

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

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Use modern technologies like remote sensing, geospatial mapping, and AI to track glacier retreat, spring flow, soil health, and forest cover. This data should inform every development project in the region, the Lieutenant Governor said.

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Cloudbursts, Flash Floods Claim 2 In J&K



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Two persons were killed as multiple cloudbursts and intense rainfall battered several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, triggering flash floods, damaging roads, bridges, houses and agricultural land.

Meanwhile, the traffic on the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was suspended, while as rescue teams evacuated dozens of stranded residents in different areas.

According to the details available, a woman was killed after a cloudburst triggered flash floods in the Himli area of Lolab in North

Kashmir's Kupwara district, while another man drowned in a water body in Singhpora area of Baramulla amid the inclement weather, officials said. The deceased were identified as Naseema Begum, wife of Mohd Ayub, a resident of Warnow and Murtaza Bashir son of Bashir Ahmad Lone a resident of Boniyar area of Baramulla district.

The worst-hit district in Kashmir was Shopian, where cloudbursts in the upper reaches triggered flash floods in Zawoor, Badrham and Kijarsinda villages.

Officials said floodwaters entered several residential houses in Badrham. **•P-06**

'J&K Govt School Teaching Staff Plummets By Over 4,800'

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, 'the teaching staff in government-run-schools have dropped by over 4800 in the past three years.'

According to the official figures available,

Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a reduction of 4811 teaching staff since the academic year 2023-24 to 2025-26.

The figures reveal that in the academic year 2023-24, Jammu and Kashmir had a total of 96,370 teachers in government **•P-06**

CM To Preside Over Main I-Day Function At Bakshi Stadium

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will preside over and take the salute at the main Independence Day function to be held at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

According to a communiqué issued to divisional commissioners by the General Administration Department, the Chief Minister will lead the proceedings in the summer capital.

As per details, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary will take the salute at the main Independence Day function in Jammu, while Sakina Masood Itoo will preside over the event in Anantnag.

Cabinet ministers Javid



Rana, Javid Dar, and Satish Sharma will respectively take the salute at Independence Day functions in Poonch, Baramulla, and Kathua.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, who holds cabinet status, will take the salute at the main Independence Day function in Kupwara, his home district. This will be the first time since his **•P-06**

LG Calls For Nature-Based Solutions For Building Climate Resilience In Himalayas

Says Young Population India's Greatest Strength

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Monday attended Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) conference on Strengthening Climate Resilience and Livelihoods in the Himalayan Region through Nature-based Solutions. He also inaugurated Civil and Mechanical Engineering Block at the main campus, IUST's Larmoo Campus and the Law School. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the IUST for their initiatives and lauded the University's policy brief on the Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir campaign.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the alarming pace of climate change in the Himalayan region. He noted that between January and August last year, the Himalayas witnessed a natural disaster almost every day. In Jammu Kashmir alone, flash floods and cloudbursts have damaged public infrastructure, disrupting roads, water supply



schemes, and power feeders. The Lieutenant Governor observed that there is no dichotomy between development and conservation and the nature itself is infrastructure.

"For example, constructing a watershed is also an effective flood-control system. It is infrastructure that also serves as a water purification system and forms the basis of an irrigation system. Similarly, a wetland is nature's vast reservoir because

it absorbs excess water during the monsoon and then slowly gives life to surrounding areas during the dry months. A dense forested mountain slope is in fact like a strong wall that protects the entire mountain from collapsing onto the villages below. Therefore, I believe that when we destroy these natural systems, we are playing with the future. But when we conserve and restore these natural systems, we are investing in a

bright future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the scientists and domain experts to bring Nature-based Solutions out of the margins of development planning and place them at its centre. He also placed six major recommendations before policymakers, scientists, and engineers.

"Use modern technologies like remote sensing, geospatial mapping, and AI to track glacier retreat, spring flow, soil health, and forest cover. This data should inform every development project in the region. Nature-based Solutions must be embedded into project budgeting, appraisal, and monitoring. Farmers, shepherds, orchard owners, and tribal communities must be equal stakeholders. Their generational knowledge of rivers, mountains, and forests is invaluable. Annual budget reviews should include whether forests and ecosystems have grown richer or weaker, ensuring accountability for environmental wealth. Establish platforms for long-term cooperation among scientists, policymakers, and communities **•P-06**

“BY PLACING NATURE AT THE CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT, INTEGRATING MODERN technology with traditional wisdom, and involving communities as equal partners, the Himalayan region can build resilience against climate change. We must remember that Himalayas are not merely a geographical entity but a living heritage that demands foresight, patience, and responsibility,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

J&K Sees Sharp Rise In Bank Fraud Cases In FY 2025-26: Centre

103 Fraud Cases Reported, Rs 6.92 Crore Recovered, Lok Sabha Informed

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 103 financial fraud cases involving Rs 193.49 crore during the financial year 2025-26, with Rs 6.92 crore recovered, the Ministry of Finance informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to State/UT-wise data provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), J&K reported 467 fraud cases involving Rs 47.55 crore in FY 2023-24, of which Rs 3.23 crore was recovered. The number of reported cases declined to 298 in FY 2024-25, while the amount involved rose to Rs 81.27 crore. Of this, Rs 2.65 crore was recovered, the data, showed. In FY 2025-26, the number of reported fraud cases stood at 103, but the amount involved surged to Rs 193.49



crore, with Rs 6.92 crore recovered.

The Ministry said banks are required to immediately report fraud incidents to concerned law enforcement agencies, including State/UT Police, SFIO, and CBI, depending on the amount involved. It added that there are no defined timelines for recovery due to the complexity of fraud cases and the involvement of

multiple agencies, institutions, tribunals, and courts.

The Centre also said that financial fraud complaints reported through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal or helpline 1930 feed into the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System, which enables coordination between police agencies, banks, and financial **•P-06**

'J&K Gets Rs 60,240 Crore In Mudra Loans Since 2015'



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has received more than 26.57 lakh loans worth Rs 60,240.14 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) since the scheme was launched in April 2015, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The figures were shared by the Ministry of Finance in a written reply to an unstarred question in Parliament. The ministry said the scheme has widened access to institutional finance by providing collateral-free loans to individuals, including informal workers, with viable business plans to establish or expand micro

and small enterprises.

According to the state-wise data, Jammu and Kashmir accounted for 26,57,613 loan accounts sanctioned under the scheme. Of these, 6,44,876 loans worth Rs 11,367.02 crore were extended to women entrepreneurs, highlighting their significant share in the programme's outreach in the Union Territory.

The Centre said the PM Mudra Yojana has played a key role in bringing borrowers from the informal sector into the formal banking system by enabling them to access institutional credit and build credit histories. The scheme offers collateral-free loans through banks, regional rural **•P-06**

Amarnath Yatra Crosses 4.64 Lakh, Fresh Batch Of 1,056 Leave Jammu

7,507 Pilgrims Perform Darshan As Baltal-Bound Convoy Departs Under Tight Security

UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: The Amarnath Yatra tally crossed 4.64 lakh on Monday as 7,507 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, while a fresh batch of 1,056 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu for the Baltal base camp under tight security arrangements.

Figures available show that 7,507 pilgrims, including 5,623 men, 1,344 women, 106 children, 36 sadhus, 14 sadhvis, five transgender devotees and 379 security personnel, performed darshan on Monday, taking the cumulative number of pilgrims since the commencement of the Yatra on July 3 to 4,64,697.



The figures further show that the 26th batch of pilgrims departed from Bhagwati Nagar at 2:49 a.m. The batch comprised 832 men,

205 women, two children, 15 sadhus and two sadhvis. No convoy was dispatched via the Pahalgam route.

"The pilgrims travelled in a

“THE PILGRIMS travelled in a convoy of 46 vehicles, comprising 24 buses, seven medium motor vehicles (MMVs) and 15 light motor vehicles (LMVs), under a tight security escort,”

convoy of 46 vehicles, comprising 24 buses, seven medium motor vehicles (MMVs) and 15 light motor vehicles (LMVs), under a tight security escort," an official said.

The official said that with the departure of the latest batch, the total number of pilgrims who have left the Jammu base camp for the ongoing pilgrimage has reached 1,40,748—(KNO)

Jmu-Sgr Highway Shut After Rain Triggers Slush

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was suspended from both sides near Dawal Bridge in Udhampur district on Monday evening after heavy rainfall caused slush and made the road unsafe for vehicular movement, officials said.

The highway has been reduced to a single carriageway at the Dawal slide point in Samrol area, where the road surface turned muddy and slippery following the rain, they said.

Teams from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), along with machinery and Traffic Police personnel, have been deployed at the site to clear the stretch and restore traffic, officials said.

Commuters have been advised against travelling on NH-44 until the road is cleared and declared safe for movement.

Authorities also urged people not to pay heed to **•P-06**

In 2026, 35 Cloudbursts Claimed 31 Lives Across J&K

Experts Call For Stronger Early Warning Systems, Hazard Mapping



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed at least 35 cloudburst incidents this year so far, claiming around 31 lives and causing widespread destruction to homes, roads, bridges and public infrastructure.

Official data accessed, shows that at least 22 cloudbursts were reported between June 1 and mid-July, while persistent heavy rainfall during the second half of July and the beginning

of August triggered several more incidents, pushing the total number of reported cloudbursts beyond 35.

The fatalities have largely resulted from cloudbursts, flash floods and rain-triggered landslides, with the Jammu division accounting for the highest number of deaths. The worst-hit districts include Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Doda and Kishtwar, while several parts of Kashmir, particularly Shopian and Kupwara, have also witnessed **•P-06**

Dir Info reviews preparations for 1st Int'l Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir

Over 1100 film entries received from more than 50 countries for grand festival

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Information, Shreya Singhal chaired a review meeting at Media Complex here Monday to take stock of the preparations for the forthcoming 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK).

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Information (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; Deputy Director Information (PR) Srinagar, Mohd Rafiq Zullah; Deputy Director Information (Hqr) Jammu, Aashu Kumari; Deputy Director Information (PR) Jammu, Moksha Dogra; Deputy Director Information (Hqr) Kashmir, Zubair Ahmad; Film Production Officer, Afaq Rasool Gadda; District Information Officers of various districts, Information Officers and other officials of the department, either in person or through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Director conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements being put in place for the festival, including venue management, delegate facilitation, hospitality, media manage-



ment, transportation, cultural programmes, technical support, logistics and other allied arrangements.

Addressing the officers, the Director stressed upon the officers that all preparations should be completed well within the stipulated timelines, leaving no scope for lapses. "Ensure fool-proof arrangements and seamless coordination among all stakeholders for the successful conduct of the prestigious event", she said.

Emphasizing that the inaugural edition of the International Film Festival marks a significant milestone in Jammu & Kashmir's cultural and cinematic landscape, Shreya Singhal said the event will

provide a global platform to showcase the J&K's rich heritage, scenic splendour, artistic excellence and immense potential as a preferred destination for film production and creative collaborations.

The Director Information directed all officers and committees concerned to maintain close coordination and ensure effective synergy among the departments and agencies associated with the festival. "Meticulous planning, prompt execution and continuous monitoring of preparations are essential for organizing the event in a smooth, professional and befitting manner", she maintained.

Shreya Singhal further

instructed the officers to regularly review the progress of works assigned to them and address emerging issues expeditiously through coordinated action. She also laid emphasis on robust media and publicity arrangements to ensure extensive outreach and wider visibility of the festival at the national and international levels.

The Director reiterated the commitment of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to host the festival to the highest professional standards, making it a landmark celebration of cinema that reflects the cultural vibrancy, creative aspirations and growing global profile of Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, officers briefed the Director Information on the status of preparations in their respective sectors and informed that the arrangements are progressing as per schedule.

Pertinently, the 1st IFFJK is slated to be held from 7th September to 10th September, 2026 and is guided by the theme 'Rang-e-Cinema'. The festival aims to bring filmmakers, industry professionals, and audiences together in one of India's most distinctive cultural landscapes.

Div Com reviews progress of Ring Road, directs expedited execution

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Monday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the Srinagar Ring Road Phases-II and II A falling in Ganderbal district and directed the concerned departments to expedite the execution of the prestigious infrastructure project.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; Project Director, National Highways Authority (NHAI), Chief Engineers of the Roads & Buildings (R&B) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) departments, besides other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the status of land acquisition, compensation disbursement, handover of acquired land, removal of



trees falling along the project alignment, demolition of private and government structures, court-related references, utility shifting, and other issues hindering the progress of the project.

Stressing the need for accurate documentation and timely resolution of pending issues, Anshul Garg directed the concerned officers to compile comprehensive details regarding acquired land, land already handed over to the executing agency, and pending court references by Friday. He also instructed the officers to conduct a joint site inspection

on Saturday to assess the ground situation and evaluate issues affecting the project's execution.

To facilitate smooth progress, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of removing trees falling within the project alignment in accordance with the prescribed procedures while considering transplantation wherever possible and ensuring compensatory afforestation in other cases.

Regarding private structures located on state land, he instructed NHAI team to

follow the executing agency's compensation norms and ensure prompt resolution of the issue. In the case of government structures, he directed that the buildings be handed over to the executing agency on an Equal Value Infrastructure (EVI) basis.

Addressing the issue related to the commissioning of the new PHE pipeline, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Chief Engineer, PHE, to facilitate its connection with the existing water supply network without disrupting essential services, thereby ensuring that the work progress on the project.

Reiterating the importance of timely completion of the Srinagar Ring Road Phase project, Anshul Garg emphasized close coordination among all stakeholder departments to remove impediments and accelerate the pace of work.

KPDCL announces Power Shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Monday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Rangreth Wanbal Doodhganga Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Kralpora, Wanbal, SIDCO and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 AM to 12 Noon on 09 August 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Cheshmashahi-TRC-Nedous line will be observed due to which power supply to CM residence/ Dy. CM residence/ Rabita House/ DC Residence and adjoining areas of Gupkar area (Gupkar, Church Lane, Radio Kashmir, CD Hospital, Kohnakhan, JK Bank Head Office, Lal Chowk, Chief Justice Residence and adjoining areas, Regal Chowk, IMPA, Banquet Hall, MLA Hostel and adjoining areas and Paras Hos-

pital will be affected from 10 AM to 02 PM on 04 August 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Amargarh Nowpora line will be observed due to which power supply to Nowpora, Seelo, Achabal, Behrampora, Bomai, Bugoo and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 10 & 12 August 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Arampora Kupwara Old, Galizoo Tap line will be observed due to which power supply to Kupwara Town -B, Zangli, Whole Lolab & Machil Valley and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 08 & 10 August 2026. Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Tral-1st (Tapline Chewa) will be observed due to which power supply to Chewa, Trali Baala, Bajwani, Khalil, Bathnoor, Hayina and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 06, 09 & 11 August 2026.

DC Budgam reviews preparations for 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2026'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Monday chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall to review preparations for the smooth and successful implementation of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2026 across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the arrangements being made by the concerned departments and stressed the importance of coordinated efforts for the successful observance of the campaign. He said the initiative aims to strengthen the spirit of patriotism, national unity and respect for the National Flag. He directed all departments to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination, wide public outreach and timely execution of activities to encourage maximum public participation and celebrate the campaign with enthusiasm across the district.

The DC reiterated the District Administration's commitment to the successful implementation of the campaign and expressed confidence that, through collective efforts, it would be celebrated in its true spirit across Budgam.

Govt approves ₹10.95 crore for restoration of Ziyarat Sharief Khiram, Shiv Mandir Thajiwara



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has approved two projects worth ₹10.95 crore for the preservation, restoration and upgradation of two prominent religious sites in Anantnag district.

An amount of ₹5.03 crore has been approved for the restoration and renovation of Ziyarat Sharief Khiram, while ₹5.92 crore has been sanctioned for the repair and renovation of Shiv Mandir, Thajiwara, Bijbehara.

The projects aim to preserve the sanctity, heritage and architectural character of these revered places of worship while upgrading essential infrastructure to provide a better experience for devotees and visitors.

The approvals are part of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah led Government's sustained efforts to conserve religious and her-

itage sites across Jammu and Kashmir through focused investments in restoration, preservation and infrastructure development. By protecting these sites and enhancing public amenities, the Government seeks to ensure that future generations continue to benefit from the region's rich spiritual, cultural and historical legacy.

Recently, the Government has approved a series of heritage conservation initiatives across Jammu and Kashmir. These include projects for the restoration and revival of the historic heritage site of Purmandal in Samba, the conservation and upgradation of the historic Inambara Zaidilab in Srinagar, the development of the revered holy spring of Khoo Sahib at Yarwan in Pulwama, and the restoration of the historic Jamia Masjid Sharief in Shopian along with the revered Sarvadar Chaumanda Mata Mandir in Ramban.

CAO Sgr Flags Off 60 Progressive Farmers for Exposure Visit under PKVY

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant initiative to promote organic farming and strengthen farmers' capacity through experiential learning, the Department of Agriculture, Srinagar, Monday flagged off a contingent of 60 progressive farmers and field officials for an exposure visit under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

The group was flagged off by the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO), Srinagar, Mir Ajaz Hassan, who highlighted the importance of exposure visits in equipping farmers with practical knowledge of successful organic farming models, sustainable agricultural practices, and innovative technologies. He said such visits provide an excellent platform for farmers and field functionaries to interact with experts, progressive growers, and leading institutions, enabling them to replicate proven practices in their own areas.

Addressing the participants before the flag-off, Mir Ajaz Hassan urged them to actively engage during the visit, observe the best practices being adopted in organic agriculture, and disseminate the knowledge gained among fellow farmers to accelerate the adoption of sustainable farming techniques across the district.

The PKVY is a flagship programme aimed at promoting organic farming through cluster-based approaches, capacity building, and market-oriented production systems. The visit is expected to enhance the participants' understanding of organic cultivation, certification processes, value addition, and marketing strategies.

The Department of Agriculture remains committed to empowering farmers through knowledge-sharing initiatives, field demonstrations, and exposure programmes that foster innovation, sustainability, and improved livelihoods in the agricultural sector.

ACD Anantnag calls for robust PRI Participation in VB-GRAM-G Act implementation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: A District-Level Panch Sammelan was organized Monday at the Block Headquarters, Khoveripora, to sensitize elected representatives and functionaries of the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on the provisions and implementation framework of the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-GRAM-G).

The Sammelan was chaired by the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Anantnag, Shafiq Ahmad Wani, who addressed former Panchs, Sarpanchs and other PRI functionaries. In his address, the ACD elaborated on the vision and objectives of the VB-GRAM-G Act, 2025, emphasizing the pivotal role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in its effective

implementation. He highlighted the statutory roles and responsibilities of PRIs under the Act, the preparation and approval of Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans (VGPPs), registration of eligible households and issuance of Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards (GRGCs), as well as the planning, execution, monitoring and long-term maintenance of community assets.

The ACD further underscored the significance of convergence with various rural development programmes to maximize developmental outcomes. Stressing the principles of good governance, he emphasized transparency, social accountability, effective grievance redressal, and robust social audit mechanisms as the cornerstones for successful implementation of the Act at the grassroots level.

DC B'gam rolls out 'Classes of Joy' initiative to address learning outcome gaps

Around 850 schools, 45000 children being covered

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Monday chaired a meeting on roll out of the Classes of Joy initiative in Budgam district to address the gaps in learning outcomes among the kids in primary and middle schools of the District.

The initiative aims to adopt Teaching at Right Level (TaRL) approach in partnership with Pratham Foundation. The action plan for elaborate capacity building and training of all primary and middle school teachers has been prepared. Appropriate teaching and learning tools are being

made available. The initiative will adopt 4 step process of baseline assessment of all children, grouping on the basis of learning levels, play way teaching interventions over next three months and then the end line assessment. The cycles would be then repeated to ensure the gaps are filled and kids achieve the class appropriate learning outcomes.

A comprehensive follow up, monitoring and support mechanism has been put in place. More than 850 schools, around 4600 teachers and around 45000 children are being covered in this major initiative.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

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OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

SINDH FOREST DIVISION GANDERBAL

e- NIT No:- 03 of 2026-27 | DATED 31-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:-

S.no.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) INR	Class Of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion
1.	Stabilization of Slip areas (DRSM Works) in compartment 37 of Manasbal Range in Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal DRSM = 392 CUMS	5.39	Rs. 10786/-	" C & D" Class PWD Contractor & "B"-Class Forest Contractor	Rs. 300/-	60 days

The position of codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA	Accorded
Position of TS	Accorded

The e-NIT, consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities (B.O.Q),Terms & Conditions of contract and other details ,can be seen/downloaded from the website:-www.jktenders.gov.in.

Publishing Date:	01-08 -2026 from 06:00PM
Download Start Date:	01-08-2026 from 06:00PM
Bid submission Start Date:	01-08-2026 from 06:00PM
Bid submission End Date:	10-08 -2026 Upto 04.00PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	11-08-2026 at 10:00 AM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Kashmir Srinagar Circle Srinagar
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after the technical evaluation is completed. Date will be notified separately.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department). (The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- III of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and 2% of EMD in the Shape of CDR/ FDR pledged in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer Sindh Forest Division, Ganderbal. The issuance date of the treasury challan and EMD must be in between that date of downloading to bid submission end date. The name of the work or NIT No, S.No. should clearly be mentioned on the treasury challan. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR 2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by the successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90-days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if :-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: https://jktenders.gov.in.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. EMD, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2026-27, PAN, Valid GST Registration alongwith latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the preceding quarter with respect to the issuance of e-NIT., Affidavit cum Undertaking (Notarized along with e-stamp) (Annexure-I), Cost of Tender Document.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labor Registration Certificate issued by Labor Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually otherwise the bid of the bidder shall be rejected.
- Bidder should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded / submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake / not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the contractor / bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division / Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

No. DFO/Sindh/Pig/2026-27/464-70
Dated:- 31-07-2026.
DIPK-4059-26
DT: 03/08/2026

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Sindh Forest Division
Ganderbal

NEWS

J&K records 5,908 small companies, 585 LLPs, 1,231 startups in 5 years: Centre

Says simplified compliance measures benefit small businesses

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir registered 5,908 small companies during the last five financial years, including 1,558 in 2025-26, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to the Ministry data, J&K registered 923 small companies in 2021-22, 886 in 2022-23, 1,301 in 2023-24, 1,240 in 2024-25, and 1,558 in 2025-26. The figures are as of 27 July 2026. The UT also recorded 585 Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) during the five-year period. The year-wise figures were 64 in 2021-22, 63 in 2022-23, 101 in 2023-24, 141 in 2024-25, and 216 in 2025-26.

In the startup ecosystem, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 1,231 startups during 2021-2025, according to data provided by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The number of startups rose from 131 in 2021 to 170 in 2022, 246 in 2023, 273 in 2024, and 411 in 2025.

The Ministry said the thresholds for classification of small companies

have been revised over the years. The paid-up capital threshold was increased from Rs 50 lakh in 2014 to Rs 2 crore in 2021, Rs 4 crore in 2022, and Rs 10 crore from 1 December 2025. The turnover threshold was raised from Rs 2 crore in 2014 to Rs 20 crore in 2021, Rs 40 crore in 2022, and Rs 100 crore from 1 December 2025. The Centre said these changes have enabled more companies to fall under the "small companies" category and benefit from reduced compliance-related disclosures.

For small companies, the Ministry has provided several compliance relaxations, including optional cash-flow statements, abridged annual returns and Board reports, exemption from mandatory auditor rotation, lesser penalties, and lesser fees. Small companies are also exempted from certain pre-certification requirements for forms. The Ministry further said zero filing fee is charged for incorporation of companies having authorised share capital up to Rs 15 lakh, or companies without share capital having up

to 20 members.

The Centre said simplified filings for small companies are applicable across the country, including Tier-II districts. Businesses can use the MCA21 electronic portal, which provides step-by-step e-form filing manuals, video guides, FAQs, and system prompts. A central helpdesk with toll-free, email, and live-chat facilities is also available to assist stakeholders.

The latest data indicates that J&K saw the highest number of small-company registrations in the five-year period in 2025-26, while the number of LLP registrations also increased to 216 during the same year. Startup registrations likewise reached their highest annual figure in the available 2021-2025 data, with 411 startups registered in 2025. The Ministry's response was given in reply to a Lok Sabha question on the status of small companies, startups, and LLPs registered across States and Union Territories and measures taken to simplify compliance for businesses in Tier-II districts—(KNO)

Sakeena Itoo leads mega outreach programme of Social Welfare Deptt in B'la

Nasir Aslam, MLAs from North Kashmir join to strengthen grassroots awareness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The Social Welfare department Monday organized a mega awareness camp at Baramulla for all the three districts of North Kashmir viz; Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora to promote awareness for saturation of more than 25 welfare schemes being implemented by the department.

Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, was the chief guest during the camp, which was also attended by Minister for Agriculture Production, Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar besides Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani.

The event was also attended by Members of the Legislative Assembly from North Kashmir, including MLA Baramulla Javid Hassan Beigh, MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone, MLA Uri Dr. Sajad Shafi, MLA Bandipora Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshheed Ahmad, MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone, MLA Pattan Riyaz Ahmad Bedar, MLA



Karnah Javaid Ahmad Mirchal; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr. S.F. Hamid; MD POSHAN, Sajad Hussain Gana; district and sectoral officers, anganwadi workers, helpers and a large number of local residents.

The awareness programme featured speeches, cultural performances and skits highlighting various flagship welfare initiatives and schemes being implemented by the Social Welfare Department, including Integrated Social Security Schemes (ISSS), ICDS, POSHAN and other beneficiary-oriented programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo appreciated the overwhelming participation of the Anganwari workers and helpers in the awareness programme and highlighted the importance of satu-

ration of various welfare schemes to ensure comprehensive social protection.

The Minister acknowledged the invaluable contribution of ICDS workers and helpers in reaching the most vulnerable sections of society. She said the government fully recognizes their role and is actively working towards addressing their concerns, including issues related to enhancement of the honorarium.

Emphasizing the need for greater public outreach, the Minister urged the legislators to organize similar awareness programmes at the tehsil level in their respective constituencies to maximize awareness and ensure saturation of welfare schemes.

Addressing the gathering, Javid Dar congratulated Sakeena Itoo and the

Speaker Rather holds public outreach camp at Kremshore

Assures priority redress of public issues



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly and MLA Charar-i-Sharief, Abdul Raheem Rather, Monday held an exclusive public outreach camp at Banderpora Kremshore in Charar-i-Sharief Constituency.

During the interaction, the residents from Banderpora and adjoining villages raised issues and demands related to road connectivity, drinking water, electricity, healthcare, education and other essential civic amenities.

The Speaker assured the people that all their genuine demands would be taken up on priority with the concerned departments for early redress.

Addressing the gathering, the Speaker said that the areas of Banderpora and Kremshore, which

were recently included in the Charar-i-Sharief Assembly Constituency following the delimitation process, require focused attention and accelerated development. He reiterated his commitment to ensure that these areas receive adequate infrastructure and public welfare projects.

He said every effort is being made to bridge the developmental gaps and improve civic infrastructure in the newly included areas. "I am working tirelessly to ensure that these areas receive the attention and development they deserve. The welfare of the people of my constituency remains my top priority," he said.

The residents expressed hope that the issues raised during the camp would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

J&K reports 6 fatal, 87 non-fatal factory injuries in 2022-23

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported six fatal and 87 non-fatal injuries in registered factories during 2022 and 2023, while data for 2024 was not reported by the Union Territory, according to details furnished by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in the Lok Sabha.

According to the State/UT-wise data, J&K recorded three fatal injuries in factories in 2022 and another three in 2023. The corresponding number of non-fatal injuries stood at 20 in 2022 and increased to 67 in 2023. For 2024, the data has been marked as "#", which, according to the Ministry, means the information was not reported by the concerned State/UT.

The Ministry said the major causes of industrial accidents include persons falling from height, fire, explosion, machinery moved by mechanical power, electrocution, and workers being struck by falling bodies. The Directorate General Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) collects data on accidental deaths and injuries from States and UTs in respect of factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948, now subsumed under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH&WC) Code, 2020.

Regarding enforcement, J&K had 41 prosecutions pending from the previous year in 2022, with 13 prosecutions launched during the year. The details of cases decided and penalties for J&K were not



reported in the table for that year. In 2023, J&K had 54 prosecutions pending from the previous year, while three prosecutions were launched during the year and three were decided. A total fine of Rs 2,500 was imposed, as per the data furnished by the Ministry. For 2024, the Ministry has not reported figures for J&K relating to prosecutions, convictions, or penalties. The entry for the UT has been marked, which the Ministry states represents data not reported or NIL data.

The Ministry said 64,176 factories were inspected across the country in 2022, 67,674 in 2023, and 74,426 in 2024. It clarified that the compensation-related issues under the Code on Social Security, 2020 are dealt with at the State/UT level. The Centre further informed the House that the OSH&WC Code, 2020 came into force on 21 November 2025 to regulate occupational safety, health, and working conditions of persons employed in establishments, including factories. The data of Ladakh separately shows NIL prosecutions, convictions, and penalties for Ladakh in 2022 and 2023, while the 2024 entries are also marked NIL—(KNO)

1,935 companies with women directors registered in J&K in 3 years: Centre

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A total of 1,935 companies registered under the Companies Act, 2013, having women directors, were recorded in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three financial years, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to the data placed before the House, J&K had 643 such companies with 819 women directors in 2023-24. The number stood at 561 companies with 676 women directors in 2024-25, while 731 compa-

nies with 856 women directors were recorded during 2025-26.

The Ministry clarified that the Companies Act does not specifically use the term "leaders of companies." However, under Section 149, certain listed and public companies are required to appoint at least one woman director. The Centre said no specific initiative has been undertaken by the Ministry exclusively for women entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban areas. However, measures aimed at promoting ease of doing business, including simplified

incorporation and compliance procedures, are applicable to all entrepreneurs, including women.

The Ministry also informed that no specific programme had been organised by it in Maharastra's Akola district for promoting women-led enterprises. Among the measures to simplify business incorporation, the Ministry has introduced the SPICE+ and AGILE-PRO-S integrated web-based system, enabling applicants to obtain multiple registrations through a single-window platform—(KNO)

Committee on Petitions vows zero tolerance against food adulteration

Chairman advocates safe, hygienic food for every household in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: With public health at the core of its agenda, the Committee on Petitions of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly met Monday at the Assembly Secretariat under the chairmanship of MLA Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah.

The Committee had a comprehensive review of the status report submitted by the Food & Drugs Administration, J&K on the alarming issue of adulteration in essential food commodities like milk, meat, fish, vegetables, spices and packaged food across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by the committee members including Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad (Pardesi), Javaid Iqbal and Shagun Parihar.

Voicing the concerns of every household, the Chairman said that no citizen should be forced to compromise on the quality of food they consume. He directed all the concerned departments to adopt a coordinated, zero-tolerance and time-bound approach to root out adulteration and ensure that every plate served in J&K is safe, hygienic and of the highest quality.

Pirzada Farooq Ahmad



Shah emphasized the need for regular market checking, public awareness campaigns and capacity building of Food Business Operators. He directed the department to conduct training programs for FBOs, food handlers and street vendors to promote hygiene and compliance.

Taking serious note of growing public health risk, the Chairman specifically directed that sale of antibiotics without a valid medical prescription by chemist shops must be strictly stopped and violators dealt with sternly. He also stressed that empowering the consumers through awareness on hygiene and food safety standards is equally important so that the people can make conscious and informed choices.

Commissioner Food & Drugs Administration Khalid Jahangir informed the Committee that the Food & Drugs Administration conducted 21,120 inspections in FY 2025-26

and lifted 10,444 samples. During the first quarter of FY 2026-27, 5,221 inspections have been carried out. He said that, to enhance on-spot testing, 25,003 samples had been analyzed through Mobile Food Testing Vans, including 4,178 samples during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026. To strengthen enforcement, Multi-Departmental Joint Enforcement Teams at District, Tehsil and Block level have been established for conducting special drives for fruits, milk, edible oils, ghee, honey and packaged water.

The Committee also noted the compliance report submitted by ADC Budgam regarding the appointment of Lumbardar for village Porwara, Tehsil Chadoora.

Secretary Legislative Assembly, SMC Commissioner, ADC Srinagar, ADC Budgam besides other senior officers of Drugs & Food Control Organization J&K were also present in the meeting.

ASI dies after collapsing on duty in Handwara

AGENCIES

KUPWARA: An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police died after suffering a suspected cardiac arrest while on duty in the Mawer area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday.

An official said that the ASI collapsed while performing his duties in Mawer.

He said the policeman was shifted to a hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

The official said the ASI is suspected to have suffered a cardiac arrest that led to his death. His identity is yet to be ascertained, while further investigation has been taken up—(KNO)

Youth found dead in Sopore, investigation begins

AGENCIES

SOPORE: A youth was found dead under mysterious circumstances at his residence in the Dangerpora area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday, officials said.

An official said, that the youth was found unconscious at his residence in Pal Mohalla, Dangerpora.

He said a police team immediately reached the spot, took the body into custody and shifted it to a hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The official said inquest proceedings have been initiated to ascertain the cause and circumstances of the death.

He added that further investigation has been taken up, while the identity of the deceased is yet to be established—(KNO)

Police recover two suspicious balloons in Kathua

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Police on Monday recovered two suspicious balloons from the rooftop of a house in the Hiranagar area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said.

A senior police officer said that the house owner spotted two balloons, one white and one green, on the rooftop and immediately informed the police.

He said a police team reached the spot and took the balloons into custody for examination.

The officer said police have launched an investigation to ascertain the source of the balloons and the circumstances under which they reached the area—(KNO)

Ladakh gets two tourism projects under Swadesh Darshan 2.0: Tourism Ministry

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory of Ladakh has been sanctioned two tourism projects under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, with a combined sanctioned cost of Rs 35.08 crore, according to the Ministry of Tourism.

According to the details placed before the Lok Sabha, a project for the development of the Julley Leh Biodiversity Park was sanctioned at a cost of Rs 23.17 crore, while Exploring LOC & Hunderman Village Experience in Kargil was sanctioned at a cost of Rs 11.91 crore.

The Ministry said Swadesh Darshan 2.0 has been revamped with the objective of developing sustainable and responsible tourism destinations through a destination and tourist-centric approach. The scheme focuses on tourism experiences, amenities, sustainable practices, and better management of tourism assets. The Centre said the scheme encourages UT administrations to consult local communities and stakeholders, promote renewable energy and eco-friendly materials, develop accessible infrastructure and services, and support local entrepreneurship. It added that the initiative is aimed at boosting tourism growth, local economies, infrastructure creation, and employment generation—(KNO)

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Dal Lake Did Not Deserve This

Dal Lake has been the heart of Srinagar, the pride of Kashmir, and a symbol recognised across the world. Thousands feed their families and earn their livelihood from its waters, while millions of visitors come every year hoping to experience its timeless beauty. Yet today, the lake tells a different story, one of neglect, pollution and missed opportunities.

A walk along many parts of Dal Lake is enough to understand the seriousness of the crisis. Plastic bottles drift across the water, snack wrappers float between weeds, and patches of thick vegetation have transformed sections of the lake into stagnant pools. The crystal-clear waters that once reflected the Zabarwan hills now appear green, orange and lifeless in many places.

This is not a problem that developed overnight. It is the result of years of unchecked pollution, poor waste management and ineffective conservation. While crores of rupees have been spent on restoration projects, weed harvesters and cleaning drives, the condition of the lake raises an uncomfortable question: why are the results still so difficult to see?

Saving Dal Lake requires more than periodic clean-up campaigns. It demands a long-term scientific strategy backed by accountability. Aquatic weeds cannot simply be removed; the reasons behind their rapid growth must also be addressed. Plastic waste must stop entering the lake in the first place. Water quality needs constant monitoring, and those responsible for polluting this priceless ecosystem must face strict action.

But this responsibility does not belong to government agencies alone. Every resident, shopkeeper, tourist and visitor has a role to play. A single plastic bottle carelessly thrown into the lake may seem insignificant, but multiplied by thousands, it becomes part of a much larger environmental disaster. Protecting Dal Lake begins with changing our own habits. The agencies responsible for conserving the lake must also introspect. The public deserves transparency on how restoration funds are being utilised and whether existing conservation programmes are achieving measurable outcomes. Good intentions alone cannot revive a dying ecosystem; visible results must become the benchmark of success.

Dal Lake is not just another water body. It is the soul of Kashmir. Its waters have witnessed centuries of history, nurtured communities and carried the dreams of generations. Allowing it to deteriorate would mean losing a part of our identity. The warning signs are already visible. What Dal Lake needs today is not another promise, but decisive action. If government agencies, environmental experts and citizens come together with sincerity and determination, this iconic lake can still be restored to its former glory. The choice is ours, but the time to act is now.

Restoring The Authority Of Revenue Courts

Why Jammu & Kashmir Must Revive The Tehsildar's Court

MOHD AMIN MIR

For generations, the Tehsildar's court represented the first and most accessible institution of justice for rural Jammu & Kashmir. To an ordinary cultivator, a widow protecting her inheritance, or a small landholder disputing a boundary, the revenue court was not merely an office, it was the place where land-related grievances were heard promptly, records were examined carefully, and disputes were settled before they could grow into prolonged litigation.

Today, however, a growing concern echoes across villages. Many small and marginal landholders feel compelled to approach civil courts for matters that traditionally fell within the effective functioning of revenue authorities. This shift has increased the burden on civil courts, prolonged the resolution of disputes, and imposed financial and emotional hardships on ordinary citizens.

The time has come to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency, and public confidence in revenue courts, particularly those presided over by Tehsildars. The objective is not to diminish the role of civil courts but to ensure that each forum effectively performs the functions entrusted to it under the law.

Revenue Courts: The Backbone of Rural Justice Land is unlike any other asset. It is livelihood, identity, security, and heritage. In rural Jammu & Kashmir, even a few marlas of land may determine a family's economic future. Historically, revenue courts played a vital role in resolving matters relating to mutations, partition proceedings, boundary disputes, correction of revenue records, and other issues arising under the revenue laws. Their strength lay in their familiarity with local land records, village maps, Jamabandies, Girdawaries, and customary practices.

In the 1950s and the decades that followed, revenue officers were often regarded as guardians of rural land administration. Their courts commanded public respect because decisions were generally delivered after thorough examination of records and spot inspections wherever necessary.

Today, many villagers increasingly prefer approaching civil courts even for disputes that could often be resolved efficiently through the revenue administration.

Several factors contribute to this trend:

- Delays in disposal of revenue cases.
- Frequent adjournments.
- Heavy administrative workload on Tehsildars.
- Insufficient time devoted to judicial proceedings.
- Lack of regular monitoring of pending revenue cases.
- Declining public confidence in timely disposal.



Civil courts, already burdened with diverse categories of litigation, receive an increasing number of land-related cases. Cases that might once have been resolved within months sometimes continue for years, increasing litigation costs and social tensions. Their expertise enables them to appreciate the factual realities of land administration more effectively than general forums dealing with multiple branches of law. Strengthening revenue courts therefore strengthens the entire land governance system.

Several distinguished Indian jurists have emphasized that accessible justice is essential for the rule of law. Nani Palkhivala repeatedly argued that the rule of law derives its strength not merely from legislation but from institutions that command public confidence. Fali S. Nariman often stressed that justice delayed undermines public faith in legal institutions.

Harish Salve has spoken on numerous occasions about improving institutional efficiency and reducing unnecessary litigation through better administration.

Similarly, Soli J. Sorabjee consistently advocated accessible justice and stronger legal institutions that inspire public confidence. Although these eminent jurists largely practised constitutional and commercial law, the principles they championed, timely justice, institutional credibility, and efficient dispute resolution, are equally relevant to land administration.

If Jammu & Kashmir seeks genuine land governance reforms, strengthening revenue courts should become a priority. Several reforms deserve serious consideration. First, dedicate specific court days every week exclusively for judicial work, free from administrative interruptions. Second, ensure that old revenue cases receive priority disposal through special drives. Third, introduce digital cause lists and online tracking of revenue cases, allowing litigants to know the status of their matters without repeated visits. Fourth, encourage

speaking and well-reasoned orders that clearly explain the basis of every decision. Fifth, strengthen training in revenue law, judicial procedure, evidence appreciation, and recent legal developments for revenue officers. Sixth, modernize court infrastructure by providing adequate staff, digitized records, scanners, computers, and proper record management systems. Seventh, conduct periodic inspections of pending revenue litigation by higher revenue authorities to identify delays and administrative bottlenecks.

The digitisation of Jamabandies, cadastral maps, mutation records, and village maps can significantly improve the quality of adjudication. Integrated digital land records enable quicker verification of ownership history and reduce the possibility of clerical errors. However, technology must assist—not replace—the careful judicial application of mind. Every land dispute involves facts, evidence, and human circumstances that require patient hearing.

An efficient revenue justice system would naturally reduce unnecessary civil litigation. When citizens receive prompt and reasoned decisions at the revenue level, fewer disputes escalate into prolonged civil suits.

Senior citizens across Jammu & Kashmir often recall an era when revenue courts enjoyed immense public respect. While every period had its own challenges, the enduring lesson is that accessible and timely justice strengthens both administration and society. Reviving that spirit does not mean returning to the past. It means combining the integrity, discipline, and dedication associated with earlier revenue administration with the advantages of modern technology, digital land records, and transparent procedures.

The responsibility for strengthening revenue courts does not rest on Tehsildars alone. It requires coordinated efforts from policymakers, senior revenue authorities, judicial institutions, legal professionals, and the Bar. Efficient revenue courts are

not merely an administrative necessity, they are a cornerstone of rural justice, social harmony, and economic stability.

As Jammu & Kashmir advances towards comprehensive digitisation of land records and modern land governance, equal attention must be paid to the institutions responsible for resolving disputes arising from those records. When revenue courts function effectively, the ordinary farmer need not travel from office to office or spend years in expensive litigation. Justice becomes accessible, confidence in public

Many small and marginal landholders feel compelled to approach civil courts for matters that traditionally fell within the effective functioning of revenue authorities. This shift has increased the burden on civil courts, prolonged the resolution of disputes, and imposed financial and emotional hardships on ordinary citizens.

institutions grows, and civil courts are relieved of avoidable burdens.

The measure of a just society is not only the quality of its laws but also the ease with which an ordinary citizen can obtain fair, timely, and affordable justice. Revitalising the Tehsildar's courts in Jammu & Kashmir would be a significant step towards fulfilling that promise.

The author can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

DEATH OF FACTS

How Social Media Rewards Noise Over Knowledge

RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

There's a very famous Kashmir saying, "Hatte Hoen Khyate Zang, Khyakh Nai tae Zoore Khye." Which means inviting unnecessary trouble. I have seen people speaking things they don't know anything about, but they speak about it just for the sake of speaking. I have said it multiple times that in the times of likes and shares we have lost what really matters. What people have laid stress on is they want to be seen and noticed. Writing on social media platforms is a right under speech and expression.

But the same constitution has put restrictions on what to speak. People need to understand that they should keep in mind that speaking whatever they want to say has to be said in a manner that shouldn't land them in trouble. Things keep happening, and they have a reason. Whatever we see happening has a reason to happen. But the common people have no understanding of it. They think it happened just a night before, but nothing happens overnight. Everything has a reason to happen, and that reason isn't known to people. When they see it on social media, they react to it without giving it a second thought. And this is where they fall for what they shouldn't have fallen for. The problem is that when they get likes and shares, they think that they have written something which is so on point that their view is so on point that it has been shared so widely. But here they need to understand that they have helped something that shouldn't have been helped.

But in the era of social media, facts no more matter; the only thing that matters is how followers are gained. Another thing that



has led to the erosion of the facts is that platforms have become a place to earn money. People used to share valued opinions to add to the knowledge; now people share opinions just to get views. The urge to be famous on social media has made things worse on social media. There's a saying, "Noun mai nukta doundna." Which means trying to find fault in everything, even when there's none. That's what social media is all about. Everyone wants to find a fault in every given situation. The unfortunate thing is that they think it makes them intellectual, but it doesn't. When you have a negative thought about everything, you no longer are considered an opinion maker but a trouble creator.

Everyone wants to have an opinion to sound "intellectual", and in trying to be so, they often end up sharing an opinion where

they don't contribute to the society but just make things worse. It's said that if your words won't add something good, it's better not to speak. But unfortunately we have come to a place where stupid opinion has become an opinion and facts aren't being respected. There was a time when 9/11, a famous attack, was attributed to Muslims. Everyone used to post about it. A notion was set that the Muslims hate America and that the USA needs to be protected. There were Muslims who called for "de-radicalisation" of Muslims. But as the time passed and the things came out open, it came to be known that this was their own conspiracy and it was a well-planned thing.

But the opinions expressed helped the agenda, and those opinions are still used against the Muslims. We need to understand

opinions set in public discourse, and the discourse sets the environment. And we all know what that environment led to for Muslims. The USA did nothing; it just executed a well-defined plan and then allowed the people to do the job. Everyone rushed to share the opinion without knowing the real reason. And for past some days the same is happening on X. Everyone is running to share an opinion even without knowing anything. An incident happened some weeks back; there was a very burning topic. A principal was accused of harassment. Everyone jumped in to have an opinion on it. And at the end the allegations were found fake. I am sure none of those who wrote the long tweets actually had any concern regarding the incident; the only thing they wanted is to look intellectual and have an opinion for the sake of

having an opinion. I didn't frame the view out of nowhere but after duly considering the things. All those who had an opinion when the principal was alleged had no opinion when the principal was cleared of the allegations. This proves they want to go where there's more audience.

Let's come back to "Hatte Hoenie kathyate zang". People here in Kashmir are really inclined to this. They want trouble to come and knock on their door. One has to understand that always having an opinion makes one land in trouble and knock on trouble for generations. People have misunderstood. Right to speech and expression with speaking whatever they want to. The right helps one to put across the right thing. People don't want to learn anymore; all they want is to keep speaking whatever comes to their mind. One must remember that when two elephants fight, it's the grass that's crushed, not the elephants.

Before we put across an opinion, we must know what to say, and most importantly, we must be able to make out what impact it shall have on the people who shall be reading it and especially what good it shall do. There's a saying, "Think before you anymore." It was said for us because we no longer think before we speak. And when we start to think about it, the damage has been done. I seriously have every reason to believe that we think after we have spoken. We don't even know what our opinion can do.

We must understand there are people who want a particular opinion to be generated, and we knowingly or unknowingly help them with their agenda.

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Pause, Listen, Strengthen, Then Ratify

■ The Fight For A Convention That Actually Protects



SHOBHA SHUKLA

Rising attacks against health and gender rights are threatening the global AIDS response. No wonder, a special session on this issue hosted at the world's largest AIDS conference - the 26th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2026) - was full to capacity. This session put the spotlight on a recent #PauseForPurpose protest organised by a group of African feminists, survivors, women's rights organisations and legal advocates around the Pan-African Parliament meet on 25th July 2026. This meet was for the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVAWG). They were not there to reject continental action against violence against women and girls. They were there to demand better.

Feminists demanded a single, insistent message: pause, listen, strengthen, then ratify. The protest marked the high-level parliamentary and multi-stakeholder dialogue convened on 25 July 2026 by the Pan-African Parliament, the African Union Commission, and partners. Official accounts framed the gathering 'as a push to accelerate signature, ratification, domestication and implementation' of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVAWG). The Gambia was celebrated as the first state to ratify. Member states were urged to follow.

For the Pause for Purpose campaign and the civil society groups that joined the demonstration, the official framing told only part of the story. "The protest was important because it made it visible that the voices of those who were not adequately reflected in the official framing of the high-level dialogue should be taken into consideration," said Mai Aman, Legal Officer (Strengthening Legal Mechanism), Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA). "It was not to reject action against ending violence against women and girls. It was to demand better action, better protections, better convention."

The campaign does not oppose a continental treaty on violence against women and girls. It fully supports decisive African action to prevent violence, protect survivors, hold perpetrators and governments accountable, and deliver effective remedies. What it rejects is the rush to ratification of a text it argues is not yet fit for purpose. "There is no contradiction between urgency and due diligence," Mai Aman said. Violence against women and girls demands urgent action, but urgency cannot justify lowering legal standards. A treaty is legally binding. Once ratified, it will shape

Feminists demanded a single, insistent message: pause, listen, strengthen, then ratify. The protest marked the high-level parliamentary and multi-stakeholder dialogue convened on 25 July 2026 by the Pan-African Parliament, the African Union Commission, and partners.

national legislation, public policy, court decisions, state reporting and the remedies available to survivors for generations. The central question, therefore, is whether the present text strengthens the protections African women have already secured - particularly through the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, known as the Maputo Protocol - or whether it introduces ambiguity and regression into an area where the law must be clear.

Mai Aman was a keynote speaker at the SHE & Rights session organised at AIDS 2026 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by



Global Center for Health Diplomacy and Inclusion (CeHDI), CNS and partners.

Pause for Purpose's legal assessment identifies concerns at 3 levels

First is the process. Many women's rights organisations, survivors and civil society groups were not meaningfully consulted on the actual draft text. In a campaign survey of approximately 1,500 civil society organisations, only 33% were aware that the convention was being drafted before its adoption, while 93% reported they had not been consulted. Consultation, the campaign insists, must be more than an invitation to endorse a predetermined outcome. It must give women and girls a genuine opportunity to examine the text, raise concerns and influence the final instrument. "A treaty concerning African women cannot be developed without African women," Aman said.

Second are substantive legal concerns. The convention does not consistently articulate protections as enforceable rights matched by clear state obligations. Several important matters are framed as objectives or principles rather than legal entitlements. It fails to establish a sufficiently strong anti-discrimination framework, even though gender-based discrimination and structural inequality are among the root causes of violence. Critical realities facing African women and girls - female genital mutilation, child marriage, domestic violence, marital rape, trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence - are not adequately addressed. Emerging forms of violence such as femicide and cyber violence are mentioned, yet the definitions and corresponding obligations remain insufficient.

Language concerning the "family" and "African values" also requires careful scrutiny. Without legal clarity, such phrasing can be mobilised by anti-rights actors to justify practices that restrict women's autonomy or expose women

and girls to violence. The Maputo Protocol already provides strong and explicit protections in several of these areas. A new treaty, the campaign argues, must build upon that foundation. It must not weaken, confuse or retreat from standards African women have fought hard to establish.

Third are questions of implementation, monitoring and accountability. A treaty must clearly identify what governments are required to do, how compliance will be assessed, and what remedies are available when states fail. Good intentions and aspirational language are not enough. Arguments that weaknesses can be corrected after ratification through general comments, guidelines or litigation are unconvincing, Mai Aman of ISLA said. Soft-law guidance cannot repair defects in a binding treaty. Litigation is expensive, slow and inaccessible to many survivors. Amending a treaty after ratification is politically and procedurally difficult. The safest and most responsible course is to correct the text before states become legally bound by it.

4 concrete asks of #PauseForPurpose campaign

Therefore, at the Pan-African Parliament dialogue, the campaign and allied organisations advanced four concrete requests. First, the Parliament must ensure balance in the voices addressing parliamentarians and member states. If those advocating immediate ratification are given high-level platforms, then the women's movement, survivors and legal experts calling for a pause must receive an equal and meaningful opportunity to be heard.

Second, the Parliament should transmit the Pause for Purpose memorandum - already submitted and received by the legal counsel and the chairperson of the justice and human rights committee - to African Union (AU)

member states, the African Union Commission, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and other relevant bodies. Third, member states should pause further ratification and allow time for an independent, transparent and technically rigorous expert review.

Fourth, the African Union should initiate an inclusive revision process to align the convention with the Maputo Protocol and with international standards to which AU member states are already bound, producing a treaty that reflects the lived realities of African women and girls.

This is not a call to delay without purpose. It is a call for due diligence, accountability and stronger protections. African women, the campaign insists, deserve more than a symbolic treaty. They deserve a convention that clearly names the violence they experience, creates enforceable obligations, provides effective accountability mechanisms and strengthens the legal protections already secured, said Mai.

The stakes are high. Gender-based violence remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations on the continent, intersecting with poverty, conflict, discriminatory customary practices and weak institutional responses. Survivors need laws that work in practice - laws that courts can enforce, that governments must report against, and that deliver real remedies rather than rhetorical commitments. Treaties that paper over gaps or introduce ambiguous language, risk becoming tools of regression rather than progress, particularly when anti-rights actors seize on vague references to culture or 'family' to constrain women's autonomy.

Mai Aman's message, and that of the broader Pause for Purpose coalition, remains consistent: African women are speaking. Parliament and member states must listen. The demand is not to abandon continental action, but to ensure that action is grounded in the hard-won standards of the Maputo Protocol, informed by the experiences of those it claims to protect, and crafted with the legal precision that binding instruments require.

"We pause today, we protect tomorrow," the campaign declares. Pause, listen, strengthen, then ratify. Only then, it argues, will Africa have a convention capable of achieving its stated objectives - and worthy of the women and girls it is meant to serve.

Shobha Shukla is a feminist, health and development justice advocate

Remembering Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom (RA)

RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom (RA), also known by the name Makhdoom Sahib in Kashmir, was born in 900 AH at Tujjar Shareef, a village in the Zangir area of Sopore town. His father's name was Baba Usman Raina, a rich and respectable person of the time, and his mother's name was Bibi Maryam. Baba Usman sacrificed thirty sheep at the birth of his beloved son, and the meat was distributed among the poor, destitute and needy people.

Hazrat Sheikh Hamza (RA) was a born saint. Once his mother felt ill and she couldn't feed him her milk. Thus, a woman in neighbourhood was asked to feed him. Hazrat Sheikh Hamza (RA) didn't take her milk. When enquired, it was revealed that the lady had left her own daughter at home and she hadn't sought the permission of her husband.

Sheikh Hamza spent his childhood at Tujjar Shareef, and he was not attracted to sports and games like other children of his age. Once he mixed with other children of the vicinity who were pelting stones on a mosque. Sheikh Hamza saw a dream on the same night and was asked to refrain from these childish acts.

He immediately repented over it and never indulged in the same in the future. Sheikh Hamza received his elementary education from a local maktab. His teachers taught him the Quran, its recitation and grammar. He read all the Persian books like Karima, Namihaq, Gulistan, Bostan, etc.

Malik Zeeta Raina the grandfather of Sheikh Hamza took him to Srinagar where he was admitted in Darushifh the convent school of Hazrat Sheikh



Baba Ismail Kubravi. Hazrat Sheikh imparted both religious and spiritual training to students. Sheikh Hamza developed taste for literature and Islamic studies and wrote Arabic Hazrat Sheikh Persian.

He memorised the holy Quran and was later on admitted to the monastery of Shams Chak. He learnt the Quran, the Hadith, Jurisprudence, Logic, philosophy and literature. He had a sharp memory and good comprehension. Sheikh Hamza (RA) kept fast invariably and burnt midnight oil in remembrance of God. He got secret information from the saints and many a time had a vision of Hazrat Khazir. For his meeting and interaction, Sheikh Hamza (RA) mostly went to riversides, streams and springs.

Once he attended a feast along with other school mates. After meals he was also given some money by the host. But during the night, through a dream, he was warned not to attend the feasts in the future. The rulers of the times were of the Shia sect, and

sheikh Hamza had a meeting with a scholar, namely Mulla Shamshi Chack, who persuaded him to give up his Sunni sect and follow the Shia sect. He was impressed by the Shia leader but was in a fix. He therefore went to a mosque at Kohi maran called Zakir Masjid. He kept unbreakable fast and remained busy in remembrance of God for three consecutive days. Through the dream in the night, he got a reply. A big gathering of people in the compound of the mosque was led by the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) along with all four other caliphs.

It was here that Sheikh Hamza (RA) saw the prophet with four companions, who told him that all four companions were correct, and he was directed to follow the path of Ahli Sunnat Wal Jammata. He made up his mind to follow the sect of Ahli Sunna Wal Jammata. He spent days and nights in worship and took regular baths in cold water during winter in order to offer the tahajud prayers. Sheikh

Hamza (RA) was a great nature lover. Born among the mountains of Tujjar Shareef, he spent a lot of time in the hillock of Kohi Maran, where he enjoyed the sweet breeze and natural habitat of trees, grass, flowers, etc.

Due to continuous day and night worshipping, Sheikh Hamza (RA) often developed constant headache. He was advised by Syed Ahmad Kirmani (RA) to have a stroll in the natural environment where he could relieve the headache. Syed Jamaludin Bukhari (RA) of Delhi who belonged to Suharvardi Lineage of saints visited Madina Munnawara and there he had a dream. He saw Prophet (pbuh) talking to a young man.

Upon enquiring from the Prophet, it was told him that the young man belonged to Kashmir and he is the son of Baba Usman and, spiritually, the offspring of the Prophet (PBUH). The Prophet (pbuh) directed Syed Jamaludin to go to Kashmir for the spiritual guidance of Sheikh Hamza (RA). He arrived in Kashmir in 932 AH, and Sheikh Hamza (RA) met him in the monastery of Malik Ahmad Yatoo. Syed Jamaludin Bukhari trained and instructed him for six months, and after that, he went back to Delhi.

Sheikh Hamza's (RA) residence, Makhdoom Mandaw, was the centre of enlightenment and spiritual training because of which people from far and wide were attracted to it. He went to far-off places like Kamraj and Maraj, where he constructed mosques and spread the teachings of Islam. He went to each corner of the valley to preach truth and brotherhood. Under his patronage some famous mosques at Nadihal, Tujjar Shareef and Wuhangam of Beeru were built. Sheikh Hamza (RA) displayed many miracles and supernatural happenings by his spiritual powers.

Hazrat Baba Dawood Khaki has penned Virdul Murideen in praise of his mentor and guide, in which he has mentioned many miracles of his guide. Hazrat Moulana Feroze, Sheikh Hamza's disciple, once lost his way in a desert. Then Sheikh Hamza (RA), while staying at Srinagar, came to his rescue. Baba Ali Raina Sheikh Hamza's brother once was in Arabia for seeking knowledge. There was a hot rumour about his death in the valley. Hearing this, Sheikh Hamza told people that his brother is alright. Later it was proved right when Baba Ali returned back home safely. Haji Moosa, a disciple of Sheikh Hamza (RA), went on pilgrimage along with twenty other fellows on foot. Their expenses lasted in just ten days in the middle of the journey. Haji Moosa turned up to his mentor, who helped him by appearing before him and handed him over a bag of gold coins.

Many ailing persons recovered by his simple look. Some suffering from fatal and acute diseases were cured by his benediction. A lot of others suffering from paralysis, leprosy and hepatitis were cured by his prayers and blessings.

Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom (RA) passed away at Makhdoom Mandaw on the 24th of Saffar 984 AH at the age of 84. He was bedridden for a week only. Khwaja Muhammad Tahir gave gussul to his body and also led the funeral prayers. His funeral was taken to Kohi Maran from Eidgah, in which Ali Shah Chack, the ruler of the time, also participated. Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom (RA) didn't marry and thus had no family. He lived a monastic life to lead people from darkness to light.

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Cloudbursts,

within minutes, forcing residents to flee to safer places. Household belongings were damaged and agricultural fields were inundated.

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) launched rescue operations and safely evacuated around 80 people, including schoolchildren and staff members, from the affected areas.

"Relief and rescue teams were immediately pressed into service after the flash floods. Evacuation has been completed successfully and assessment of the damage is underway," an SDRF official said.

A district official said no fatalities were reported from Shopian, but several houses and public infrastructure suffered damage.

In neighbouring Anantnag district, another cloudburst struck Batkoot in Pahalgam, triggering flash floods and damaging a kacha house belonging to a poor family. No injuries were reported.

Heavy rains also caused the collapse of the rear concrete wall of the Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam, allowing water to enter the camp and damage several accommodation tents. Officials said the situation was later brought under control.

The rain fury also disrupted connectivity in the tourist destination, with the Aishmuqam-Pahalgam road blocked near Langnai Bridge due to flooding, while another bridge at Batkoot sustained damage under the force of the rushing water.

In North Kashmir's Bandipora district, another cloudburst was reported in the Arin-Dardpora area, damaging roads at several locations and disrupting movement, officials said.

In Ganderbal district, strong winds blew away the rooftop of a residential house in Bakura village and damaged an electricity pole. No injuries were reported.

In the Jammu region, continuous rainfall forced authorities to suspend traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway after a stretch near Dawal Bridge in Udhampur's Samroli area became unsafe.

Officials said the road had turned slushy and slippery due to persistent rainfall, prompting the closure of traffic from both directions.

"NHAI personnel and traffic police are on the spot with machinery to restore the road. Commuters are advised not to undertake travel on NH-44 until the highway is declared safe," an official said.

Heavy rainfall was also reported from Rajouri district, where rivers and streams were flowing close to danger levels, prompting authorities to monitor vulnerable areas.

In the Union Territory of Ladakh, flash floods caused widespread damage in the remote villages of Badgam and Hardass in Kargil district.

Officials said several houses, village infrastructure and agricultural fields were damaged in Badgam village, while Hardass, known for its apricot orchards, witnessed extensive losses to orchards and farmland, affecting the livelihood of growers.

Police, volunteers and local rescue agencies carried out relief operations in the affected villages as residents sought compensation and long-term flood protection measures.

Meanwhile, four boys were rescued safely from the middle of Dal Lake after their boat got stranded due to sudden gusty winds.

Officials said a Quick Response Team of the SDRF rushed to the spot and evacuated all four boys safely without any injuries.

The Meteorological Centre has forecast intermittent spells of rain and thunderstorms across Jammu and Kashmir over the next five days, warning of heavy rainfall at isolated places that could trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones in vulnerable areas.

Officials advised people living near streams and landslide-prone areas to remain alert and avoid unnecessary travel during periods of intense rainfall.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said rainfall during the past 24 hours was mainly confined to parts of Jammu division, with Jammu recording 24.4 mm of rainfall and Katra receiving 8 mm. Kupwara received 0.8 mm, Gulmarg 0.6 mm, while Pahalgam and Batote recorded trace rainfall.

According to the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 32.2 degrees Celsius, 2.1 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 19.8 degrees Celsius. Qazigund recorded 30.6 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 28.1 degrees Celsius, Kupwara 31.3 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 21.2 degrees Celsius.

Jammu recorded a maximum of 33.4 degrees Celsius, while Muzaffarabad was the hottest place in the region at 35 degrees Celsius.

The MeT department has forecast light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places across Jammu and Kashmir on August 3 and 4, with the possibility of heavy rain and brief spells of torrential showers in a few districts.

It said similar weather conditions are likely between August 5 and 7, while scat-

tered rain and thundershowers are expected from August 8 to 10.

The weather office warned that intense rainfall over the next five days could trigger flash floods, landslides and shooting stones at vulnerable places, particularly in parts of Jammu division, and advised people to remain alert and avoid unnecessary travel during periods of heavy rain—(KNO)

‘J&K Govt School Teaching

-run-schools that reduced to 94,202 in the academic year 2024-25.

Furthermore, the figures tabled by the Government of India (GoI) in the Lok Sabha states that in the academic year 2025-26 Jammu and Kashmir had only 91,569 teachers in government schools.

The GoI however clarified that the recruitment of teachers is a continuous process undertaken by the respective State Governments, UT Administrations in accordance with their recruitment rules and procedures.

“Vacancies arise from time to time due to factors such as retirement, resignation, creation of new posts consequent to enhanced student enrolment and establishment of new schools. The timeline for filling up such vacancies is also determined by the respective State Governments and UT Administrations,” GoI informed the house.

It also said that the GoI on its part periodically advises states and UTs to fill up vacant posts of teachers through transparent and merit-based recruitment processes, including through autonomous teacher recruitment boards or similar organisations.

As already reported by KNO, the government-run-schools in Jammu and Kashmir average less than five teachers per school and on the contrary private schools average more than 13 teachers per institute respectively—thus raising a question on quality of education being imparted to students.

The official figures in this had revealed that in the academic year 2025-16, Jammu and Kashmir sees government schools average with just 4.8 teachers per school.

However, on the contrary, private schools in J&K on an average have recorded 13.7 teachers per school.

It also reveals that despite having a dominance of 18,787 schools, the government is functioning the School Education Department with just 91,569 teachers and on the contrary, Jammu and Kashmir’s 5,397 private schools exert a huge human resource of 74,226 teachers.

Furthermore, the MoE figures had revealed that despite having only 5,397 private schools in Jammu and Kashmir, the private sector is educating nearly fifty percent of the total student enrolment with 12.89 lakh out of 26.53 lakh total enrolled students.

As per the fresh figures revealed by the MoE, private schools in Jammu and Kashmir average 239 students per institution.

The government-run-schools on the contrary, despite having 18,852 infrastructures, the department is managing only 51.4 percent students with 13.63 lakh students—averaging a mere 72 students per school.

Earlier this news agency reported that in Jammu and Kashmir, 1,544 schools are being run by single teachers each wherein more than 33,537 students are enrolled.

The Union Territory was also functioning with 188 such schools that were having zero student enrolments. Interestingly, 87 teachers are still deployed to these empty institutions, drawing salaries while teaching no one.

These figures were recently released by the Department of School Education and Literacy for the Ministry of Education (MoE) wherein the ministry has said that 1544 schools in Jammu and Kashmir are functioning with single teachers.

MoE had also said that there were 33,537 students enrolled in those 1544 schools that are functioning with single teachers.

Furthermore, MoE had said that 87 teachers are posted in such schools that are having zero enrolments and 188 schools are without any student enrolled—(KNO)

LG Calls For Nature

. Move beyond concrete embankments to restore floodplains and wetlands, combining built structures with natural systems,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged universities to elevate Nature-based Solutions into a multidisciplinary subject, spanning ecology, hydrology, engineering, economics, disaster management, and traditional knowledge. He stressed that future professionals must understand the interconnectedness of ecosystems, economies, technologies, and societies.

Recalling the Green Jammu Kashmir Drive launched in 2020, which raised forest cover to nearly 55 percent, the Lieutenant Governor reiterated the importance of sustainable living. He

envisioned a Himalaya where watersheds are healthier, wetlands thrive, and rivers flow naturally, sustaining biodiversity and culture.

“By placing nature at the centre of development, integrating modern technology with traditional wisdom, and involving communities as equal partners, the Himalayan region can build resilience against climate change. We must remember that Himalayas are not merely a geographical entity but a living heritage that demands foresight, patience, and responsibility,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released the special edition of IUST's monthly magazine 'Times Echo' on 100-Day Anti-Drug campaign and Policy Brief on Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan, prepared by various experts of J&K. Certificates were also handed over to the PMKVY trainees.

Shri Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh; Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST; Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, Registrar, IUST; Prof. Javed Hussain Mir, Convener of the Conference; eminent scientists, experts, senior officials, faculty and students attended the conference.

Cabinet to

helpers continue to receive a low honorarium, but said successive National Conference governments have taken steps to improve their welfare.

She said the honorarium was enhanced during the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah between 2008 and 2014, and that the present government is committed to ensuring they receive a better share and that Anganwadi centres receive greater budgetary support.

Praising the contribution of Anganwadi workers, Itoo said they have continued to serve people even during difficult times and deserve recognition for their role in implementing welfare schemes at the grassroots level.

She also said the government is examining issues related to the service conditions of Anganwadi workers. Referring to changes made after 2019, the minister said the earlier system was altered by introducing a retirement age, a decision she termed incorrect, adding that the government is working to address the matter—(KNO)

CM To Preside Over

appointment that the Advisor to the Chief Minister will preside over an Independence Day function.

According to the communique, deputy commissioners will take the salute in 13 other districts, apart from those where ministers will preside over the functions.

Sub-divisional magistrates will take the salute at respective sub-divisional headquarters, while tehsildars or the senior-most civil officers will preside at tehsil, block, and municipal headquarters, as decided by the concerned deputy commissioner—(KNO)

J&K Sees Sharp

intermediaries for tracing money trails and placing lien holdings on defrauded funds.

Ladakh recorded eight fraud cases involving a negligible amount in FY 2025-26, while 18 cases involving Rs 0.07 crore were reported in FY 2023-24 and 13 cases involving Rs 0.03 crore in FY 2024-25—(KNO)

'J&K Gets Rs 60,240

banks, microfinance institutions and other member lending institutions.

Across the country, more than 59.14 crore loans amounting to Rs 41.71 lakh crore had been sanctioned under the scheme as of June 2026. The beneficiaries include women and young entrepreneurs, with the government stating that the initiative has improved credit access for small businesses and self-employed individuals.

The data was presented as part of the Centre's response on the impact of the flagship credit scheme on micro and small enterprises, youth and women, along with state-wise details of beneficiaries and loan sanctions.

Jmu-Sgr Highway

rumours and advised commuters to check the latest road status through the Traffic Police's official social media handles and Traffic Control Units.

In 2026, 35 Cloudbursts

repeated flash floods in recent weeks. The latest spell of extreme weather on Monday left two persons dead after

multiple cloudbursts struck different parts of the Union Territory, including Kupwara, Shopian, Bandipora and Anantnag, while heavy rainfall disrupted normal life across both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

Officials said recurring cloudbursts have damaged dozens of residential houses, shops, schools, roads, bridges, irrigation channels and agricultural fields this year. Several villages have witnessed inundation following sudden flash floods, forcing authorities to evacuate residents and deploy rescue teams.

The strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has also faced repeated disruptions due to landslides, mudslides and shooting stones triggered by heavy rainfall, affecting the movement of passengers and essential supplies on multiple occasions.

Disaster management officials said mountainous districts in the Chenab Valley, particularly Kishtwar and Doda, along with upper reaches of Shopian, Kupwara and other hilly areas of Kashmir, remain among the most vulnerable regions because of their steep terrain and proximity to seasonal streams.

Meteorologists define a cloudburst as an extremely intense and highly localised rainfall event in which precipitation exceeds 100 millimetres within an hour over an area of around 20 to 30 square kilometres. Such events often trigger sudden flash floods, debris flows and landslides, leaving little time for evacuation.

According to meteorological experts, the growing frequency of cloudbursts in Jammu and Kashmir is being driven by the interaction of moisture-laden southwest monsoon winds with western disturbances over the Himalayas.

They said the region's steep mountain slopes force moisture-rich air to rise rapidly, a process known as orographic lifting, leading to the formation of towering cumulonimbus clouds. These clouds often become trapped within narrow valleys, where they continue accumulating moisture until they suddenly collapse, releasing massive volumes of rain over a small area within minutes.

Experts also attribute the phenomenon to intense atmospheric instability. Strong upward air currents keep raindrops suspended inside clouds, allowing enormous quantities of water to accumulate. Once these updrafts weaken under the increasing weight of the water, the cloud system collapses, resulting in an intense cloudburst.

Recent assessments by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Geological Survey of India indicate an increasing trend in such mountain hazards and recommend strengthening early warning systems through X-band Doppler weather radars, dense networks of automated weather stations and real-time community alert mechanisms.

The studies also call for hazard mapping of vulnerable slopes and flood channels, strict regulation of construction in floodplains and dry riverbeds, controlled urban expansion in ecologically fragile mountain areas, large-scale afforestation and protection of wetlands to reduce the impact of flash floods and landslides—(KNO)

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Huts at Shikargah Tral to be operational soon, outsourcing process on

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: Tourism Department has announced that newly constructed tourist huts at the picturesque Shikargah area of Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district will soon be made operational through outsourcing after necessary repairs.

An official of the tourism department said that the huts were constructed by the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC) and were only recently handed over to the Tourism Department.

"The huts have been transferred to the Tourism Department. We have already deputed an official for the watch and ward of the assets to ensure they remain protected," he said.

The official said the department has initiated the process of outsourcing and we hope everything will be normal very soon.

The assurance has been welcomed by residents, who had earlier urged the government to prevent the newly created infrastruc-



ture from falling into disrepair.

Basharat Ahmad, a resident of Tral, said locals had welcomed the government's decision to establish tourist huts in Shikargah with the expectation that the project would strengthen tourism and create employment opportunities for local youth.

"We were disappointed to see the huts lying unattended for a long time. Proper maintenance and management are essential if these facilities are to benefit visitors and the local population," he said.

Another resident, Abbas Ahmad, said public infrastructure should not remain idle after huge investments.

"If such facilities are maintained and operated properly, they can attract tourists, generate livelihoods and contribute to the local economy. We hope the government's latest decision is implemented without further delay," he said. Shikargah has long been identified as one of Kashmir's most promising eco-tourism destinations. In 2017, the government announced an ambitious plan to develop the area as a major picnic and tourist spot, including a proposal to connect Tral with the famous tourist resort of Pahalgam through a trekking route.

Situated at an altitude of nearly 2,130 metres, around 40 kilometres from

Srinagar and just three kilometres from Tral town, Shikargah is known for its dense forests, sprawling meadows and breathtaking landscapes. The destination also houses the Hangul Conservation Breeding Centre, which has played a significant role in the conservation of the endangered Kashmir stag.

Historically, the area served as a favourite hunting retreat of Maharaja Hari Singh before being opened to the public in 2011 to promote tourism and support the local economy.

Despite witnessing a steady increase in tourist footfall over the years, residents believe that inadequate infrastructure management has prevented Shikargah from achieving its full tourism potential.

They expressed optimism that the proposed repairs and outsourcing of the huts would finally make the long-awaited facilities operational, improve visitor experience and create new employment opportunities for the youth of the area—(KNO)

ADDC Shopian reviews Youth Engagement Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the implementation of the Youth Engagement Programme in the district.

The meeting reviewed the progress of activities being undertaken by various departments and deliberated on the roadmap for ensuring greater youth participation across the district.

During the meeting, the ADDC directed all departments to prepare and implement systematic, well-coordinated and time-bound action plans. He emphasized that youth engagement initiatives should be decentralized and organized at the zonal and grassroots levels to ensure maximum outreach.

The ADDC stressed the need for establishing facilitation centres and ensuring active coordination among line departments. He called upon officers to



involve teachers, AWWs, ASHAs, Panchayat representatives and other grassroots functionaries in mobilizing youth for different activities.

He instructed departments including Education, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Skill Development, Youth Services & Sports, DIC and other stakeholder departments to work in close coordination for effective implementation of the programme.

The meeting also discussed scheduling of sports,

skill development, awareness and career-oriented activities. Departments were directed to upload event details regularly and maintain proper documentation of all activities.

The ADDC emphasized that every youth should be meaningfully engaged through constructive activities aimed at building skills, leadership qualities and positive community participation. He underscored that the programme should serve as an effective platform to channelize the energy of youth towards

nation-building while protecting them from drug abuse and other social evils.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to ensure coordinated efforts by all departments for the successful implementation of the Youth Engagement Programme across District Shopian.

The meeting was attended by CEO, Shopian Development Authority, GM, DIC, ACD, Principal, GDC Shopian/Zainapora, CEO, CMO, CHO, CAHO and other concerned.

Machail Mata Yatra witnesses smooth pilgrim movement

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma Monday visited Machail Mata temple and conducted a detailed review of the arrangements put in place by the District Administration for the convenience and safety of the pilgrims.

The annual Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2026 was resumed on July 28, witnessing increasing footfall of devotees from across the country.

He interacted with locals and assessed the ground situation while reviewing the effectiveness of the infrastructure

and complete the same within the stipulated timelines.

The DC directed the Yatra Camp Director to make all necessary facilities available to provide a comfortable and hassle-free pilgrimage experience to the devotees.

Emphasising the importance of this year's 100% plastic-free yatra, the DC directed the enforcement departments to maintain cleanliness and sanitation throughout the yatra period. He also appealed to pilgrims to avoid the use of single-use plastic, maintain cleanliness and keep the yatra route clean and hygienic. BDO Paddar



and services being made available for the smooth and successful conduct of the yatra.

The DC reviewed key arrangements, including parking facilities, transportation, water supply, power, sanitation, accommodation facilities for pilgrims, security measures and the progress of ongoing developmental works at Shri Machail Mata Bhawan. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officials to ensure the smooth movement of pilgrims, strengthen safety measures and ensure that no pilgrim faces any inconvenience during the yatra.

The DC also took stock of the availability of essential services and commodities at the Bhawan. He directed the concerned departments to expedite the pace of ongoing works

was directed to undertake the repair, renovation and restoration of Durga Raru Khul towards Machail to meet the demands raised by the locals.

The locals apprised the Deputy Commissioner of various issues concerning the area. The DC gave a patient hearing and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for necessary action.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with the NDRF Team stationed at Machail, reviewed their preparedness. He directed the NDRF Team to stay vigilant throughout the yatra period to tackle any unforeseen situation.

The DC paid obeisance at the revered shrine, praying for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of the District.

NIT Srinagar's FOSS Club Hosts Hands-On Workshop on Frappe Framework



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) Club at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organised a hands-on technical workshop on the Frappe Framework and ERPNext, introducing students to open-source tools used for developing enterprise and business applications.

It was attended by Dean of Students Welfare, Prof. Mohd Abid Bazaz, along with faculty members Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, Dr. Pankaj Kumar and Scientific Officer NIT Srinagar, Er. Mustafa Zargar, who interacted with participants and encouraged students to engage with emerging open-source technologies.

The technical session was led by Akshit Bhardwaj, Team Lead, who conducted live coding demonstrations and explained the fundamentals of the Frappe Framework and ERPNext.

Participants were introduced to the process of developing business applications, writing client-side scripts and deploying basic software modules using the framework.

Members of the FOSS Club provided hands-on assistance throughout the workshop, helping participants install the framework, configure the

development environment, and build their first applications during the interactive session.

The workshop, sponsored by Myasa NextGen Technology, drew participation from a large number of students, who attended the session with their laptops to gain practical exposure to application development using the Python-based Frappe Framework.

The organisers said the workshop was aimed at equipping students with practical skills in open-source software development and exposing them to technologies widely used in enterprise application development.

The event also provided students with an opportunity to interact with developers, clarify technical concepts and understand the role of open-source platforms in the software industry.

The workshop forms part of the FOSS Club's ongoing efforts to promote collaborative learning and encourage students to contribute to open-source software projects. According to the organisers, the FOSS Club of the Institute will continue to support student-led technical activities that strengthen innovation, skill development, and industry readiness among engineering students.

DLSA G'bal commences 3-Day Training Programme for Community Mediators

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal Monday commenced a Three-Day Training Programme for newly selected Community Mediators at the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, Ganderbal.

The programme is being conducted from 3rd to 5th August, 2026 under the NALSA SOP on Community Mediation Towards Litigation Free Rural India.

The inaugural session

was attended by Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, besides trained mediators, newly selected Community Mediators as well as Para Legal Volunteers.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, stressed upon the growing importance of mediation in the justice delivery system and encour-

aged the participants to actively engage in the training programme so that they could effectively serve their communities as impartial and competent mediators in community Mediation.

Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, emphasized the importance of community mediation as an effective, accessible and people-centric mechanism for amicable settlement of disputes at the grassroots level especially in rural areas. He highlighted that trained Community Mediators would play a significant role

in strengthening access to justice, fostering social harmony and reducing avoidable litigation as well as providing training to the newly selected Community Mediators as per Community Mediation Training Manual.

The training sessions on the first day were conducted strictly in accordance with the NALSA Community Mediation Training Manual and the NALSA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Community Mediation Towards Litigation Free Rural India.

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER D H PORA

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI No.: 10/DHPB/SBMG/2026 | Dated: 28/07/2026

Subject: Expression of Interest for Selection of Executing Agencies for Operation and Maintenance of Rural Solid Waste Management Infrastructure in Five Operational Zones of Block D.H. Pora under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Phase II.

The Block Development Officer, D.H. Pora, on behalf of the District Administration, Kulgam, invites sealed Expressions of Interest from eligible registered community-based institutions for engagement as Executing Agencies for operation, maintenance and management of Solid Waste Management Infrastructure in the Five Operational Zones of Block D.H. Pora under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Phase II.

The engagement shall include operation of Segregation Sheds, Compost Pits, Waste Collection Vehicles, Door to Door Waste Collection, User Charge Collection, Scientific Waste Processing and all other activities prescribed under the District Solid Waste Management Framework.

1. Operational Zones

Five Executing Agencies shall be selected, one for each Operational Zone.

Zone	Panchayats Covered
Zone I	Ahmadabad A & B Khull A & B, Kounserbal
Zone II	Bangliward, C R Pora , Waripora & H M Guri
Zone III	Yarikha A , B C and Nandimarg A & B
Zone IV	D H Pora A & B, Laisoo, Gandwani & Yaroo
Zone V	Nihama, Ladgoo, Samnoo & Hariweth

2. Scope of Work

The selected Executing Agency shall be responsible for:

1) Door to door collection of segregated waste.

2) Scientific segregation of waste.

3) Operation and maintenance of Segregation Sheds.

4) Scientific composting of biodegradable waste.

5) Transportation of recyclable waste to PWMU or designated facility.

6) Safe handling of sanitary and domestic hazardous waste.

7) Removal of roadside litter and legacy waste.

8) Operation and maintenance of Waste Collection Vehicles.

9) Collection of user charges.

10) Maintenance of consumer database and operational records.

11) Submission of monthly operational and financial reports.

12) Awareness generation and IEC activities.

13) Compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules and directions issued by the District Administration.

3 Eligibility The following registered institutions are eligible:

1) Self Help Groups.

2) Cooperative Societies.

3) Farmer Producer Organizations.

4) Youth Cooperatives.

5) Registered Waste Management Societies.

6) Community Based Enterprises.

7) Limited Liability Partnerships fulfilling the prescribed criteria.

4 Essential Manpower Each selected agency shall deploy:

• One Swachhta Supervisor.

• One Swachhta Saathi for each Segregation Shed.

• One Driver for each Waste Collection Vehicle.

• One Helper for each Waste Collection Vehicle.

• One Authorized Fee Collector.

• Additional manpower wherever required.

5 Documents to be Submitted Applicants shall submit: Application Form. Registration Certificate. Memorandum and Bye Laws. PAN Card.

• GST Registration, wherever applicable.

• Latest Bank Statement.

• Membership List.

• Aadhaar of Office Bearers.

• Office Address Proof.

• Proposed Manpower Deployment Plan.

• Experience Certificates, if any.

• Affidavit declaring correctness of information.

• Any other document required by the Block Administration.

6 Evaluation Criteria

Selection shall be made strictly on merit.

Parameter	Marks
Years of Registration	15
Membership Strength	20
Local Presence	15
Financial Capability	15
Manpower Availability	15
Women Participation	10
Educational Qualification	10
Total	100

7 Submission of Applications

• Applications shall be submitted in sealed envelopes superscribed:

ANNEXURE I

APPLICATION FORM

1. Name of Institution

2. Registration Number

3. Date of Registration

4. Category

5. Office Address

6. Operational Zone Applied For

7. Name of President

8. Mobile Number

9. Number of Members

10. Number of Female Members

11. Number of Staff Proposed

12. Bank Name

13. Account Number

14. IFSC Code

15. Experience in Waste Management

16. List of Enclosures

ANNEXURE II DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

► Registration Certificate

► Bye Laws

► PAN Card

► GST Registration

► Aadhaar of Office Bearers

► Bank Statement

► Membership List

► Office Address Proof

► Manpower Deployment Plan

► Experience Certificate

► Affidavit

► Any Other Supporting Document

ANNEXURE III

TECHNICAL EVALUATION SHEET

ParameterMaximum MarksMarks Awarded

Registration

15

Membership

20

Local Presence

15

Financial Capability

15

Manpower

15

Women Participation

10

Educational Qualification

10

Total

100

Remarks:

Recommendation:

DIPK-4051-26

DT: 03/08/2026

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CMYK

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