

Kulgam Terror Attack

Injured Non-Local Worker Succumbs, Toll Two



Umaisar Gull

KULGAM: Two migrant labourers from Chhattisgarh were killed after terrorists opened fire at a brick kiln in Kelam village in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday evening.

An official said that both the workers sustained critical injuries in the attack. One of them, identified as Deepak Ratray, died on the spot, while the other, Bhubendra Bhaina, was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag before being referred to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment. "Bhaina succumbed to his injuries during treatment at SKIMS taking the death toll in the attack to two," he added.

Both the deceased were

from Chhattisgarh and were working at the brick kiln in Kulgam.

Soon after the attack, Police, Army and CRPF personnel rushed to the area and launched a cordon-and-search operation. Security has also been heightened across Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the incident.

The attack comes less than 10 days after terrorists shot dead a policeman in Lal Chowk area of Anantnag town.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condemned the attack, saying he had spoken to Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat and other senior security officials following the incident. In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said he had directed

LG Sinha Orders Intensified Anti-Terror Ops After Kulgam Attack

GMK News Network

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday chaired a high-level security review meeting and directed security agencies to intensify precise and high impact anti-terror operations.

According to a statement, the meeting was attended by Atal Dullo, Chief Secretary; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home Department; S.J.M Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Nitish Kumar, ADGP, CID; M Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, GAD; IGPs; Divisional Commissioners; SSPs, Deputy Commissioners and other senior officials.

He directed all the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to conduct a comprehensive review of the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) established to protect labourers from outside Jammu Kashmir.

He also directed that the employers must ensure all workers from other states and UTs are provided insurance and that their details are registered with local police and



district authorities.

"We must intensify precise, high-impact anti-terror operations to neutralise the terrorists," he said.

He instructed the authorities to ensure dignified last rites for the victims of the Kulgam terror attack and to provide all the support to

bereaved families.

The meeting also discussed the security arrangements in place for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and strengthening of the security grid.

The meeting comes in the wake of two terror attacks in the last ten days in Kashmir. On Friday, two

Kulgam Terror Attack Murder Of Humanity: LoP Sharma



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Saturday termed the killing of two migrant labourers in Kulgam as 'murder of humanity,' saying no words were enough to condemn the gruesome terror attack.

He also accused Pakistan-backed terrorists of targeting innocent civilians. He urged security forces to dismantle the entire terror ecosystem operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to reporters after meeting the bereaved family, Sharma, said, "The incident that took place in

Heavy Rain Floods Houses, School In Shopian



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Heavy rainfall triggered flooding in parts of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday, inundating several houses and a school, while a cloudburst in Kishtwar district damaged shops, vehicles and other property, forcing the closure of a key highway stretch, officials said.

Rainwater entered several houses in Pahlipora village of Shopian after incessant rainfall, disrupting normal life and prompting an emergency response by the police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the district administration, they said.

Rescue teams were rushed to the affected locality and launched evacuation and relief operations.

"Efforts are underway to drain the accumulated water, shift vulnerable families to safer locations wherever required and assess the extent of the damage," an official said.

Several residential houses and a school were affected by the flooding, officials said, adding that there were no reports of any casualties.

CM Announces Rs 10 Lakh Ex-Gratia For Families

GMK News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday strongly condemned the dastardly killing of two labourers in Kulgam and announced an ex-gratia relief of ₹10 lakh each from the Chief

Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for the next of kin of the deceased. The Chief Minister expressed profound grief over the loss of innocent lives and said the assistance would be in addition to the 6 lakh immediate relief being provided

THE MEETING COMES IN THE WAKE OF TWO TERROR ATTACKS in the last ten days in Kashmir. On Friday, two migrants workers were killed in a terror attack in Kulgam's Kellam village.

Kulgam Attack

Security Forces Intensify Search For Attackers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Saturday intensified search operations to track down the assailants who killed two migrant labourers in Kulgam district a day ago, even as the ruling National Conference and opposition People's Democratic Party called for a thorough probe into the incident.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level security review meeting here with the police chief and others. He directed the security forces to intensify precise and high-impact operations to neutralise terrorists.

Sinha directed all the



deputy commissioners and senior superintendents of police to conduct a comprehensive review of the standard operating procedures established to protect migrant labourers.

Search operations have been intensified in south Kashmir areas to

NSA Doval Played Key Role In Strengthening India's Foreign Policy: Amit Shah

Agencies

PUNE: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has played a great role in strengthening India's foreign policy and has had a 'role and advice' in the background of every decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for national security.

Addressing a programme after presenting the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 to NSA Doval here, Shah said India has embarked on the path of cultural nationalism envisioned by Tilak, and asserted that there would be no reversal from that course.

Shah said the first selection PM Modi did after assuming office in 2014 was to appoint Ajit Doval as NSA.

"NSA Ajit Doval has played a great role in strengthening India's foreign policy. In every decision of PM Modi for nation-



al security, Doval has had a 'role and advice' in the background," Shah said.

He hailed Doval's long career in the Intelligence Bureau and said India has become strong and confident under Modi's leadership, with Doval playing a major role in that transformation.

Shah said much of Doval's work can never be fully revealed because of the nature of intelligence operations.

"After becoming NSA in 2014, Doval helped implement many strategic ideas on the ground and played a major role in modernising India's armed forces, strengthening technology, enhancing operational capability and improving the country's defence preparedness," the Union Home Minister said.

He said the Modi government has fundamentally transformed both the defensive and offensive capabilities of India's armed forces over the past 12 years, with Doval making a significant contribution.

He hailed Tilak's unparalleled contribution, saying his immortal slogan, "Swarajya is my birth-right, and I shall have it," gave a new direction to India's freedom struggle and inspired generations of freedom fighters.

Shah said the slogan made people realise that self-rule was their right and not a favour from anyone.

Amarnath Yatra Suspended From Jammu As Rain Hampers Highway Restoration

8,493 Pilgrims Pay Obeisance At Holy Cave Shrine On Saturday; Tally Crosses 4.55 Lakh

GMK News Network

SRINAGAR: No Amarnath Yatra convoy departed from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Saturday as the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for restoration work following heavy rainfall.

Officials said that movement of the Yatra convoy from Jammu was suspended after traffic on the highway was halted at the Ladha-Samroli stretch in Udhampur district, where incessant rains left the road surface slushy and unsafe for vehicular movement.

Both sides of the highway (NH44), the only all-weather road linking the Kashmir



Valley with the rest of the country, were shut to traffic on Friday shortly after the passage of the Amarnath Yatra convoy to repair the damage caused by rain last week.

Fresh spells of rain have since disrupted the operations,

leaving the road surface slushy, muddy and extremely slippery.

Light to moderate rainfall have been witnessed across parts of Ramban and Udhampur districts.

Meanwhile, the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB)

shifted the Yatra registration and token distribution counters from the Tawi Riverfront to the Bhagwati Nagar base camp following a decline in the number of pilgrims coming to Jammu.

The Tawi Riverfront had been developed as a centralised mega-facility for offline registration, token distribution, e-KYC verification and RFID issuance for Amarnath pilgrims.

With the pilgrim influx tapering off, the registration facilities have now been consolidated at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, the officials said.

Despite the suspension from the Jammu side, the pilgrimage continued from the Kashmir side, officials said.

According to

Jmu-Sgr Highway Reopens After 2-Day Closure

LMVs Released From Both Udhampur, Qazigund

GMK News Network

SRINAGAR: Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, the only all-weather road link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country, resumed on Saturday afternoon after remaining suspended for two days due to restoration work and inclement weather.

Officials said that the repair work on the single carriageway near Dewal Bridge in the Samroli area of Udhampur district continued amid heavy rainfall.

"Fresh incidents of shooting stones and mudslides were also reported in the Ramban and Banihal sectors, while the road surface had become slushy and slippery. Due to these reasons traffic was halted as a precautionary measure," they said.

"Following continuous efforts by the NHAI, Traffic Police and other agencies, the

Livelihood Quest Ends In Tragedy For Two Slain Chhattisgarh Workers



Agencies

SAKTI: Driven out of their quiet villages in Chhattisgarh by crushing poverty, Deepak Ratre and Bhubendra Bhaina journeyed to Jammu and Kashmir in search of a better future but ended up becoming the latest victims of terror, plunging their families into despair.

The duo, both in their 20s, were gunned down at the brick kiln where they were employed in the Kelam area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district late on Friday evening.

Deepak Ratre (24), the sole earner for a household with a disabled brother, an elderly mother, wife and a

four-month-old infant son, leaves behind a grief-stricken family in Bundeli village of Sakti district, his uncle Haldhar Ratre said on Saturday.

He had travelled to Jammu and Kashmir with his wife around seven to eight months ago to work at a brick kiln, hoping to secure a better future, he said.

"Deepak's father had died earlier. His younger brother is physically disabled. His mother and brother are now inconsolable. With him gone, there is no one left in the family to earn a livelihood," Haldhar told PTI.

Haldhar said he had spoken to the district administration, which was

LG hands over appointment letter to son of Martyr HC Ashiq Hussain



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday handed over appointment letter to Shri Absar Ashiq Qureshi, son of J&K Police's Martyr Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, at Lok Bhavan, today. The family members of the martyr were also present.

The Lieutenant Gov-

ernor paid tribute to the brave heart who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty during the July 22, 2026 terror attack in Anantnag. He assured the family of all possible support.

Earlier last week, the Lieutenant Governor had visited the family members of the martyr Head Constable in Lalpora, Beerwah, Budgam.

Similarly Lieutenant Governor handed over an appointment letter on compassionate grounds to Inshah Nazir, wife of J&K Police Martyr Inspector Masroor Ali Wani.

The Lieutenant Governor honored the supreme sacrifice of Inspector Masroor Ali Wani and assured the family of every possible support and assistance from the administration.

Div Com reviews progress on Compassionate Appointment Cases, SVAMITA, AgriStack



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Saturday chaired a meeting of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to review the progress of compassionate appointment cases, pending SVAMITA matters under MAPS 1.0, implementation of AgriStack, and the locking of Jamabandies across the Kashmir Division.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner conducted a district-wise review of the progress achieved under each ini-

tiative and emphasized the need for timely completion of all pending tasks. He directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that the prescribed targets are achieved within the stipulated timelines through close monitoring and coordinated efforts.

Reviewing the status of compassionate appointment cases, the Divisional Commissioner instructed the DCs to expedite the disposal of all pending cases in accordance with the established norms and procedures.

The Divisional Commissioner also directed

the Deputy Commissioners to furnish details of encroachments on public land and public spaces by religious structures within the next two days to facilitate further action.

To prevent the dissemination of misinformation and fake news on social media platforms, the Divisional Commissioner instructed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure strict adherence by media channels & users to the advisories issued by the Information Department and take punitive action incase of noncompliance.

JKJA conducts day-44 of Induction Training for newly appointed Civil Judges

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Under the patronage of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Sanjeev Kumar and the guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Chairman, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy conducted the proceedings of Day-44 of the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme (Batch-2026) for the newly appointed Civil Judges (Junior Division) at its Mominabad, Srinagar campus.



The forenoon sessions were conducted by Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Member, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, on "Criminal Proceedings: From Registration of FIR to Cognizance" and "Commencement of Trial and Judicial Management of Criminal Cases."

Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani highlighted the importance of induction training as a bridge between the academic learning and practical judicial functioning.

Emphasizing the crucial role of Judicial Magistrates in the criminal justice system, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani sensitized the trainee officers to various stages of criminal proceedings, including investiga-

tion, cognizance, framing of charges, recording of evidence and judicial management of criminal trials.

He also emphasized the need for careful exercise of judicial discretion, adherence to procedural safeguards and maintenance of judicial independence, integrity and ethical standards.

The afternoon session featured an inspiring address by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Member, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy.

Addressing the trainee Civil Judges, Justice Rahul Bharti said that the officers had now stepped from the world of academic aspirations into the realities of judicial service, where every decision carries lasting consequences.

Emphasizing that judicial office demands seriousness, dedication and maturity, Justice Rahul Bharti encouraged the trainees to embrace every challenge as an opportunity to learn and evolve. He impressed upon them that while promotions may come with length of service, true professional achievement lies in acquiring knowledge, developing

competence and earning respect through integrity, hard work and excellence in judicial performance.

Justice Rahul Bharti also urged the officers to cultivate the habit of continuous learning, remain humble throughout their careers and discharge their judicial responsibilities with compassion, confidence and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Director, Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar, highlighted the rich judicial experience and expertise of the Resource Persons and interacted with the trainee officers throughout the programme. He emphasized the importance of continuous learning, active participation and a practical understanding of criminal law for the effective discharge of judicial responsibilities.

The proceedings remained highly interactive with the trainee officers actively participating and seeking clarification on various practical and procedural aspects of criminal law, making the programme beneficial and enriching for all the participants.

DC Shopian releases District Statistical Handbook 2024-25

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Saturday released the District Statistical Handbook Shopian 2024-25 at a function held here at Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

The Handbook was released in presence of ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, DSEO, Bilqees Zahoor and other concerned officers and officials.

Prepared by the District Statistics & Evaluation Office, Shopian, the Handbook is a comprehensive annual publication containing authentic and updated statistical information on the district's key socio-economic sectors, including population, agriculture, horticulture, education, health, infrastructure, economy, financial inclusion, employment, social welfare and other developmental indicators. The publication is expected to serve as a vital reference document for evidence-based planning, policy formulation, monitoring, evaluation and research.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of reliable and timely statistics in strengthening data-driven governance and informed decision-making. He appreciated the efforts of the District Statistics & Evaluation Office, Shopian and acknowledged the cooperation of all line departments in providing quality data for the publication.

District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Shopian, informed that the Handbook has been aligned with the District Good Governance Index (DGGI) framework and incorporates the latest available statistical data across major developmental sectors. She expressed gratitude to the District Administration and all stakeholder departments for their support in the successful compilation of the publication.

ADC Sopore visits Bomai Zaingeer to review pending Public Development Issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Dr. S.A. Raina, Saturday conducted an extensive visit to Bomai Zaingeer and assessed the status of the public infrastructure and essential services on the ground.

During the visit, the ADC inspected various sites and reviewed the progress of developmental works and public facilities. He interacted with local residents and members of the Civil Society, who apprised him of the issues affecting the area and sought early redressal.

The ADC inspected the ongoing construction work of the Government Degree College, Bomai, and directed the concerned executing authority to expedite the pace of work and ensure its completion within the stipulated timeframe.

Dr. Raina further inspected Budshah Pond and Kroot, where he instructed the concerned department to initiate the required dredging works to restore the water bodies and improve their condition.

DLSA G'bal conducts Special Lok Adalat on Matrimonial Cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In compliance with the directions issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, successfully conducted a Special Lok Adalat on Matrimonial Cases today, in the District.

The Special Lok Adalat was organized under the direction and supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of Matrimonial disputes, two benches were constituted. The first bench was presided over by Mahoor, Munisif/JMIC, Ganderbal, with Shaheena Ali, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel as Bench Member, held at District Court Complex Ganderbal. The second bench was presided over by Moonis Wahid, Munisif/JMIC, Kangan, with Advocate Tariq Ahmad Raina, Panel Lawyer, as Bench Member, held at the Munisif Court Complex, Kangan.

VC SKUAST-K chairs 14th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of KVK Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The 14th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting of KVK Shopian and the 20th SAC Meeting of KVK Kulgam were held Saturday at the Conference Hall of KVK Shopian under the chairmanship of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir.

Adv. Shabir Ahmad Kullay, MLA, Shopian, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, was the Guest of Honour.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Najeeb-ur-Rehman Sofi, Associate Director Research, MRCFC Khudwani; Head, Research Station Sallar; Programme Coordinators of KVKs of the Kashmir Division; officers from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Sheep Husbandry Departments; scientists from KVK Shopian, KVK Kulgam, and AARC Pahnoo; along with pro-



gressive and champion farmers from the districts of Shopian and Kulgam.

Addressing the gathering, Adv. Shabir Ahmad Kullay commended the farmer-centric initiatives of both KVKs and assured continued support for agricultural development.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai lauded the outstanding work of KVK Shopian and KVK Kulgam in improving farmers' livelihoods and emphasized the promotion of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), value addition, agri-entrepreneurship, and market-oriented farming for sustainable agricul-

tural growth.

At the outset, Welcoming the participants, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth highlighted the importance of SAC meetings in strengthening research-extension-farmer linkages.

She also congratulated KVK Shopian on the release of its bulletin (Success Story), 3rd Newsletter, and extension folders, appreciating the scientific staff for effectively disseminating university technologies to farmers.

Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Head, KVK Shopian, and the Head, KVK Kulgam, presented the Annual Progress Reports (2025-26)

and Annual Action Plans (2026-27), showcasing achievements in technology dissemination, farmer capacity building, and sustainable agriculture.

Representatives of the line departments appreciated the initiatives of both KVKs and emphasized greater convergence, while progressive farmers shared positive feedback on the impact of KVK interventions on farm productivity and income.

The meeting concluded with an interactive discussion and valuable recommendations from scientists, departmental officers, and farmers.

Bali Condemns Kulgam Terror Attack



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) Jammu & Kashmir State President Vivek Bali has strongly condemned the brutal terrorist attack in Kulgam district that claimed the lives of two innocent labourers.

Expressing profound grief over the tragic incident, Vivek Bali said that the killing of innocent civilians is a cowardly and inhuman act that deserves the strongest condemnation. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls. He also wished strength and courage to the families to bear this irreparable loss.

Vivek Bali stated that terrorism has no place in a civilized society and that such barbaric acts are aimed at disturbing peace, communal harmony, and

normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasized that those responsible for this heinous crime must be identified and brought to justice without delay.

"The Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party stands firmly with the bereaved families during this difficult time. We share their grief and assure them of our unwavering support," he said.

He urged the security agencies and the administration to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of workers and civilians across the Union Territory and to intensify efforts against the perpetrators of terrorism.

Vivek Bali reaffirmed SBSP's commitment to peace, unity, and the protection of every citizen, stating that the people of Jammu & Kashmir will remain united against terrorism and violence.

Kupwara Admin takes Governance to last mile with CSC at Seemari Border Village

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In a significant step towards ensuring inclusive governance and extending digital services to the remotest areas, the District Administration Kupwara Saturday established a Common Service Centre (CSC) at Seemari Village of Sub-Division Karnah, a strategically located border

digital services.

Additional services and necessary logistics support are being strengthened to make the centre more effective and citizen-friendly in the coming days.

The establishment of the CSC is part of a series of initiatives being undertaken by the District Administration Kupwara under the Vibrant Village Programme



village covered under the 'Vibrant Village Programme Phase-II'.

The initiative reflects the commitment of the District Administration towards proactive governance, digital inclusion, and last-mile delivery of public services, enabling residents of the far-flung border areas to access essential government services closer to their homes.

The CSC will facilitate various online services, including government service delivery, banking facilities, e-KYC services, Aadhaar updation and other

Phase-II to bridge the digital divide and ensure that the benefits of development reach every citizen, including those residing in remote border villages.

SDM Karnah, along with sectoral officers and Nodal Officer Kupwara associated with CSC operations, were present during the establishment of the facility.

The local residents appreciated the initiative and expressed their gratitude to the District Administration for bringing essential digital services closer to the people of Seemari.

Director Sainik Welfare conducts Interactive Outreach Session for Ex-Servicemen in Gurez

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Director, Sainik Welfare Department, J&K, conducted an Ex-Servicemen (ESM) Outreach Programme on Saturday at the remote border area of Gurez in Bandipora district.



The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from Ex-Servicemen and widows of Ex-Servicemen.

Addressing the gathering, the Director highlighted the Department's three key focus areas viz. healthcare and medical initiatives for Ex-Servicemen, employment and self-employment opportunities for Ex-Servicemen and their wards, and educational incentives for the children of Ex-Servicemen.

He urged eligible Ex-Servicemen aspiring to secure Government jobs under the 6% reservation quota for Ex-Servicemen in Jammu & Kashmir to prepare themselves adequately and obtain the required qualifying marks to improve their chances of selection.

Encouraging entrepreneurship, the Director advised Ex-Servicemen interested in self-employment to approach the

Department for guidance on various Government schemes and skill development programmes. He particularly encouraged them to explore opportunities in agriculture and tourism sectors with significant growth potential in the Gurez region.

The Director informed the participants that the Department will be proposing several new welfare initiatives during the forthcoming meeting of the State Managing Committee on the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. The proposed initiatives are aimed at strengthening medical assistance, re-employment support, self-employment promotion, and educational incentives for the Ex-Servicemen community and their dependents.

He also apprised the gathering that the Department is

actively pursuing the establishment of a Zila Sainik Welfare Office (ZSWO) at Bandipora to improve accessibility of welfare services for Ex-Servicemen residing in the district.

During the interaction, the Director patiently listened to the issues and suggestions raised by the participants and assured them that the Department would examine their concerns and take appropriate action wherever feasible.

Highlighting the Department's efforts to improve outreach, the Director announced the launch of an E-Outreach Initiative to complement the existing physical outreach programmes conducted by Zila Sainik Welfare Offices. He directed the ZSWO Baramulla, who is also responsible for Gurez, to conduct an online out-

reach session once every fortnight and urged Ex-Servicemen from the area to actively participate in these virtual interactions.

The Director also appealed to the Ex-Servicemen community to actively support the Plastic-Free Gurez campaign launched by the District Administration. He observed that maintaining a clean and plastic-free Gurez would enhance the region's appeal as a tourist destination, thereby contributing to the growth of the local economy and creating additional livelihood opportunities for residents.

The outreach programme concluded reaffirming the Department's commitment to strengthening its engagement with the Ex-Servicemen fraternity, particularly those residing in remote and border areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

NEWS

'No religion permits killing innocents'

Tanvir Sadiq condemns 'cowardly' Kulgam attack

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) chief spokesperson and Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, on Saturday condemned the killing of two migrant labourers in the Kulgam terror attack, terming the targeting of innocent civilians a "cowardly act" and asserting that no religion permits the killing of innocent people.

Speaking to reporters here, Sadiq, said the attack had caused immense grief and deserved the strongest condemnation.

"The more we condemn this attack, the less it is. Targeting innocent people is not only cowardly but also against humanity. Those responsible for this barbaric act must be arrested as soon as possible and brought to justice," he said.

He said the victims were poor, hardworking labourers who had come to Jammu and Kashmir only to earn a livelihood for their families. "These poor people had come here to work honestly and support their families. No religion teaches or justifies the killing of innocent civilians. Such acts have no place in our society," he said.

Referring to the assistance announced for the victims' families, Sadiq said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had sanctioned an ex gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased.



"Apart from the Rs 10 lakh ex gratia announced by the Chief Minister, around Rs 6 lakh will also be provided through the Red Cross and other sources. While no compensation can replace a human life, the government is committed to extending every possible support to the bereaved families," he said.

Responding to Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma's remarks seeking clarification from National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah over his statement on the Kulgam attack, the NC chief spokesperson dismissed the BJP leader's criticism.

"Nobody takes Sunil Sharma seriously. Neither Delhi nor even his own party takes him seriously. My advice to him is to leave the post of Leader of Opposition and work in Kishtwar instead of making tall claims because nobody is listening to him or taking him seriously," he said.

Reacting to Sharma's assertion that there was no connection between terrorism and the restoration of statehood, MLA Sadiq said the decision

rested entirely with the country's leadership.

"The day statehood is restored, trust me, the Leader of Opposition himself will not even know beforehand. The Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister will decide it. The Leader of Opposition or anyone else neither has that authority nor will anyone seek their opinion," he said.

Referring to the anniversary of the August 5, 2019 constitutional changes, Tanvir Sadiq said the BJP may celebrate the day, but the National Conference continued to regard it as the 'darkest chapter' in Jammu and Kashmir's history.

"We have always believed and will always believe that it was the darkest chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. We have pledged to undo what happened on that day. The National Conference will continue its constitutional and democratic struggle till its last breath to restore what was taken away from the people of Jammu and Kashmir unconstitutionally and undemocratically," he added—(KNO)

Javid Dar reviews Rural Development initiatives in Jammu Division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of various rural development initiatives and flagship programmes being implemented across the Jammu Division.

The meeting reviewed the progress and implementation of major schemes and programmes, including G-RAM-G, PMAY-G, SBM-G, RGSA, IWMP, NRLM besides other centrally sponsored and departmental initiatives aimed at strengthening the rural infrastructure, improving livelihood opportunities and enhancing the delivery of basic services in rural areas.

During the review, the Minister stressed the need for proper transparency, accountability and timely execution of all developmental works. He directed the officers to ensure that the projects are completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising on quality.



Javid Dar emphasized that rural development must remain firmly focused on improving the quality of life of people in villages. He called for strengthening the grassroots institutions and ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach the eligible beneficiaries in a transparent and time-bound manner.

The Minister identified the water conservation, livelihood enhancement, rural infrastructure, employment generation and effective implementation of welfare schemes as key priority areas. He called for close coordination among different departments and field functionaries to achieve the prescribed targets and address implementation-related challenges promptly.

He underscored the importance of active community participation in

rural development programmes. He stated that greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, local communities and beneficiaries is essential for ensuring sustainable outcomes, efficient utilisation of public resources and accountable service delivery.

The Minister directed the officers to undertake regular field inspections, closely monitor the progress of ongoing works and ensure that developmental initiatives are aligned with the actual needs and aspirations of rural communities.

Highlighting the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led government towards inclusive rural development, Javid Ahmad Dar said that concerted efforts are being made to empower the rural communities by improving access to essential services, pro-

moting local entrepreneurship, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and strengthening rural infrastructure.

The Minister also stressed upon the officers to identify gaps in implementation, remove bottlenecks through coordinated intervention and maintain continuous engagement with the local communities to ensure that development remains responsive, inclusive and people-centric.

Earlier, Director Rural Development Jammu, Shahnaz Akhter, gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects and works being executed under various schemes across the division. She briefed the Minister about the achievements, targets, bottlenecks and implementation status of different programmes.

The meeting was attended by Director Rural Development Jammu, Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs), Assistant Commissioners Panchayati Raj (ACPs) and other senior officers of the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department.

Special train to run between Budgam-Katra as highway remains shut

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: As the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway remains closed due to adverse weather conditions, Northern Railway on Saturday announced special train service between Budgam and Katra to facilitate the movement of stranded passengers.

According to a statement issued, the decision was taken following a surge in passenger rush at Srinagar and Katra railway stations due to the highway closure.

The statement said the special train will depart from Budgam at 1:00 pm and reach Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station at 4:20 pm, with scheduled halts at Srinagar, Banihal and Sangaldan.

For the return journey, the train will leave Katra at 5:05 pm and arrive in Budgam at 8:30 pm, it said.

The railway authorities said the special train service will continue to operate to ease passenger movement until normal traffic on the highway is restored—(KNO)

SMC takes over J&K's first mechanised abattoir project after years of delay



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has taken over the construction of Jammu and Kashmir's first modern mechanised abattoir at Allochi Bagh, reviving the long-delayed project aimed at introducing scientific and hygienic slaughtering practices in the Valley.

An official said that the project, designed to process 5,000 sheep and goats a day, has been floated under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode and is expected to be completed within two years.

The project will replace conventional slaughtering methods with a modern, hygienic and environmentally sustainable system that meets national and international standards.

"The mechanised abattoir will improve hygiene, food safety and environmental management while ensuring scientific processing of livestock," the official said.

The project has witnessed repeated delays since its inception. It was initially assigned to the J&K Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC), where preliminary civil works, including foundation work, had begun. However, construction came to a halt after the financial closure of JKPCC in August 2023.

The project was later transferred to the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department, but saw little physical progress, the official said, adding that the delay also came under judicial scrutiny through a Public Interest Litigation related to slaughterhouse infrastructure.

Following a comprehensive review, the SMC decided to execute the project through its own Works Division. A revised Detailed Project Report (DPR), incorporating modern technology and infrastructure, received administrative approval in March 2025, paving the way for fresh execution.

According to officials, the facility will include fully mechanised slaughtering lines, scientifically designed lairage areas, carcass dressing units, chilling and cold storage facilities and by-product processing units.

It will also feature an advanced bio-digestion system integrated with a modern Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) for scientific waste disposal and recycling of treated wastewater for non-potable use.

The mechanised abattoir is expected to improve public health and sanitation, enhance meat quality, strengthen the livestock sector, and generate direct and indirect employment during both the construction and operational phases, the official said—(KNO)

SKUAST-K to set up J&K's first 50-kW Agrivoltaics Research Pilot at Shalimar Campus

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major step towards integrating clean energy with agriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has announced the establishment of a 50-kW agrivoltaics (AgriPV) research pilot at its Shalimar Campus in collaboration with the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP).

The project aims to evaluate crop performance, energy efficiency, economic viability and farmer adoption of agrivoltaics under Kashmir's unique agro-climatic conditions.

The announcement was made by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai during the workshop "Building the Agrivoltaics Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir", jointly organised by CSTEP and SKUAST-K. The workshop, aligned with the upcoming PM-KUSUM 2.0 scheme, brought together policymakers, scientists, industry representatives, financial institutions and farmers to explore pathways for scaling agrivoltaics across the Union Territory.

"This workshop is only the beginning of a long-term collaborative journey towards a resilient, climate-smart and energy-secure future for our farming communities," Prof. Ganai said.

The proposed research facility will serve as a demonstration and innovation platform to generate scientific evidence on dual land use, where crops and solar energy are produced simultaneously. Researchers will study suitable cropping systems, energy generation, farm econom-



ics and adoption models to support future policy and large-scale deployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at the event, Saptak Ghosh, Sector Head, Renewables and Energy Conservation at CSTEP, said Kashmir has remained underserved in agricultural and energy innovation despite being a major contributor of hydropower. He said agrivoltaics provides an opportunity to combine the Valley's horticultural strengths with renewable energy generation without displacing farmers from their land.

"Unlike conventional solar leasing models, our approach keeps farmers at the centre by enabling electricity generation alongside near-farm value creation. Through our pilot with SKUAST-K and the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), we hope to demonstrate this model directly to farmers and local communities," he said.

Highlighting policy challenges, Junaid Akhtar, Assistant Engineer (Solar), Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), said that while distribution companies generally procure solar power at competitive tariffs, the additional agricultural and rural development benefits of agrivoltaics should be recognised through viability gap funding to improve

financial viability. Earlier, Prof. Javed Ahmad Mugloo, Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Pulwama, SKUAST-K, emphasised that integrating agrivoltaics with high-value crops and livestock rearing could strengthen market linkages and encourage value-added products, creating new rural enterprises across the Valley.

The partnership forms part of CSTEP's work under the India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA), a multi-stakeholder platform promoting agrivoltaics in India. Under the collaboration, CSTEP has been developing region-specific agrivoltaics models tailored to Jammu and Kashmir's agro-climatic conditions, including high-density apple orchards.

The workshop witnessed participation from experts representing the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), CSIR-NIIST, the National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI), government departments, financial institutions, industry stakeholders and the farming community.

The initiative reflects University's continued commitment to climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy research and farmer-centric innovation aimed at strengthening both food and energy security in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mother-son duo arrested

Srinagar Police crack blind murder case within six hours

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Police on Saturday said it solved a blind murder case within six hours of recovering the unidentified body from the Babademb Canal, arresting a mother-son duo who allegedly killed a man over a financial dispute and dumped his body to destroy evidence.

In a statement issued, a police spokesperson said Srinagar Police cracked the blind murder case within six hours of the recovery of the unidentified body, leading to the arrest of two accused involved in the crime.

"On July 30, 2026, Police Station Khanyar received information regarding an unidentified dead body wrapped in gunny bags lying in the Babademb Canal beneath Baba Dawood Khakhi Bridge, Khanyar. Accordingly, FIR No. 49/2026 under Sections 103 and 238 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered and investigation was taken up," the spokesperson said.

He said that, considering the gravity of the offence, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted under the supervision of senior officers. Through sustained



investigation and corroboration of available evidence, the accused were identified as Haleema Bano and her son, Moomin Ahmad, originally residents of Machil in Kupwara, who were residing as tenants at Mughal Mohalla, Rainawari.

The spokesperson said that after committing the offence, both accused fled Srinagar in an attempt to evade arrest. However, Srinagar Police pursued all available leads and successfully traced and apprehended them from Lolab in Kupwara within hours of the recovery of the body.

He said the deceased was identified as Nazir Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, a resident of Kalantpora, Hawal. Investigation revealed that he was murdered inside the accused's rented accommodation following a finan-

cial dispute. The accused subsequently disposed of the body in the Babademb Canal in an attempt to conceal the offence and destroy evidence.

The spokesperson said several incriminating articles connected with the commission of the crime have been recovered during the investigation. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the involvement of any other person and complete all legal formalities in accordance with law.

"The prompt detection of this blind murder case within six hours of the recovery of the body reflects the professionalism, dedication and coordinated efforts of Srinagar Police in ensuring that perpetrators of serious crimes are swiftly brought to justice," the spokesperson said.

Boy dies after being struck by rolling boulder in Handwara

AGENCIES

HANDWARA: A seven-year-old nursery student was killed after being struck by a boulder that rolled down from a nearby hillside during a mudslide near his school in the Mawer area of Handwara on Saturday, officials said.

An official said that the incident occurred during the lunch break when, amid a mudslide, a boulder rolled down from the adjacent hillside and struck the child outside the school premises.

He said the boy was immediately shifted to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Qalamabad, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased was later identified as Rehan Ahmad (7), son of Reyaz Ahmad Dar, a resident of Khudi, Mawer and a nursery student.

The incident has triggered grief across the area. Authorities have initiated an inquiry and further investigation is underway—(KNO)

SMC's response reduced waterlogging despite continuous rain: Commissioner

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Commissioner Faz Lul Haseeb on Saturday said the civic body's strengthened response mechanism has significantly reduced waterlogging across Srinagar despite continuous rainfall, while sharing that 13 next of kin of deceased employees have been appointed under the SRO-43/Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS).

Talking to reporters here Haseeb, said the appointments were made after all required government approvals.

"Under the SRO-43/RAS scheme, the next of kin of

employees who die while in service are appointed to government jobs. In the Municipal Corporation, 13 people have been given appointment letters after completing all due procedures and obtaining government approvals. We handed over the appointment letters individually today and also briefed them about the next steps and the training they will undergo," he said.

Replying to a question on waterlogging in Srinagar following recent heavy rainfall, the Commissioner said the first spell of rain had overwhelmed the city's drainage capacity, leading to flooding at some locations. "The last time it rained, there

was a sudden burst of rainfall which exceeded our drainage capacity. There was waterlogging at some locations and people said there was a delayed response. After that, we strengthened our response mechanism. There was continuous rainfall for four to five days till July 24 and it rained again last night and the day before, but waterlogging was witnessed only at very minimal locations," he said.

Calling waterlogging a multi-dimensional challenge, Haseeb said the corporation was working on all aspects simultaneously.

"Waterlogging is a multifaceted issue. Sometimes it is a drainage capacity issue, sometimes desilting

is required and sometimes engineering interventions are needed. We are working on all these things simultaneously," he said.

The Commissioner said the SMC control room was functioning round the clock while dedicated manpower, machinery and mobile dewatering teams had been deployed across the city.

"We have deployed a dedicated fleet of men, material and machinery across Srinagar. Our mobile dewatering teams have been divided into six teams and deployed across six zones of the city. This has significantly improved our response time. When I reviewed the situation with my team this morning after last night's heavy rainfall, there

were very few such locations with waterlogging," he said.

Highlighting the improvement over the previous spell of rain, Haseeb said major city areas that had witnessed severe waterlogging earlier remained largely unaffected this time.

"Compared to the situation 10 days ago, there has been a significant improvement. Even after the recent heavy rainfall, areas like Lal Chowk, MA Road, TRC, Nallahmar Road and Eidgah, which had witnessed severe waterlogging and criticism earlier, remained largely free of waterlogging. There are still some issues in low-lying areas, but we are working on those as well," he added.—(KNO)

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Where Governance Truly Begins

Government review meetings often end with ambitious targets, firm deadlines, and a long list of instructions. They are important for keeping the administration focused, but citizens rarely judge a government by what is said inside a conference room. They judge it by what changes outside it. The review chaired by the Divisional Commissioner covered several important issues, from compassionate appointments and digitisation of land records to public land protection and the growing challenge of misinformation. Each of these has a direct bearing on the lives of ordinary people. The task now is not to issue more directions but to deliver results. Nothing deserves greater urgency than compassionate appointments. Every pending case represents a family that has lost its breadwinner and is struggling to rebuild its life. For such families, delays are more than administrative lapses—they are a source of continued hardship. Compassion should not remain confined to government files; it must be reflected in timely decisions that offer dignity and financial security to those who need it most. The government's emphasis on completing SVAMITA work, implementing AgriStack, and finalising Jamabandies is equally significant. Reliable and transparent land records are essential for reducing disputes, protecting property rights, and improving governance. Digitisation is a welcome step, but technology alone cannot solve old problems. The process must remain transparent, accurate, and citizen-friendly so that people experience real benefits rather than new layers of bureaucracy. The directive to identify encroachments on public land, including those involving religious structures, calls for both courage and fairness. Such matters are often sensitive, but the law cannot have different standards for different groups. Public land belongs to everyone, and protecting it requires impartial action. Consistency, not selectivity, is what earns public confidence. The administration's concern over fake news is also understandable. Misinformation can create unnecessary fear, spread rumours, and disrupt social harmony. Those who deliberately spread falsehoods should face legal consequences. At the same time, any action against misinformation must be carefully balanced so that responsible journalism and legitimate criticism are never mistaken for wrongdoing. A confident administration has nothing to fear from truthful reporting. Kashmir has witnessed countless review meetings over the years. People no longer measure governance by official presentations or lengthy discussions. They measure it by whether government offices respond faster, whether public grievances are resolved on time, and whether promises translate into visible improvements in everyday life. Ultimately, good governance does not end when a meeting concludes. It begins when every instruction is implemented honestly, every deadline is honoured, and every citizen feels that the administration is working not just efficiently, but with empathy. That is how public trust is built—and how meaningful governance is remembered.

AgriStack

A Digital Future Built On The Accuracy Of Past

MOHD AMIN MIR

India's AgriStack initiative represents one of the most significant reforms in the country's agricultural administration. By creating a comprehensive digital ecosystem for farmers, land records, and agricultural services, the initiative promises to improve transparency, enable targeted delivery of government schemes, and strengthen evidence-based policymaking. However, every ambitious digital reform rests upon one indispensable foundation: the accuracy of the data that is entered into the system.

In Jammu & Kashmir, Patwaris are currently engaged in one of the most demanding assignments under the AgriStack programme. While the public may perceive data entry as a routine administrative exercise, those working in the field know that every entry requires careful verification of revenue records that have evolved over decades.

One of the most time-consuming aspects of the assignment is entering the share of self-cultivation against each survey number. This is not a mechanical task. The time required depends entirely upon the number of shareholders recorded in the concerned Khewat. In many villages, a single survey number may have dozens of co-sharers, each possessing a different fractional share. Every share has to be examined carefully before it is entered into the system. Even a small mistake can affect future farmer identification, eligibility for benefits, and the integrity of the digital land record.

Unfortunately, an unhealthy tendency has emerged in some places to measure success merely by the number of survey numbers uploaded. Speed has begun to overshadow accuracy. Such an approach may produce impressive statistics today, but it can create serious administrative problems tomorrow. A digital database filled with inaccuracies is far more dangerous than an incomplete database awaiting careful verification. Errors introduced today may continue to affect farmers, revenue officials, and government departments for many years.

Against this backdrop, a noteworthy message emerged during a recent Google



Meet of Patwaris from District Anantnag. During the meeting, District President Mubashar Bashir advised and directed Patwaris to complete the AgriStack assignment 100 percent accurately and error-free, rather than participating in a race to upload the maximum number of survey numbers.

This advice deserves appreciation because it reflects a mature understanding of public administration. The true success of AgriStack will not be measured by how quickly data is uploaded but by how reliable that data remains when farmers, government agencies, and courts rely upon it in the future.

Revenue administration has always been built upon precision. Every mutation, every Jamabandi entry, every Girdawari inspection, and every revenue record carries legal significance. The same principle must

guide AgriStack. Once incorrect data becomes part of a digital system, correcting it later often consumes far more time and resources than entering it correctly in the first place. The responsibility of a Patwari is not merely to complete an assignment within a deadline. It is to safeguard the authenticity of public records. A Patwari's signature has traditionally represented confidence and accountability. The digital age should strengthen this tradition rather than weaken it.

The AgriStack assignment should therefore be viewed not as a competition among districts but as a collective exercise in building trustworthy agricultural records for future generations. Healthy competition is welcome when it encourages efficiency, but competition that compromises accuracy ultimately harms both farmers and the administration.

This is where the leadership of Patwari associations becomes especially important. District presidents and the Apex Body of the Jammu & Kashmir Patwar Association have an important role in motivating members to prioritise quality over quantity. Instead of encouraging a race based solely on numerical achievements, the focus should remain on ensuring that every survey number uploaded is supported by proper verification.

The guidance issued by the District President of Anantnag offers a practical example worth emulating. If every district adopts the same approach, the credibility of the entire AgriStack exercise in Jammu & Kashmir will be strengthened. Digital governance succeeds only when technology is supported by responsible human effort. Computers cannot verify ownership shares, understand complex inheritance patterns, or interpret old revenue records. These responsibilities continue to rest upon trained revenue officials whose experience and judgment remain indispensable.

As Patwaris continue to shoulder this enormous responsibility, they deserve encouragement to work carefully rather than pressure to merely increase numbers. Accuracy may take more time today, but it prevents disputes, grievances, and corrections tomorrow. The success of AgriStack should therefore be judged not by the speed of uploading but by the confidence that citizens place in the information stored within the system. Let Jammu & Kashmir become known not as the first to complete the assignment, but as the State or Union Territory that completed it correctly.

When future generations look back at the creation of India's digital agricultural infrastructure, they should find records that are dependable, legally sound, and worthy of public trust.

If every Patwari follows the principle of "Accuracy First, Speed Second," the dignity of the Revenue Department will remain intact, the confidence of farmers will grow, and the vision of Digital India will stand on a truly reliable foundation.

The author can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

SILENT VICTIMS

How Parental Disputes Are Transforming Modern Childhood

MOHAMMAD HANIEF

In an era marked by rapid social change, increasing economic pressures and the growing influence of technology on family life, childhood itself is undergoing a transformation.

While modern society has provided children with unprecedented access to education, healthcare, and opportunities, it has also exposed them to challenges that previous generations experienced less intensely. Among these, one of the most overlooked crises is the growing number of children being raised amid parental disputes.

The image of the traditional family has changed considerably over the past two decades. Dual-income households, demanding careers, rising living costs, social media influences, and the constant pressure to maintain a certain lifestyle have significantly altered family dynamics. According to mental health experts, these factors have contributed to an increase in stress within households, often leading to frequent disagreements between parents. While conflict itself is not uncommon in any relationship, it becomes deeply concerning when children are repeatedly exposed to hostility, emotional distance, and instability within their homes.

Today, children are not merely witnessing arguments in living rooms; they are experiencing conflict in new and more pervasive forms. They observe parents communicating through silence, exchanging harsh messages on smartphones, and carrying emotional tensions that linger long after disagreements have ended. In many households, technology has become both a connector and a divider. The same devices that keep families connected often become instruments of distraction, reducing meaningful conversations and increasing misunderstandings.

The consequences of parental disputes have become increasingly visible in schools and communities. Educators across the country have reported a noticeable rise in behavioral and emotional concerns among students. Anxiety, declining concentration, irritability, and social withdrawal are no longer isolated issues but recurring patterns observed among children navigating

stressful home environments.

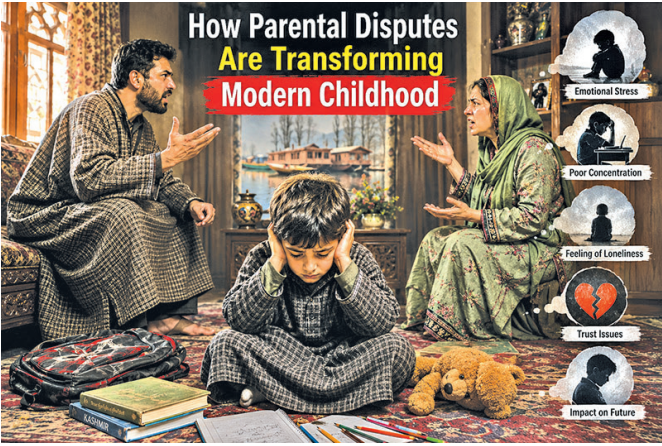
For younger children, parental conflict disrupts their fundamental sense of safety. Childhood is built upon predictability—the reassurance that home is a place of security and affection. When that environment is replaced by uncertainty, children begin to internalize fear and confusion. They may struggle to understand why their parents are upset and, in many cases, mistakenly assume responsibility for the tension surrounding them.

Adolescents face a different challenge. At a stage when they are already navigating questions of identity and belonging, parental disputes often intensify feelings of isolation and emotional instability. Many teenagers withdraw into digital spaces, spending excessive hours online as a means of escaping household tensions. Others exhibit signs of frustration through declining academic performance, strained friendships, or increased behavioral problems.

The current generation of children is also growing up in a world where mental health conversations have become more prominent than ever before. Yet, despite greater awareness, many families continue to underestimate the impact of conflict on young minds. Mental health professionals emphasize that children do not simply forget what they witness at home. Experiences accumulated during formative years frequently influence emotional development, relationship patterns, and coping mechanisms throughout adulthood.

Research in child psychology consistently demonstrates that prolonged exposure to parental disputes can alter a child's perception of relationships. Children raised in high-conflict households often develop heightened sensitivity to tension. They become adept at reading facial expressions, anticipating arguments, and adjusting their behavior to avoid triggering disagreements. While such adaptability may appear to be maturity, it is often a response to chronic stress.

This emotional burden can have lasting consequences. Young adults who grew up amid parental disputes frequently report difficulties in establishing trust, maintaining healthy relationships, and expressing emotions. Some become reluctant to commit to



long-term partnerships, fearing they may recreate the conflicts they witnessed during childhood. Others struggle with anxiety and self-doubt, carrying emotional scars that remain long after they have left their family homes.

Economic realities have further complicated the issue. Inflation, employment uncertainties, and increasing financial responsibilities have placed immense pressure on families worldwide. Financial disagreements remain among the leading causes of marital conflict, and children are often unintended witnesses to conversations surrounding debt, expenses, and future insecurities. In many cases, these discussions contribute to an atmosphere of persistent tension that becomes a defining feature of daily life.

The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to influence family dynamics as well. Extended periods of confinement during lockdowns exposed many children to heightened levels of domestic conflict. Although societies have largely returned to normalcy, the psychological effects remain evident. Counsellors and educators continue to encounter children who developed anxiety-related symptoms during those years and continue to struggle with emotional regulation.

Social media has introduced another dimension to parental disputes. Unlike previous generations, today's children can observe conflicts extending beyond the confines of the home. Public disagreements, indirect online remarks, and digital confrontations have blurred the boundaries between private and public life. The permanence of online interactions means

that family tensions can follow children into spaces that were once considered escapes from domestic concerns.

Moreover, the increasing rate of separation and divorce has reshaped conversations surrounding parental conflict. While separation may, in some circumstances, provide a healthier alternative to prolonged hostility, experts stress that the manner in which parents manage such transitions significantly affects children's well-being. Children benefit most when parents prioritize cooperation and emotional support, even in the absence of a shared household.

Educational institutions have become critical support systems in addressing this issue. Schools are increasingly investing in counseling services, emotional wellness programs, and initiatives designed to promote resilience among students. Teachers often serve as the first observers of emotional distress, recognizing subtle changes in behavior that may indicate challenges at home. However, schools alone cannot bear the responsibility of addressing a problem rooted in family environments.

Communities must also play an active role. Greater accessibility to family counselling, affordable mental health services, and awareness campaigns can help parents better understand the impact of unresolved disputes. Parenting workshops and support groups have proven effective in encouraging healthier communication practices and reducing conflict within households.

Importantly, conversations surrounding parental disputes should not focus solely on

assigning blame. Parenting is an inherently demanding responsibility, and every family encounters moments of stress and disagreement. The challenge lies not in avoiding conflict altogether but in managing it in ways that preserve a child's emotional security. Children benefit from witnessing respectful disagreement and constructive problem-solving just as much as they suffer from repeated hostility and emotional neglect.

The current generation has often been described as the most connected in history, yet many children continue to feel profoundly alone within their own homes. They possess access to information at their fingertips but struggle to find reassurance where it matters most. Their emotional needs cannot be met by technology, academic success, or material comforts alone. They require stability, understanding, and the confidence that the adults in their lives can provide a safe environment in which to grow.

As nations continue investing in education and youth development, equal attention must be given to the environments that shape children long before they enter classrooms. The future of society depends not only on the knowledge children acquire but also on the emotional foundations upon which their lives are built.

Children should never become casualties of conflicts they neither created nor understand. Their childhoods should be defined by curiosity, learning, and hope rather than tension and uncertainty. Addressing the impact of parental disputes is therefore not simply a matter of family welfare—it is an investment in the emotional health of future generations.

In the end, the measure of a society is reflected not only in its economic progress or technological achievements but also in the care it extends to its children. Every child deserves a home where disagreements do not overshadow affection, where conversations replace confrontations, and where peace is not an exception but a daily reality. For countless children growing up between battles, that reality remains a distant dream—one that society can no longer afford to ignore.

(The author is a senior analyst and environmentalist. He can be reached at m.hanief@gmail.com. Twitter/X: @haniefmha)

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Good Morning

Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors

Mir Suhail

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

■ From Devastation To Development

Is Climate-Adaptive Infrastructure The Only Answer For J&K?



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The Himalayan region of Jammu and Kashmir has once again witnessed the destructive power of nature. Following days of relentless monsoon rain, cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides during late July and the beginning of August 2026, large parts of the Union Territory have been left devastated. Rivers overflowed, highways collapsed, villages were inundated, agricultural fields disappeared beneath muddy waters, and thousands of families were forced to leave their homes. The tragedy has revived memories of the catastrophic floods of 2014, reminding the nation that despite technological advances, the fragile Himalayan ecosystem remains highly vulnerable to climate-induced disasters.

The immediate cause of the disaster was exceptionally heavy rainfall across the Pir Panjal ranges, the Chenab basin, and the Kashmir Valley. The India Meteorological Department had warned of intense rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and cloudbursts. However, the magnitude of precipitation exceeded expectations in many districts. Rivers such as the Tawi, Chenab, Jhelum, and numerous mountain streams rose rapidly, causing flash floods that swept away roads, bridges, homes, and livestock. Continuous rainfall also triggered massive landslides, blocking highways and isolating several mountain communities. Among the worst-affected districts were Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban, Reasi, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Doda, Budgam, and parts of Srinagar. Rajouri experienced severe flash floods after rivers burst their banks, inundating markets and residential areas. Hundreds of residents had to be evacuated to safer locations while shops and houses suffered extensive damage. Families lost furniture, documents, household belongings, and their sources of livelihood within a matter of hours.

The Kashmir Valley also experienced widespread waterlogging as the Jhelum and its tributaries swelled under continuous rainfall. Though large-scale inundation comparable to 2014 was avoided in many urban areas due to improved flood management, several low-lying localities remained submerged for days. Rural areas dependent on agriculture suffered significant losses as standing crops of paddy, maize, and vegetables were destroyed by floodwaters. Orchards, which form the backbone of Kashmir's economy, also sustained considerable damage, threatening the incomes of thousands of farming families.

In the aftermath of the recent floods that swept through Jammu & Kashmir, the region stands at a critical crossroads where the destructive force of river water must be reimagined as a catalyst for development. The Jhelum, Chenab, Tawi and countless mountain streams that once carried devastation through Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Beerwah, Khag and Srinagar are today central to a new conversation on reconstruction, resilience and long-term planning. As the administration continues to restore damaged roads, transformers, water supply lines and communication networks, experts argue that the future of the region depends on how effectively river water is harnessed for sustainable growth. The floods exposed the vulnerability of infrastructure, with dug wells, pump wells and borewells damaged extensively in Rajouri, forcing authorities to deploy temporary tanks and pipelines. Nearly 200 electric poles were damaged and 15 transformers washed away, leaving thousands without power. Yet the same monsoon rains replenished springs, revived paddy fields and restored irrigation channels, turning deficit into surplus and reminding policymakers that river water, if managed scientifically, can become the backbone of a new developmental era.



The human cost of the floods has been heartbreaking. Lives were lost due to flash floods, landslides, collapsing houses, and drowning. Rescue teams searched relentlessly for missing persons buried beneath debris or swept away by raging streams. Children, women, and elderly people were among the victims. Entire families found themselves homeless overnight. Temporary relief camps became shelters for displaced people who depended upon government agencies and humanitarian organizations for food, drinking water, medicines, and clothing. Transport infrastructure suffered enormous destruction. The strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), the lifeline connecting Kashmir with the rest of India, remained closed for several days because of landslides, mudslides, and falling boulders. Thousands of tourists, pilgrims, truck drivers, and local residents were stranded on both sides of the highway. Rail services had to be supplemented with special trains while road restoration became an enormous engineering challenge due to continuous rainfall. The suspension of the highway also disrupted the transportation of essential commodities, causing shortages and increasing prices in several regions.

Religious pilgrimages, which contribute substantially to the local economy, were also severely affected. The Amarnath Yatra, Vaishno Devi pilgrimage, Machhail Mata Yatra, Shiv Khori pilgrimage, and other religious journeys experienced interruptions because of dangerous weather conditions and blocked roads. Pilgrims already on the routes had to be rescued and accommodated safely until weather conditions improved. The temporary suspension protected lives but also affected tourism-dependent businesses such as hotels, transport operators, restaurants, and local vendors.

The agricultural economy of Jammu and Kashmir received another serious setback. Floodwaters destroyed thousands of hectares of cultivated land. Rice fields remained submerged while horticultural crops—including apples, pears, walnuts, and cherries, were damaged by excessive moisture and landslides. Irrigation channels were washed away, fertile topsoil eroded, and farm machinery damaged. Livestock losses further compounded the misery of rural households whose livelihoods depend upon mixed farming systems. Educational institutions and healthcare services also experienced severe disruptions. Schools remained closed in many districts due to waterlogging, damaged buildings, and transportation difficulties. Hospitals faced challenges in reaching remote patients because roads had become impassable. Medical teams, however, continued to provide emergency services despite adverse conditions. The danger of water-borne diseases increased as contaminated floodwaters mixed with drinking water supplies.

The disaster once again demonstrated the remarkable dedication of India's disaster response agencies. Personnel from the Army, Air Force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, and local volunteers worked continuously under hazardous conditions. Helicopters

rescued stranded villagers from isolated mountain locations while boats evacuated families trapped in flooded settlements. Medical teams established emergency health camps, and relief materials reached inaccessible villages through coordinated operations.

The economic consequences are expected to be substantial. Infrastructure reconstruction alone will

Rivers such as the Tawi, Chenab, Jhelum, and numerous mountain streams rose rapidly, causing flash floods that swept away roads, bridges, homes, and livestock. Continuous rainfall also triggered massive landslides, blocking highways and isolating several mountain communities.

require enormous financial investment. Roads, bridges, power transmission lines, water supply systems, irrigation canals, schools, and public buildings suffered extensive damage. Tourism, one of Jammu and Kashmir's principal economic sectors, has also experienced cancellations during what is normally an important travel season. Small businesses, shopkeepers, transport operators, and artisans have lost valuable income.

Scientists increasingly point to climate change as a significant factor intensifying extreme rainfall events across the Himalayan region. Warmer atmospheric temperatures allow the air to hold greater quantities of mois-

ture, resulting in short-duration but extremely intense rainfall. Combined with rapid urbanization, deforestation, encroachment upon floodplains, and fragile mountain geology, these changing climatic conditions increase the frequency and severity of flash floods and landslides. Recent climate studies similarly indicate growing hydroclimatic risks in the Jhelum and Chenab basins. Urban planning has also emerged as a critical concern. Many settlements have expanded into natural drainage channels, wetlands, and riverbanks. Such encroachments reduce the capacity of rivers to absorb floodwaters and increase the vulnerability of communities. Experts emphasize the restoration of wetlands, improved drainage systems, scientific land-use planning, and stricter enforcement of environmental regulations to reduce future flood risks.

Technology offers important opportunities for disaster mitigation. Satellite monitoring, weather radar, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and remote sensing can improve flood forecasting and early warning systems. More accurate rainfall prediction and real-time flood mapping would allow authorities to evacuate vulnerable populations before disasters reach catastrophic proportions. Advances in flood prediction models demonstrate significant potential for improving preparedness and reducing disaster losses. Community participation remains equally important. Local disaster preparedness committees, public awareness campaigns, school-based disaster education, and village-level emergency response training can significantly reduce casualties. Traditional knowledge regarding mountain weather, river behaviour, and safe settlement practices should also complement modern scientific approaches.

The floods of August 2026 serve as another painful reminder that Jammu and Kashmir stands on the frontline of climate vulnerability. The resilience displayed by its people, rescue personnel, and civil administration deserves admiration, but resilience alone cannot substitute for comprehensive disaster preparedness. Sustainable development in the Himalayan region requires environmentally sensitive infrastructure, scientific planning, climate adaptation, effective governance, and continuous investment in disaster risk reduction. The devastation has left deep physical, economic, and emotional scars. Yet history also shows that the people of Jammu and Kashmir possess extraordinary courage in rebuilding their lives after every calamity. With coordinated governmental action, scientific planning, environmental conservation, and community participation, the region can recover from this tragedy and build a more resilient future capable of facing the growing challenges posed by climate change.

The Jhelum's improved carrying capacity, enhanced through dredging and channel widening after the 2014 disaster, proved crucial this season as the river remained within safe limits despite continuous rainfall. The Flood Spill Channel, once choked by silt and encroachments, carried nearly 27,000 cusecs of water, preventing major disaster in Srinagar. This success underscores the importance of sustained river management and

the need to expand similar interventions across the region. Agriculture, the lifeline of rural Jammu & Kashmir, stands to benefit immensely from better utilisation of river water. Floods often destroy crops, but they also deposit nutrient-rich silt that rejuvenates soil fertility. The revival of paddy fields this monsoon demonstrates how natural recharge can stabilise farming communities. Experts recommend expanding canal networks, constructing micro-irrigation systems, developing flood-resilient crops and promoting aquaculture in temporary flood-created water bodies. Hydropower remains another major opportunity.

The Chenab basin alone has the potential to generate thousands of megawatts, but repeated damage to transformers and distribution networks during floods highlights the need for stronger infrastructure. Mini-hydel projects in remote areas, floodwater storage reservoirs and hybrid renewable systems combining hydropower with solar grids could transform the region's energy landscape. Wetland restoration is emerging as a critical priority. Shrinking wetlands such as Hokersar, Wular and Anchar have reduced the natural capacity of rivers to absorb excess water, increasing flood risk. Environmentalists warn that unchecked urbanisation, garbage dumping and encroachments are choking the Valley's water bodies. Restoring wetlands, removing encroachments, stopping untreated waste discharge and reconnecting rivers with their floodplains are essential steps for long-term safety. Riverfront development, particularly in Jammu along the Tawi, has sparked debate.

While officials claim the project will protect the city and boost tourism, residents fear that narrowing the river and constructing artificial structures may intensify flood damage. The 2025 flood, when the Tawi reached 34 feet, has left many questioning whether the artificial lake worsened the situation by restricting water flow. Experts insist that riverfront development must prioritise hydrological safety over aesthetics, maintaining natural river width, using permeable materials and avoiding construction in high-risk zones. Infrastructure resilience remains a pressing concern. Over 435 damaged roads were identified this season, and 356 restored on a war footing. But long-term resilience requires elevating critical infrastructure above flood levels, using flood-resistant materials, constructing multi-layered embankments and installing early warning systems along major rivers.

Community participation has emerged as a powerful force. Residents assisted engineers in restoring electric poles and clearing debris, demonstrating that local knowledge of river behaviour is invaluable. Community-led monitoring of river levels, reporting encroachments, participating in wetland restoration and adopting rainwater harvesting can significantly strengthen flood preparedness. Climate change looms large over every discussion. Intensifying rainfall patterns, cloudbursts and shrinking wetlands have made the region more vulnerable than ever. Policymakers emphasise the need for climate-adaptive infrastructure, GIS-based mapping of flood-prone zones, long-term water storage systems, afforestation in catchment areas and stronger disaster management authorities.

As Jammu & Kashmir rebuilds, a new vision is taking shape—one where rivers are not feared but respected, not obstacles but partners in development. A future where the Jhelum flows through restored floodplains, the Chenab powers clean energy, the Tawi supports safe riverfronts and wetlands breathe freely. A future where farmers receive steady irrigation, cities remain protected and communities live in harmony with water. The floods will return, but devastation need not. With scientific river management, ecological restoration, community participation and climate resilience, Jammu & Kashmir can transform river water from a force of destruction into a foundation for tomorrow's development.

Author is International Tagore Award. He can be mailed at profratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

Injured Non-Local

security forces to intensify operations and eliminate the terrorists responsible for the attack. He also said the area had been cordoned off and a search operation launched to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah strongly condemned the killing of the two labourers and announced an ex-gratia relief of Ra 10 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for the next of kin of the deceased.

The Chief Minister said the assistance would be in addition to the Rs 6 lakh immediate relief being provided by the district administration.

Expressing profound grief, CM Omar conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and assured that the government stands firmly with the families during this difficult time.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai also condemned the terror attack and announced Rs 20 lakh ex-gratia for each of the families of the deceased workers.

He termed the attack an assault on humanity and national unity and directed the Chhattisgarh Government to depute a senior officer to Jammu and Kashmir to coordinate with the local administration and the bereaved families to ensure the last rites are conducted with full dignity and according to religious customs.

Sai expressed confidence that those responsible for the attack would be brought to justice and awarded the strictest punishment under the law.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also condemned the attack, describing the killing of the two workers as "extremely tragic."

He extended condolences to the bereaved families and said strict action must be taken against the terrorists, asserting that the nation remains united against terrorism.

National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah also expressed grief over the incident and called for an honest and thorough investigation into the killings.

Speaking to reporters in Tangmarg, Dr Farooq, said, "I am deeply saddened by the incident. We don't know who killed them or who is behind the attack. It must be investigated honestly and thoroughly. I don't know why such attacks occur whenever we demand statehood."

Furthermore, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather also condemned the terror attack, describing the killing of the non-local labourers as 'the murder of entire humanity.'

He expressed sympathy with the bereaved families and said such acts of violence have no place in a civilised society—(KNO)

CM Announces

by the District Administration.

He also conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and reaffirmed that the Government stands firmly with them during this difficult time.

The Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls. He also prayed for strength and courage to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

LG Sinha Orders

migrants workers were killed in a terror attack in Kulgam's Kellam village.

On July 22, a head constable of Jammu and Kashmir police was killed at a point blank range in Anantnag's Lal Chowk area.

Kulgam Terror Attack

Kulgam's Killam area is extremely painful and heartbreaking. These labourers had come here to feed their families and raise their children. They had no enmity with anyone. These Pakistan-backed cowards have committed not just the murder of innocent people but the murder of humanity itself," he said.

Referring to the victims' families, Sharma said the sight of helpless children deeply moved him.

"A one-and-a-half-year-old child saw his father being killed before his eyes. What kind of jihad is this? It is extremely unfortunate. No amount of condemnation is enough for such a barbaric act. My heart cried when I saw those helpless children and grieving family members," he said.

Sharma said he had spoken to the family members of the victims as well as the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, who, he said, assured all possible assistance to the bereaved families.

"The Jammu and Kashmir government will also provide support. No amount of compensation can replace a human life because life is priceless, but every effort must be made to rehabilitate the affected families," he added.

Calling for decisive action against terrorism, Sharma said security forces must not only eliminate terrorists but also dismantle the entire support structure behind them.

"I believe the entire ecosystem supporting terrorism must be exposed and destroyed. The security forces are investigating, and the complete network behind such acts must be brought to light so that such incidents do not recur," he said.

The BJP leader also took exception to National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah's remarks linking the Kulgam terror

attack with the demand for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

"Dr Farooq Abdullah said such attacks take place whenever statehood is demanded. If he himself says he does not know who carried out the attack, then why make such statements? What exactly does he want to convey? Does he want to support terrorism or suggest something else? He must first clarify his remarks," Sharma said.

He said linking terrorism with the issue of statehood is 'strange and unacceptable.'

"Statehood is a matter to be decided by the Parliament of India. Connecting terrorist incidents with the demand for statehood is beyond understanding. Terrorism should never be politicised," he said.

LoP Sharma said there should be a fair and thorough investigation into the incident and asserted that no one should interfere in the probe.

"Let the investigation proceed honestly. Nobody should come forward to shield those who are found involved. Whenever security forces act, some people immediately begin defending suspects. The entire structure and ecosystem backing terrorism must be exposed, and only then can this menace be uprooted," he added. — (KNO)

Heavy Rain

Meanwhile, a cloudburst struck Chatroo market in Kishtwar district at around 2:30 am, triggering a flash flood that swept through the area.

The flash flood washed away several vehicles, while mud and debris entered shops and other commercial establishments, causing extensive damage to property and disrupting normal business activities, officials said.

No loss of life or injuries were reported in the incident, they added.

Following the cloudburst, officials of the district administration, police and other concerned departments rushed to the spot and launched restoration work, including the clearance of debris and assessment of the damage.

As a precautionary measure, the Chatroo-Kishtwar stretch of National Highway-244 was closed to vehicular traffic. Authorities advised commuters to avoid travel on the route until normal traffic is restored and urged people to stay away from streams, nallahs and other vulnerable locations in view of the continuing wet weather.

Amid the prevailing weather conditions, the district administrations in Ramban and Kishtwar ordered the closure of all government and private schools for the day.

The Chief Education Officer (CEO), Ramban, directed all educational institutions in the district to remain closed on Saturday and instructed heads of schools to conduct online classes to minimise academic disruption.

A similar order was issued by the CEO, Kishtwar, citing heavy rainfall, slippery road conditions and the possibility of shooting stones posing a threat to the safety of students and staff. Schools in the district were also asked to switch to online classes.

According to the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, Kathua recorded the highest rainfall in the past 24 hours at 46 mm, followed by Shalimar 42 mm, Shopian 41 mm, and another observatory in Shopian 40 mm, Awantipora 31 mm, Ramban 30.5 mm and Poonch 27.5 mm.

The weather office has forecast generally cloudy conditions with spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers over the next few days, with the possibility of heavy to very heavy showers at isolated places, particularly in parts of the Jammu division.

It warned that torrential rain and brief intense showers could trigger flash floods, landslides and shooting stones at vulnerable locations during the next five days.

Meanwhile, a cloudburst near Mina-2 in Minamarg triggered flash floods and landslides on Friday evening, affecting four temporary shelters of Bakerwal families, but swift action by Police Post Minamarg ensured all occupants were safely evacuated without any loss of life.

The cloudburst struck the area in the evening hours, causing flash floods that impacted approximately 20 persons belonging to Bakerwal families residing in deras opposite Police Post Minamarg.

Acting promptly, personnel of Police Post Minamarg launched a swift rescue operation and safely evacuated all the affected families to the Police Post Minamarg building and the Sheep Husbandry Department building at Minamarg.

During the incident, a Wagon R vehicle was also washed away by the flash flood. However, all the occupants of the vehicle are safe, and no casualties have been reported.

Meanwhile, traffic on the Drass-Srinagar National Highway has been temporarily suspended at the affected location. Police personnel from Police Post Minamarg, along with road clearance machinery, are on the spot and actively engaged in clearing debris and restoring traffic at the earliest.

District Police Drass appealed to all commuters, tourists, and locals to avoid crossing overflowing water channels, streams, and flood-prone areas and to exercise utmost caution while travelling until normal conditions are restored—(KNO)

Security Forces

track down the attackers who shot the two labourers dead. Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat and senior officials from police and other security forces visited the spot and reviewed the security situation,

officials said.

Security has been heightened in other parts of the Valley, and checking and frisking of persons and vehicles have also been intensified, they said.

Two migrant labourers, Deepak Ratray and Bopinder, who were in their 20s and hailed from Chhattisgarh, were shot dead by terrorists at a brick kiln in the Kelam area of Kulgam district late on Friday evening.

The last rites of the deceased were performed at the Palpora area of the district in the presence of family members and senior officers from police and civil administration, officials said.

Friday's attack comes close on the heels of the killing of a policeman on Amarnath Yatra duty in Anantnag district on July 22, following which over 3,000 overground workers were detained.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah called for an investigation into the killing, indicating that such incidents happen in the Valley whenever a demand for statehood is raised.

"I regret it. We do not even know who killed them. There should be an investigation, a fair probe into who the killers are," Abdullah told reporters in Baramulla district.

Questioning the timing of the incident, the three-time chief minister said, "I don't know why such incidents happen whenever we seek statehood."

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti told reporters here that the killings were the result of a "security lapse".

"This cycle must stop. Despite heavy security presence, which causes so much agony for locals, such incidents happen. In my view, there was a lapse in security somewhere," Mehbooba said, demanding a probe.

She said the L-G administration, which looks after law and order in Jammu and Kashmir, needs to look into how the attack took place despite a large presence of security personnel deployed for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh each for the kin of the two migrant labourers. This is in addition to the immediate assistance of Rs 6 lakh each announced by the district administration.

The chief minister also strongly condemned the dastardly killing of two labourers and expressed profound grief over the loss of innocent lives.

"He announced an ex gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the next of kin of the deceased. This will be in addition to the immediate assistance of Rs 6 lakh each to be provided by the district administration," the Chief Minister's Office said on X.

NSA Doval Played

He said Tilak's life and teachings continue to inspire the country's youth and remain relevant in nation-building.

"Tilak united people and connected them with the freedom movement through the public Ganesh festival. India is now moving firmly on the path of cultural nationalism laid down by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and no one can reverse that journey," Shah added.

Describing Tilak as one of the foremost architects of India's freedom movement, Shah said his ideas on nationalism, self-rule and social awakening continue to guide the nation.

He added that Tilak's life and teachings serve as an inspiration for today's younger generation.

Addressing the event, Doval said he was thankful for the award named after Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and was accepting it with humility.(PTI)

J&K To Fully Implement

inadequate, with many eligible beneficiaries failing to receive the benefits guaranteed under the law," the minister said addressing a press conference here.

He said the Department of Tribal Affairs has now been designated as the nodal department for implementing the Act, replacing the earlier arrangement under which the Forest Department handled FRA-related matters.

As part of the implementation framework, the government has established a Project Management Unit (PMU) and nominated three experts representing Kashmir, Jammu and Poonch, he said, adding that district-level implementation cells are also being set up across Jammu and Kashmir and are expected to become operational within a week to 10 days.

The minister said Deputy Commissioners have been directed to expedite all pending as well as fresh claims under the Act.

"Many tribal families living in remote areas have been unable to file or pursue their claims because of poor connectivity, lack of awareness and limited access to government services. The PMU will assist applicants throughout the claims process," Rana said.

Referring to recent notices reportedly issued by the Forest Department in several areas, Rana said the Tribal Affairs Department has issued a circular clarifying that the Forest Department cannot issue notices

under the Forest Rights Act.

He explained that while the Forest Department functions under the Indian Forest Act, the implementation of the Forest Rights Act now falls under the designated nodal department, and clear directions have been issued to all concerned authorities regarding their respective roles.

The minister emphasized that the process of recognizing forest rights begins at the Gram Sabha level and proceeds through various statutory stages before claims are finally decided.

He said that people who have been residing on forest land for generations would not be disturbed until the recognition and verification process under the Act is completed.

Addressing concerns over previous eviction drives, Rana said the government had ordered inquiries into complaints, including those arising from the recent incidents in Jammu.

"For the first time in Jammu and Kashmir, inquiry committees were constituted specifically to examine allegations of excesses against members of the tribal community," he said.

He disclosed that two separate inquiries had been initiated — one by the Revenue Department and another by the Tribal Affairs Department. The Tribal Affairs Department's inquiry has been completed and its report submitted to the government.

"Wherever illegal actions have taken place, and whoever is found responsible, the government will study the reports carefully and implement their recommendations in letter and spirit," he said.

Clarifying the government's policy on forest land, Rana reiterated a principle he said he had maintained from the first day in office: "No new encroachments, and no eviction of existing occupants."

He said the policy is fully consistent with the spirit of the Forest Rights Act.

"Any encroachment on forest land will not be tolerated under any circumstances. However, those who have been residing or cultivating the land for decades and are eligible under the Forest Rights Act will have their claims examined through the prescribed legal process, and decisions will be taken accordingly," he said.

He reiterated that protecting the rights of Scheduled Tribes, nomadic communities and other backward sections remains a key priority of the J&K government, and said the implementation of the Forest Rights Act marks a significant step towards ensuring social justice and legal recognition of long-pending rights.

Amarnath Yatra

official figures, 8,493 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Saturday, including 5,654 men, 2,513 women, 45 children, 39 sadhus, 29 sadhvis, five transgender devotees and 208 security personnel.

A total number of pilgrims who have paid obeisance at the shrine since the commencement of the annual pilgrimage on July 3 has reached 4,55,281, officials added—(KNO)

Jmu-Sgr Highway

affected stretch was made motorable, following which vehicular movement was restored in a phased manner," an official said, adding, "Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) were released simultaneously from Udhampur and Qazigund after the highway was declared fit for traffic.

Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMTVs) stranded on the Kashmir side were also allowed to proceed towards Jammu," an official said—(KNO)

Livelihood Quest Ends

making efforts to bring Deepak's mortal remains back to his native village.

A similar tragedy unfolded in Sarangarh-Bilaigarh district, where 28-year-old Bhupendra Bhaina had left his village of Chhuiya three months ago to work at a brick kiln in the Union Territory with his wife.

The couple left their four-year-old son in the care of Bhupendra's grandmother and minor sister, while his parents and brother were away working as labourers in Himachal Pradesh, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma said.

He said that officers reached Bhupendra's home around 2 am to break the tragic news. However, given the sensitive hour, the police chose not to inform his elderly grandmother and young sister immediately, instead contacting his father in Himachal Pradesh.

Local authorities are coordinating with police and J&K administration for all necessary assistance to bring back his remains, he added.

Unaware of her brother's death on Saturday morning, Bhupendra's sister told reporters that he had gone to Kashmir solely because the family struggled to afford bare necessities.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai expressed grief over the deaths and described the killings of the two workers in the "cowardly terror attack" as deeply painful.

He said necessary directions had been issued to officials and assured that the Chhattisgarh government stood firmly with the bereaved families and would extend all possible assistance.

ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL

+91- 9906230114- 6006600834

DAR MATTING SHOP

DEALS IN:- BLANKETS, BED SHEETS, BED COVERS, PILLOW COVERS, DOOR MATS, ROOM SHEETS, GRAPHICS, LINING, ROTTERY & MUCH MORE

Speaker holds public outreach camp at Kanidajan

Assures accelerated development, protection of rights under Forest Rights Act

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Saturday visited village Kanidajan in the Charar-i-Sharief Constituency, where he held a public outreach camp to listen to the grievances of the people, review the developmental needs of the area and assess the overall progress of various public welfare initiatives.

During the public interaction, the people apprised the Speaker of several issues concerning the area and projected their developmental aspirations while expressing appreciation for his continued outreach and accessibility.

A major concern raised by the villagers pertained to the alleged harassment caused by issuance of eviction notices by the Forest Department and the reported obstruction of agricultural activities on lands which, they said, have been under their possession and cultivation for generations.

The residents informed the Speaker that a large number of families are solely dependent on the produce from these lands for their livelihood and urged the government to safeguard their legitimate rights.

Addressing the gathering, the Speaker categorically stated that no one would be allowed to act in violation of the provisions



of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. He asserted that the rights of all eligible beneficiaries under the Act would be protected in letter and spirit adding that no undue harassment of villagers would be tolerated.

The Speaker said that officers and officials of the Forest Department are expected to be fully conversant with the provisions of the law and must discharge their responsibilities in strict conformity with the legal framework.

He said that the government has recently issued comprehensive guidelines clearly explaining implementation of the relevant provisions of the Forest Rights Act. He cautioned that no individual should attempt to misuse the Act as a pretext for fresh encroachments on forest land or government property, emphasizing that the law must be implemented fairly and

transparently while safeguarding the rights of genuine beneficiaries.

The villagers also highlighted several long-pending developmental requirements, including improvement of road connectivity, augmentation of drinking water supply, strengthening of electricity infrastructure, upgradation of the local High School to Higher Secondary level, enhancement of healthcare facilities and establishment of veterinary centres in the area.

Responding to the demands, the Speaker assured the gathering that the government remains fully committed to the welfare and inclusive development of the people. He said that all genuine issues projected by the residents would be taken up with the concerned departments and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

The Speaker also gave

a detailed account of the developmental initiatives undertaken by the present government during the last one-and-a-half years in the Charar-i-Sharief Constituency. He informed the gathering that macadamisation works on several important roads, including Dardpora-Kanidajan Road, Hayatpora-Wanpora via Kazipora Road, Tujan-Til-sara Road, Charaipora – Karpura-Tujan Road, Dardpora-Chrawani-Charar-i-Sharief Road besides other key road projects have been completed.

He announced that the macadamisation of the 9-kilometre Kanidajan-Nowgam road will soon be taken up at an estimated cost of around Rs. 2 crore. Similarly, works on the Nowgam-Nilnag road at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.40 crore, Leden-Dobha road at a cost of Ra 97 lakh, restoration of the Kanidajan-Darwan road and improvement of the Kanidajan-Pehlipora road at an estimated cost of Rs. 70 lakh and Rs. 40 lakh, respectively, will also be undertaken shortly.

The Speaker reiterated that every effort is being made to strengthen the infrastructure and improve the quality of life of the people through sustained public investment and responsive governance.

The people expressed gratitude to the Speaker for his commitment towards resolving the public issues.

MLA B'pora reviews Dev Works, stresses timely Public Service Delivery

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Bandipora Constituency, Nizamuddin Bhat, on Saturday chaired a departmental review meeting at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora to assess the progress of developmental works and public welfare initiatives in the constituency.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora; Chief Education Officer Bandipora; Chief Medical Officer Bandipora; District Social Welfare Officer Bandipora; MS DH Bandipora; Executive Engineers; Tehsildar Bandipora, besides other concerned officers.

The MLA reviewed the department-wise progress of ICDS, Revenue,

Health, Education, Social Welfare, Power Development Department (PDD), Sports Council, Youth Services & Sports, National Health Mission (NHM), AYUSH and other line departments.

The MLA reviewed the status of ongoing development projects, Constituency Development Fund (CDF) works, Tribal sector projects and the CAPEX Budget 2026-27, and sought status from the concerned departments regarding implementation of various schemes and projects.

Chief Planning Officer, Bandipora, delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the progress of schemes and projects under different sectors.

During the meeting, the MLA directed the Programme Officer, ICDS Bandipora, to ensure that the vacant posts of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers are advertised and filled up at the earliest. He also directed that all essential

facilities be ensured at Anganwadi Centres and that benefits under various welfare schemes reach the deserving beneficiaries effectively.

Reviewing the Health Department, the MLA directed that a special audit of District Hospital Bandipora and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) be conducted, including the National Health Mission (NHM) manpower engaged and the utilisation of funds under different components in District Hospital Bandipora.

The MLA urged the Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora to ensure prompt public service delivery, particularly the issuance of Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates to eligible applicants within the stipulated timeframe.

The MLA also urged the Power Development Department to take necessary measures to reduce power curtailments and

improve electricity supply for the convenience of the general public.

He directed the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Bandipora to obtain approval for the proposals related to the distribution of assistance under individual beneficiary schemes from the MLA.

The MLA directed the Youth Services & Sports Department and the Sports Council to take up the matter of the unsafe building at SK Sports Stadium with the R&B Department. The Executive Engineer, R&B Bandipora, was asked to furnish the necessary report for further process.

The MLA urged all departments to furnish details of pending issues and projects requiring intervention at the level of the Heads of Departments, Administrative Departments, or the Government so that the same could be taken up with the concerned authorities.

FDA issues Public Health Advisory against Unsafe "New Fast Tea"

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has issued a public health advisory advising consumers not to purchase or consume "Dust Tea (Premium Instant Mix Tea)" marketed under the brand "New Fast Tea", Batch No. 10, packed by M/s INAAAM Tea Agency, Thane, Maharashtra, after the product was declared Unsafe by the National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad.

The sample was lifted by the Food Safety Officer, Tral, on 27.06.2026 during routine enforcement activities and forwarded to the National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad, for analysis.

As per Food Analyst's Report, the sample was found to contain the prohibited synthetic food colours, Tartrazine and Sunset Yellow, rendering the product Unsafe under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made thereunder.

Based on the laboratory findings, the Designated Officer (Assistant Commissioner), Pulwama, has issued a Prohibition Order under Section 36(3)(b) read with Section 18(1)(f) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, prohibiting the sale and distribution of the affected batch within District Pulwama. Further regulatory proceedings under the Act have also been initiated.

Consumers in possession of the batch are advised not to consume the product. Any instance of its sale or distribution may be reported immediately to the concerned Designated Officer or the Food & Drugs Administration.

The Food & Drugs Administration, J&K, appeals to the public to remain vigilant and report the sale or availability of the prohibited tea batch or any suspected case of unsafe, adulterated, or misbranded food through the Toll-Free Helpline 104 or by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

DG Rural Sanitation reviews SBM (G) progress in Kupwara

Calls for Time-Bound completion of Sanitation Works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra, Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting in Kupwara to assess the progress of key Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) initiatives across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, Shabir Ahmad Hakak, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Kupwara, Ab Rashid Sheikh, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kupwara, Ab Rashid Ganaie, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers, Consultants of the Directorate and other concerned officers.

The review focused on the status of rural sanitation assets, door-to-door waste collection services, tendering of sanitation infrastructure, operation and maintenance of existing assets, and other SBM(G)-related works being implemented across the district.

During the meeting, the Director General conducted a block-wise review of ongoing projects and directed all Block Development Officers to accelerate the pace of implementation.

She emphasized that Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) should remain a priority and instructed the officers to ensure timely execution of all sanctioned works.

Stressing the importance of efficient service delivery, the Director General Rural Sanitation called for the time-bound completion of all ongoing sanitation projects and directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Kupwara, to closely monitor progress and ensure that all works are completed within the stipulated timelines.

She also underscored the need for strengthening door-to-door waste collection services and ensuring that sanitation assets like Plastic Waste Management Units, Segregation Sheds and other allied assets are made fully functional for the benefit of rural communities.

DLSA Srinagar organizes Special Lok Adalat for Matrimonial Cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In compliance to the directions of NALSA & JK Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat for Matrimonial Cases.

The Special Lok Adalat, aimed at amicably resolving Cases, was held under the guidance of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, two benches were constituted for the Special Lok Adalat. The 1st bench was presided over by Mehreen Mushtaq, Principal Judge Family Court, Srinagar, and Massarat Jabeen, PT&E Magistrate, Srinagar as Member, and the 2nd bench was presided over by Preet Simran Kaur, 4th Additional Sessions Judge, Srinagar and Fida Hussain Nayak, Municipal Magistrate, Srinagar as member.

85 cases were taken up by these benches for amicable settlement, out of which 14 cases were settled.

Rahul Gandhi warns delimitation threatens Tamil Nadu

IANAS

CHENNAI: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday called upon political parties across the country, particularly those in Tamil Nadu, to unite against the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise, alleging that it would undermine the State's political representation and interests.

Speaking to reporters at Mamalapuram near Chennai, LoP Rahul Gandhi accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of attempting to use delimitation to reduce Tamil Nadu's political influence.

He said all regional and national parties should come together in Parliament to defeat any legislation that could adversely affect the State's representation.

He alleged that the proposed exercise was designed to "disenfranchise" the people of Tamil Nadu and take away their political power.

LoP Rahul Gandhi described it as a conspiracy by the BJP and maintained that parties in the State should recognise its potential long-term consequences.

"Every single Tamil party and every national party should defeat the delimitation bill in Parliament," LoP Rahul Gandhi said, stressing the need for a united political response.

He further alleged that any party supporting the BJP on the issue would be acting against Tamil Nadu's interests.

He claimed that backing such a proposal would effectively allow the RSS and BJP to weaken the state's political voice.

Stepping up his attack, LoP Rahul Gandhi said political parties or leaders who helped the BJP secure passage of a delimitation bill would be remembered by history as the "21st-century Ettappan". Ettappan, an 18th-century Tamil ruler, is remembered as a symbol of betrayal for allegedly assisting the British against freedom fighter Veerapandia Kattabomman.

The Congress has been raising concerns that a population-based delimitation exercise could reduce the relative parliamentary influence of southern States that have performed better in population control compared with some northern States.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U T)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.
email: xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM 01 (CANCELLATION)
Name of work:- Annual Operation and Comprehensive Maintenance of Oxygen Generation Plants at SDH Kupwara for the year 2026-27.
Reference: 1) e-NIT No: - MHDH/TS/2026-27/eNIT/34
Tender Id: 2026_PWDJK_316797_1
Due to technical reasons, the above referred to NIT is hereby cancelled.
No: MHDH/TS/1268-71
Date:- 31/07/2026.
DIPK-3983-26
DT: 01/08/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

از عدالت ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول تحصیلدار ڈاگر پورا۔
مضمون: درخواست: منجانب مرثیہ بیٹ ولد عبد فی بٹ ساکن پٹیکو تحصیل ڈاگر پورہ برادر اہری رت سنگلیٹ، دختر سہرڈ۔
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
چونکہ معاملہ زیر بحث کے نسبت سائل نے تحصیلدار ڈاگر پورہ کو درخواست نسبت اجرائی سنگلیٹ زیر بحث دی تھی جنہوں نے عدالت ہذا کو رجسٹریشن احکامات صادر کی، سائل نے اپنی بیٹی کی پیدائش School Board of Education میں پیش کی ہے۔ جس کے مطابق بیٹی کی پیدائش 2011/09/03 ہے۔ قبل اس کے رجسٹریشن کے لئے احکامات نسبت اجرائی تبصرہ سرکیٹ اجراء کیا جائے تو اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عریا اعتراض ہو تو سات یوم کے اندر دفتر ہذا میں دفتری اوقات کے دوران اپنے عذرات پیش کریں۔ بعدگزرتے معیا کوئی عذر داری قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
(DESIGNATED OFFICER UNDER FSS ACT)
DRUGS AND FOOD CONTROL ORGANISATION
DISTRICT PULWAMA

Subject: Prohibition on Sale of "Dust Tea (Premium Instant Mix Tea)" marketed under the brand name New Fast Tea (Batch No. 10)

ORDER

Whereas, the Food Safety Officer Tral procured a sample of "Dust Tea" sold in the market under the brand name New Fast Tea (Batch No. 10) packed by Inaam Tea Thaan in the month of April 2026.

Whereas, the Food Analyst, National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad, vide Report No. JK-393/JUL/26/418 dated 22/07/2026, has declared the said sample as "UNSAFE" on the ground that it shows presence of water soluble synthetic colour Tartazine and Sunset Yellow.

Whereas consumption of the above said tea is harmful to health and is thus liable to be prohibited under Regulation 2.3.7 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011.

Whereas manufacture and sale of Unsafe Food, as defined under section 3(l)(zz)(viii) is prohibited and is punishable under section 59(i) of the Food Safety and Standards Acts, 2006

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 36(3)(b) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and in the interest of public health, I Designated Officer, Food Safety, Pulwama, hereby prohibit the sale of the aforesaid food product within the territorial jurisdiction of District Pulwama with immediate effect and until further orders.

No:ACF/PUL-26/245-246
Dated:31/07/2026

DIPK-3985-26
DT: 01/08/2026

Assistant /Commissioner
Food Safety Pulwama

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE KASHMIR
NOTIFICATION
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR PROCUREMENT OF QUALITY SAFFRON CORMS FROM INDIVIDUAL FARMERS, REGISTERED NURSERIES, FARMER-PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS, COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES, AND OTHER ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

The Directorate of Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare, Kashmir invites Expressions of Interest from residents of J&K being Individual farmers, registered nurseries, farmer-producer organisations, cooperative societies, and other eligible entities capable of supplying certified, disease-free saffron (Crocus sativus L.) corms of local origin for establishment of public sector nursery during the current sowing season.

Interested and eligible parties are required to submit, in the prescribed format, the requisite parameters as mentioned below by or before 08.08.2026. Detailed eligibility conditions, technical specifications and evaluation criteria are set out in the EOI document available from the Directorate's office and its official web portal. However, the proforma of the documents can be obtained from Directorate of Agriculture against a payment of Rs. 100/-

Applications not accompanied by the required documents or received after the closing date and time, are liable to be summarily rejected. The Directorate reserves the right to verify any source field or nursery declared by an applicant prior to shortlisting, and to reject any application where such verification cannot be satisfactorily completed.

Technical Specification and Inspection Checklist

Parameter	Specification / Check
Species/variety	Crocus sativus L., verified local (Kashmir GI-consistent) ecotype
Size grade	≥6gms.
Disease status	Free of visible corm-rot lesions, mycelial growth, or soft rot
Mechanical condition	Free of cuts, bruising or crushing damage from lifting
Traceability Details (Land & Origin); Source & registration Certificate	Authenticated from concerned Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar/ Pulwama/ Kishtwar
Non blacklisting document	Affidavit from First Class Judicial Magistrate
Supply Capacity (minimum of 50 Qtls)	Undertaking in prescribed format (self-attested)

No.: Agri/ Acctts/2026-27/ 1706-10
Dated: 01 /08/2026
DIPK-4009-26
DT: 01/08/2026

Sd/-
Accounts Officer
Directorate of Agriculture
Kashmir

