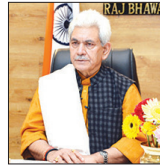


Good Morning

Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Humble tributes to Smt. Sushma Swaraj Ji on her Punyatithi. An exceptional leader and an inspiring parliamentarian, Sushma ji devoted her life to service of the nation. Her humility, eloquence and remarkable contributions to public life will always be remembered.

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Amarnath Yatra

659 Pilgrims Pay Obeisance At Holy Cave Shrine



UMAISAR GUL

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra resumed on Thursday, with 659 pilgrims paying obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine after the pilgrimage movement from Jammu resumed following a one-day suspension as a precautionary security measure ahead of the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

According to details available, only 297 men, 190 women, 15 children, eight sadhus, one transgender pilgrim and 148 security personnel performed darshan

during the day.

The number of pilgrims who have paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine during this year's Yatra has reached 4,71,588, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Yatra resumed after remaining suspended for a day. Officials said the 28th batch of pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu at around 2:45 a.m. for the Baltal base camp under tight security arrangements.

A total of 1,801 pilgrims, including 1,347 men, 351 women, 89 sadhus and 14 sadhvis, departed for Baltal in a convoy of 74 •P-06

Over 43,900 Houses Completed Under PMAY-U In J&K: GoI

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) has informed the Lok Sabha that 43,907 houses have been completed and delivered in Jammu & Kashmir under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban

(PMAY-U), while 42,584 houses have been sanctioned under PMAY-U 2.0.

Replying to a question raised by MP K. Gopinath, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal, said PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0 are being •P-06

IFS Induction In J&K Revived After 13-Year Freeze

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant development paving the way for Jammu & Kashmir's officers to enter the prestigious Indian Forest Service (IFS) after a gap of 13 years, the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has determined 28 slots in the promotion quota of the AGMUT cadre's J&K segment.

In a letter addressed to the J&K Chief Secretary, the MoEF&CC confirmed 28 vacancies under the promotion quota of the AGMUT cadre's J&K segment. According to the letter,

there are 14 vacancies against the Select List of 2013, two for 2017, six for 2018, three for 2019, and one each for 2020, 2021, and 2023.

The Ministry has asked the UT Government to submit a proposal to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for convening a Selection Committee Meeting (SCM) to induct officers into the IFS.

"The Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir is requested to take further necessary action in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Forest Service (Appointment by Promotion) Regulations, •P-06

'Power Demand Surges 24% In 12 Years'

J&K's Power Deficit Plummets From 19.1% To 0.1% In 12 Years: GoI

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Power (MoP) Thursday said that in over 12 years, Jammu and Kashmir's massive power deficit of 19.1 percent has reduced to 0.1 percent.

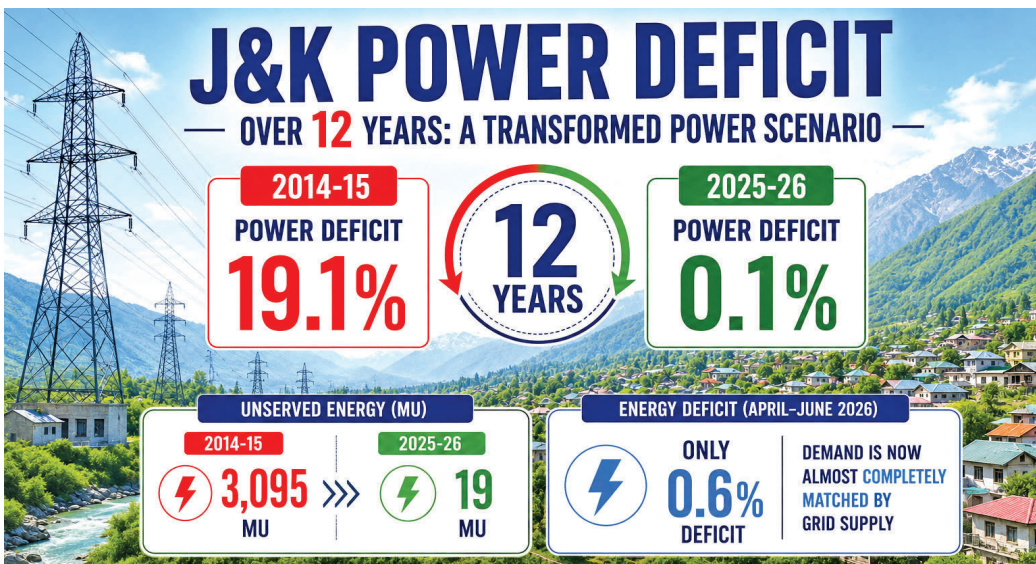
The ministry informed the Lok Sabha that J&K was facing a staggering 19.1 percent power deficit in 2014-15. However, by the fiscal 2025-26, the deficiency plummeted to 0.1 percent.

It also said that in the year 2014-15, the region was facing 3,095 MU unserved energy and the deficit plummeted to 0.1 percent with just 19 MU short by 2025-26.

The house was further informed that for the first quarter of FY 2026-27 from April-June 2026, the energy deficit remains at a minimal 0.6 percent in Jammu and Kashmir, confirming that growing demand is now almost completely matched by grid supply—(KNO)

While as, In the past 12 years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a surge in power demand by more than 24 percent.

The figures further said that



from the fiscal 2014-15 to 2025-26, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a surge in demand of 3,971 MU.

The latest official figures reveal that the annual energy demand in J&K rose from 16,214 Million Units (MU) in 2014-15 to 20,185 MU in 2025-26.

It also said that the peak power demand at 20,374 MU was

recorded in 2024-25.

The Government of India (GoI) informed the Lower House that the actual power supply position of the region jumped from 13,119 MU in 2014-15 to 20,166 MU in 2025-26 that amounts to a massive 53.7% increase in available energy.

The house was informed that

in 2014-15, Jammu and Kashmir had an energy requirement of 16,214 MU against the availability of 13,119 MU.

It also said that in 2015-16, the region had an energy requirement of 16,572 MU against the availability of 14,037 MU followed by 17,398 MU in 2016-17 against the availability •P-06

THE HOUSE WAS FURTHER INFORMED THAT IN THE YEAR 2022-23 JAMMU AND Kashmir had an energy requirement of 19,639 MU against the total availability of 19,322 MU followed by 20,040 MU requirement in 2023-24 against the total availability of 19,763 MU.

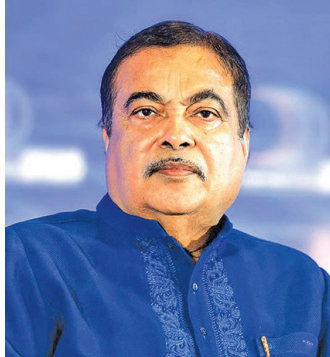
J&K Highways Witnessed Major Damage, Multiple Landslides Since 2014: Gadkari

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed multiple incidents of landslides, cloudbursts, flash floods and major damage to National Highway infrastructure, with the Centre informing the Lok Sabha that a contractor was blacklisted and a penalty equivalent to one per cent of the project cost was imposed in a 2022 case in the Union Territory.

The details were provided by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Jairam Gadkari in response to Starred Question No. 280 raised by Lok Sabha member Captain Viriato Fernandes regarding damage to roads and flyovers.

As per Annexure-I of the reply, Jammu and Kashmir reported one project in 2022 involving major failure or major structural damage on National Highways, including bridges and



flyovers. A penalty of 1% of the project cost was imposed on the EPC contractor, while the contractor was blacklisted.

The Ministry said National Highways are constructed as per stipulated quality standards under Indian Roads Congress specifications and codes. It said Authority's Engineers/Independent Engineers are appointed for day-to-day supervision, while

executing agencies undertake inspections and third-party quality auditors are deployed for independent quality audits on a case-to-case basis.

The government has also listed five major landslide-related entries in Jammu and Kashmir in Annexure-III, covering the Udhampur-Ramban, Ramban-Banihal, Marog-Digdol, Chenani-Sudhmahadev and Sonamarg Tunnel stretches.

On NH-44 Udhampur-Ramban, cloudbursts and heavy rainfall in 2025 triggered landslides at Bali Nallah and Tharad, besides muck and slush accumulation at Karol and Kowbagh.

In 2026, a massive landslide at Dewal near Samroli at Km 79 blocked both carriageways and damaged a retaining wall. The government stated that restoration and clearance work has been completed.

On the Ramban- •P-06

CS For Stronger Women-Led Community Institutions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a review meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) and directed the Mission to further strengthen women-led community institutions through enhanced capacity building, institutional reforms and greater convergence with flagship government programmes to accelerate sustainable rural livelihoods across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting reviewed the functioning of the Mission with focus on integration with Mission YUVA, operationalisation of Community Managed Training Centres (CMTCs), qualitative assessment of NRLM institutions, strengthening of Self Help Groups (SHGs), Village Level



Organisations (VLOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), besides preparing a comprehensive roadmap for capacity building and institutional development.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director, J&K Bank; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Secretary, Labour & Employment Department; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Managing Director, JKRLM; representatives of Kudumbashree National Resource Organisation (NRO), AP-MAS and senior officers of the Mission.

Reviewing the progress of Community Managed Training Centres (CMTCs), the Chief Secretary directed that these centres be made functional in all •P-06

Ta Key Contributor To Government's Vision Of Developed India: Rajnath Singh

Chairs Parliamentary Panel Meeting, Says Forces Strengthens National Security

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that Territorial Army is key contributor to government's vision of developed India.

Chairing a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Defence, here, the Defence Minister, said, "The Territorial Army is a key contributor to the government's vision of a developed India. The force compliments the regular armed forces not only in national security but also in environmental conservation and social welfare initiatives."

During the meeting members reviewed the role, man-



date and achievements of the Territorial Army and discussed measures to further strengthen the force. "Senior officials gave a detailed presentation on the Territorial Army's operational role and

accomplishments, while committee members offered suggestions aimed at enhancing its effectiveness," an official statement said.

Calling the Territorial Army a "living embodiment"

of the citizen-soldier concept, the Defence Minister said its personnel balance civilian professions with military responsibilities, enabling them to support border security and internal security whenever required.

He said the force provides vital reserve capacity for the armed forces by maintaining a pool of trained personnel who can be mobilised at short notice. After completing their military service, these individuals also help strengthen ties between the armed forces and society while inspiring young people to join the military, he added.

The statement said the Territorial Army comprises around 44,400 •P-06

97% Smart City Projects Completed In Jmu, Sgr: Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Union government on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that 282 Smart City projects were taken up in Jammu and Srinagar under the Smart Cities Mission. Of these, 125 out of 127 projects in Jammu and 157 out of 161 projects in Srinagar have been completed, reflecting an overall completion rate of over 97 per cent.

Replying to a question raised by MPs Malvika Devi and Dhairiyasheel Sambhajirao Mane, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal said the Smart Cities Mission has achieved significant progress across the country, with 7,790 of 8,064 projects, worth 1.56 lakh crore, completed as on March 31, 2026. The Minister said all 100 Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) have also been established.

According to the city-wise data placed before •P-06

J&K's Post-Harvest Apple Loss Estimated At 9.51%: Centre



RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that it has conducted assessments of post-harvest losses of cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables across different agro-climatic regions of the country, with the latest study estimating post-harvest losses of apples in Jammu & Kashmir at 9.51 per cent.

Replying to a question raised by Lok Sabha MP Jai Prakash, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan, said the Ministry has commissioned studies through the ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and

Technology (CIPHET) in 2015 and NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS) in 2022 to assess post-harvest losses across the country.

The minister informed the House that while the latest NABCONS study provides commodity-wise and state-wise estimates of post-harvest losses based on field surveys in major producing states, it does not include any assessment of the impact on farmers' incomes.

According to the data placed before Parliament, Jammu & Kashmir recorded an estimated 9.51 per cent post-harvest loss in apples, 3.92 per cent in maize, 6.08 per cent in eggs, and 7.33 per cent in beans. •P-06

► Nurturing local cinematic talent

DIPR announces IFFJK Emerging Filmmakers Competition-2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant initiative to encourage and promote emerging filmmaking talent from Jammu & Kashmir, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has announced the IFFJK Emerging Filmmakers Competition 2026, as part of the scheduled 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), with registrations for the competition commenced from 6th August, 2026.

The competition is exclusively open to aspiring filmmakers from Jammu & Kashmir and aims to provide a prestigious platform for young storytellers to showcase their creativity, cinematic vision and technical skills through original short films.

The aspiring and emerging filmmakers are invited to submit original short films with a maximum duration of five minutes



and the last date for submission is August 26, 2026.

The applicants must be between 18 and 39 years of age as on September 1, 2026, and possess a valid Jammu & Kashmir domicile certificate.

The competition is being organised around the theme “Range-e-Cinema: Frames of a New Jammu & Kashmir”, reflecting the evolving cultural, social and creative narratives of the region while encouraging youth to present compelling stories through the medium of cinema.

Interested filmmakers and cinematographers are advised to register by visiting the official IFFJK website www.iffjk.org and the detailed guidelines, eligibility criteria and the registration process are also available on this website for ease of aspirants.

DIPR urges aspiring filmmakers from across Jammu & Kashmir to seize this opportunity and contribute towards strengthening the Union Territory’s growing film culture through innovative and impactful storytelling.

Mandeep Kaur reviews progress on modern Abattoir at Allochi Bagh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, Thursday reviewed the progress on the under-construction Modern Abattoir at Allochi Bagh during an inspection aimed at assessing the pace and quality of the ongoing works and ensuring the project’s timely completion.

The Commissioner Secretary was accompanied by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez; Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Faz Lul Haseeb; Chief Town Planner, Kashmir; Chief Engineer, Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED); Joint Commissioner (Works), Srinagar Municipal Corporation besides other senior officers from the concerned line departments.

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary was briefed by the Commissioner SMC on the salient features of the project, the progress achieved so far and the timelines fixed for its completion. She inspected various components of the project and stressed the need to maintain the highest standards of quality, hygiene and



environmental sustainability. She directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work while ensuring strict adherence to the approved specifications and timelines so that the facility is completed and commissioned at the earliest.

Later, Mandeep Kaur led a plantation drive in and around the Septage Treatment Plant (STP) at Allochi Bagh as part of the government’s sustained efforts to promote environmental conservation and sustainable urban development. A large number of saplings were planted to enhance the green cover, improve the local ecosystem and contribute towards a cleaner, greener, and healthier urban environment.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary emphasized the

importance of integrating environmental sustainability with infrastructure development. She said that plantation drives not only improve the aesthetic appeal of urban spaces but also play a vital role in mitigating pollution, combating the adverse effects of climate change and creating a healthier environment for future generations.

The officers reiterated their commitment to strengthen urban infrastructure while safeguarding the environment through coordinated inter-departmental efforts. They emphasized that the timely completion of key infrastructure projects, coupled with sustained green initiatives, will significantly contribute towards building a cleaner, greener, and more resilient Srinagar.

JKLA PC reviews breach of privilege cases against JKAS officers, MLA Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA) Thursday convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex to review the cases related to alleged breach of privilege involving two Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers, including the breach of privilege notice against MLA Pulwama Waheed ur Rehman Parra.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman of the Committee Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi and attended by members including, Showkat Hussain Ganie, Zaffar Ali Khatana, Er. Khurshid Ahmed and Darshan Kumar, besides Secretary JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandita and officers of Assembly Secretariat.

MLA, Pulwama Waheed ur Rehman Parra was also present.

During the meeting, the Committee held detailed deliberations on the



breach of privilege notice filed by MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar and MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali against SDM Chadoora and Secretary JKBOSE (then ACD Ganderbal) respectively. Both these officers were present in person.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman emphasized the need for strict adherence to established legislative conventions and administrative protocols while dealing with the elected representatives. He said that maintaining the dignity and privileges of the Legislators is essential for strengthening the democratic institutions and ensuring harmonious coordination between the Legislature and the

Executive. He stressed that all government officers should remain fully conversant with the provisions governing the legislative privileges and conduct themselves in accordance with the prescribed rules and procedures while interacting with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

The Committee in unison stressed that due protocol and courtesy must be extended to MLAs in discharge of their official responsibilities. They underlined that timely communication, responsiveness to public issues raised by legislators and adherence to established administrative norms are vital for effective governance and public service delivery.

DC Shopian reviews I-Day 2026 preparations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Thursday chaired a high-level meeting here at Mini-Secretariat to review the preparations for the forthcoming Independence Day-2026 celebrations.

The DC took a comprehensive review of venue preparedness, security, traffic regulation, sanitation, uninterrupted power and water supply, healthcare facilities, transportation, parking, seating, public address system and other essential logistics required for the smooth conduct of the national event and directed all the departments to ensure meticulous planning and timely completion of all arrangements.

Stressing the importance of coordinated efforts, the Deputy Commissioner instructed all departments to discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost dedication and ensure that every arrangement is completed well in advance and called for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure the successful and dignified celebration of Independence Day.

The officers were further directed to remain available on the ground, closely monitor the preparations, promptly address any shortcomings and ensure hassle-free arrangements for participants and the general public.

ADC Sopore reviews preparation for I-Day Celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In anticipation of the Independence Day 2026, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Dr. S.A.Raina Thursday reviewed arrangements at Khushal Stadium Tulibal Sopore, for smooth celebrations of the national day.

At the outset, the ADC underscored the need for meticulous planning and seamless execution of all arrangements to ensure a grand and memorable Independence Day celebration.

During the visit, the ADC inspected the venue and reviewed the preparations related to sanitation, power supply, drinking water, emergency medical care, traffic management, security arrangements and other essential facilities.

Dr. S.A.Raina directed all the line departments to ensure that the arrangements are completed well within the stipulated time-frame.

He emphasized close coordination among departments to facilitate the smooth and successful conduct of the Independence Day function.

Chief Executive Officer, MC Sopore, Exen R&B Division Sopore, Exen R&B PHE Division Sopore, ARTO, BMO Sopore and other officers accompanied the ADC during the visit

Director Sericulture takes stock of ongoing activities of Deptt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Sericulture Development Department, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Thursday chaired a review meeting at his office chamber Tulsibagh, to take stock of the ongoing activities and progress of the Department.

The meeting reviewed the status of Cocoon Auction Markets organized or proposed to be organized during the current year, besides assessing the physical and financial progress under CAPEX and HADP.

The meeting also reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under Silk Samagra-II for the financial years 2021-22, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

The Director stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure timely submission of requisite information and inputs and emphasized close monitoring of the implementation of various departmental programmes and schemes.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Sericulture Development Department, including Additional Directors, Development Officers, Project Executive Officers, Deputy Director Planning & Statistics, Accounts Officer and District Sericulture Officers/Managers Seeds. Jammu-based officers participated through virtual mode.

LEAD unveils 3rd Annual Smarika, Showcasing Dev Journey across J&K, Ladakh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: LEAD – LJK Economic Growth and Development Dialogue Thursday released the Third Edition of its Annual Smarika at a ceremony held at Amar Singh Club, Jammu.

The publication reflects LEAD’s continued commitment to promoting inclusive economic growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, policy dialogue and sustainable development across the Union Territories of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Smarika was formally released by the Chief Guest, Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu and the Guest of Honour, Arun Kumar Manhas, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu in the presence of LEAD Board Members, Executive Members and prominent business identities.

The third edition highlights LEAD’s initiatives and achievements over the past year, including programmes focused on entrepreneurship development, startup promotion, rural livelihoods, agriculture, tourism, skill development, policy research, youth engagement, environmental sustainability and collaborative partnerships with government institutions, academic bodies, industry and civil



society organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, LEAD Convenor Harinder Gupta reaffirmed the organisation’s commitment to promoting evidence-based policy research, strengthening local enterprises, supporting startups, encouraging youth leadership and facilitating sustainable economic opportunities across the region.

Addressing the gathering, Arun Kumar Manhas, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu congratulated the LEAD team and appreciated the organisation’s efforts, stating that the Industries & Commerce Department continues to support LEAD’s initiatives in promoting entrepreneurship and economic development.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu commended LEAD for its remarkable contribution to regional development. He said he has been associated with LEAD’s initiatives from

the beginning. He particularly appreciated Mahotsav – Jammu Kashmir Ladakh, describing it as one of Jammu’s most significant public events that has successfully showcased the region’s entrepreneurship, culture, tourism, handicrafts, agriculture, cuisine and local enterprises.

LEAD Board Member Sanjeev Sharma noted that the Annual Smarika serves not only as a record of LEAD’s initiatives but also as a valuable knowledge resource documenting best practices, success stories, research insights, and future development priorities. He thanked Hon’ble LG, Manoj Sinha for his cover message for this year’s Smarika as he praised LEAD present work and his good wishes for LEAD’s future initiatives.

Delivering the vote of thanks, LEAD Board Member Raman Suri expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, distinguished

guests, partners and participants for their support and presence at the event.

The event was anchored by Vishal Abrol, Coordinator – Real Estate & Housing, LEAD, who conducted the proceedings and ensured the smooth flow of the programme. The event was attended by LEAD Board Members Ramesh Kumar Chibber, Kamal Kishore Sharma, Surinder Mohan Gupta, Rajesh Gupta, CA Rajeev Gupta, Vikram Gujral, Col. Ajat Shatroot Jamwal, Parveen Pargal along with Executive Officer Alankrit Mahajan, LEAD Executive Members, distinguished dignitaries, policymakers, academicians, entrepreneurs, industry representatives, civil society members and development professionals.

LEAD (LJK Economic Growth and Development Dialogue) is a development think tank dedicated to promoting inclusive economic growth, entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable development across the Union Territories of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Through research, policy dialogue, capacity building and multi-stakeholder partnerships, LEAD works to strengthen local ecosystems and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities across the region

DC Anantnag visits injured Amarnath Yatris at GMC Anantnag

Assures full administrative support for treatment, recovery

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Thursday visited the Associated Hospital, Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, to inquire about the health and well-being of the injured Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY-2026) pilgrims who were injured in a road accident at Bijbehara earlier in the day.

According to officials, four pilgrims sustained injuries in the unfortunate incident that occurred earlier in the day.

The DC was accompanied by Tehsildar Anantnag, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, GMC Anantnag’s Nodal Officer for SANJY-2026, and other concerned officials.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the injured pilgrims, inquiring about

their health, recovery status, and the quality of healthcare services being provided. He directed the medical staff to ensure the best possible facilities and dedicated medical attention for their swift recovery.

Expressing sympathy with the affected families, the DC prayed for the speedy recovery and well-being of the injured pilgrims. He advised them to remain in contact with the authorities and assured them of full

support from the district administration during their treatment.

Additionally, Dr. Bilal took stock of the day-to-day patient care at the hospital and instructed the staff to provide seamless service, ensuring that no patients including the injured Yatris face any undue inconvenience. He also emphasized maintaining high standards of cleanliness and aesthetics, befitting the status of the healthcare institution.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

E-NIT No. 81/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/4376-86 | Dated: 06/08/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of T&K Expression of Interest(EOI) are invited from approved and eligible Bidders as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) and Terms of Reference at Annexure-I. The Bidder (Firm/Consultant/Agency/Company) should have the eligibility as per Annexure-II under Eligibility Criteria for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Cost of the Project (Rs in Lacs) for which Consultancy is Required	Estimated rate of Percentage for required consultancy	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion	Type of Consultancy
1.	Providing Consultancy and other allied services with all working drawings (Digital Layout Plan, / DPR/ BOQ, Structural, Architectural Design,) incld. technical vetting of drawings from DIQC/NIT/IIT and Conducting of all required soil investigations for Projects related to building Construction (CIVIL PART) for the year 2026-27 pertaining to jurisdiction of R&B Division Awantipora.	-	01% of Project cost (Civil Part)	200/	10 Days	Architectural /Structural Consultancy with Soil Testing

1.

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06 -08-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 06 -08-2026	
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 07 -08-2026	
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 13-08-2026 (04:00PM)	
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	14-08-2026 (12.00 PM)	

1.

Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01 (ADM) FD of2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&KFinance Department)

(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- B of the NIT and submit/ upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

1.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document/tender fee to be deposited in cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099. IFSC: JAKA0LALANG)

(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

•

If MSE firm is registered with NSIC (National Small Industries Corporation) agencies for tendered item then they are exempted for submission of EMD & Tender Cost.

If MSE's who are interested in availing these benefits will have to enclosed with their offer the proof of their beings MSE's registered with any of the above mentioned agencies.

2.

All Bidders shall have to quote the rates in BOQ including GST.

3.

All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

4.

The 1st lowest Bidder has to provide an amount equal to Rs 5000/- as Performance Security to be deposited in cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) and shall be released after successful completion of work.

5.

The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Awantipora.

6.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

Sd/-
Technical officer

Sd/-
Draftsman

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora
DIPK-4228-26
DT: 06/08/2026

No: -81/EEA/RNB/2026-27/4376-86
DATED: 06-08-2026

●●●●● CMYK ●●●●●

CM assures enhanced relief, rehabilitation during Rajouri post-flood review

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday reviewed relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures following the recent flash floods in Rajouri and directed the district administration and concerned departments to expedite restoration works, strengthen rehabilitation efforts and undertake long-term mitigation measures to safeguard vulnerable areas.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister observed that natural disasters, particularly cloudbursts and flash floods, have become increasingly frequent in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years. He noted that while the Meteorological Department provides rainfall forecasts and timely advisories are issued, accurately predicting the precise location of cloudbursts remains a challenge, limiting preparedness in specific areas.

The Chief Minister appreciated the District Administration Rajouri for issuing timely advisories and pre-positioning men and machinery in vulnerable locations, which helped minimise the loss of lives. He also lauded the prompt rescue, relief and evacuation operations undertaken in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

Emphasising the need for enhanced support to affected families, the Chief Minister said that the existing relief assistance is inadequate to meet the costs of reconstruction and rehabilitation. He assured that the J&K Government



CM inspects progress of Sungal Tunnel

GMK NEWS NETWORK

On his way back from Rajouri to Jammu, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday inspected the ongoing works on the strategically important Sungal Tunnel and reviewed the progress of the project.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister was briefed by officials on the current status of construction and the remaining works. He was informed that the tunnel is in its final stages of completion and is expected to be opened to all traffic shortly. Officials also informed him that essential services, including ambulances, are presently being allowed passage through the tunnel to facilitate emergency movement.

The Chief Minister reviewed the pace of execution and stressed the importance of completing the remaining works expeditiously while ensuring adherence to the highest standards of quality and safety. It may be recalled that the Chief Minister had earlier inspected the Sungal Tunnel project on April 20 this year, when he reviewed the progress of excavation, structural works and associated road development.

During today's inspection, the Project Sampark of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) informed the Chief Minister that the 2.79 kilometre long tunnel, being constructed across the Kalidhar Range, will significantly improve connectivity by reducing travel time by approximately 40 to 45 minutes.

would enhance the quantum of relief and provide comprehensive rehabilitation assistance, particularly to families whose houses have been damaged and those rendered landless.

Directing the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri to identify suitable Government land, the Chief Minister said that families

who have lost both their homes and agricultural land should be provided five marlas of land for rehabilitation. He further instructed the administration to ensure the immediate provision of special free ration to such families.

Reviewing restoration efforts, the Chief Minister noted that the 33 KV power

transmission line between Rajouri and Poonch had suffered extensive damage, disrupting electricity supply. While appreciating the temporary restoration carried out by the Power Development Department, he directed the concerned authorities to complete permanent restoration works at the earliest.

Highlighting the critical role of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department in restoring drinking water supply, the Chief Minister directed the department to submit proposals for the installation of hand pumps wherever feasible to ensure a reliable source of drinking water in affected areas.

On road infrastructure, the Chief Minister emphasised that roads in hilly and mountainous regions require specialised, resilient engineering designs capable of withstanding natural disasters. Observing that designs suitable for the plains cannot be replicated in mountainous terrain, he directed the Public Works Department to submit recommendations for developing more disaster-resilient road infrastructure.

Tarigami chairs environment committee meeting

Bats for zero tolerance against illegal mining

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chairman Committee on Environment J&K Legislative Assembly, M Y Tarigami, Thursday chaired a detailed review meeting of the Geology and Mining Department and called for zero tolerance against illegal mining across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Committee members including MLAs Professor Gharu Ram, Dr. Baldev Raj Sharma, Daleep Singh, Showkat Hussain Ganie, Javid Ahmad Mirchal, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Salman Sagar, Javid Riyaz (Bedar) and Dr. Rameshwar Singh.

Tarigami said that natural resources belong to the people and their indiscriminate exploitation would



not be allowed. He stressed that the department must move from paper monitoring to ground and satellite monitoring to ensure scientific and transparent extraction of minerals. Technology, especially satellite surveillance, GPS tracking and digital monitoring has to become our first line of defense against illegal mining," asserted the Chairman.

Reviewing the agenda, the Committee took stock

of the Action Taken Report on recommendations tabled in Budget Session 2026 and the status of Comprehensive Minor Mining Policy-2026.

On behalf of all Committee members, the MLAs jointly urged the officers to ensure strict enforcement of mining laws, curb illegal extraction, expedite technology-based monitoring including GPS tracking, e-permits, e-challans and the Unified Mining

Portal. They stressed that inter-departmental coordination with Revenue, Police, Forest and district administrations must be strengthened to safeguard the environment and maximize revenue for the UT.

Additional Chief Secretary Geology and Mining, Ashwani Kumar, Chairman J&K PCC, Director Geology & Mining, District Mining officers and officers of Legislative Assembly were present in the meeting.

CS inaugurates IFAD Project Partners' Learning Forum 2026 at SKICC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The two day IFAD Project Partners' Learning Forum 2026, organised by the Mission Directorate, Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP)/Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) under the Agriculture Production Department, commenced Thursday at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The Learning Forum, centred on the theme "Celebrating the International Year of Women Farmers: Empowering Women, Transforming Agriculture," was attended by the senior government officials, representatives of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Project Directors from IFAD-supported projects across India, development professionals, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to deliberate on innovative approaches towards inclusive and sustainable agricultural development.

The inaugural session was presided over by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, who formally inaugurated the Learning Forum and addressed the gathering.

In his keynote address, the Chief Secretary highlighted the transformative role of technology, innovation and



institutional convergence in strengthening the agriculture sector. He emphasised the need for greater collaboration among the government institutions, development partners and farming communities to build resilient and market-oriented agricultural systems.

Atal Dulloo also underscored the importance of women farmers as catalysts of rural transformation. He reiterated the government's commitment towards empowering them through technology, capacity building and entrepreneurship.

The gathering was also addressed by Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, who emphasised the critical role of research, innovation and scientific interventions in enhancing the agricultural productivity and sustainability. He stressed the importance of stronger linkages between research institutions, extension agencies and farmers to

accelerate the adoption of modern technologies and improve rural livelihoods.

Earlier, Dr. Sagar D. Dattatray, Mission Director, HADP/JKCIP, outlined the objectives of the Learning Forum. He highlighted the significant progress achieved under JKCIP in strengthening the institutional systems, promoting digital agriculture, supporting Farmer Producer Organisations, nurturing agri-startups and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities across Jammu & Kashmir.

James Marc de Sousa-Shields, Country Director, IFAD India, also addressed the participants and reiterated IFAD's commitment towards supporting inclusive rural transformation through partnerships, innovation and knowledge sharing. He appreciated the progress made by JKCIP in establishing a robust digital ecosystem and community-driven implementation model.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates health Camp at KB Pora

Lays foundation stone for school infrastructure projects in Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Health & Medical Education, School and Higher Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Masood Itoo, Thursday inaugurated a mega Multi-Speciality Health Camp at Khuri Batpora (KB Pora), D.H. Pora, in Kulgam district.

The camp was organized through the collaborative efforts of Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children), Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), SKIMS Soura and office of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Kulgam under the aegis of the SAANS Campaign.

The camp was aimed at improving access to comprehensive healthcare services for the rural population by providing specialized consultations, screening, diagnosis, treatment, referral services and health education under one roof. It catered to both children and adults, with a special emphasis on pre-

ventive healthcare.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo appreciated the collaborative initiative and stressed the importance of shifting the healthcare focus from treatment to prevention. She highlighted the need to adopt healthier lifestyles to effectively combat the growing burden of non-communicable diseases and called for greater public awareness regarding disease prevention and early intervention.

On the occasion, the Minister formally launched the M-Health Application for Tracking Children with Pneumonia, a digital platform developed by Bal Raksha Bharat under the SAANS Initiative to strengthen monitoring and ensure timely management of childhood pneumonia.

The event was attended by senior officials from the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, SKIMS Soura. Sub-Divisional Magistrate D.H. Pora, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kulgam, Chief Medical Officer, district officers, health functionaries and representatives of Bal Raksha Bharat also accompanied the Minister.

Javed Rana visits landslide-hit areas in Poonch

Assures all support to affected families



GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday visited the landslide and flash flood-affected areas of Sarhoti Jabran in Poonch district to assess the situation on the ground and express solidarity with the affected families.

The Minister was accompanied by Sud Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Mendhar, Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Mendhar, Executive Engineer PMGSY Mendhar, DFO soil conservation, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) and other officers.

The Minister inspected the extensive damage caused by the recent incessant rains, landslides and flash floods, which have impacted the residential houses, schools, roads, public infrastructure and agricultural land. He interacted with the affected

families, listened to their grievances and assured them that the government would extend all possible assistance for relief, rehabilitation and restoration.

Addressing the affected residents, Javed Rana described the disaster as deeply unfortunate and painful, saying that the government stands firmly with every affected family during this difficult time. He assured them that no effort would be spared to ensure timely relief and speedy restoration of essential services and damaged infrastructure affected by the unprecedented natural calamity.

The Minister said that the administration has been directed to ensure that all necessary relief measures reach the affected people without delay. He emphasized that safeguarding the lives and providing immediate assistance to those in distress remain the government's highest priority.

CS IT takes possession of erstwhile ACB building to strengthen departmental operations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology department, Saurabh Bhagat, Thursday formally took possession of 23 rooms in the erstwhile ACB Building behind the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, allotted to the Information Technology Department.

DIG, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Vikas Gupta; Special Secretary IT, Showkat Mehmod; Additional

Secretary IT, Devender Singh Bhau; Deputy Secretary IT, Head SeMT, I/C IT Cell, technical officers, and other departmental officials were also present on the occasion.

Commissioner Secretary IT stated that the newly allotted facility is envisioned to function as a dedicated IT Hub for the Department. He said the expanded infrastructure will support the Department's growing technical workforce, foster seamless coor-

dination among various functional verticals, and provide the necessary space and resources to meet the evolving technological and digital governance requirements of the Government.

He further added that the facility will strengthen the Department's capacity to drive innovation, accelerate e-Governance initiatives, and enhance overall efficiency of technology-driven public service delivery. Pertinently, the newly

allotted space will suffice the Department's requirement to accommodate officials and technical teams working across various verticals of the Information Technology Department. It will provide a dedicated and collaborative work environment to facilitate efficient project implementation, strengthen digital governance initiatives, and support the Department's future expansion and capacity-building efforts.

CM's Advisor urges politicians to maintain dignity in public discourse

JAHANGEER GANAIE

RAMBAN: National Conference (NC) Chief Minister's Advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Thursday urged politicians to maintain dignity in public discourse, saying ideological differences should never lead to abusive or derogatory language.

Talking to reporters during a visit to Jablipora Bijbehara and Ramban, Wani, said that political debate should remain civil and respectful, particularly towards senior leaders.

"In the last few days, some political leaders have been using abusive and derogatory language. Political parties can have differences of opinion, but that should never become a reason to stoop so low or use the language of the marketplace. We must respect our elders and uphold the dignity of politics," he said.

Reiterating the National Conference's stand on the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, Wani said the party would continue to raise the issue at every available forum until it is achieved.

"The demand for the restoration of statehood is our commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We will continue to raise this issue on every platform and



pursue it through all democratic means," he said.

Addressing concerns over the transportation of horticultural produce, Wani said the government was fully aware of the difficulties faced by fruit growers and traders due to disruptions on the national highway.

He assured that every possible measure would be taken to ensure the uninterrupted movement of fruit-laden trucks during the peak harvesting and marketing season.

"We are here in Ramban to identify bottlenecks and assess the ground situation. Necessary steps will be taken to remove all obstacles so that fruit-laden vehicles can move smoothly on the highway without unnecessary delays," he said.

Acting on the directions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, a high-level National Conference delegation conducted an extensive inspection of the

Ramban stretch of NH-44 to review the prevailing situation and monitor restoration efforts.

The delegation was led by Minister Javed Ahmad Dar and Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and included MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen, MLA Anantnag Abdul Majeed Larmi, MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju and other senior party leaders.

Senior officers from the civil administration, Traffic Police, J&K Police and the National Highway authorities also accompanied the delegation during the visit.

The team inspected road restoration works, assessed traffic management arrangements, reviewed the condition of vulnerable stretches and interacted with officials to ensure that all necessary measures are being taken for the smooth and hassle-free movement of traffic, particularly vehicles carrying perishable horticultural produce.

The delegation directed the concerned agencies to work in close coordination and expedite restoration wherever required so that disruptions on the strategic highway are minimised and commuters, transporters and fruit growers do not face avoidable inconvenience—(KNO)

NC MP raises Bangus, Gurez, railway connectivity, power issues in RS

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) Member Parliament Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan on Thursday raised several issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha, seeking greater investment in tourism, railway connectivity and power generation capacity in the Union Territory.

Participating in the proceedings, Ramzan, urged the Union Finance Minister to make provisions in the upcoming budget for a comprehensive development plan for the Bangus and Gurez areas, asserting that tourism remains one of the key avenues for economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Tourism is the only avenue we have through which the region can achieve development," he said, seeking a dedicated provision for the comprehensive development of Bangus and Gurez in the next budget.

MP Ramzan also raised the issue of railway connectivity to Kupwara, saying the district has not yet been connected with the railway network. He urged the Centre to consider extending railway connectivity to the district.

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's power potential, the MP said that only around 2,000 MW of the available potential has so far been tapped, while the region has the capacity to generate around 20,000 MW.

He said the lack of adequate funds was preventing the development of the remaining power projects and urged the Centre to invest in the untapped power potential of Jammu and Kashmir.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Promises Must Travel Faster Than Apples

The Advisor to the Chief Minister has said all the right things. Calling horticulture the "life-line" of Jammu and Kashmir is not merely a political statement—it is an economic fact. Thousands of families depend on the apple industry, and billions of rupees flow into the Union Territory through this single sector. But for growers, comforting words are no substitute for roads that remain open and trucks that keep moving. Every year, the same crisis returns with alarming predictability. The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway gets blocked by landslides, shooting stones, or traffic congestion just when the apple season reaches its peak. Fruit-laden trucks remain stranded for hours or even days. Apples lose freshness, transport costs soar, market prices fall, and ultimately it is the grower who pays the price. The government's assurance that "no hurdle will come in the way of horticulture" is welcome. However, the real test begins after the inspection ends and the cameras leave. Farmers are no longer looking for sympathy. They are demanding solutions. If horticulture is indeed Jammu and Kashmir's economic backbone, then why does its transportation continue to depend on a highway that repeatedly collapses under pressure? Why are emergency traffic plans prepared only after disruptions occur? Why are fruit trucks forced to compete with every other category of traffic despite carrying highly perishable produce? An economy worth thousands of crores cannot be left at the mercy of weather forecasts and administrative improvisation. The government must establish a dedicated fruit transportation corridor during the harvest season, ensure priority passage for apple trucks, deploy rapid-response teams at vulnerable stretches, and maintain round-the-clock coordination between the traffic police, the National Highways Authority, district administrations, and horticulture officials. Equally important is accountability. Every prolonged closure translates into financial losses for growers. When delays occur due to avoidable administrative lapses, responsibility must be fixed instead of merely issuing fresh assurances. Kashmir's apple is more than a fruit. It is the source of livelihood for lakhs of people, the foundation of rural prosperity, and one of Jammu and Kashmir's strongest economic identities. Protecting this industry requires more than inspections and statements, it requires efficient governance, reliable infrastructure, and time-bound action. Growers have heard promises before. This season, they deserve proof. The success of the government's commitment will not be measured by press briefings but by one simple question: Did the apples reach the markets on time?

Women's Safety

A Test Of Our Humanity And Faith



IFRA FAROOQ

Every woman deserves to walk without fear, study without harassment, work with dignity, and return home safely. Yet for countless women, safety is not a guarantee. It is a daily struggle. Behind every headline of harassment, domestic violence, or assault lies a shattered family, broken dreams, and a society that failed to protect its daughters. In Kashmir, where families value honour, education, and faith, many women still endure harassment in silence. A college student may avoid attending evening classes because of stalking. A young professional may remain quiet after facing workplace harassment, fearing blame instead of support. Some victims never speak at all because they worry about damaging their family's reputation. Their silence is not acceptance; it is the result of fear. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that around one in three women worldwide experiences physical or sexual violence during her lifetime, making violence against women one of the world's most widespread human rights and public health challenges. Such violence leaves lasting physical, emotional, and psychological scars that often continue long after the incident itself. Islam established the dignity and security of women over fourteen centuries ago. The Qur'an commands: "Indeed, Allah commands justice, excellence, and giving to relatives, and forbids immorality, wrongdoing, and oppression." (Qur'an 16:90) Justice is not optional; it is a divine command. Any form of abuse, harassment, or oppression directly contradicts Islamic teachings. Allah also says: "O mankind! We created you from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another. Indeed, the most



honourable of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous." (Qur'an 49:13) This verse reminds us that honour is determined by righteousness—not by gender, wealth, or social status. The Prophet Muhammad set an unmatched example in honouring women. He said: "The best of you are those who are best to their women." (Jami' al-Tirmidhi 1162) He also said: "A Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand other Muslims are safe." (Sahih al-Bukhari; Sahih Muslim) These teachings leave no room for harassment, intimidation, or violence against women. As the renowned scholar IBN KHALDUN observed: "The strength of a society lies in the strength of its social bonds." A society

where women live in fear cannot claim to possess strong social bonds or true justice. Women's safety is not solely the responsibility of governments or law enforcement, it begins at home. Parents must raise sons to respect women, schools must teach dignity and empathy, religious leaders must speak against abuse, communities must support survivors instead of silencing them, and every citizen must reject victim-blaming. A truly civilized society is measured not by its buildings or technology but by how safely its women can live. When a daughter can pursue education without fear, a mother can travel with dignity, and a sister can raise her voice without intimidation, society moves closer to the justice that Islam envisions.

Protecting women is not merely a legal obligation; it is a moral duty, a social responsibility, and an act of faith. When we protect women, we protect families; when we protect families, we strengthen nations. Let us build a Kashmir where every woman feels safe, not because she is protected by walls, but because she is respected by hearts. And let Kashmir become a reminder to the world that a truly civilized society is not measured by its wealth or power, but by how safely its women can walk, dream, and live with dignity. The day every woman can step into the world without fear will be the day humanity can truly call itself just.

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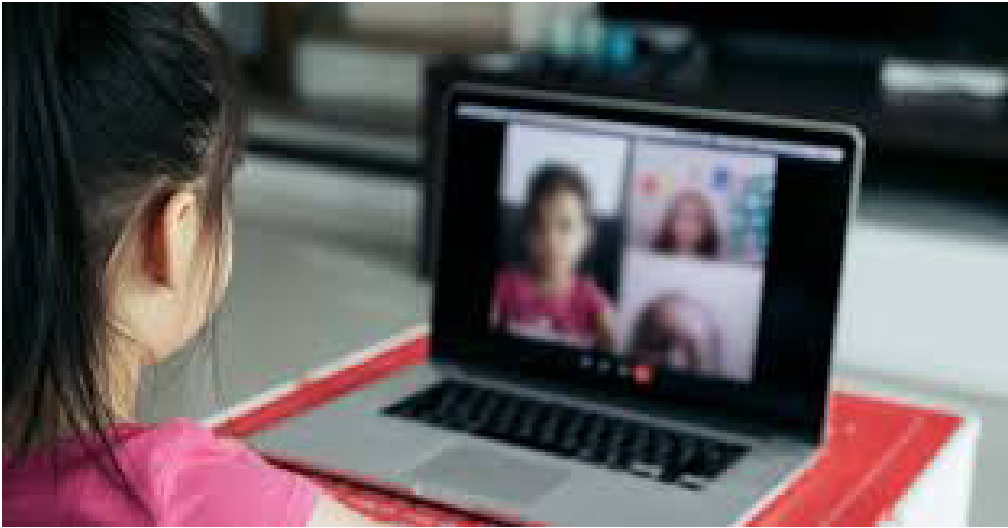
Safe Education, Safe Future

India's Unfinished Development Agenda



LALIT GARG

India is steadily moving toward its ambitious goals of becoming a developed nation, the world's third-largest economy, and realizing the vision of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047. Artificial Intelligence, Digital India, smart classrooms, online education, the National Education Policy, modern universities, and global competitiveness have become symbols of the country's progress. Yet, there exists another face of India that raises uncomfortable questions about these achievements. The recent images of innocent schoolchildren in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district crossing the swollen Betwa River amid monsoon floods to reach their school are not merely an isolated incident. They serve as a stark reflection of a development model that appears to possess more glitter than compassion. The true measure of a nation's progress is not determined by its skyscrapers, wide highways, or digital infrastructure, but by whether its most vulnerable, poorest, and most marginalized child can access education safely and with dignity. If children are forced to cross flooded rivers, dangerous streams, broken culverts, dilapidated roads, or other life-threatening routes simply to attend school, it signifies not only administrative failure but also a betrayal of the spirit of the Constitution. The Right to Education Act clearly places the responsibility on the State to ensure quality education within easy reach of every child. The reality, however, is deeply troubling. In many villages, schools simply do not exist. Where schools do exist, there are often no teachers. Elsewhere, there are teachers but no students; buildings without meaningful education; or school structures so dilapidated



that they stand as waiting disasters. Furthermore, policies involving the consolidation or rationalization of schools have increased the distance between schools and rural communities, compelling young children to walk several kilometres every day, cross rivers, or travel through hazardous terrain merely to receive an education. Ironically, India today takes pride in the growing integration of technology into education. Smart boards, digital learning content, online examinations, and AI-driven teaching methods are celebrated as milestones of educational reform. Yet, if a child cannot even reach school safely, these technological advancements remain nothing more than distant dreams. The first prerequisite for education is safe access to school. Without that basic guarantee, smart classrooms become little more than a cruel irony for those children. This crisis is not confined to Madhya Pradesh alone. Across several Indian states, thousands of children are forced every monsoon to cross flooded streams, temporary bridges, and damaged roads on their way to school. In many places, there are no boats, bridges remain incomplete for years, and road construction falls victim to corruption and neglect. Children often spend hours waiting for flood waters to recede, disrupting their education, while many abandon schooling altogether out of fear. Consequently, the

denial of education today is increasingly caused not only by poverty but also by the absence of safe infrastructure. The dangers surrounding education extend far beyond rivers and floodwaters. In recent years, India has witnessed numerous heartbreaking tragedies. Dilapidated school buildings have collapsed, children have lost their lives due to electrocution on school premises, devastating fires have claimed innocent lives, and overloaded school vans and auto-rickshaws have met with fatal accidents. The tragic incident at a coaching institute in Delhi further exposed the alarming neglect of safety standards in educational establishments. Likewise, repeated examination paper leaks, particularly in competitive examinations such as NEET, have pushed many talented students into severe psychological distress, with some even taking their own lives. Is this not another manifestation of the growing insecurity within India's education system? Perhaps the most disturbing question is why the government machinery awakens only after tragedy strikes. Administrative systems often remain indifferent until a child is swept away in a river, a school building collapses, a fire breaks out, or a catastrophic accident occurs. Only then are inquiry committees constituted, officials suspended, compensation announced, and promises made—only for the issue to fade into oblivion after a few weeks. Such

a reactive model of governance is unworthy of a mature democracy. Corruption remains one of the principal causes behind these recurring failures. From the construction of school buildings, roads, and bridges to the issuance of safety certificates, vehicle fitness approvals, and inspection processes, negligence and corruption have seeped into multiple layers of governance. Educational institutions, coaching centres, and school transport vehicles are frequently granted approvals without meeting essential safety standards. Inspections are often completed only on paper, while the harsh reality surfaces only after disaster strikes. Unless a culture of accountability is firmly established, such tragedies will continue to recur. The government must recognize that education is not merely about distributing textbooks, awarding scholarships, or conducting examinations. True education encompasses a safe learning environment, dignified schools, qualified teachers, quality instruction, and secure transportation. A child whose daily struggle is simply to reach school alive cannot be expected to scale the heights of knowledge and achievement. What India urgently needs is to declare educational safety a national mission. Permanent bridges must be constructed on priority in areas where rivers and streams obstruct access to schools. Until such infrastructure is completed,

the government must provide safe boats or other secure means of water transport. Every educational institution should undergo a mandatory annual safety audit. Dilapidated school buildings must be closed immediately, while the construction of new facilities should be completed within fixed timelines. Strict safety standards must govern all school transport vehicles, accompanied by regular inspections. Every school should be equipped with adequate fire safety systems, disaster preparedness mechanisms, and first-aid facilities. Most importantly, accountability for accidents must extend beyond lower-level employees to include senior administrative authorities responsible for oversight. India's dream of becoming a developed nation will remain meaningful only when the benefits of development reach the child standing at the very end of society's queue. A nation where children are compelled to risk their lives merely to receive an education cannot convincingly claim to be progressing. The path to becoming a global leader lies not merely through economic growth but through compassion, safe education, and equal opportunities for every child. Today, the country needs not more laws, but the sincere implementation of those already in place. Unless the safety of children becomes the highest priority in governance, grand declarations of development will continue to ring hollow. Governments, administrators, elected representatives, and society at large must collectively resolve that no child in India should ever have to risk life simply because they wish to learn. If India truly aspires to become a developed nation by 2047, it must first guarantee every child a safe childhood and secure access to education. After all, the future of a nation is not written in its Parliament, ministries, or metropolitan skylines. It is written in the modest classrooms where millions of children nurture their dreams. If those dreams cannot be protected, then the dream of a Developed India will remain incomplete.

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AIDS Control Program: Why Youth Need A New Strategy

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

The future of a country is determined by its youth, and the greatest centers of youth power are our schools, colleges, and universities. Therefore, if news emerges from a state that a large number of students have tested positive for HIV, forcing the government to launch a comprehensive testing campaign in higher education institutions, this is no longer a matter solely for the health department. It is a serious warning for education, society, families, policymakers, and the entire nation. This is not the time to spread fear, but to confront this challenge with a scientific approach, sensitivity, and widespread awareness.

HIV, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus, attacks the body's immune system. If not diagnosed and treated promptly, it can lead to a serious condition called AIDS. However, advances in medical science have made it a manageable disease. With the help of antiretroviral therapy (ART), infected individuals can live a normal and long life. Therefore, early detection, regular treatment, and infection prevention are crucial.

The news of HIV infection among young people raises several serious questions. Is health and sex education adequate in our educational institutions? Are young people receiving scientific information about safe behavior, the causes of infection, and preventive measures? Are families and society willing to openly communicate on this topic? If the answer to these questions is 'no,' then we must acknowledge that the problem is not just about health, but also about our social mindset and education system.

Even today, Indian society doesn't consider it comfortable to discuss sexual health openly. Parents are hesitant, teachers often avoid the topic, and students often receive incomplete or misleading information from the internet or friends. This results in myths,



misconceptions, and misconceptions. Scientific information, however, is the most effective means of preventing this disease.

It's also important to understand that HIV infection can spread not only through unprotected sex, but also through transfusions of infected blood, the use of contaminated needles, and from an infected mother to her child. However, HIV is not spread through shaking hands, sitting together, sharing food, hugging, sneezing, or mosquito bites. Unfortunately, even today, a large segment of society remains unaware of these facts. This ignorance leads to discrimination and social exclusion against infected individuals.

Young people attending higher education institutions are at a time of their lives marked by independence, curiosity, and a desire for new experiences.

Guiding them in the right direction is not only the responsibility of families, but also of universities and the government. Every college and university should have a health counseling center, trained counselors, confidential testing facilities, and regular awareness programs. Students should be assured that their privacy and dignity will be fully protected if they come forward with a health concern.

If a state decides to launch an HIV testing campaign in higher education institutions, its objective should not be solely to identify infected individuals. Counseling, mental health support, treatment, and awareness must be given equal importance. Testing will be successful only if students perceive it as a normal health safety measure rather than a source of fear or shame.

The role of the media also becomes

crucial here. Sensationalizing any data or event creates fear and confusion in society. Conversely, if the media promotes dialogue based on scientific facts, expert opinion, and awareness, society can become more responsible and sensitive. It is also essential to end the tendency to associate illness with crime or character.

The growing trend of drug addiction is also a matter of concern. Drug abuse, especially the sharing of infected needles, also increases the risk of HIV infection. Therefore, de-addiction campaigns and HIV awareness programs need to be integrated. Effective infection control is achieved not only through treatment but also by reducing risky behaviors.

India has achieved remarkable success over the years through its National AIDS Control Program. New infections

have declined, and millions of infected individuals have been provided treatment. However, if the number of infections among young people is a cause for concern, it signals the need to review old awareness methods and make them more effective, modern, and youth-friendly.

The role of the family is crucial in this entire matter. Confident communication, accurate information, and emotional support with children and adolescents can protect them from risky situations. If families themselves make this topic taboo, young people will be forced to seek information from inappropriate sources. Silence is never the answer; appropriate communication at the right time is the foundation of safety.

We must also remember that a person living with HIV is a normal citizen just like us. They need treatment, respect, and support, not scorn. The more sensitive society becomes, the more people will come forward without fear for testing and treatment. This is also the most effective way to prevent infection.

The need today is to transform higher education campuses not only into centers of knowledge, but also centers of health, awareness, and life skills. Scientific thinking, responsible behavior, regular health checkups, and a sensitive social environment can only address this challenge.

Ultimately, the challenge of HIV teaches us that modern education cannot be limited to degrees. Life-saving knowledge is equally essential. If we break the silence today and embrace awareness, dialogue, and a scientific approach, not only will infection prevention be possible, but we will also build a society that sees people as human beings, not diseases. This is the need of the hour and the most important step towards a healthy, safe, and compassionate India.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

When The Pastures Fall Silent

Vanishing World Of Kashmir's Gujjar And Bakarwal Nomads



DR. RIZWAN RUMI

Every year, as spring unfolded across the Himalayan foothills, a familiar sight brought life to the valleys of Jammu and Kashmir. Long caravans of Gujjar and Bakarwal families, accompanied by buffaloes, cows, sheep, goats, horses, and dogs, would begin their seasonal migration towards the lush alpine meadows of Kashmir. Their arrival was not merely a movement of people and livestock, it was the continuation of a centuries-old tradition that symbolised harmony between humans, animals, and nature.

For generations, these nomadic communities have travelled along ancient migratory routes, depending on the vast stretches of common grazing lands locally known as gasscharai. These open pastures were more than grasslands; they were the foundation of an entire civilisation built upon pastoralism, ecological wisdom, and sustainable coexistence with nature. Today, however, this timeless way of life is confronting one of its gravest challenges.

Across many parts of Jammu and Kashmir, traditional grazing lands are steadily disappearing. Expanding settlements, changing land-use patterns, infrastructure projects, commercial development, plantations, fencing, and the occupation of common lands have significantly reduced the availability of open pastures. Many Gujjar and Bakarwal families now struggle to find adequate grazing grounds for their livestock, forcing them to travel greater distances, incur higher expenses, or reduce the size of their herds.

The Gujjars and Bakarwals constitute one of India's largest pastoral communities and form a significant proportion of Jammu and Kashmir's Scheduled Tribe population. Their seasonal migration, known as transhumance, is recognised by scholars as one of the oldest and most sustainable forms of mountain livelihood. Every summer, thousands of families migrate from the plains and lower hills



of Jammu to the high-altitude meadows of Kashmir and beyond, returning before winter sets in. This migration follows carefully established routes inherited through generations. Every resting place, every stream, and every pasture carries memories of ancestors who perfected this delicate balance between livestock, forests, and seasonal cycles. Unfortunately, that balance is now under strain.

In numerous villages, elders recall how large expanses of gasscharai once stretched uninterrupted across the countryside. These common lands not only sustained nomadic livestock but also supported local villagers whose cattle grazed alongside those of the migrating communities. Today, many such areas have either vanished altogether or become inaccessible due to competing land uses. As common lands disappear, disputes increase, migration becomes more difficult, and uncertainty overshadows every journey.

The consequences extend far beyond the pastoral community itself. Livestock contributes substantially to Jammu and Kashmir's rural economy. Gujjar families are renowned for buffalo rearing and dairy production,

while Bakarwals play a vital role in sheep and goat husbandry. Their contribution supports milk production, meat supply, wool, and countless rural livelihoods. Any disruption to pastoral mobility directly affects livestock productivity and, ultimately, the broader agricultural economy of the region.

The burden is particularly severe for poorer families. When animals can no longer graze freely, pastoralists are compelled to purchase fodder, increasing production costs that many cannot afford. Longer migrations expose livestock to disease, exhaustion, and declining milk yields. Young members of nomadic families often discontinue their education because migration becomes increasingly uncertain and economically demanding. Access to healthcare, veterinary services, and basic public facilities remains limited throughout much of their journey.

Climate change has further intensified these hardships. Irregular snowfall, prolonged dry spells, shrinking water sources, changing vegetation patterns, and unpredictable weather have altered the ecology of Himalayan pastures. Meadows that once remained green throughout the grazing season

now dry earlier than expected, reducing fodder availability. Scientific studies across the Himalayas have consistently warned that changing climatic conditions are affecting alpine grasslands and threatening traditional pastoral systems.

Equally alarming is the gradual erosion of cultural heritage. The Gujjars and Bakarwals are not merely livestock rearers. They are custodians of an extraordinary body of indigenous knowledge accumulated over centuries. They possess remarkable expertise in animal breeding, herbal medicine, weather prediction, pasture management, and mountain ecology. Their folk songs, oral histories, dialects, customs, and traditional practices form an irreplaceable part of Kashmir's cultural mosaic. If pastoralism declines, this invaluable heritage may disappear with it.

Contrary to common misconceptions, responsible seasonal grazing has historically coexisted with healthy mountain ecosystems. By continuously moving livestock rather than concentrating grazing in one location, traditional transhumance allows grasslands to regenerate naturally while maintaining ecological balance.

Environmental scholars increasingly recognise that mobile pastoralism can contribute positively to biodiversity conservation when supported by sound management practices.

The debate surrounding grazing lands is therefore not merely about land, it concerns livelihoods, culture, environmental sustainability, and, most importantly, justice for communities whose relationship with these landscapes predates many modern institutions. There is an urgent need to identify, map, restore, and legally safeguard traditional gasscharai wherever possible. Historic migratory corridors should remain open and functional. Development planning must carefully balance infrastructure expansion with the preservation of common grazing resources. Mobile schools, seasonal health facilities, veterinary camps, drinking water arrangements, and better institutional support along migratory routes would greatly improve the lives of these pastoral families.

The implementation of legal protections for tribal communities must also ensure that genuine traditional users of grazing landscapes are heard through meaningful consultation and participation. Conservation and development need not be competing goals; both can coexist through inclusive and evidence-based policymaking.

Above all, society must rediscover its respect for these silent custodians of the mountains. For centuries, the Gujjars and Bakarwals have protected landscapes not through ownership but through stewardship. Their footsteps have connected valleys, forests, and alpine meadows in a seasonal rhythm that has enriched Kashmir's ecology and culture alike.

"When we lose our common pastures, we lose far more than grass. We lose livelihoods. We lose traditional knowledge. We lose cultural memory. We lose a living heritage that has quietly sustained the Himalayan landscape for generations." As Kashmir aspires towards sustainable development and inclusive progress, safeguarding the rights and livelihoods of its pastoral communities is not merely a tribal concern, it is a moral, ecological, and developmental imperative.

The fate of the gasscharai will ultimately determine the fate of a people whose history has always been written not in stone, but in the winding trails of the mountains.

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659 Pilgrims Pay

vehicles, comprising 40 buses (37+3), 12 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 19 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and three two-wheelers. No convoy was dispatched on the traditional Pahalgam route, which remains closed for maintenance, officials said.

The total number of pilgrims who have departed from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu for the ongoing Yatra has reached 1,43,513.

Pertinently, the Yatra remained suspended on Wednesday due to heightened security arrangements ahead of the August 5 anniversary. However, pilgrims already stationed at the Baltal base camp were allowed to proceed to the Holy Cave Shrine for darshan as per the scheduled movement, officials added.

More than 22 lakh devotees have completed the Amarnath Yatra since 2022. According to available data, 3,65,721 pilgrims paid obeisance in 2022, 4,45,338 in 2023, a record 5,12,150 in 2024, 4,14,311 in 2025, and 4,71,588 pilgrims have performed darshan in 2026 (up to August 6). The cumulative figure from 2022 to August 6, 2026 stands at 22,09,108 pilgrims—(KNO)

Over 43,900 Houses

implemented to provide all-weather pucca houses with basic civic amenities to eligible urban beneficiaries across the country.

The minister informed the House that in Jammu & Kashmir, 42,584 houses have been sanctioned under PMAY-U 2.0, while 3,398 houses have been grounded. A total of 43,907 houses have been completed and delivered, with the Centre approving 734 crore in assistance, of which 544 crore has been released.

For Ladakh, the reply stated that 987 houses have been sanctioned under PMAY-U 2.0, 151 houses grounded, and 1,071 houses completed and delivered. The Centre has approved 34 crore in assistance, out of which 27 crore has been released.

The minister said housing is a State subject and that PMAY-U adopts a demand-driven approach, with States and Union Territories assessing housing demand through Urban Local Bodies and submitting proposals to the Centre. He added that while the assessed urban housing demand in 2017-18 was around 112 lakh houses, more than 127 lakh houses have already been sanctioned under PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0 combined, exceeding the estimated demand—(KNO)

J&K's Power

of 14,194 MU. It was also informed that in the year 2017-18 J&K has an energy requirement of 18,808 MU against the availability of 15,050 MU followed by 18,988 MU in the year 2018-19 against the total availability of 15,616 MU.

The documents further said that in the year 2019-20 Jammu and Kashmir had a energy requirement of 20,025MU against the total availability of 16,259 MU.

In 2020-21, there was a requirement of 19,773 MU against the availability of 17,222 MU followed by requirement of 19,957 MU in the year 2021-22 against the total availability of 18,434 MU.

The house was further informed that in the year 2022-23 Jammu and Kashmir had an energy requirement of 19,639 MU against the total availability of 19,322 MU followed by 20,040 MU requirement in 2023-24 against the total availability of 19,763 MU.

It also said that in the year 2024-25, J&K had a power requirement of 20,374 MU against the requirement of 20,283 MU and in the year 2025-26, the region had an energy requirement of 20,185 MU against the total availability of 20,166 MU.

For the ongoing fiscal till June 2026, Jammu and Kashmir had recorded a requirement of 4,769 MU against the availability of 4,739 MU—(KNO)

Rain, Hailstorm

As per preliminary local estimates, nearly 60% of the standing apple crop has been damaged in some areas. However, the extent of losses is yet to be officially assessed, and the district administration has not released any damage report so far.

The Horticulture Department is also yet to issue an official assessment or advisory regarding the losses.

Meanwhile, a shepherd was killed after being struck by lightning in the Dutibegh area of the Keran sector in Kupwara district on Thursday morning.

Officials identified the deceased as Shahmeer Ahmad Khatana, son of Abdul Rasheed Khatana, a resident of Warsun in Kralpora.

The incident occurred during heavy rainfall in the area. Police have taken cognisance of the matter.

The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, has forecast light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places across Jammu and Kashmir on August 7 and 8, with brief intense showers expected at isolated locations.

It said the Union Territory is likely to witness light to moderate rain at most places between August 9 and 11, with heavy rainfall and brief intense showers likely in a few districts.

The MeT office has warned that torrential rain and intense showers during the period may trigger flash floods and landslides at vulnerable locations, advising people to remain cautious—(KNO)

IFS Induction

1966 and furnish a proposal to the Union Public Service Commission for convening Selection Committee meetings for preparation of Select Lists for the aforesaid years,” the letter reads.

The induction of local officers into the IFS had remained stalled for the past 13 years due to the absence of a valid “State Forest Service.” The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change examined the matter and found that only the J&K Forest (Gazetted) Service (Territorial) satisfies the recruitment, training, and other criteria for promotion into the IFS.

Recruitment into the Indian Forest Service is governed by two methods: direct recruitment through UPSC examinations and induction via the promotion quota. While 66% of posts are filled through the UPSC Civil Services Examination, the remaining 33% are reserved for promotion of eligible State Forest Service (SFS) officers—(KNO)

J&K Highways

Banihal section of NH-44, a cloudburst in 2025 caused heavy slush/debris at Seri, muck accumulation in Tunnel T-2 and a landslide at Kela Mor. In 2026, a landslide again blocked both carriageways. Restoration and clearance work has been completed, the reply said.

A landslide was also reported in 2025 at Marog on the Marog-Digdol, Ramban-Banihal section of NH-44 following a cloudburst. Restoration and clearance work was subsequently completed.

On the NH-244 Chenani-Sudhmahadev Road, landslides occurred at multiple locations between Km 1-650 and Km 14-200 in 2025 due to rainfall, flash floods and cloudbursts. The government said the landslides were cleared and traffic restored.

The reply further mentions a landslide incident in 2023 on the NH-1 Sonamarg Tunnel Project. An audit was conducted following the incident and slope-protection measures were installed.

The Ministry said extreme rainfall and landslides are generally witnessed in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats, causing damage to infrastructure, including NH sections. Debris removal and restoration of affected roads are undertaken immediately, while long-term remedial measures are also taken up in landslide-prone areas.

On drainage-related flooding, the government said NH drainage systems are designed considering expected traffic, road configuration, hydrology, hydro-geological conditions, catchment areas, road geometry, cross slopes, excavation and landfill areas and existing drainage systems.

It, however, said localised drainage problems can occur due to non-clearance of existing drainage systems, blockage of drainage outfalls by unauthorised construction, poor maintenance and unprecedented rainfall, which can lead to flooding of drainage systems and low-lying areas or agricultural fields near NHs.

The Centre also outlined several measures for developing disaster-resilient NH infrastructure in hilly areas, including improved DPRs, hill-slope protection, better construction practices, slope stabilisation, landslide monitoring and early-warning systems.

It said MoUs have also been signed with agencies including the Defence Geo-informatics Research Establishment (DGRE), Geological Survey of India (GSI) and National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM) for geo-hazard mitigation, geological investigations, tunnel safety, rock mechanics and related technical support.

The government further stated that a research scheme through IIT Roorkee has been taken up for developing guidelines for assessment of hillslope instability using instrumentation and real-time monitoring.

The question was raised by Captain Viriato Fernandes, while Union Minister Nitin Jairam Gadkari provided the reply in the Lok Sabha on August 6, 2026—(KNO)

CS For Stronger Women

districts at the earliest and developed into vibrant institutions of social mobilization.

He observed that CMTCs should empower women through regular training and sensitization to play a proactive role in promoting sanitation and hygiene, school enrolment, nutrition, immunization,

awareness against drug abuse and other important social issues.

He also asked the department to examine the feasibility of developing these centres into fully functional institutions with dedicated infrastructure and resources under this flagship national mission.

Dulloo further directed the Mission to prepare a structured roadmap for capacity building by creating a pool of master trainers who would subsequently impart training to SHG members at the block level, thereby ensuring sustained institutional strengthening across the Union Territory.

Emphasising convergence with flagship programmes, the Chief Secretary called for close integration of JKRLM with Mission YUVA and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) so that rural women can access entrepreneurship, skill development and self-employment opportunities available under these initiatives.

He directed the Mission to bring nearly six lakh SHG members under these programmes based on their aptitude and interests, while leveraging the services of YUVA Doots to ensure effective outreach, awareness generation and handholding support for enabling beneficiaries to avail the benefits.

Highlighting the successful collaboration with Kudumbashree, the Chief Secretary stressed the need to expand women-led food outlets across districts while strengthening bookkeeping practices through simplified digital modules to enhance financial management of community enterprises.

He also directed the Mission to further enhance bank linkage of SHGs through successive doses of institutional credit to enable expansion of enterprises and sustainable livelihood generation.

The Chief Secretary further called for an independent qualitative assessment of JKRLM by a reputed national-level institution to evaluate its present capacities, identify gaps and recommend measures for strengthening the Mission's institutional framework and service delivery.

Reviewing the implementation of the Kudumbashree partnership, the Chief Secretary assessed the progress made in supporting SHGs to establish and successfully manage enterprises, particularly the Food Street Associations (FSAs). While appreciating the achievements made so far, he remarked that the initiative holds tremendous potential and called for intensified efforts to further expand its reach and impact across Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the Secretary RDD, Aijaz Asad presented a detailed review of the Mission's achievements and future roadmap, highlighting significant progress in social mobilization, financial inclusion, livelihoods promotion and convergence-driven rural development under the flagship programme.

Presenting the details the Managing Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma revealed that JKRLM has established a robust community institutional framework across all 20 districts, 285 blocks and 4,291 Gram Panchayats by mobilizing over 8.14 lakh women into 96,595 Self Help Groups, 7,546 Village Organisations and 652 Cluster Level Federations.

It was further divulged that the Mission has extended capitalization support of over 532 crore to community institutions and facilitated cumulative bank credit exceeding 3,449 crore through nearly 1.46 lakh credit-linked accounts, while maintaining an exceptionally low NPA level of 0.91 per cent, reflecting sound financial discipline among SHGs.

On livelihoods promotion, it was informed that JKRLM currently supports 7.35 lakh Mahila Kisans across 5,255 villages through an extensive network of more than 3,300 Community Resource Persons, including Krishi Sakhis, Pashu Sakhis and Van Sakhis. The Mission has also digitised farmer training through the Daksh Kisan Portal, where over 64,000 farmers have been enrolled and more than 22,000 successfully certified.

Similarly under the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), the Mission has promoted 11,879 enterprises against a target of 14,244, facilitated bank credit for 1,907 enterprises amounting to over 21.77 crore, while utilising 20.26 crore under the Community Enterprise Fund.

The meeting was further informed that under the Lakhpati Didi Initiative, 2.40 lakh rural women have already achieved Lakhpati status, while the Mission has prepared a phased strategy to create 3.64 lakh Lakhpati Didis by 2029.

The Mission also shared its future strategy, which envisages development of self-reliant Cluster Level Federations, establishment of regional aggregation centres in Jammu and Srinagar for marketing SHG products, formal registration of CLFs as independent legal entities, expansion of institutional credit for enterprises and deeper convergence with Panchayati Raj Institutions to ensure sustainable and inclusive rural development across Jammu and Kashmir.

Ta Key Contributor

personnel across 59 units and plays a crucial role in disaster response.

Singh commended its personnel for relief and rescue operations during the Kerala floods, Odisha cyclone and the recent floods in Assam.

Highlighting the force's environmental initiatives, Singh said the Ecological Task Forces of the Territorial Army have planted nearly one billion saplings with a survival rate of 80-85 per cent, contributing to the government's climate and sustainability goals.

He also praised the force's role in promoting the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign in Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, Chief of Defence Staff General NS Raja Subramani, Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and other senior defence officials attended the meeting—(KNO)

97% Smart City

Parliament, Jammu Smart City has undertaken 127 projects worth 2,969 crore, of which 125 projects worth 2,940 crore have been completed.

Similarly, Srinagar Smart City has taken up 161 projects with a total cost of 3,634 crore, while 157 projects worth 3,532 crore have been completed.

The minister informed the House that the Smart Cities Mission concluded on March 31, 2025, and the Ministry has directed States and Union Territories to ensure timely completion of the remaining projects and prepare operation and maintenance plans for assets created under the Mission.

He said the Ministry monitored implementation through a multi-level mechanism, including the Apex Committee at the national level, High-Powered Steering Committees in States and Union Territories, and Smart City Advisory Forums at the city level, besides using the Geo Spatial Management Information System (GMIS) portal for tracking physical and financial progress.

The minister further said there is no proposal under consideration to expand the Smart Cities Mission, but the technological interventions, governance tools and integrated planning models developed under the Mission can be adopted by States and Union Territories to improve urban governance in other cities—(KNO)

J&K's Post-Harvest

The minister further said the Centre is addressing post-harvest losses through schemes including the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) and the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries (PLIS-FPI).

"These initiatives support creation of cold-chain infrastructure, food processing and preservation facilities, value addition and modern supply chain infrastructure aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and improving farmers' returns," he said—(KNO)

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Javid Dar reviews rain-related damage, NH-44 restoration

Asks for priority movement of fruit-laden trucks

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday reviewed the situation arising from recent heavy rainfall and landslides in Ramban and adjoining areas, with emphasis on damage to life and property, disruption of traffic and restoration of the National Highway.

The Minister, accompanied by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, also conducted a spot inspection of the Samroli-Udhampur stretch of NH-44 to take firsthand assessment of the restoration works and traffic arrangements following landslides and shooting stones triggered by incessant rainfall.

During the inspection, Javid Dar took stock of the ongoing clearance and restoration operations. He directed the concerned agencies to undertake the works on war footing to ensure early restoration of the affected stretches. He stressed that adequate men, machinery and other resources be deployed at vulnerable locations to minimize disruption to vehicular movement and ensure the safety of commuters.

During the review meeting at DC office Ramban, the Minister directed all the concerned agencies to



maintain close coordination for effective management of the situation. He emphasized coordinated efforts by the district administration, Police, Traffic Police, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Public Works Department, security agencies and other stakeholders to ensure prompt response to the emerging challenges.

The Minister accorded top priority to the movement of fruit-laden trucks, keeping in view the perishable nature of horticulture produce and the ongoing peak fruit marketing season. He directed that such vehicles should not face unnecessary stoppages or procedural delays and called for every possible measure to facilitate their smooth and hassle-free movement towards markets outside J&K.

Javid Dar directed the Traffic Police and enforcement agencies to regulate traffic in a manner that facilitates the movement of fruit consignments, particularly along vulnerable and congestion-prone stretches. He called for

advance traffic planning and coordinated movement of vehicles, with priority passage to fruit-laden trucks wherever road and safety conditions permit.

He further directed the authorities to put in place a 24x7 monitoring mechanism along vulnerable stretches of NH-44 to ensure immediate response to fresh landslides, shooting stones, road blockages and other emergencies. He stressed the need for timely dissemination of traffic advisories and real-time information to transporters and fruit growers to enable them to plan movement of their produce efficiently.

The Minister emphasized that restoration of NH-44 and facilitation of horticulture transportation must go hand in hand, particularly during the peak harvesting and marketing season. He said timely movement of fruit consignments is crucial for safeguarding the interests and income of growers and preventing avoidable post-harvest losses.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner,

Ramban, briefed the Minister on the restoration measures undertaken by the district administration. He informed about the assessment of damage to crops and other assets for extending relief and compensation as per applicable norms.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, briefed the Minister about the traffic management arrangements and the 24x7 monitoring mechanism being maintained along the National Highway to ensure timely response to disruptions and facilitate smooth vehicular movement.

Earlier, Javid Dar, along with Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, visited Jabalipora Fruit Mandi, Anantnag, to review arrangements for smooth transportation and marketing of fruit during the ongoing season.

The President of the Fruit Mandi Association apprised the Minister of various issues confronting the mandi. He sought effective measures to ensure smooth movement of fruit-laden vehicles on NH-44 during the peak fruit season without unnecessary disruption or delays.

The delegation also projected various demands concerning the functioning and infrastructure of the mandi, including allotment of shops, provision of a dedicated corridor for the mandi, construction of a mosque and improvement of basic amenities.

Beerwah hosts mega padyatra under ‘Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan’

Over 500 students, locals, officials participate in awareness rally

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: Hundreds of people, including students, traders, transporters, and government officials, on Thursday participated in a mega padyatra organised under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, to create awareness against drug abuse and promote a drug-free society.

According to the details available, the rally commenced from the Tehsil Office Beerwah and concluded at Arwah, with a message to youth to stay away from narcotics.

Speaking to media, social activist and youth leader Muzamil Mehmood, who organised the event said that, the campaign was part of the nationwide ‘Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan’ and received overwhelming public support.

"More than 500 students participated in today's padyatra. We are thankful to the Sub-Divisional Administration, especially the



SDM Beerwah, Tehsildar, BMO, BDO, SHO, traders, transporters and all stakeholders whose support made this awareness campaign successful," Mehmood said.

He said the rising drug menace demands collective action from every section of society, including parents, teachers, religious institutions, civil society organisations and the media.

"Drug abuse cannot be

tackled by the administration alone. It requires active participation from every individual and institution to build a healthy and drug-free society," he said.

"Parents, teachers, religious institutions, traders, NGOs, social activists and the media all have an important role to play. Only through sustained awareness and collective responsibility can we protect our society from the menace of

drugs," he added.

A participating student said such programmes play a vital role in creating awareness among youngsters.

"Awareness campaigns like this help students understand the ill-effects of drug addiction. More such programmes should be organised to protect the younger generation and save society from those growing menace," the student said—(KNO)

Satish Sharma inaugurates 'Late Legends Memorial Knockout Football Tournament'



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Thursday inaugurated the Late Legends Memorial Knockout Football Tournament at the Sports Stadium, Anantnag.

"The Jammu and Kashmir government is working under a well knit strategy to empower the youth through sports, steering them away from the menace of drug abuse", said the Minister while elaborating on the significance of holding such sports events in the region.

The tournament, organised under the inspiring theme "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Sports," witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of football lovers, young athletes, sports enthusiasts, coaches and members of the local community. The event paid tributes to the memories of legendary personalities while promoting sportsmanship, discipline and a healthy lifestyle among the youth.

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma said that sports have the power to transform the lives by instilling discipline, teamwork, perseverance and self-confidence among young people. He said that initiatives like the Late Legends Memorial Football Tournament not only nurture sporting talent but also create a positive environment that encourages youth to channel their energy into constructive pursuits.

The Minister said that the government is laying focused attention on improving the infrastructure, creating more competitive opportunities and ensuring that talented sportspersons receive the necessary support to excel

at national and international level.

Highlighting the growing challenge of substance abuse, Satish Sharma said that drug addiction poses a serious threat to society, particularly the younger generation. He stressed that active participation in sports is one of the most effective ways to protect the youth from falling prey to drugs, as it promotes physical fitness, mental resilience and a strong sense of purpose.

"Every playground occupied by our youth is a victory against drugs. Sports build character, inspire discipline and create responsible citizens. We must work collectively to ensure that every young person has access to opportunities that encourage healthy and productive lifestyles," said the Minister.

He urged the parents, teachers, sports associations and civil society organisations to actively motivate children to participate in sports and recreational activities, adding that collective societal efforts are essential to making Jammu and Kashmir drug-free.

Satish Sharma appreciated the organisers for dedicating the tournament to the cherished memories of the region's legends and for using sports as a medium to spread the powerful social message of "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Sports." He said such tournaments not only preserve the legacy of eminent personalities but also inspire young athletes to pursue excellence while contributing positively to society.

The Minister interacted with the participating teams, wished them success for the tournament and encouraged them to play with the spirit of fair competition, discipline and mutual respect.

DC B'gam inaugurates training programme for drivers, support staff of Pvt schools

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Thursday stressed the importance of providing Basic Life Support (BLS) training to every citizen to help save precious lives during accidents and medical emergencies.

He was speaking after inaugurating a day-long district-level Basic Life Support (BLS) awareness-cum-training programme at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, Budgam, aimed at equipping participants with lifesaving skills and emergency response techniques.

The programme was organised by Civil Defence Budgam and Private Schools Association Kashmir in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the organisers for taking the initiative to promote Basic Life Support training, stating that timely CPR and other basic

emergency interventions can save precious lives during accidents and medical emergencies.

He stressed that BLS training is essential for every citizen and directed that it be expanded in a phased manner to cover transporters, shopkeepers, teachers, support staff, drivers and other sections of society across the district.

Emphasising practical learning, the Deputy Commissioner said the focus should remain on hands-on training so that participants gain the confidence to respond effectively during emergency situations.

"I urge every participant to make the best use of this training and further disseminate the knowledge among their family members, colleagues and communities," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of creating awareness about trauma care protocols to strengthen emergency response and improve survival outcomes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I, Mr. Aadil Reyaz, S/o Reyaz Ahmad Rather, R/o Goshbugh, Pattan, Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, intend to apply to the Department of Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir, for the registration of my proposed travel unit under the name and style M/s KashNova Holidays, situated at Goshbugh, Pattan, Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I shall submit the Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, PAN Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate issued by the Police Department, Bank Statement (Minimum Balance ₹10,000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by the Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letterhead and Visiting Card), Photographs of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor), and two Passport Size Photographs to the Department of Tourism as per the prescribed checklist before the registration of my unit as a Travel Agency/Tour Operator.

Now, therefore, as required under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, this notice is hereby published for the information of the general public, financial institutions, banks, organizations, or any other concerned person. If any person has any objection regarding the proposed registration, the same should reach the Deputy Director, Tourism Registration, Kashmir (Email: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice in the leading local newspaper(s) of the Valley. No objection received after the stipulated period of 07 days shall be entertained.

CORRECTION

I have changed my wards name from (Old name) Abdul Hadi Mohammad Shafi to (New name) Abdul Hadi Mir. In future he will be known as (new name) Abdul Hadi Mir. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

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NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

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

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

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

1) Operational Zones

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

Zone	Panchayats Covered
Zone I	Badijahalan, Gulzarabad, Chimmer A, Chimmer B
Zone II	D.K Marg A, D.K Marg B, D.K Marg C, Logopora
Zone III	Nagam 1A, Nagam 2A, Boh Dregdan, Rengith

2) Scope of Work

The selected Executing Agency shall be responsible for:

- Door to door collection of segregated waste.
- Scientific segregation of waste.
- Operation and maintenance of Segregation Sheds.
- Scientific composting of biodegradable waste.
- Transportation of recyclable waste to PWMU or designated facility.
- Safe handling of sanitary and domestic hazardous waste.
- Removal of roadside litter and legacy waste.
- Operation and maintenance of Waste Collection Vehicles.
- Collection of user charges.
- Maintenance of consumer database and operational records.
- Submission of monthly operational and financial reports.
- Awareness generation and IEC activities.
- Compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules and directions issued by the District Administration.

3) Eligibility

The following registered institutions are eligible:

- Self Help Groups.
- Cooperative Societies.
- Farmer Producer Organizations.
- Youth Cooperatives.
- Registered Waste Management Societies.
- Community Based Enterprises.
- Limited Liability Partnerships fulfilling the prescribed criteria.

4) Essential Manpower

- Block Development Officer
- D.K. MARG.
- Each selected agency shall deploy:
 - One Swachhta Supervisor.
 - One Swachhta Saathi for each Segregation Shed.
 - One Driver for each Waste Collection Vehicle.
 - One Helper for each Waste Collection Vehicle.
 - One Authorized Fee Collector.
- Additional manpower wherever required.

5) Documents to be Submitted

- Applicants shall submit:
 - Application Form.
 - Registration Certificate.
 - Memorandum and Bye Laws.
 - PAN Card.
 - GST Registration, wherever applicable.
 - Latest Bank Statement.
 - Membership List.
 - Aadhaar of Office Bearers.
 - Office Address Proof.
 - Proposed Manpower Deployment Plan.
 - Experience Certificates, if any.
 - Affidavit declaring correctness of information.
 - Any other document required by the Block Administration.

6) Evaluation Criteria

Selection shall be made strictly on merit.

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

7) Submission of Applications

Applications shall be submitted in sealed envelopes superscribed:

"Application for Selection of Executing Agency for Operational Zone No. ____ Block D.K Marg"

Addressed to:

The Block Development Officer

D.K Marg

District Kulgam

Last Date for Submission: 17 August 2026

Date of Opening: 18 August 2026

8) Selection Procedure

The Block Level Committee shall scrutinize all applications.

Eligible applicants shall be evaluated on the approved Evaluation Matrix.

The highest ranked agency in each Operational Zone shall be recommended to the District Sanitation Committee.

After approval, the selected agency shall execute an Agreement with the Block Administration before commencement of work.

9) Period of Engagement

Initial engagement shall be for one year.

Extension shall depend upon satisfactory performance, recovery of user charges, maintenance of infrastructure and compliance with the SWM Framework.

10) Important Instructions

Incomplete applications shall not be considered.

The Block Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason.

The selected agency shall comply with all provisions of the SWM Framework and Solid Waste Management Rules.

ANNEXURE I

APPLICATION FORM

- Name of Institution
- Registration Number
- Date of Registration
- Category
- Office Address
- Operational Zone Applied For
- Name of President
- Mobile Number
- Number of Members
- Number of Female Members
- Number of Staff Proposed
- Bank Name
- Account Number
- IFSC Code
- Experience in Waste Management
- List of Enclosures

ANNEXURE II

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

- Registration Certificate
- Bye Laws
- PAN Card
- GST Registration
- Aadhaar of Office Bearers
- Bank Statement
- Membership List
- Office Address Proof
- Manpower Deployment Plan
- Experience Certificate
- Affidavit
- Any Other Supporting Document

ANNEXURE III

TECHNICAL EVALUATION SHEET

Parameter	Maximum Marks	Marks Awarded
Registration	15	
Membership	20	
Local Presence	15	
Financial Capability	15	
Manpower	15	
Women Participation	10	
Educational Qualification	10	
Total	100	

Remarks:

Recommendation:

NO: BDODKM/SBM-G/2026-27/339-341

Date: 28/07/2026

DIPK-4199-26

DT: 07/08/2026

Block Development Officer

D.K Marg

