

Parliamentary Panel Seeks Timely Finding For JJM In J&K

1784 Schemes Under Ambitious Program Still Incomplete

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has recommended adequate and timely financial support for the expeditious completion of works under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Jammu and Kashmir.

In its report, tabled in Parliament on August 7, 2026, the panel noted that the pace of implementation of JJM in the Union Territory has been hit by funding constraints.

“While acknowledging these achievements, the Committee notes that the pace of implementation has been affected by funding constraints, resulting in some delays in completion of infrastructure and coverage of the remaining rural households. The Committee, therefore, recommends that

adequate and timely financial support be ensured for expeditious completion of all pending Jal Jeevan Mission schemes, with particular emphasis on providing functional household tap connections to the remaining uncovered households, upgrading older water supply systems, strengthening water quality monitoring, and completing Har Ghar Jal certification,” the report stated.

The administration of J&K informed the committee that constrained release of funds under JJM during the last two to three years had significantly affected the pace of implementation. “It was stated that work-done claims exceeding Rs 1360 crore remain pending for payment to contractors, resulting in the slowing down of works across the Union Territory. The Administration expressed the



Har Ghar Jal Jal Jeevan Mission

1991 Blast 35-Year Manhunt Ends, Accused Arrested

YOGESH

JAMMU: The Government Railway Police (GRP) Jammu on Thursday arrested an absconding terrorist



accused in a 1991 bomb blast at Jammu Railway Station, bringing a 35-year-old manhunt to an end.

According to the details available, the accused, P-06

'Come, Celebrate I-Day With Enthusiasm' Div Com Invites People To Bakshi Stadium

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Thursday invited people from across Kashmir to attend the Union Territory-level Independence Day celebrations at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar and celebrate the occasion with a lot of enthusiasm.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar Garg said all arrangements for the August 15 event had been finalised, with parade contingents, schoolchildren and various departments participating in the rehearsal.

“I would like to congratulate all the people of Kashmir



and the citizens of Srinagar on the occasion of Independence Day in advance. I would also like to invite everyone to come to Bakshi Stadium on August 15 and be a part of this national event,” he said, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said people could attend Independence P-06

1,086 Hectares Of Forest Land Diverted In J&K In Three Years: Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has had 1,086.01 hectares of forest land approved for diversion for non-forestry purposes during the last three years and the current financial year up to August 6, 2026, the Centre informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The figure forms part of the 82,817.92 hectares of forest land approved for diversion across the country during the period under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The total area is equivalent to around 828.18 square kilometres.

According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the forest land approved for diversion in Jammu and Kashmir accounts for approximately 1.31 per cent of the national total.

Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh said forest cover in the country is assessed every two years by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, using remote sensing technology along with extensive ground verification.

The India State of Forest



Report (ISFR) 2023 placed India's total forest cover at 7,15,342.61 square kilometres, accounting for 21.76 per cent of the country's geographical area. The assessment also showed an increase of 156.41 square kilometres in forest cover compared with 2021.

The Centre said proposals seeking diversion of forest land are considered individually in accordance with the applicable laws, rules and guidelines. Authorities assess the potential impact of each proposal on

forests, wildlife and the wider environment before granting approval.

According to the government, forest land can be diverted only when such use is considered unavoidable and site-specific, while the area approved is kept to the minimum necessary for the proposed project.

Approved projects are also subjected to various safeguards and mitigation measures. These include compensatory afforestation, P-06

J&K Records 4 Crimes Against Foreign Tourists In Three Years: Govt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded four cases of crimes against foreign tourists during 2022-24, with one case charge-sheeted and none resulting in a completed trial or conviction, according to data placed by the Union Ministry of Tourism before the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The data, sourced from the National Crime Records Bureau's Crime in India reports, shows that JK registered two cases each in 2022 and 2024, while no such case was recorded in 2023.

In 2022, two cases were registered against foreign tourists, with one charge-sheeted. In 2023, the Union Territory reported no such case. In 2024, two cases were registered and one was charge-sheeted. No trial was completed and no conviction was recorded in JK during the three-year period.

City & Local Guides P-06

Lightning Strike Kills 2 In Anantnag

MeT Forecasts Intense Showers From Aug 16

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Two persons were killed and two others injured in a lightning strike in South Kashmir's Anantnag District on Thursday as rain lashed several parts



of Jammu and Kashmir, with the Meteorological Centre predicting spells of heavy rain and thunder-

showers across the region between August 16 and 19.

An official said the lightning struck the Gawran Nard area of Anantnag district, killing Faizan Ahmad, 18, son of Mohammad Yaqoob Chard, of Gawran, and Bilal Ahmad Battana, 16, son of Nazir Ahmad, of Redwani Gawran.

Sajad Ahmad Battana, 15, son of Sai Battana, and Shareef Ahmad Battana, son of Jumma, both residents of Redwani Gawran, were injured in the incident and shifted to PHC Larnoo for treatment.

Meanwhile, rain and thundershowers were reported from several areas, including Budgam, Poonch, Rajouri, Shopian, Kulgam, Reasi, Udhampur and the Banihal-Ramban belt, besides parts of central and north Kashmir, the Meteorological Centre said. The weather P-06

DGP Reviews Security Preparedness Ahead Of I-Day Celebrations Across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP) J&K Nalin Prabhat today chaired a security review meeting at PCR Kashmir to assess security preparedness and arrangements ahead of the Independence Day celebrations across the Union Territory of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Spl DGP Coordination J&K, ADGP CID J&K, IG BSF Ftr HQ Kashmir/Jammu, IG CRPF SOS/KOS/Jammu, IGP Kashmir Zone, IGP Jammu Zone, IGP Security J&K, IGP Railways J&K, IGP Traffic J&K, DIG SSB Kashmir/Jammu, all Range DIsG of J&K, DIG Armed/IRP Kashmir/Jammu, all District SSPs/PDs of J&K, SSP PCR Kashmir, SO to ADGP Armed, SO to IGP Kashmir, SSP APCR Kashmir, SP Cargo Srinagar, and other senior officers.



During the meeting, DGP Nalin Prabhat reviewed the operational preparedness and stressed heightened alertness, intelligence-based operations, and prompt response to maintain a robust security grid. He also emphasised effective deployment of manpower, enhanced area domination, and close coordination with other security agencies to further strengthen the overall security apparatus.

Reviewing arrangements at major venues, particularly

Bakhshi Stadium, Srinagar, the DGP emphasised effective traffic regulation and parking management in and around the venue. He directed the concerned officers to ensure seamless coordination so that people attending the ceremony face minimal inconvenience and have adequate access to facilities.

Detailed discussions were held on security preparedness, deployment of personnel, intelligence inputs, traffic management, and other P-06

ISRO Taking Steps To Tackle Rising Satellite Congestion: Dr Jitendra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is seized of the issue of proliferation of a large number of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellations or Satellite Internet constellations causing accumulation of Space debris and is taking all possible steps for its mitigation and prevention, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said in a reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

ISRO's 'Debris Free Space Mission' will play a key role in safeguarding space assets and limiting further generation of debris through Active Debris Removal (ADR) and other means, the Minister added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that satellite constellations for



internet connectivity typically consist of a few thousand satellites, significantly increasing collision risks in orbital regions around their respective orbital shells. While many large constellations have autonomous collision avoidance capabilities, some satellites may fail on-orbit and may not be capable of manoeuvring to avoid collisions.

The Minister further noted that small-sized untrackable debris poses an P-06

Saffron Growers Demand Stronger Corm Conservation; Say 'Red Gold' At Risk

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: Concern is growing among saffron growers in south Kashmir over the continued shortage of quality saffron corms, with farmers and local stakeholders urging the authorities to strengthen measures to prevent their illegal transportation outside Jammu and Kashmir and establish dedicated nurseries for multiplying quality planting material.

The demand comes at a time when Kashmir's traditional saffron industry is already facing several challenges, including changing weather conditions, fluctuations in productivity and inadequate availability of healthy planting material.

Growers said that the unchecked removal of saffron



corms from the Valley could further weaken the crop by reducing the stock available for local cultivation.

“Saffron is not merely an agricultural commodity for us; it is our heritage and livelihood. If quality corms leave Kashmir illegally, there will be less planting material available for local farmers

in the coming years,” said Mohammad Ashraf, a saffron grower from Pampore.

Another grower said that the shortage of good-quality corms was already affecting farmers and that authorities should focus on creating a reliable system for producing and distributing certified planting material.

“Farmers should not be forced to depend on whatever planting material is available in the market. The government needs to ensure that healthy and quality corms are produced locally and made available to growers at reasonable rates,” he said.

Farmers have welcomed the Agriculture Department's plan to establish Saffron Seed Multiplication Nurseries in the Pampore area, saying the initiative could play a crucial role in addressing the shortage of quality corms.

The proposed nurseries are expected to multiply healthy planting material and create a dependable source of quality corms for growers.

Farmers believe that expanding such facilities across major saffron-growing areas could reduce P-06

CS Directs Project Shelf Prep For SASCI, Reform-Linked Funds

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a meeting of all Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners to undertake a comprehensive sector-wise and department-wise review of expenditure under the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX), Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) and NABARD-funded projects, besides reviewing the position of revenue generation across different sectors.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners, DG, Resources; DG, Budget; Director, Resources and other senior officers and HoDs of the Finance and Planning Departments.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary directed departments to prepare a shelf of projects under SASCI for the next financial year, with all requisite formalities like securing P-06

Records 35 Pc Surplus July Rainfall Breaks 8-Month Deficit Spell In J&K



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 35 per cent excess rainfall in July, breaking an eight-month spell of below-normal precipitation that began in November last year, according to data shared by independent weather platform Kashmir Weather.

According to details obtained, the Union Territory received 259.7 mm of rainfall against the normal of 192.6 mm during July, resulting in a surplus of 35 per cent, the data showed.

The turnaround was particularly marked in the Kashmir Valley, where all districts except

Shopian recorded above-normal rainfall during the month.

Baramulla registered the highest surplus in the Valley at 165 per cent, followed by Ganderbal at 110 per cent and Pulwama at 108 per cent. Srinagar and Anantnag recorded a 71 per cent surplus each, while Kulgam was 51 per cent above normal.

Bandipora and Kupwara recorded surpluses of 33 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively, while Budgam remained marginally above normal with a six per cent surplus.

Shopian was the only Kashmir district to record a deficit, with rainfall 40 per cent below normal P-06

Srinagar to get designated Street Food Zones

Street food zones to balance livelihoods, food safety, sanitation: SMC Comm

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has issued Operational Guidelines for establishment of designated Street Food Cart Zones across Srinagar, marking a significant step towards bringing street food vending under a structured, transparent and sustainable framework.

The initiative, being implemented under the leadership of SMC Commissioner, Fazlul Haseeb, seeks to create organised spaces for street food vendors while ensuring food safety, sanitation, pedestrian convenience, traffic management and responsible use of public spaces.

In the first phase, locations identified for designated food cart zones include Opposite JKTDC Water Sports, Dalgate Bund, Badamwari, JVC Bemina, Magarmal Bagh and Rajbagh, besides an identified location along the right side of River Jhelum.

Each designated zone will have a regulated holding capacity determined on the basis of available space, pedestrian movement, accessibility, traffic conditions and fire-safety considerations.

“The objective is not merely to regulate street food vending, but to create



organised, clean and dignified spaces where vendors can pursue their livelihoods while ensuring that public convenience, sanitation, pedestrian movement and the character of Srinagar’s public spaces are fully protected,” said Commissioner, SMC.

The guidelines recognise street vending as an important source of employment, entrepreneurship and affordable food services, while addressing challenges associated with unregulated concentration of food carts, including traffic congestion, obstruction of pedestrian movement, inadequate sanitation and improper disposal of waste.

Under the framework, food carts will be required to conform to standardised designs and specifications and comply with prescribed requirements relat-

ing to food hygiene, potable water, waste segregation, waste water management and fire safety. Licensed carts will also be required to prominently display applicable municipal and FSSAI permissions, along with menu and price lists.

The framework provides for different categories of non-motorised and motorised food carts, based on their size and nature of operation. Motorised food vending vehicles will require applicable clearance from the Motor Vehicles Department before municipal permission is granted.

A structured mechanism has also been prescribed for scrutiny of applications and allotment of spaces, with emphasis on transparency, fairness and adherence to the carrying capacity of individual designated zones.

The guidelines have

been formulated in consonance with the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, the Jammu and Kashmir Street Vendors Rules, 2020, and the Model Scheme notified in 2021.

With Srinagar witnessing substantial pedestrian, vehicular and tourist movement, the Corporation envisages the designated zones as organised and well-managed spaces where street food businesses can operate without compromising public convenience, cleanliness, traffic movement or the distinctive character of the city.

“Srinagar has a vibrant street-food culture, and our approach is to organise and strengthen this sector rather than displace it. The designated zones will provide greater predictability for vendors while enabling the Corporation to maintain cleaner, safer and more accessible public spaces,” Fazlul Haseeb added.

The initiative is expected to provide a more predictable and dignified operating environment for street food vendors while strengthening the Corporation’s ability to manage public spaces through a transparent, accountable and sustainable regulatory framework.

International Youth Day

AYUSH Health and Wellness Centre Nadihal organises Awareness Camp

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: On the directions of the District Administration Bandipora, the Ayush Health and Wellness Centre, Nadihal, organised an awareness camp on the occasion of International Youth Day, as a prelude to the upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

Addressing the students, Resource persons highlighted that the well-being of young people extends beyond physical health and includes emotional strength, responsible decision-making and the ability to seek help when facing difficult cir-



cumstances. Students were sensitised about recognising early signs of emotional distress, managing stress, developing healthy coping mechanisms and building resilience in the face of personal and social challenges.

Keeping in view the importance of preparedness during emergencies, a First Aid Box containing essential medical supplies was formally handed over to the school in-charge by the Medical Officer, Ayush Health and Wellness Centre

Nadihal. The initiative is intended to strengthen the school’s preparedness to respond promptly to minor injuries and emergencies until professional medical assistance is available.

Adding a strong sense of national pride to the programme, National Flags were distributed among the students. The activity served not merely as a symbol of the approaching Independence Day, but also as an opportunity to remind the young generation of the values represented by the national flag—unity, dignity, responsibility and service to the nation.

Mega Tiranga Rally at Sadhna Top echoes with spirit of Patriotism, Unity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The majestic heights of Sadhna Top reverberated with patriotic fervour Thursday as the Tricolour soared high at 10,500 feet during a grand Tiranga Rally organised at the iconic Shaurya Gatha Complex under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, commemorating the spirit of national pride and the 150th anniversary of the timeless patriotic legacy of “Vande Mataram.”

Organised by the Sub Divisional Administration Karnah, the mega event witnessed overwhelming participation from students, civil society members, veterans, ex-servicemen, ex-PRIs, Lambardars and officials, who came together to celebrate the honour, glory and pride associated with the National Flag.

Against the magnificent backdrop of the Himalayan ranges, the Tiranga fluttered majestically, symbolising the nation’s unity, sacrifices of countless heroes and the unwavering spirit of patriotism. The participants marched with immense enthusiasm, carrying the message of Har Ghar Tiranga and reaffirming their commitment to uphold the values and dignity represented by the Tricolour.



The culminating ceremony was held at the Army facilities at Shaurya Gatha Complex, Sadhna Top, where the gathering was sensitised about the significance of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and the importance of keeping the spirit of patriotism alive in every home, heart and action.

The enthusiastic participation of students and veterans remained the highlight of the occasion, beautifully reflecting the blend of youthful energy and the invaluable experience of those who have served the nation.

The presence of civil society members and community representatives further strengthened the message of unity, harmony and collective pride.

The Tiranga Rally at this iconic high-altitude location emerged as a pow-

erful symbol of national unity, conveying that the Tricolour transcends every geographical boundary and continues to unite citizens across diverse landscapes with a shared feeling of pride and belonging.

The Sub Divisional Administration Karnah expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Army Authorities for their valuable support, cooperation and hospitality in making the concluding ceremony at Shaurya Gatha Complex a grand success. The administration also lauded the enthusiastic participation of veterans, civil society members, students, ex-PRIs, Lambardars and all stakeholders whose collective spirit transformed the event into a memorable celebration of patriotism, unity and national pride at one of the most iconic locations of the region.

Vande Mataram Flash Mob performances held at Kulgam

GMK NEW NETWORK

KULGAM: A first-of-its-kind Vande Mataram Flash Mob was organised at Ghanta Ghar, Kulgam, by the Municipal Council Kulgam in collaboration with the District Administration Kulgam, as part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga celebrations.

The vibrant flash mob witnessed enthusiastic participation by students and youth, who presented a spirited performance on the patriotic theme, dedicated to the National Song, Vande Mataram.

The unique spontaneous event attracted the attention and appreciation of the general public and created a lively patriotic atmosphere at Ghanta Ghar, the heart of Kulgam town with presence of officers from district administration including ACR, Kulgam, Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Tehsildar, Kulgam, Nisar Ahmad Wani, CEO, MC Kulgam, Mohd Irfan with diverse sections of public.

The event was aimed at taking the message of patriotism beyond conventional programmes and engaging the younger generation through music, performance and public participation towards creating awareness on the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram. It also sought to inspire citizens to actively participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and celebrate the spirit of national unity and pride.

DC Kulgam leads Grand Tiranga Rallies at Panchanpathri

GDC under 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: As part of the nationwide Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and commemoration of 150 Years of Vande Mataram and in the run-up to the Independence Day celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam leads massive Tiranga Rallies Thursday at Panchanpathri and Government Degree College, Kulgam.

The rallies were organized by the District Administration Kulgam in collaboration with the Sub-divisional Administration DH Pora and Degree College, Kulgam to invoke the spirit of patriotism and to promote reverence for the National Flag and National Song.

Participants marched with the tricolor in their hands, amid echoing patriotic songs that filled the atmosphere with unity and national pride.

At Panchanpathri, the



rally proceeded through the high altitude meadow located in the Sub division, which was also joined by SDM, DH Pora, Bashir Ul Hassan, Tehsildar, DH Pora, Zahid Ganie and an appreciable number of local citizens and students.

At Degree College Kulgam campus, the DC led Tiranga was joined by Principal, GDC, college faculty members and students which passed through the town.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam said that Tiranga is a symbol of national pride, unity, and sacrifice for every Indian. He highlighted that the Har Ghar Tiranga aims to deepen the connection of

citizens, especially the youth, with the values of freedom and nation-building.

“The overwhelming participation of students and citizens today reflects the indomitable spirit of our district. I urge every household to hoist the National Flag with pride from 13th to 15th August and make this campaign a mass movement,” the DC said.

He appreciated the efforts of the Principal, faculty, and students of GDC Kulgam for their active role and for remaining at the forefront of national campaigns. He also commended officials and volunteers for ensuring the smooth conduct of the event.

Mega Tiranga Rallies held across Anantnag; SDMs lead vibrant marches

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, Mega Tiranga Rallies were held Thursday across the subdivisions of district Anantnag at Dooru, Pahalgam, Bijbehara and Kokernag, with enthusiastic participation from officers, officials, students, youth and the general public.

The SDMs and senior officers led the rallies in their respective jurisdictions, with officials from various departments joining the marches in large numbers. The rallies witnessed participants carrying the National Flag and raising patriotic slogans, reflecting a strong spirit of unity and national pride.

At Dooru, the rally was led by SDM, Parvaiz Rahim with the procession starting from Hospital and culminating at Fountain Head, near Court Complex. At Pahalgam, the rally, led by CEO PDA, Hilal Nasrullah Jerri alongside SDM, Amit Gupta, commenced from Selfie Point and culminated at Main Market.

ADDC Anantnag reviews DPR for Model Solar Village under PM-SGMB Yojana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to review the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for implementation of the “Model Solar Village” (MSV) component under the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana at DC Office.

The meeting was attended by Superintendent Engineer, KPDC, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the committee was apprised that the Model Solar Village initiative of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) aims to promote widespread adoption of renewable energy in rural areas, reduce dependence on conventional energy sources, lower electric-

ity expenditure and carbon emissions, and promote energy self-reliance and sustainable development.

Under the initiative, one Model Solar Village is to be developed in each district across the country, with a total programme outlay of ₹800 crore and Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of ₹1 crore earmarked for each selected village.

The committee discussed the proposed renewable energy interventions envisaged for Gopalpora Kalan for cumulative generation of 103 KW at an estimated cost of Rs 1.03 crore. These include a 10 kW on-grid rooftop solar system for one SHG fruit processing unit, hybrid rooftop solar systems with battery storage at one SHG apple grading line, government schools, community structures, besides a 100LPH solar-powered RO system at another Government School.

DLSA G'bal organises Awareness Programme on Fundamental Rights

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, under the chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and under the guidance and supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, organised an awareness programme for students on Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties of Citizens, Access to Free Legal Aid and Benefits of Various NALSA Schemes.

Burjeena Hameed and Asmat Ameen, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels, served as Resource Persons.

Burjeena Hameed sensitized the students about the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India and the corresponding Fundamental Duties of citizens, while

Asmat Ameen apprised them about free and competent legal aid and various NALSA schemes available for vulnerable and disadvantaged sections.

The programme witnessed active participation from students and teachers. The students were encouraged to remain aware of their constitutional and legal rights and duties and to disseminate legal awareness within their families and communities.

Siraj Din, Principal of the School, appreciated the initiative of DLSA Ganderbal and emphasised the importance of legal awareness in nurturing responsible and law-abiding citizens.

The programme concluded with the message that awareness of rights and performance of duties are equally essential for building a responsible and inclusive society.

‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Campaign gains momentum across Bandipora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 and the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram, a series of patriotic activities were held across Bandipora district, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students, youth, officials and members of the community.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Bandipora, through Zone Quil, conducted a Cycle Rally under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and youth, who carried the Tricolour and spread the message of patriotism, national unity and pride.

A Tiranga Yatra was also held in Sumbal under the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram, with

participants carrying the National Flag and reaffirming the spirit of unity, patriotism and national pride.

Patriotic activities were also conducted at the District Fund Office Bandipora, where officials and staff participated in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign by holding the National Flag and expressing their respect for the Tricolour.

Anganwadi Centres across the district also joined the celebrations, with District Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan, and children proudly displaying the National Flag and participating in activities aimed at fostering patriotism and awareness about the significance of the Tiranga from an early age.

On the occasion, the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Bandipora, organised a Tiranga Rally with its staff

and candidates under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026, promoting patriotism, unity and pride in the Tricolour.

The Department of AYUSH, Bandipora, participated in the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign through awareness sessions, yoga activities and Tiranga Rallies, with enthusiastic participation from students, officials and community members. Selfie videos and photographs were also taken with the Tiranga, spreading the message of patriotism, national pride and respect for the National Flag.

The activities reflected the widespread participation across the district 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.

DLSA B'la to hold Third National Lok Adalat of 2026 on 12th Sept

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Baramulla in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committees of District Baramulla is going to hold the 3rd National Lok Adalat of 2026 on 12th September 2026.

The Lok Adalat will be held at District Court Complex Baramulla as well as at all the Tehsil Legal Services Committee Headquarters of District Baramulla.

During the Lok Adalat both Pre-Litigation and Post-Litigation cases including compoundable cases, NI Act under Section 138, labour disputes, Mact Case, Bank Recovery matters, Water Bills and Water arrears, Matrimonial case and other civil cases will be taken for amicable resolution.

In this regard, all concerned parties and advocates desirous of settling their cases through the National Lok Adalat have been advised to approach the District Legal Services Authority, Baramulla, or the concerned Tehsil Legal Services Committees on or before September 5, 2026, for necessary processing and inclusion of their cases in the Lok Adalat.

J&K Govt approves Chief Minister's Digital Internship Programme 2026

Six-month paid programme to provide hands-on GovTech experience to students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has accorded approval to the Chief Minister's Digital Internship Programme 2026 (Batch-I), a six-month paid internship initiative aimed at providing talented local youth with hands-on experience in emerging areas of technology and digital governance.

Executed by the J&K e-Governance Agency, the programme will offer eligible students pursuing BE/B.Tech, M.Tech, MCA and M.Sc. in Computer Science/Information Technology an opportunity to gain practical exposure through their engagement in real-world GovTech projects.

The initiative will provide interns with hands-on learning opportunities in areas including GovTech, cybersecurity and digital services, enabling them to understand and contribute to technology-driven solutions for governance challenges.

The programme will also provide structured mentorship from leading experts, helping interns strengthen their technical capabilities and gain valuable professional experience.

To recognise excellence and encourage innovation, interns will receive certificates signed by the Chief Minister, while the best-performing projects will be considered for the 'Best Intern Initiative Award'. As part of the programme, selected interns will receive a monthly stipend of ₹10,000, providing financial support while they gain practical experience in the field of digital governance.

The Chief Minister's Digital Internship Programme reflects the Government's steadfast commitment to empowering youth, recognising merit and creating meaningful opportunities for local talent to contribute to Jammu and Kashmir's digital transformation.

By connecting young technology professionals with real-world governance requirements, the initiative seeks to nurture innovation and channel their skills towards developing practical solutions to contemporary public service challenges.

'Robust security setup' in place across Kashmir ahead of Aug 15 events: IGP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Security agencies across Kashmir on Thursday conducted full dress rehearsals for Independence Day celebrations, with Inspector General of Police Kashmir Vidhi Kumar Birdi saying that a "robust security setup" has been put in place across the Valley.

Speaking to reporters, Birdi said full dress rehearsals were held in different districts along with rehearsals of security arrangements ahead of the main August 15 programmes.

"As you all know, today a full dress rehearsal for the August 15 functions is being held across Kashmir," Birdi said. "Full dress rehearsals have been conducted in different districts of the Valley, along with rehearsals of the security arrangements, so that we can conduct the main programme on August 15 smoothly."

Asked about a recent security report claiming that Al-Qaeda was behind the November 25 Red Fort blast in which Dr Umar was killed, Birdi declined to comment on the report,



saying the issue was not appropriate to discuss on the occasion.

"I think this is not appropriate to discuss on this occasion," he said, adding that any information, if available, would be conveyed separately. "But, as you have said, such a thing is not in our knowledge so far, which you are bringing to light."

On security measures following recent attacks, the IGP said investigations were continuing in the areas where the incidents had occurred, while district-level security arrangements were being strengthened.

"Investigations are underway," Birdi said. "Apart from that, all the robust security arrangements are being organised by the respective districts."

There is quite a robust security setup."

Birdi also appealed to people to participate in large numbers in Independence Day programmes being organised across Kashmir. Kashmirtravel guide

"August 15 is a national event," he said. "We appeal to the people to come in large numbers and participate in the August 15 events being held in the districts, different administrative units and at the UT capital, and make them successful."

Asked about a threat circulating on social media, Birdi said the focus at present remained on security arrangements for Independence Day.

"I think, for now, we should limit ourselves to August 15 and its security," he said.

Satish Sharma meets delegations, reviews issues concerning Food Supplies

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Thursday met several delegations at Srinagar and had detailed feedback on a wide range of issues concerning the public service delivery and departmental functioning across Kashmir.

During the interaction, various delegations apprised the Minister of issues pertaining to Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, transport connectivity, sports infrastructure and promotion of sporting activities in different areas of Kashmir. The representatives highlighted their local requirements and sought the Minister's intervention for addressing the issues affecting the people in their respective areas.

Several delegations projected issues related to



availability, distribution and supply of essential commodities besides matters concerning the functioning of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department.

The Minister sought details regarding the concerns raised and emphasised the importance of ensuring regular and adequate availability of essential commodities, particularly in areas where people may face logistical or geographical challenges. He directed that genuine public grievances be examined at the appropriate level and stressed that the delivery mechanism should remain responsive, transparent and people-centric.

The delegations also raised issues related to public transport services and connectivity to different areas of Kashmir, including the need for strengthening existing services and addressing gaps in connectivity.

Satish Sharma emphasised that an efficient public transport network is critical for students, employees, traders, patients and the general public, particularly in areas where the people have limited alternatives. He called for assessment of the existing transport requirements and stressed the need for better route planning, rational deployment of available resources and strengthening of services wherever necessary.

Full Dress Rehearsals held across Kashmir ahead of 80th I-Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To assess preparedness, synchronize ceremonial proceedings and identify any gaps requiring immediate attention, full dress rehearsals for the upcoming 80th Independence Day celebrations were held across all districts of Kashmir Division with dignity, discipline and patriotic fervour.

The rehearsals marked the culmination of extensive preparation and provided a vibrant preview of the grandeur and patriotic spirit that will exemplify the national celebration on August 15.

The rehearsals featured an impressive March Past by several contingents, showcasing discipline, coordination and ceremonial precision. The events also witnessed captivating cultural presentations by students and various performing troupes that underscored the values of patriotism, discipline and national unity.

At Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, hoisted the National Flag, oversaw the parade, and received the salute during the full dress rehearsal for Independence Day festivities at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

Several contingents participated in the march-past parade, including units from the Police, CRPF, NCC Cadets, students, and various security agencies.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner witnessed a series of cultural performances that showcased patriotic and cultural songs performed by different artist groups, troupes, and students, aimed at fostering national pride among the citizens.

Senior officials present on the occasion included the IGP Kashmir, DIGPs, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, SSP Srinagar, and other high-ranking officers from security and administrative departments.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner laid floral wreath at Balidan Stambh, where he was welcomed by the Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar, DIG Police, and other civil and police administration officials.

During his address to media, Anshul Garg conveyed his heartfelt greetings to the citizens in anticipation of Independence Day and affirmed that all arrangements have been finalized to ensure a remarkable celebration at Bakshi Stadium.

He noted that today marked the final rehearsal for departments, contingents, and students for the impressive display on Independence Day.

He invited the residents of Srinagar to attend the national celebration at Bakshi Stadium, announcing that entry would be free for the public.

He also assured that comprehensive security

measures have been implemented and that there is close collaboration among security agencies.

At Baramulla: The full dress rehearsal for the 80th Independence Day celebrations was successfully conducted Thursday at Showkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla, ahead of the main function scheduled to be held at the same venue on August 15.

At Anantnag: A full dress rehearsal for the upcoming Independence Day 2026 celebrations was held today at Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial, Government Degree College (Boys), Anantnag.

At Shopian: A full dress rehearsal for Independence Day celebrations was Thursday held at District Police Lines (DPL) Shopian.

At Bandipora 13: The full dress rehearsal for the 80th Independence Day celebrations was held Thursday across Bandipora district with patriotic fervour and active participation of students, security forces, officials and the general public.

At Kulgam: In preparation for the 80th Independence Day celebrations, a full dress rehearsal was conducted Thursday with patriotic fervor at the District Police Lines, Kulgam.

At Budgam: In connection with the Independence Day-2026 celebrations, a full dress rehearsal was held Thursday at Sports Stadium Budgam.

Full dress rehearsal held at MA Stadium

Div Comm Jammu hoists Tricolour, takes salute at March Past

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The full-dress rehearsal of the Independence Day Celebrations-2026 conducted Thursday here at MA Stadium.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar hoisted the National Flag and took the salute from marching contingents during the rehearsal.

In his address, the Divisional Commissioner congratulated the participants and urged them to uphold the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation. He encouraged them to imbibe the spirit of patriotism and selfless service in their daily lives. He further appealed to the citizens to participate enthusiastically in the Independence Day celebrations and reaffirm their commitment towards nation-building, while paying homage to the freedom fighters whose



sacrifices made the nation's independence possible.

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr Rakesh Minhas, SSP Jammu Joginder Singh and other senior sectoral officers were present on the occasion.

The full dress rehearsal began with the recitation of the National Song, followed by flag hoisting, singing of the National Anthem, inspection of the parade, the chief guest's address and the full-dress march past.

The parade, comprising contingents of BSF, CRPF, SSB, 15 JKAP IR Bn (Female), 18 JKAP IR

Bn (Male), District Police Jammu, JKAP-8th Bn, SDRF 2nd Battalion, Fire & Emergency Services and Forest Protection Force was led by Parade Commander Surinder Kumar Choudhary, SP of 14 JKAP IR Bn and Deputy Parade Commander Mohammad Shafiq, SP of 2 JKAP IR Bn.

Sixteen student contingents from government and private schools, including those from Sainik School Nagrota, besides NCC Boys and Girls, BSF Brass Band, J&K Armed Police Pipe Band and school band troops from five institutions also took part in the march past.

Div Com, IGP Jammu review arrangements for Buddha Amarnath Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu Zone Bhim Sen Tuti Thursday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the smooth, safe and successful conduct of the Shri Buddha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

The meeting was informed that the Yatra would commence on August 17, 2026 here from Base Camp Bhagwati Nagar. Detailed discussions were held on the movement plan, security arrangements, traffic regulation, road maintenance, essential services and facilities for pilgrims along the route.

DIG, Traffic J-S-K Range; DIG R-P Range; Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch



and Reasi; SSP Jammu; SSP Traffic Jammu; SSP NHW; Director Health Services Jammu, besides other senior officers of the concerned departments, participated in the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to complete respective tasks well in advance and ensure seamless coordination at every level. He emphasized

that adequate facilities must be available at designated locations to ensure the convenience, safety and comfort of pilgrims.

The Inspector General of Police directed the traffic department and security agencies to regulate the movement of buses and private vehicles as per the approved route and schedule. The officers were asked to ensure that pilgrims depart and reach designated halts within

Secy RDD chairs meeting to finalize career progression framework for PAA's

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development (RDD) and Panchayati Raj Department, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Thursday chaired a meeting to finalize the structured, transparent and merit-based career progression framework for the Panchayat Accounts Assistants (PAAs).

The meeting was attended by Director, Rural Development, Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani; Director, Rural Development, Jammu, Shahnaz Akhtar; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Additional Secretary Waseem Raja; Deputy Legal Remembrancer Parmjeet Singh and other senior officers.

The Secretary directed the officers to formulate the framework based on verified data regarding sanctioned strength, vacancies, deployment and financial implications. He emphasized exploring rationalization and restructuring of existing posts to create meaningful promotional avenues.

Aijaz Asad also directed for creation of a comprehensive electronic database of existing posts and vacancies. He called for a comparative study of career progression structures followed by other departments, States and UTs.

The Secretary stressed that progression should correspond to higher responsibilities, enhanced duties, competence and accountability while safeguarding the legitimate interests and promotional prospects of existing employees. An examination- and assessment-based mechanism was also discussed.

Pertinently, a committee, headed by Director Rural Development Kashmir, has already been constituted to finalize the Assured Career Progression framework in light of the observations of the Finance Department and submit its recommendations in a time-bound manner.

The proposed framework is expected to benefit around 1,700 PAAs recruited through JKSSB.

Farooq Abdullah greets people on the onset of Rabi Ul Awal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Muslims across the world on the arrival of the blessed and sacred month of Rabi-ul-Awwal.

In their message, they said that Allah Almighty has bestowed Rabi-ul-Awwal as a month of blessings and great significance. It was in this month, on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal, that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the last Messenger of Allah, was born, the duo said.

The duo expressed hope that this blessed month would become a source of strength and elevation for the Muslim Ummah, the preservation of humanity and the establishment of lasting peace across the world. They prayed that Allah Almighty may always guide mankind to remain steadfast in the teachings of Islam, saying that the wealth and blessing of faith is the greatest success and achievement in both worlds.

Meantime Dr. Farooq also urged the divisional administration to ensure that all necessary facilities are made available to devotees at Hazratbal and other shrines during the Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) celebrations and related congregations.

Tiranga Concert at Manasbal celebrates Patriotism through cultural performances

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026', a Tiranga Concert was organised Thursday at the Open Air Theatre, Manasbal Park, bringing together students, youth, government officials, civil society members and a large number of members of the general public to celebrate patriotism, national unity and pride in the Tricolour.

The concert featured soulful live performances and patriotic renditions by the Rooh Band, which received an enthusiastic response from the audience. The musical performances created an atmosphere of patriotic fervour and collective celebration against the picturesque backdrop of Manasbal.

Adding to the vibrancy of the programme, students presented colourful cultural performances on patriotic themes and songs, showcasing their talent and expressing their love for the nation through music, dance and cultural expression. The performances were warmly appreciated by the audience and added a special dimension to the celebrations.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Taking Kashmir's Craft Heritage To The World

The launch of JK Karigari, the Jammu and Kashmir Government's official marketplace for authentic local products, is more than the unveiling of another digital platform. If implemented with sincerity and sustained properly, it can become an important bridge between the region's traditional artisans and a rapidly expanding national and global market. For generations, Kashmir's handicrafts have carried the identity of the region far beyond its geographical boundaries. Pashmina, Kani and Sozni embroidery, papier-mâché, walnut wood carving, carpets and crewel work are not merely commercial products. They represent centuries of craftsmanship, patience and cultural inheritance. Yet the artisans who create these products have often remained the weakest link in the value chain, while middlemen and counterfeit products have taken a substantial share of the market.

This is where JK Karigari can potentially make a difference. The platform's emphasis on authenticity, QR-based traceability and direct payments to artisan groups addresses two longstanding problems at once: consumer confidence and fair remuneration for craftsmen. If a buyer can scan a QR code and identify the artisan group, district and GI-linked credentials behind a product, the traditional crafts economy can move towards greater transparency.

Equally significant is the focus on women's self-help groups under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission. With thousands of SHGs and around 50,000 women members associated with DAY-NULM across J&K, the initiative has the potential to transform household-level skills into sustainable economic opportunities.

But the success of JK Karigari will ultimately depend on what happens after its launch. A government marketplace must not become merely another website inaugurated with ceremony and forgotten once the headlines disappear. It needs professional marketing, reliable logistics, quality control, timely payments, customer support and continuous technological upgrades. Products from remote districts must reach buyers efficiently, and artisans must receive their payments without bureaucratic delays.

The government must also guard the platform against the very practices it seeks to eliminate. Authenticity certification should be rigorous, transparent and periodically audited. The promise of "no middlemen" must remain a reality rather than a slogan. Most importantly, artisans should have a meaningful voice in determining product pricing so that a genuine price reaches the maker.

The proposed interstate collaborations are equally important. Kashmir's handicrafts cannot remain dependent solely on local tourism. They need access to major consumer markets across India and, eventually, international buyers. Strategic partnerships with exhibitions, e-commerce networks, hotels, tourism operators and export institutions could give JK Karigari the reach required to become a serious marketplace.

There is also a larger cultural opportunity here. Technology should not merely help sell Kashmiri crafts; it should help preserve them. As traditional skills face the challenge of changing lifestyles and declining interest among younger generations, better incomes can make craftsmanship economically attractive to the next generation. JK Karigari therefore deserves to be viewed not simply as an e-commerce initiative but as an intervention in Jammu and Kashmir's cultural economy. The government has provided the platform. The real test now is to ensure that the artisan remains at its centre. If authenticity is protected, payments remain direct, quality is uncompromised and markets are continuously expanded, JK Karigari can achieve something far more valuable than online sales—it can help ensure that the hands preserving Jammu and Kashmir's heritage finally receive the recognition and reward they deserve.

Depression In Children

A Wake-Up Call For Valleyites We Cannot Ignore



DR. FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI

A child sat quietly in a doctor's clinic, head down, refusing to answer simple questions. His mother spoke instead. "He has everything," she said. "Good school, good home, no financial problem. I don't understand what is wrong with him." The doctor gently asked the child, "Are you happy?" There was a long silence; his neck was bent, and there was no eye contact. Then came the answer: "I don't know." That three-word reply should worry us.

We often associate depression with adults with loneliness, financial stress, failed relationships or the pressures of life. But depression does not wait for adulthood. It can affect children and adolescents too, and it is increasingly becoming an under-recognised challenge. The danger is not merely that we fail to diagnose it. We often fail to recognise that there is a problem at all.

A child who withdraws may be labelled "quiet". One who loses interest in studies may be called "lazy". Irritability may be dismissed as "bad behaviour". Falling grades are blamed on smartphones. Excessive sleep is called indiscipline; sleeplessness is blamed on late-night screen use. A child who says, "Nobody understands me," may simply be told, "You have everything. What do you have to be sad about?"

And so the child learns to remain silent: Adults may describe sadness, hopelessness or loss of interest. Children, however, may present differently. Irritability, anger, frequent crying, unexplained physical complaints, social withdrawal, declining academic performance, disturbed sleep or appetite, loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities and sudden behavioural changes may all be warning signs. One symptom alone does not establish depression. Children have difficult days, mood swings and examination-related stress. The concern arises when changes are persistent, significant and interfere with school, relationships, family life or normal functioning.

The important message is simple: behaviour is often a child's language. Before punishing the behaviour, ask what the behaviour is trying to communicate. Why are children under such pressure? Childhood today is very different from the childhood many of us remember. Academic competition begins early. Expectations are high. Marks have become a measure of intelligence, worth and even family pride. Entrance examinations, coaching,



tuition and constant comparison can leave little space simply to be a child. Then there is the digital world.

Social media exposes young minds to carefully edited versions of other people's lives, beauty without flaws, success without struggle, wealth without hardship. Cyberbullying, online humiliation and the fear of being excluded can magnify insecurity. At home, parents may unintentionally add to the burden. "Look at your cousin." "Why can't you score like him?" "We are spending so much on your education." "You have no reason to be unhappy."

These sentences may appear harmless to an adult. To a vulnerable child, they can sound like rejection. And sometimes the problem is not pressure but disconnection. A child may live in a loving family and still feel emotionally alone.

Pick them early: Early recognition is not about putting a psychiatric label on every unhappy child. It is about identifying distress before it becomes a crisis. Parents, teachers, family physicians, paediatricians and school counsellors are often the first people who can notice a change.

A child who was once outgoing becomes withdrawn. A good student suddenly stops submitting work. A football-loving teenager stops playing. A talkative child becomes unusually silent. A previously confident adolescent develops intense self-doubt.

These changes deserve curiosity, not immediate condemnation. The first response should be, "Tell me what is happening." Not: "What is wrong with you?" That distinction can open or close a child's world. The school has a critical role: Hawkish Eye. Schools cannot become psychiatric hospitals, nor should teachers be expected to diagnose mental illness. But schools can become powerful early-warning systems.

Teachers see children for hours every day. They notice changes in attendance, concentration, friendships, behaviour and academic performance. A basic mental-health awareness programme for teachers could help them recognise warning signs and know when and where to refer a child. School counselling should not be reserved only for children who are "troublesome". It should be part of routine student support. Mental health education should also be age-appropriate and stigma-free. Children should learn that seeking help is not weakness.

Stop making every problem a discipline problem: There is a tendency to punish symptoms we do not understand. A child who refuses school may be punished for being stubborn. A teenager who stays in bed may be called lazy. An irritable adolescent may be labelled disrespectful. A student whose marks suddenly fall may be threatened with punishment. Sometimes discipline is necessary. But discipline without understanding can deepen the problem. The better approach is firmness with empathy.

Ask: What changed? When did it begin? What happened around that time? There may be bullying, academic pressure, family conflict, grief, abuse, social isolation, body-image concerns, learning difficulties or another underlying problem. Listen without immediately fixing: Parents often want to solve everything immediately. The child speaks; the parent gives advice. The child complains; the parent compares. The child cries; the parent says, "Be strong." But sometimes children do not need an immediate solution. They need someone who will stay with them while they are hurting.

Ten uninterrupted minutes of genuine listening may be more valuable than an hour-long lecture. Put the phone away. Look into their eyes. Listen. Do not mock. Do not

minimise. Do not threaten. And above all, do not make the child regret having spoken.

Professional help is not a failure: Persistent or severe symptoms require professional assessment. A paediatrician, family physician, child psychologist or child and adolescent psychiatrist can help determine what is actually happening and what support is appropriate. Depression is treatable. Depending on the child's age, severity and circumstances, treatment may involve psychological therapies, family interventions, school support and, in selected cases, medication under specialist supervision. The earlier significant problems are recognised, the greater the opportunity to intervene before they disrupt education, relationships and development.

And when a child expresses thoughts of self-harm or suicide, the situation must never be dismissed as attention-seeking or teenage drama. It requires immediate, serious professional attention and close supervision.

We need a cultural shift: The larger challenge is stigma. We readily take a child to a doctor for fever, asthma or a fracture. Why should emotional suffering be treated differently? The brain is an organ. Mental health is health. We must also stop romanticising suffering. "Children today are too sensitive" is not an explanation. Every generation faces different pressures. Our responsibility is not to compare their struggles with ours but to understand them. Perhaps the most important preventive intervention is neither expensive nor complicated.

Insights, take away home: a daily family conversation. A meal without phones. A teacher who notices. A parent who listens. A friend who stays. A doctor who asks one extra question. Sometimes the intervention begins with something as simple as, "You don't seem like yourself lately. I am here. Tell me."

A wake-up call: Depression in children is not a fashionable diagnosis, nor should every behavioural change be medicalised. But neither can we continue ignoring persistent emotional distress because the child appears to have a comfortable life. Behind a closed bedroom door may be a child fighting a battle nobody sees.

We cannot wait for falling grades, a school refusal, a breakdown, or worse, to finally ask what happened. Pick them early. Listen carefully. Intervene compassionately. A child does not need a perfect childhood. A child needs to know that when life becomes difficult, someone will notice, someone will listen, and someone will stay. That may be the difference between a child silently sinking and a child finding the strength to rise.

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Black Plagiarism, White Plagiarism And The Myth Of Meritocracy

BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

Plagiarism is the highest form of academic misconduct and the lowest level of academic practice; it undermines integrity in the processes of knowledge production and dissemination. It destroys the conditions necessary for the growth of integrity and critical scholarship that questions dominant narratives of power during the processes of learning and teaching within and outside the classroom. All forms of plagiarism are academic and professional stigmas. However, some forms are not a form of academic dishonesty. Inadvertent plagiarism takes place accidentally, under work pressure, due to a lack of academic training, or owing to a lack of awareness about plagiarism itself. Self-plagiarism, casualness in putting proper citations and references, paraphrasing, and patchwriting are often products of bad academic and professional practice, whereas direct or indirect forms of plagiarism are absolutely unacceptable and should be treated as academic misconduct. All forms of plagiarism must end to uphold academic integrity, thereby producing unbiased knowledge for the greater good of academics in particular and society in general. Plagiarism free environment creates a dependable culture of knowledge production and dissemination based on public trust that empowers researchers, students and writers.

All universities and research institutions have strong policies on research ethics, research integrity and plagiarism. Yet most universities are lenient on plagiarism when considering a student's academic background and personal circumstances. For example, allowances are often made for students with autism or other neurodevelopmental differences, abilities, disabilities or differently able students or for students coming from an academic culture where they have not previously been exposed to plagiarism as a concept. Thus, before blanket application of plagiarism policies and practices, universities and institutions

of higher education try to understand the context and do not punish the student for ignorance beyond their own control.

Academic leniency on plagiarism is neither a defence of plagiarism nor a celebration of it; rather, it is a compassionate learning process that creates conditions in which campuses and classrooms become 'safe places for not knowing'. Punishment-free academic practice is good practice, enabling students, researchers and practitioners of higher education to learn about plagiarism as an academic misconduct that undermines their own practice, integrity and outcomes. Knowledge production is a collective activity; acknowledging each other's ideas and work through citations and references is a way of celebrating one another in the process of knowledge production and in its collective foundation of both its production and dissemination.

Whitesupremacists and their inherent racist behaviour have been on public display across the UK, Europe and the US following the resignation of Prof. Jason Arday from Cambridge University due to allegations of plagiarism. Prof. Arday was the youngest black professor of sociology of education. He has not only acknowledged his mistakes publicly but also clarified the reasons behind them, without seeking to justify them. This is the mark of a reflective scholar with integrity. Autism can create conditions for inadvertent plagiarism. This may well have been the case for Prof. Jason Arday; neither he nor his supporters defend plagiarism by him or by anyone else. Yet one witnesses a relentless, coordinated and well-organised campaign that is directed not merely against Prof. Arday personally but operates as a racist smear campaign against people of colour, aiming to undermine their creative abilities within and outside the university. Such a colonial racist campaign must be exposed and opposed before it does further damage to race relations in Britain.

Double standards are practised by universities like Cambridge, both in the application of policies and in the principles surrounding plagiarism. One white professor at Cambridge copied



his undergraduate student's work and published it as his own. The student complained, and the university tribunal upheld the complaint, yet allowed the professor to continue in his job and later promoted him to the post of associate professor. The tribunal concluded that the white professor's plagiarism was a "product of negligent acts but was not deliberate." This case was widely reported; details can be found here (<https://www.varsity.co.uk/news/26105>). There was no coordinated campaign against this professor. The professor's solicitor threatened journalists and others with legal action if the matter was reported, despite the plagiaristic practice. The same university, the same policy, but double standards in practice—this defines Cambridge University, which used Prof. Jason Arday as their poster boy to hide rampant racism and the lack of representation of people of colour within its academic structure and operations.

Prof. Arday not only acknowledged his mistakes and the limitations of his work in public but also resigned from his post after the allegation; he did not threaten anyone. By contrast, here is a white professor who plagiarised, threatened legal action with the help of a solicitor, and did not even apologise to the student whose work he copied. This is not merely about black plagiarism versus white plagiarism. It is about double standards in the application of policies and institutional practices. White supremacist arrogance and its

institutional practice at Cambridge and beyond are products of racialised knowledge traditions in the UK and Europe that continue to undermine people of colour, functioning as an invisible hand that promotes colonial Eurocentric racist knowledge traditions as science. This is the foundation on which white supremacists stand, coordinate and campaign against Prof. Arday.

British, European and American universities are bastions of racism; they continue to perpetuate colonial, racist and Eurocentric knowledge traditions as the dominant ones based on racialised and colonial perceptions. As a result, there are only 270 black professors out of more than 26,000 professors in UK universities – less than 1%. At Cambridge University itself, there are only 75 Black academics out of 6,180 academics. These are not accidental outcomes but products of systemic racial discrimination. People of colour are marginalised without any defence, even when it comes to addressing racial pay gaps in UK universities and other workplaces across the country.

Prof. Arday is more qualified than many white Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors, Deans, Deputy Deans and other white management and leadership figures who are underqualified yet get themselves the title of professor without producing a single page of

published work and have never taught in their lifetime. These unqualified and underqualified white leaders cannot even write an email without copying it from generative AI, yet they continue to lead universities, schools and departments across the UK universities. The so-called British meritocracy is mere white arrogance and ignorance based on white supremacist ideology and colonial, biased knowledge traditions – conditions that breed situations like the one Prof. Arday faced, while underqualified white managers and academic leaders get away with their plum salaries without any academic scrutiny and managerial accountability. Network is more important than talent in Britain. British meritocracy is a myth.

Prof. Arday's issue is not an individual one; rather, it reveals racialised institutions, processes and systems that actively discriminate against people of colour and campaign publicly to undermine, humiliate, disgrace and destroy their lives. Such a white supremacist culture and its racist campaign, conducted in the name of research integrity and plagiarism, is fraudulent and hypocritical; the normalisation of racism is the real intention.

Silence in the face of such a racist onslaught is complicity with white plagiarism, which is always deemed accidental, whereas black plagiarism is treated as a crime. Such double standards reveal the wider systemic racism in the UK. The white supremacists and their racialised capitalist system want to perpetuate standardised knowledge and skills for compliant minds and a compliant society, whereas radical knowledge traditions liberate people and their societies from the narrow silos of patriarchal, feudal, colonial and capitalist system. Thus, the anti-racist campaign is a collective campaign to liberate ourselves from colonial, racist, biased Eurocentric knowledge traditions that undermine the emancipatory logic of education and the emancipation of human beings.

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■ Unseen Enemy

The Year We Learned To Keep Our Distance



SYED MAJID GILANI

Some years we remember by their dates. Some we remember by what they made us feel. The days of Covid-19 are among those memories for me. Since my teenage years, I had seen strict curfews, civil strikes and hartals. I had seen busy roads suddenly becoming empty and normal life coming to a standstill. But I had never imagined that one day a disease could bring the whole world to a kind of curfew, what we came to call a lockdown.

I had seen and heard how a small bullet could take a human life, leaving behind blood and wounds. But I had never imagined that a microscopic virus could take countless lives without visible wounds or blood, often without anyone knowing how close the danger was. That was Covid. It came quietly, but it changed almost everything around us. In the beginning, we watched the news about what was happening in other countries. We discussed it among ourselves, but somehow we did not imagine what was waiting for us. Then came the lockdown.

Srinagar suddenly looked different. Roads that were normally busy became empty. Shops were closed. Offices became deserted. Schools and colleges shut down. Public transport stopped and people stayed inside their homes. It was strange to see Srinagar so quiet. A city that was always full of movement had suddenly become still.

The masjids, which were normally full of people, had no people. The sight of empty masjids was something I had never seen before. Markets, which were usually crowded and full of activity, also became deserted. Family gatherings disappeared. There were no normal visits, no usual Eid gatherings and no sitting together with relatives as we had always done. Nobody knew who could be carrying the virus. We were told to keep a distance of six feet. Even shaking hands, which had always been a normal way of greeting someone, became something to avoid. Instead, people started bumping their fists.

A simple cough or cold could make people suspicious. If somebody sniffed, coughed or had fever, people immediately became alert. It could have been an ordinary cold, but during those days the first thought was Covid. Even a guest coming to the house was quietly watched for any sign of illness. Nobody wanted to be rude, but the fear was there. Covid had entered our minds even before it entered many homes.

One thing became clear during those days: the virus made no distinction. It did not matter whether a person was rich or poor. Everyone was vulnerable. Entry into and exit from Jammu and Kashmir were restricted. Those arriving in Kashmir had to undergo Covid tests at designated testing centres, including the airport and the Tourist Reception Centre. Those who tested positive were shifted to quarantine or Covid care facilities. Hotels and lodges that had once welcomed tourists were now being used as quarantine centres. It was a strange sight.

People followed the number of cases and deaths every day. At the same time, rumours were everywhere. Someone would talk about ginger. Someone else would recommend cinnamon, herbs or some desi medicine. Different foods and drinks were suggested. Messages kept coming on mobile phones, with someone forwarding something and saying, "I have heard this is very effective."

At that time, it is difficult to know what was true and what was not. There was so much fear and confusion that people were ready to believe almost anything that gave them a little hope. There were also many theories about Covid itself. Some called it a game or a drama, while others talked about China and described it as a kind of war. Everyone seemed to have his own explanation.

With the passage of time, many of those claims and rumours turned out to be false or baseless. Covid, however, was very much a reality. We had seen it with our own eyes, in the empty streets, silent markets, hospitals, quarantine centres, the deaths,



the fear and, for many families, in the illness of their own loved ones. Mobile phones became our main means of communication. People spoke to relatives through calls and video calls because meeting in person was no longer easy. Even a haircut and beard trimming became a matter of concern. A barber sits very close to you. His hands, his trimmer and his instruments come near your face

I had seen and heard how a small bullet could take a human life, leaving behind blood and wounds. But I had never imagined that a microscopic virus could take countless lives without visible wounds or blood, often without anyone knowing how close the danger was.

and head. Before Covid, none of us had thought about these things. Now we did.

At home antiseptic and disinfectant liquids became almost essential. We used them for cleaning many things. Anything coming from outside was looked at with suspicion. There were even people who would bathe with antiseptic liquids. We knew that these were not treatments for Covid, but those were unusual days. Somehow, using them gave people a feeling that they were doing something to protect themselves.

Doctors, paramedical staff, attendants and visitors had to follow Covid safety protocols. Along with face masks and gloves, full-body protective gowns were also used in hospitals and quarantine centres. Soap also became a constant part of our daily routine. We carried it to workplaces, kept it in our vehicles and washed our hands again and again. It became one of the simplest ways in which we felt we were protecting ourselves.

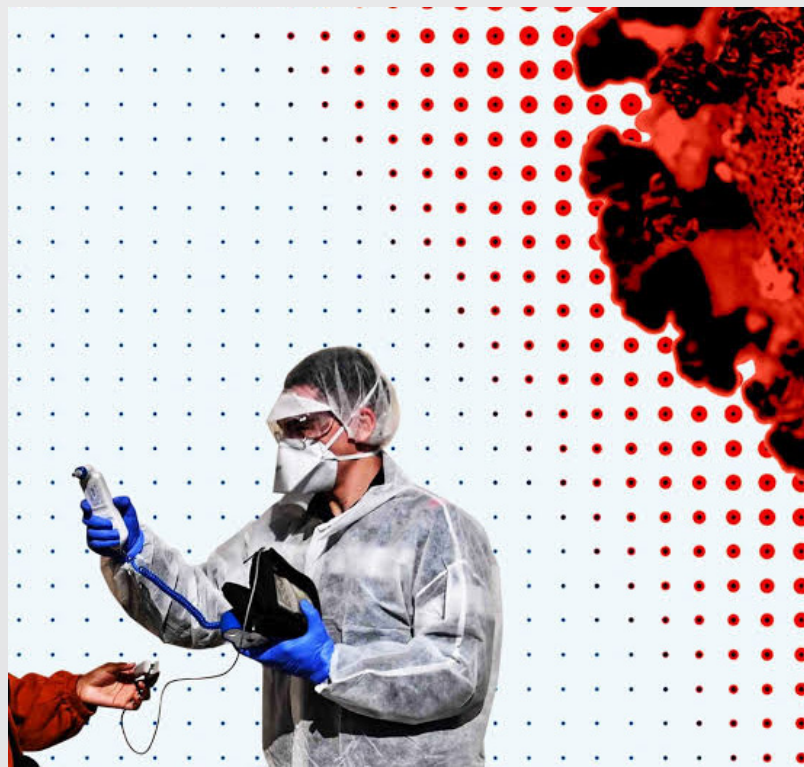
Slowly, some shops started opening again, but things were still not normal. Many shopkeepers kept their shutters half open. They wore masks and remained careful. Everywhere there was fear, so people were cautious about how and when they opened their shops. I remember one particular incident involving a barber. One day, I went to a nearby barber for a haircut. When I sat on the chair, he took his instruments and washed them properly with an antiseptic liquid. He cleaned everything carefully before starting the haircut.

I got my haircut and returned home. Soon after I reached home, a neighbour who had seen me at the salon came to my main gate and told me something that immediately worried me. The same barber had tested positive for Covid. He had been taken to a quarantine centre.

For a moment, I became very worried. I had just sat on his chair. He had been very close to me. There was nothing I could do except wait. Alhamdulillah, I remained unaffected at that time. That incident stayed in my mind because it showed how uncertain those days were. You could take every safety measure and still not know what would happen next. The offices were also completely different. Offices which had once been full of people became almost empty. Later, some officials started attending offices as part of essential duties. Masks and sanitizers became part of office life. Work had to continue despite the restrictions.

I was also deputed by my department as part of essential duty and kept at the disposal of the District Administration. I was assigned to a few hotels being used as quarantine centres. My responsibility was to look after the welfare of the people staying there and see that their day-to-day needs were taken care of. I had to see whether proper food, hygiene and medicines were being provided to them by the concerned departments.

The people staying there were away from their homes and families. Naturally, they had questions and worries. We had to remain available and make sure things were managed properly.



We also listened to their concerns and forwarded them to the higher officers concerned. During the initial period, thousands of people travelling into Kashmir were kept under quarantine for fourteen days. Hotels and lodges were used as quarantine centres.

We were provided with special Covid emergency passes to be displayed on our vehicles, which enabled us to move freely despite the restrictions. Some of my colleagues were sent to the airport. Others were posted

at the Tourist Reception Centre. Everyone had a different responsibility. The airport, the Tourist Reception Centre, hotels and quarantine centres had all become part of our working life. Then education changed. Schools and colleges remained closed and teaching shifted online. Before Covid, many families did not have smartphones or proper internet connections. Suddenly, children needed phones for their classes. Parents who had never thought of buying a smartphone for their children now had to arrange one. Some children had to share a phone with their brothers, sisters or parents. But studies continued as much as possible.

Some students studied seriously and made good use of those days. Some later did very well in their studies and careers. Others spent much of their time watching television, using mobile phones or simply gossiping. The same lockdown gave different children different experiences. Television became another companion. Because new programmes could not be produced normally, old serials and programmes returned to our screens. Doordarshan telecast Ramayan and Mahabharat again, along with other popular old serials. Many people, like me, watched them with the same interest as they had years earlier. For some, it brought back memories of their childhood.

And then Covid entered my own life. Months later, I became a Covid victim. I tested positive. Thankfully, I did not require oxygen, but I was hospitalised for a day or two in the Covid ward at SKIMS, Soura. Even

Sometimes I would get a glimpse of their faces. Those moments gave me great relief. I could not hold them. I could not sit beside them. But seeing them was enough.

Even today, when I think about those days, this is the memory that comes back to me most strongly. A father sitting alone in a room, hearing his children's voices outside and trying to see their faces through a small gap in the door. That was my Covid experience. Then came vaccination. For many people, the vaccine brought hope. But even at that stage, rumours continued to circulate. Some people questioned the vaccine, while others spoke of serious consequences. Messages and claims kept moving from one mobile phone to another. People gradually received their vaccine doses and began to feel that perhaps the worst was behind us.

Looking back, I also feel that the way the authorities handled such an unprecedented situation deserves to be remembered. From testing and quarantine to hospitals, vaccination and other arrangements. Alhamdulillah, the situation was eventually brought under control and life began to return to normal.

At that time, however, it had felt as if life had come to a halt. All of us wondered whether life would ever become normal again. Would children return to schools? Would we visit relatives freely? Would markets become crowded again? Would we again enter a masjid and stand shoulder to shoulder with others without thinking about distance? These simple things had become a dream.

Then, gradually, things began to improve. Restrictions were removed. Shops opened properly. Offices became active. Schools and other activities resumed. People started meeting again. The masjids became active again. Markets slowly became crowded again. The distance that had once been kept between people gradually disappeared from our daily lives.

Life returned, but it did not happen in one day. It came back gradually. When I look back, I see deserted roads, empty masjids, silent markets, half-open shop shutters, ambulance sirens, quarantine hotels, children attending classes on mobile phones and old serials returning to Doordarshan. I remember the barber cleaning his instruments and the shock of learning soon afterwards that he had tested positive. These small memories remain with me even today.

But among all these memories, one remains closest to my heart. My room on the ground floor. The closed door. My children outside. Their voices reaching me. And their faces appearing through that small gap near the door hinges. Those were difficult days. We did not know how long they would last. We did not know when life would return to normal. But it did. Perhaps that is how I will always remember Covid, not only as a pandemic or a period of lockdown, but as a time when I understood the value of the simplest things in life.

Syed Majid Gilani is a Storyteller, Opinion Writer and Government Officer. He writes on family, faith, betrayal, resilience and moral values. He can be contacted at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

Parliamentary Panel

view that timely release of funds would have enabled the completion of almost all Jal Jeevan Mission schemes in Jammu & Kashmir by March 2026,” the report added. s per details available with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), out of 3253 schemes taken up under JJM, 1469 have been completed, while the remaining 1784 are still incomplete. The committee also commended the UT administration for significant progress under the scheme. The Committee notes with appreciation the significant progress achieved under the Jal Jeevan Mission in expanding rural drinking water coverage across the Union Territory and commends the sustained efforts of the Union Territory Administration in this regard,” reads the report—(KNO)

35-Year Manhunt

identified as Altaf Hussain Sheikh, of Marhama-Bijbehara in Anantnag, had initially gone underground and subsequently lived for several decades under a concealed identity. A police official said that Sheikh was among the accused involved in the bomb blast that took place on April 2, 1991, at Platform Number 1 of Jammu Railway Station. The blast left three persons dead, including two paramilitary personnel, and injured 18 civilians. An FIR (No. 07/1991) was registered at GRP Jammu under Sections 307, 302 and 120-B of the RPC, Sections 3/4 of TADA and Sections 4/5 of the ESA. During the investigation, one accused, Aman Ullah Khan, was arrested, while three others managed to evade arrest and were subsequently declared absconders by the competent court. Police said that over the past two years, GRP Jammu intensified its efforts to trace the remaining accused. Following detailed verification of identity and residential particulars, investigators established that Sheikh had been living under a concealed identity and had built a successful business in the Bijbehara area in South Kashmir. After a prolonged pursuit and meticulous verification, the GRP team arrested Sheikh and produced him before the TADA Court in Jammu on August 13, 2026 for further legal proceedings. The arrest marks a significant breakthrough in a case dating back more than three decades and brings one of the long-pending accused in the 1991 railway station blast to justice—(KNO)

1,086 Hectares

payment of Net Present Value (NPV), soil and moisture conservation, wildlife management plans and catchment area treatment plans, wherever required. Madhya Pradesh recorded the largest area approved for forest diversion among states, at 22,027.02 hectares. It was followed by Odisha with 10,098.99 hectares and Arunachal Pradesh with 7,828.31 hectares. Jammu and Kashmir’s figure of 1,086.01 hectares was significantly higher than that of the neighbouring Union Territory of Ladakh, where 3.98 hectares of forest land was approved for diversion during the same period. The government reiterated that forest land diversion remains subject to prior approval and prescribed environmental safeguards, with mitigation measures aimed at limiting the ecological impact of projects requiring the use of forest land.

J&K Records 4 Crimes

Across India, cases of crimes against foreign tourists increased from 93 in 2022 to 125 in 2023 and 156 in 2024. The national data recorded 42, 76 and 97 charge-sheets respectively during the three years. The Ministry said tourist safety and security is essentially a State subject, while the Tourism Ministry has been working with States and Union Territories to strengthen dedicated tourist policing. Jammu and Kashmir is among the 15 States and UTs that have deployed tourist police, along with Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh. Politics Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the government had not undertaken any specific assessment attributing changes in foreign tourist arrivals solely to incidents involving tourist safety. He said sporadic incidents could temporarily influence travel decisions, but overall foreign tourist arrivals were determined by multiple factors. The Ministry has also been urging States and UT administrations to avail themselves of the ‘Safe Tourism Destinations for Women’ initiative under the Nirbhaya Fund, which can finance projects aimed specifically at improving the safety and security of women tourists. The national crime data shows that rape cases involving foreign tourists rose from 13 in 2022 to 15 in 2024, while cases of assault on women with intent to outrage their modesty stood at 14 in 2024 against 21 in 2023. Jammu and Kashmir The government said proposals for strengthening tourist safety mechanisms were being pursued with States and UTs, including the deployment of dedicated tourist police and utilisation of available funding under the Nirbhaya Fund.

Lightning Strike

office said brief spells of intense rain were reported or were likely in Poonch, Rajouri, Budgam, Gulmarg and adjoining areas, Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, hilly areas of Ganderbal, Reasi, Ramban, Udhampur and Doda. A cloudburst over the higher reaches of the Zojila area also led to the accumulation of debris and blockage of the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road near Ranga Mode, disrupting traffic on the strategic route. Teams of the Border Roads Organisation were mobilised to clear the debris and restore traffic, officials said. Authorities were monitoring the situation and advised commuters to exercise caution while travelling through the affected stretch. The Meteorological Centre cautioned that intense

showers could trigger localised flash floods, mudslides and landslides in hilly areas, besides shooting stones at vulnerable locations. According to the forecast, another spell of rain and thundershowers is likely at many places in the Jammu division during the early morning and morning hours on August 14, followed by a brief spell at many places across J&K in the afternoon. On August 15, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at many places during late night and early morning hours, followed by another brief spell in the afternoon. From August 16 to 19, several spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at many places, with heavy rain or brief intense showers likely in a few districts during the early morning and afternoon hours. The weather office said heavy rain or brief intense showers could occur in a few districts of the Jammu division and intense showers in one or two districts of the Kashmir Valley during the period. Light rain and thundershowers are likely at scattered places between August 20 and 22, it said. The Meteorological Centre advised people to remain cautious as torrential rain and brief intense showers may trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides and waterlogging in low-lying areas. Authorities and commuters have been advised to remain alert in vulnerable hilly areas, particularly along roads prone to landslides and shooting stones—(KNO)

Div Com Invites

Day celebrations at their respective district or regional headquarters, while those wishing to participate in the UT-level function at Bakshi Stadium were welcome to do so. “My appeal to all of you is that on August 15, we will celebrate this with a lot of enthusiasm,” Garg said. On entry arrangements, the Divisional Commissioner said there would be free entry for the public at Bakshi Stadium, as in previous years. He added that detailed arrangements had been made to facilitate visitors and ensure basic amenities, including drinking water, toilet facilities and refreshments, at the venue. Garg said security arrangements had also been put in place in coordination with various security agencies, with regular reviews being conducted ahead of the national event. “Coordination meetings have been held with the security agencies and at the level of IG, the reviews are constantly going on,” he said. Meanwhile, the full dress rehearsal was held at Bakshi Stadium to give a final run-through of preparations for the main Independence Day programme. The rehearsal involved various departments, parade contingents and schoolchildren who will participate in the August 15 celebrations.—(KNO)

DGP Reviews Security

arrangements. DGP Nalin Prabhat directed officers to intensify night patrolling and naka checking, particularly at vulnerable locations and along inter-district borders. He also stressed the need for close surveillance and effective area domination to prevent any untoward incident. The DGP further reviewed access control, anti-sabotage measures, frisking, route security, deployment, and surveillance arrangements at venues across J&K. He directed all security and law-enforcement agencies to maintain close coordination and ensure strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The meeting concluded with a firm resolve to ensure foolproof security, effective inter-agency coordination, and the smooth and peaceful conduct of Independence Day celebrations across Jammu & Kashmir.

ISRO Taking Steps

additional risk, as such debris cannot be avoided through collision avoidance or adequately shielded against. An impact can cause mission-ending damage, rendering a satellite non-functional and generating further debris. Given the large number of satellites involved, the aggregate risk of debris creation is significant. He also pointed out that any fragmentation event, whether caused by a collision or accidental break-up near a populated orbital shell, could further escalate these risks. Highlighting India’s institutional engagement on space debris monitoring and mitigation, Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), formed in 1993, is considered the most recognised body dealing with space debris monitoring and mitigation matters. ISRO under the Department of Space has been a member of IADC since 1996. He also stated that the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS) addresses space debris mitigation and long-term sustainability matters, including the safety of space operations. India is represented in international fora dealing with space debris, including the IADC, UN Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (UN-STSC) Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability and Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness (SSA). Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that IADC members regularly deliberate on space debris-related matters and revise space debris mitigation guidelines in response to the evolving space debris environment. Space debris monitoring and spaceflight safety aspects are also discussed in the Long-Term Sustainability and Space Situational Awareness working groups. He further informed that other international platforms, including the IAA Space Debris Working Group and ISO Working Group 7, provide avenues for coordination between the Department of Space and international agencies on space debris monitoring and mitigation. On end-of-life disposal of satellites, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Indian Space Policy mandates adoption of internationally recognised guidelines on space debris mitigation, including measures relating to end-of-life disposal, in the Indian space programme. The Debris Free Space Mission initiative, spearheaded by ISRO, is a proactive step towards implementing guidelines on end-of-life disposal of satellites.

The Minister also stated that the Norms, Guidelines and Procedures released by IN-SPaCe in 2024 encourage all Indian space actors to adopt adequate post-mission disposal measures or ensure that their space assets have very limited orbital life through natural orbital decay. Dr. Jitendra Singh identified Space Situational Awareness (SSA) as one of the most crucial enablers of long-term space sustainability. He said other important requirements include operators fulfilling technical requirements such as manoeuvrability and trackability, meeting basic obligations including registration and sharing of points of contact, and ensuring a robust regulatory framework. The Minister further stated that wider implementation of internationally recognised space debris mitigation measures and better compliance with the requirements of the Debris Free Space Mission will play a key role in safeguarding space assets and limiting further generation of debris. He also highlighted the importance of Active Debris Removal (ADR) in curtailing the growth of space debris. Activities serving as precursors to ADR have already been initiated through on-orbit demonstrations and are expected to mature over time. Emphasising the importance of both international cooperation and indigenous capabilities, Dr. Jitendra Singh said international collaboration and data sharing are essential for comprehensive Space Situational Awareness and long-term sustainability. At the same time, self-reliance through indigenous capacity building for space object monitoring will be pursued along with innovative measures and R&D to address emerging challenges. He also stressed the importance of raising awareness among space actors about the fragility of utilisable regions of the space environment to ensure long-term sustainability.

Saffron Growers

pressure on existing corm stocks and help revive fields where cultivation has declined. Agriculture officials said that they have already restricted the transportation and export of saffron corms outside Kashmir, warning that violations could invite action under the Saffron Act, 2007 and the Seed Act, 1966. An official said conserving saffron planting material was essential for protecting the crop’s future in Kashmir. “Restricting the transportation of saffron corms outside the Valley is an important step towards conserving the planting material available in Kashmir,” he said, adding that the department is also working towards establishing Saffron Seed Multiplication Nurseries in Pampore. Officials said the nurseries would help multiply quality corms and make them available to local farmers, thereby reducing the possibility of a shortage during the sowing season. Kashmir’s saffron, popularly known as the region’s “red gold”, is primarily cultivated in Pampore and adjoining areas of Pulwama district. The crop is valued not only for its economic importance but also for its distinctive aroma, colour, flavour and medicinal properties. However, the sector has experienced fluctuations in production over the years. Government data presented in the Assembly showed saffron production at 17.33 metric tonnes in 2021, which declined to 14.87 MT in 2022 before registering a marginal increase to 14.94 MT in 2023. The data also showed that the total cultivated area remained around 3,715 hectares, while productivity fluctuated from year to year. Farmers say the figures underline the need for sustained investment in irrigation, scientific cultivation, quality planting material and field rejuvenation. Growers maintain that while government schemes have helped improve some saffron fields, the gains could be undermined if healthy corms are continuously removed from the Valley. They said that if the government doesn’t take immediate action and steps in this regard, there will be no traces of this crop in the coming years. With the extraction season approaching, farmers have urged the Agriculture Department and law enforcement agencies to intensify inspections at roads, markets and other vulnerable points to prevent illegal movement of corms. They have also called for registration and proper documentation of corm dealers, regular field-level verification and strict action against those involved in unauthorised transportation. Farmers further urged the government to create a structured mechanism under which quality corms could be multiplied, certified and distributed among growers before the planting season. They said protecting saffron corms today was essential to safeguarding the crop’s future, particularly at a time when younger generations were increasingly reluctant to remain dependent on traditional agriculture—(KNO)

CS Directs Project

of Administrative Approval, Technical Sanction, Tendering process completed well in advance. He stressed that these prerequisites should be completed beforehand so that capital works are allotted immediately upon release of funds and completed at a brisk pace. He observed that advance preparation of projects would enable departments to utilise the available funding window more effectively and accelerate creation of public infrastructure. The Chief Secretary further directed departments to make dedicated efforts towards implementation of all incentive-linked reforms prescribed under SASCI, observing that successful completion of these reforms could enable J&K to secure additional funding under this component of this scheme. He also called upon departments to identify suitable works that could be taken up through this additional funding so that the reform-linked resources are translated into tangible infrastructure and development outcomes. The Chief Secretary specifically urged departments including School Education, Jal Shakti, Higher Education, Culture, Science & Technology, Irrigation and Power, among others, to start identifying priority works capable of being taken up under these funding opportunities. Reviewing the progress of works under UT and District CAPEX, the Chief Secretary directed the Planning Department to submit a weekly report on works tendered and allotted by departments and districts.

He called upon all Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners to ensure that each approved work is allotted within the least possible timeframe, stressing that budgetary allocations and approvals must translate into actual execution on the ground without avoidable delays. He emphasised the need for close monitoring of the tendering and allotment process so that implementation of capital works gains the desired momentum. The Chief Secretary directed the Power Development Department to constitute a committee under the Engineer-in-Chief, comprising other senior engineers of the department, to assess the performance of field functionaries, particularly their role in ensuring billing and collection efficiency on the ground. Observing that the power sector remains one of the major areas of fiscal pressure for the UT, he called for focused and sustained reforms to improve the sector’s financial position. He directed the department to develop an end-to-end digital mechanism to track the chain of supply of every unit of energy pumped into the distribution system, with a view to ensuring accountability for every unit of energy. During the meeting, the Finance Department made a detailed presentation on the expenditure position under CAPEX, CSS, SASCI and NABARD, besides highlighting the revenue performance of major sectors. The ACS Finance, Shailendra Kumar took this occasion to emphasise the need for departments and districts to ensure that approved works move swiftly from planning and tendering to actual execution, while simultaneously improving financial management and utilisation of available Central assistance. The ACS also presented the roadmap for leveraging SASCI and other reform-linked funding opportunities. He revealed that under SASCI Part-I for 2026-27, project proposals worth 1,231 crore covering 219 projects have been mapped, including 412.83 crore sought by the Power Development Department and 158.83 crore by the Health sector. Under SASCI Part-II, it was added that an assistance of 176 crore for 10 critical schemes has been sought, including 46 crore for the Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening and 45 crore for PMGSY. The presentation revealed that under the District CAPEX Budget 2026-27, 88 per cent of the 47,794 new works, 42,219 works have received Administrative Approval, while 13 per cent have so far been allotted. The total allocation under District CAPEX stands at 1,236.08 crore across 20 districts, with an additional special allocation of 3 crore per district. The presentation also highlighted the pace of physical verification of completed works. Against 29,193 completed works, it was divulged that 2,376 works have been physically verified through the online Physical Verification portal. The Finance Department informed that the CSS CAPEX Budget Estimate for the current financial year stands at 10,632 crore. Among the major sectors, Rural Development has the highest Budget Estimate at 2,655.1 crore, followed by Housing & Urban Development at 1,877.6 crore and Public Works Department at 1,694.4 crore. Regarding the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), it was informed that three of the nine core modules have been fully implemented. Successful implementation of the remaining modules is expected to enable J&K to avail an incentive of up to 200 crore. The presentation also highlighted a potential incentive of up to 650 crore under Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture through creation of an AgriStack-enabled Farmer Registry and another 105 crore under Compressed Bio-Gas reforms. Regarding NABARD-RIDF projects, the Finance Department informed that 157 projects under RIDF XXVII to XXXI have been completed, with total disbursement of 2,301 crore. Further, 227 new project proposals worth 1,288 crore have been prepared under RIDF-XXXII. The concerned departments have been given a 15-day timeframe for uploading these proposals on the NABARD portal. The meeting also reviewed revenue generation across major revenue-generating departments. It was revealed that the GST collections during 2026-27 have reached 3,292.38 crore, with J&K recording a 96.78 per cent return filing rate, compared to the national average of 95.73 per cent. Similarly the Excise Department has recorded 782 crore in year-to-date collections, while the Stamps & Registration Department has realised 248.3 crore. The presentation also highlighted the fiscal gap in the power sector, with power purchase costs at 2,697 crore against receipts of 1,747 crore, resulting in a gap of around 940 crore in the ensuing financial year. The meeting also underscored the importance of timely implementation of reform-linked measures, strengthening revenue collection mechanisms, improving expenditure efficiency and leveraging available funding windows for creation of quality public infrastructure across J&K.

ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL

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DAR MATTING SHOP

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

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I-Day Celebrations

Srinagar Admin felicitates meritorious Civil, Police Officials

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The District Administration Srinagar Thursday organised a felicitation-cum-award ceremony at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to recognise and honour officers and officials of the District Administration, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and District Police for their distinguished, dedicated and meritorious services with the District Administration Srinagar's Excellence in Public Services Award in the run up to Independence Day Celebrations.

The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner SMC Faz Lul Haseeb and Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar Sandeep Chakraborty, who presented Commendation Certificates and Mementos to the awardees in appreciation of their exemplary contribution and commitment to public service.

The event was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning



Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, besides senior officers of the District Administration, district and sectoral officers and other concerned officials.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner congratulated all the awardees and appreciated their commitment, professionalism and dedication towards their respective duties.

The DC observed that sincerity, hard work and dedication are the foundations of professional excellence and play a vital role in building an efficient and responsive public service delivery system. He lauded the awardees and all officials whose sustained efforts have contributed towards ensuring effective, prompt and citizen-centric administration in the district.

Emphasising the importance of institutional coordination, the Deputy Commissioner

highlighted the need for close synergy among the District Administration, SMC and Police for ensuring seamless execution of public duties and effective delivery of services to citizens. He added that the ceremony served as a recognition of the collective efforts of Officers and Officials across various Departments and reaffirmed the District Administration Srinagar's commitment to promoting a culture of excellence, teamwork, accountability and citizen-centric governance.

The Commissioner SMC, in his address, appreciated the coordinated efforts of various departments and emphasised that teamwork and mutual cooperation are essential for creating a positive and result-oriented work environment.

He stated that felicitation also provided an opportunity to acknowledge the important role played by frontline Officials and Departmental

teams in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of major public events and in strengthening public service delivery across the district.

SSP Srinagar, while addressing the gathering, commended the awardees for their dedication, discipline and outstanding contribution to public service.

The Officers and Officials honoured during the ceremony included Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Joint Commissioner SMC (Admin) Nuzhat Qurashi, Executive Engineer, KPDC, Er. Nisar Ahmad, Executive Engineer, R&B, Er. Fareed Ahmad Khan, Executive Engineer SMC, Er. Akhter Hussain Raina, Executive Engineer SMC, Er. Asif Nazir Bhat, Assistant Labour Commissioner Adnan Tariq, DIO, NIC, Shahnaz and District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Abdul Rouf. The Hospitality and Protocol Team, comprising Joint Director Fayaz Ahmad Parry, Deputy Director Saddat Iqbal and Assistant Director Showkat Ahmad was also felicitated for its dedicated contribution.

Similarly, Assistant Engineer R&B Er. Kamraan Zahoor, Statistical Officer (RTO), Mudasingir Ahmad Shah, SO,

Planning Bilal Ahmad Ganaie, Statistical Assistant, DSEO, Wasim Raja, Media Incharge, District Administration Kathua, Rouf Ahmad Sofi, Junior Statistical Assistant Planning, Junaid Ahmad Bhat, JE R&B Er. Babar Ashraf Bhat, Lines Officer (Traffic Police), Mohammad Yasin Lone and Radio Operator with DC Srinagar, Suheel Rashid were also felicitated for their meritorious and dedicated services.

Officials from the DC Office, including Sajad Ahmad Sheikh, Sajid Ahmad, Kanchan, Mudasingir Rashid, Mohammad Husain and Anil Raina were also honoured for their excellent public services.

The Team Protocol of District Administration Srinagar, comprising Naib Tehsildar Mohsin Khan, JSA Junaid Basheer and Sofi Waseem, along with the Team School Abhinandan, represented by Principal Mudasingir Ahmad, was also honoured for its contribution.

From the District Police, Inspector Ab. Rashid, Sub-Inspector Mushtaq Ahmad, Probationary Sub-Inspector Ruchi Sharma, Head Constable Munshi Mutwali and Sgt. Constable Operator Shamin Ahmad Kooli were felicitated for their dedicated and exemplary services.

Kathua Admin organises Padh Yatra to honour Martyrs

Procession marches to Martyr Memorial amid enthusiastic participation of officers, officials and citizenry

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: In a vibrant display of patriotism and collective pride, the District Administration Kathua today organised a Padh Yatra as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

The Padh Yatra commenced in the evening from Shaheedi Chowk and culminated at the Martyr Memorial, District Police Lines Kathua. The event was attended by the DIG Jammu Samba Kathua Range Shridhar Patil, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma with senior officers of Civil and Police, officials and

citizens participating with enthusiasm.

The District Administration, through the Padh Yatra, sought to provide a meaningful platform to the citizens and government functionaries to come together in remembrance of the freedom fighters and brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation.

Marching from Shaheedi Chowk towards the Martyr Memorial, the participants raised the spirit of patriotism and national unity, reaffirming their commitment to the values of unity, integrity, service and responsible citizenship.

On reaching the Martyr

Memorial at DPL Kathua, the Deputy Commissioner, officers and other participants paid solemn homage to the martyrs, remembering their unparalleled courage, valour and supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation.

The Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma highlighted that Independence Day is not only an occasion to celebrate the hard-earned freedom of the country but also an opportunity to remember those who sacrificed their lives for the nation and to inspire the younger generation to contribute positively towards nation-building.

Manasbal Lake comes Alive in Tricolour as Mega Shikara Rally held under ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Campaign



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026', a Mega Shikara Rally was organised today at the picturesque Manasbal Lake, with enthusiastic participation of students, youth, government officials and a large number of members of the general public.

The Shikara Rally was led by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, and witnessed a vibrant display of the National Flag as a fleet of Shikaras, adorned with the Tricolour, sailed across the waters of Manasbal Lake.

The rally provided a unique expression of patriotism against the scenic backdrop of Manasbal, with participants carrying the National Flag and joining in patriotic celebrations. The sight of the Tricolour across the lake created a striking visual representation of national unity, pride and collective participation.

A 2-kilometre-long National Flag was also displayed along the venue, adding a spectacular dimension to the celebrations and symbolising the collective spirit of the

people towards the National Flag and the nation.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation of the general public, students, youth, officials and other stakeholders. The participation of citizens in large numbers reflected the growing public enthusiasm towards the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and their collective expression of patriotism and national pride.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the public, students and all stakeholders. He called upon citizens to continue participating in the various activities being organised under the campaign and urged the youth to take an active role in promoting the values of patriotism, unity, harmony and respect for the National Flag.

The vibrant Shikara Rally and the spectacular 2-kilometre Tricolour display at Manasbal added a distinctive and visually captivating dimension to the district-wide celebrations, reinforcing the message of patriotism, national unity and pride in the Tricolour.

Training Programme held for Anganwadi Workers under NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A one-day training programme for Anganwadi Workers under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) was organised Thursday at Miskeen Bagh (Madri Meharbaan), Khanyar, Srinagar by the District Social Welfare Office, Srinagar.

The programme focused on sensitising Anganwadi Workers about substance abuse, its adverse impact on individuals and families, early identification of vulnerable persons and the importance of timely counselling and intervention.

Dr. Mariya from IMHANS Srinagar addressed the participants and spoke about the psychological and behavioural aspects associated with substance abuse, while Dr. Khair-un-Nissa, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), highlighted the impact of substance abuse on children and families and stressed the need for community-based prevention and support.

The participating Anganwadi Workers were encouraged to play an active role in spreading awareness at the grassroots level and strengthening community efforts towards a drug-free society.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION SRINAGAR MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

[Fax No: 0194-2497093]

GIST of e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2026-27/22
Date	13.08.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from registered/reputed firms for the below mentioned work: -

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Bid Security/EMD in (In Rs)	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Supply of spares required for repairs/replacements of departmental New LRV Ashok Leyland and Departmental truck JK01N-7048 (Model 1613) of Machinery Division Kashmir.	100/-	42,375/-	2120/-	Works programme approved by CE vide order No. M&HED/K/Acctt/26 of 2026-27 Dt.30.04.2026.	Sanctioned Vide No:15 of 2026-27 Dated; 11/08/2026

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

01	Publish date	13-08-2026 (18:00hrs)
02	Date of start of downloading of bid document	13-08-2026 (18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	13-08-2026 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	18-08-2026 (18:55 hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	19-08-2026 (14:00 hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/1970-73
Date: 13.08.2026

DIPK-4513-26
DT: 13/08/2026

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

e-Mail: xen-phemds@jk.gov.in;

GIST

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: JSMDs/e-NIT-27 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-tendering mode on percentage basis from registered Mechanical Firms for execution of the following work: -

S. No.	Name of the work	Estimate cost (in ₹)	EMD in (₹)	Time of completion	Head Of Account
01	Providing laying of 250 mm Dia MS Pipe for Suction & Delivery Pipe of available 5 Cusec 84 M Head Pump for its installation in the newly constructed CGI Shed/ Pump House at Pokhrilab Stage 2 nd	1,09,834/-	2200/-	30 days	2215 Non Plan (M&R)

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-08-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14 -08-2026 (2:00 p.m.) to 24 -08 2026 (upto 04:00 pm)
3.	Period of submitting of bids (online)	From 14 -08-2026 (4:00 p.m.) to 24 -08 2026 (upto 04:00 pm)
4.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	25 -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/ 2169-72
Dated: 13/08/2026
DIPK-4544-26
DT: 13/08/2026

SD/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division
Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

Email: xen-pwdrmnanantnag@jk.gov.in | Phone and Fax: 01932-222221

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Extension in Critical Dates

Ref: NIT NO 62 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/ 5296-305 DATED 06-08-2026

Kindly find below the updated Critical Dates for the above referred NIT.

Please Read	Instead of
Bid Submission End Date: 17.08.2026 (04:00PM)	Bid Submission End Date: 14.08.2026 (04:00PM)
Date and time of Opening of bid (online): 18.08.2026 Time 10:30 AM	Date and time of Opening of bid (online): 15.08.2026 Time 10:30 AM

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No. 5677-82
Dated: 12-08-2026

DIPK-4522-26
DT: 13/08/2026

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with Consumer ID 0203010001482 & Installation No, 26614 -R1-SM registered in the name of QAZI SHAH UD DIN S/o QAZI QAMAR DIN R/o 214 KARAN NAGAR SRINAGAR is to be transferred in favour of SHAHIDA MIR W/o Late QAZIO MASOOD AHMAD R/o 214 KARAN NAGAR KASHMIR. If anybody having any Objections, if to the same must reach Sub. Div (Watal Kadal) within a week at the most.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rameez Shaban, S/o Mohd. Shaban Bhat, R/o Yatto Mohalla, Shivpora, Srinagar, hereby notify the general public that I intend to change my name in my Driving Licence bearing No. JK01-0120140090758, issued on 23-07-2014 and valid till 22-07-2034, from "Rameez Shaban Bhat" to "Rameez Shaban". Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as Rameez Shaban for all purposes and records. Any person having any objection to the said change of name may submit the same to the concerned authority RTO Kashmir within the prescribed period.

Rameez Shaban
S/o Mohd. Shaban Bhat
R/o Yatto Mohalla, Shivpora, Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION KAKAPORA

Email Idi-fcdkakapora@gmail.com

Phono No:- 01933265052

CORRIGENDUM

Reference:- This office e-NIT No.07 of 2026-27 dt.08-08-2026

In continuation with the tenders invited vide this office aforecited e-NIT No. issued under No.FCCK/Camp/3743-54 Dated: 08-08-2026. Kindly refer the special condition figuring at SrNo.10.the part (r) of the said condition is hereby withdraw/deleted.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the original NIT.

No. FCCK/CS/ 3785-96
Dated:-10-08-2026
DIPK-4554-26
DT: 13/08/2026

Sd/
(Er. Farooq Ahmad Ganie)
Executive Engineer
Flood Control Division Kakapora

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I, JASIR MEHRAJ, S/o MEHRAJ U DIN MATTa, R/o KHANAWARI, ZALDAGAR, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR, UT of J&K intend to apply to the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style of "AL MAHBEEN HOLIDAYS", situated at KHANAWARI, ZALDAGAR, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR, UT of J&K.

I shall submit the following documents in support of my application: Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, PAN Card, Experience Certificate (minimum 05 years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance ₹10,000/-), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by the Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor), and two passport-size photographs.

The proposed unit shall function as an Excursion Agency/Adventure Tour Operator, as per the prescribed checklist and prior to registration. Now, as per the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978/82/2011/2012, before my case is processed for registration of the proposed Unit/Agency, the matter is hereby notified for information of the general public, financial institutions, banks, organizations, etc. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the Deputy Director Tourism, Registration, TRC Srinagar, Kashmir (e-mail: dtreg123@gmail.com) within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in any leading local newspaper/newspaper of the Valley. No objections received after the expiry of the aforesaid period shall be entertained

PGTI Tour: Jamal Hossain takes two-shot lead as Coal India Open reduced to 54 holes

KOLKATA: Jamal Hossain carded a seven-under 63 to take a two-shot lead following the completion of the rain-delayed second round of the Coal India Open at Tollygunge Club in Kolkata on Thursday.

The 41-year-old Bangladeshi golfer (65-63), a six-time winner on the DP World PGTI, moved to 12-under 128 after an eventful round featuring seven birdies, an eagle and two bogeys.

Hossain began his second round three shots behind first-round leader Om Prakash Chouhan and was tied fifth when heavy rain forced the suspension of play on Wednesday. He returned on Thursday to complete his remaining holes when he moved clear of the field.

The tournament has been reduced to 54 holes following the weather disruptions. The third and final round will be played on Friday with a shotgun start. Delhi's Kshitij Naveed Kaul (64-66), who held the clubhouse lead overnight, moved to second place at 10-under 130.

Chandigarh's Akshay Sharma (66-65) and Ajeetesh Sandhu (63-68) shared third place at nine-under 131. Former Asian Tour winner Sandhu endured multiple weather interruptions before completing a two-under 68 on Thursday.

Current DP World PGTI Rankings leader Saptak Talwar (67-65), first-round leader and 2023 rankings champion Om Prakash Chouhan (62-70), and University of South Florida



graduate Shubham Jaglan (67-65) shared fifth place at eight-under 132.

Two chip-ins, on the eighth and 13th, were among the highlights of Hossain's round. His chip-in on the 13th resulted in an eagle and helped him take control of the tournament. "I chipped in twice, on the eighth and 13th, so I'm very happy with the round," Hossain said. "The course was soft, and the ball was not travelling as much after landing, which made hitting fairways very important."

Hossain credited his driving for helping him handle the wet conditions. He estimated that he missed only two or three fairways during the round. "I drove the ball really well and found most of the fairways. That made a big difference in these conditions," he said.

His most fortunate moment came on the par-three 18th. Hossain's five-iron tee shot headed right and struck the out-of-bounds boundary before rebounding into the course. He took advantage of the reprieve by getting up and

FIFA chief Infantino receives support from 6 Arab federations amid revolt over World Cup plan



AGENCIES

ZURICH: The heads of six Arab soccer federations expressed their "full support" and "confidence" in Gianni Infantino on Thursday as the embattled FIFA president fights to keep his job after his failed World Cup private investment plan.

The backing came from 2030 World Cup co-host Morocco, Qatar, Egypt, Mauritania, Lebanon and Sudan, with four of the signatories being FIFA council members.

"We, the undersigned leaders of our respective football associations, express our full support for Mr. Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA, and reaffirm our confidence in his leadership and continued commitment to the development of football worldwide," the statement read.

"We deeply appreciate Mr. Infantino's sustained efforts to advance football globally, expand opportunities across all regions and strengthen the game's role in bringing people and communities together."

The statement said the signatories "look forward to continuing our close cooperation with him towards a stronger and

more prosperous future for world football, expanding opportunities and further enhancing Arab football's contribution to the global game."

Infantino is facing a revolt after his plan to sell stakes in the World Cup to private equity investors. He withdrew the \$20 billion proposal after a furious backlash by global soccer officials, including European body UEFA, which has warned of a boycott of all FIFA games and events.

UEFA teamed up with CONCACAF — the confederation for North, Central America and the Caribbean — and the AFC — the confederation in Asia — and issued an open letter Monday saying Infantino's plan was a "fundamental breach of trust" and described it as "deception."

And on Thursday, the Football Association of Ireland said in a statement it has withdrawn its support for Infantino to be re-elected as FIFA president in March, saying "recent events have raised significant concerns regarding governance, transparency and the lack of meaningful consultation."

The soccer federations in England and Wales did the same last week, while Northern Ireland said

it was backing UEFA's stance.

Schism in Asian bloc over Infantino support

By expressing support for Infantino, Qatar and Lebanon aligned against the Asian Football Confederation. Infantino's official Instagram account previously has posted letters of support from several member federations, including Morocco, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The four FIFA council members among the signatories were Qatar Football Association president Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Egyptian Football Association president Hany Abo Rida, Moroccan Football Federation president Fouzi Lekjaa and Mauritanian Football Federation president Ahmed Yahya.

The other two were Lebanese Football Association president Hashem Haidar and Moatasem Gafar, president of the Sudan Football Association.

Infantino has been FIFA president since 2016 and seemed sure to be re-elected unopposed next year in Morocco.

FIFA has set a Nov. 18 deadline for challengers to come forward. (AP)

SPORTS

135TH DURAND CUP:

Bodoland FC reach knockouts despite huge win over Karbi Anglong Morning Star

IAN S

GUWAHATI: Local boy and former India international Halicharan Narzary produced a stunning individual performance for Bodoland FC, scoring four goals and providing two assists as they cruised to a 6-0 victory over local rivals Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC in their final group F fixture of the 135th Durand Cup at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium on Thursday.

Halicharan Narzary scored twice in each half, while Kaushik Daimari and Gwngwmsar Gayary also found the net after the break as Bodoland FC secured a commanding victory. Despite the emphatic win and finishing with six points from three matches, Bodoland FC missed out on a quarterfinal berth as one of the best second-placed teams, with East Bengal FC and Jamshepur FC also finishing on six points but boasting superior goal differences.

Meanwhile, Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC ended their campaign without a point for the second consecutive season.

Bodoland FC head coach Vikash Panthi made three changes to his starting XI for the crucial fixture, bringing defender Didwm Hazowary in place of Gaurav Singh Bohara, while Siddharth Khichi and Nepal forward Aron Thapa



replaced Gwngwmsar Gayary and Timothy Narzary in the attack.

Meanwhile, Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC head coach C.A. Laldinsang Pudaite made two changes for his side's final group game, with A. Muhammed Murshid starting in goal in place of Jaspreet Singh and forward Loitongbam Taison Singh coming into the lineup for Lalpekhlu.

Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC registered the first attempt on goal inside the opening 20 seconds when Joseph Olaleye raced into the box after latching onto a through ball. However, the striker's effort was

straight at goalkeeper Birkhang Daimary, who comfortably palmed the ball away.

Bodoland FC were awarded a penalty after Siddharth Khichi was brought down inside the box by Karbi Anglong goalkeeper A. Muhammed Murshid. Halicharan Narzary initiated the move with a sweeping pass to Robinson Rendon, who then played a well-weighted ball through to Siddharth.

The forward raced into the box before being brought down by the advancing goalkeeper. Halicharan stepped up to take the spot-kick and calmly converted to give

Bodoland the lead.

Halicharan Narzary, who was central to Bodoland's attacking moves, was involved again moments later when he delivered a pinpoint cross into the box for Robinson. The Colombian met the delivery with a first-time volley, but the goalkeeper produced a reflex save to palm the effort away.

On the other end, the Blue Giants were awarded a penalty of their own after Bodoland defender Shubham Sarangi brought down Joseph Olaleye inside the box. Junior Onguene Nkengue stepped up to take the spot-kick, but Birkhang Daimary kept it out, with the effort coming at a favourable height for the goalkeeper. Daimary then reacted quickly to palm away the rebound effort from Paogoumang Singson and preserve Bodoland's lead.

Bodoland FC doubled their advantage just before the half-time break, with Halicharan Narzary and Robinson Rendon combining once again. Robinson released Halicharan with a well-timed pass, allowing the former India international to break Karbi Anglong's high defensive line and race into the box. Halicharan cut inside to evade the challenge from Singson before curling a low effort into the bottom corner to score his second goal of the game.

'Batter giving death stare should not bother a bowler': PBKS' Harpreet Brar plays down Virat Kohli rivalry

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Punjab Kings spinner Harpreet Brar has played down the talk surrounding his on-field exchanges with Virat Kohli, insisting there is no rivalry between the two and that a bowler's focus should remain firmly on the job at hand, regardless of who is batting at the other end.

Brar, who has previously dismissed Kohli in the Indian Premier League (IPL), said the intensity seen between the two players is part of the competitive nature of franchise cricket and not a personal contest.

For Brar, the respect for Kohli remains unchanged even when the two find themselves on opposite sides in an IPL game.

"It's not like that. It's good for the team. There's nothing like a 'rivalry'. It's all a social media gimmick which starts there and dies there. I play for PBKS, he plays for RCB. I have only played



franchise cricket with him. We both want to do good for the team," Brar told IANS in an exclusive conversation on Thursday.

Brar believes Kohli's enduring competitiveness is one of the qualities that has made him such a significant figure in Indian cricket. The spinner has also viewed that intensity as something younger players can learn from.

"He has played so many matches, and he plays the same way as he did when

he was 18. His aggression on the ground is still the same. We have also learnt these things from him," he said.

According to Brar, respect does not disappear simply because the two are competing. "But it's not like that. He is a legend of this game. He is one of the legends. Respect is the same for him on and off the field."

At the same time, Brar believes competitive cricket leaves little room for sentiment once the game begins. The objective, he said, is to perform for one's own side, irrespective of personal relationships.

"But we do our job on the field. And we have learnt it from him only. He will never give an excuse saying, 'He is my friend, so I won't hit him for a four or six.' It's not like that. It's not possible. He wants to do well for his team; it's all jokes and fun. We have always learnt from him, and he is a great example for the future youngsters as to how cricket should be played," he added.

India tops overall medal tally to lift Wilkinson Sword Trophy at Commonwealth Fencing C'ship

IAN S

LAGOS (NIGERIA): The Indian fencing contingent created history by winning the overall championship title at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026. Team India completed a spectacular four-day campaign with an unprecedented total of 35 medals—13 gold, 8 silver and 14 bronze across both U-23 and senior competitions.

The historic victory culminated with an overwhelming performance in the senior team competitions. Indian fencers asserted absolute supremacy across all disciplines, capturing five gold medals out of the six contested team events.

Team India secured top honours in men's sabre, women's sabre, men's epee, women's epee, and women's foil, alongside a hard-fought silver medal in men's foil. This remarkable final sweep cemented India's position at the top of

the leaderboards and officially earned the country the prestigious Wilkinson Sword Trophy — awarded since 1982 by the Commonwealth Fencing Federation to the nation with the best overall results.

Team success capped off three previous days of exceptional individual performances in Lagos. The campaign kicked off on Day 1 with a massive 17-medal haul in the U-23 individual events (4 gold, 4 silver, 9 bronze), featuring a complete podium sweep in men's sabre led by gold medallist Nikhil Wagh, alongside individual gold medals from Joys Ashita (women's foil), Prachi Lohan (women's epee), and Jeferlin (women's sabre).

On Day 2, Team India transitioned into senior individual action, collecting 7 medals (1 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze), headlined by a gold-silver finish from Tanishka Khatri and Khushi Dabhadre in senior women's epee.

INOX SRINAGAR

MOVIES Watchlist

FRIDAY, 14TH AUGUST

BATWARA 1947 (HINDI) (A)

03:45 PM
06:40 PM

AWAARAPAN 2 (HINDI) (U/A 16+)

02:05 PM
04:55 PM
07:45 PM

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY (3D ENGLISH) (U/A 13+)

04:20 PM
07:15 PM

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