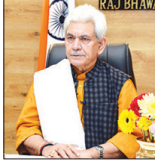


Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

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The Lieutenant Governor urged citizens to reflect on their contribution to building the India envisioned by the nation's forefathers. He emphasized that while martyrs defended the nation with their blood, today's generation must defend it with character, honesty, hard work, unity, and service.

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Autumn Session Of J&K Assembly To Begin On Sept 21

LG Summons House; House Committee Meetings Suspended



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will commence on September 21, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha summoning the House to meet at 10:00 AM in Srinagar.

In a bulletin released Wednesday, the Assembly Secretariat quoted the LG's order: "I, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, do hereby summon the Legislative Assembly for the Union

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to meet at Srinagar on Monday, the 21st of September, 2026 at 10:00 AM."

A separate bulletin issued by the Secretariat directed that each MLA shall submit not more than four starred and four unstarred questions, along with one bill, by or before August 25, 2026. Members have also been asked to submit not more than two resolutions by September 5, 2026.

Meanwhile, the LA Secretariat has ordered that meetings and other affairs of the Financial and other Committees of the House shall remain suspended with effect from August 22, 2026, in view of the commencement of the autumn session—(KNO)

Rs 19.93 Cr Released For SC Scholarships In J&K In 3 Years: Centre

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir received a total of Rs 15.22 crore in Central assistance under two State-wise Scheduled Caste scholarship schemes during the last three financial years,

from 2023-24 to 2025-26, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar in reply to Starred Question No. 332, raised by

Row Erupts Over Question Quota In J&K Assembly

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: A controversy has erupted over the question quota of MLAs in the upcoming autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, with Peoples Conference legislator Sajad Gani Lone charging the Speaker with restricting the rightful quota of legislators.

In a post on X, Lone cited the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly and said that the move to reduce the number of questions sets a bad precedent and defeats the purpose of legislative oversight. He urged the Speaker to restore the quota in line with the



rules.

"I urge Speaker Sahab, who is the custodian of the House, to kindly review his decision and restore the rightful question quota of members, in accordance with Rule 45," Lone said.

Rule 45 provides that each member is entitled to 20 questions during a budget session-10 starred and 10 unstarred-and

LG Sinha Joins Tiranga Yatra, Says 21st Century Belongs To Bharat

Says Tiranga Is Living Embodiment Of India's Consciousness, Pride

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Wednesday participated in the Tiranga Yatra, leading a momentous celebration of national pride in Srinagar. Following the Yatra, he addressed the citizens, reaffirming the immortal spirit of India's unity and the indomitable courage of its people. The event marked the confluence of two monumental celebrations, the mass movement of Har Ghar Tiranga and the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Tiranga is the living embodiment of India's consciousness and pride. He emphasized that the Tiranga Yatra in the Kashmir Valley sends a clear message that India must never stop and always move forward.

"In 2022, when the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign was launched under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', its purpose was to rekindle in every Indian's heart a sense of closeness, respect,



and emotional connection toward the tricolour. When the Tiranga flutters simultaneously on millions of homes, 140 crore Indians' hearts beat as one in a single sentiment, a single faith, a single resolve. Today, Tiranga Yatra has evolved into a festival of people's consciousness, a tradition of patriotism, and a cultural value binding every citizen to the motherland," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor

congratulated the people of Jammu Kashmir for their remarkable participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga and Vande Mataram campaigns. He noted that their enthusiasm has become a source of inspiration for the entire nation. He said the Tiranga is the soul of our nation and 'Vande Mataram' is the immortal voice of that soul.

The Lieutenant Governor urged citizens to reflect on their

contribution to building the India envisioned by the nation's forefathers. He emphasized that while martyrs defended the nation with their blood, today's generation must defend it with character, honesty, hard work, unity, and service.

He said that the confluence of Har Ghar Tiranga and Vande Mataram is not merely the meeting of two campaigns but the announcement of a

THIS IS THE SYMBOL OF A JAMMU KASHMIR FILLED WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE AND marching firmly toward the future where "Vijayi Vishwa Tiranga Pyara" is a life's resolve in every citizen's heart, where every home is a centre of patriotism and where every heart beats in rhythm with the pulse of national unity," he said.

J&K On Maximum Alert Ahead Of I-Day

Drones, Sniffer Dogs, Additional Checkpoints Deployed Across Districts

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Security has been strengthened across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Independence Day celebrations, with police, Army and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) intensifying surveillance, vehicle checking, frisking, area domination and search operations.

A senior security official said that security arrangements have been particularly stepped up in sensitive areas, including major towns, district headquarters, vital installations, vulnerable



locations and key entry and exit points, as the administration and security agencies prepare for the national celebrations.

He said a multi-layered security

grid has been activated across all districts, with additional deployments made at important locations and around venues where Independence

1990 Double-Murder Case SIA Conducts Searches At Nine Locations Across J&K

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The State Inves-

tigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Wednesday conducted searches at nine locations across Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a 1990 double-murder case, officials said.

The searches were carried out in connection with FIR No.

45/1990 registered at Police Station Dooru in Anantnag district, which is now under investigation by the SIA.

Officials said, the searches were conducted as part of the ongoing investigation into the case.

'Don't Just See Kashmir, Experience It': Tunisian Travel

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Gliding across Dal Lake, stopping at local markets and trying Kashmiri food, Tunisian travel content creator Karima Bel is discovering Kashmir not just through its postcard landscapes but through its people, flavours and everyday life.

From enjoying views from a shikara to exploring local food stalls, Bel has been sharing glimpses of her Kashmir journey with her Arabic-speaking audience on social media.

Known as Alam Karima, Bel is travelling in Kashmir with her husband and says she came to experience the region beyond the pictures she had seen online.

"I came to Kashmir because I wanted to discover it beyond the beautiful pictures we see online. I wanted to experience the culture, meet the people, try the local food, and see the real life here for myself," Bel said.

In a recent social media post, Bel is seen enjoying a shikara ride on Dal Lake. In another video from a local market, she is seen trying food while interacting with vendors, giving her followers a glimpse into the everyday life and street food

KASHMIR HAS always been a place I was curious about. I had seen the mountains and landscapes, but I wanted to come and experience the place myself.

culture of Kashmir.

For Bel, the experience has already changed the way she looks at the region. "Kashmir has always been a place I was curious about. I had seen the mountains and landscapes, but I wanted to come and experience the place myself. And honestly, being here made me realise that Kashmir

49,810 Ration Cards Deleted In J&K Over Five Years: GoI

'33,677 Cards Deleted In 2021, 2,927 In 2022, 5,403 In 2023, 4,767 In 2024, 3,036 In 2025'

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: As many as 49,810 ration cards were deleted in Jammu and Kashmir during the five-year period from 2021 to 2025 under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), according to data presented by the Government of India (GoI) in the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4135, raised by Dr Shivaji Bandappa Kalge regarding families identified under the NFSA and deletion of ration cards.

According to the State-wise data placed before the House, Jammu and Kashmir recorded the deletion of 33,677 ration cards in 2021. The number



stood at 2,927 in 2022, 5,403 in 2023, 4,767 in 2024 and 3,036 in 2025, taking the five-year total to 49,810.

The data, shows that the highest number of deletions in J&K during the period was recorded in 2021, after which the annual figures remained substantially lower.

At the national level, the

government data shows 29,02,794 ration cards were deleted in 2021, 63,80,274 in 2022, 41,99,373 in 2023, 48,85,259 in 2024 and 41,41,385 in 2025.

The government was also asked about biometric authentication failures, server downtime and other digital verification-related glitches at Fair Price Shops in Maharashtra

that resulted in denial or delay of foodgrain distribution. The Ministry said no such instances had been reported to the Department.

The Centre said multiple authentication modes have been provided under the Public Distribution System, including Single Finger, Fusion Finger, IRIS and Aadhaar-based OTP authentication. In cases where authentication of one household member fails, other eligible family members linked to the ration card can authenticate and draw foodgrains. A nominee facility is also available in exceptional cases.

The Ministry further said e-PoS devices can function in offline mode in areas with limited or no internet connectivity and later synchronise transaction data with the PDS online system.

Chhari Mubarak Rituals Begin As Amarnath Yatra Enters Final Phase

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The traditional rituals marking the final phase of the annual Amarnath Yatra began in Srinagar on Wednesday with the holy Chhari Mubarak, the sacred mace of Lord Shiva, taken to the historic Shankaracharya Temple for special prayers.

The Chhari Mubarak, led by its custodian Mahant Deependra Giri, was taken to the hilltop temple as part of the traditional rituals associated with the annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir.

Special prayers were offered at the temple amid the chanting of Vedic hymns and blowing of conch shells, with sadhus accompanying the holy mace participating in the rituals.

The rituals at Shankaracharya Temple mark an important stage in the traditional Chhari Mubarak pilgrimage, which will continue with a visit to the Shari-ka Bhawani

J&K Among 25 States, UTs Implementing Crop Insurance Schemes: GoI



RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is among 25 States and Union Territories where the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and/or Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is being implemented during Kharif 2026, the Government of India (GoI) informed the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ramnath Thakur in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3895 regarding Crop Insurance

Schemes, raised by Shri Sachithanantham R.

According to the government data, the crop insurance schemes are currently operational in Jammu and Kashmir along with Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The data placed before the House shows that during the last five

Women artisans sensitised about branding, packaging of handmade products



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, Wednesday organised a one-day capacity building programme for artisans and weavers under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme. As many as 100 artisans participated in the workshop, which focused on branding and aesthetic packaging of Geographical Indication

(GI) and One District One Product (ODOP) hand-crafted products. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director (Trainings), Tahira Tabassum, said the capacity building programmes form part of the Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen the craft ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. "The NIFT faculty delivered a session highlighting the advantages of creative packaging and how such interventions enhance the branding of handmade products from Kashmir," she stated. This workshop is the

first in a series of ten programmes being organised with NIPT under RAMP. The series aims to equip artisans with practical skills and insights into the importance of aesthetic packaging and branding, enabling them to compete more effectively in both domestic and international markets. The majority of participants belonged to Noor Ari Producer Company, a women-led collective of nearly 600 members dedicated to women's empowerment and the creation of sustainable livelihoods.

DC Budgam reviews rural sanitation, solid waste management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Wednesday reviewed the sanitation and cleanliness arrangements under SBM (G) and stressed the need for sustained efforts to keep rural areas clean, hygienic and free from waste.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to strengthen cleanliness measures across all Panchayats and ensure regular door-to-door collection of household waste. He called for proper mapping and deployment of hoppers and other sanitation resources to ensure efficient collection and transportation of waste from villages.

He stressed the importance of maintaining clean surroundings in villages and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely lifting and proper disposal of accumulated and legacy waste. He also called for greater community participation and awareness to discourage littering and promote responsible waste disposal practices.

The DC issued strict directions for protection and cleanliness of water bodies and urged the public not to dump garbage or any waste material in streams, roadsides, open spaces or other vulnerable areas.

Emphasising that cleanliness requires sustained collective efforts, he directed the concerned agencies to intensify sanitation drives and ensure regular monitoring of cleanliness in rural areas.

Tiranga Concert at Aglar resonates with Patriotism

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: A vibrant Tiranga Concert was organised at the Mega Fruit Mandi, Aglar, as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga-2026 campaign and celebrations marking 150 years of Vande Mataram. The concert witnessed enthusiastic participation of people, youth, officers and officials, with patriotic performances adding fervour to the celebrations.

MLA Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, District Magistrate (DM) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, SSP Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary, besides other senior officers, officials and dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The event showcased the spirit of national unity, patriotism and pride, with the tricolour serving as a symbol of collective celebration. The gathering also observed the National Anthem and National Song Vande Mataram, further enhancing the solemnity and patriotic spirit of the occasion.

International Youth Day Observed at SAM College Beerwah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BEERWAH: SAM College of Nursing & Para-Medical Sciences, Beerwah, observed International Youth Day Wednesday with enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Murtuza Bukhari, Chairman of the College, highlighted the important role of youth in nation-building and social development. He urged students to focus on education, skill development, discipline,



and service to society.

Emphasising the role of young healthcare professionals, Dr. Bukhari encouraged the students to serve humanity with compassion, profes-

sionalism, and dedication.

The programme featured activities aimed at promoting youth empowerment, leadership, and social responsibility. The

event concluded with a message encouraging the youth to contribute positively towards building a progressive and responsible society.

DC Anantnag reviews progress under Mission YUVA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of various components under Mission YUVA at the DC Office.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Principals of all Government Degree Colleges, Principal Government Polytechnic College Anantnag, Superintendents of Government ITI Anantnag and Seer Hamdan, Employment Officer, DE&CC, Career Counselling Officer, DE&CC, Cluster Heads, Circle-I and Circle-II, Lead District Manager (LDM) Anantnag, District Programme Manager (DPM), NRLM, Block Programme Managers (BPMs), NRLM, and representatives of SBDU/BHD under Mission YUVA.

During the meeting, a detailed review of all major parameters under Mission YUVA was undertaken, including progress achieved in respect of application processing, sanction, disbursement, training and other key indicators.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved in the sanction and disbursement of Mission YUVA cases. Detailed deliberations were held with the Cluster Heads



regarding pending cases and they were directed to closely monitor the pendency and ensure disposal of all pending cases in a time-bound manner, in coordination with the concerned banking institutions.

The District Programme Manager, NRLM, was directed to intensify efforts towards increasing the participation of Lakhpati Didis and facilitating their conversion into viable entrepreneurial beneficiaries under Mission YUVA, particularly through the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 campaign.

Emphasis was laid on greater mobilisation, hand-holding and convergence between NRLM and Mission YUVA for achieving the desired outcomes.

The DC also directed all Principals of Government Degree Colleges, Government Polytechnic College and Superintendents of Government ITIs to ensure effective and smooth implementation of the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 campaign, scheduled to commence from 17th August,

with active participation of students and prospective entrepreneurs.

The Employment Department and Mission YUVA functionaries were directed to intensify their efforts and improve overall performance across all parameters, with particular focus on indicators where progress remains comparatively low. The concerned officers were asked to undertake regular monitoring and coordinated follow-up to ensure that the targets are achieved within the stipulated timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination and adopt a result-oriented approach for strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the district and ensuring effective implementation of Mission YUVA at the grassroots level.

The meeting concluded with directions for continuous monitoring of progress and timely submission of updated status on the identified parameters.

NIT Srinagar organises Tiranga rally under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday organised a Tiranga Rally under the nationwide 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign 2026, as part of its celebrations ahead of India's 80th Independence Day.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the NIT Srinagar community, including Deans, Heads of Departments and Centres, faculty members, non-faculty employees, outsourced staff, students, research scholars, NCC and NSS volunteers and other staff members.

The programme was aimed at promoting patriotism, national unity and pride while encouraging members of the institute community to display the National Flag, the Tiranga,

with pride and respect.

The rally was flagged off by Incharge Director Prof. Roohi Naaz in the presence of Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman. Deans, HoDs, HoCs, faculty members, administrative staff and the institute's Security Officer also participated in the event.

NCC and NSS volunteers were also present during the programme. Participants carried the National Flag and raised patriotic slogans as they marched around the campus in a coordinated display of national pride and unity.

The rally was organised in accordance with the institute's call for active participation in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign 2026. The campaign aims to strengthen citizens' emotional connection to the National Flag and encourage people to display the

Tiranga as a symbol of national pride, unity, and identity.

The rally was part of the broader Independence Day celebrations being organised by NIT Srinagar. The Institute is conducting a series of activities involving students, faculty and staff to mark the occasion and highlight the significance of the country's freedom struggle, national unity and constitutional values.

The Institute's campaign message, "Tiranga - Our Pride, Our Identity, Our Nation," was highlighted as the central theme of the initiative.

The programme concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to the values of patriotism, unity and national service and to celebrating Independence Day with pride and respect for the National Flag.

Mega Tiranga Rally held in G'bal as Part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign-2026, a Mega Tiranga Rally was held Wednesday in Ganderbal with enthusiastic participation of the general public, students, civil administration officials, police personnel and civil society members.

The rally was led by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, and witnessed participation of Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, officers and officials of the civil administration, police personnel, representatives of civil society, school children and a large number of citizens.

Carrying the National Flag and raising patriotic slogans, participants marched through the designated route in Ganderbal,



creating a vibrant atmosphere of patriotism and national pride. The enthusiastic participation of the general public added special significance to the rally and reflected the growing public engagement with the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign.

Students also participated enthusiastically in the rally, carrying the Tricolour and joining the patriotic celebrations. Their participation highlighted the role of youth in promoting the

values of national unity, patriotism and respect for the National Flag.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the enthusiastic participation of citizens and called upon the general public, particularly youth and students, to continue participating in the various activities being organised under the campaign. He emphasized that the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign provides an opportunity for citizens to collective-

ly celebrate national pride and strengthen the spirit of unity and harmony.

The Mega Tiranga Rally formed part of a series of activities being organised across District Ganderbal under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, being observed from August 09 to 17, 2026. Various activities including Tiranga rallies, Har Ghar Tiranga pledge, mass singing of the National Anthem, patriotic programmes and Swachhata Hi Seva activities are being conducted across the district.

The District Administration has been facilitating activities at district, block, panchayat and institutional levels with active participation of government departments, educational institutions, youth, civil society organisations, market associations and the general public to ensure maximum public participation in the campaign.

Patriotic spirit soars across Budgam as DC, SSP lead Mega Tiranga Rally

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Patriotic fervour swept across Budgam Wednesday as Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, along with SSP Budgam, Hariprasad KK, led a mega Tiranga Rally from Sports Stadium Budgam to Bihisht-e-Zehra Park, witnessing massive participation of youth, students and citizens from all walks of life.

The rally, organised as part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2026, witnessed thousands of enthusiastic participants carrying the Tricolour and raising patriotic slogans, reflecting the strong spirit of unity, pride and national commitment among the people of the district.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the overwhelming public response, particularly the enthusiastic participation of the younger generation. "The massive participation in today's Tiranga Rally is a proud moment for Budgam. It reflects the deep patriotic spirit of our people and their strong connect with the national celebrations," said the DC.

He said the mega rally was among the major activities being organised across the district under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign to foster patriotism, unity and national pride among citizens. "The enthusiasm witnessed today is truly inspiring. I appeal to every citizen to continue celebrating the spirit of the Tricolour and make the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign a true people's movement across Budgam," the DC said.

He highlighted that a wide range of activities are being organised across the district, including bike and bicycle rallies, Tiranga rallies, cleanliness and plantation drives, painting and art competitions, and other patriotic programmes, to ensure vibrant and wide-

spread participation in the campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner also appreciated the coordinated efforts of all departments, educational institutions, youth groups, civil society members and citizens particularly young generation for making the campaign a grand success across the district. He urged people to sustain the patriotic fervour and continue participating enthusiastically in the ongoing celebrations.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Vivek Agarwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Taufeeq Ahmad Gazi, Additional Superintendent of Police, Syed Sajad Bukhari and all district and sectoral officers also participated in the mega rally.

The mega rally concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of unity, patriotism and national pride symbolised by the Tricolour.

Thousands join Mega Tiranga Rally in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, a Mega Tiranga Rally was held Wednesday in Anantnag in a smooth and seamless manner.

Organised by District Administration, the rally was jointly led by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, DIG SKR, Javid Iqbal Matoi and SSP, Ashok Amod Nagpure. Senior officer including ADCs, SEs, ACR, ACD, ExEns, as well as district and sectoral heads besides officials from various departments, volunteers, member from Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and citizens from all cross-sections of society, participated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor.

Addressing the participants, the DC said that the district has actively embraced the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and urged everyone to continue the scheduled activities with the same spirit and passion. He noted that the overwhelming participation in the rally made it a vibrant and inclusive show of patriotism and national unity.

Witnessing enthusiastic participation of thousands of citizens from diverse walks of life, the rally commenced at Sports Stadium and culminated at Lal Chowk, Anantnag. The colorful and grand event showcased a spirited commitment to unity, patriotism, and collective resolve in honor of the nation.

NEWS

J&K gets 29 loans worth Rs 3.97 cr under SVAMITVA property cards: Centre

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 29 loans amounting to Rs 3.97 crore disbursed on the basis of SVAMITVA property cards, while Ladakh reported nine such loans worth Rs 1.61 crore, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The information was provided by Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3777 regarding incorrect demarcation of land. The question was raised by Devesh Shakya, Iqra Choudhary, Ruchi Vira and Neeraj Maurya.

According to the data placed before the House, 11,147 loans worth Rs 1,713 crore have been disbursed nationally on the basis of SVAMITVA property cards. The annexure shows 29 loans worth Rs 397.21 lakh in Jammu and Kashmir and nine loans worth Rs 161.18 lakh in Ladakh.

The Ministry said the SVAMITVA Scheme aims to provide Records of Rights to property owners in rural inhabited areas. Under the scheme, drone



surveys and Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) technology are used to prepare high-accuracy maps of village abadi areas and clearly demarcate property boundaries.

As on August 5, 2026, a total of 2.72 crore property cards had been distributed across the country, including 1.04 crore in Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry said it is working with the Department of Financial Services and State Revenue Departments to facilitate acceptance of property cards for bank loans, with State Level Bankers Committees being used to streamline the process.

On concerns regarding the reliability of digital data and property records, the government said draft maps are published by State Governments for claims and objections under

respective State Revenue Acts. It said accuracy is ensured through drone surveys, ground verification, public scrutiny and resolution of objections before finalisation of ownership records.

The Centre further said that the SVAMITVA framework provides for transparent survey, ground verification and disposal of objections before property cards are finalised. In cases where genuine technical issues or survey deficiencies are identified, corrective measures, including re-flying of drones, are undertaken as required.

The Ministry, however, said it does not maintain data on family disputes and litigation arising from alleged incorrect demarcation, nor does it maintain the number of cases where banks have refused to accept property cards as collateral—(KNO)

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates CT Scan Machine at SMGS Hospital

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday visited the SMGS Hospital, Shalamar and Chest Diseases Hospital, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu where she inaugurated key healthcare and academic infrastructure projects aimed at further strengthening medical services and facilities for the people.

At SMGS Hospital Shalamar, Health Minister inaugurated a newly installed 160-Multi Slice CT Scan machine, which is expected to significantly enhance the diagnostic capabilities of the hospital and facilitate timely and advanced medical investigations for patients. The CT Scan Machine has been installed of Rs 8.30 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo said that the newly inaugurated CT Scan machine would greatly benefit the general public who cannot afford the facilities of private hospitals and reduce the rush of other hospitals besides,



it will help to control referral system.

The Minister said that the Government is committed to providing better, accessible and quality healthcare facilities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that strengthening of medical infrastructure and upgrading hospital facilities remain key priorities of the Government.

Sakeena Itoo said that, in response to the long-pending demand of the people of Jammu and adjoining areas for a CT Scan machine, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had issued special directions to address the requirement. With the installation of the machine, the longstanding demand has finally been fulfilled, providing a much-

needed diagnostic facility to the people.

The Minister said that a MRI Machine which has already been sanctioned for SMGS Hospital to install within next two or three months period. She also urged the health authorities to ensure proper cleanliness and hygiene across the hospital premises for the convenience and well-being of patients and attendants.

MLA, Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi also accompanied the Minister during the visit of SMGS Hospital.

At Chest Diseases Hospital Jammu, the Minister also inaugurated the New Academic Complex at Chest Diseases Hospital, Bakshi Nagar. The project is completed at a cost of Rs 8.93 crore.

MLA, DC, SSP Flag Off Mega Tiranga Rally in B'pora

District resonates with Spirit of Unity and Patriotism

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 and the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram, the District Administration Bandipora Wednesday organised a vibrant Tiranga Rally, which resonated across the district with the spirit of unity, patriotism and national pride.

The rally was jointly flagged off by MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, and Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar. The rally commenced from the DC Office, Bandipora and culminated at SK Stadium, Bandipora.

The rally witnessed participation in large numbers, with students, youth, Anganwadi Workers, ASHA workers, officers and officials, and people from different sections of society joining the event with the National



Flag. The streets came alive with the colours of the Tricolour as participants carried flags and banners, reflecting a strong sense of unity and national pride.

Selfie with Tiranga points were also set up at the DC Office premises and SK Stadium, where participants enthusiastically captured moments with the National Flag. The activity added to the festive and patriotic atmosphere and encouraged greater public participation in the campaign.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib congratulated the participants and thanked all stakeholders

for their active contribution towards making the rally successful. She appreciated the enthusiasm shown by students and said that many students interacted with her and highlighted the significance of the Tricolour. She said that the rally was organised in honour of the National Flag and reflected the collective respect and pride associated with it.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated her message of "One Act in the Name of Nation", calling upon people to choose one work and dedicate it to the nation, with the same care and commitment with which one works for their own home.

J&K has 25,568 Waqf properties uploaded on UMEED portal: Centre

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: As many as 25,568 Waqf properties from Jammu and Kashmir have been uploaded on the UMEED Central Portal-2025, with 25,248 properties approved by the designated approver, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The information was provided by Union Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4115, raised by Shri Imran Masood, regarding the digital platform for monitoring

disputed Waqf properties.

According to the State/UT-wise data, Jammu and Kashmir has 223 Waqf properties initiated for entry by the Maker, while 34 properties have been submitted by the Maker and are pending with the Checker. Another 10 properties have been submitted by the Checker and are pending with the Approver.

The data, further shows that five Waqf properties in Jammu and Kashmir have been rejected by the Approver, while none have been rejected by the Checker. As

many as 48 properties have been returned to the Maker.

The Centre said the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) Act, 1995, as amended by the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, came into force on April 8, 2025. Under Section 3(ka) of the UMEED Act, the UMEED Central Portal-2025 was developed and launched on June 6, 2025, for uploading Waqf details, registration of new Waqf and facilitating overall management and governance of Waqf properties.

CM Omar approves ₹5.15 Cr project for Gurudwara Charan Kamal Sahib

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has approved a ₹5.15 crore project for the comprehensive development of the historic Gurudwara Charan Kamal Sahib at Bakhta in Kathua district.

The project envisages the construction of a new Langar Hall and Prayer Hall, besides provision of modern civic amenities for devotees visiting the revered shrine.

The initiative marks another significant step towards strengthening pilgrimage infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir while ensuring the preservation of the region's sacred cultural and spiritual heritage.

The development of the historic Gurudwara will provide improved facilities for devotees and further contribute to the conservation and promotion of Jammu and Kashmir's rich and diverse heritage.



Foreshore Road's Duck Park remains closed during peak tourism season

Locals, visitors disappointed; LCMA says tender expired



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The Duck Park along the Foreshore Road in Srinagar has remained closed, drawing concern from locals and visitors who questioned the authorities over the timing of the closure during the peak tourism season.

Locals said the park, which attracts visitors along the Foreshore and Dal Lake, has remained locked for more than two weeks now, leaving tourists and residents unable to access the facility.

"During the peak tourism season, how can a tourist attraction remain locked? Authorities should ensure that such public places remain accessible to visitors," Umer Ahmad, a local from Nishat, said.

Locals urged the authorities to reopen the park at the earliest. Executive Engineer, Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), told KNO that the tender for the park had expired, leading to the closure of its gate.

"We have already floated the tender for the same park. Once we receive the concerned person, we will open it," the officer said—(KNO)

DC Budgam stresses 100% coverage under Financial Inclusion Schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of registration and implementation of Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) and other Financial Inclusion Schemes including PMJDY, PMJBY and APY in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all concerned departments to ensure 100 percent coverage of all eligible beneficiaries under PM-SYM and directed officers to complete assigned targets in a time-bound manner.

The DC also reviewed department-wise progress under PM-SYM and took stock of the implementation of PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY. He instructed for coordinated and proactive efforts to improve registration and ensure effective implementation of the schemes at the grassroots level.

The concerned departments were directed to substantially improve their performance before the next review meeting. It was also decided to include the District Industries Centre (DIC), Budgam in the implementation and review process.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, CPO, GM DIC, PO ICDS, CMO, ALC, and concerned officers and representatives of the departments.

3,175 yet to get land

3,673 landless households identified under PMAY-G in J&K: Centre

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: As many as 3,673 rural landless households have been identified as eligible under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in Jammu and Kashmir, of which 498 have been provided land, while 3,175 are yet to be allotted land, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan in reply to a starred question raised by Lok Sabha members Benny Behanan and Anto Antony regarding housing for landless households under PMAY-G.

According to the statement laid before the House, a total of 5,61,919 rural landless households have been identified as eligible under PMAY-G across the country. Of these, 3,26,183 have been provided land, while 2,35,736 households

are yet to be provided land by the respective States and Union Territories.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the data, shows that out of 3,673 identified landless beneficiaries, 498 have been provided land, leaving 3,175 households awaiting land allotment.

The government has also reported 3,41,644 PMAY-G houses as the overall target for Jammu and Kashmir. Against this, 3,34,597 houses have been sanctioned and 3,26,860 have been completed, while 14,784 houses remain incomplete against the allocated target.

At the national level, the Centre said that as on August 6, 2026, a total of 1.05 crore houses remained incomplete against the overall PMAY-G targets. The government has approved Phase-II of PMAY-G for completing an additional two crore houses by March 2029.

The Ministry said delays

in completion may be due to several reasons, including unwillingness of beneficiaries, permanent migration, disputed succession of deceased beneficiaries, delay in allotment of land to landless beneficiaries, delays in updating credit confirmation from State IFMIS, elections and unavailability of building materials.

To accelerate construction, the government said it has taken measures including timely allocation of targets, release of funds to States and UTs, regular review of progress, monitoring through a dashboard, workshops with States and Union Territories and Rural Mason Training programmes.

The figures also show that Ladakh has a PMAY-G target of 3,004 houses, all 3,004 have been sanctioned and completed, with no houses reported as incomplete against the target—(KNO)

‘J&K handloom sector gets 2,299 weaver MUDRA loans worth Rs 39.36 cr since 2021-22’

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has received 2,299 loans amounting to around Rs 39.36 crore under the Concessional Credit/Weaver MUDRA Scheme since 2021-22, while 54 upgraded looms and accessories, 32 individual workshops and 145 lighting units have been provided under the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), the Centre informed the Lok Sabha.

The details were provided by Union Minister of State for Textiles Pabitra Margherita in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3786, raised by Adv Devesh Kuriakose regarding Handloom Producer Companies, upgraded looms, workshops, lighting units and Weaver MUDRA loans.

According to the government data, J&K received 781 Weaver MUDRA loans worth Rs 704.91 lakh in 2021-22, followed by 947 loans worth Rs 983.90 lakh in 2022-23. In 2023-24,

627 loans amounting to Rs 794.59 lakh were sanctioned, while 365 loans worth Rs 521.58 lakh were sanctioned in 2024-25.

During 2025-26, the number stood at 281 loans involving Rs 437.10 lakh, while up to June 30, 2026, another 63 loans worth Rs 93.94 lakh had been sanctioned.

Taken together, the figures show 3,064 sanctioned loans in J&K during the period covered by the government's year-wise table, involving around Rs 35.36 crore.

Under the NHDP, the government said need-based financial support is provided for interventions including upgraded looms and accessories, construction of workshops, lighting units and product and design development.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the Annexure-A data records 54 upgraded looms and accessories, 32 individual workshops and 145 lighting units provided between 2021-22 and 2025-26.

At the national level, the government said 237 Handloom Producer Companies were formed under NHDP between 2020-21 and 2025-26. It described these companies as an institutional mechanism for organising handloom weavers into professionally managed, member-owned enterprises.

The Ministry said the Concessional Credit/Weaver MUDRA Scheme is a component of NHDP aimed at providing timely financial assistance to the handloom sector for term loans and working capital. Margin money assistance is provided at 20 per cent of the loan amount, subject to prescribed ceilings.

The government further said a centralised online claim disbursement system, the "Handloom Weaver Mudra Portal", has been developed in association with Punjab National Bank to facilitate timely disbursement of margin money and interest subsidy—(KNO)

J&K poised to script a new cinematic chapter with maiden Int'l Film Festival

CS calls for world-class arrangements to showcase J&K as premier film destination

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday chaired a meeting of senior officers of the Civil Administration and Police Department to review and give detailed shape to the arrangements for the successful conduct of the maiden International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK-2026), scheduled to be held from September 7 to 10, 2026.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Principal Secretary, Home, Commissioner Secretary, Information, Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture, Secretary, Transport, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir, SSP Srinagar as representative of DGP J&K, Director, Information, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Director, Hospitality & Protocol, Joint Direc-



tor, Information (Headquarters); Joint Director, Information (Kashmir Division) and other senior officers from the concerned departments and agencies.

The Chief Secretary observed that IFFJK-2026 is the first festival of its kind in Jammu & Kashmir and, therefore, its inaugural edition should set a benchmark for its future editions. He emphasized that the event is envisaged as an annual affair from this year onwards, requiring meticulous planning and execution so that every edition becomes

more professionally curated and memorable.

He directed all concerned departments to walk through the entire festival process in advance right from the arrival of guests and participants to the conclusion of the event to identify gaps, streamline procedures and ensure seamless coordination. He maintained that the smooth conduct of every component is what ultimately makes an event memorable, professionally accomplished and worthy of appreciation.

The Chief Secretary laid particular emphasis on providing befitting reception and hospitality to all invited dignitaries, filmmakers, artists and other participants. He directed that designated nodal officers be put in place by the General Administration Department at major boarding airports, including Mumbai and Delhi, besides ensuring seamless reception and facilitation at the airports in Jammu and Srinagar.

He underlined that IFFJK provides a significant opportunity to

showcase Jammu & Kashmir's immense potential as both a film destination and a premier tourist destination. He called upon Tourism, Handicrafts, Floriculture, Culture and other concerned departments to make comprehensive arrangements to showcase the region's rich heritage, crafts, culture, landscapes and artistic traditions through curated tours, craft safaris, heritage experiences and other activities for visiting guests.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the need for timely invitations to dignitaries from the Government of India, UT administration and other distinguished guests to ensure their participation. He reviewed in detail the arrangements concerning their accommodation, transportation, hospitality and visits to important tourist and heritage destinations in and around Jammu and Srinagar, aimed at providing them firsthand experience of the region.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

From Appointments To Actual Patient Care

The Jammu and Kashmir Government's decision to strengthen the healthcare workforce and expand specialised medical facilities is a welcome move. Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo's announcement that 900 doctors have already been appointed through the Public Service Commission, with recruitment of another 400 underway, signals a serious attempt to address the persistent shortage of medical professionals across the Union Territory. The referral of another 700 to 800 paramedical posts for recruitment is equally significant. Doctors cannot function effectively without nurses, technicians, pharmacists, radiographers and other supporting personnel. A hospital's strength is ultimately determined not merely by the number of doctors on its rolls, but by the availability of a complete and functional healthcare team.

The proposed expansion of CT scan, MRI, Cath Lab and dialysis facilities at different healthcare institutions is another important step. For patients in remote and semi-urban areas, access to specialised diagnostics and treatment closer to home can mean the difference between timely intervention and dangerous delays. It can also reduce the enormous pressure on tertiary hospitals in Srinagar and Jammu. But recruitment figures and infrastructure announcements must not become ends in themselves. The real test begins after appointments are made and machines are installed. J&K has seen instances where expensive medical equipment remains underutilised because of shortages of trained technicians, specialists, maintenance support or adequate operational arrangements. A machine lying idle in a hospital is no more useful to a patient than a vacant post on a government file.

The government must therefore ensure that recruitment is accompanied by rational deployment. Doctors and paramedical staff should reach institutions where shortages are greatest, particularly district hospitals, community health centres and facilities in remote and difficult areas. Merely adding numbers to the sanctioned strength will not improve healthcare unless personnel are available where patients actually need them. Similarly, specialised facilities must operate round the clock wherever patient load warrants it. CT scans, MRIs, Cath Labs and dialysis units require trained manpower, uninterrupted power, maintenance contracts and efficient referral systems. The government should regularly publish data showing how these facilities are functioning, including utilisation rates and waiting times. Healthcare is not strengthened by buildings, equipment or appointments alone. It is strengthened when a patient can walk into a government hospital and receive timely diagnosis, competent treatment and dignified care without having to travel hundreds of kilometres or depend on private facilities. The current recruitment and infrastructure push provides an opportunity to build a more balanced healthcare system in J&K. The government should now focus on the last mile, staffing, deployment, equipment utilisation, maintenance and accountability. The promise is encouraging. The people of Jammu and Kashmir now need to see it translated into functioning hospitals, shorter waiting periods and better patient care.

India's Judiciary Goes Digital

How E-Courts Mission Is Making Justice More Accessible



SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT

For generations, visiting a court often meant dealing with files, registers, long queues and repeated trips. A person might have to travel a considerable distance to check the status of a case or submit a document. Lawyers and court staff, too, spent a large part of their time handling paperwork and maintaining physical records.

That picture is gradually changing. The e-Courts Mission Mode Project has brought technology into different parts of India's judicial system. From online filing and virtual hearings to digital case records and online access to judgements, technology is changing the way courts function and how citizens interact with them.

The objective is simple: make the justice system more accessible, transparent and efficient while reducing the dependence on physical paperwork.

India has one of the world's largest judicial systems, serving a population of more than a billion people. Managing such a system involves an enormous amount of information. Court orders, petitions, evidence, case files and other documents have traditionally been stored in physical form.

According to the information released by the Ministry of Law and Justice, more than 753 crore pages of court records have been digitised. This is significant because old records can be difficult to preserve and retrieve when they exist only in physical form. Digital records can be searched more easily and protected against physical damage.

The e-Courts project has developed in phases. The first phase focused largely on computerising courts and creating basic technological infrastructure. The second phase expanded citizen-oriented services, including the National Judicial Data Grid, e-Filing, e-Sewa Kendras and video-conferencing facilities.

The third phase, which is currently underway, has a wider ambition. It seeks to create more digital, paperless and intelligent courts by combining digitisation with technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Optical Character Recognition.

One of the most visible changes brought by digital technology is the possibility of accessing court services without always having to visit the court physically.



Through e-Filing, documents can be submitted electronically. Online services also allow litigants and lawyers to check case information, access orders and use other court-related facilities. Video conferencing has added another important dimension. Hearings can be conducted remotely in appropriate cases, allowing lawyers, witnesses and other participants to appear without travelling long distances.

According to the figures highlighted by the government, video-conferencing facilities have been expanded across 7,553 establishments, including courts, prisons and hospitals. More than 4.18 crore remote hearings have been conducted through these facilities. For people living far from courts, particularly in areas where travel can be expensive or time-consuming, such services can make a practical difference.

Previously, preparing and filing a case by lawyers/litigants meant the submission of physical documents. However, the advent of the e-filing system has revolutionized all this. The submission of documents can now be done through the online medium, which eliminates the need for frequent trips. Furthermore, it makes record-keeping much easier.

The system provides facilities for online submission of documents, access to templates and other digital services. According to the information provided by the Ministry of Law and Justice, more than 1.25 crore cases have been filed through the e-Filing platform since its inception. The wider adoption of e-Payments has also simplified the payment of court fees and

finances. This is another example of a small administrative task becoming easier through technology. For the judiciary, digital filing can also reduce the physical storage burden created by millions of documents. National Judicial Data Grid brings greater visibility: Another major development is the National Judicial Data Grid, or NJDG.

The platform provides information about cases pending and disposed of across different levels of the judiciary. It allows citizens, lawyers, researchers and other stakeholders to access judicial data through a common digital platform. This has an important value beyond convenience. When information about cases is available digitally, it becomes easier to understand the workload of courts and monitor the progress of cases. The NJDG has therefore become an important part of the wider effort to make judicial information more accessible.

Digital transformation can create a new difficulty if people do not have the knowledge, devices or internet access required to use online services. The e-Courts Mission has addressed this issue through e-Sewa Kendras. Such centers act as facilitation centers in court complexes. Individuals can get help with e-filing and other digital court services such as certified copies, case information, and other online services. This is crucial since the idea of digital justice has to remain available to people who do not necessarily want to use the internet to access justice. E-Sewa Kendra centers have been opened in many court complexes by the government. According to

the information from the infographic, 1,806 operational E-Sewa Kendras are available in court complexes.

India's judicial system is too large and complex to be transformed overnight. Digitalisation is an ongoing process, and its success will depend on reliable infrastructure, cybersecurity, trained personnel and equal access to technology. There is also a need to ensure that technology remains easy to use. A complicated digital platform can create a barrier just as a complicated physical procedure can. Digital services must therefore be designed with ordinary citizens in mind. The e-Courts Mission marks a significant paradigm shift in terms of the delivery of justice. From the filing of paperwork to digitised documents that can be searched for through the computer, from the process of physical filing to the use of e-Filing and virtual hearings, the Indian judiciary is transforming into the digital era.

The objective, however, remains apparent – a justice system which utilises technology to avoid any unnecessary delay and make information more accessible.

With the third phase of the e-Courts Mission on its way to becoming a reality by 2027, there is no doubt that the process of change will be continuous. It will only remain to be seen how successfully technology assists the citizen when he approaches the court seeking justice.

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

The Infrastructure Of Indifference

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Death is unknown when, where, and how it will come. In our lives, even as the seemingly ordinary are increasingly fraught with dangers, the extraordinary are rife with potholes. Roads are riddled with potholes, uneven roads and streets, unsealed drains, unopened sewer manholes, and damaged roads and bridges. In some areas, school roofs collapse on children, while hospital roofs or slabs collapse on patients and staff. School buses overturn, vehicles coming from the opposite direction suddenly swerve, turning streets into death traps for children. Animals roam the streets and harass elderly pedestrians. After heavy rains, children become stranded on a normal road, turning it into a death trap.

The death of an eight-year-old boy in Rohtak, who drowned in waterlogging after nearly six inches of rain, has once again raised a worrying question: What is the value of a citizen's life? The monsoon season comes once a year. Cities are flooded every year. Drainage and sewerage systems, drains, and roads remain a perennial problem. Officials claim they are prepared and improvements are made every year. However, just a few hours of rain are enough to expose the truth of these claims, as administrations fail to manage them, and rainwater overflows onto the roads. This isn't just a case of one child's death. This is a system where preventable tragedies are often dismissed as accidents, mere coincidences, "fate," and the blame is placed "elsewhere." This is a system where preventable tragedies are often dismissed as "an accident," "It wasn't our fault," or "What else



could we have done?"

It's not just the failure of civic infrastructure, but the manner in which it's failing that's deeply worrying. The change is that citizens now accept failure as natural. There's a pothole in the road, and people say it's "always been there." There's a pothole on the sidewalk, and people say, "Be careful." There's waterlogging, and people say, "This happens after rain." Cattle are straying on the road, and people say, "What can anyone do?" A school building is clearly unsafe, and people think the authorities should address it. There's a government hospital in poor condition, and people say, "This is how government hospitals are." This attitude is dangerous because it becomes the norm and a way of life. If citizens begin to accept risk as a normal part of their lives, the pressure on the administration to improve also decreases.

We must stop treating any preventable tragedy as an accident. When people die because of a pothole that has existed on a road for months, the question isn't just what happened, but why the road remains a hazard. If authorities

are aware of an open manhole but fail to take steps to secure it, and a child falls into it, it's not appropriate to call it "misfortune." The unnecessary collapse of a school building shouldn't be considered just a bad incident. The same applies to hospital safety, the condition of school buses, bridge maintenance, cleanliness, systems, and road quality, as well as stray animal control in schools. These are not administrative matters, but matters of public safety and people's lives.

But the tragedy of our public discourse is that we repeatedly turn a blind eye to these real questions. Any statement with a religious connotation can spark outrage in society. This results in thousands of social media posts, hours of TV studio debates, and political rhetoric. Issues of hurt sentiments, identity, and national honor are discussed. However, the sustained public outrage over accountability for the death of such a child is missing. Why? Does religious controversy diminish the value of an ordinary person's life? Is a child drowning in an open sewer merely local news? Is the death of a farmer, laborer,

elderly person, or student on an unsafe road merely a matter of misfortune? Does it seem that challenging the country to demand answers from the government is forcing it to respond to their demands?

Absolutely not. The government is accountable to the public. People pay taxes and expect safe roads, clean cities, quality healthcare, safe schools, efficient transportation, and basic civic infrastructure. These are not luxuries. They are fundamental factors necessary for a dignified life. Patriotism is not an excuse to conceal any government mistakes. Nationalism does not mean labeling everyone who exposes the country's shortcomings as anti-national. A responsible citizen is one who wants to see the country progress and therefore raises tough questions. Not demanding the repair of a broken road is not anti-national. Demanding that an unsafe school be made safe is not an insult to the nation. Not questioning the safety of a hospital is not anti-establishment. Any criticism of corruption and administrative negligence is not evidence of a foreign conspiracy.

Unfortunately, serious civic issues are becoming divided between political camps. Praising the government is labeled patriotism, while any criticism is labeled opposition or negative voices. Negativity threatens democracy because it leads to a lack of criticism and accountability, essential elements of good governance. The media also plays a major role in this. It is not just a platform to celebrate successes; it should also examine areas where ordinary citizens suffer due to government mismanagement. We all know how much time television channels devote to political debates. They could also devote meaningful time to other issues like road safety, failing drainage systems, school infrastructure, hospital buildings, and civic services. The true nature of a city is not reflected in advertisements or official statements; it is revealed on its streets when it rains.

Development isn't just about building. Maintenance is also a crucial component. Road construction isn't enough; ensuring road safety is essential. Bridge construction isn't enough; regular inspections are essential. Constructing drains is important, but their cleanliness and safety are also essential. Building schools isn't enough; the safety of children in schools is crucial. We can't completely prevent accidents, but many tragedies caused by negligence can be avoided. Accountability is essential for this. When was the road last repaired? When did the pothole form? Why was the manhole open? What caused the drainage system to malfunction?

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

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Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors

Mir Suhail

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

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Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

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Responsible Use Of Cyberspace Begins With Awareness

Promoting Cyber Safety, Privacy And Digital Responsibility Among Students



RAKSHANDA GUL

The internet has become an important part of everyday life. Students use smartphones and digital platforms for education, communication, entertainment, banking, shopping and social interaction. Along with these opportunities, however, come risks that can affect individuals and families. Cyber fraud, online scams, misuse of personal information, financial fraud, fake accounts and the misuse of photographs and videos are becoming common concerns.

Keeping this in view, the Kashmir Women's Organisation (KWO), in collaboration with Government Degree College Hadipora, Rafiabab, conducted an awareness programme on the Responsible Use of Cyberspace. The programme brought students and speakers together for a practical discussion on cyber safety, privacy, self-control, and the precautions to follow when using digital platforms.

A Meaningful Beginning With Surah Al-Ankabut

The programme began with the recitation of Surah Al-Ankabut, Chapter 29, "The Spider." The opening made a meaningful connection to the programme's subject.

In Verse 41, the Quran gives the example of the spider's house for those who seek protection from sources other than Allah. The spider's house may look carefully constructed, yet it is fragile.

Dr Aabida Quanser, who hosted the programme, connected this example with the nature of cybercrime. She explained that a cybercrime trap can also be like a spider's web, delicate and difficult to notice at first, yet capable of trapping a person and causing serious harm. A suspicious link, an unknown call, a false online offer or a request for personal information may appear harmless in the beginning. Once a person responds without thinking, however, the situation can become complicated. The comparison provided an appropriate message for the students: in the digital world, one must learn to pause, think and verify before taking action.

After the opening, Dr Aabida Quanser welcomed the President of the Kashmir Women's Organisation, Darakshan Hassan Bhat, who shared her views on the importance of choosing responsible cyberspace as the subject of the programme. She explained that reports of cybercrime are increasing, while people are becoming increasingly dependent on digital platforms. Young people, in particular, spend a considerable



amount of time online. They use social media, online learning platforms, digital payment applications, gaming platforms and various other services. With greater digital use comes a greater need for awareness.

She stressed that technology is a useful tool when used wisely. The concern arises when people trust strangers, share confidential information, click on unknown links or become attracted to schemes promising quick money. The purpose of the programme was therefore to make students more careful and confident users of technology.

One of the important points discussed during the programme was self-control. People often react quickly when they receive an attractive message, an urgent phone call or an offer promising financial benefit. Cybercriminals use this tendency to create pressure and make people act without thinking.

A simple STOP approach can help users make better decisions:

S — Is it Safe?

T — Is it True?

O — Is it Okay to Share?

P — If possible, pause and verify.

These questions can be applied before clicking on a link, sharing information, accepting an unknown request or transferring money. Taking a few seconds to verify something can sometimes prevent a major loss. The respected Principal of Government Degree College Hadipora, Dr Prof. Tariq Wani, also addressed the gathering and shared some experiences from his tenure.

He was referring to those who have lost money due to various forms of cybercrimes, which include online gaming, fraud, and distribution of OTP. He also noted the desire of some individuals to find a way of earning a lot of money within a short time. Such a desire will make them use the money

that they have saved or even borrow to engage in online games and betting. In some cases, people end up losing everything and falling into debt.

The impact of such losses is rarely limited to one person. Financial problems can put pressure on families, affect relationships and disturb a person's peace of mind. A decision taken within a few minutes online can sometimes create problems that continue for years. The message was clear: there is no shortcut to financial success, and people should be extremely cautious about online platforms promising easy or quick money.

Students were advised not to blindly trust calls from unknown numbers. A caller may introduce themselves as a bank employee, government official, courier representative or employee of a private company. Such claims should always be verified through official channels. Caller-identification applications can sometimes help users recognise a number, but they should not be considered complete proof of someone's identity. Most importantly, people should never share confidential information simply because a caller sounds convincing. If a call appears suspicious, the safest option is to disconnect and contact the concerned organisation using its official number.

The programme also stressed the importance of keeping financial credentials private. OTP, PIN, passwords and banking details should never be shared with anyone. Similarly, people should be careful while sharing debit or credit card details and other financial information. Identity documents such as Aadhaar should also be shared only when genuinely required and through trusted platforms. Users should avoid sending copies of important documents to unknown individuals through social

media or messaging applications. A simple rule can protect people from many forms of fraud: confidential information should remain confidential.

Online gaming and betting were also discussed during the programme. Technology can provide opportunities for education, creativity, employment and communication. However, spending money on risky platforms with the hope of becoming rich quickly can have serious consequences. Young people were encouraged to use technology for constructive purposes and to understand the financial risks associated with online gaming, betting and similar activities.

Before spending money online, a person should ask whether the platform is trustworthy, whether the activity is necessary and whether they can afford the possible loss.

The sharing of personal photographs and videos was another important concern. Students were advised to be careful about whom they trust online. Personal photographs, private videos and other sensitive material should not be shared casually. Once something is shared online, it can be copied, saved, forwarded or misused. Even when a person deletes something later, they may no longer have control over where it has gone. Privacy settings on social media accounts should also be checked regularly. Unknown people should not automatically be given access to personal accounts.

Awareness also means knowing what to do after becoming a victim. India has the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, where citizens can report cybercrime online. Financial cyberfraud can be reported to the national helpline 1930. It is vital to report financial frauds at the earliest because timely reporting will enable the concerned agencies to take proper action against such acts.

She stressed that technology is a useful tool when used wisely. The concern arises when people trust strangers, share confidential information, click on unknown links or become attracted to schemes promising quick money. The purpose of the programme was therefore to make students more careful and confident users of technology.

Citizens are expected to retain evidence like screenshots, transactions, phone numbers, text messages, email and other necessary information. People should also remember that becoming a victim of cybercrime is not something to hide. Reporting the incident can help in taking action against the perpetrators and may prevent others from becoming victims of the same fraud.

The session reminded students to never share OTPs, passwords or personal information, avoid risky online schemes, protect their photographs and videos, and report cybercrime without delay. The comparison with the spider's web from Surah Al-Ankabut offered a meaningful reflection on the subject. A digital trap may appear small and harmless when a person first encounters it, yet it can become difficult to escape once someone becomes caught in it. The interaction between the Kashmir Women's Organisation, GDC Hadipora and the students created an important platform for discussing these everyday challenges. It also showed why cyber awareness needs to reach classrooms, families and communities. The message from the programme was simple and relevant to everyone who uses a smartphone or the internet: Think before you click. Protect what is private. Never share your OTP. Verify before you trust. Use technology wisely, and report cybercrime when it happens.

The Author writes on themes related to women's empowerment, rural livelihoods, entrepreneurship, health, and changing social realities. She can be mailed at rakshandagul629@gmail.com

India's Solar Growth Enters New Era

PIB BACKGROUNDER

Sudhanshu Dubey of Gwalior has for long felt financially drained when it comes to paying his electricity bills. Every month the amount would cross INR 10,000, which is very high for a below-middle-class family. Dubey's power consumption was on the rise until he couldn't bear it anymore and decided to put up solar panels under a government scheme on the rooftop of his house. Dubey, who resides in Jawar Nagar, hasn't paid any bills for more than a year now. His story may appear marginal. However, multiply it by 43 lakh similar households; there is a noticeable difference in the solar panels being made across the country.

That is the single thread worth pulling on, because everything else, whether it is the gigawatts, the tariffs, or the export, all flows from this one shift.

Our Capacity? Solar-related processes in India stopped being a niche technology and became infrastructure, as ordinary and expected as a road or a power line.

Today, the level of scale-up in this field is hard to overstate. Previously, India had about 3 GW of installed solar capacity, a rounding error in the national grid in 2014. These numbers had now crossed 162 GW in 2026; the fiftyfold jump in the past decade is considered very significant considering the fluctuating political and economic situation globally.

This financial year, India has added as much as 44.61 GW of solar capacity,



nearly double the previous year. According to official figures, India is now the world's second-largest solar growth market. Numbers like these usually invite scepticism, targets announced with fanfare, then quietly missed, he rise didn't happen out of nowhere; the "why" about how the change happened is an interesting story. For that context, we need to understand the changing cost of solar in recent years.

Our Trajectory: In 2010, solar power in India was costing about INR 18 per unit. Through competitive e-Reverse Auctions run by agencies like the Solar Energy Corporation of India, developers bid tariffs down year after year, hitting a record INR 2.44 per unit at the Bhadla Solar Park auction in

2017. Bhadla itself tells the story in miniature: a stretch of barren Rajasthan desert, unsuitable for much else, is now a 2,245 MW solar hub. India today has one of the cheapest solar electricity markets in the world. The levelised cost sits at USD 35 per MWh against a global average of USD 44.

The second reason that needs to be emphasised is that policy schemes didn't stop at power plants, it went to rooftops and farms. Take the example of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the wide popular scheme that benefitted the family of Dubey, is now the world's largest residential rooftop solar programme, with over INR 14,771 crore disbursed and 7.7 lakh households already paying nothing

for electricity.

Likewise, another scheme in the form of PM-KUSUM did something similar for farmers, solarising irrigation pumps and letting them sell surplus power back to the grid. Nearly 11.49 lakh solar pumps were installed which meant that over 21 lakh farmers benefited. Distributed solar, rooftops and farms together, now makes up more than a third of all new solar capacity added each year. These numbers matter on the ground because it converted millions of Indian citizens from passive electricity consumers into small-scale power producers, which is a much harder thing to reverse than a policy on mere paper.

The newest chapter in the country's

solar story is the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana, approved earlier in July, with an agenda to put 5,000 MW of floating solar, panels on reservoirs and industrial ponds, paired with battery storage, onto water bodies instead of scarce land.

The Way Ahead: With India's floating solar potential estimated at over 102 GW, and land increasingly the binding constraint on renewable growth, this is less a new idea than a necessary one. None of this means that the job has ended, in the words of PM Modi this is a "revolutionary step" in solar power. "The scope of solar energy initiatives is not limited to energy production, it is creating new skills, developing a new service ecosystem, and expanding investment opportunities at the grassroots," he stressed at the India Energy Week last year. India's 500 GW non-fossil fuel target for 2030 is ambitious, transmission and storage still need to scale fast, and manufacturing self-reliance is a work in progress despite incentives like the PLI scheme.

But the direction of travel, falling costs, rising manufacturing capacity, and millions of individual rooftops joining the grid, is not something that can be manufactured by a press release. It has to be built, house by house, pond by pond, auction by auction. Just like Dubey's near-zero electricity bill should not be seen as an isolated story. It is what national policy looks like when it actually reaches every kitchen and every household showcasing the real measure of India's solar story.

Courtesy: PIB Srinagar

Rs 19.93 Cr Released

Shri Raja A, regarding scholarships for Scheduled Caste students. According to the data, accessed, J&K received Rs 12.96 crore under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students during the three-year period. The Central assistance stood at Rs 4.68 crore in 2023-24, Rs 4.09 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 4.19 crore in 2025-26. Under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs and Others, J&K received another Rs 2.26 crore, including Rs 0.54 crore in 2023-24, Rs 0.82 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 0.90 crore in 2025-26. The combined Central assistance under these two State-wise schemes therefore stood at Rs 15.22 crore for Jammu and Kashmir over the three years.

At the national level, the Centre said a total of Rs 19,216.46 crore was disbursed during the last three financial years towards various scholarship schemes for Scheduled Castes. The amount included Rs 6,094.48 crore in 2023-24, Rs 6,200.59 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 6,921.39 crore in 2025-26.

Of the total national disbursement, the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme accounted for Rs 17,224.63 crore, while Rs 1,469.92 crore was released under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs and Others. The Top Class Education Scheme received Rs 304.29 crore and the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC and other eligible candidates received Rs 217.62 crore.

The government said the Post-Matric and Pre-Matric scholarship schemes are Centrally Sponsored Schemes, under which the Department releases the Central share through the central portal after the respective States and Union Territories release their share.

The National Overseas Scholarship and Top Class Education Scheme are Central Sector Schemes. Under the National Overseas Scholarship, funds are released in advance through Letters of Authorisation to Indian Missions, while funds under the Top Class Education Scheme are released directly to eligible students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

On delays in scholarship disbursement, the Ministry said it reviews the schemes regularly and takes up issues through capacity-building programmes, technical handholding, national-level Chintan Shivirs and workshops involving States, UTs and other stakeholders.

The government further said that DBT into Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts of beneficiaries has streamlined the payment process and reduced delays—(KNO)

LG Sinha Joins

new era. “This is the symbol of a Jammu Kashmir filled with self-confidence and marching firmly toward the future where “Vijayi Vishwa Tiranga Pyara” is a life’s resolve in every citizen’s heart, where every home is a centre of patriotism and where every heart beats in rhythm with the pulse of national unity,” he said.

On this historic occasion, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the people to take collective and personal responsibility for shaping Jammu Kashmir’s and India’s future. He urged the people to ensure that the Tiranga will not only fly high at every home but also in our thoughts, our character, and our actions.

“Let us resolve that the sacred spirit of “Vande Mataram” will reflect in every action, every decision, and the discharge of every responsibility. We should take a pledge to repay the debt of our immortal heroes’ sacrifices by building a nation that is prosperous, secure, just, and opens doors of equal opportunity for every citizen. We should work together to realize the vision of a Jammu Kashmir where the three colours of the Tiranga are visible in the values of life. We should build a Jammu Kashmir that is economically strong and takes unbroken pride in Indian culture, civilization, and spiritual values. The future is ours. This century belongs to India. This is the era of India’s self-confidence, its courage, and its immortal national consciousness,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor honoured Veer Naris and War Heroes. He also inaugurated the Har Ghar Tiranga Exhibition and felicitated the nodal officers of the Vande Mataram campaign.

The celebrations also featured the screening of a special documentary by the Department of Culture, followed by Tiranga concert where artists paid a musical tribute to the nation’s bravehearts.

Shri Justice Rahul Bharti; Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Surinder Kumar

Choudhary; Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Shri Javed Ahmed Rana; Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election, Shri Javid Ahmad Dar; Advisor to Chief Minister, Shri Nasir Aslam Wani; Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board, Dr Darakhsan Andrabi; Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo; DGP, Shri Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shri Shaleen Kabra; Principal Secretary Culture, Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, people from all walks of life, senior officials of Civil Administration, Police and Security forces, and youth in large number joined the Tiranga Yatra.

Wet Weather To

rainfall. Between August 20 and 22, light rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered places, according to the forecast.

Several areas received significant rainfall in the 24 hours ending Wednesday morning, with Pulwama recording 57.5 mm, Poonch 53 mm, Awantipora 47.8 mm and Rajouri 44 mm.

Meanwhile, the weather remained largely warm across the region on Wednesday. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 31.7 degrees Celsius, 1.7 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature was 20.9 degrees, 2.3 degrees above normal.

Jammu recorded a maximum of 35.4 degrees Celsius, 2.3 degrees above normal, and a minimum of 25.5 degrees.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 30.8 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam remained considerably cooler at 27.3 degrees. Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 23.2 degrees Celsius.

Among other stations, Kupwara recorded 30.7 degrees, Kukernag 30.4 degrees, Banihal 32.7 degrees, Batote 30.5 degrees, Katra 33 degrees and Bhaderwah 31.3 degrees Celsius.

The weather office has particularly flagged the August 16-19 period for possible heavy rainfall and brief intense showers, which could temporarily disrupt traffic and affect vulnerable infrastructure in some districts.

Authorities and residents in flood- and landslide-prone areas have been advised to remain alert and follow advisories issued by the administration during periods of intense weather—(KNO)

Row Erupts Over

10 questions during a non-budget session-five starred and five unstarred. However, as per the bulletin issued by the Assembly Secretariat, members have been asked to submit only eight questions in total-four starred and four unstarred—(KNO)

J&K On Maximum

Day functions will be held. “Security personnel are maintaining heightened vigil to prevent any attempt to disrupt the celebrations,” the official said, adding, “Security forces have also intensified area domination and patrolling, while search operations and sanitisation exercises are being carried out in vulnerable areas.”

Drones and other surveillance equipment are being used to monitor sensitive locations and event venues, while sniffer dogs are being deployed for anti-sabotage checks and searches, said another official.

“Roadside checkpoints have been strengthened at strategic locations, with security personnel conducting random as well as targeted checks of vehicles and individuals to detect any suspicious movement,” the official

The Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) are also under heightened vigil, with the Army and BSF maintaining close surveillance along the frontiers and strengthening coordination with other security agencies.

Senior officers have reviewed the security arrangements and operational preparedness in border districts, officials said.

In North Kashmir, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) NKR chaired a security-cum-coordination conference at District Police Lines, Baramulla, attended by senior officers of the Police, Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB and other security formations.

The meeting reviewed the overall security preparedness and stressed close inter-agency coordination, effective area domination, enhanced vigi-

lance, seamless communication and timely sharing of actionable intelligence.

Similarly, DIG South Kashmir Range Javid Iqbal Matoo chaired a security review meeting at the District Police Office in Anantnag, attended by senior officers of the Army, CAPFs and police, including SSPs of districts under the South Kashmir Range.

The meeting reviewed the prevailing security situation, deployment arrangements, surveillance, naka checking, protection of vital installations and security of sensitive locations.

The DIG directed officers to maintain heightened alertness, intensify patrolling and checking, closely monitor the security environment and ensure a swift response to any emerging threat.

Security agencies said the measures are aimed at ensuring peaceful Independence Day celebrations while facilitating maximum public participation across J&K—(KNO)

SIA Conducts

Further details regarding the locations searched and the outcome of the searches are awaited—(KNO)

‘Don’t Just See Kashmir,

is much more than just its scenery,” she said.

Her first impression of Kashmir was one of its greenery and peaceful surroundings. “My first impression was simply, wow! The nature is incredible, but what really caught my attention was how green and peaceful everything feels,” she said.

But it was the people, she said, who added another dimension to the journey. “People have been kind, welcoming and curious about where I’m from,” Bel said, adding that conversations, shared food and simple interactions with locals had made her feel comfortable.

The travel creator said she was particularly surprised by the diversity beyond the famous tourist spots. “There is so much more than the famous tourist spots. The villages, local markets, food, traditions and the daily life of people really surprised me,” she said.

Her culinary journey has also become an important part of the trip, with Wazwan and Kahwa among the experiences she enjoyed most.

“I really enjoyed trying the local food, especially the Wazwan and Kahwa. They were completely new experiences for me, and I really enjoyed discovering the flavours and traditions behind them,” she said.

Bel, who has been travelling with her husband for the past two years, said the couple chose to make travel a major part of their lives, exploring different countries, cultures and ways of living.

She said Kashmir gave her a feeling of being able to slow down and enjoy the moment. “There is something about the mountains, the weather, the people, even the way life feels here that makes me feel very calm. I feel like I can slow down and just enjoy the moment,” she said.

Asked what she would tell people in Tunisia and elsewhere about Kashmir, Bel said visitors should look beyond the usual tourist experience. “Don’t come only to see the mountains and take pictures. Talk to the people, try the food, visit the villages and learn about the culture,” she said. “That’s when you really understand the beauty of Kashmir.”

For the Tunisian creator, Kashmir’s story, she said, is not limited to its mountains and lakes but is also found in the people she meets, the food she tastes, and the small everyday moments she carries back from the journey—(KNO)

49,810 Ration Cards

All States and Union Territories have been advised that genuine beneficiaries should not be denied their entitled quota due to biometric or Aadhaar authentication failure arising from connectivity, linking, technical or poor biometric issues.

To strengthen monitoring of NFSA implementation and generate comprehensive empirical evidence, the Department of Food and Public Distribution has conducted a concurrent evaluation of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) during 2025-26—(KNO)

Chhari Mubarak

Temple at Hari Parbat on August 13. The holy mace will then be taken to the Amreshwar Temple at the Dashnami Akhara in Srinagar, where Chhari-Shapana rituals are scheduled for August 15, followed by Chhari-Pujan

on August 17, on the occasion of Nag Panchami.

The main traditional journey of the Chhari Mubarak towards the Amarnath cave shrine is scheduled to begin from Srinagar on August 22. The holy mace will make night halts at Pahalgam, Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchtarni before reaching the cave shrine for puja and darshan on August 28, coinciding with Shravan Purnima—(KNO)

J&K Among 25 States,

financial years from 2021-22 to 2025-26, farmers in Jammu and Kashmir contributed Rs 60.55 crore as their share of premium under PMFBY. During the same period, claims worth Rs 182.57 crore were reported, of which Rs 172.40 crore had been paid.

At the national level, farmers contributed Rs 18,351.69 crore as their share of premium during the five-year period, against reported claims of Rs 91,318.21 crore, with Rs 86,731.59 crore in claims paid.

The government said the State-wise and insurance company-wise details of premium collected and claims paid have been provided in the annexures accompanying the reply. The company-wise data shows that the Agriculture Insurance Company (AIC) accounted for Rs 38,560.26 crore in paid claims nationally during the period.

In response to a question on States opting out of the crop insurance schemes, the Centre said Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Telangana and West Bengal had opted out after implementing the scheme for a few seasons. However, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal have since re-joined, while the Bihar government has also decided to re-join the scheme.

The latest figures underline the coverage of crop insurance mechanisms in Jammu and Kashmir and the extent of claims settled for farmers under the PMFBY during the five-year period covered by the government data—(KNO)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: - Grant of Registration of Paying Guest House/Home Stay under the name and style “Hamiasto Homestay” Situated at Shamasabad Bemina, Srinagar

Whereas, I/We Rafiq Ahmad Mir S/o Ghulam Mohammed Mir R/o Shamasabad Bemina, Srinagar and Sakeena Mir W/o Rafiq Ahmad Mir R/o Shamasabad Bemina, Srinagar, intend to apply to the office of the Prescribed Authority, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, for registration of our proposed Paying Guest House/Home Stay under the name and style “Hamiasto Homestay”, situated at Shamasabad Bemina, Srinagar, Kashmir, under the Tourist Trade Act, 1978/82/2011.

Whereas, I/We will submit Landownership Certificate from the concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home Stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any, in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bedrooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the Inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view the type of accommodation and amenity), Aadhaar Card.

Now before our case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of the general public/organizations for objections, if any, and the same should reach the office of the Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in a leading local newspaper of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.

ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL

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J&K has 4 software technology park units, exports rise to Rs 19.55 cr in 2025-26: Centre

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir had four registered Software Technology Park (STP) units in each of the last three financial years, with exports through these units rising from Rs 15.14 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 19.55 crore in 2025-26, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw in reply to Starred Question No. 344, raised by Shri B K Parthasarathi, regarding the Software Technology Parks Scheme.

According to the State/UT-wise data, accessed, Jammu and Kashmir had four STP units in 2023-24, four in 2024-25 and four in 2025-26.

The exports from J&K-based STP units stood at Rs 15.14 crore in 2023-24, increased to Rs 16.07 crore in 2024-25, and further rose to Rs 19.55 crore in 2025-26. The three-year cumulative



exports stood at Rs 50.76 crore.

The government data shows no imports were reported by STP units in Jammu and Kashmir during any of the three years—2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

The Centre said the Software Technology Park Scheme is a 100 per cent export-oriented scheme aimed at promoting software and IT-enabled services (IT/ITeS) exports from India. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) provides statutory services through a single-

window clearance system under the scheme.

At the national level, the total number of STP units stood at 2,059 in 2023-24, 2,042 in 2024-25 and 2,125 in 2025-26. Total exports through STP units increased from Rs 6,36,619.87 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 6,88,194.11 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 7,73,898.97 crore in 2025-26.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the reply does not provide a separate state-wise investment figure in the table supplied with the answer. The state-wise table specifically provides

the number of registered STP units and their exports and imports.

The Ministry said STPI adheres to prescribed timelines for approvals and delivery of services under the STP Scheme as outlined in its Citizen's Charter.

Among measures taken to improve ease of doing business, the government said statutory services such as SOFTEX filing, approval and final intimation have been automated. STPI's online system has also been integrated with the Reserve Bank of India's Export Data Processing and Monitoring System for near real-time sharing of export data.

The government further said import procedures have been simplified by replacing case-to-case permissions with blanket import permissions for the concerned financial year, while prior permission for Domestic Tariff Area sales has largely been replaced with self-declaration—(KNO)

Series of activities held under 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign across B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 and the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram, a number of Tiranga Rallies and patriotic activities were held across Bandipora district Wednesday, witnessing enthusiastic participation of students, officers, officials and people from different sections of society.

In Sumbal, a Tiranga Rally was organised from Irrigation Colony, Sumbal, to Degree College, Sumbal. The rally was attended by SDM Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, SDPO Sumbal, Tehsildar Sumbal and Hajin, SHO Sumbal, Commandant 45 Battalion Sumbal, ZEO Sumbal, Executive Engineers of PDD, Irrigation & Flood Control and R&B Departments, besides officers and officials from various departments, members of civil society, President Traders Federation Sumbal, President Senior Citizens Council Sumbal, students, Lumberdars and Chowkidars.

Participants carried the National Flag with pride, reinforcing the message of unity and national pride. In Gurez, a Tiranga Rally was held from the Sports Ground of Government Degree College Gurez to Sumo Stand. The rally was led by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gurez, Mukhtar



Ahmad, accompanied by Tehsildar Gurez, Block Development Officer Gurez and other officials. Officers, officials and local residents participated in the rally with patriotic enthusiasm, carrying the Tricolour and reaffirming the spirit of national unity in the frontier valley. A Tiranga Rally was also held at Habba Khatoon Stadium, Dawar.

As part of the celebrations, people also participated in Selfie with Tiranga activities at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora and S.K. Stadium Bandipora, expressing their pride and respect for the National Flag.

Tiranga rallies and related activities were also held with the participation of Block Bonakot, Block Gurez, Block Arin, Block Hajin, Block Bandipora and Block Nowgam, besides NRLM Bandipora, Department of Agriculture Bandipora, Municipal Council Bandipora, PDD Bandipora, RSETI Bandipora, Poshan Project Gurez and other departments and institutions.

The Department of AYUSH, Bandipora, partici-

pated through awareness sessions, Yoga activities and Tiranga Rallies, sensitising students and community members about the significance of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and respect for the National Flag.

A Tiranga Mahotsav was also organised at the Agriculture Complex, Bandipora, as part of the campaign.

At Government Middle School Kehnoosa, a morning Yoga session was conducted as part of the Tiranga campaign, with 126 participants taking part.

The Ayush Health and Wellness Centre Onagam, Bandipora, in collaboration with Government Middle School Onagam, organised an awareness camp as part of the prelude to Independence Day celebrations. The camp addressed issues concerning youth, including mental health challenges and drug abuse, with emphasis on holistic health and a healthy India.

National Flags were also distributed among students to foster patriotism and reinforce the values of

unity and responsibility.

At Government Girls Middle School, Quil Muqam, SANKALP HEW, Mission Shakti, Department of Social Welfare, Bandipora, organised a day-long International Youth Day programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign in collaboration with the Education Department. The programme was attended by the ZEO, Education Department officials, teachers, SANKALP HEW staff and students.

A mega distribution of educational kits among girl students was conducted to encourage education and support their learning needs. Under Har Ghar Tiranga, students participated in Tiranga awareness activities and a rally, while Har Ghar Tiranga pamphlets were distributed to spread awareness about the significance of the National Flag. The programme also featured cultural activities and awareness speeches focusing on girl child education, empowerment, patriotism and youth participation in nation-building.

The district-wide activities reflected widespread public participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 and reinforced the message of patriotism, unity, respect for the National Flag and collective participation in the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram.

Teen swept away while crossing nallah in Reasi

AGENCIES

REASI: A 17-year-old boy was swept away by strong water currents while attempting to cross a nallah in the Malikote area of Chassana in Reasi district on Wednesday, officials said.

An official said that the incident occurred when the boy was crossing the Omni Nallah near Sanglikote, where he slipped and was swept away by the heavy flow of water.

He said police, along with local residents, soon launched a search operation to trace the boy. The boy was later identified as Nawaz Ahmad (17), son of Mohammad Sharif, a resident of Malikote.

Police have initiated an investigation into the incident—(KNO)

Mega Tiranga Rally held in Kupwara to Mark 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In a mission-mode push to deepen public participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, the District Administration Kupwara Wednesday organized a mega Tiranga Rally in Kupwara town, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, officials and citizens alike.

The Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, being observed nationwide from August 9 to 17, 2026, is a flagship initiative under the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, aimed at fostering a deep sense of personal connection with the National Flag and encouraging every household to hoist the Tricolour as a mark of patriotism and national pride.

The rally also drew inspiration from the ongoing Vande Mataram Campaign, being observed nationwide since last year to commemorate 150 years of the National Song, further reinforcing the

collective spirit of national pride and reverence for the motherland among the participants.

The rally was flagged off from BHSS Kupwara by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, and SSP Kupwara, Syed Al Tahir Gilani. The procession passed through the General Bus Stand, Kupwara, culminating at the D.C. Office Complex, Kupwara.

Adding further vigour to the celebrations, a bike rally and bicycle rally were also flagged off on the occasion, with a large number of students carrying the Tricolour and raising patriotic slogans.

District Officers, sector officers and officials from various departments joined the rally, with thousands of participants marking one of the district's largest turnouts for the campaign so far, further strengthening the collective push to make Har Ghar Tiranga a vibrant, inclusive public movement.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE FLORICULTURE OFFICER ANANTNAG

DEPARTMENT OF FLORICULTURE

Email: anantnag@jk.gov.in

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE NO: 02 OF 2026-27

DATED: 11-08-2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, sealed tenders affixed with Rs.6/- (Rupees six only) revenue stamps are invited in person or through Registered/speed post/Courier from Registered Flower grower/Nurserymen/Supplier on the prescribed tender form for the supply of different Hybrid Seed varieties (Winter) as indicated below.

S.No	Name of Hybrid Seed (Winter)	Variety (Dewarf)
01	Pansy	Majestic Gaint-II scries
02	Dianthus	Super parfait
03	Antirrhinum	Snap shot
04	Pansy	Colossus Scries
05	Ranunculus	Blooming Bells
06	Prime Rose	Original F-1 Mix
07	Geranium	Maverick Scries
08	Calendula	Bon Bon Scries

The Tender must accompany with CDR for an amount of Rs.3000/- from any recognized bank pledged to Floriculture Officer, Anantnag, along with the copy of Registration (Flower grower/Nurserymen/Supplier), PAN card, ADHAR card, GST Registration in a sealed envelope should reach to the office of the Floriculture Officer, Anantnag through speed post or in person upto 20th August 2026 (upto 4.00 PM). The tender documents along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned against cash payment of Rs.100/- (Non-refundable) as per the schedule given below:

1	Date of issue of tender document	13.08.2026
2	Last Date of issue of tender document	17.08.2026 upto 2.00 PM
3	Last date and timing of tender submission	20.08.2026 upto 4.00 PM
4	Date and timing of opening of short tender	21.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM

The tenders shall be opened on 21th August 2026 at 12:30 PM. in the office of undersigned by the committee constituted for the purpose in front of tenderers who may wish to remain present. In case of any eventuality/ Government Holiday, the tender opening date will be considered on other convenient working day.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- The tenderer should quote per packet (1000 seeds) rate of each item separately.
- The items to be procured shall be shortlisted among the tendered items depending upon the actual requirement.
- The quoted rates should be legible. Erosion, overwriting, cuttings if any should be properly attested. The illegible quoted rates, if any, shall be out rightly rejected by the committee and the tenderer shall have no claim over it.
- The successful tenderer shall have to supply the ordered material within the stipulated time mentioned in the Supply order.
- The tenders received after the expiry of the due date and time shall not be acceptable /entertained. The department would not be responsible for any postal delay.
- The 80% payment shall be only made after successful completion of ordered material within the stipulated time period and 20% payment shall be released on the basis of performance/survival report received from the concerned Assistant Floriculture Officer.
- Supplies not conforming to the specifications shall be out rightly rejected at the cost, risk and responsibility of the Supplier.
- The conditional tenders shall be out rightly rejected.
- The tenders opening committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case of dispute, if any, arising during the currency of contract, the decision of the Local Purchase Committee constituted by the Directorate of Floriculture Kashmir vide order No: 331 of 2023 Dated: 10-06-2023 shall be final and binding
- The supply order shall be placed in favour of successful tenderer only after permission from vetting committee constituted by worthy Director Department of Floriculture Kashmir, Srinagar vide order No:-272 Flori of 2026 dated:-08-05-2026.

No: FOA/FD/613-19
Dated: 11/08/2026
DIPK-4476-26
DT: 12/08/2026

(Mazhar Mustafa Ansari)
District Floriculture Officer,
Department of Floriculture,
Anantnag

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI

(PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

e-mail ID: xen-phemds@jk.gov.in

GIST

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: JSMDs/e-NIT- 26 of 08 /2026

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division, Srinagar, invites tenders by e-tenders through e-tendering mode on percentage basis from reputed registered Mechanical/ Automobile firms or authorized service centers for execution of the following works: -

S. No	Name of the work	Estimate cost	EMD	Time of completion	Head Of Account
3.	Servicing of 02 No's of DG sets of capacity 320 KVA installed at WSS Doodhanga.	2,11,798.00	4200/-	30 days	MH-2215 NP (M&R)

Position of AAA: - Accorded Vide Order No: 01/JS MCS of 2026-27 Dated: 06-06-2026

Technical sanction: - Accorded

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-08-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 11-08-2026 (2:00 p.m.) to 21-08-2026 (upto 04:00 pm)
3.	Period of submitting of bids (online)	From 11-08-2026 (04:00 p.m.) to 21-08-2026 (upto 04:00 pm)
4.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	22-08-2026 (02.00 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Srinagar
5.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	After evaluation of technical bid(s)

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, and 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 The Bids Technical bid and financial bid shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website. www.jktenders.gov.in

No: JSMDs/CC/ 2154-58
Dated: 11 /08 /2026
DIPK-4458-26
DT: 12/08/2026

SD/
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division
Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)

Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.

Phone:-01933-295302

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No: 103/EEP/RNB/of 2026-2027/ 5278-88 Dated: 12/08/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Government for the following work: -

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age).	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
1	Construction of Frestbag road at Ratnipora.	24.53 lacs	800/-	2% of ADV. cost	90 working days	CEE/BEE	MH: Road sector New works Capex budget 2026-27	AA: 203/SE/PS of 2026 dt.10.08.2026	1st call

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12-08-2026
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	12-08-2026 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	12-08-2026 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	25-08-2026 upto 0 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	27-08-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security(PS)	Upload a Copy of Performance Security(PS)/ Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No:0470010200000099 IFSC: JAKAOLALANG) Account Name: Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank PW(R&B) Zone South

In light of Circular issued by Finance department Vide No:FD-code/290/2026 Dated 22.05.2026 and circular issued by worthy Chief Engineer PW(R&B)Department South Kashmir Vide order No:CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 Dated: 05.06.2026, the following conditions are mentioned below:-

- 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: JAKAOLALANG) .
- All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG)
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Pulwama MC Holding Account Executive Engineer R&B Pulwama Bearing Account no. 0054010200003470 ,IFSC: JAKAOGOLDEN), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period..

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an 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 R&B Div. Pulwama

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

Head Draftsman
DIPK-4464-26
DT: 12/08/2026

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Pulwama

CMYK

