

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

SRINAGAR • Wednesday 05, August 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 185 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paise) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

J&K Reports 29 Disaster Deaths In 2023-24: MHA



RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 29 human deaths, 229 cattle losses and 229 houses/huts damaged due to hydro-meteorological disasters during 2023-24, while no human deaths, cattle losses, house damage or cropped-area impact were reported from the Union Territory during 2024-25 and 2025-26, according to provisional data furnished by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Lok Sabha.

The data, was provided by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in reply to an unstarred question raised by BJP MP

Suresh Kumar Kashyap. The MP had sought details about losses caused by heavy rainfall, cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods in hilly States, including details of deaths, missing and injured persons, damaged houses, roads, bridges, agriculture, horticulture and public infrastructure, besides Central financial assistance and measures for disaster risk reduction.

As per the annexure, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 29 human lives lost, 229 cattle lost and 229 houses/huts damaged in 2023-24, with the cropped area affected shown as nil. In 2024-25, all four categories—

India's Economic Credibility Depends On Transparency, Accountability: LG Sinha

Highlights ICLS's Role In Implementing Corporate Laws, Protecting Investors, Ensuring Inclusive Growth

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha interacted with the Officer Trainees of the Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS) on Tuesday at Lok Bhavan. The Lieutenant Governor in his address to the officer trainees, highlighted the pivotal role of the service in strengthening India's corporate governance and economic credibility.

"In an era of globalisation, where economies are deeply interconnected through capital, technology, innovation, and trade, India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing economies. However, true economic strength is not measured merely by production, investment, or trade, but by the robustness of institutions, respect for the rule of law, protection of investors' interests, and adherence to transparency and accountability," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor underlined that the Indian Corporate Law Service is a strong administrative mechanism which forms a corner-



stone of India's corporate governance. He said the officers of the service, working under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, play a crucial role in implementing key legislations such as the Companies Act and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

"Their work ensures a balanced environment for industry, trade, and investment, fostering trust and credibility in India's corporate sector. The identity of a developed econ-

omy also lies in institutional systems that encourage honest enterprises and effectively monitor irregularities. In this context, the ICLS works as the guardian of balance, ensuring that corporate growth contributes to inclusive national prosperity," the Lieutenant Governor noted.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the investors' trust is India's greatest asset as the nation has become a major global investment

Railway Officers Torchbearers Of New India's Pace, Capability: LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday addressed and congratulated the officer trainees of the Indian Railways Institute of Transport Management, Lucknow, who are on the field visit to Jammu Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted their important role in shaping the future of the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) and expressed immense pleasure in interacting with the 69 officer trainees selected through the Civil Services Examination in 2022, 2023, and 2024 batch.

"You are the torchbearers of New India's pace, capability, and resolve. The diversity of backgrounds among the trainees, spanning engineering, medicine, law, science, and the arts, and representing states/UTs across the

Cabinet Clears Gulmarg Hotel Outsourcing, Land Transfers



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Cabinet on Tuesday cleared several major proposals aimed at boosting tourism and infrastructure in the Union Territory.

Sources disclosed that the cabinet approved outsourcing of operations and maintenance of Hotel Ashok at Gulmarg through the public private partnership model for a concession period of 40 years, including a five-year construction phase.

In 1984, the J&K Government leased 64 kanals of land to the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) for 40 years to construct a hotel at Gulmarg. However, ITDC was unable to complete the project and eventually returned the land and its incomplete structure to the J&K Tourism Department.

The Cabinet also gave its go-ahead to the establishment of an IT/Innovation Park in

CM Reviews Implementation Of Budget Announcements 2026-27

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat to assess the progress on the implementation of key Budget Announcements for 2026-

27 across several major departments.

Emphasising timely execution and effective delivery, he directed departments to expedite implementation, strengthen coordination and ensure that Budget commitments

Polls In PoK A Complete Farce, Cannot Hide Reality: India

AGENCIES

DELHI: India on Tuesday dismissed the second phase of local elections in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as "complete farce". The ministry of external affairs accused Pakistan of using the electoral exercise to conceal an ongoing crackdown on civilians in the region.

Addressing the weekly media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the "so-called local elections" could not hide what he called public protests and indiscriminate killings by Pakistani forces.

"The so-called local elections in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are a complete farce. The real story is one



of public protests and the indiscriminate killing of civilians by Pakistani forces. Such hollow exercises cannot hide the reality," Jaiswal told reporters.

He said the crackdown has turned intense in recent months. "Since June this year, at least 90 civilians have lost their lives in the ongoing crackdown, and

■ AUGUST 5

Security Tightened Across J&K, Protests Barred In Kashmir

YOGESH

SRINAGAR: Security was stepped up across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday ahead of the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, with police in Kashmir barring protests without prior permission and authorities in Jammu placing the region on high alert amid intelligence inputs warning of possible terror strikes.

An official said that police in Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara,



Bandipora, Ganderbal, Budgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag issued public advisories stating that no protest, rally,

procession, demonstration or any other public gathering would be allowed without prior permission from the

Jammu Remains Under Unprecedented Security Blanket

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Meanwhile, Jammu remained under an unprec-

edented security blanket, with intelligence agencies warning of possible terror strikes in view of the Article 370 anniversary, the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and the forthcoming Independence Day.

According to officials, intelligence inputs indicated that

terrorists might attempt to target vulnerable locations, including educational institutions, prompting authorities to enhance security measures across sensitive areas.

Defence officials said the decision was based on specific intelligence alerts

Security Forces Conduct CASO In Poonch

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the remote Surankote area of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday following inputs about the suspected movement of militants at two locations, officials said. Public finance data

Personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group (SOG), assisted by Rashtriya Rifles troops, carried out searches in Dhara Sangla, Gujar Naar and Kherowal Dhok, besides adjoining forested villages, they said.

The operation was launched after security agencies received information indicating the movement of two separate groups of suspected militants in the densely forested area, according to officials.

J&K Records 2,182 Child Kidnapping Cases In 5 Years

AGENCIES

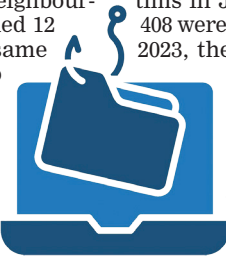
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 2,182 cases of child kidnapping and abduction over the last five years, while neighbouring Ladakh recorded 12 cases during the same period, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The data, compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), shows that J&K witnessed a steady rise in such cases from 293 in 2020 to 478 in 2021, before peaking at 513 in 2022. The numbers have since declined for two consecutive years, falling to 486 in 2023 and 412 in 2024.

Ladakh, on the other hand, reported no child kidnapping cases in 2020 and 2021. The Union Territory recorded five cases in 2022, four in 2023

and three in 2024, taking the five-year total to 12. Kashmir culture magazine

The parliamentary data further reveals that 423 children were reported as victims in J&K in 2024, while 408 were recovered alive. In 2023, the UT recorded 502



child victims and 481 recoveries. The NCRB noted that recovery figures include children rescued from cases registered in previous years.

In Ladakh, three child victims were reported in 2024, and all three were recovered alive. The UT had reported five victims with seven recoveries in 2023, five victims with three recoveries in 2022, and no cases in 2020 and 2021.

The data also highlights child trafficking cases. Jammu and Kashmir reported a total of 32 trafficked children between

Govt Adopts Multi-Pronged Strategy To Curb Cross-Border Infiltration: MHA

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Union Government on Tuesday said it has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to curb cross-border infiltration along the country's international borders, including deployment of advanced surveillance technology, strengthening border infrastructure, enhanced patrolling and closer coordination among security agencies.

In a written reply to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, said the government, through its border guarding forces (BGFs), has undertaken several measures to prevent illegal cross-border movement and improve border management.

The reply came in response to a question by Lok Sabha



member Anil Yeshwant Desai, who sought to know whether it was the responsibility of the government to ensure that no person crossed the country's borders without proper authorisation, the role of paramilitary forces in the task, whether the presence of a large number of illegal people

in the country reflected negligence in border management, and the action taken by the government.

Rai said the government has enhanced border surveillance by deploying advanced equipment such as CCTV cameras, drones and automatic number plate recognition systems to

monitor border areas more effectively.

"The government has also strengthened border infrastructure by developing fencing, border outposts, roads and helipads to improve vigilance and mobility of security forces," he said, adding that regular patrolling has been intensified through area domination exercises, naka points and mobile teams to monitor illegal activities along the borders.

The minister said that intelligence agencies and other organisations are working in close coordination through established platforms to facilitate real-time information sharing.

The government has also focused on regulating cross-border movement by identifying and managing

Amarnath Yatra Crosses 4.67 Lakh Pilgrim Mark

3,289 Perform Darshan; Fresh Batch Of 964 Pilgrims Leaves Jammu Via Baltal Route



UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra continued on Tuesday, with the total number of pilgrims performing darshan crossing 4.67 lakh, while a fresh batch of 964 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu for the Baltal base camp under tight security arrangements.

Figures available said 3,289 pilgrims performed darshan on Tuesday, including 1,876 men, 937 women, 41 children, 22 sadhus, five sadhvis, two transgender

pilgrims and 406 security personnel.

With this, the cumulative number of pilgrims who have completed the pilgrimage since July 4 has reached 4,67,986.

The 27th batch of pilgrims departed from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas at 3:05 a.m. in a convoy of 39 vehicles, comprising 21 buses, eight medium motor vehicles (MMVs) and 10 light motor vehicles (LMVs).

"The batch included 744 men, 177 women, one child, 32 sadhus and 10 sadhvis. With today's

DC Srinagar inaugurates Foundation Course for specially abled

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday inaugurated Foundation Course in Computers and Employability for persons with visual impairment related challenges and Special Workshop for students with speaking & hearing challenges organized by Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS), at its Bemina campus in collaboration with EnAble India and the University of Kashmir.

The Deputy Commissioner attended the inaugural ceremony as a Chief Guest, while Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Dean, Students Welfare, Kashmir University, Prof. Seema Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tahir Sajad District Social Welfare Officer, Mohammad Yousuf, Tehsildar Shalteng, Rayees Ahmad, President, Voluntary Medicare Society, Dr. Mir Mohammad Maqbool, Vice President, VMS, Prof. Masooda Yasin were present on the occasion.

After inaugurating the Workshop and Foundation Course for persons with visual impairment challenges, the Deputy Commissioner visited the various



sections of the VMS campus including rehabilitation, education, therapy and vocational units where he interacted with students, beneficiaries and staff members.

Addressing the workshop, the DC said that the persons with special abilities possess immense talent and potential and deserve equal opportunities to contribute meaningfully to society. He emphasized the need to strengthen facilities and support systems for persons with special abilities and assured the district administration's full support in addressing their educational, vocational and developmental needs, enabling them to lead lives of dignity and independence.

The DC underlined that the District Administration is exploring the establishment of higher education facilities, vocational training and skill development programmes to expand educational opportunities

and improve employment prospects for persons with special abilities. He also emphasized the need to strengthen accessibility infrastructure, enhance inter-departmental coordination, expand support services for children with hearing and speech impairment related challenges, promote recreational opportunities and ensure the availability of sign language resource persons to foster greater inclusion and empowerment.

The DC commended the Voluntary Medicare Society for its longstanding contribution towards the rehabilitation, education and empowerment of persons with special abilities. He also appreciated the organization's collaboration with EnAble India in introducing innovative, technology-driven interventions.

Earlier, VMS President Dr. Mir Mohammad Maqbool highlighted the Society's five-decade journey of serving persons with

special abilities and underscored the importance of partnerships in promoting inclusive rehabilitation and education.

VMS Vice President Prof. Masooda Yasin reaffirmed the Society's commitment to creating equal opportunities through innovation, collaboration and inclusive practices while appreciating the support extended by the District administration and the University of Kashmir. Speakers from EnAble India and the University of Kashmir emphasized the significance of capacity-building initiatives and IT-based training for students with disabilities.

During the programme, AI-enabled assistive devices, including Pro Smart Glasses and Smart Mobility Canes, were distributed among students with visual impairment challenges to enhance accessibility, independence and inclusion.

The event was attended by Secretary, VMS from Dr. Farooq A. Kaloo, Special Guest EnAble India, Dr. Alim Chandani, besides enthusiastic participation of senior academicians from the University of Kashmir, representatives of EnAble India and Hear A Million, rehabilitation professionals, partner organizations, students, parents and members of civil society.

VC LCMA visits Brari Nambal, Khushalsar lakes to oversee restoration works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Vice Chairman (VC), J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Tuesday conducted an inspection visit to Brari Nambal and Khushalsar lakes to oversee the progress and quality of the conservation and restoration works being executed by JKLCMA.

Collector, Executive Engineer, Lake Division 1st and 2nd, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, Enforcement Officer, AEEs and Scientists of JK LCMA accompanied the officer during the visit.

During the visit to Brari Nambal, the Vice Chairman inspected the ongoing works, reviewed the physical progress on the ground and assessed the effectiveness of the measures being undertaken for the rejuvenation of these water bodies. The shoreline cleaning of Brari Nambal was reviewed during the inspection. The progress of the cleaning operations was assessed and the field staff were directed to ensure thorough removal of weeds, solid waste and



other debris along the shoreline.

Emphasis was laid on maintaining regular cleaning activities to preserve the ecological health and aesthetic appeal of the water body. Directions were issued to the concerned officers and executing agencies to ensure timely completion of all works while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

While visiting the Khushalsar lake, the Vice Chairman checked the dredging of two main channels leading from Saidapora bridge to Firdousa Abad and Sazgaripora using the departmental Water Master. He emphasized the need for expediting restoration activities, including desilting, clean-

ing of water channels, removal of encroachments and strengthening of lake embankments. He also stressed the importance of maintaining uninterrupted coordination among the engineering, field and enforcement wings to achieve the objectives of the conservation programme.

The accompanying officers apprised the Vice Chairman of the progress achieved, challenges encountered and the action plan for completion of the remaining works. He directed that all bottlenecks be removed on priority and that regular monitoring be undertaken to ensure the successful restoration and long-term ecological sustainability of these water bodies.

SWD empowers Senior Citizens with Digital, Financial Literacy Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Shopian, Tuesday organized a Digital and Financial Literacy Awareness Programme for senior citizens at Chowan, Keller under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) – the National Action Plan for Senior Citizens.

The programme aimed to enhance digital inclusion and financial awareness among elderly citizens by equipping them with essential digital skills and promoting the safe use of online services.

During the session, officials and field functionaries demonstrated the operation of smartphones, access to online government services, and the secure use of digital banking platforms.

Participants were also sensitized about cyber fraud, online scams, and precautionary measures to safeguard themselves against financial fraud.

The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior citizens.

SWD B'pora holds Awareness Programme on Maintenance, Welfare of Parents

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: An awareness programme on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was organised under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVAY) at Community Hall Nowgam, Sumbal by the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

The programme witnessed the participation of a large number of senior citizens, members of the local community, and other stakeholders.

The resource persons from the Tehsil Legal Services Authority (TLSA), Sumbal highlighted the key provisions of the Act, explaining the legal rights of senior citizens, the responsibility of children and relatives towards their maintenance, and the legal remedies available to elderly persons in cases of neglect or abandonment.

Speaking on the occasion, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Sumbal, stressed the importance of ensuring dignity, care, and social security for senior citizens. He also briefed the participants about various welfare schemes and services being implemented by the Social Welfare Department under AVAY for the well-being and empowerment of the elderly.

The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, where participants shared their concerns and received guidance from the speakers regarding the provisions of the Act and the support available to senior citizens.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of Dev projects under CAPEX, other sectors

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of ongoing, newly approved and proposed development projects being executed under UT CAPEX, NABARD, Archives & Archaeology, and other key sectors,



including Tourism and Education.

The meeting focused on expediting the execution of developmental works, addressing implementation bottlenecks and ensuring the timely completion of projects for the benefit of the public.

During the review, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the physical and financial progress of projects being implemented by the concerned executing agencies. Stressing the importance of timely

execution, he directed all executing agencies, particularly the officers of the Public Works Department, to maintain the required pace of work and ensure that all ongoing projects are completed within the stipulated timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed that work on all newly approved projects should commence without delay



after the completion of all codal formalities. He directed the concerned officers to furnish a definite timeline to the District Administration regarding tendering, allotment and commencement of each project to facilitate close monitoring and timely intervention wherever required.

The DC emphasized that quality, transparency and strict adherence to prescribed timelines must remain the guiding principles during project execution.

DDC Shopian calls for expedited execution of Capex Works



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, SE, PHE, Nazia Nazir, SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, CPO, Mudasar Ahmed Dar, officers from all executing departments and other concerned.

During the meeting, the DDC conducted a detailed review of approved works, tendering status, ongoing projects and financial progress under the District Capex Budget.

Stressing the need for timely implementation, the DDC directed all executing agencies to expedite the tendering process and ensure that approved works are taken up immediately and completed well before the onset of the winter season.

The DDC reviewed the status of CDS and directed the concerned departments

to take up and complete the works within timeline. He also instructed officers to expedite all required approvals, clearances and other procedural formalities so that no project is delayed.

The DDC emphasized strict adherence to financial guidelines, calling for efficient utilization of available funds and timely completion of projects to avoid delays and ensure maximum public benefit.

Highlighting the recent allocation of an additional Rs 3 crore to the district under the Capex Budget, the DDC instructed all district officers to identify urgent and high-priority developmental works in their respective sectors.

He directed to closely monitor all Capex works at the district level, while SDM Zainapora was directed to inspect works in his subdivision regularly and supervise their timely completion.

Officers were also directed to submit regular progress reports and ensure transparency, quality and accountability in execution so that the developmental benefits reach the people without delay.

FDA conducts 106 inspections across UT

152 Food Samples collected During Special Enforcement Drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to strengthen food safety surveillance and safeguard public health, the Food Safety & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K conducted a special inspection-cum-sampling drive across the districts of J&K.

The enforcement drive focused on sweets, prepared food, particularly meat and meat products, and other high-risk food commodities to verify compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations

framed thereunder.

During the drive, Food Safety Officers conducted 106 inspections of food business establishments and collected 152 food samples, comprising 66 samples of sweets, 71 samples of prepared food, mainly meat and meat products, and 15 samples of other food commodities.

The samples have been forwarded to NABL-accredited food testing laboratories for analysis to ascertain their conformity with the prescribed food safety standards.

Food Business Operators have been advised to

comply with the food safety and hygiene requirements prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and maintain the standards of sanitation and quality.

It is pertinent to mention that the FDA has recently prohibited certain affected batches of Ghee, Tea and Sauce. The general public is being requested to remain vigilant and report the sale or availability of such affected batches, or any suspected case of unsafe, adulterated or misbranded food, through the Toll-Free Helpline 104 or by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

DLSA G'bal continues Training Programme for Community Mediators, PLVs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Continuing its Three-Day Training Programme for newly selected Community Mediators under the NALSA SOP on Community Mediation: Towards Litigation-Free Rural India, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal Tuesday conducted the second day of the training programme at the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, Ganderbal.

The second day's training commenced with a comprehensive deliberations on the role of Community Mediators and the various stages of mediation in rural areas. The participants were also imparted practical training on the practical aspects of Community



Mediation in rural areas, time frame for Community Mediation proceedings, and best practices to be followed by Community Mediators.

The programme concluded with an interactive group discussion, enabling participants to clarify their doubts and exchange practical experiences. These sessions were conducted strictly in accordance with the prescribed curriculum under the NALSA Community Mediation Training Manual. The training sessions were

conducted by experienced trained mediators, viz. Adv. G.R. Rather and Adv. Tanveer Ahmad Bhat who shared their practical experiences and guided the participants through interactive discussions and case-based learning to strengthen their mediation skills.

The programme witnessed active participation from the newly selected Community Mediators and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), who engaged enthusiastically in the practical sessions and discussions.

SKUAST-K conducts Free Veterinary Camps in Gurez Valley

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) conducted a series of awareness and free veterinary clinical camps in Tulail, Bagtore and Dawar villages of Gurez Valley under the DBT-sponsored project, "Socio-economic Upliftment of Marginal Farmers of Gurez Valley through Scientific Livestock Rearing."

The initiative, led by the faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, aimed to improve livestock health and promote scientific animal husbandry practices in the remote region, where access to specialised veterinary services remains limited. Farmers were sensitised on disease prevention, timely treatment, nutrition, fodder management, vaccination, deworm-



ing, hygienic animal care and improved livestock management practices.

The outreach was led by Prof. Riaz Ahmad Shah, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry; Prof. Amatul Muhee, Professor & Head, Clinics and Principal Investigator of the project; Dr. Shahid Hussain Dar, Associate Professor, along with the project team. The scientists conducted health screening and clinical examination of livestock, provided free veterinary consultations and advised farmers on

preventive healthcare and disease management.

As part of the intervention, free veterinary medicines and nutritional supplements, including deworming medicines, liver tonics and mineral mixtures, were distributed to livestock owners. Informative pamphlets on scientific cattle, sheep and goat rearing were also provided to help farmers adopt improved husbandry practices.

The awareness camps offered farmers an interactive platform to discuss challenges related to

livestock nutrition, fodder conservation, breeding, housing, disease control and herd health. Scientists also highlighted the importance of value addition, efficient resource utilisation and market-oriented livestock production to improve incomes under the high-altitude conditions of Gurez Valley.

The team noted that interactions with farmers generated valuable field-level feedback on livestock health and management challenges, which will help shape future interventions under the project. The scientists reaffirmed SKUAST-K's commitment to farmer-centric research, extension and technology transfer, stating that continued technical support, awareness programmes, training and veterinary health interventions will be provided to strengthen sustainable livestock-based livelihoods in Gurez Valley.



Email: dpo.ramban12@jkpolice.gov.in
E-mail: sspramban-jk@nic.in

Phone 01998-266648
FAX: - 01998-266052

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS RAMBAN

NOTICE-02

Constable Yassir Ali,
No. 698/ Rbn, EXJ116275,
S/O Abdul Rashid R/O Changa Tehsil Gandoh District Doda

- Whereas, you were posted at Police Station Dharamkund wherefrom you have absented himself un-authorizedly w.e.f 02-06-2026 and accordingly you were marked absent in the daily dairy of PS Dharamkund vide DDR No. 19 dated 02-06-2026 as intimated by SHO PS Dharamkund.
- Whereas, you were informed through SHO PS Gandoh Doda vide this office Signal No. Estt./Absentee/2026/37056 dated 03-07-2026, Estt./Absentee/2026/38600 dated 11-06-2026 and Estt./Absentee/2026/40260 dated 18-07-2026, for duties but you paid a deaf ear towards all the efforts made by this office and you totally ignored to report back and resume duties nor you informed the department about your whereabouts.
- Whereas, Notice No. 01 has also been issued to you through SHO Police Station Gandoh Doda vide this office Notice No. Estt./Notice/2026/40623-33 dated 23-07-2026 to report back and explain the cause of absence in this office within 07 days. Neither, you reported back for duties at DPL Ramban nor the reply of notice has been submitted by you for further course of action.
- Whereas, un-authorized absence is great service misconduct and tantamount to derelictions towards duty which warrants severe departmental action under rules.
- Whereas, such act on your part is grave service misconduct/ disobedience / carelessness/ negligence attitude towards lawful duties, which is against the norms of disciplined force and loss of appointment in terms of rules 128 CSR VOL-1st read with 208 (G) Police Manual VOL-2nd. Now I Arun Gupta, JKPS, Sr. Superintendent of Police, Ramban called Constable Yassir Ali, No. 698/ Rbn PID No. EXJ116275 S/O Abdul Rashid, R/O Changa Tehsil Gandoh District Doda through the medium of this notice to show cause of absence as to why you should not be discharged from service. You are at the liberty to explain the cause of absence in this office within 07 days positively from the date of issuance of this notice through SHO PS Gandoh Doda. In case you fail to explain the position, it shall be presumed that you are not interested to serve in the department anymore and proceeding for your discharge from service shall be initiated under rules.

Hence, "NOTICE-02" is served upon you through your concerned Police station i.e Police Station Gandoh Doda to report back for duties immediately otherwise you will be discharge from service after completion of time of this notice.

No. Estt/Notice/2026/43492-505
Dated:- 03/08/2026.

DIPK-4111-26
DT: 04/08/2026

(Arun Gupta)-JKPS
Sr. superintendent of Police,
Ramban

NEWS

J&K Achieves Full Literacy Milestone under Gol's ULLAS Scheme



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir proudly joins the league of Fully Literate nine States/ UTs under Government of India's ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) scheme. The Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has extended his heartfelt congratulations to the teachers, administrators and every stakeholder for the historic milestone. In a post of X, the Lieutenant Governor wrote: "UT of Jammu Kashmir proudly joins the league of Fully Literate States/ UTs under the ULLAS scheme of Government

of India. With 99.09% success, it stands tall as the largest population region to achieve this milestone. Congratulations to our teachers, administrators and every stakeholder who made this possible. Let us always remember that education is the truest force of empowerment and our collective responsibility is to keep advancing this mission." Out of 180317 non-literates identified 178680 have passed (99.09%) under the ULLAS scheme. The criterion for declaring a State/UT fully literate is achieving a literacy rate of 95% or above, acknowledging that 100% literacy is

unfeasible due to factors such as advanced age and intellectual abilities. The States and UTs have prepared their strategies and plans and adopted best practices to achieve full literacy in accordance with the above criteria. So far nine States and UTs had declared themselves as fully literate under ULLAS. They are: Ladakh, Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Island, Sikkim and Uttarakhand and J&K is the 10th. J&K is the State/UT having the largest population among States/ UTs declared so far.

Javed Rana reviews progress on Jal Jeevan Mission

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday chaired a review meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission and deliberate on key issues concerning implementation of water supply schemes across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Director Finance JJM and others.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasised the need to remove all the procedural and administrative bottlenecks hindering timely flow of funds and ensure that implementation work proceeds without interruption.

Stressing the importance of efficient financial management, the Minister



ter instructed the officers to expedite the classification of funds and ensure work-wise release of funds at an earliest to facilitate smooth execution of projects. He said that timely availability of funds at the executing level is essential for maintaining the pace of works and achieving the Mission's objectives.

Rana also directed the officers to undertake a comprehensive review of the operational checklists of all water supply schemes to ensure their proper functionality and sustained service delivery. He said that every completed scheme must remain fully functional so that people receive reliable and uninterrupted potable drinking water.

The issue of release of security deposits was also reviewed during the meeting. The Managing Director, JJM, informed the Minister that no case related to the release of security deposits is pending with the Mission Directorate and that every case received is being processed and disposed of promptly in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

The Minister reviewed the progress achieved under the Har Ghar Jal Certification initiative and stressed the need to accelerate the certification process through close coordination with the district administrations, implementing agencies and Gram Panchayats. He directed the officers to ensure that all prescribed verification procedures are completed in a time-bound manner so that eligible villages are certified without unnecessary delay.

Reiterating the commitment of the government towards universal access to safe drinking water, Rana called upon the officers to maintain close monitoring of all ongoing works and ensure effective coordination at every level for timely completion and optimal functioning of Jal Jeevan Mission schemes across the Union Territory.

Article 370 abrogation brought peace to J&K: Ashok Koul

Says NC failed to deliver on poll promises, welcomes Bilal Lone's entry into politics

WARIS FAYAZ

HANDWARA: BJP Jammu and Kashmir General Secretary (Org) Ashok Koul on Tuesday said the abrogation of Article 370 ended the hurdles that had held Jammu and Kashmir back and claimed the move ushered in peace and prosperity across the Union Territory.

Speaking to reporters after chairing a review meeting of the Langate Assembly Constituency in Handwara, Koul, said the BJP would celebrate August 5, while the National Conference and other parties were free to observe it as a black day.

"We will celebrate August 5 because the law that created hurdles and brought terrorism was removed. Today there is peace and prosperity across Jammu and Kashmir. Let them observe it as a black day if they want," Koul said.

Targeting the ruling National Conference, Koul alleged that the party had failed to fulfil the promises it made in its election manifesto.

"Not a single promise has been fulfilled. Whether it was 200 units of free electricity, 12 free LPG cylinders, regularisation of daily wagers or providing one lakh jobs, nothing has been delivered. These were hoax promises and we will continue reminding people of them," he said.

On the proposed Government Medical College in Handwara, Koul said the matter would be reviewed by the concerned council and maintained that the institution should be established at the originally proposed site.

Commenting on Bilal Gani Lone's entry into politics, Koul welcomed the move, saying everyone has the democratic right to participate in the political process.

Responding to a question on the Union Home Minister's remarks regarding Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Koul referred to the 1994 Parliament resolution, saying PoJK is an integral part of India and expressed confidence that the leadership at the Centre would take appropriate steps on the issue—(KNO)

Prompt resolution of public grievances receiving priority attention: Javid Dar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday met scores of individuals and delegations at the Civil Secretariat here and took stock of their issues and demands.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the grievances projected by the visiting individuals and delegations, covering a range of issues related to service matters, fruit mandis, construction and improvement of lanes and drainage facilities, provision of houses for poor and deserving families under PMAY-G, crop insurance, market protection for apple growers and strengthening of rural infrastructure.



The delegations also sought effective measures to safeguard the interests of fruit growers, improve marketing facilities and ensure better infrastructure and basic amenities in rural areas.

Javid Dar assured the individuals and delegations that all genuine issues and demands would be examined on priority and taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate and timely action.

The Minister emphasized that the government is according priority attention

to prompt resolution of public grievances and demands. The present administration is determined to responsive and people-centric governance, with focused attention on addressing public grievances and improving delivery of essential services, particularly in rural and farming areas.

He stressed the need for coordinated efforts by the concerned departments to ensure that legitimate public concerns are addressed efficiently and within a reasonable time-frame.

Sakeena Itoo launches Cambridge Phonics & Handwriting Programme in Sgr

Says strong foundational learning key to shaping future generations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo launched the Cambridge Phonics & Handwriting Programme at a function held here Tuesday, reaffirming the Government's commitment towards strengthening foundational literacy and improving the quality of early childhood education across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister underscored the importance of laying a strong educational foundation during the formative years of a child's life. "Quality early childhood education plays a vital role in nurturing confidence, creativity and lifelong learning among students", she said.

Sakeena Itoo observed that the introduction of innovative and globally recognised learning programmes will significantly enhance language proficiency, reading abilities and handwriting skills among young learners. "These kind of initiatives complement the Govern-

ment's ongoing efforts to modernise the education system and ensure holistic development of children", she observed.

The Minister reiterated that the Government remains committed to improving educational standards by promoting contemporary teaching methodologies, strengthening foundational learning and creating an enabling environment where every child has access to quality education. She called upon educators and institutions to adopt learner-centric approaches that inspire curiosity, critical thinking and academic excellence.

MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagor, eminent educationists, teachers, school administrators, parents and other distinguished guests, attended the launch ceremony. The participants appreciated the introduction of the Cambridge Phonics & Handwriting Programme and expressed confidence that the initiative would contribute significantly towards improving foundational literacy and learning outcomes among school children across Jammu and Kashmir.

Dy CM chairs 176th BoDs meet of JKML

Unveils roadmap to transform JKML into profit-making PSU

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major push to harness the mineral wealth of Jammu and Kashmir for economic growth and employment generation, the 176th Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoDs) of Jammu & Kashmir Minerals Limited (JKML) was held Tuesday at Civil Secretariat

Kalakote as key pillars for making JKML profitable.

Taking stock of expansion plans, the Deputy Chief Minister directed for immediate steps to operationalize the Limestone Mine at Khrew, additional Gypsum Blocks in Ramban District, and the Fuel Pump at Khrew, Pulwama. He observed that these projects will not only



here under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary.

Speaking during the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister said that JKML has a critical role in the industrial development of J&K and it must emerge as a model, vibrant and financially self-reliant public sector undertaking. He added that the mineral wealth of J&K belongs to the people of J&K and its proper utilization through scientific practices will open up new avenues of employment and revenue generation.

Surinder Choudhary directed the management of Corporation to ensure time-bound execution of all ongoing and new projects. He stressed on optimum utilization of mineral resources, transparency in functioning, and rationalization of manpower at coal mines in

enhance JKML's production capacity but will also give a major boost to the industrial and infrastructure development across Jammu and Kashmir.

Reiterating the government's commitment to empowerment of youth, Surinder Choudhary instructed JKML management to expedite the operationalization of new mining projects on priority to create maximum employment opportunities for local youth.

During the meeting, the Board undertook a comprehensive review of the progress of various ongoing projects and held detailed deliberations on strategies to augment mineral production, expand business operations, and institutionalize sustainable and scientific mining practices across all mining areas.

Zero tolerance policy against drug traffickers in force, Centre tells LS

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Tuesday said it has adopted an intelligence-led, technology-driven and "zero tolerance" approach to tackle drug trafficking, unveiling a three-year roadmap that focuses on dismantling organised narcotics networks, curbing online drug trade and creating drug-free campuses across the country.

In separate replies to questions in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, said the government is strengthening anti-narcotics surveillance, interstate coordination and financial investigations while enhancing action against organised drug syndicates under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Rai said interstate narcotics trafficking is continuously monitored through intelligence gathering, operational surveillance and coordination among the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), state anti-narcotics agencies and other central and state enforcement bodies.

He said trafficking routes remain dynamic and no state can be categorised as a permanent transit route, with enforcement agencies continuously reviewing evolving trends and sharing action-

able intelligence through the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism.

The minister said the government has strengthened coordination through a four-tier NCORD mechanism, an integrated NCORD portal, Joint Coordination Committee meetings and the National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-Offenders (NIDAAN) to facilitate intelligence sharing and coordinated enforcement.

He said financial investigations have been intensified to identify and attach proceeds of crime, while the provisions of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act are being effectively invoked against habitual offenders.

Responding to another question on the government's "Zero Tolerance" policy against drug traffickers, Rai said the Ministry of Home Affairs released the "Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026-2029)" on June 26 this year, outlining a three-year roadmap with time-bound targets to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse through a "Whole-of-Government" and "Whole-of-Society" approach.

The minister said the NCB and other drug law enforcement agencies are conducting intelligence-led

operations, strengthening investigations into narco-terrorism and organised crime, and enhancing coordination with state police, the Border Security Force and other agencies.

"The government has also intensified efforts to counter technology-enabled drug trafficking by deploying cyber experts to investigate darknet-based drug networks, encrypted communication platforms and cryptocurrency transactions used by traffickers," he said.

Rai said specialised training programmes are being organised for enforcement agencies in collaboration with international partners, while India has strengthened cooperation on narcotics control through bilateral agreements and regular meetings with several countries.

The government has also launched the 24x7 National Narcotics Helpline "MANAS", accessible through the toll-free number 1933, email, web portal and the UMANG mobile application to enable citizens to report drug-related activities, he said.

The minister said the government is implementing "Mission Drug Free Campus" in educational institutions across the country to sensitise students against drug abuse.

CM pledges to make J&K premier golf tourism destination

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday inaugurated the 5th edition of J&K Open 2026 DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) by teeing off the prestigious four-day tournament and unveiling the championship trophy at the picturesque Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC), Srinagar. The event marks the return of a major professional golf tournament to Kashmir after a significant gap and underscores the Government's renewed focus on positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a premier destination for golf tourism.

After ceremonially teeing off the tournament, the Chief Minister said that golf tourism forms an important component of the Government's broader strategy to promote tourism in Jammu & Kashmir. He highlighted the region's world-class golf infrastructure which include the courses at Srinagar, Pahalgam and Gulmarg in Kashmir, besides the golf course at Sidra in Jammu, adding that plans are also



being explored to upgrade another golf course in the Jammu region.

The Chief Minister said that Jammu & Kashmir is already witnessing encouraging signs of golf tourism, with visitors travelling to Srinagar specifically for weekend golfing experiences. "This year, even without active promotion of golf tourism, we have seen people flying into Srinagar for a long weekend of golf—arriving on Friday, playing through the weekend and returning on Sunday evening or Monday morning. This is exactly the kind of tourism we want to promote," he said.

Describing the J&K Open as a landmark event, Omar Abdullah said the tourna-

ment would help place Kashmir, particularly the Royal Springs Golf Course, firmly back on India's golfing map. He noted that the championship has attracted more than 100 professional golfers, including over 10 international participants, reflecting the growing appeal of Jammu & Kashmir as a sporting destination.

Expressing confidence that the tournament would become a regular feature, the Chief Minister said the Government's endeavour is to make the J&K Open an annual event for at least the next five years. He added that efforts would be made to progressively enhance both the prize money and participation in the coming editions, thereby strength-

ening the tournament's stature on the professional golfing circuit.

Highlighting the importance of nurturing local talent, the Chief Minister said that such tournaments provide invaluable exposure to young golfers through interactions and competitions alongside seasoned professionals. He informed that the Government is also planning to establish a golf academy in Kashmir to identify and groom young talent from an early age, enabling them to compete at the national and international levels.

Referring to the recent sporting achievements of athletes from Jammu & Kashmir, Omar Abdullah

said the region's youth possess immense talent across several sport disciplines. He cited the recent selection of J&K cricketer Auqib Nabi in the Indian Test squad for the Sri Lanka series and the remarkable international success of local mixed martial arts fighter Owais Yaqoob as examples of the sporting potential that exists in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our boys and girls have talent. What they need is exposure and opportunities. By organizing more tournaments like this and encouraging local competitions, we can provide that exposure, inspire more youngsters to take up sports and help them excel at the highest levels," the Chief Minister said.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, CEO PGTI Amandeep Johal, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Haris Ahmad Handoo, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Stress: The Hidden Epidemic

Jammu and Kashmir has nearly 120 psychiatrists and 40 clinical psychologists across government and private institutions, with mental health and addiction treatment facilities functioning in every district. On paper, this is an encouraging milestone. But the number is too meagre for a place where stress related ailments like PTSD, post traumatic stress disease has 99 percent patients. Yet, mental healthcare cannot be judged solely by statistics. The real question is not how many psychiatrists or facilities exist, but whether a person struggling with depression in a remote village, a young student battling anxiety, or someone trapped in substance addiction can access timely, affordable and compassionate care without fear or stigma. Jammu and Kashmir carries a unique psychological burden. Decades of conflict, repeated natural disasters, economic uncertainty, unemployment, drug abuse and the lingering effects of the pandemic have left deep emotional scars across generations. Mental health is no longer a niche medical issue—it is a pressing public health challenge. The government's decision to establish addiction treatment facilities in all districts, expand Tele-MANAS services and strengthen institutions like IMHANS Srinagar deserves recognition. Integrating mental healthcare into primary health centres and training medical officers are equally important steps that can bring services closer to people. However, infrastructure alone is not enough. Many people continue to suffer in silence because of social stigma. Families often hesitate to seek psychiatric help, fearing judgment from society. In rural and far-flung areas, specialist services remain difficult to access despite official availability. Follow-up care, counselling and rehabilitation also require sustained attention if treatment is to be effective. The growing menace of substance abuse further underlines the urgency of strengthening mental health services. Addiction is not merely a law-and-order issue; it is deeply connected to psychological distress, social isolation and economic hardship. Treatment must therefore combine medical care with counselling, family support and community rehabilitation. The ongoing National Mental Health Survey-2 is an opportunity to understand the true extent of mental health concerns in Jammu and Kashmir. Its findings should guide evidence-based policies rather than remain confined to reports and presentations. Mental health deserves the same priority as physical health. Just as hospitals treat heart disease or diabetes without stigma, seeking help for depression, anxiety or addiction should become equally normal. Schools, colleges, workplaces, community leaders and religious institutions all have a role in creating awareness and encouraging early intervention. The numbers placed before Parliament are a sign of progress. The next challenge is ensuring that these services are accessible, trusted and effective for every citizen. Success will not be measured by the number of psychiatrists on the payroll, but by the number of lives restored, families supported and silent suffering prevented. A healthier Jammu and Kashmir will ultimately depend not only on stronger hospitals, but also on a society that understands that mental health is health—and that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

Where Have Kashmir's Nightingales Gone?

The Silent Disappearance Of Companion Demands Urgent Attention

MOHD AMIN MIR

There are some memories that never fade, no matter how many years pass. My childhood was filled with the melodious songs of nightingales. Like countless children growing up in the villages of Kashmir, I shared a special bond with these tiny birds. Their cheerful presence was as much a part of our lives as the flowing streams, the towering Chinars, and the blooming orchards. As a child, I would spend hours watching them. Later, as I grew older, the habit remained unchanged. Every morning I would place rice grains in a shallow bowl-shaped plate outside my home. Before long, the nightingales would arrive in groups. They would hop around joyfully, peck at the grains, fly to a nearby branch, return again, and fill the air with their enchanting songs. Watching them brought a peace that no modern entertainment could ever provide. This simple routine continued for almost three decades. It became a cherished part of my life and a source of happiness for my family. We never imagined that one day the bowl would remain full and the birds would never return. For the last several years, I have not seen a single nightingale around my locality. At first, I thought perhaps they had shifted to another area temporarily. But as months turned into years, the silence became impossible to ignore. Out of curiosity and concern, I contacted friends and colleagues working in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. To my surprise, almost everyone gave the same answer. They too had noticed that the familiar nightingales had disappeared from their villages and neighbourhoods. Many admitted they had not seen them for years.



This is not merely a personal loss. It is a warning from nature. Birds are among the most reliable indicators of environmental health. When they disappear, it often signals that something has changed in the ecosystem. Their absence may reflect shrinking natural habitats, indiscriminate cutting of trees and bushes, excessive use of pesticides in agriculture, changing climatic conditions, pollution, or declining food sources. Even seemingly minor ecological disturbances can severely affect small bird populations. Kashmir has long been celebrated for its breathtaking natural beauty. Our valleys have inspired poets, saints, travellers, and naturalists for centuries. Yet beauty cannot survive without biodiversity. The disappearance of even one familiar bird species should concern every citizen. Modern lifestyles have also transformed our surroundings. Open fields have become concrete structures. Traditional hedges, shrubs, and small groves where birds nested have vanished. Chemical-intensive farming has reduced insects that many birds

depend upon for survival. Plastic waste and environmental pollution have further disturbed the delicate balance of nature. While scientific studies may identify the precise reasons behind the decline, ordinary citizens cannot ignore what they witness with their own eyes. The silence that has replaced the once-familiar songs of these birds is itself a powerful testimony. Environmental scientists, ornithologists, universities, and research institutions should undertake systematic surveys to determine whether the population of nightingales has actually declined across Kashmir or whether they have shifted their habitats. Reliable scientific data is urgently needed before the problem becomes irreversible. The Department of Wildlife Protection, the Forest Department, and the Pollution Control authorities should also investigate the causes of this disappearance. If habitat destruction, pesticide use, or climate-related changes are responsible, immediate conservation measures must be introduced. Schools can also play an important

role by encouraging children to observe local birdlife and appreciate biodiversity. Community-led initiatives to plant native trees, preserve shrubs, reduce pesticide use, and provide safe habitats for birds can help restore ecological balance. Every family can contribute in simple ways. Planting indigenous flowering plants, avoiding unnecessary chemicals, keeping small water bowls during summer, and protecting nesting sites can make our homes welcoming once again for birds. The disappearance of the nightingale is more than the loss of a beautiful bird. It represents the gradual fading of a relationship between human beings and nature. A generation that grows up without hearing the songs that once echoed through Kashmir's villages loses an irreplaceable part of its natural heritage. Whenever I see the empty bowl where I once placed rice grains, I cannot help but wonder whether those delightful visitors will ever return. My family asks the same question. Where have Kashmir's nightingales gone? This is not merely my question. It is a question that environmental scientists, conservationists, policymakers, and the concerned government departments must answer. For if the songs of our birds fall silent today, tomorrow the silence may spread to the forests, the orchards, and eventually to our own conscience. Protecting Kashmir's natural heritage is not simply an environmental responsibilityit is a moral duty owed to future generations, who deserve to inherit a valley alive not only with scenic beauty but also with the music of its birds.,

The author can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

The Quiet Change In Jammu And Kashmir

Seven Years After Article 370, The Most Meaningful Transformation Is The Return Of Ordinary Life

BHARAT NANDA

Not every transformation announces itself through grand ceremonies. Some changes enter our lives quietly. They can be seen in a shop remaining open until its usual closing time, in a student completing an academic session without prolonged disruption, in a family stepping out for an evening without first checking whether the situation is tense, and in a tourist making plans with confidence rather than uncertainty.

As Jammu and Kashmir completes seven years since the constitutional changes of August 5, 2019, there will be much discussion about Article 370. Political parties will interpret the anniversary according to their respective positions. Constitutional experts will examine its legal meaning, while administrators will present figures relating to infrastructure, investment and public welfare. As someone who has lived in Jammu and Kashmir, I see the change through a simpler measure: the growing space available for ordinary life. For a region that has spent decades under the shadow of violence, unrest and uncertainty, normality is not an insignificant achievement. It is the foundation upon which every other form of progress depends. A road can be constructed in a disturbed region, but it will not deliver its full economic value if movement remains uncertain. A hotel can be built, but it cannot sustain livelihoods without tourists. A school can have modern classrooms, but education cannot flourish when the academic calendar is repeatedly interrupted. A young entrepreneur may possess ideas and ability, but a business requires stability, customers and confidence. Peace, therefore, is not merely one achievement among many. It is the condition that makes all other achievements meaningful. Those who have lived through earlier periods remember how uncertainty entered almost every aspect of life. Parents worried about children returning from school. Traders could not predict whether markets would remain open. Tourists cancelled bookings. Students lost valuable classroom time. Transport services were affected, examinations were



postponed and daily-wage earners often suffered the most. The economic cost was significant, but the emotional cost was perhaps even greater. People gradually learned to plan their lives around possible disruption. The change visible today is that disruption no longer defines the daily routine in the same manner. Official data indicate a substantial reduction in organised shutdowns and terrorist-initiated incidents. Organised strikes and shutdowns, recorded at 52 in 2018, fell to zero from 2023 through April 2026. Terrorist-initiated incidents declined from 228 in 2018 to 12 in 2025. These figures must be understood with seriousness and without triumphalism, because every act of violence and every lost life remains a tragedy. Nevertheless, the broader improvement in the security environment is real and has affected public life. The most persuasive evidence of peace is not found in official statements. It is found in changed behaviour. People remain outside later. Commercial areas are busier. Public events attract families. Students participate in competitions, cultural programmes and sporting activities. Hotels, restaurants and transport operators plan for expanding demand. Destinations once considered difficult or unfamiliar are entering tourist itineraries. This confidence cannot be manufactured through publicity. Visitors travel when they believe a destination is welcoming and reasonably secure. Businesses invest when they believe activity can continue. Families venture into public spaces when fear no longer dominates every decision. Jammu and Kashmir recorded more than 2.3 crore tourist visits in 2024, according to official

figures. Tourism statistics are often presented as evidence of economic growth, but they also tell a deeper story. Every visitor represents a decision made in favour of confidence. The benefits extend far beyond hotels and major tourism companies. A taxi driver gets more work. A family running a homestay earns an income. A craftsperson finds new customers. A photographer, guide, pony owner, restaurant worker or roadside vendor gains an opportunity. This is how peace reaches the household economy. Peace has also allowed development to become more visible. Projects that once existed mainly on paper can now be experienced in everyday travel and public services. Roads, tunnels, railway links, hospitals, educational institutions and digital platforms are gradually changing how residents connect with opportunities. But the importance of these projects should not be reduced to their size or cost. Their real value lies in the confidence they create. A tunnel is important because it reduces uncertainty during difficult weather. A railway line is important because it connects families, markets and educational opportunities. A hospital is important because it may prevent a patient from undertaking an exhausting journey outside the region. A digital service matters because it saves a citizen from making repeated visits to an office. Development becomes human only when it improves the predictability and dignity of daily life. There has also been a gradual economic improvement. Jammu and Kashmir's per-capita income relative to the national average increased from 71.9 per cent in

2014-15 to approximately 76.5 per cent in 2025-26. This does not mean that economic concerns have disappeared or that progress has reached every household equally. It does, however, indicate a movement towards greater convergence with the national economy. For young people, the most important outcome of a peaceful environment is the freedom to think beyond survival and disruption. A generation that grows up amid instability often learns to lower its expectations. It becomes accustomed to cancelled plans, uncertain opportunities and the belief that a successful future must necessarily be built somewhere else. That mindset is beginning to change. Young residents are entering entrepreneurship, tourism, technology, sports, creative industries, civil services and new forms of digital work. They are opening cafés, launching local brands, producing online content, promoting unexplored destinations and seeking markets beyond the region. Not every venture will succeed. Employment remains a serious concern, and the private economy must expand further. Yet there is a difference between a young person facing economic competition in a peaceful environment and one attempting to build a future amid continuous instability. Peace does not guarantee success, but it makes effort worthwhile. This transformation must not be described as complete. Jammu and Kashmir continues to face security threats, including cross-border terrorism. The suffering caused by attacks on civilians, pilgrims and security personnel

reminds us that peace remains precious and vulnerable. It must never be taken for granted. Nor should the language of progress make us insensitive to families who have experienced loss. Peace is not served by denying pain. It is strengthened when society refuses to allow violence to determine its future. The coming years must therefore focus on consolidating what has been achieved. Development must reach remote villages and border communities. Young people need wider employment opportunities. Tourism must expand without damaging fragile ecosystems. Cities need better planning, while completed infrastructure must be properly maintained. Most importantly, every region and community must feel that it has a meaningful place in the future of Jammu and Kashmir. Seven years after the abrogation of Article 370, the most encouraging change is that public conversation is increasingly moving towards the future. People discuss jobs, education, business, tourism, infrastructure, sports and connectivity. They may disagree on politics, as citizens in every democracy do, but disagreement no longer needs to become disruption. This is the essence of normal democratic life. History will continue to debate the constitutional decision of August 5, 2019. But ordinary residents will assess this period through lived experience. They will ask whether their children attended school regularly, whether businesses found customers, whether travel became easier, whether public spaces became safer and whether families gained the confidence to plan ahead. For me, the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir is best represented not by a statistic or a building, but by a simple scene: people going about their lives without treating peace as an unusual event. The return of the ordinary may appear modest from a distance. For Jammu and Kashmir, it is extraordinary.

The author is a technology professional, geopolitical analyst, newspaper columnist and author based in Jammu. He can be reached on bharatnanda.author@gmail.com and x.com/bharatnanda_

Good Morning

Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors

Mir Suhail

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

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

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

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

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

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

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

■ August 5, Seven Years Later

Kashmir's Development Story Also Deserves to Be Told



RISHI SURI

Every August 5, India's conversation about Jammu and Kashmir returns almost inevitably to Article 370. Supporters and critics revisit the constitutional decision of 2019, political parties repeat familiar arguments, and questions of statehood, representation, security and identity return to national headlines. Those debates are legitimate and will continue. But seven years later, there is another Kashmir story that deserves considerably more attention: development.

Increasingly, this story can be measured not merely through political claims but through roads built, railway lines completed, tourists arriving, businesses opening, hospital capacity expanding, medical seats increasing, homes receiving tap water and young Kashmiris starting companies. Jammu and Kashmir's economy is estimated at approximately 2.86 lakh crore in nominal terms in 2025-26. Real GDP is estimated to grow by 5.82 per cent during the year, while nominal GDP is projected to expand by 8.89 per cent. Per capita income is estimated at 1,68,243, while nominal per capita income recorded a compound annual growth rate of 8.81 per cent between 2019-20 and 2024-25.

These figures do not suggest that every economic problem has been solved. They do, however, point towards an economy that is expanding and gradually becoming more diverse. For decades, Jammu and Kashmir was discussed primarily through the vocabulary of terrorism, separatism, Pakistan and constitutional exceptionalism. Ordinary developmental questions that would dominate political discussion elsewhere in India were frequently overshadowed. How many tourists arrived? How quickly could apples reach markets? Were new roads being constructed? Were young people starting businesses? Were villages receiving better infrastructure? Could Kashmir remain connected with the rest of India throughout the year? Today these questions increasingly matter.

Perhaps the most powerful symbol of this changing landscape is connectivity. The completion of the 272-kilometre Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link through some of the most difficult Himalayan terrain represents far more than an engineering achievement. At its centre stands the 1,315-metre-long Chenab Rail Bridge, 359 metres above the riverbed and higher than the Eiffel Tower. The railway connection has finally provided the Kashmir Valley with direct rail connectivity to the rest of the national network, while the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat has reduced travel time between the two to roughly three hours.

Road connectivity has also expanded substantially. More than 17,600 kilometres of roads had already been completed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Jammu and Kashmir by March 2022, connecting over 2,000 habitations, and construction has continued since. The Sonamarg Tunnel, built at a cost of around 2,700 crore,



has improved all-weather access towards Sonamarg. The nearly 14-kilometre Zojila Tunnel, being constructed at a cost of approximately 6,800 crore, will further transform connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh when completed.

A farmer or horticulturist does not experience infrastructure as a political slogan. He experiences it through lower transportation costs, fewer disruptions and greater access to markets. A tourist experiences it through easier travel, a student through mobility, and an entrepreneur through access to customers and supply chains. That is why these connectivity projects potentially have consequences far beyond the impressive engineering statistics attached to them.

Tourism provides another striking illustration of Kashmir's economic potential. Jammu and Kashmir recorded an all-time high of approximately 2.36 crore tourist visits in 2024. This included around 94.5 lakh pilgrims to Mata Vaishno Devi and more than five lakh Amarnath pilgrims, alongside leisure and other visitors. The significance of these numbers lies in the economic chain behind every visitor: hotels, homestays, houseboats, restaurants, taxis, guides, pony operators, handicraft sellers, photographers and thousands of other small businesses.

Kashmir was always one of India's most extraordinary tourist destinations. What decades of instability took away has gradually been rebuilt. The process has not been without setbacks. The Pahalgam terror attack in 2025 affected tourism and demonstrated how quickly violence can damage livelihoods. Yet the tourism economy has also displayed considerable resilience. This is important because tourism is not simply about visitor numbers; it represents employment and income across an enormous network of families.

Kashmir's future, however, cannot depend upon tourism alone. Horticulture remains central to its economy and supports approximately 35 lakh people and seven lakh families directly or indirectly. The sector contributes around 6 to 7 per cent of J&K's GDP. What is changing is not merely production but the infrastructure surrounding it. High and medium-density plantation coverage increased from under 900 hectares up to 2020-21 to more than 18,500 hectares by late 2024. Almond and walnut exports were valued at over 780 crore in 2023-24, while 17 mandis linked with the

national e-NAM platform traded fruits and vegetables worth more than 500 crore during part of 2024-25.

The 5,013 crore Holistic Agriculture Development Programme seeks to take this transformation further through 29 projects covering different parts of agriculture and allied sectors. The programme envisages creating 2.88 lakh sustainable jobs, benefiting around 13 lakh families, skilling 2.5 lakh young people and facilitating approximately 19,000 enterprises. Better cold chains, food processing, logistics, branding and direct access to national and international markets could be particularly transformative for Kashmir's apple growers and other horticultural producers.

Industry, traditionally constrained by geography, uncertainty and logistical costs, is another area where the numbers deserve attention. Over the past seven years, more than 2,200 industrial units involving investment of nearly 16,000 crore have reportedly become operational in Jammu and Kashmir. Under the New Central Sector Scheme for industrial development, hundreds of units have commenced production, involving investment running into thousands of crores and the potential creation of tens of thousands of jobs. Investment proposals are considerably larger still, although the true test will naturally be how much proposed investment translates into factories, services, employment and sustained economic activity on the ground.

Perhaps even more significant is the emergence of a new generation of entrepreneurs. Jammu and Kashmir had only 69 recognised startups in 2020. By December 2025, the number had increased to 1,255, including more than 430 women-led enterprises. These businesses span agriculture, information technology, manufacturing and services. An eighteen-fold expansion in recognised startups within five years is significant not merely because of the companies themselves but because it reflects a changing conception of opportunity.

There is a generation of young Kashmiris whose aspirations increasingly resemble those of their contemporaries elsewhere in India. They want good jobs, startups, universities, technology, sport and global opportunities. For policymakers, this may ultimately prove more consequential than many larger

infrastructure projects. A society in which young people can imagine meaningful futures has a stronger defence against those who offer them only anger.

Healthcare has also undergone a substantial expansion. Jammu and Kashmir had four medical colleges in 2019; by 2025 the number had increased to eleven. MBBS capacity rose from around 500 seats to more than 1,700, while postgraduate medical seats increased from 513 to more than 800. DNB seats increased from only 20 to nearly 400, while B.Sc Nursing capacity expanded from 685 seats to more than 3,000. Hospital bed capacity increased from 18,142 in 2019 to more than 22,400 by 2025.

More than 3,100 Health and Wellness Centres have been established, while the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras increased from 47 to more than 300. The healthcare network now also includes the development of two AIIMS, State Cancer Institutes and specialised hospitals. These numbers matter particularly in a mountainous region where access to specialised medical treatment historically meant long journeys for many families.

The transformation can also be measured through something as basic as drinking water. When the Jal Jeevan Mission began in 2019, only around 5.75 lakh rural households in Jammu and Kashmir had household tap connections, roughly one-third of the total. Coverage has since risen to around four-fifths of rural households. Such statistics may receive less attention than constitutional judgments or political controversies, but for a family in a remote village, running water inside the home can represent a far more immediate improvement in everyday life.

Education and sport are similarly expanding the range of possibilities available to young people. IIT Jammu and IIM Jammu are operational, while the expansion of medical, nursing, engineering and degree education has increased professional opportunities within the region. Jammu and Kashmir also has 100 notified Khelo India Centres, while Gulmarg has become an important venue for the Khelo India Winter Games, bringing athletes from across the country to Kashmir.

Sport has significance beyond medals. Young Kashmiris participating in cricket, football, skiing, martial arts and other disciplines are creating alternative role models and ambitions. Entrepreneurship and digital connectiv-

ity are doing something similar. For a region where young people were too often discussed only in the context of stone-pelting, militancy or unemployment, the emergence of athletes, entrepreneurs, doctors, engineers and creators represents an important shift in the public imagination.

Development, however, should never be presented as a substitute for politics. Roads cannot answer every political grievance. Tourism statistics cannot replace democratic representation. Investment cannot resolve every question of identity. Nor do aggregate growth figures mean unemployment, regional disparities or economic anxieties have disappeared. Acknowledging these realities does not diminish the developmental achievements of recent years; it makes the argument more credible.

The objective should not be to claim that every problem in Jammu and Kashmir disappeared after August 5, 2019. Clearly, it did not. The more meaningful question is whether the direction of travel has changed. Seven years provides enough distance to begin examining that question through evidence rather than slogans. An economy approaching 2.86 lakh crore, a railway connection through the Himalayas, record tourism, more than 2,200 industrial units becoming operational, a startup ecosystem growing from 69 recognised enterprises to more than 1,250, medical colleges increasing from four to eleven, thousands of additional medical and nursing seats, expanding household tap-water coverage and rapidly modernising horticulture together constitute a substantial body of evidence.

These figures do not settle the political argument over August 5, nor should they be expected to. They do establish that there is another argument worth having. Are people better connected? Are economic opportunities expanding? Are tourists returning? Is infrastructure improving? Are farmers gaining better access to markets? Can young Kashmiris increasingly build companies rather than simply search for government employment? Can students pursue medicine, management, engineering and entrepreneurship closer to home? Where the answer is yes, those successes should be acknowledged. Where the answer remains no, governments must work harder.

Ultimately, the success of August 5 cannot be measured only through constitutional arguments in Delhi. It must be measured in the everyday life of someone living in Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara, Anantnag, Jammu, Rajouri or a remote mountain village. Peace becomes durable when people have something meaningful to lose by returning to conflict. That means jobs, businesses, education, tourism, connectivity, investment and opportunity.

For too long, Kashmir was viewed almost entirely through the prism of its past. Seven years later, perhaps one of the most consequential changes is that it is increasingly possible to discuss Kashmir through the possibilities of its future. That does not require forgetting its history, denying its political debates or pretending that every problem has been solved. It simply requires recognising something that Kashmiris themselves understand well: development is also part of the story. And on August 5, that story deserves to be told too.

Rishi Suri is a senior editor covering international affairs at The Daily Milap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper.

Federalism And The Fiction Of Autonomy

Constitutional Architecture Across The LoC



SUHAIL MIR

The true character of a sovereign state, its geopolitical intent, and its fundamental relationship with its people are most accurately revealed by its constitutional architecture. Legal frameworks and statutory documents are not merely abstract, theoretical texts debated by scholars in distant capitals; they are the rigid structural scaffolding that practically determines whether a region's people are empowered as equal citizens or subjugated as peripheral colonial subjects. A comparative, realist analysis of the legal and constitutional structures governing Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) completely dispels the long-held rhetorical illusions promoted by Islamabad at international forums. While India has definitively extended the full protections, rights, and progressive mandates of its Constitution to J&K, Pakistan has trapped PoJK in a perpetual legal limbo, offering a mere fiction of autonomy to mask systemic authoritarian oversight.

The historic abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 was, at its very core, an exercise in profound constitutional equalization. For decades, J&K existed in a state of asymmet-

ric federalism that, paradoxically, denied its own citizens the fundamental rights and progressive legal protections enjoyed unconditionally by the rest of India. The local political elite masterfully utilized this constitutional anomaly to maintain a feudal grip on power, insulating themselves from national accountability frameworks. Post-2019, the complete legal integration of J&K has fundamentally altered the structural reality of the region. The full application of the Indian Constitution means that progressive laws, such as those pertaining to women's property rights, robust child protection frameworks, the Right to Education, and political reservations for historically marginalized communities like the Valmikis, West Pakistani refugees, and Scheduled Tribes, are now actively and legally enforced.

Crucially, this constitutional integration is heavily safeguarded by an fiercely independent and historically robust judiciary. The High Court of J&K and Ladakh, operating firmly under the appellate oversight of the Supreme Court of India, serves as a powerful mechanism for independent judicial redress. Citizens can, and routinely do, hold the state executive accountable for any perceived overreach. Furthermore, the constitutional mandate for grassroots democracy has been fully realized through the robust empowerment of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). By conducting transparent local body elections, establishing District Development Councils (DDCs), and devolving direct financial powers to these bodies, New Delhi has decisively shifted political power away from entrenched dynastic elites in



Srinagar. Power has been placed directly in the hands of local village councils, institutionalizing a deeply democratic, participatory federalism at the micro-level.

In stark, unforgiving contrast, the legal framework governing PoJK is a masterclass in colonial-style subjugation disguised as statecraft. The region operates under the deeply flawed "Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act of 1974," a highly restrictive document that provides a deceptive, thin veneer of parliamentary democracy. While PoJK nominally possesses a Legislative Assembly, a Prime Minister, and a President to project the optics of self-governance, a closer reading of the Act reveals exactly where real sovereign power resides. Historically, the overwhelming majority of executive, financial, and legislative authority was heavily concentrated in the "Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council," an opaque,

undemocratic body headquartered far away in Islamabad and chaired directly by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Although recent amendments under intense domestic pressure have nominally reduced the Council's overt administrative powers, the structural subservience of the territory remains firmly and legally intact. The most glaring, undeniable evidence of this subjugation is Section 7(2) of the 1974 Interim Constitution. This draconian clause explicitly prohibits any individual, civil society group, or political party from engaging in any activity or expressing any view that is prejudicial to the ideology of the territory's accession to Pakistan. This constitutional gag order effectively strips the people of PoJK of their fundamental democratic rights to free speech, peaceful political association, and genuine self-determination. It legally disqualifies any candidate who

questions Islamabad's writ, rendering any electoral process in the region inherently coercive, structurally predetermined, and fundamentally anti-democratic.

Governance in PoJK is therefore characterized by arbitrary martial oversight rather than genuine democratic representation. The local legislative assembly has absolutely no sovereign legislative competence over its own vital natural resources, strategic defense, or macro-economic policy. Furthermore, the regional judiciary is fundamentally compromised; it lacks the constitutional independence, the institutional backing, and the political will to challenge the writ of the powerful Pakistani military-political establishment. Judges are appointed with Islamabad's implicit approval, ensuring compliance.

The geopolitical contrast drawn here is devastating. While J&K is aggressively expanding its democratic footprint through constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights, independent judicial review, and financially empowered local governance, PoJK remains legally and structurally disenfranchised. Islamabad's carefully maintained, internationally marketed fiction of 'Azad' (Free) Kashmir is completely exposed by a constitutional reality that legally demands total subservience while offering zero genuine sovereignty to its populace. In the realm of statecraft, J&K is experiencing the full dividends of constitutional democracy, while PoJK remains trapped as an imperial outpost, governed by the heavy hand of a distant, unaccountable elite.

The author can be mailed at suhailmir125@gmail.com

Centre highlights infrastructure, tourism, healthcare push for J&K, Ladakh

‘Chenani-Nashri, Z-Morh tunnels, USBRL completed for regional connectivity’

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: The Centre has highlighted a series of infrastructure, connectivity, tourism, healthcare, industrial and renewable-energy initiatives undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as part of efforts to accelerate economic development in the Union Territories.

The details, were provided by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in reply to an unstarred question raised by BJP MP Gopal Jee Thakur in the Lok Sabha. Thakur had sought details of steps taken for economic development of the Union Territories, initiatives to promote renewable and green energy and the benefits of such measures to the people.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, strategic infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, Z-Morh Tunnel and Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), including the iconic Chenab Rail Bridge, have been completed.

The Centre said these projects form part of wider efforts to improve regional connectivity and strengthen infrastructure in the Union Territories. In Ladakh, construction of new motorable bridges



has been undertaken, while helipads and hangars have also been completed to improve connectivity to difficult terrains and facilitate medical emergencies, including during winter months.

Tourism has also been identified as a key sector for economic growth and livelihood generation. The government said winter tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and astro tourism in Ladakh are among the niche tourism activities being promoted according to the geographical potential of the two Union Territories.

In Ladakh, the Centre said the first-ever dark sky reserve in the country has been set up at Hanle, as part of efforts to promote astro tourism. The government said such initiatives have contributed to increased tourist footfall

in the Union Territories.

The Centre further said homestay policies have been notified by the UTs to promote community-based tourism and generate local livelihoods, while local art and traditional crafts are also being promoted.

In the healthcare sector, AIIMS Jammu has been operationalised, the Ministry said, while also listing healthcare improvements undertaken in other Union Territories.

On industrial development, the Centre said the New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development in Jammu and Kashmir has been launched with an outlay of Rs 28,400 crore to promote manufacturing and services. Comprehensive investment incentives and single-window clearance mechanisms have also been put in place, alongside poli-

cies relating to industries, land allotment, startups, logistics and promotion of MSMEs.

The government said these measures are aimed at improving the investment climate, promoting businesses and entrepreneurship and positioning the Union Territories as drivers of economic growth and prosperity.

On renewable and green energy, the Centre said Union Territories are implementing schemes including PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and PM-KUSUM, besides promoting utility-scale solar projects, rooftop solar installations and household solar adoption.

Specifically for Jammu and Kashmir, the government said measures include the distribution of smokeless biomass cookstoves among the tribal populace as part of wider renewable-energy and clean-energy initiatives.

The Ministry said the energy initiatives across the UTs have resulted in increased availability of clean and reliable electricity, reduced electricity expenditure through rooftop solar systems, lower dependence on conventional fossil fuels, improved energy security and generation of employment in installation, operation and maintenance of renewable-

energy systems.

Rai said the government has also undertaken measures to improve ease of doing business, including simplified licensing and approval procedures, online service delivery, digital processing and clearances. Financial incentives are being provided for entrepreneurship, MSMEs, fisheries, tourism and other livelihood activities.

The Centre further said 21 legislative and regulatory measures specifically relevant to facilitating economic development in the Union Territories were processed during the last five years, comprising 19 Regulations, Bills or extensions of laws and two delegations of statutory powers. These measures cover areas including taxation, labour regulation, stamp duty and registration, agricultural marketing, mineral development, fisheries, excise, public-service delivery and business facilitation.

The government said employment generation and skill development remain priorities, with schemes including PM Employment Generation Programme, Startup India, PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, PM Vishwakarma, PM SVANidhi and PM MUDRA Yojana being implemented in the Union Territories to create livelihood opportunities for youth—(KNO)

SKUAST-K showcases Student Floriculture Startups

Trains 80 Growers on Modern Production and Marketing



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, organised a one-day capacity-building program for 80 progressive floriculture growers under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) at the Division of Floriculture and Landscaping, Shalimar.

The programme focused on modern production technologies, marketing strategies and entrepreneurship in commercial floriculture, highlighting the sector's growing potential as a high-value enterprise for employment generation and economic upliftment. The training also reflected SKUAST-K's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship under the vision of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP).

Addressing the gather-

ing as Chief Guest, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension and Dean, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K, stressed that commercial floriculture has emerged as a promising livelihood avenue capable of generating employment while meeting the growing demand for aesthetic landscaping and ornamental plants. She encouraged both growers and students to explore entrepreneurship opportunities in the sector.

Shaik Rasool, Deputy Director, Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, briefed growers on various government support schemes available for the industry.

Prof. Qazi Altaf Husain, Head, Division of Floriculture and Landscaping, outlined the significance of the programme and discussed a roadmap for the sustainable growth of commercial floriculture in the region.

A major highlight of the program was the interaction with SKUAST-K student startups including ARJ Innovations, founded by Urbina Jain; Gul Poosh,

founded by Tooba, and Florenza, founded by Sobia. The young entrepreneurs shared their experiences of establishing successful floriculture enterprises, inspiring growers with their business journeys. Within just two months, each startup successfully raised nearly 1.5 lakh chrysanthemum plants, demonstrating the strong economic potential of commercial floriculture, with an estimated 1:10 economic return ratio.

The programme was attended by faculty members of the Division of Floriculture and Landscaping, including Prof. Z.A. Bhat, Prof. K.M. Malik, Prof. N.H. Masoodi, Dr. Raiz A. Lone, Dr. Gazanfer Gani and Dr. Z.A. Rather.

The event concluded with an exposure visit to the Division's floriculture farm, where participants observed nearly five lakh rooted chrysanthemum cuttings, including multiflora and several other commercial varieties, showcasing advanced propagation and production practices adopted by SKUAST-K.

MLA Javaid Mirchal, JJM Contractors' Association call on Javed Rana



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Member of Legislative Assembly, Javaid Ahmad Mirchal, Tuesday called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and discussed various constituency-specific developmental issues.

During the meeting, MLA projected several demands related to augmentation of drinking water supply, strengthening of irrigation infrastructure, flood protection measures and other public utility works in his constituency. He sought Minister's intervention for their early resolution to ensure improved public service delivery and accelerated development.

Separately, a delegation of the Contractors' Association engaged under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) also met the Minister and apprised him of issues concerning the release of pending payments under

the Mission. They requested timely release of funds to facilitate clearance of pending payments and ensure smooth execution of drinking water infrastructure works across the Union Territory.

The Minister subsequently held a detailed review with the concerned officers regarding the issues projected by the contractors. He directed the officers to expedite all necessary processes for timely settlement of legitimate claims and ensure that no avoidable delay hampers the implementation of drinking water infrastructure works.

Reiterating the government's commitment to strengthen the public infrastructure and ensuring efficient implementation of development works across the Union Territory, the Minister assured both the legislator and the delegation that all their genuine issues and demands would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

DC B'pora reviews progress of Waqar Knowledge Centre at Arin

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Tuesday visited the upcoming Waqar Knowledge Centre at Arin to review the progress of the facility and take stock of the pending works required to make the centre functional.

During the visit, the DC inspected the infrastructure being developed at the centre and reviewed the status of various works being carried out with the support of the Indian Army and the Rural Development Department. She directed the Assistant Commission-

er Development Bandipora to expedite the execution of the remaining works and ensure that the Waqar Knowledge Centre is made functional at the earliest.

The DC said that the Waqar Knowledge Centre is being developed as a dedicated space for youth where they can engage in constructive and meaningful activities. She said the centre will provide facilities such as a reading library, sports and recreational activities, besides serving as an information point for government schemes, education, employment and skill development opportunities.

She also observed that

such centres play an important role in positively engaging youth, encouraging learning and promoting a healthy and productive environment within the community. She stressed that timely completion of the project will enable the local youth to benefit from the facilities at the earliest.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, Block Development Officer Arin, Officer from the Indian Army and other concerned officers.

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Tuesday visited Surrinder area of Bandipora to assess the situation following the recent heavy rains and flash floods and took stock of the damage caused in the area.

During the visit, the DC inspected the affected locations and reviewed the impact of the flash floods on residential houses, public infrastructure, agricultural land and other assets. She interacted with local residents and listened to their concerns while

obtaining firsthand information about the losses caused by the recent rains.

The DC directed the concerned officers to conduct a detailed assessment of the damages and ensure that the process is completed promptly so that the required relief and assistance could be taken up as per the established norms. She stressed the importance of maintaining close coordination among all concerned departments for timely response and effective management of the situation.

The DC also reviewed the measures being taken

by the district administration and instructed the concerned departments to remain alert, closely monitor vulnerable locations and take all necessary precautionary steps to minimise the impact of any further weather-related incidents. She emphasized that public safety should remain the top priority and directed the officers to stay in close touch with the affected families.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Tehsildar Bandipora, and other concerned officers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gh Mohi Din Malik, S/o Abdullah Malik, R/o Dolipora, Kreeri, Baramulla, hereby inform the general public and all concerned authorities that my correct Date of Birth is 01-04-1965, as per my original and authentic records/documents. However, due to an inadvertent error, my Date of Birth has been recorded as 30-06-1970 in certain documents, including my Aadhaar and other records. Now i am in the process of getting the incorrect Date of Birth corrected in my Aadhaar and all other relevant documents from 30-06-1970 to the correct Date of Birth 01-04-1965, on the basis of my original supporting documents. If any person, institution, or authority has any objection regarding this correction, they may submit the same, along with documentary proof, to the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no one has any objection to the said correction, and the necessary corrections shall be carried out in accordance.

Gh Mohi Din Malik S/o Abdullah Malik
R/o Dolipora, Kreeri, Baramulla

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR

Health Secretariat, Bemina Bypass, Srinagar-190018

E-mail: dhsk-pa@jk.gov.in Website: www.Dhskashmir.org. | Tel. No: 0194 - 2493712, 0194-2493711

Subject: First Tentative Seniority List of Lady Health Visitor's 2210-Med Division Cadre Kashmir.

CIRCULAR

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the First Tentative Seniority List of Lady Health Visitor's 2210-Med (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) working under the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has been prepared on the basis of available service records maintained in this Directorate and information furnished by the subordinate offices.

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

Accordingly, the First Tentative Seniority List of Lady Health Visitor's 2210-Med, is hereby circulated for information of all concerned and for inviting objections, if any. All the concerned Lady Health Visitor's 2210-Med are advised to carefully verify their particulars.

In case of any discrepancy, the concerned officials may submit a representation duly supported with documentary evidence through proper channel to this Directorate within a period of five (05) days from the date of issuance of this circular. After the stipulated period no objection shall be entertained

The First Tentative Seniority List shall also be uploaded on the official website of this Directorate and will be published in two leading newspapers of the Valley for wider circulation:

No. DHSK/Est-5th/NG/E-7946483/3510-35
Dated: 04.08.2026

DIPK-4091-26
DT: 04/08/2026

Sd/
Director Health Services
Kashmir.

5 JKAP. PCR SRINAGAR

Phone No. 0194-2450517
e-mail: coap5@jkpolice.gov.in

No. Estt./BRTC/ V/2026/20455-63
Dated: 04.08.2026

Lady R/Ct. Sumaira Parvez
No. 635/5 JKAP PID No. ARP-165491
D/O Late Parvez Ahmad R/O Wahibug
P/S Pulwama Tehsil & Distt Pulwama.

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Whereas, you were appointed as Follower (S/W) by Commandant 4 JKAP Security Bn vide order No. 86/2016 dated 04/03/2016 and were later on converted as Constable vide PHQ J&K order No. 3920/2017 dated 13/11/2017. However, your appointment order as constable was issued vide this office order No. 163/2018 dated 23/03/2018.

Whereas, you among others were selected to undergo basic recruit training course (BRTC) at STC Sheeri vide PHQ J&K order No. 1517 of 2026 dated 13/05/2026 which was scheduled to be held w.e.f 15/05/2026. Accordingly, you were relieved from this unit on 14/05/2026 for attending the same course.

Whereas, as communicated by Principal STC Sheeri vide signal No. STC/Trg/BRTC/02/2026/2741 dated 20/05/2026, you have not reported there for the said purpose.

Whereas, you were accordingly informed through your concerned P/S vide chain of reminders as enumerated, to report at said training institute for undergoing the BRTC but you have paid no heed rather preferred to remain away to skip the basic training course.

01. Estt/BRTC/V/2026/15634 dated 25.05.2026.
02. Estt/BRTC/V/2026/17684 dated 17.06.2026.
03. Estt/BRTC/V/2026/18877 dated 06.07.2026.
04. Estt/BRTC/V/2026/19778 dated 25.07.2026.

Whereas, Perusal of your past service record reveals that you were selected to undergo 09 months BRTC at SKPA Udhampur vide PHQ J&K signal No. Trg-111/2018/53553 dated 01.08.2018 but was later-on reverted back by Director SKPAU vide OBN 474 of 2018 dated 07.09.2018 on account of un-authorized absence from the academy. Again, you were selected to undergo 09 months BRTC at SPS PTS Kathua vide PHQ J&K order No. 736 of 2022 dated 28.02.2022 but the said deputation was cancelled in respect of you on account of your personal request made in view of your marriage ceremony vide PHQ J&K signal No. Trg/17/2022/13404 dated 04.03.2022. After that, sanction for 09 months BRTC was accorded in respect of you among others vide PHQ J&K signal No. Trg/118/2022/58306 dated 03.11.2022 which was scheduled to commence at STC Sheeri w.e.f 10.11.2022 but the same was cancelled in respect of you on medical grounds vide PHQ J&K signal No. Trg/118/2022/70018 dated 15.11.2022. Vide PHQ J&K signal No. Trg/73/2023/1464 dated 14.03.2024, you were selected for 09 months BRTC scheduled to be held at PTS Manigam w.e.f 18.03.2024 and was accordingly relieved physically on 17.03.2024 but you absented un-authorizedly from the training institute on 17.05.2024 and was accordingly reverted back vide Principal PTS Manigam order issued under endstt. No. Trg/PTSM/BRTC-16th Batch/24/5157-80 dated 29.06.2024. Again, you were selected to undergo 09 months BRTC at STC Talwar vide PHQ J&K signal No. Trg/110/2024/753 dated 08.02.2025 and relieved from this unit on 22.05.2025. However, the same was cancelled in respect of you and others vide PHQ J&K signal No. Trg/110/2025/2098 dated 08.03.2025, which clearly indicates that you have failed to prove yourself a good/effective police official.

Whereas, as per rule 177 & 187 of J&K Police Manual a probationer has to clear the BRTC with the period of probation and if fails to undergo basic recruit training course and prefer to remain absent, he/she is liable to be discharged. Also, the motive for your conversion as constable was to assign you certain police works but there is a bar of BRTC on the department which prevents it assign the same to any policeman who have not successfully qualified BRTC as being mandatory.

Now, as per the instructions received from PHQ J&K vide letter No. Trg/55/2026/2194 dated 01/08/2026, this office has been directed to initiate the process for discharging you from Police department under rules.

As such, before proceeding further into the matter, you are hereby directed through the medium of this notice to show cause as to why you may not be discharged from services. Your reply should reach to this office within (03) days positively after the publication of this notice. If failed, it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defense and departmental procedure for discharging you from services will be processed.

DIPK-4104-26
DT: 04/08/2026

Commandant,
5 JKAP PCR Srinagar.

