

Good Morning

Kashmir

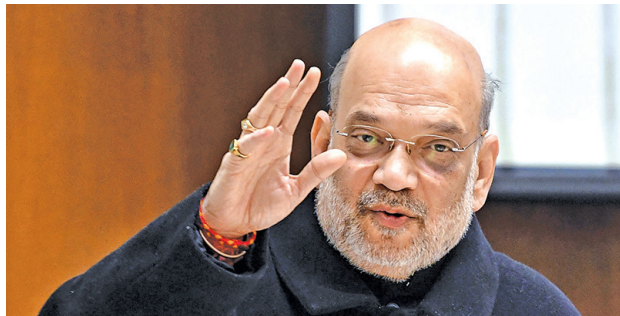
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Under Rahul

Congress vigorously pursuing appeasement politics: HM Amit Shah



IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Deprecating the Congress party's "extreme appeasement" policy, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the Congress Working Committee's decision to sing only two stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' was tantamount to repeating a historical blunder that sowed the seeds of Partition.

Home Minister Shah said that in 1937, the Congress party, for the sake of Muslim appeasement, divided 'Vande Mataram' into two parts and laid the foundation for the partition of the country.

"It was from there that the two-nation theory gained strength, ultimately leading to the partition of the country and the birth of Pakistan," he said, criticising the CWC's decision as "anti-national and an open violation of the law made by Parliament".

The Union Minister stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has corrected the 1937 decision taken by the Congress party, 80 years after independence.

"The people of the country will no longer tolerate opposition to this correction," said Home Minister Shah in a statement issued by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

He said the BJP condemns the Congress party's

strength, ultimately leading to the partition of the country and the birth of Pakistan," he said, criticising the CWC's decision as "anti-national and an open violation of the law made by Parliament".

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'Union Cabinet Approves HC Bench For Ladakh'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah on Wednesday welcomed the decision of the Union Cabinet to establish a Bench of the High Court

of Jammu and Kashmir in Ladakh.

In a post on X, Amit Shah announced that the Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has decided to set up a Bench of the

J&K Scours Universities To 'Wipe Out Radical Narratives'



RIYAZ BHAT

**SRINAGAR:** In an aggressive push to scrub radical narratives from higher education, J&K Higher Education Department (JKHED) has ordered a blanket ban on any literature promoting violent extremism, secessionism, or national sovereignty threats across all J&K

universities and campus libraries.

In this regard, the department has issued the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for evaluation, selection, procurement, publication, acceptance, quality assurance and periodic review of books and other educational resources in universities of Jammu & Kashmir.

Border Villages Frontline Of India's Identity: LG Sinha

Says This Land Is Not India's Last Village But Gateway Where Our Nation Begins

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Asserting a paradigm shift in the region's development trajectory, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha declared Thursday that the border villages of Jammu and Kashmir are no longer on the "margins" but have emerged as the "frontline of India's identity." Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sinha highlighted that critical infrastructure, including roads, electricity, telecom, and education, has now reached every household in these strategic hamlets.

"When the story of India's development is written, its first chapter should begin in villages like Karol Krishna, Rathua, Gajnal, Bobiya, Kadiyala and Gujjar Chak, where India's border breathes and the tricolour flutters," LG Sinha said while addressing the residents from 6 strategic villages under VVP-2, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that border villages are not India's last villages, but its first villages, the frontline of the nation's identity and development.

He noted that for decades, the word "border" carried a sense of distance and these



villages were far from the priorities of governance. However, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, border villages have been brought into the mainstream of development.

Highlighting progress since 2019, the Lieutenant Governor stated that all 216 border villages of Kathua district are now connected by road, with full electrification achieved.

Telecommunication and television access, once limited, now reach every household.

"These figures are not just numbers and reports but they represent real change in your lives," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor shared data highlighting that poverty levels have declined sharply, migration to cities has halved, and

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Border villages of J&K no longer on the margins but they are now at the centre of development
- Roads, electricity, telecom, and education have reached every home
- Poverty has declined, migration reduced, incomes risen, and employment opportunities expanded
- Women's self-help groups are powering local economies, and our youth are dreaming big
- Vibrant Villages Programme is not just about infrastructure but it is also about dignity, opportunity, and security
- Border families, alongside BSF jawans, are guardians of India's future
- Our resolve to make border villages self-reliant, empower youth with opportunities

Rain Lashes Parts Of J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Rain lashed parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, with several areas receiving light to moderate showers as the Meteorological Centre forecast generally hot and humid conditions with intermittent rainfall across the Union Territory till August 27.

The weather department said one or two spells of light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered to many places from August 21 to 22, with brief intense heavy showers possible in a few districts during the early morning and afternoon hours.

According to details obtained, from August 23 to 27, generally hot and humid weather is expected, with brief spells of rain or thundershowers at scattered places during the early morning and afternoon hours.

According to the India Meteorological Department's evening weather bulletin, Pahalgam received 4.4 mm of rainfall between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm on Thursday, while Gulmarg recorded 2.4 mm during the period.

'It's A Good Thing' Congress Backs US Ambassador For Calling J&K An 'Important Part Of India'

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** As Pakistan summoned a US diplomat following remarks by the American envoy to India on Jammu and Kashmir, Congress and RLD on Thursday welcomed the development, asserting that the UT is an integral part of India and there is no question of making any changes to its status.

Congress leader Husain Dalwai said that the US had taken a positive stand on the issue and also supported Chief Minister



Omar Abdullah's response to the remarks.

"It's a good thing. America has taken a very good stand. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has welcomed the US Ambassador's

statement. Jammu and Kashmir is Indian territory. There is no question of making any changes to it. PoK should also be included in Jammu and Kashmir. It should come to India," Dalwai told IANS.

RLD leader K.C. Tyagi also welcomed the government's move where they removed encroachments outside the Pakistan High Commission.

"I appreciate the courageous step of the government. This is called tit-for-tat," he said.

Former Jammu and

US Ambassador Sergio Gor Arrives In Leh

RAJA SYED RATHER

**SRINAGAR:** United States Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, reached Leh on Thursday as part of his visit to Ladakh.

Gor, who met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar on Wednesday, flew to Leh today after his flight was delayed due to adverse weather conditions.

Sources said that the Ambassador took part in river rafting in Leh. "He visited the Zaskar-Indus confluence at

Nimnu and joined a rafting expedition along the stretch from Tsogti," they said.

Gor's visit to Leh coincides with the presence of Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, in the town. However, it was not immediately known whether a meeting

CS Reviews Administrative Reforms, Launches Online DPC Portal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday reviewed the functioning and performance of the Administrative Reforms, Inspections (ARI) & Trainings Department, with a focus on key governance and administrative reform initiatives, including finalization of Recruitment Rules, cadre restructuring, resolution of Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) issues, and operational efficiency of the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) and Government Press.

The meeting, attended by Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department; Chairperson, J&K BOPEE; General Manager, Government Press; and other senior officers.

Issuing directions for expediting the ongoing reforms, the Chief Secretary



called for smooth and time-bound operationalisation of the online DPC Portal, besides ensuring swift completion of Recruitment Rules for all departments and their respective services. He stressed that the digital mechanisms should translate into tangible improvements in administrative efficiency and timely disposal of service-related matters.

The Chief Secretary further directed that a comprehensive mechanism be devised to ensure filling up of all available seats/vacancies in professional courses through BOPEE, with the objective of achieving optimum utilization of the infrastructure, faculty and other resources available in institutions of higher learning across the Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary thereafter took a detailed live demonstration of

Second Consecutive Lotus Bloom Renews Hopes Of Wular's Ecological Revival

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Lotus flowers have bloomed for the second consecutive year in Kashmir's Wular Lake, renewing hopes among local communities that the revival of the iconic aquatic plant could help restore traditional livelihoods and revive a cherished part of the region's culinary heritage.

The lotus had disappeared from large parts of the lake for nearly three decades after massive siltation, particularly following the devastating floods of 1992, disrupted its habitat.

The renewed blooming follows restoration and de-silting work undertaken by the Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA), which has been working to improve the ecological health



of the wetland.

For people whose families traditionally harvested nadru (lotus stem), the return of the flowers has been especially significant.

Bashir Ahmad, a 65-year-

old fisherman whose family depends on Wular, said the return of the lotus was once considered almost impossible.

"We threw seeds into the lake hundreds of times, but nothing grew. It is only now,

after the silt was cleared, that we see the flowers again," Ahmad said.

His brother, Mohammad Fayaz Dar, said the disappearance of lotus had also affected local food traditions.

"After the lotus stems disappeared, nadru also gradually vanished from local diets. But now, we believe it will be revived completely," Dar said.

The lotus stem has traditionally been an important ingredient in Kashmiri cuisine and is widely prepared during weddings, festivals and other special occasions.

Tavir Ahmad, a chef in Kashmir, said the return of the plant was bringing back old culinary traditions.

"Now that it is back, we are preparing dishes the way our grandmothers did -- slow, simple and full of

Ensure Kounsarnag Yatra Passes Off Smoothly: DGP To Officials

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday asked the officers to ensure that upcoming Kounsarnag Yatra in South Kashmir passes off smoothly.

While chairing a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to review the security arrangements for the annual Kounsarnag Yatra, DGP Prabhat, directed the officers to maintain a high level of preparedness, strengthen security arrangements along the Yatra routes, and ensure close coordination and seamless communication among all stakeholders.

He reviewed various security-related aspects and stressed the need for enhanced coordination among all concerned agencies to ensure comprehensive security and effective management of the pilgrimage.

The DGP said, "Safety and security of pilgrims remains a top priority. All necessary security measures need to

Security Perimeter Outside Pak HC In New Delhi Removed



AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** In a swift move authorities have dismantled the external security perimeter outside the Pakistan High Commission, removing traffic bollards and barricades that previously ring-fenced the diplomatic compound.

India's strong counteraction comes exactly three days after Pakistani authorities reportedly removed protective security barricades stationed outside the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. The decisive move by local authorities in New Delhi unfold amidst a diplo-

matic stand-off between the South Asian nations following the unprovoked attack by Pakistan backs terrorists in Pahlgam last year that killed 26 people.

The Pakistani-backed Pahlgam terror attack was followed by a strong counter action by India. Demonstrating strong military resolve, India launched Operation Sindoor in retaliation to strike terror infrastructure, with active military exchanges continuing until May 10, when a desperate Pakistan was forced to seek a ceasefire.

Exposing Pakistan's shrinking international leverage in

# PAC reviews functioning, Audit Paras of PWD (R&B) department

Chairman stresses on financial discipline, transparency in execution of public works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly Thursday conducted a detailed review of various Audit Paras pertaining to the Public Works (R&B) Department.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman PAC, Surjeet Singh Slathia and attended by members of the Committee including Mubarik Gul, Shamim Firdous, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo), Ranbir Singh Pathania, Ch. Mohammad Akram, Vikram Randhawa and Tanvir Sadiq.

The meeting was also attended by DGAT, Engineer in Chief, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Director Finance PWD and other senior officers of PWD, besides Secretary JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit and other officers of Assembly Secretariat.

During the meeting,



the Committee examined the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) furnished by the Department on various observations contained in the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India and reviewed the status of pending Audit Paras.

While examining one of the Audit Paras, the Committee took serious note of the issues involved and directed the Department to institute a departmental inquiry to fix responsibility.

The Chairman directed the department to submit the Action Taken Report within two months for consideration and appraisal of the Committee.

Emphasizing the impor-

tance of financial discipline and transparency in the execution of public works, the Chairman observed that public money must be utilized with utmost responsibility and accountability. He stressed that all developmental works should be executed strictly in accordance with prescribed rules, procedures and codal formalities.

The Chairman also underscored the importance of environmental

responsibility while undertaking construction and infrastructure projects. He observed that it is the collective moral responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure that developmental activities do not compro-

mise environmental sustainability.

He further directed the Department to ensure that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are prepared through a proper and well-defined mechanism, with all necessary technical, financial and administrative requirements duly complied with, so as to minimize procedural deficiencies and avoid audit objections in future.

The Chairman laid particular emphasis on strengthening the capacity of field-level functionaries. He called upon senior officers to provide regular guidance, handholding and mentoring to ground-level staff, particularly newly

recruited Junior Engineers, to enhance their technical capabilities and ensure adherence to prescribed procedures.

He stressed that effective supervision by senior officers, coupled with regular monitoring of works at the field level, is essential for improving the quality and timely execution of projects. He also called for strengthening the Department's internal audit and monitoring mechanisms to identify and address procedural and financial irregularities at an early stage.

The Committee directed the department to ensure strict compliance with financial rules, codal procedures and CAG guidelines in the planning and execution of all future projects.

The Members reiterated that transparency, accountability, environmental responsibility, quality and timely execution of works must remain the core priorities of the PWD (R&B) Department.

## Ajeet Kumar Sahu reviews PM SHRI Schools, Health Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, and Central Prabhari Officer for Baramulla District under the Aspirational District and Aspirational Block Programmes, PM SHRI Schools and PMDDKY, Thursday undertook a comprehensive field visit to Tangmarg and Pattan to assess the progress of key development initiatives.

Sahu, accompanied by Pranjal J. Hazarika, Additional District Development Commissioner, Baramulla; Nissar Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer; SDM Gulmarg; State Coordinator PM SHRI Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz and other concerned officers, reviewed the implementation of various flagship programmes at the grassroots level.

During the visit, he inspected PM SHRI Schools at Dobhiwan, Tangmarg, and Gund Khwaja Qasim in Pattan. He took stock of the infrastructure, edu-



cational facilities and initiatives being implemented under the PM SHRI Scheme. He also interacted with students to understand their learning experiences, assess the availability of facilities and hear their aspirations.

The visit also focused on evaluating the implementation and impact of the Aspirational District and Aspirational Block Programmes and PMDDKY, while identifying areas that require further attention and strengthening.

Later, Sahu visited Singhpora, Pattan, and inspected the newly established Health and Wellness Centre (Delivery Point). The facil-

ity has been constructed with award funds received under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks Programme, aimed at strengthening local healthcare infrastructure and ensuring improved access to essential health services.

During the field visit, Sahu stressed the need for effective implementation, judicious utilization of resources and continuous monitoring of development programmes. He emphasized that coordinated efforts should be made to ensure that the benefits of these flagship initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries efficiently and within the stipulated timelines.

## DC Kupwara Visits Tekipora Lolab, Reviews Dev, Public Issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Thursday visited Tekipora village in Lolab and interacted with local residents to take stock of various issues and developmental concerns.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner met members of the Shiv Mandir Committee and reviewed the pending issues concerning the temple. He discussed the matter with the concerned officers and committee members and directed coordinated efforts to ensure that the pending works are expedited and completed within a fixed timeframe.

The villagers also put forth several demands, including the establishment of a library and installation of solar lights at the local Ziarat. The Deputy Commissioner assured the residents that their concerns would be examined and appropriate action taken on priority.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the NTPHC Tekipora and reviewed the functioning and availability of healthcare services at the facility.

SDM Lolab, CPO and other concerned officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

## JKEDI Organises Eop for RRIUM Faculty, Research Scholars



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) organised a one-day Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme (EOP) for faculty members and 25 postgraduate research scholars of the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Srinagar.

The programme aimed to familiarise participants with entrepreneurial thinking, innovation and the evolving startup ecosystem, while encouraging a shift from conventional approaches towards problem-solving, opportunity identification and value creation.

The programme commenced with an interactive session on "Why Entrepreneurship?", highlighting the role of entrepreneurial thinking in addressing contemporary economic and social challenges. Subsequent sessions focused on traditional entrepreneurship, the changing startup ecosystem and opportunities for transforming academic knowledge and research into viable entrepreneurial ventures.

The programme concluded with an interactive session on Business Plan Formulation, which familiarised participants with the essential components of developing a structured and sustainable business proposition.

Addressing the participants, Sh. Chand Kishore Sharma (JKAS), Joint Director, JKEDI, encouraged faculty members and research scholars to embrace innovation and explore avenues for translating research and knowledge into meaningful entrepreneurial ventures. Sh. Barun Verma (JKAS), Accounts Officer, JKEDI, also participated in the programme.

The sessions were conducted by Sh. Irtif Mehraj, Incubation Manager; Sh. Shabir Majeed, Faculty; Dr. Sameer Jan Bhat, Teaching Associate; and Dr. Mohammad Furqan Khan, Assistant Faculty, JKEDI, who served as resource persons.

The programme reaffirmed JKEDI's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and knowledge-driven enterprise creation among academic and research communities across Jammu & Kashmir.

## Dir NIT visits key sections, reviews Mega Hostel work

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Director, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, on Thursday visited various administrative and academic sections of the Institute and interacted with faculty and staff members.

During his interactions, he took feedback from the staff regarding the functioning of their respective sections and emphasised the importance of coordination, efficiency and timely disposal of work.

The Director also visited the Counselling Cell, where the ongoing undergraduate (UG) admission process is being conducted. He reviewed the arrangements made for students and their parents and interacted with the officials involved in the admission process.

Prof. Misra appreciated the arrangements put in place by Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Bashir Ahmad Mir and his team for ensuring a smooth and systematic admission process. He also appreciated the efforts of the officials and staff engaged in admission-related duties and stressed the importance of providing all pos-



sible assistance to students and parents visiting the institute.

The Director also reviewed the ongoing work on the Mega Hostel project. He took an update on the progress of the construction and related works and directed the concerned officials to ensure timely completion of the remaining work.

Prof. Misra stressed that the hostel facility is important for strengthening student infrastructure at the Institute and called for close monitoring of the work to ensure that the project is completed at the earliest.

He also directed the concerned officers to maintain coordination among different agencies and sections involved in the project

and ensure that any pending issues are addressed promptly.

Registrar NIT Srinagar Prof. Atikur Rehman and Deputy Registrar (Administration) accompanied the Director during the visit.

Later, Prof. Misra was also briefed about the Institute's NBA accreditation, NIRF ranking, digital infrastructure and other key institutional initiatives and achievements. He took feedback on the ongoing efforts towards strengthening the institute's academic, administrative and technological infrastructure.

Earlier Director also planted a sapling on the Institute campus, underlining the importance of environmental sustainability and green initiatives.

## Awareness Campaign Programme on “Fake Pesticides vs. Genuine Pesticides”

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with officials of the State Agriculture Department from Block Kakapora, organized an awareness campaign on "Fake Pesticides vs. Genuine Pesticides" for farmers at Sether Gund village, Block Kakapora, District Pulwama, on August 20, 2026.

The programme aimed to educate farmers about the identification and verification of genuine pesticides and the risks associated with the purchase and use of counterfeit products.

Dr. Vageesh Pandey, DD (E), sensitized the farmers about various methods of identifying and verifying genuine pesticides before purchase and use.

Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP), highlighted the serious problems and harmful effects of counterfeit pesticides on crops, human health, and the environment. He also emphasized the importance of verifying pesticide



QR codes and following the recommended procedures for their safe and judicious application.

Mohd. Shafi, JAO Kakapora, delivered a valuable lecture on the importance of such awareness programmes and stressed the need for farmers to carefully verify the manufacturer's details, batch number, and other relevant information before purchasing pesticides.

Abir Shankhari, APPO (WS), further strengthened the practical understanding of the participants through a PowerPoint presentation. He apprised the farmers of the harmful effects of indiscriminate pesticide use on human

health and emphasized the adoption of all necessary safety precautions during pesticide handling and application.

The programme concluded with an interactive session in which Sanjeet Singh, JAO Kakapora, addressed and clarified the queries and doubts raised by the farmers. The farmers appreciated the initiative and the valuable guidance provided by the participating officers.

The programme emphasized the importance of purchasing genuine pesticides from reliable sources, verifying product details before purchase, and ensuring their safe, judicious, and responsible use

## DDC Shopian Reviews District Capex Works, Directs Timely Completion

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Thursday chaired a meeting to review the progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Budget, with particular emphasis on timely tendering and completion of projects.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ACD, CEO, CMO, XEN PDD, BDOs and other concerned officers from various executing agencies.

During the meeting, the DDC took a comprehensive review of the status of works, tendering processes, physical and financial progress, and implemen-



tation of projects on the ground.

He directed all concerned departments to expedite the tendering and execution of works, address bottlenecks promptly and ensure effective coordination among all stakeholders. He stressed that projects must be completed within the prescribed timelines while maintaining the required standards of quality.

The DDC also called upon executing agencies

to closely monitor ongoing works and ensure optimal utilization of allocated funds. He underscored that timely completion of developmental projects is vital to providing tangible benefits to the public and strengthening infrastructure across the district.

The concerned officers were further directed to submit regular progress updates and maintain strict accountability, transparency and quality throughout the execution of all works.

## National seminar on GST Reforms 2.0 concludes at CUK

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** The two-day national seminar on "GST Reforms 2.0: Sectoral Growth Prospects and Challenges," organized by the Department of Commerce, School of Business Studies, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, concluded at Tulmulla Campus here on Thursday.

Addressing the valedictory function, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Prof. D. K. Madaan, highlighted the economic and political dimensions of GST and its implications for welfare and resource allocation. He noted that the unified tax structure has improved efficiency by enabling businesses to source inputs more productively, reducing supply-chain costs and encouraging wider participation in the tax network. He also called for further reforms promoting sustainability, including tax incentives for environmentally responsible production.

In his speech, former Vice-Chancellor of CCS University, Meerut, Prof. Narendra Kumar Taneja, remarked that the unified market dismantles the "tax-inspired, tax-distorted vertical integration" of the pre-GST era, where



businesses were forced to produce all inputs in-house to avoid cumbersome interstate taxes. This fragmentation, he explained, hurt specialization and scale. With GST, producers can source inputs efficiently, boosting productivity. He cited studies showing that major companies like HUL, Marico, and Nestle have restructured their supply chains, reducing warehouses and costs due to the uniform tax structure. Prof. Taneja advocated for using GST to promote environmental sustainability by taxing goods that contribute more to greenhouse emissions at a higher rate, while lowering rates for eco-friendly products. He urged students and young researchers to examine emerging dimensions of taxation and policy.

Assistant Director (Retd.) and Advocate, Mr. M.G. Kodandaram, offered a practitioner's perspective on the journey of GST. He explained that GST successfully transitioned India from an origin-based to a consumption-based

tax system, ensuring equitable revenue distribution among states. He illustrated how the tax rate structure has rationalized, noting that out of the original 425 items in the 28% bracket in 2017, only 28 items remain today. He emphasized the importance of Input Tax Credit (ITC) in eliminating the cascading effect of taxes and urged scholars to study the place of supply rules.

Earlier, Dean, School of Business Studies, Prof. Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath for his proactive support and to ICSSR for providing financial assistance, noting that the seminar was an example of the university's commitment to hosting relevant intellectual activities aligning with the National Policy of Education 2020.

Seminar convener and Head, Department of Commerce, Dr. Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, presented a detailed overview of the proceedings of the seminar.

# CM Omar lays foundation of modern mechanized abattoir in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday laid the foundation stone for the ₹25.87 crore state-of-the-art mechanized Abattoir here at Allochi Bagh, marking a significant step towards establishing a regulated, hygienic and scientifically managed meat-processing facility for Srinagar city.

The construction of modern mechanized Sheep & Goat Abattoir in Srinagar City, includes Testing & Commissioning on EPC Mode under CAPEX/SASCI.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the modern abattoir would mark an important step towards bringing Srinagar's meat-processing infrastructure in line with contemporary standards.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Gurwinder Singh Oberoi,

MLA, Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Fazl ul Haseeb and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

The proposed abattoir will have a processing capacity of approximately 5,000 sheep and goats per day, making it one of the largest dedicated mechanized sheep and goat abattoirs in the country. The facility will incorporate modern mechanized systems covering slaughtering, carcass handling, processing, chilling, cold storage, sanitation, by-product management and other allied operations.

Commissioner SMC briefed the Chief Minister that the project is aimed at substantially improving meat hygiene and food safety, ensuring safer working conditions, strengthening veterinary and quality-control mechanisms and establishing a regulated, efficient and scientific-

ly managed slaughtering system for Srinagar city.

A key feature of the project is its emphasis on environmental safeguards and scientific waste management. The facility will incorporate a bio-digestion system and an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) to scientifically treat organic waste and wastewater generated during operations. These systems will help reduce the organic pollution load, control foul odour, facilitate resource recovery and enable reuse of treated water for suitable non-potable purposes.

The project, once completed, is envisaged as a state-of-the-art mechanized abattoir and a significant urban infrastructure initiative for Srinagar, bringing modern standards of hygiene, food safety, animal handling, waste management and environmental protection to the city's meat-processing sector.

# Javid Dar flags off 250 farmers for training at CITH

Advocates adoption of modern, scientific agri-practices

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday flagged off a group of 250 farmers for a one-day training programme at the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Rangreth, Srinagar.

The initiative was aimed at strengthening the farmers' technical capacity and familiarising them with the modern, scientific and sustainable agricultural practices. MLA Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad Pardesi besides others were present during the flag-off ceremony.

During the training programme, organised by the Kisan Advisory Board, J&K, the farmers will interact with the agricultural and horticultural experts and scientists. They will find solutions to various issues, challenges and field-level concerns



being faced by them in crop cultivation in their respective areas.

Addressing the participating farmers, Javid Ahmad Dar emphasised the importance of continuous capacity building, knowledge enhancement and exposure to the emerging technologies in agriculture and allied sectors. He said that such programmes are aimed at providing the farmers with practical and scientific knowledge of modern farming techniques, including improved crop management practices, balanced and judicious use of fertilisers and pesti-

cides, adoption of advanced technologies and promotion of sustainable agricultural methods.

He stressed the need to encourage environmentally sustainable and natural farming practices while simultaneously ensuring higher productivity, improved quality of produce and enhanced profitability for farming families.

Javid Dar said that it is being ensured that such training programmes, exposure visits and farmer-oriented capacity-building initiatives are organised on a regular basis so that

the farming community remains abreast of the latest innovations, technologies and best practices. He maintained that strengthening the knowledge, skills and technical capabilities of farmers is vital for transforming the agricultural sector, enhancing farm incomes and making farming more productive, resilient and sustainable.

The Minister urged upon the participating farmers to interact freely with the experts and scientists, seek technical guidance and share their field-level experiences and concerns. He said that such direct

interactions would help in developing practical and locally relevant solutions to the challenges confronting the farming community. He underscored the importance of strengthening the linkage between research institutions, extension agencies and farmers so that scientific innovations and technologies reach the field effectively and translate into tangible benefits for the farming community.

The Minister appreciated the Kisan Advisory Board and the concerned departments for organising the training programme. He called for sustained efforts towards empowering the farmers through knowledge, technology and institutional support.

Director Horticulture Kashmir, Secretary Kisan Advisory Board, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Managing Director JKHPMC, Director J&K Horticulture Marketing and Processing and other senior officers of the concerned departments were present on the occasion.

# Amit Sharma reviews Census-2027 preparedness in Doda

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**DODA:** Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director, Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, Thursday visited Doda and chaired a review meeting on Census-2027 at Doda, to assess the preparedness and progress of Population Enumeration in the district.

The meeting was attended by Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Doda, Krishan Lal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer) Anil Kumar Thakur, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Additional District Census Officer Vijay Kumar, Charge Officers, field trainers, supervisors, enumerators and other officials associated with the Census-2027 exercise.

During the meeting, CPCO Amit Sharma reviewed the overall progress of census preparations. He emphasized the



importance of maintaining the highest standards of accuracy, completeness and reliability during data collection. He directed the enumerators and supervisors to ensure that every entry is correctly recorded, cross-checked and verified, stressing that accurate census data is vital for effective policy formulation, planning and delivery of public services.

The CPCO called for intensified awareness and publicity campaigns through newspapers, pamphlets, social media, local influencers, social activities and other available communication platforms. He directed the District Census authorities to ensure that resi-

dents of snow-bound and difficult-to-reach areas are adequately informed about the Population Enumeration phase scheduled from September 1 to 30, 2026, so that complete coverage is achieved.

Amit Sharma also directed the Charge Officers and supervisors to undertake regular field visits, inspections and random quality checks. He stressed strict adherence to census guidelines and called for special attention towards migratory populations, tribal communities, forest areas and other special categories, ensuring that no eligible household or individual is left out of the enumeration process.

# ACB traps SMC inspector with Rs 10,000 bribe in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday said it had trapped and arrested a Junior Building Inspector of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) for allegedly demanding and accepting a Rs 10,000 bribe from a complainant.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau received a written complaint alleging that Gazala Akhter, Junior Building Inspector, SMC, Ward No. 28, Srinagar, had demanded illegal gratification from the complainant in connection with the construction of two structures,

despite the complainant having already obtained the requisite building permission from the competent authority.

He said it was further alleged that the accused public servant was deliberately adopting delaying tactics by obstructing the ongoing construction and causing harassment to the complainant, with the intention of preventing him from completing the construction within the stipulated period and putting him under pressure to pay the demanded amount.

The spokesperson said that upon receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which prima facie substantiated the allegations.

Accordingly, FIR No. 11/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar, and an investigation was taken up.

"During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and apprehended the accused public servant, Gazala Akhter, Junior Building Inspector, SMC Srinagar, red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from the complainant. The bribe amount was recovered from her possession in the presence of independent witnesses, and she was taken into custody. Further investigation in the case is in progress."—(KNO)

# Javed Rana reviews pending verification of PMGSY works in Mendhar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to review the status of pending joint verification of works being executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Sub-Division Mendhar.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Conservator of Forests, West, Divisional Forest Officer, Poonch and Range Officer, Mendhar.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the issues pertaining to joint verification of PMGSY works, particularly those requiring coordination between the concerned forest authorities and executing agencies. He took detailed stock of the pending cases and sought a status report on the works requiring forest-related clearances and verification.

Javed Rana emphasised the need for close inter-departmental coordination and time-bound disposal of the pending cases so that procedural issues do not hamper the execution of important road connectivity projects in Mendhar. He directed the concerned officers to undertake the pending joint verification exercises on priority and ensure that all requisite formalities are completed expeditiously in accordance with the prescribed rules and procedures.

The Minister said that strengthening the rural road connectivity is essential for improving access to education, healthcare, markets and other essential services, particularly in remote and hilly areas. He stressed that all bottlenecks affecting the timely execution of PMGSY works should be identified and resolved through coordinated efforts.

# J&K Assembly in turmoil: Staff, not legislators, raise slogans

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** It was an unusual day in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, as the staff staged protests over the appointment of an "outsider" as Deputy Secretary in the Assembly Secretariat.

The employees of the Assembly Secretariat, this morning opposed the posting of Bilal Ahmad Mir, JKAS, Sub-Registrar Khanshab, as Deputy Secretary in the Legislative Assembly. Shouting slogans, the staff demanded immediate withdrawal of the order, accusing the government of undermining and interfering with the autonomous character of the Assembly Secretariat.

A group of employees alleged that the appointment of the JKAS officer was a direct interference by the executive in the domain of the legislature. "There is separation of powers between the executive, legislature and judiciary. The executive is accountable to the legislature, and it cannot control the legislature," they said.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, provides that the Legislative Assembly shall have a separate secretariat staff. The Act also empowers the Assembly to regulate the recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to the Secretariat staff by enacting a law.

Furthermore, it stipulates that until the Assembly passes such laws, the Lieutenant Governor, in consultation with the Speaker, has the authority to frame rules for recruitment and service—(KNO)

# Woman killed after vehicles collide in Kangan

AGENCIES

**KANGAN:** A 45-year-old woman died after an SUV collided with another vehicle near Kangan in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday.

An official said that the accident occurred when the Scorpio vehicle collided with a Tata Mobile near the Akhal area of Kangan. He said the woman sustained injuries in the incident and was shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Kangan, where doctors declared her brought dead.

She was later identified as Naseema Begum (45), wife of Nazir Ahmad Ahanger and a resident of Akhal, Kangan.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident—(KNO)

# CASO launched in Reasi's Pouni after suspicious movement report

**AGENCIES**

**REASI:** Security forces on Thursday launched a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in remote areas of Pouni in Reasi district following reports of suspicious movement.

Sources said that locals spotted some suspicious persons in the area and immediately alerted the police.

They said that following the information, joint teams of the police, Army and Special Operations Group (SOG) launched a CASO in the suspected area and adjoining locations. "Security personnel are conducting searches to trace the suspected individuals and ascertain their identity and movement," they added—(KNO)

# Sakeena Itoo tours hailstorm-affected villages of Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Thursday conducted an extensive tour of villages of Kulgam to assess the damage caused to orchards due to adverse weather conditions during the current season.

The Minister visited several affected villages including Harvaith, Nihama, Samnoo, Gopalpora, Lakhidipora, Tengam, Bathipora and Chogalpora.

She was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, SDM Noorabad Bashir ul Hassan, Tehsildar D.H. Pora Zahid Ahmad, Chief Horticulture Officer Kulgam Mohd. Ramzan War and other officers of the Horticulture Department besides other officers and officials of the district administration.

During the visit, Sakeena Itoo interacted with the fruit growers, inspected the orchards and had detailed feedback regarding the losses suffered by the farming community. The growers apprised her of the severity of damage to fruit crops, defoliation and damage to fruit-bearing trees following repeat



ed spells of hailstorm and high-velocity winds.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Minister about the damage reported from different areas of the district and the measures undertaken by the district administration for damage assessment and relief.

The Chief Horticulture Officer informed the Minister that the preliminary assessment of the damage has already been submitted to the concerned authorities. Besides, village-wise and asam-e-wise details of the losses are being compiled to facilitate further action as per the applicable norms under SDRF/UT norms, he added.

The Minister expressed solidarity with the affected growers and said that horticulture is the backbone of Kashmir's economy

and the government fully understands the distress of the farming community. She assured the affected farmers that all possible assistance and relief would be extended to the eligible beneficiaries under the applicable rules and provisions. She informed that the matter has been taken up at the appropriate level for redress.

On long-term preventive measures, the Chief Horticulture Officer apprised the Minister of the importance of anti-hail nets in protecting the orchards from recurring weather-related damage. He urged the farmers to adopt anti-hail nets, for which the government is providing substantial subsidy under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other applicable schemes.

# CS reviews Renewable Energy initiatives of Science & Tech Deptt

J&K to scale-up Floating Solar, Small Hydro, Wind Energy Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday held a review meeting of the Science and Technology Department to assess the progress and implementation framework of various renewable energy initiatives and emerging green-energy policies in the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology was attended by Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu; DG Budget; MD, PDCL; CEO, JAKEDA; CEO, CITaG and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the action



plans, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo directed all concerned departments, including Power Development Department, Revenue, Finance and Agriculture, to ensure close institutional coordination and timely execution of the identified initiatives.

The Chief Secretary directed that the district-wise biomass survey be completed within the stipulated timeline and called for immediate identification and screening of suitable government land for creation of a centralized Green Land Bank especially

by exploring the digital land bank of J&K created by the Forest Department.

Emphasizing the need to translate policy initiatives into tangible outcomes, the Chief Secretary called for milestone-based, time-bound implementation, with clear

responsibilities assigned to the concerned departments and agencies.

He observed that J&K possesses tremendous potential in solar, water, wind and biomass resources therefore our focus must now be on converting this potential into viable projects through coordinated and time-bound action.

He maintained that these initiatives can contribute significantly towards energy security, create local employment, support industry and agriculture, and help build a cleaner and greener Jammu and Kashmir.

On this occasion the Commissioner/Secretary, Science

and Technology Department, Babila Rakwal, presented an overview of the ongoing initiatives, while the Centre for Innovation and Technology Transformation (CITaG) presented strategic roadmaps for the proposed Integrated Renewable Energy (IRE) Policy and Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) Policy.

The meeting reviewed a broad range of initiatives encompassing floating solar projects, small hydro power, solarization of government buildings, wind-energy assessment, smart metering, battery energy storage systems and conversion of organic waste into compressed bio-gas.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

## A Stamp Of Trust On Every Piece Of Meat

The decision to revive Srinagar’s long-pending modern abattoir project is more than an infrastructure announcement. It is a test of whether Jammu and Kashmir is finally prepared to treat food safety as a public responsibility rather than leave it to chance. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s proposal that meat sold in Srinagar should carry a “market-authorised stamp” is a welcome move. But the real question is not whether a stamp will be introduced. The question is whether that stamp will actually mean something. For years, consumers have bought meat without knowing where the animal was slaughtered, whether it was examined for disease, whether hygienic standards were followed or whether the meat reaching their kitchens had passed any meaningful inspection. In a city where meat is an essential part of the daily diet, such uncertainty is unacceptable. The proposed Rs 31-crore modern abattoir, expected to be completed within one-and-a-half years, therefore deserves serious attention. Disease testing of sheep, hygienic processing and halal certification can bring much-needed order to a supply chain that has remained largely fragmented. But infrastructure alone will not solve the problem. A modern abattoir can provide facilities; it cannot guarantee compliance unless the authorities establish a strong system of inspection from slaughterhouse to market. The authorised stamp must not become another piece of paper that can be copied, misused or ignored. Every authorised meat outlet should be identifiable. Every slaughtered animal should be traceable to the point of inspection. Meat inspectors must be present and accountable. Market inspections must be regular, surprise checks must be meaningful and violations must attract penalties strong enough to deter malpractice. The administration must also resist the temptation to declare victory merely because a new facility has been constructed. Kashmir has seen several projects that looked impressive on paper but failed to deliver their intended public benefit because of weak monitoring and poor enforcement. The meat trade directly concerns public health. Diseased animals, unhygienic slaughtering, contaminated water, improper handling and poor storage can turn an ordinary food item into a serious health hazard. The consumer should not be expected to become an expert in identifying unsafe meat.

The proposed stamp, therefore, should become a symbol of accountability, not merely a rubber mark. There is also a larger economic dimension. A properly regulated meat-processing system can benefit consumers as well as genuine butchers and traders. It can create a level playing field by discouraging unlicensed slaughtering and unfair practices while giving legitimate businesses a recognised quality standard. The SMC must now demonstrate that the revival of the abattoir is not another announcement destined to remain trapped in files. A project stalled for years needs a clear timeline, transparent execution and public reporting of progress. The government should publish the completion schedule, make the quality standards public and establish a mechanism through which consumers can report violations. Technology can further strengthen the system through traceability and verification of authorised meat outlets. Omar Abdullah’s emphasis on a market-authorised stamp has correctly identified the heart of the problem: the consumer deserves to know what is being put on the dinner table. Now the administration must ensure that every stamp carries credibility. Because when it comes to food safety, trust cannot be slaughtered along with the animal.

# Leaders Of Performative Politics In A Theatre Of Deception



BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

William Shakespeare’s pastoral comedy As You Like It—specifically Jaques’ melancholic monologue in Act II, Scene VII, which conceptualises the seven stages of human life—defines the realities of world with the following famous lines: “All the world’s a stage, And all the men and women are merely players;

They have their exits and their entrances, And one man in his time plays many parts.” Yet this metaphor takes on a literal and deceptive translation in politics, where leaders speak and gesture with spectacular theatricality, delivering moralising speeches on principles designed to capture mass attention and arouse mass emotion. Their aim is to mobilise people as a collective to achieve certain goals for the greater common good by providing solutions to the issues and challenges people face in their everyday lives. In this process, leaders are expected to hold the people together through coherent missions and visions for meaningful social, political, economic, cultural and revolutionary change.

However, once these leaders secure power through the electoral process, they often hide behind the collective to conceal their failures in offering concrete solutions. These leaders, across all walks of life, adhere to a compliance culture of managerialism that is crucial for upholding the interests of capitalism and power—not the interests of the people. The collective thus becomes a new hiding ground for failed and deceptive leadership in various spheres of life.

This bourgeois culture of performative politics, conducted in the name of collective interests, has now infiltrated progressive politics. Here, leaders and activists alike resort to superficial words and symbolic actions entirely devoid of substance or systematic change, failing to uphold the interests of people as both individuals and members of collectives.

Rather than offering platforms for genuine debate, disagreement and consensus, these collectives are used to capture disagreements and manufacture majoritarian agreements.



These so-called leaders say something and do something else. It is not merely the gaps between their words and actions, but it is about their deceptive strategies in the name of collective interests ruins the very foundations of collective in its organisational form. In doing so, these deceptive leaders create a hiding ground for directionless, bureaucratic and manipulative leadership that lacks any genuine commitment to collective or individual issues.

This dubious performative display relies on virtue signalling without addressing the real needs and desires of the people. Hashtags become more important than human rights. Such a deceptive bourgeois culture has co-opted so-called progressive political parties, organisations, trade union leaders and activists, who publicly promote progressive values while maintaining entirely reactionary practices in their everyday operations—all in the name of a curated collective consensus designed to ensure majority support for a leadership that exercises performance without any substantive material engagement with people’s daily issues.

The propaganda of performative politics has transformed people’s democracy into bourgeois practices of majoritarian leadership. This is fundamentally reactionary, undermining both individuals and collectives while upholding the interests of power and privilege within a capitalist system built on inequality, exploitation and discrimination.

Performative politics of deception not only depoliticises the collective struggle for emancipation from capitalism but also dilutes revolution along a revisionist path. It spreads misinformation that manipulates people rather than helping them understand their own material, social, cultural and economic contexts. Such deceptive politics and its leadership erode public trust by cultivating a culture of cynicism that ultimately serves governing elites far more than it serves the people.

This performative politics and its deceptive leadership resemble the Shakespearean stage of the soldier in As You Like It, who is “Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard, Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel, Seeking the bubble reputation”—all without any substantive politics, principles or ideology for revolutionary social change. People trust these leaders as a collective, but once elected to positions of power, these leaders use people and discard them like toilet paper.

Under such deceptive leadership, capitalism and its managerial class consolidate, and society begins to mirror The Tragedy of Macbeth, where Shakespeare depicts the grim picture of life in Act V, Scene V: “Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more.” The deaths and destitution witnessed across the world today—due to capitalism and its imperialist wars and

conflicts, perpetuated by these performative political leaders and their managerial class in various fields—create a temporality of human existence that helps capitalism persist by employing strategies of performative politics without performance in real life.

The collective becomes a hiding ground where failed leaders evade accountability and outsource their blame to individuals within the collective, dismissing them as mere selfish and brutish actors who failed to play their role in changing society. They claim that the failure of the collective stems from individual self-interest rather than their own incompetence. As Shakespeare writes in The Merchant of Venice (Act I, Scene I), “I hold the world but as the world, Gratiano; a stage where every man must play a part,” emphasising the role of individuals in life. Such Shakespearean logic accidentally aids capitalism and its managerial class, which shapes the performative politics of deceptive leadership, enabling leaders to escape responsibilities and blame individuals—despite all the efforts those individuals make at home, in the workplace and in society—while outsourcing their failures to both the collective and its members. Thus, under the bourgeois culture of capitalism, the collective has become a hiding ground for unaccountable and failed leadership in different spheres of life.

The problem lies neither with individuals nor with the collectives they form; rather, it lies with the culture of performative politics, its empty resolutions, and its deceptive, visionless and directionless leadership. The bourgeois collective and its performative politics, led by deceptive leaders, are not the alternative. Despite all attempts by capitalism and its imperialist hegemony, people continue to fight back for a path of peace and prosperity by exposing and defeating the performative politics of deceptive leaders.

The collective leadership and the collective leadership of successful cooperative movements around the world offer hope that individual empowerment is possible within a collective, provided there is ideological commitment to changing society, deepening democracy and protecting individual rights. The successful collective leadership in the history of the present reveals that an alternative is possible and that revolutionary change is achievable—as P. B. Shelley’s 1819 political poem, The Masque of Anarchy, reads: “Ye are many—they are few.”

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## RISE OF MANUFACTURED IMAGE

# When Publicity Overshadows Contribution



TAWHEED SHEIKH

Our society appears to be going through a troubling inversion of values. In a healthy society, respect is earned through character, knowledge, service, hard work, integrity and meaningful contribution. Yet increasingly, recognition seems to be moving away from substance and towards visibility. Influence becomes more important than integrity, wealth begins to resemble merit, and a carefully created public image can sometimes matter more than years of genuine work.

We increasingly see people who have contributed little or nothing meaningful to social welfare, environmental responsibility, community development or nation-building receiving disproportionate attention and admiration. At the same time, many individuals who quietly work for the betterment of society receive little recognition because they do not possess the money, influence, connections or appetite for self-promotion required to remain visible.

The problem is not recognition itself. Every person who genuinely contributes deserves appreciation. The real problem begins when recognition becomes disconnected from contribution. When people are praised for what they appear to represent rather than what they have actually done, society gradually loses its ability to distinguish substance from appearance.

Social media and modern communication have made visibility easier than ever. A person can repeatedly present themselves as successful, influential, generous, or socially committed without necessarily demonstrating the substance behind that image. We have gradually become vulnerable to

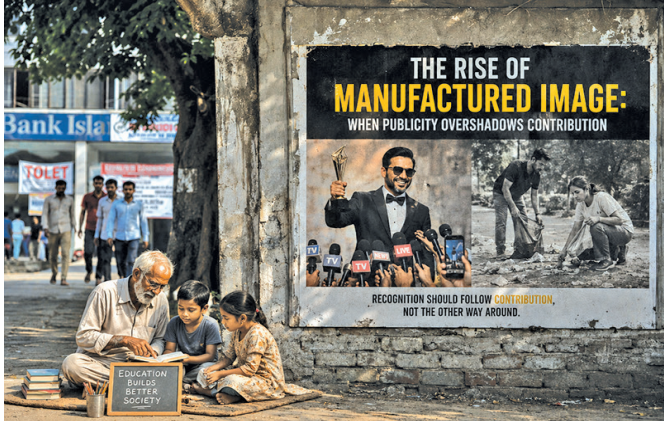
appearances. A photograph, public appearance, charitable gesture, well-written post or association with influential people can create an impression of importance. But none of these, by themselves, establish a person’s actual contribution.

There is a fundamental difference between being seen doing something and actually doing something meaningful. Real contribution often happens away from cameras. It may involve years of difficult work, helping people without publicity, protecting the environment without seeking applause, supporting education, creating opportunities for others, standing up for public causes or simply performing one’s responsibilities with honesty. Such work may not generate immediate attention, but it creates lasting value.

One of the more concerning developments is the growing tendency to manufacture importance. Some individuals appear deeply invested in creating a reputation that is larger than their actual contribution. Money can purchase visibility. Influence can create access. Connections can open doors. Public relations can create an image. But none of these can permanently substitute for substance.

A person may be presented as a hero but society eventually has to ask a simple question: What has this person actually contributed? That question should not be considered disrespectful. It is necessary. If someone has devoted time, resources, knowledge, or personal effort towards improving the lives of others, that contribution deserves respect. But if recognition is based primarily on wealth, influence, connections or self-promotion, society must be careful not to confuse reputation with achievement.

Money is not inherently wrong. Wealth can be used constructively and can make significant contributions to society. The problem arises when financial power becomes a substitute for merit. A person should not automatically become more respectable because they have more money. Likewise, someone should not be considered insignificant merely because they lack financial resources. The true measure should be



what a person does with whatever resources they possess. A wealthy individual who invests in education, healthcare, environmental protection, employment, or community welfare may create enormous value. Similarly, an ordinary person who dedicates time and effort to helping others may make an equally meaningful contribution. The value of a contribution should be measured by its impact, not by the status of the person making it.

Perhaps the greatest injustice in this culture of visibility is that genuine contributors often remain silent. They do not constantly announce what they have done. They do not turn every act of service into a publicity campaign. They do not need to remind everyone of their importance. They simply work.

There are people who spend years helping communities, supporting young people, improving their surroundings, raising awareness, protecting public spaces, contributing to education, promoting sports, assisting those in need and working for causes that may never make them famous. Their contribution may never become a headline. Yet society is often sustained by precisely these people.

The irony is that louder personalities frequently receive the greatest attention, while quiet contributors create some of the greatest impact. This is why society needs to become more thoughtful about whom it celebrates and, more importantly, why.

This inversion of values is not merely a question of who receives praise. It can have deeper

consequences. When society repeatedly rewards image over substance, people begin to learn that appearance is more valuable than effort. Young people may conclude that becoming visible is more important than becoming capable. Self-promotion may become more attractive than service, and the pursuit of recognition may replace the pursuit of meaningful work.

Over time, this creates a dangerous cycle. Those who genuinely contribute may become discouraged when they see superficiality being rewarded. Those seeking recognition may focus increasingly on creating an image rather than building something of lasting value. Eventually, society risks creating an environment where being important matters more than being useful.

Every society teaches its values through the people it chooses to celebrate. If we celebrate individuals simply because they are wealthy, influential, highly connected or constantly visible, we communicate that these qualities are the highest forms of achievement. But what if we gave greater respect to those who solve problems rather than those who merely talk about them? What if we recognised those who create opportunities for others rather than those who constantly seek attention for themselves?

Recognition has its place. People who work sincerely for society should be acknowledged and encouraged. But recognition should be a consequence of contribution, not a substitute for it. The question should not simply be

how influential a person is, but what difference they have made. Not how many people know them, but how many lives they have positively affected. Not how impressive their image is but what remains when the image disappears.

This does not mean that every successful or influential person is undeserving, nor does it mean that every quiet individual is automatically genuine. Society is far more complex than that. The point is simply that recognition should be grounded in substance.

We need a culture where wealth is respected when it creates opportunity, influence is respected when it is used responsibly, leadership is respected when it produces results, and public visibility is respected when it reflects genuine service. At the same time, we must stop assuming that silence means insignificance. Some of the most valuable people in any society are those whose work speaks more loudly than their publicity.

In the end, titles disappear, photographs fade, public attention moves elsewhere, and carefully constructed reputations eventually face the test of time. What remains is contribution. What did we build? Whom did we help? What problems did we solve? What opportunities did we create? What did we leave behind for the people who come after us?

These questions provide a far more meaningful measure of a person’s life than money, popularity or public image.

Perhaps it is time for society to become more conscious of what and whom we choose to celebrate. We should encourage ambition but not vanity; influence, but not manipulation; success but not superficiality. Most importantly, we should learn to distinguish visibility from value, publicity from purpose, and influence from contribution.

A society that consistently rewards appearance over substance eventually loses its sense of what truly matters. Real work may not always attract immediate applause, but genuine contribution has a way of leaving a lasting mark.

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■ Beyond Enrollment

# The Deepening Dropout Crisis In Kashmir



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

*When Children Enter Classrooms But Fail To Remain There, The Problem Is Not Merely Educational, It Is Social, Economic And Institutional*

A school dropout is often recorded as a statistic: a name disappears from an attendance register, a child does not return after a vacation, or a student fails to transition from one stage of schooling to the next. But behind every such number lies a story. In Kashmir, those stories increasingly point towards a deeper crisis, one that cannot be explained merely by lack of interest in studies or examination failure. The latest educational data for Jammu and Kashmir presents a disturbing paradox. The Union Territory has made considerable progress in bringing young children into school, yet a substantial proportion of them disappear from the education system as they approach adolescence. The crisis becomes particularly sharp at the secondary level, precisely when education should be preparing young people for higher studies, employment and responsible citizenship.

According to UDISE+ data for 2024-25, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a secondary-level dropout rate of 12.9 per cent, compared with the national figure of 11.5 per cent. The rate was 13.6 per cent for boys and 12.2 per cent for girls. At the primary level, however, the dropout rate was only 1.5 per cent, while at the upper-primary level it was 3.2 per cent. The contrast is revealing. Children are entering the school system, but too many are not making it through the educational journey. The situation becomes even more serious when one examines retention rather than dropout alone. In 2025-26, only 39.1 per cent of children in Jammu and Kashmir who entered Class I were retained through the higher-secondary stage, compared with 51.9 per cent nationally.

The retention figure has fluctuated sharply, falling to 33.5 per cent in 2023-24 before recovering to 38.2 per cent in 2024-25 and 39.1 per cent in 2025-26. In other words, the crisis is not simply about children dropping out at one particular point. It is about the weakening of the entire chain of educational continuity. The most important question is: Why does the problem intensify as children grow older? The answer is complex. Poverty, household responsibilities, inadequate transportation, distance from school, weak academic performance, lack of motivation, family expectations, gender norms, early marriage, child labour and disruptions caused by conflict can interact with one another.

A recent study focusing on tribal communities in Jammu and Kashmir found that dropout at the upper-primary stage was particularly significant among tribal students. It identified poverty, hereditary occupations, sibling care, early engagement, school distance, lack of mobile schools, irrelevant pedagogy and low academic achievement among the important factors. This is important because Kashmir's educational problem cannot be treated as a single, uniform phenomenon. The experience of a child in an urban neighbourhood of Srinagar is not necessarily the same as that of a child in a remote mountainous village, a tribal settlement or a poor rural household. For some children, the school is physically too far away. For others, reaching it may be possible but remaining there is economically difficult. Some children become responsible for younger siblings. Some boys enter work. Some girls are expected to shoulder domestic responsibilities. For still others, repeated academic failure gradually produces a feeling that school is not meant for them.

The national evidence reinforces this pattern. Research based on adolescent data has found that family-related



reasons, school-related problems, paid work, lack of interest in education and examination failure all contribute to dropout, with significant gender differences in the causes. The relatively lower dropout rate among girls than boys at the secondary level should not lead to complacency. The figure for girls in Jammu and Kashmir, 12.2 per cent in 2024-25, is still considerably higher than the national figure of 9.6 per cent. More importantly, a girl may leave school for reasons that are less visible than formal employment. Domestic

work, care of younger siblings, family illness, restrictions on mobility, concerns about safety and pressure towards marriage can quietly interrupt her education.

Research on rural Kashmir has documented the role of gender discrimination, poverty, patriarchal expectations, household workload, concerns about daughters' safety and family circumstances in female school dropout.

The tragedy is that a girl may be academically capable and eager to continue but still find herself forced to choose between the classroom and the household. Education is therefore not merely a question of building more classrooms. It requires changing the social environment surrounding the classroom. A school may have a building, textbooks and teachers, but if a girl cannot travel safely to school, if she is required to care for younger children at home, or if her family believes that further education has



little practical value, formal access does not automatically become meaningful educational opportunity.

There is another factor that cannot be ignored: the prolonged disruption caused by conflict and instability. Kashmir's educational calendar has repeatedly been affected by closures, disturbances and interruptions. Research involving teachers in Jammu and Kashmir has found that irregular school calendars, absenteeism and prolonged disruptions can weaken students' engagement with learning. Teachers reported that students returning after extended closures often struggled to reconnect with their studies. The consequences of interrupted schooling are cumulative. A child who misses several weeks of classes may initially be able to catch up. But repeated interruptions can create learning gaps. A student who does not understand mathematics in Class VIII may struggle considerably more in Class IX. A child who loses confidence in reading may become reluctant to participate in class. Repeated failure produces embarrassment; embarrassment produces absenteeism; absenteeism produces further failure—and eventually dropout. Thus, dropout is often the last stage of a long process of disengagement.

The child does not necessarily decide one morning to abandon

school. The departure may begin months or years earlier. Another disturbing dimension is the shrinking government-school network. According to data presented to Parliament, the number of government schools in Jammu and Kashmir fell from 23,173 in 2021-22 to 18,787 in 2025-26, a reduction of 4,386 schools, or about 18.9 per cent. School rationalisation and mergers may sometimes be administratively necessary when institutions have very few students. Maintaining completely empty or severely under-enrolled schools is obviously inefficient. But rationalisation must be approached with caution in a mountainous and geographically dispersed region. A school that appears redundant on a spreadsheet may be indispensable to a small village.

Distance matters greatly for younger children and adolescent girls. If a school merger increases the journey substantially, some families may decide that continuing education is no longer worth the cost or difficulty. The latest data also indicate that 188 schools had zero enrolment and 1,544 were functioning with a single teacher in 2025-26. These figures expose a structural contradiction. On one side are schools with very few or no students; on the other are children who are leaving the education system. The policy challenge is to connect the two problems intelligently rather than treating them separately.

There has been substantial improvement in infrastructure over the years.

children with persistent absenteeism, declining performance, repeated failure or sudden behavioural changes. Such students should receive remedial instruction, mentoring and counselling before they disappear from the system. The transition from Class VIII to IX deserves particular attention. So does the transition from Class X to XI. The latter is especially important because the latest figures show that only 74.7 per cent of boys and 76.3 per

*Research on rural Kashmir has documented the role of gender discrimination, poverty, patriarchal expectations, household workload, concerns about daughters' safety and family circumstances in female school dropout.*

cent of girls in Jammu and Kashmir transitioned from Class X to Class XI in 2025-26.

That means roughly one in four students did not make that transition. Not every child has the same academic aspirations. Some students are more interested in technology, agriculture, horticulture, tourism, crafts, mechanics or entrepreneurship than in conventional academic subjects. A rigid curriculum can make such students feel that school has nothing to offer them. Vocational education should therefore not be presented as an inferior alternative for academically weak students. It should be integrated into mainstream education as a respectable pathway to skills and employment. Jammu and Kashmir has already introduced vocational education in a significant number of schools. The challenge now is to ensure that such programmes are meaningful, locally relevant and linked to real opportunities. A student who can see a connection between classroom learning and a future livelihood has a stronger reason to remain in school.

The solution to the dropout crisis must be multi-layered. First, schools need early-warning systems. Atten-

dance, academic performance and behavioural indicators should be monitored continuously. Second, transport support must be strengthened, especially for children in remote areas and adolescent girls. Third, scholarships and financial assistance should reach vulnerable families without bureaucratic delay. Poverty should never force a child out of school. Fourth, girls need safe and supportive educational environments, including functional toilets, adequate female teachers, counselling and secure transportation where necessary. Fifth, tribal and remote communities require context-specific educational strategies. Mobile schooling, residential facilities, hostels and flexible learning arrangements can be important where conventional schools are geographically difficult to access. Sixth, teachers need support and training, not simply accountability. A teacher handling a multi-grade classroom or a school affected by years of disruption needs specialised pedagogical and counselling skills.

Seventh, remedial education must become an integral part of schooling. A child should not be allowed to fall permanently behind because of one year of learning loss. Finally, the government must examine school mergers carefully. Efficiency cannot be measured only by the number of schools closed. It must also consider travel distance, attendance, retention and the educational consequences for vulnerable children. The language of statistics can sometimes make the crisis appear impersonal. Twelve per cent is a number. But imagine twelve children sitting in a classroom of one hundred. Imagine their empty chairs. Imagine that behind each empty chair there is a family, an interrupted dream and a future that may have become narrower.

The latest figures contain one encouraging message: dropout has declined at some stages and retention has improved in several indicators. The national education system as a whole has also recorded progress. The Union government says the 2025-26 national secondary dropout rate fell to 7 per cent. But Jammu and Kashmir cannot be satisfied with improvement that leaves it significantly behind the national retention benchmark. The most disturbing statistic may therefore not be the dropout rate itself. It is the fact that only around four out of ten children who enter Class I are retained through higher secondary education in Jammu and Kashmir.

That is the deeper crisis. Kashmir needs an education system in which a child does not merely enter school but belongs there; does not merely attend but learns; does not merely pass examinations but develops confidence; and does not disappear silently at adolescence. The fight against dropout is ultimately a fight against inequality. It is a fight against poverty that sends children to work, against social expectations that restrict girls, against geographical isolation that makes schools inaccessible, against disrupted schooling that produces learning loss, and against institutional indifference that allows an absent child to remain absent.

The solution will not come from one scheme, one circular or one campaign. It will require schools, teachers, parents, local communities, civil society and government agencies to work together. Most importantly, it will require listening to children themselves. Every dropout is a message. Sometimes it says, I cannot afford school. Sometimes, I have to work. Sometimes, I have to look after my family. Sometimes, I cannot understand what is being taught. Sometimes, I do not feel safe. And sometimes it simply says, Nobody noticed that I stopped coming. That last possibility should be unacceptable.

Kashmir's future cannot be built only through roads, industries, tourism and infrastructure. Its most important infrastructure is the mind of its young generation. If thousands of children leave school before completing their education, the cost will eventually be paid not only by individual families but by the entire society. The objective, therefore, should be clear: no child should be allowed to disappear from the classroom unnoticed. For Kashmir, retaining a child in school is more than an educational achievement. It is an investment in social stability, economic opportunity, gender equality and human dignity. The empty chair in a classroom is not merely an absence. It is a warning about the future.

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Congress vigorously

decision and is determined to oppose it before the people as well as in Legislative Houses.

Questioning the Congress' patriotism, the Union Minister said the party's decision only confirms its blatant policy of appeasement.

"It is deeply surprising that, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, the Congress party is once again vigorously pursuing the politics of appeasement in the country," he said.

He appealed to the people of the country to remember that the nation had once made the mistake of allowing 'Vande Mataram' to be divided into two parts, and the country had to bear serious consequences of that mistake.

Home Minister Shah said the people of the country should now unite and raise their voices against the Congress party's decision, making it clear that the politics of appeasement will no longer be tolerated.

His attack on the Congress party came close to a resolution passed by the CWC on Wednesday, which decided to sing only two stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' instead of the full song.

'Union Cabinet

High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in Ladakh.

He said the move will significantly enhance access to justice for citizens living in remote areas of Ladakh by reducing the time required to avail themselves of the legal services they are entitled to.

"The Government is fully committed to the all-round development of Ladakh and to ensuring constitutional safeguards," he wrote on X.

J&K Scours Universities

JKHED in an order said that the Universities of Jammu & Kashmir, through their respective academic, administrative and library systems, procure and provide books, journals, reference materials, e-resources and other educational resources for the benefit of students, research scholars, faculty and other academic stakeholders.

"Such resources constitute a n important component of the academic and research ecosystem of Universities and are required to support teaching, learning, research, innovation and the overall intellectual development of students and scholars," it reads.

It also said that the process of selection and procurement of books and other educational resources carries with it a corresponding obligation to ensure that every publication introduced into a university is academically credible, factually accurate, relevant to the curriculum and research requirements, constitutionally compliant, legally permissible and appropriate for use in an institution of higher learning.

"It is considered expedient to institutionalize a uniform, transparent and traceable framework governing the selection, academic evaluation, content verification approval, procurement, acceptance, cataloguing, circulation, monitoring and periodic review of books and other educational resources in the Universities of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir," JKHED said.

It also said that in the interest of maintaining academic integrity, institutional accountability, quality assurance and public confidence in the Universities, the government has issued the Standard Operating Procedures.

"These SOPs shall govern the entire institutional lifecycle of books and other educational resources, including pre procurement selection, academic evaluation, content verification and approval; procurement and receipt; cataloguing and circulation; and post-procurement monitoring, periodic review, retention, withdrawal or replacement, wherever warranted," it reads.

JKHED further said that these SOPs shall apply to all Universities established by or under the jurisdiction of the Government of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, including their University Departments, Schools, Centres, Campuses, Central University Libraries, Departmental Libraries and other academic units, subject to the provisions of the respective University Acts, Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations and applicable financial and procurement rules.

"The selection, procurement, publication, recommendation, acceptance, circulation and continued retention of books and other learning resources in universities shall be guided by the principles of academic excellence, factual authenticity, pedagogical suitability, constitutional values, transparency, institutional accountability and due diligence," it reads.

It also said that Every publication shall be evaluated to ensure that it contributes positively to the intellectual, moral and holistic development of students, promotes national integration, scientific temper, responsible citizenship and respect for the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India and is consistent with the Constitution of India, the laws in force and the educational objectives of the Higher Education Department.

"No publication containing misleading, distorted, unlawful, discriminatory, inflammatory or otherwise inappropriate material, or any content that directly or indirectly promotes, glorifies or legitimizes terrorism, violent extremism, secessionism, radicalization or activities prejudicial to the sovereignty, unity, integrity or security of India, shall be recommended for procurement, circulation or continued retention in the Universities of J&K," reads the order.

JKHED also said that for ensuring a robust, transparent and accountable framework for the academic scrutiny, content verification, post-procurement quality assurance, identification of deficiencies and recommendation of appropriate corrective measures in respect of educational material procured for use in the Universities an Institutional Mechanism is established under these SOPs.

The mechanism will comprise a committee at the university level entrusted with clearly defined responsibilities for academic scrutiny, content verification, quality assurance and monitoring.

"The committee shall function in close coordination to ensure that educational material introduced in universities is academically sound, factually accurate, pedagogically appropriate, legally compliant and consistent with the constitutional values, educational objectives and policy framework of the Higher Education Department," it reads.

JKHED said that the composition of the academic and content audit committee of the university shall be headed by Vice Chancellor of the University who will act as chairperson of the committee followed by representative of the Higher Education Department (not below the rank of additional secretary, registrar of the university, Dean Academic Affairs, Head of the Department/Dean of the School, Librarian of the University (Member Secretary), One Subject Expert (to be nominated by the Vice Chancellor).

The committee shall conduct Annual Academic and Content Audit; undertake preliminary scrutiny of educational material; prepare audit reports; recommend retention, review or withdrawal of publications.

The concerned committee shall specifically examine relevance to existing academic programmes and courses and relevance to teaching, research and emerging areas of study.

JKHED further said that the concerned committee shall examine the academic credibility of the author, editor and publisher and shall check the factual accuracy and scholarly authenticity.

The department also directed the concerned committee to examine the latest edition, version and continued academic relevance and the duplication of existing resources—(KNO)

Border Villages

rural incomes have risen by 30%. Employment opportunities have expanded, with unemployment reduced to nearly half of earlier levels. More than 2,000 individual and community bunkers have been constructed for the safety of border families.

"Our goal should be that the entire population moves above the poverty line," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the role of Nari Shakti in transforming border economies. Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, over 1,300 self-help groups have been formed, benefiting more than 12,000 families. Women are engaged in tailoring, embroidery, crafts, and small enterprises, strengthening both household and village economies. The Lieutenant Governor also urged the young generation of border villages to dream as big as those in metro cities. He noted that government schools now have improved facilities, digital classrooms, vocational training and full academic sessions.

"This is not a minor change but it is a generational transformation," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor outlined four key resolves for the development of border villages- Self-reliance by Connecting villages not just to roads but to markets, promoting horticulture and dairy cooperatives. Youth empowerment by creating opportunities in agriculture, tourism, defence-support services, and crafts. Improved health facilities by strengthening healthcare and tele-medicine connectivity, and the fourth resolve is robust security infrastructure by enhancing coordination between civil administration and armed forces.

"Development and security are not separate goals but they are two pillars of the same goal. Only a secure village can become a prosperous village, and only prosperous villages can build a self-reliant and developed India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth and families of Karol Krishna and neighbouring villages to take responsibility for shaping their future.

"I want to tell the youth of Karol Krishna, Rathua, Gajnal, Bobiya, Kadiyala and Gujjar Chak that your ancestors held this soil through difficulties for many decades after Independence. Now it is your responsibility to take it forward. Today, resources are in your hands, and if there is any shortfall anywhere, I promise it will be addressed immediately. Today the big question is - taking this opportunity, how far will you take your village? Will Karol Krishna be known only as a border village, or as a border village that produces the country's finest youth? That decision is now the youth's responsibility.

I also want to assure all families in border villages that we will ensure that the light of development reaches every home. The Vibrant Villages Programme is a national resolve, and from now on we will not let border villages remain behind. You are India's "first name". You are not the periphery of the country but you are the front line. You are the place from where India becomes visible. And as long as our soldier stands on the border, and behind him the border villages stand firm, India is firm. India is invincible. India is immortal," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Addressing the demands, the Lieutenant Governor assured Kathua residents that prompt action will be taken to resolve their issues.

During his visit to the Karol Krishna Border Out Post (BOP), the Lieutenant Governor interacted with the Jawans and commended their steadfast commitment to securing the nation's borders and their exceptional service during Operation Sindoor. He emphasized the need for continuous vigilance to disrupt and neutralize any hostile attempts by the enemy.

Advocate Vijay Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Hiranagar; Shri Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti; IGP Jammu; Shri Asif Jalal, IG BSF; Shri M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Shri Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce; Shri Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Ms R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Planning and Information; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Mohammad Aijaz , Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj; Shri Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank; Shri Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Kathua; senior officials and people from different walks of life were present.

Rain Lashes

received 14.2 mm of rainfall in the preceding 24 hours, while Katra recorded the highest rainfall among the stations listed in the bulletin at 39 mm. Jammu received 0.2 mm during the daytime period and 4.1 mm in the preceding 24 hours.

Pahalgam recorded 1.4 mm of rainfall in the preceding 24 hours, while Batote received 3.8 mm, Banihal 1.6 mm and Bhaderwah 1.1 mm. Kukernag received 2.4 mm during the preceding 24 hours.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 29.0 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal, and a minimum of 21.0 degrees Celsius, 3.6 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 27.4 degrees Celsius and minimum of 19.4 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara recorded 28.6 degrees Celsius and 20.1 degrees Celsius respectively. Kukernag recorded 27.9 degrees Celsius and 18.3 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 18.4 degrees Celsius and minimum of 12.5 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 20.8 degrees Celsius and 16.4 degrees Celsius respectively.

In the Jammu region, Jammu recorded a maximum of 29.7 degrees Celsius and minimum of 23.8 degrees Celsius. Banihal recorded 25.1 degrees Celsius and 18.8 degrees Celsius, Batote 24.4 degrees Celsius and 20.4 degrees Celsius, Katra 27.0 degrees Celsius and 22.0 degrees Celsius, and Bhaderwah 25.2 degrees Celsius and 17.0 degrees Celsius.

The weather department advised people, particular-

ly those living in vulnerable and hilly areas, to remain cautious during intense rainfall spells in view of the possibility of brief heavy showers.

It also said farmers could continue harvesting and other agricultural operations, subject to local weather conditions—(KNO)

Congress Backs

Kashmir Director General of Police S.P. Vaid, however, said the matter was primarily between Pakistan and the United States and that the American position on Jammu and Kashmir was not new.

"That is between Pakistan and the US. Let us see what response the US gives. But we believe this has always been the usual policy. I don't see anything new in this. The US has continued to say that Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India," Vaid said.

"That is what Sergio Gor has said. They have not said anything new. Pakistan is offended," he added.

The reactions came after United States Ambassador to India Gor, in a significant endorsement of India's stated position on Jammu and Kashmir, described the Union Territory as "an important part of India".

Gor arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday for a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"Kashmir is an important part of India. I am visiting the place for the first time. It is an incredibly beautiful place," Gor said after meeting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"We had a very warm meeting, and we look forward to building on our relationship," Gor told mediapersons, with Omar Abdullah standing beside him.

This is the first visit by the top US diplomat, who also serves as President Trump's Special Envoy for South and Central Asia, to Kashmir since Operation Sindoor last year. His visit is being seen as a significant US diplomatic engagement amid heightened strategic developments in the region.

Meanwhile, a section of structures outside the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi was demolished after authorities found them to be beyond the mission's approved boundary.

The action was carried out by the agencies concerned using a JCB machine, which removed structures and barricades erected along the lane outside the compound, including queue-management installations near the visa section.

Authorities also dismantled the external security perimeter outside the Pakistan High Commission, removing traffic bollards and barricades that had previously ring-fenced the diplomatic compound. The development comes three days after Pakistani authorities reportedly removed protective security barricades outside the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

US Ambassador Sergio

between the two would take place—(KNO)

CS Reviews Administrative

the DPC Portal's end-to-end workflow. Developed through BISAG-N under the supervision of the ARI & Trainings Department, the portal is designed to fully digitize and streamline the process of holding DPCs across the Union Territory, thereby reducing procedural delays and ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in processing promotion cases.

During the demonstration, the Chief Secretary reviewed the portal's multi-tiered workflow, under which cases move seamlessly through designated administrative levels of Maker, Checker and Approver.

He emphasized that the digital platform should help eliminate administrative bottlenecks and facilitate the time-bound conduct of DPCs. The portal has now been formally handed over to the General Administration Department (GAD), which will function as the Super Admin and issue necessary circular instructions for its immediate adoption and onboarding of all Government departments.

The meeting was also apprised of the Online Portal for Processing Recruitment Rules, developed in collaboration with BISAG-N. The portal has successfully cleared its security audit through the Information Technology Department, incorporates active SMS alerts, is hosted at the State Data Centre and is being integrated with the e-Office system.

Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Kamili, apprised the meeting of the ongoing modernization of service guidelines. She informed that the Standing Committee has held 61 meetings since January 2024 and has cleared Recruitment Rules for 36 services, while another 13 services have been cleared through Executive Orders. Preliminary meetings have also been concluded for 88 additional services.

On human resource optimization, the Commissioner Secretary stated that a structured calendar is being devised for reviewing individual departments with a view to undertaking budget-neutral cadre restructuring and resolving MTS-related issues in consultation with the concerned line departments.

The meeting was further informed that the Union Territory's progress under the national iGOT Karmayogi platform has received appreciation from the Capacity Building Commission, Government of India. The ARI & Trainings Department has successfully onboarded participants and trained 222 officers and officials through five intensive one-day Karmayogi Kartavya Karyakram batches conducted by certified State Master Trainers.

Reviewing the functioning of the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE), the meeting was informed that the Board has transitioned completely to digital operations, with all counselling rounds for the 2026-27 session being conducted through the online e-Counselling platform. An advance examination calendar has also been issued, while examination centres are being expanded beyond Jammu and Srinagar to facilitate students from rural and remote areas.

The meeting also reviewed intake trends across various professional courses and noted high seat occupancy in streams including M.Sc. Nursing, Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing and CET Engineering. It was observed that the Higher Education Department may engage with AICTE for suitable modifications in course streams in line with emerging market requirements, enabling BOPEE to conduct additional counselling rounds wherever necessary.

Taking stock of the functioning of the Government Presses, the meeting was informed that 751 out of 1,146 printing jobs received—65.53 per cent—have already been executed by the Srinagar and Jammu presses. The two presses have generated combined revenue of Rs 500.78 lakh against a target of Rs 1,300 lakh for the financial year 2026-27.

The meeting also deliberated upon several pending administrative matters, including the proposed

constitution of the J&K Administrative Reforms Commission, delegation of powers to the Director, Press; recovery of Rs 12.50 crore in outstanding printing charges from various departments; and the possibility of outsourcing heavy printing workloads to ensure uninterrupted operations of the Government Press.

Second Consecutive

memory," he said.

Wular, one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes, has historically supported thousands of people through fishing, lotus-stem collection and harvesting of water chestnuts. The lake is also an important habitat for migratory birds and has been recognised as a Ramsar wetland of international importance.

Over the decades, the lake suffered from silt accumulation, waste dumping, encroachment and changes in surrounding land use.

WUCMA employee Showket Ahmad said the lotus roots may have survived beneath layers of silt and began emerging after restoration work cleared sections of the lake.

"After we cleared silt from specific areas, lotus plants started re-emerging," he said.

Environmentalists have described the revival as an indication of the wider benefits of wetland restoration.

With lotus blooming again for a second consecutive year, residents hope the plant will establish itself more widely across Wular and once again become a sustainable source of livelihood—(KNO)

Ensure Kounsarnag Yatra

be put in place for the peaceful and smooth conduct of the Kounsarnag Yatra."

The meeting was attended by Special DG Coordination J&K S.J.M Gillani, IGS of (Kashmir Zone, Jammu Zone), range DiSG of SKR & UR, SSP Kulgam, SSP Reasi, SSP PCR Kashmir, CO 33RR, CO 58RR, CDR 14 Sector RR and other senior officers.

The meeting focused on reviewing the existing security arrangements and strengthening the security framework in view of the upcoming Kounsarnag Yatra.

The meeting concluded with directions to all concerned officers to ensure meticulous planning, close coordination, and effective implementation of the security arrangements—(KNO)

Security Perimeter

the region, United States Ambassador Sergio Gor, during a high-profile visit to Srinagar on Wednesday, explicitly acknowledged Jammu and Kashmir as an "important part of India". Affirming the ground reality and highlighting massive security gains made by Indian authorities, the statement, coming from the first US envoy to visit the region in six years, triggered a defensive reaction from Pakistan, which quickly summoned the senior-most American diplomat in Islamabad to lodge its objections.

Following high-level engagements with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Gor praised the substantial efforts made by both the Central Government and the Jammu and Kashmir administration to bolster regional stability and safety. Recognising these key security strides, the envoy signalled that Washington is evaluating a downgrade of its travel advisory for the region."This is an important part of India and so I am here visiting for the first time. It is an incredibly beautiful place and I'm thrilled to be here, thrilled to see this place," Gor stated while addressing local media.

Gor, who serves concurrently as the US special envoy for South and Central Asia, highlighted that Washington routinely assesses safety guidelines for its citizens. "I cannot make any big announcements here today, but it is something we are going to look at," Gor noted, emphasising that both the Central and Jammu and Kashmir governments "have made some incredible steps in keeping this area safer".

He added, "We will be looking at if the travel warning that is recommended by the US is something that should be downgraded because, as I said earlier, this is a beautiful area. I think a lot of Americans would enjoy coming here and seeing the beauty".

Rattled by the high-profile visit and the explicit recognition of India's territorial integrity, Pakistan's foreign ministry summoned US Charge d'Affaires Natalie Baker in Islamabad to hand over a "strong demarche".

Attempting to push back against the unambiguous stance from the top US official, Islamabad issued a statement alleging Gor's remarks were "factually incorrect". (ANI)

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# Young Dramatists Society Presents Kashmiri Play ‘Coffee House’ at Tagore Hall

## GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Young Dramatists Society (YDS), Srinagar, presented its Kashmiri theatre production “Coffee House” at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, on Thursday, drawing an enthusiastic response from theatre lovers, artists, students and cultural enthusiasts.

Written by Dr. Sohan Lal Koul, the play was directed by Altaf Hussain, while Mushtaq Baqal and Syed Javid Gilani conceived and designed the production. The performance brought together a talented ensemble of theatre artists and showcased the creative potential of the Young Dramatists Society.

The cast included Mushtaq Naika, Mohammad Shafi Khan, Sheikh Mushtaq, Sheikh Shuja, Arjmand Andrabi, Sheikh Fatima, Sabir Rather, Numan Manzoor, Tahir Najar, Junaid Nazir, Tanveer Fighter, Ashraf Razgeeri, Tanveer Dar, Wasaqaat Mehraj, Shamiq Parvez and Gaalib Rashid.

“Coffee House” was approved by the Ministry



of Culture, Government of India, under the Guru Shishya Parampara Repertory Grant Scheme 2025–26 and was organised in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL).

Adeel Saleem, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, was the Chief Guest, while Najeeb Latief of JKAACL attended as the Guest of Honour.

The programme witnessed the presence of a large gathering of eminent theatre personalities, artists, writers, cultural activists and theatre enthusiasts. The participation of students from diverse backgrounds added a spe-

cial dimension to the event and reflected the growing interest among the younger generation in theatre and performing arts.

The production was widely appreciated by the audience, with theatre lovers lauding the performance, direction and collective efforts of the YDS team. The presentation also underlined the society’s continued efforts to promote Kashmiri theatre, nurture emerging talent and provide meaningful platforms for artists.

The technical team at Tagore Hall, along with Sijazv Ramzan, Aijaz Saboon, Mohammad Amin, Kaiser, Sahil, G.H. Rasool

and Tariq Hajni, contributed to the smooth conduct of the programme.

The function concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by renowned anchor Niyaz Ahmad, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, JKAACL, artists, theatre personalities, students, audience members, technical staff and all those associated with the successful staging of “Coffee House.”

Young Dramatists Society reiterated its commitment to strengthening the theatre movement in Jammu and Kashmir and providing opportunities for both emerging and established theatre artists.

# DLSA Sgr Trains PLVs for Effective Grassroots Implementation of NALSA Schemes

## GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar organised a one-day training programme for Paralegal Volunteers (PLVs) to strengthen the grassroots-level implementation of NALSA schemes under Phase-I of the Mega Drive and the DAWN Scheme.

The programme was held under the guidance of Mr. Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman, DLSA Srinagar, in the presence of the Block Development Officer (BDO), Khonmoh/Harwan, and was presided over by the Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

During the training, PLVs were sensitised about the objectives of the Mega Drive and their important role in



ensuring that legal services and welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries at the grassroots level.

The Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, stressed the need for proactive outreach by PLVs to identify people eligible for various legal and welfare interventions,

create awareness about available services and facilitate access to justice for vulnerable and marginalised sections of society.

The BDO, Khonmoh/Harwan, who is also a member of the DAWN Committee, interacted with the PLVs and highlighted

their crucial role in tackling the drug menace at the community level. He emphasised the importance of close coordination between the DLSA and local administration for effective implementation of legal-aid, welfare and community-oriented initiatives.

The training provided the PLVs with greater clarity about their responsibilities and the importance of taking legal awareness and assistance directly to communities.

The programme concluded with directions to the PLVs to intensify grassroots-level outreach and ensure that the benefits of NALSA schemes and legal services reach the intended beneficiaries, particularly those in vulnerable and marginalised sections of society.

# Once a popular stop, Titanic Viewpoint now in state of neglect

1977 movie Apnapan's popular song ‘Aadmi Musafir Hai’ location now forgotten, say locals

## UMAISAR GULL

**QAZIGUND:** The Titanic Viewpoint, located near Lower Munda in Qazigund, around two kilometres from the historic Jawahar Tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, is fast losing its charm amid alleged official apathy and lack of maintenance.x

Once a popular stopping point for travellers entering the Kashmir Valley, the viewpoint offers scenic views of the valley, lush green mountains and surrounding landscapes. The place also has a cinematic connection, as the popular song “Aadmi Musafir Hai” from the 1977 Bollywood film Apnapan, sung by Mohammed Rafi and Lata Mangeshkar, was filmed in the area around Titanic Point, with the sequence depicting a journey towards Srinagar.

The opening of the 8.5-km Banihal-Qazigund Road Tunnel in 2021 has left the Titanic Viewpoint in a state of neglect, with locals alleging that little attention is being paid to the area. Since most of the traffic now uses the new



tunnel, the flow of vehicles through the historic Jawahar Tunnel has reduced. Fuel-laden tankers and trucks carrying gas cylinders and other hazardous materials use the Jawahar Tunnel. Some vehicles from nearby villages and towns also use the Jawahar Tunnel.

The decline in traffic has also affected scores of shopkeepers and kiosk owners who had been earning their livelihood along the old highway route from Lower Munda to Banihal.

Mohammad Shafi, Trade President Qazigund, told KNO that the reduced traffic has badly affected businesses operating along the old route. “Earlier, thousands of travellers would stop here, and the shops and roadside businesses remained

busy. After the opening of the new tunnel, the traffic has reduced drastically, affecting the livelihood of local traders. If the Jawahar Tunnel and surrounding areas are developed as tourist attractions, it can revive local businesses and create employment opportunities,” he said.

Locals said they have pinned their hopes on plans to beautify the Jawahar Tunnel, B-Top (old Cart Road) and surrounding areas and develop them as tourism destinations.

Tariq Ahmad Wani, a local, said Titanic Viewpoint has both tourism and historical value. “This is one of the first places where travellers get a beautiful glimpse of Kashmir after crossing the Jawahar Tunnel. The place is naturally beautiful and also

has a connection with the old Bollywood film Apnapan. Unfortunately, today there is hardly any proper maintenance, cleanliness or basic facilities here,” he said.

According to locals, the presence of livestock and litter has further deteriorated the condition of the viewpoint. They said the spot, which once attracted travellers who would stop to enjoy the landscape, now presents scenes of neglect.

Ghulam Rasool, a tanker driver, said the Titanic Viewpoint is more than just a roadside stop. “Titanic Viewpoint is a reminder of the first encounter with the beautiful scenery of Kashmir for many travellers. The authorities should restore its historical, natural and tourism importance so that visitors see the beauty of the Valley rather than neglect,” he said.

He said preserving such historical and natural sites could help diversify tourism beyond traditional destinations and generate livelihood opportunities for communities along the old highway—(KNO)

## Branding, Marketing Awareness Programme Held for PMV Artisans in Pulwama

### GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** A Branding and Marketing Awareness Programme under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme was organised Thursday at Town Hall, Pulwama, by the Branch MSME-DFO Srinagar, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, in collaboration with the District Administration Pulwama. The programme was exclusively organised for registered PM Vishwakarma artisans.

The programme aimed to strengthen the branding, marketing and market-access capabilities of artisans and sensitise them to the importance of effective product branding, improved presentation, digital presence and adoption of modern marketing practices to expand their market reach.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Mohammed Tariq Ishtiaq, IEDS, Assistant Director, Branch MSME-DFO Srinagar, urged the participating artisans to make optimum use of the branding and marketing support available under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. He emphasised the need to embrace digital tools and explore new market opportunities to enhance the visibility and commercial value of their traditional products.

# DC Anantnag reviews implementation of TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

Directs 100% screening, strengthened block-level monitoring

## GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Thursday chaired a district-level meeting to review the implementation of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and assess measures for strengthening block-level monitoring and service delivery across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Vikas Ahlawat; SDM Dooru/Kokernag Parvaiz Rahim; SDM Pahalgam Amit Gupta; SDM Bijbehara Tanveer Ahmad Tanveer; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Tariq Ahmad Malik; Assistant Com-

missioner Development Shafiq Ahmad Wani; District Social Welfare Officer; Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Chief Medical Officer; District Tuberculosis Officer; all Block Medical Officers and Block Development Officers of the seven medical blocks—Achabal, Bijbehara, Sallar, Shangus, Mattan, Larnoo and Verinag—besides representatives from Higher Education/Degree Colleges, School Education, NCC and MY Bharat.

During the meeting, sanction was accorded for the formal constitution and operationalization of Block-Level Monitoring Committees across all seven medical blocks. The

committees will function under designated Sub-Divisional and District Sectoral Officers to strengthen monitoring, inter-departmental coordination and timely resolution of implementation gaps.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers and field functionaries to ensure strict adherence to the key performance indicators under the campaign. He stressed the need to achieve 100 per cent population screening through chest X-rays in identified high-risk pockets, vulnerable villages, congested urban wards and congregate settings through TB Shivirs and outreach camps.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT**

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE MECHANICAL

RURAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.



**CORRIGENDUM-II**

For E-NIT No's. PHE/MRD/TS/ 27 of 08/2026 Dated:- 10-08-2026 published vide No: 2026\_PHE\_320273\_1 is hereby extended again due to nil response. The new closing and opening dates are given below:

| S.NO. | Description      | Date       | Time     |
|-------|------------------|------------|----------|
| 1.    | Closing date     | 24-08-2026 | 11:00 AM |
| 2.    | Bid opening date | 24-08-2026 | 12:00 PM |

No: PHE/MRD/1688-92  
Dated: 20-08-2026  
DIPK-4793-26  
DT: 20/08/2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,  
Srinagar.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR**

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- exen-mechospsg@jk.gov.in

**GIST OF E-TENDER**

**NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2026-27/51/e-tendering Dated:-19.08.2026**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from Original Equipment manufacturers or registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

| Name of Work                                                                                                                                                         | Est. Cost | Cost of T/ Doc. (In rupees) | Time of completion (in days) | AA Accorded Vide No:         | TS No                  | Earnest Money            | Position of Funds                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                                                                                                    | 2         | 3                           | 4                            | 5                            | 6                      | 7                        | 8                                   |
| Upgradation of Various Wards at Govt. Chest Diseases Hospital, Srinagar by way of Improvement of Central Heating System/Oxygen Piping Network etc with allied works. | 971667/-  | 300                         | 30                           | 37 MCS of 2026 Dt:08.07.2026 | M&HDS/TS/38 of 08/2026 | 5% of the estimated cost | Available with intending Department |

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 19.08.2026(18.00hrs)and can be downloaded from 19.08.2026 (18.00hrs)

2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 19.08.2026 (18.00hrs) to 31.08.2026 (13:00hrs) in two (02) covers.

3. Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 31.08.2026 at 15.00(hrs)

No: M&HDS/TS/3168-72  
Dated:- 19.08.2026

DIPK-4801-26  
DT: 20/08/2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
M&HDS

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Phone:-01933-295302

E-mail:- techrbpul786@gmail.com

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.**

**TENDER NOTICE**

**E-NIT No: 112/EEP/RNB/of 2026-2027/ 5619.29 Dated: 20 /08 /2026**

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

| S. No | Name of Work                                                     | Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.) | Cost of T/D (Rs.) | Earnest Money (In %age.) | Time of Completion in working Days | Class of Contract | Major Head of Accounts | Administrative Accord Approval No:       | Call No: |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1     | Boys Primary School Deeri Dilapidated Primary (sno.1635)         | 44.00                 | 1100/-            | 2% of DV. cost           | 180 working days                   | BEE/AAY           | MH: SA-MAGRA           | AAA: 314-Chirag of 2025 - Dt 01 -12-2025 | 1st call |
| 2     | Girls Middle School Murr-an Dilapidated Upper Primary (sno.1639) | 44.00                 | 1100/-            | 2% of DV. cost           | 180 working days                   | BEE/AAY           | MH: SA-MAGRA           | AAA: 314-Chirag of 2025 - Dt 01 -12-2025 | 1st call |
| 3     | PS Banjren Dilapidated ( sno291)                                 | 45.45                 | 1100/-            | 2% of DV. cost           | 180 working days                   | BEE/AAY           | MH: SA-MAGRA           | AAA: 593-Chirag of 2026 - Dt 20 -05-2026 | 1st call |

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice          | 20 - 08-2026                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2. Bid downloading Start Date              | 20 -08-2026 from 10:00 A.M                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3. Bid submission Start Date               | 20 -08-2026 from 10:00 A.M                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4. Bid Submission End Date                 | 09 -09-2026 upto 04:00 P.M                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 10 -09-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama                                                                                                                |
| 6. Submission of Performance Security(PS)  | Upload a Copy of Performance Security(PS)/ Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No:0470010200000099 IFSC: JAKAOLALANG Account Name: Centralized. Designated Pooling JK Bank PW(R&B) Zone South |

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

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in **Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG).**

2. All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in **Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG).**

3. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Pulwama MC Holding Account Executive Engineer R&B Pulwama Bearing Account no. 0054010200003470 ,IFSC: JAKAOGOLDEN), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period..

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama

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

Head Draftsman  
DIPK-4781-26  
DT: 20/08/2026

Technical Officer  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Pulwama

●●●●●

CMYK

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135TH DURAND CUP:

Mohun Bagan prevail on penalties over holders NorthEast United to set up Kolkata Derby final

IANSS

SHILLONG: Vishal Kaith turned hero, pulling off two crucial saves in the penalty shootout to send Mohun Bagan Super Giant into the final of the 135th Durand Cup as the Mariners prevailed 4-3 on penalties against NorthEast United after the second semifinal ended 0-0 in regulation time at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong on Thursday.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant will now face arch-rivals East Bengal FC in a Kolkata Derby final on Sunday.

NorthEast United head coach Juan Pedro Benali made two changes, bringing in defenders Soraisham Dinesh Singh and Pramveer Singh to the starting lineup in place of Asheer Akhtar and Macarton Louis Nickson, while Panagiotis Dilimperis also made two changes to his Mohun Bagan starting XI, bringing in Samir Zeljko in midfield in place of Anirudh Thapa and Kiyan Nassiri in attack in place of Dejan Drazic.

Both sides struggled to establish control in midfield during the opening 20 minutes, with the wet conditions making it difficult to build sustained passing moves. As a result, both teams frequently opted for long balls over the defensive line in an attempt to create attacking opportunities.

The first shot on target came midway through the first half when Liston Colaco's free-kick forced an excellent save from North-East United goalkeeper Gurmeet Singh. Moments later, Kiyan Nassiri opted to shoot from a tight angle rather than pick out his teammates inside the box, but his effort found the side netting.

At the half-hour mark, Alaaeddine Ajaraie saw his volley narrowly miss the post after bringing down a high ball from a set-piece. With the wet conditions making it difficult for either side to play their preferred style, set-pieces became an important source of attacking opportunities, with the teams earning three corners each during this period.

Sahal Abdul Samad won possession in the centre of the pitch just before half-time and, with NorthEast United goalkeeper Gurmeet Singh backpedalling, attempted an audacious effort from distance. However, Gurmeet recovered in time to get to the ball and deny an effort that looked destined for the target as both sides went into the half scoreless, with the first providing minimal chances for each of them.

The second half fol-

lowed a similar pattern to the opening period, with both sides continuing to struggle to create clear-cut opportunities. North-East United came closest to breaking the deadlock around the hour mark when Alaaeddine Ajaraie narrowly failed to connect with a well-drilled low cross from the right flank by Abdul Rabeeh.

Ajaraie was once again involved in another North-East United attack. The Moroccan collected a long ball on the left half and delivered a cross into the box, where Etyan Gonzalez rose to meet it. However, the Spanish striker could not direct his header towards the target.

NorthEast United continued to create the better chances in a contest where clear-cut opportunities remained at a premium. Macarton Nickson came close after a well-worked

move that began on the left flank before the ball was switched to the right and crossed into his path. However, his effort from inside the box found the side netting.

In the end, both teams were content to try their luck in the penalty shoot-out as the match ended 0-0 at the end of regulation time.

After both teams converted their first three penalties, the shootout remained finely balanced. Robin Yadav stepped up to take NorthEast United's fourth kick but saw his effort brilliantly saved by Vishal Kaith. Jamie Maclaren then calmly converted to put Mohun Bagan ahead before Kaith produced another outstanding save to deny Parthib Gogoi, sending Mohun Bagan into the final to face arch-rivals East Bengal in the Kolkata Derby.



'The amount of control he has is exceptional': Padikkal praises Suthar after Galle heroics

IANSS

GALLE: Player of the Match Devdutt Padikkal praised young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar for his exceptional control after India defeated Sri Lanka by 165 runs in the opening Test at the Galle International Stadium in Galle, Sri Lanka.

Suthar, playing only his second Test, produced a match-winning performance on a sluggish surface, claiming 6-55 in Sri Lanka's second innings to complete a ten-wicket haul in the match. His figures of 10-101 helped India bowl Sri Lanka out for 206 while defending 372.

"You can tell that he's meant for this level. I think the amount of control he has in his bowling is exceptional, and when you have something like that, who can just keep going at the same spot again and again, it's really, really special," Padikkal said in a video released by the BCCI on X. "I'm sure he'll continue to develop, and I think we have a really good left-hand spinner in our hands," he added.

Suthar's decisive spell came after Sri Lanka had threatened to frustrate India through Sonal Dinusha and Dhananjaya de Silva. Dinusha made 84 in the second innings after scoring a century in the first, while de Silva contributed 59.

Padikkal said India's patience and discipline were crucial on a surface that was not easy to bowl on.

"It wasn't the easiest of wickets to bowl on. I think we needed a lot of patience to just keep chipping away as long as possible because they were playing some really good cricket as well," he said.

"I think they batted really well, especially Sonal. I think in both innings he was exceptional, and when you have people playing at the highest level, it's important that we continue to keep working on our things. We did

that really well. We kept plugging away, and I think eventually the patience showed in one over," he added.

Padikkal also highlighted the importance of winning the toss and India's first-innings batting effort in setting up the victory. He scored a magnificent 167 as India posted 462 and secured a 178-run first-innings lead.

"On the first day, I think winning the toss was really important. It has always been key when you're playing at Galle, and we started well with the bat. I think putting on a really big total was the most important part of this Test match. It set us up pretty well for the rest of the match for us," he said.

The India batter also praised the way the team maintained its discipline with the ball throughout the Test.

"I think we were again really clinical, did our jobs pretty well. And I think that's the key, you know, when you're bowling in such conditions, it can get tough. I think everyone was really patient, really disciplined, and that gave us the best result," he said.

India's victory gave them a 1-0 lead in the two-match series, with the second Test scheduled to begin in Colombo on August 23.



Jr Women Hockey National: Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, MP storm into semis

IANSS

PUNE: Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Chhattisgarh made it to the semifinals of the 16th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2026 at the Maj. Dhyan Chand Hockey Stadium in Pune on Thursday.

In the first quarterfinal, Hockey Jharkhand downed Hockey Association of Odisha via the shootout (1-1; 4-3). In the fourth quarterfinal, Hockey Madhya Pradesh got past Manipur Hockey 3-1 in the tournament being organised by Hockey Maharashtra under the aegis of Hockey India.

Later, in the other quarterfinal matches, Hockey Haryana got the better of Hockey Chandigarh 3-1 while Chhattisgarh Hockey got the better of Uttar Pradesh Hockey 5-2.

In the first semifinal on Friday, Hockey Jharkhand will take on Hockey Madhya Pradesh, while in the second semifinal, Hockey Haryana will play Chhattisgarh Hockey.

In the first quarterfinal, Jharkhand got past Hockey Association of Odisha via the shootout. Both teams shared a goal each (1-1) at full-time; Lugan Anjulata (24') scored first for Hockey Association of Odisha, while Rajni Karketta (33') levelled the scores for Hockey Jharkhand.

In the shootout, Hockey Jharkhand converted via Salomi Nag, Anupria Soreng, Dzungdung Switi, and Rajni Karketta, while Hockey Association of Odisha had Drupati Naik, Aamad Ashika, and Ajita Ekka score.

Those who missed their attempts were Jamuna Kumari (Hockey Jharkhand), while Atlaya Lakra and Bhoi Doli (Hockey Association of Odisha) missed theirs.

Kolar Open 2026: Shaurya Bhattacharya holds two-shot lead



IANSS

KOLAR (KARNATAKA): Shaurya Bhattacharya shot a one-under 71 to retain a two-shot lead after the third round of the second edition of the INR 1 crore Kolar Open at the ZION Hills Golf County on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday.

The 23-year-old Delhi golfer, who began the day three strokes clear, followed his opening rounds of 68 and 67 with a one-under 71 to reach 10-under 206. His advantage was reduced by one, but he remained in control heading into the final round.

Chandigarh's Angad Cheema (73-68-67) and Hyderabad's Mohd Azhar (70-68-70) shared second place at eight-under 208. Cheema made the strongest move among Bhattacharya's nearest challengers, returning a five-under 67 to climb into contention. Azhar stayed in the hunt with a two-under 70.

The Czech Republic's Stepan Danek (76-70-63) produced the lowest round of the day, firing a bogey-free nine-under 63 featuring nine birdies. His round included four consecutive birdies from the first through the fourth as he climbed from tied 14th overnight to fourth place at seven-under 209.

Bangladesh's Badal Hosain (69-72-69) occupied fifth place at six-under 210, while Gurugram's Veer Ahlawat (71-71-69), the 2024 DP World PGTI Rankings champion, was sixth at five-under 211.

Bhattacharya's round was played in testing weather, with rain and strong winds making the

back nine particularly demanding. The three-time DP World PGTI winner struck the ball well but missed two short putts during the closing stretch.

"The rain and strong winds made the conditions difficult, especially on the back nine," said Bhattacharya. "I hit the ball well but missed two short putts coming home."

A birdie on the final hole provided a timely lift and allowed him to restore a two-shot cushion ahead of Sunday's final round. "Finishing with a birdie was important and gave me a positive end to the round," he said.

Bhattacharya, currently 16th in the season rankings, does not plan to alter the approach that has kept him at the top of the leaderboard through the first three days. "The plan is to keep finding fairways and hitting greens," he said. "That approach has worked well over the first three rounds, so I'll stay with it tomorrow."

Current PGTI Rankings leader Saptak Talwar (72-71-70), who spent the summer competing on the HotelPlanner Tour, improved from tied ninth to seventh place at three-under 213.

Defending champion Kshitij Naveed Kaul (73-75-66) of Delhi made one of the day's biggest moves. His six-under 66 lifted him from tied 22nd to a share of eighth place at two-under 214.

Kaul was joined by Panipat's Shubham Jaglan (70-73-71) and Jaipur's Prakhara Asawa (71-71-72). Jaglan arrived in Bengaluru after securing his maiden professional title at last week's Coal India Open in Kolkata.

INOX

— SRINAGAR —

AWARAPAN 2

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...

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SCHEDULE

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AWARAPAN 2 (U/A 16+)

HINDI

03:10 PM, 06:00 PM

HINDI ATMOS

04:40 PM, 07:30 PM

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY

(3D ENGLISH) (U/A 13+)

01:45 PM

INSIDIOUS: OUT OF THE FURTHER

(ENGLISH) (A)

04:05 PM

08:20 PM

PAW PATROL: THE DINO MOVIE

(ENGLISH) (U7+)

06:20 PM

CMYK

CMYK

CMYK