we creating reasons for people to appreciate us?

Appreciation is not a gift that comes without reason. It is a response to value. When someone adds value to a family, institution, workplace, or society, appreciation begins to grow. A person who brings honesty to work, kindness to relationships, discipline to responsibility, and sincerity to service slowly becomes visible—not because

he demands attention, but because his presence makes a difference.

Consider a teacher. A teacher who merely enters the classroom, finishes the syllabus, and leaves may complete a duty. But a teacher who explains with patience, understands weak students, encourages questions, gives real-life examples, and builds confidence creates appreciation. Students may not immediately express gratitude, but years later they remember the teacher who made learning meaningful. Appreciation grows from impact.

The same applies to parents. A parent may say, "My children do not appreciate me." Sometimes this complaint is justified. But appreciation is not created only by authority or sacrifice; it is also created by emotional connection. Children appreciate parents more deeply when they see love with guidance, discipline with understanding, and sacrifice with dignity. When parents listen, support, and guide without constantly reminding children of their favors, appreciation becomes natural.

In workplaces, appreciation follows reliability. An employee who arrives on time, respects deadlines, solves problems, supports colleagues, and accepts responsibility creates trust. Trust creates respect, and respect creates appreciation. On the other hand, a person who demands appreciation without performance creates frustration. No organization can sincerely appreciate empty noise. It appreciates contribution.

One of the tragedies of modern society is that many people want applause before effort. Social media has strengthened this habit. We post small achievements and immediately wait for likes, comments, and praise. When appreciation does not come, we feel disappointed. But real appreciation



is not always public, instant, or digital. Sometimes the most meaningful appreciation lives quietly in the hearts of people who were helped, guided, protected, or inspired by us.

This is why we must distinguish between attention and appreciation. Attention can be gained through appearance, controversy, or popularity. Appreciation is gained through character. Attention may be temporary, but appreciation is lasting. A person may become famous overnight, but he cannot become truly respected overnight. Respect requires proof. Appreciation requires repeated evidence of goodness.

A nurse who serves patients with compassion creates appreciation. A shopkeeper who deals honestly creates appreciation. A leader who listens before deciding creates appreciation. A student who helps classmates creates appreciation. A neighbor who stands with people in difficulty creates appreciation. These people may not give speeches about their greatness, but their actions speak loudly.

The quotation also teaches us a lesson about self-responsibility. Instead of blaming the world for not appre-

ciating us, we should ask ourselves: What value am I creating? What problem am I solving? Whose life becomes easier because of me? What goodness do people experience in my presence? These questions are not meant to weaken our confidence; they are meant to refine our character.

In family life, appreciation is created by small acts: speaking respectfully, helping without being asked, remembering someone's pain, forgiving mistakes, and standing together during crisis. In professional life, appreciation is created by competence, punctuality, cooperation, and ethical behavior. In society, appreciation is created by service, humility, and responsibility. Greatness is not created by demanding recognition; it is created by becoming useful.

However, this does not mean that people should exploit good individuals. Society also has a moral duty to appreciate sincere people. Teachers, parents, workers, caregivers, farmers, doctors, cleaners, and countless silent contributors deserve recognition. A healthy society is one where appreciation flows in both directions: individuals create value, and society acknowledges value. When appreciation disappears, discouragement grows. When appreciation is expressed, motivation increases.

A simple "thank you" can heal emotional fatigue. A word of recognition can strengthen a student. A note of gratitude can encourage an employee. A public acknowledgment can inspire a volunteer. Appreciation is not expensive, but its impact is powerful. It tells a person, "Your effort matters. Your presence has value. Your contribution has not gone unnoticed."

Still, the strongest form of appreciation is not praise; it is trust. When people trust us, depend on us, and feel safe around us, that is appreciation at

a deeper level. Trust cannot be purchased. It is built through repeated honesty. This is why people of character are remembered long after people of noise are forgotten.

The message "You create appreciation" is therefore a call to action. It tells us not to sit in bitterness, waiting for the world to clap. It asks us to become the kind of person whose absence is felt and whose presence brings benefit. Create appreciation by being dependable. Create appreciation by speaking truth. Create appreciation by helping without humiliation. Create appreciation by doing your work with excellence. Create appreciation by treating people with dignity, especially when you have power over them.

In the end, appreciation is like a shadow. If you chase it directly, it may run away. But if you walk in the light of sincerity, service, and character, it follows you naturally. A life spent only asking, "Why don't people appreciate me?" becomes heavy. A life spent asking, "How can I become more useful, kind, and responsible?" becomes meaningful.

The world may not always appreciate us immediately. Some efforts remain unseen. Some sacrifices remain unspoken. Some goodness is recognized late. But no sincere act is wasted. Somewhere, in someone's memory, in someone's prayer, in someone's success, your contribution lives on.

So the real message is clear: do not beg for appreciation; build the qualities that make appreciation inevitable. Because in the long run, people may forget your words, your position, and even your achievements, but they will remember how your character made their life better.

The author can be mailed at reyaz.ahmad@hu.ac.ae

▶ EBOLA OUTBREAK

'No case reported in India, 30 passengers screened in J&K'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that no case of Ebola virus was reported in India while thirty passengers in Jammu and Kashmir were screened for it.

The information, was furnished by Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda in response to Starred Question No. 184, raised by Benny Behanan and Charanjit Singh Channi.

The MPs sought details of the measures taken by the Government following the World Health Organization's declaration of the Ebola outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the number of passengers screened at Indian

airports, preparedness measures and whether any restrictions had been imposed on travellers from affected countries.

In its reply, the Government said it had strengthened surveillance and public health preparedness across the country following the WHO declaration concerning the Bundibugyo Ebola disease outbreak. The measures were undertaken in coordination with the National Centre for Disease Control, ICMR, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs and other stakeholders.

The Centre said enhanced screening and surveillance had been instituted at international airports and other points of entry, while Standard

Operating Procedures covering surveillance, screening, quarantine, clinical management, laboratory testing, infection prevention and case reporting had been issued to all States and Union Territories. No case of Ebola Disease has been reported in India so far, it said.

According to the State/UT-wise data annexed with the reply, 30 passengers were screened in Jammu and Kashmir, while one passenger was screened in Ladakh.

The Government said it had not imposed a blanket restriction on travellers arriving from Ebola-affected countries. However, all international passengers are being screened for a history of travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and South

Sudan during the preceding 21 days.

As per self-declaration forms, including those submitted through the Air Suvidha 2.0 portal, a total of 10,974 passengers arriving from or transiting through the affected countries were screened between May 23 and July 28, 2026.

The Centre further said designated isolation facilities had been identified across States and UTs, laboratory diagnostic capacity had been expanded, mock drills conducted at designated hospitals, and additional doctors and paramedical personnel deployed at major international airports.

Enhanced thermal and symptomatic screening has also been undertaken at international airports and seaports—(KNO)

Labour Comm reviews progress of PM-SYM Scheme in Ganderbal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: A comprehensive review meeting on the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Scheme and the Labour Codes was held Friday at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal, under the chairmanship of Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was co-chaired by Fahim Bihaqqi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal.

The meeting witnessed the participation of senior officers from various line departments, including the District Programme Officer, Poshan/ICDS; General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC); Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD); Executive Engineers of R&B, JPDCL, Jal Shakti (PHE), PMGSY, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) and Rural Engineering Wing (REW); Chief Education Officer; Officer Commanding, Beacon; Chief Agriculture Officer; Chief Horticulture Officer; Assistant Director, Fish-

eries; Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA); Assistant Labour Commissioner, Ganderbal; Block Development Officers; Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Ganderbal; Assistant Director, Handlooms/Handicrafts; Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO); In-charge Estates, Central University of Kashmir; General Manager, APOC, Sonamarg Tunnel Project; General Manager, Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Limited (MEIL), Zojila Tunnel Project; and General Manager, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Ring Road Project, besides other officers and officials.

The meeting was convened to review the progress achieved under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Scheme, assess the preparedness of various departments for the implementation of the Labour Codes, and strengthen inter-departmental coordination for extending social security benefits to workers engaged across different sectors.

DDC Kupwara reviews progress under District CAPEX Budget 2026-27

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the officers concerned to assess the progress of developmental works being executed under the District CAPEX Budget 2026-27 and review



under the Rural Development Department during the current financial year. These works span various sectors, including PRI Grants, BDC Grants, DDC Grants, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Health, APDS, ABDS, SSS, UT CAPEX (Tribal), UT CAPEX (Revenue), Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and MPLADS.

During the meeting, the DDC conducted a detailed block-wise review of the ongoing works and directed all executing agencies to accelerate the pace of execution to ensure timely completion of projects within the stipulated timeframe. He emphasized that all works must be executed in strict adherence to the prescribed quality standards and called for regular field monitoring to ensure transparency, accountability and effective implementation.

The meeting was informed that a total of 2,287 works have been approved

the implementation of sanitation initiatives across the district.

Reviewing the implementation of the District Sanitation Plan, the DDC directed the officers concerned to strengthen sustainable solid waste management systems across all Gram Panchayats with special emphasis on operationalising Door-to-Door (D2D) waste collection, identifying waste collection points, ensuring scientific transportation and disposal of waste, and promoting community participation to achieve sustainable sanitation outcomes. He also stressed the need for proper operation and maintenance of sanitation assets and called for sustained awareness among the public regarding cleanliness and waste segregation.

Swachhta 50-50 launched in B'pora to strengthen shared responsibility for SWM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Friday chaired the district-level convention marking the formal launch of the "Swachhta 50-50" initiative, a flagship campaign of the District Administration based on the principle of 50% Government and 50% Public participation for effective and sustainable solid waste management across the district, at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The convention witnessed participation of Additional District Development Commissioner, Nazir Ahmad Mir; PO ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan; ACP Bandipora, Aijaz Ahmad; Chief Education Officer Bandipora; District Information Officer; Block Development Officers, and other stakeholders.

The programme com-



menced with the National Anthem, followed by the Swachhta Pledge, which was administered by the students of Government Higher Secondary School Quilmuqam.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said that Swachhta 50-50 is a people's movement based on shared responsibility and called upon every stakeholder to work wholeheartedly to make the initiative a success. She said that the District Administration had already taken three major steps towards scientific waste management and that Swachhta 50-50 marked the fourth step in this direction.

Highlighting the imple-

mentation strategy, the Deputy Commissioner announced that after a one-month handholding period, Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) would be required to scientifically manage their own waste in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, while the District Administration would continue to provide all necessary technical support and guidance. She said that 89 identified BWGs in the district account for a major share of waste generation and would be brought under this mechanism.

She further informed that exhibitions would be organised to demonstrate

scientific waste management practices and clarified that any issues relating to implementation in rural areas would be addressed through the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, while concerns in urban areas would be handled by the concerned Municipal Committees.

The Deputy Commissioner also informed that the District Administration had successfully conducted an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiative in Gurez, where 11 companies participated. Of these, three companies accepted the proposals, while the remaining companies were closely monitoring the district's waste management efforts and were expected to take a decision in the coming weeks. She reiterated that the responsibility for collection and disposal of single-use plastic (SUP) rests with the producers under the EPR framework.

How Axis Bank's Sara City Branch Is Redefining Customer Care in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: For most people, a trip to the bank is just another item on the daily to-do list. Between winding queues, endless forms, and rigid procedures, it's rarely an errand anyone looks forward to. But a recent visitor to Axis Bank's Sara City branch in Srinagar walked out with an entirely different story, and a genuine sense of appreciation.

Calling the visit "nothing short of stupendous," the customer praised the branch's young, energetic team for turning what could have been a tedious chore into a remarkably warm and seamless experience.

The difference was obvi-



ous from the moment they walked through the door. Rather than rushing visitors through transactions, the staff greeted them with real hospitality, taking the stress completely out of the visit. Guided step-by-

step through every formality with patience and care, the customer never had to worry about navigating the usual administrative hurdles alone.

"I felt completely at home," the customer

shared. "The staff and officials were brilliant. These young, enterprising bankers took care of all the hard work with remarkable efficiency. Hats off to the entire team."

In an era where banking is rapidly shifting to screens and algorithms, stories like this highlight what technology can't replace: human connection. Digital tools make banking fast, but attentive, empathetic service is what builds trust.

By blending sharp professionalism with genuine local hospitality, the team at Sara City isn't just processing paperwork—they are setting a higher standard for how banks treat the communities they serve.

ADC Sopore visits cloudburst-affected Taki Khan Mohammad Mundji

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Dr. S.A. Raina, Friday conducted an extensive visit to Taki Khan Mohammad Mundji to assess the damage caused by a recent cloudburst that struck the area during a spell of heavy rainfall.

The ADC was accompanied by officers from the Revenue Department, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, and other concerned departments.

During the visit, Dr. Raina undertook an on-the-spot inspection of the affected sites to assess the extent of damage caused due to the overflowing of the nallah following the cloudburst.

Interacting with the local residents, the ADC listened to their concerns and assured them that the administration is committed to extending all possible assistance and taking timely measures to mitigate the impact of such natural calamities.

Dr. Raina directed the

officers of the Agriculture and Horticulture Department to undertake a detailed assessment of the losses incurred by the local population so that appropriate relief measures can be initiated without delay.

Taking serious note of the obstruction in the natural flow of the nallah, the ADC instructed the officers of the Irrigation & Flood Control Department and Revenue Department, to identify and remove all encroachments along the banks of the nallah.

He stressed that the water channel must be restored to its original width and condition to facilitate the smooth flow of water and prevent overflow during future spells of heavy rain.

Furthermore, the ADC also directed the concerned department to expedite the repair and restoration of the road that sustained damage due to the overflowing of the nallah, ensuring that connectivity is restored at the earliest and inconvenience to the public is minimized.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES KASHMIR

BEMINA SRINAGAR

Visit us at: www.dhskashmir.org | Email: dhsk-pa@jk.gov.in

Subject: First Tentative Seniority List of Junior Health Inspectors Division Cadre Kashmir

NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the First Tentative Seniority List of Junior Health Inspectors (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) working under the administrative control of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has been prepared on the basis of available service records maintained in this Directorate and information furnished by the subordinate offices.

While due diligence has been exercised in compilation of the said seniority list, the possibility of inadvertent omissions, clerical errors, or discrepancies in the service particulars cannot be ruled out.

Accordingly, the Tentative Seniority List of Junior Health Inspectors is hereby circulated for information of all concerned and for inviting objections, if any. All the concerned Junior Health Inspectors are advised to carefully verify their particulars.

In case of any discrepancy, the concerned official may submit a representation duly supported with documentary evidence through proper channel to this Directorate within a period of seven (07) days from the date issuance of this circular.

That no objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained and no claim shall be considered without supporting documentary proof.

The Tentative Seniority List shall also be uploaded on the official website of this Directorate (www.dhsk.gov.in) and will be published in two leading newspapers of the Valley for wider circulation.

In case no objections are received within the prescribed time, the Tentative Seniority List shall be deemed to have attained finality and will be treated as the Final Seniority List: -

S. No.	Name of the Employee	D.O.B.	D.O.A	D.O. Promotion as BHW	D.O. Promotion as JHI	Place of Posting	Category, if any (Valid certificate as on date)
1.	Hilal Ahmad Ganie	27-11-1968	21-09-1993	17-03-2001	14-12-2022	PHC Narbal Magam	
2.	Gh Mohi u din Dar	11-11-1967	11-09-1989	12-04-2003	14-12-2022	SDH Beerwah	
3.	Imtiyaz Hussain Wani	15-11-1969	11-09-1989	02-09-2003	14-12-2022	Block Soibough	
4.	Mohd Ashraf Bhat	15-09-1967	11-09-1989	05-05-2005	14-12-2022	Block Soibough	
5.	Manzoor Ahmad Malla	01-04-1970	11-09-1989	01-04-2007	14-12-2022	CMO Sgr	
6.	Nazima Kounsar	12-03-1975	16-01-1993	01-12-2007	14-12-2022	CMO Sgr	
7.	Jabeena Kounsar	07-04-1970	23-06-1993	01-12-2007	14-12-2022	CMO Sgr	
8.	Shahzada Bano	04-06-1973	21-01-1994	01-12-2007	14-12-2022	Block Budgam	
9.	Rukhsana Bashir	14-07-1976	27-09-1995	01-12-2007	14-12-2022	CMO Sgr	
10.	Irshad Akhter	02-03-1971	15-06-1996	01-12-2007	14-12-2022	CMO Sgr	
11.	Abdul Rashid Siraj	10-01-1968	21-09-1989	28-04-2008	14-12-2022	SDH Sopore	
12.	Irshad Ahmad Zargar	26-06-1968	01-07-1990	28-04-2008	14-12-2022	PHC Dangiawacha	
13.	Mohd Ayoub Pala	10-04-1967	11-09-1989	01-12-2007	24-01-2023	PHC Achabal	
14.	Abdul Hamid Sheikh	05-01-1968	14-03-1992	22-04-2008	24-01-2023	Block Yaripora	
15.	Hamidullah Sheikh	13-11-1974	16-11-1998	14-05-2008	24-01-2023	CMO Kulgam	
16.	Gh. Mohd Sheikh	01-03-1967	07-02-1991	07-02-2008	06-03-2024	Block Kupwara	
17.	Latif Ahmad Bhat	10-08-1976	01-06-1998	02-03-2006	24-07-2025	Block Ganderbal	
18.	Syed Saleem-ud-Din Haqani	01-03-1971	11-09-1989	12-05-2007	24-07-2025	Epidemiology DHS Kashmir	
19.	Shagufta Parveen	01-03-1973	17-06-1996	01-12-2007	24-07-2025	CMO Srinagar	
20.	Altaf Ahmad Sheikh	07-11-1973	16-08-1997	01-12-2007	24-07-2025	CMO Srinagar	
21.	Ab. Rehman Khan	01-12-1967	04-01-1986	05-01-2008	24-07-2025	CHC Pattan	
22.	Ghulam Ahmad Bhat	13-02-1968	11-09-1989	05-01-2008	24-07-2025	Block Khansahib	
23.	Syed Mohammad Hussain	19-11-1970	01-05-1991	20-03-2009	24-07-2025	Block Uri	
24.	Fayaz Ahmad Shah	01-01-1967	18-10-1991	20-03-2009	24-07-2025	SDH Kreeri	
25.	Mohd Ashraf Shah	01-04-1970	24-11-1995	20-03-2009	24-07-2025	Block Lar	
26.	Ab.Rashid Hajam	10-04-1969	10-09-2003	20-03-2009	24-07-2025	Block Qazigund	OBC
27.	Gh. Mohd Beigh	10-02-1969	11-09-1989	27-06-2009	24-07-2025	CHC Chattergam	
28.	Ab. Majeed Mir	15-03-1968	11-09-1989	29-06-2009	24-07-2025	Block Pulwama	
29.	Bashir Ahmad Kumar	11-12-1968	11-09-1989	13-10-2011	24-07-2025	SDH Tangmarg	
30.	Nazir Ahmad Dar	15-02-1969	06-12-1990	18-04-2012	24-07-2025	PHC Berthipora	

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Dated: 31/07/2026

DIPK-3965-26
DT: 31/07/2026

Sd/-
Director Health Services
Kashmir

