

FDA conducts 140 inspections; 55 food samples lifted across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, conducted food safety enforcement activities across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. During the drive, 140 inspections were conducted and 55 food samples were lifted for testing of quality and safety parameters.

The samples included Milk and Milk Products, Edible Oils and Spices, besides other food commodities.

As part of the enforcement action, 17 Improvement Notices were issued to various Food Business Operators under Section 32 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and 11 cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, involving a total penalty of 11,000. Further, 97 food labels were scrutinized for compliance with the prescribed labelling requirements, out of which two labels were found non-compliant with the applicable labelling provisions. Besides,



one food business registration was cancelled in Reasi district for contravention of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The enforcement activities covered food business establishments, e-commerce establishments dealing with food items, milk and milk products, edible oils, spices and imported food items. Food supplied through PDS, MDM and ICDS channels was also covered during the exercise. The activities were carried out in the districts of Jammu, Doda, Kathua, Samba, Reasi, Udhampur, Srinagar, Anantnag, Kupwara,

Bandipora, Ganderbal and Budgam.

The concerned Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers have been instructed to continue inspections, sampling, label scrutiny and enforcement activities and to take action against violations in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made there under.

Consumers have been requested to remain vigilant and report any suspected case of unsafe, adulterated or sub-standard food through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

SWD Budgam organises Training Programme on PCPNDT Act

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Social Welfare Department (SWD), through SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti Budgam, organised a training programme on the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 at Government Degree College (GDC), Budgam.

The programme was organised for In-charge personnel of Ultrasound/USG and diagnostic centres with the objective of strengthening their understanding of the provisions of the PCPNDT Act, ensuring strict compliance with statutory requirements and promoting responsible practices aimed at preventing the misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex selection.

Dr. Masroofa Majeed, Gender Specialist, SANKALP-HEW, in her address, highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in addressing gender discrimination and preventing sex selection.

Afroza Ahad, District Mission Coordinator (DMC), Mission Shakti Budgam, provided an overview of Mission Shakti, elaborating on its objectives, vision and key components. She emphasised



the importance of convergence, awareness and effective implementation of women-centric initiatives at the grassroots level.

The technical session on the PCPNDT Act, 1994 was conducted by Adv. Lateef Ahmad, who provided detailed training on the key provisions of the Act, regulatory requirements for diagnostic centres, responsibilities of centre in-charges and personnel, maintenance of mandatory records and registers, and the legal consequences of violations. The session also emphasised the need for strict adherence to prescribed procedures and documentation.

An interactive session was also held, during which participants actively engaged in a question-and-answer session with the resource person. The participants raised queries regarding various

provisions of the PCPNDT Act, compliance requirements, documentation and their responsibilities as personnel associated with USG and diagnostic centres. The queries were addressed comprehensively, making the session informative and participatory.

The training provided an important platform for the participants to enhance their knowledge of the legal framework and reinforce their commitment towards strict compliance with the PCPNDT Act.

The programme reaffirmed the commitment of the Social Welfare Department, SANKALP-HEW, Mission Shakti Budgam towards strengthening awareness and compliance with the PCPNDT Act and contributing to the larger objective of promoting the dignity, rights and equality of the girl child.

SWD Srinagar organizes Awareness cum Career counselling Session

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar organised an Awareness-cum-Career Counselling Session at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Tailbal, Srinagar.

The session was aimed at sensitizing students about various opportunities available for their educational and career

questions regarding career choices, educational opportunities and skill-based courses. The Officials from SANKALP-Hew Srinagar encouraged the students to identify their interests and abilities and make informed decisions while choosing their future career paths.

The Social Welfare Department emphasized the importance of such awareness and counselling programmes in empower-



development. The officials from SANKALP-HEW Srinagar interacted with the students and provided guidance on career planning, skill development, vocational education and different avenues available to them after completing their schooling.

The students actively participated in the interactive session and raised

ing young students with relevant information and helping them make confident and informed career choices.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion, with students expressing their appreciation for the initiative and the guidance provided during the session.

H&H comes together to grieve loss of former Dir, Gazanfar Ali



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Saturday held a condolence meeting to mourn the death of Gazanfar Ali, former Director, Handicrafts, who passed away on Thursday night in Srinagar.

Officers and officials of the Directorate attended the meeting, expressing deep grief over his demise. Participants prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Recalling his distinguished service, attendees remembered Sh. Gazanfar Ali's tenure in the Handicrafts Department for his friendly and caring nature. They also acknowledged his role in strengthening the sector's institutional framework, noting his professional conduct and dedication as key parts of his legacy.

The meeting observed that his passing is a loss not just to his family and friends, but to all who worked with him.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, expressed deep anguish over the loss, saying Gazanfar Ali Sahib would be remembered for his dedicated service, professional integrity and commitment. He noted that his contribution to public service and the promotion of traditional crafts would remain part of the department's institutional memory, and conveyed his condolences to the family, praying for strength to bear this irreparable loss.

Chairman DLSA G'bal conducts preparatory meeting for 3rd National Lok Adalat



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In preparation for the upcoming 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2026, scheduled to be held on 12th September 2026, a preparatory meeting was convened Saturday under the chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, District Legal Services Authority), Ganderbal.

The meeting was held to review and finalize the arrangements for the smooth and effective conduct of the National Lok Adalat in the district. Detailed discussions were held regarding the identification and processing of suitable cases, coordination among the concerned stakeholders, issuance of notices to the parties, and other necessary arrangements to ensure maximum participation of litigants and effective disposal of cases through amicable settlement.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of the National Lok Adalat as an effective mechanism for providing speedy, accessible and cost-effective justice to litigants while reducing the burden of pending cases on the courts. The Judicial Officers were directed to identify suitable and eligible cases for being taken up in the National Lok Adalat and to make all necessary efforts for their effective placement before the Lok Adalat, so as to facilitate amicable settlement of disputes.

NIT Srinagar organises hands-on training on COMSOL Multiphysics

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organised a hands-on training programme on COMSOL Multiphysics, focusing on the use of simulation and computational tools to address engineering challenges across multiple disciplines.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, said such industry-oriented training programmes are essential for strengthening the institute's research and academic ecosystem.

He emphasised the need to provide students with practical exposure to advanced simulation platforms and emerging technologies to enhance their technical capabilities and prepare them for real-world engineering challenges.

Registrar, NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, who was the Chief Guest, highlighted the growing importance of simulation-based approaches in engineering education, research and problem-solving.

He said exposure to advanced computational tools can help students and researchers bridge the gap between theoretical knowl-



edge and practical applications.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Anshul Gupta, Convenor, and Dr. Vivek, Department of Civil Engineering, Co-Convenor, with support from the student club Dhaatu Mitra of the Department of Metallurgical & Materials Engineering (MME), NIT Srinagar.

Students and researchers from Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Physics participated in the training.

Expert sessions were conducted by Skanda N. Prasad, Technology Specialist, COMSOL India, and Srinivas Chakrapani Yamujala, Applications Engineer, COMSOL Mul-

tiphysics. The sessions provided participants with hands-on exposure to COMSOL-based applications in hydrogen fuel cells, heat and fluid flow, structural mechanics and metal casting processes.

The training focused on practical applications of multiphysics simulation and demonstrated how computational modelling can be used to analyse complex engineering systems and support research and development.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Convenor Dr. Anshul Gupta, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, expert speakers, participants, organising team and Dhaatu Mitra student club for their contribution to the successful conduct of the programme.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, Saturday, informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Budgam line will be observed due to which power supply to Budgam, Sabdan, Nasrullahpora, Jawalapora, Town, Ompora, SIDCO Housing Colony, Railway Station, Budgam, NIET and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 06 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Tral-1st (Tapline Chewa) will be observed due to which power supply to Chewa, Tral Bala, Bajwani, Khalil, Bathnoor, Hayina and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 30 August 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Pinjura line will be observed due to which power supply to Town Aarhama, Bongam, Pinjura, Killora, Imamsahib, Vehil, Nowgam, Shirmal, Bemni-



pora and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 30 August, 03 & 07 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Pampore BK Pora line will be observed due to which power supply to BK Pora, Khanda, Chattargam, Kenihama, Summerbugh, Railway Station, Shalina, Wagoora, Wadapora, Aribagh, Checkpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 01 & 05 September 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 kV Lassipora-Reshipora line will be observed due to which power supply to Zainapora, Chitragam, Awneera, Reban,

Aglar, Sugan, Turkawangam, Nagbal and adjoining areas will be affected from 11 AM to 04 PM on 31 August & 02 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Lassipora-Landoora line will be observed due to which power supply to Landoora, Hermain, Hajipora, Hotline, Hermain Hospital, Mantribugh, Chakoora, Wachi, Aglar, Frisal, Mooman and adjoining areas will be affected from 11 AM to 04 PM on 31 August & 02 September 2026.

Meanwhile, the shutdown of 33 GIS-BAMK line scheduled for 30 August 2026, has been cancelled.

DLSA G'bal continues Legal Awareness Campaign under NALSA JAGRITI Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Continuing the legal awareness campaign started from 24 August 2026 under the NALSA (JAGRITI) Scheme, 2025. "Empowered Youth, Stronger India", the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, Saturday conducted two legal awareness programmes at Sindh Valley Educational Institute, Kangan, and Royal Public High School, Badampora, Ganderbal.

The campaign is being conducted under the guidance of the Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal, and under the supervision of the Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain, with the objective of promoting legal literacy, awareness of rights and responsibilities, and empowering young persons and students.

The programme at Sindh Valley Educational Institute, Kangan, was conducted on "Empowering Youth for Evolving Future." The session was conducted by Adv. Tariq Ahmad Raina, Member,



JAGRITI Unit, who sensitised the students about the important role of youth in shaping an informed, responsible and progressive society. He emphasised the importance of education, awareness, confidence and responsible decision-making in enabling young people to contribute meaningfully towards society.

At Royal Public High School, Badampora, Ganderbal, awareness programme was conducted on "Constitutional Values, Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties." The session was conducted by Adv. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Member, JAGRITI Unit, who apprised the students about the significance of constitutional values and the Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties of citizens.

The students were sen-

sitised about the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, along with the importance of respecting the rights of others and fulfilling their constitutional responsibilities. The session aimed at fostering constitutional awareness and promoting responsible citizenship among the students.

Both programmes witnessed active participation from the students and faculty members and provided an interactive platform for enhancing awareness regarding legal rights, constitutional values and civic responsibilities.

That the awareness campaign, which has started on 24 August 2026, is being carried forward through a series of programmes focusing on youth empowerment, legal literacy and awareness of rights and responsibilities.

Phase-II of UG Admissions 2026-27 Notified for Biannual Passouts

Registration opens 1st September on jkadmissions.in

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Higher Education Department, J&K, has notified the commencement of Phase-II of Undergraduate admissions for the Academic Session 2026-27 in Government Degree Colleges of J&K.

The admissions are open to candidates who have qualified the Biannual / Supplementary / Private Examination of Class 12th, Session 2026, the results of which have been declared by the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education and other recognised Boards. The admission process will be conducted through the Department's in-house Centralised Admission Portal, <https://jkadmissions.in>.

Vacant seats shall be filled through two parallel modes - through In-Person Counselling and through Walk-in Admission. Detailed timelines for registration, choice-filling, in-person counselling, walk-in admissions, etc are given on the admission

notice available on the Centralised Admission Portal.

Besides fresh passouts of the biannual examination, candidates who had registered during Phase-I but could not secure admission, candidates who were allotted seats earlier but did not complete admission formalities, and candidates whose applications were rejected during verification may also participate, subject to fulfilment of eligibility conditions. However, candidates who have already confirmed their admission in Phase-I, and candidates who cancelled a confirmed admission, shall not be eligible.

Fresh applicants shall submit their application online on <https://jkadmissions.in> and pay the prescribed non-refundable application fee of ₹200. All candidates are advised to carefully verify their mobile number and email address on the Portal to ensure timely receipt of admission-related communications. Aspirants have been

advised to view the vacancy positions available on the Centralised Admission portal and submit a sufficient number of well-considered programme choices, and to explore the various available course offerings. Counselling and Facilitation Centres established at all Degree Colleges shall remain available for assistance in registration and submission of choices.

Director Colleges J&K, Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, appealed to all eligible aspirants who have qualified the biannual examination to avail this opportunity and complete all admission formalities strictly within the notified timelines. He further advised candidates to regularly check the JK Admissions Portal and follow the official WhatsApp Channel for Admissions 2026-27, linked on the Portal, for updates, notices, schedules and other information.

Phase-II shall stand concluded on 10-09-2026, and no admission shall be effected thereafter.

Perception towards persons with disabilities has changed after 2014: Dr. Jitendra

AGENCIES

KATHUA: Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said the Centre has taken several significant measures to ensure dignity, equal opportunities and greater participation of persons with disabilities in nation-building and perception towards them has changed after 2014.

While talking to media persons on the sidelines of a Divyang and Family Sammelan organised by Saksham at Hiranagar here, Singh, said, "PM Modi led government, since assuming office in 2014, has taken several important decisions to ensure that every citizen gets equal respect and that their capabilities are effectively utilised in nation-building."

Congratulating the organisers, Singh said Saksham is an all-India organisation working for the welfare of persons with disabilities for the past 10-12 years.

Referring to the change in terminology from "Viklang" to "Divyang", Singh said the decision was not merely a change of name but helped transform soci-



ety's perception towards persons with disabilities.

He said persons with disabilities should not be viewed merely as recipients of sympathy, pity or assistance, but as citizens deserving dignity and respect who can make meaningful contributions to the nation based on their capabilities.

The Union Minister said reservation for persons with disabilities in government jobs has been increased from three per cent to four per cent, while reservation in higher educational institutions has been increased from three per cent to five per cent.

He said the number of recognised categories of disabilities has also been expanded from six or seven to 21, enabling more people with different forms of disabilities to avail benefits under

government schemes.

The Union Minister said various other measures have also been introduced, including concessional loans, special facilities for persons with disabilities at around 90 airports, accessibility provisions in newly constructed government buildings and concessions on assistive devices.

He also stressed the importance of empowering women and mothers in supporting children with disabilities.

"Whenever a human being is born, the first contact with humanity is through the mother," Singh said, adding that strengthening and empowering women can help identify, nurture and develop the capabilities of children with disabilities.

He said modern medical technology can help

identify certain disorders or defects during pregnancy, while advances such as gene sequencing can also play an important role in early identification and management.

Singh said awareness about scientific facilities and government schemes should be increased, describing the Matri Shakti Conference organised by Saksham as an important initiative in this regard.

On development in the Hiranagar area, Singh said the proposed national-level Arun Jaitley Stadium has made significant progress and formalities related to land transfer are almost complete.

He said efforts had also been made by former MLA Rajiv Jasrotia in connection with the project and added that a plan for laying the foundation stone would be prepared soon.

Singh further said the work on the Express Corridor is almost complete and road connectivity has reached up to the border and Zero Line. He added that mobile towers have also been installed and bunkers constructed in the border areas—(KNO)

Sakeena Itoo visits Check-e-Samad, held public outreach camp



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday visited Check-e-Samad in Kulgam district, where she held an extensive public outreach camp and laid foundation stone for a road project.

The Minister interacted with the local residents to listen to their grievances and developmental concerns. The people from Check-e-Samad and adjoining villages projected several developmental demands and highlighted issues requiring immediate attention.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised by the public and assured them that all genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo said that public welfare remains the top priority of the Government, adding that the present dispensation is committed to ensure inclusive

and equitable development across all regions of J&K.

The Minister emphasised that public outreach programmes and direct interaction with people are central to the Government's approach towards ensuring responsive, transparent and accountable governance. She urged the concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure the timely completion of developmental projects.

During the visit, the Minister laid the foundation stone for 1.2 KM Check-e-Samad road project, to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 86.27 lakh.

On the occasion, Sakeena Itoo also announced several new developmental projects for Check-e-Samad and neighbouring villages.

The Minister was accompanied by Superintending Engineer, Fayaz Ahmad Kar; Chief Education Officer CEO Kulgam, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, District Social Welfare Officer DSWO, Rameez Ahmad Ganai and other concerned officers and officials.

CRPF Organises Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan Programme at Lal Chowk

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, the 132 Bn CRPF, in collaboration with Secure Path (Civil Society Organisation) and Shining Star Public High School, organised a One-Day Programme on Drug Awareness and Prevention at the Old Court Complex,

tered to all participants. Following the programme, a drug-awareness rally was organised from Old Sardar Court to Clock Tower, Lal Chowk, Srinagar. The participants carried awareness messages and raised slogans advocating a drug-free society, spreading the message of Nasha Mukh Bharat among the public. Pamphlets on drug aware-



Court Road, Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

The programme was organised as part of the 3rd Phase of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, with the objective of creating awareness among youth and the general public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging them to contribute towards building a drug-free society.

Around 200 participants, including school students, teachers, civilians and others, participated in the programme.

A pledge against drug abuse was also adminis-

ness were also distributed among local public during the rally.

During the event, motivational and awareness speeches were delivered by Chief Guest Dr. Deep Shekhar Mohan, CMO (SG) of 132 BN CRPF; Resource Person Er. Mubashir Jan (ARTO) and S. Umar Bhat, Executive Director, Secure Path.

Certificates of participation were distributed to the participants in recognition of their involvement in the awareness programme. Refreshments were also provided to all the participants.

CS Dulloo visits Zehanpora Archaeological Site

Marks commencement of Phase-II excavation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Saturday visited the ongoing archaeological excavation site at Zehanpora in Baramulla to review the progress of excavation works, the historical and archaeological significance of the site and mark commencement of Phase-II of the excavation.

The visit was attended by the Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla; Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums; SSP Baramulla; SDM Uri; faculty members of University of Kashmir Government and Degree College Baramulla besides other concerned officers and officials.

Pertinently, Zehanpora is an important archaeological site in the Baramulla region and holds considerable potential for providing valuable insights into the settlement patterns, material culture, technology and way of life of com-



munities that inhabited the region during earlier periods. Archaeological excavation at such sites enables researchers to understand the past through material remains, including structural remains, pottery, tools, metal objects, skeletal remains and other archaeological deposits, thereby helping in reconstructing the history and cultural development of the region.

The first phase of excavation at Zehanpora yielded several significant findings, providing important clues about the nature of the site and the activities of the people associated with it. Among the notable discoveries was a pebble wall constructed using naturally available stones and pebbles. The remains provide evidence of con-

struction activity at the site and may help archaeologists understand the layout and building practices of the settlement. A number of iron nails were also recovered, indicating the use of iron objects and providing insights into the technological practices and material culture of the period. Several pottery fragments were recovered from the archaeological deposits, which are important indicators for understanding the chronology, cultural practices and everyday life of the communities that occupied the site.

One of the most significant discoveries during Phase-I was a human skeleton recovered from the excavated area. The finding is of considerable archaeological importance, as

skeletal remains can provide valuable information regarding burial practices, health, lifestyle and the biological characteristics of past populations. Further scientific examination of the remains is expected to provide additional information about the individual and the context in which the skeleton was found.

Building on the findings of Phase-I, Phase-II of the excavation has now commenced with the objective of undertaking a more detailed investigation of the archaeological deposits and gaining a deeper understanding of the site's historical significance. The excavation will involve systematic exploration, scientific documentation and analysis of archaeological remains and cultural layers. The continuation of the excavation is expected to provide further evidence regarding the nature and extent of the settlement and help researchers establish a clearer understanding of its chronology, architecture, material culture and patterns of human occupation.

Chadoora bus stand likely to become operational next week: DC Budgam

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: The newly constructed bus stand in Chadoora is likely to become operational next week, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Athar Amir Khan said during his visit to the town on Saturday.

The DC, accompanied by Chadoora MLA Ali Mohammad Dar and SDM Chadoora Primrose Bashir, reviewed various ongoing development projects and public issues during visits to the Tehsil Office, new bus stand and Town Hall.

At the Town Hall, Khan, said necessary directions had been issued to the SDM, police and traffic authorities to ensure that the new bus stand is made operational next week.

The move has brought cheer among local residents, as shifting and operationalisation of the new bus stand has been a long-pending demand of the people of Chadoora.

The DC also reviewed the ongoing work on the main Chadoora bridge and directed the concerned authorities to expedite its completion. The progress of the footbridge was also reviewed. Issues related to street lights, water supply and frequent power cuts were also raised during the interaction, following which directions were issued to the concerned departments for early redressal—(KNO)

Div Com reviews preparations for 1st International Film Festival of J&K

Directs departments to ensure foolproof arrangements; stresses coordination

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) to review preparations for the upcoming 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJ&K).

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure foolproof, comprehensive and meticulous arrangements for the successful conduct of the festival and to execute their assigned responsibilities with utmost efficiency.

He instructed designated Nodal Officers to remain stationed at their respective venues and maintain close coordination with all stakeholders. He observed that the presence of officers on-site would facilitate prompt resolution of issues and help streamline arrangements.

Emphasising that there should be no gaps in preparations, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of comprehensive venue management, proper sequencing of events and detailed crowd-management plans at SKICC and INOX.

He also reviewed arrangements for night screenings, floating cinema, the gala dinner and other proposed activi-



ties and issued necessary directions for their smooth and successful conduct.

The Tourism Department was directed to finalise brochures and audio-visual content showcasing the tourism potential of Jammu & Kashmir for promotion during the festival. The Handicrafts & Handloom Department was asked to prepare and share brochures containing relevant information for guests and participants regarding stalls, craft and artisans.

The Higher Education Department was directed to establish dedicated registration desks for students participating in the festival, while the RTO Kashmir was asked to sensitise hired drivers regarding the festival schedule, sightseeing packages for guests, tour packages and timely participation in scheduled programmes.

The meeting was informed that films from 40 countries will be screened during the festival, under-

lining its international character and significance.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to extend full support to the event management team and emphasised the need for effective micro-traffic management and robust security arrangements while ensuring minimum inconvenience to guests, participants, filmmakers and the general public.

He further directed the concerned agencies to ensure comprehensive arrangements at the airport and establish attractive selfie points at the SKICC back lawns and INOX premises.

For effective inter-departmental coordination, the Director Information was directed to ensure close coordination among all concerned departments. The Joint Director Information Kashmir was asked to remain stationed at SKICC as the single-point Nodal Officer for coordination and communication.

Sakeena Itoo Inaugurates Advanced Radiology at Imam Hussain Hospital

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday inaugurated the Department of Radiology, including CT Scan, along with the Division of Non-Invasive Cardiology and Medical Oncology at Imam Hussain Multispecialty Hospital, Hamdania Colony, Bemina, Srinagar.

The newly operationalised services mark a significant step towards expanding access to specialised and affordable healthcare facilities for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those belonging to economically weaker sections.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister appreciated the Imam Hussain Hospital Foundation for its sustained contribution to the healthcare sector and for provid-



ing medical services on a no-profit, no-loss basis.

The hospital, which has been functioning since 1990, has progressively expanded from its initial healthcare initiatives, including a Blood Bank, into a multispecialty healthcare institution offering a range of specialised medical and surgical services.

The Minister said that strengthening diagnostic and specialised treatment facilities closer to the people is essential for

ensuring timely intervention and reducing the need for patients to travel long distances for advanced healthcare.

The hospital authorities informed that during 2025-26, the institution provided OPD services to approximately 20,000 patients. Around 700 surgical procedures, including major oncology surgeries, were also performed during the last 14 months.

The hospital further conducted approximately 2,500 dialysis sessions,

while around 500 dialysis sessions were provided free of cost to patients before the hospital was linked with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

The hospital is presently providing services through multiple speciality departments at affordable and subsidised rates, with particular focus on patients from economically weaker sections. A number of surgical procedures have also been undertaken free of cost for underprivileged patients.

The Minister underscored the importance of partnerships between the public and non-profit healthcare sectors in strengthening the overall health ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir. She said that the availability of modern diagnostic, cardiac and oncology services under one roof would provide greater convenience and timely care to patients.

Man dies after kidney stone procedure at Anantnag hospital, family alleges negligence

JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG: A 36-year-old man from Qaimoh area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district died at a private hospital in Anantnag on Saturday, following which his family members alleged medical negligence and staged a protest outside the hospital.

The deceased has been identified as Mush-taq Ahmad Wani, son of Ghulam Nabi Wani, a resident of Qaimoh in Kulgam district. According to officials, Wani had been admitted to Mid

City Private Hospital on KP Road at Naibasti, Anantnag, for a procedure related to a kidney stone.

Officials said that the patient underwent Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy (PCNL), a minimally invasive procedure commonly performed for the removal of kidney stones. They said his condition was stable following the procedure, and he was being monitored at the hospital.

However, his condition deteriorated this morning, and he subsequently died at the hospital, offi-

cials said.

Following the death, the patient's family members raised allegations of negligence against the treating doctors and hospital authorities. They staged a protest at the hospital, demanding that the circumstances surrounding the death be properly investigated.

Police also reached the hospital after the protest was reported and initiated proceedings to ascertain the sequence of events leading to the patient's death.

The hospital, however, has denied that the death

was linked to any immediate surgical complication.

Dr Zahoor Gilkar of Mid City Hospital said the patient had undergone PCNL and was stable after the procedure. He said the patient was doing well until this morning and had even been started on oral medication.

"He was fine till this morning, and even walked this morning, and after sometime he collapsed and died due to cardiac arrest," Dr Gilkar said, adding that the exact cause can be known after postmortem and its report is awaited—(KNO)

■ 12 Years Of PM Jan Dhan Yojana

Banking For All, Empowerment For All

Today, The Aim Of This Programme Goes Beyond Focusing On Household, But Every Adult Who Did Not Yet Have A Bank Account

In January 2015, a remarkable thing happened in India that more than one crore eighty lakh bank accounts were opened across the country within a week, this feat was also recognised by the Guinness World Records.

This didn't happen in a big-city alone, but across small towns and remote villages, where families who had never possessed a bank account gained access to banking for the first time. That January week-long drive is now popularly known as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, or simply PM-JDY.

A large number of those who opened accounts had no prior experience of dealing with banks; they had never owned a debit card, and never had a place to keep money safe other than at home.

Since then this drive has grown into a nationwide movement that has assisted the lives of hundreds of millions of Indians.

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The trajectory of PM-JDY As of August this year, the number of PM-JDY accounts across the country stands at 59.09 crore, this number was recorded to be 14.72 crore in 2015.

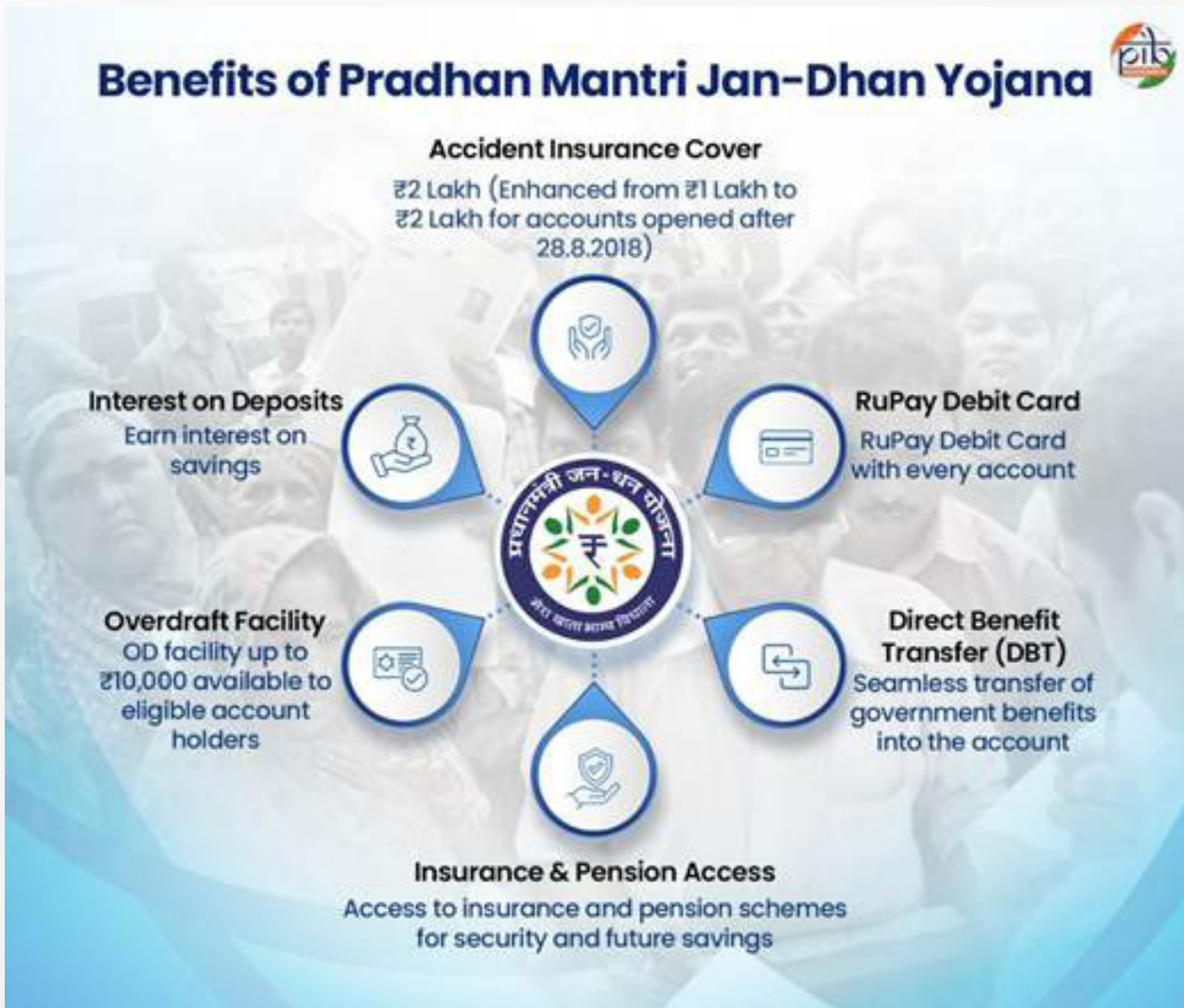
The numbers have gone four times. Of these bank accounts, nearly 46 crore belong to people in rural and semi-urban areas, the places where access to banks was hardest to come by.

As per the official records, around 33 crore of the account holders are reportedly women, a number that has kept rising year after year.

When the scheme started, at that time the goal was deemed to give every household a bank account. A few years later, in 2018, that goal grew bigger.

Today, the aim of this programme goes beyond focusing on household, but every adult who did not yet have a bank account.

This shift meant more people, especially women and workers in informal



jobs, could open an account in their own name, not just through the head of the family. Opening the account is only the beginning of what the scheme offers.

Other benefits of this scheme According to this scheme, every

account holder gets a RuPay debit card, which works at ATMs and shops across the country. So far more than 41 crore such cards have been given out.

Along with the card comes accident insurance, worth up to two lakh rupees for accounts opened after August 2018,

and the account holder does not pay anything for this cover.

After six months of regular use, account holders can also apply for an overdraft of up to ten thousand rupees, giving a small cushion of credit to families who may never have had access to

a loan before.

The scheme also acts as a window to other government support. Money meant for pensions, subsidies, and welfare payments reaches people directly through these accounts, cutting out delays and middlemen.

Account holders can also join pension and insurance schemes such as the Atal Pension Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, all built around the same bank account.

Money in these accounts has grown too, and grown fast. Deposits have gone from about fifteen thousand crore rupees in 2015 to over three lakh sixteen thousand crore rupees in 2026.

This tells us something beyond numbers on a balance sheet. It tells us that people are saving more, trusting banks more, and relying less on cash kept at home or informal moneylenders.

India's Financial Inclusion Index, a measure of how well people across the country can access banking, credit, insurance, and digital payments, has moved from 53.9 in 2018 to 67 in 2026. Global institutions like the IMF and the World Bank have also spoken about the role PM-JDY has played in this change. What began as a week of opening accounts has turned into a permanent shift in how India banks.

A scheme that started with a simple idea, that every family deserves a place to keep their money safe, has grown into a wide network of savings, credit, insurance, and pensions reaching the parts of the country that needed it most.

Twelve years is a long time in the life of any government programme, but for the person who opened their first account in that record-breaking week in 2015, it has been the start of something that continues to shape how they save, borrow, and plan for the future.

(Courtesy: PIB Srinagar)

The Hidden Price Of A Wrong Choice

Some Decisions Promise Immediate Gain But Quietly Take Away Character, Trust, Relationships And Peace



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

We carefully calculate the price of food, fuel, education, healthcare, housing and technology. We compare salaries, interest rates, profits, investments and monthly expenses. Yet many of the choices that ultimately cost us the most do not involve money at all.

Their price is paid in character, trust, reputation, relationships, peace of mind and lost time.

A wrong action may initially appear profitable, pleasurable, convenient or even harmless. It may promise money, influence, revenge, freedom or instant satisfaction. But the true cost often appears much later, when the moment of temptation has passed and the consequences have begun to accumulate.

That is why one of the most important questions before making a serious decision is not simply, "What will I gain?" but "What could this eventually cost me?"

The first thing frequently damaged by repeated compromise is character. Character is rarely destroyed in one spectacular act. More often, it is gradually weakened through small permissions we give ourselves.

A student cheats once and thinks, "It is only one examination." An employee alters a figure and calls it an adjustment. A professional hides an inconvenient fact and calls it strategy. Someone accepts an improper favour and convinces himself that it is merely courtesy.

The most dangerous expression in such moments may be:

"Just this once."

Because "just once" has a way of becoming twice.

An exception can become a habit, a habit can become a pattern, and a pattern can eventually become part of personality. The ethical line that

initially seemed impossible to cross gradually becomes easier to ignore.

That is how character changes—not suddenly, but incrementally.

And once character is compromised, another valuable asset begins to disappear trust.

Trust is one of the invisible currencies of civilisation. Families depend upon it. Businesses depend upon it. Universities, governments, hospitals, courts and communities cannot function effectively without it.

Parents must be able to trust children, children their parents, students their teachers, patients their doctors, employees their employers and citizens their institutions.

Trust takes years to accumulate but can be damaged remarkably quickly.

A qualification may remain. A position may remain. Wealth may remain. Authority may remain. Yet once credibility is lost, everything a person says begins to be examined through suspicion.

That is why reputation is far more than public image. It is social capital.

The consequences also extend beyond the individual.

Parents influence children. Teachers influence students. Managers influence employees. Public personalities influence followers. Senior professionals influence younger colleagues.

When someone in a position of responsibility repeatedly succeeds through dishonesty, manipulation or abuse of authority, an unfortunate lesson can spread: integrity is for the weak, rules are negotiable and success justifies the method.

That is dangerous for any society. Ethics cannot survive merely through speeches, posters or ceremonial observances. It survives when people see integrity practised even when dishonesty might have been more convenient.

Another hidden price of a poor decision is time.

This is perhaps one of the least recognised consequences of wrongdoing.

A lie rarely ends with one lie. It requires another explanation, another concealment and sometimes another falsehood to protect the first.

Financial misconduct may demand years of secrecy. Betrayal may create



conflicts that take decades to heal. Reckless behaviour may lead to legal proceedings, damaged careers or broken relationships. Addiction can consume years that can never be returned.

The wrong choice may take five minutes; escaping its shadow may take five years.

Money lost can sometimes be earned again. A damaged career may occasionally be rebuilt. Even reputation can, over time, recover.

But time is different.

Once spent, it cannot be restored. There is also a psychological price.

A person living behind deception may constantly fear exposure. Someone who has betrayed another may carry guilt long after the event itself. Anger, revenge, addiction, dishonesty and unresolved conflict can occupy mental space that could otherwise have been used for creativity, relationships and meaningful work.

Outward success can therefore coexist with inward disorder.

A person may possess wealth yet lack peace; enjoy status yet fear exposure; command authority yet lose self-respect.

This is why success must be judged by more than visible achievement.

The consequences become even more painful when they enter the home.

Families are held together by things that cannot be photographed: trust, patience, responsibility, loyalty, sacrifice and emotional security.

A house may remain physically intact even after these foundations have disappeared.

Repeated dishonesty, neglect, humiliation, violence, addiction or betrayal can gradually destroy the sense of safety on which family life depends. By the time people realise what has been lost, restoration may be extraordinarily difficult.

There is an important lesson here for younger generations as well.

We live in an age of instant results. Social media celebrates visibility. Consumer culture encourages immediate gratification. Competition sometimes creates the impression that achievement matters more than the methods used to obtain it.

Students may feel pressure to achieve marks at any cost. Professionals may feel pressure to advance faster. Businesses may chase profit without considering long-term credibility. Individuals may pursue recognition without asking what kind of person they are becoming in the process.

But methods matter because methods become identity.

If success repeatedly requires us to

abandon honesty, dignity or responsibility, we should question not merely the method but our definition of success itself.

Yet none of this means that one wrong decision should permanently define a human being.

Perhaps the most important moral principle is that people can recognise mistakes, accept responsibility and change direction.

Regret alone achieves little. Genuine correction requires something more difficult: admitting the mistake, stopping the behaviour, accepting its consequences, repairing what can be repaired and choosing differently thereafter.

A civilised society therefore needs both accountability and the possibility of reform.

Without accountability, wrongdoing becomes easier. Without the possibility of redemption, human beings are reduced permanently to their worst decisions.

We should teach this lesson more seriously to our children.

We teach them mathematics, science, languages, technology and economics. We teach them how to calculate percentages, profits and interest rates. We prepare them for competitive examinations and professional careers.

Perhaps we should also teach them the mathematics of consequences.

Every choice adds something to life or subtracts something from it. Some choices multiply opportunity; others divide relationships. Some produce immediate rewards while creating long-term liabilities.

And some of the most dangerous choices are precisely those whose price is invisible at the beginning.

So when temptation promises an easy advantage, immediate pleasure, quick money or convenient escape, there is another question worth asking before proceeding:

Not merely, "What will I get?"

But:

"What might I lose?"

Asked at the right moment, that question may protect a reputation, preserve a relationship, save a career, strengthen a family—and sometimes change the direction of an entire life.

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J&K Should Aspire

“It is a resolve filled with infinite possibilities. Our achievements in sports over the past six years prove that if young people are prepared for sports with dedication, the region will create an entire era of champions,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Calling upon youth to contribute to building Viksit Bharat of 2047, the Lieutenant Governor stressed that champions are forged through discipline and effort, not shortcuts. He urged corporate houses to support athletes at the stage of talent recognition, rather than only after they win medals. He emphasized the collective responsibility of society, coaches, support staff, and parents in shaping champions.

The Lieutenant Governor outlined three duties for youth, calling them to lead by example, compete with dignity, accept defeat gracefully, and inspire future generations.

He asked the youth to use the unity of sports to transcend differences of language and faith. The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth to give Back to Society by guiding and mentoring the next generation, repaying the community that supports every athlete.

He commended the youth for their participation in the Drug-Free Campaign, setting an example for the nation. He reiterated that development is not measured by GDP alone but by the health, energy, and confidence of citizens.

“A healthy India is a fearless India. A sporting India is a confident India. And a confident India is an invincible India. Major Dhyan Chand, the wizard of hockey, gave the entire world one message to find your goal. That must be our message today as well. Whatever field we stand in, whether it is the field of sports, science, or public service we must identify our goal, move towards it, and achieve it together,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the National Sports Day pledge and felicitated the top-performing sportspersons of the 69th National School Games.

MoUs were also exchanged between the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, and Abhinav Bindra Foundation, Dani Sports Foundation and Common Services Centres, for promotion of sports in J&K.

Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Sujit Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Ms. Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services and Sports; senior officials, representatives of Abhinav Bindra Foundation, Dani Sports Foundation, Common Services Centre, sportspersons and youth in large number attended the celebrations at Shalimar Campus, SKUAST Kashmir.

J&K Becoming Hub

discussion and a collective opportunity to redefine healthcare delivery in Jammu Kashmir and other states.

Citing the example of an ASHA worker using tele-consultation to connect patients in remote villages with district hospitals, the Lieutenant Governor said that telemedicine is a revolutionary step that eliminates geographical barriers. He stressed that technology must serve humanity, ensuring that even the most remote communities have access to timely medical care.

The Lieutenant Governor said that modern tools should inspire solutions for easy accessibility of best possible healthcare to all the citizens. He urged stakeholders to make Jammu Kashmir a laboratory for low-cost, high-impact innovations such as drone-based delivery of medical supplies and solar-powered cold chains for high-altitude health centres.

The Lieutenant Governor outlined three pressing challenges confronting global health systems including rising healthcare expenditure. He called for a shift towards prevention, early intervention and regular screening to reduce dependence on costly treatments.

“We need to move beyond a system that treats illness to one that protects and promotes health. We must prioritise regular screening, easy access to primary healthcare services and timely treatment,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also emphasized expanding training capacity, supporting wellbeing of medical staff and leveraging telemedicine to extend reach.

“We need to expand training capacity in medical and nursing education and ensure access to health services in rural and remote areas through telemedicine. Most importantly, we must also take care of the wellbeing of our health workers. Better staffing, reduced administrative burden and mental-health support are fundamental requirements of a strong health system,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi accessibility, affordability and universal insurance coverage has been ensured and health inequality has been eliminated.

“Under the leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, efforts are being made to link health records across the country through a secure digital system. This will enable any autho-

riised doctor, wherever they may be, to access a patient’s health history within moments. At the same time, patients retain control over who can view their information and how much information they can access,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor noted significant progress in Jammu Kashmir’s healthcare infrastructure including 2 new AIIMS institutions, 10 new medical colleges, 2 State Cancer Institutes, specialized hospitals including Bone & Joint and Paediatric facilities, 52 nursing colleges, 23 paramedical colleges and 5 pharmacy colleges, which are historic steps towards social justice and equitable healthcare.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the conclave to deliberate on key priorities of developing modern primary health centres in every village linked to district networks, harnessing AI for early detection of diseases while supporting doctors’ decisions, strengthening disease surveillance, genomic capacity, and local manufacturing of diagnostic kits and building a robust health workforce through nursing and paramedical institutions, continuous skill development and strong collaboration between government and private sector.

“Private hospitals and industries associated with the health sector must also join this effort, recognising it as an important task of nation-building. I believe that the strongest health systems are those in which the government and the private sector work together for public welfare, combining their capabilities, speed and innovation,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the true measure of success lies in improved lives. He envisioned a future where families in Kupwara need not travel hours for routine care, workers in Rajouri are free from financial fear and medical graduates can build their careers within the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.

“Advanced treatment and modern health facilities must be accessible to all so that we may establish the principles of social justice and equality. The health of an individual or a family affects opportunities, productivity and overall well-being of the society,” he said.

Shri Iqram Ali Shafiee, Chairman, CII J&K UT Council; Dr. Shuchin Bajaj, Founder Director, Ujala Cygnus Hospitals; Shri Siddhant Choudhary, Vice Chairman, CII J&K; Dr. Pervaz Ahmad Sofi and Shri Arafat Ahmad Bhat, Members, Board of Directors, Peace and Wellbeing Foundation; Shri Sajad Hussain Lone, members of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and healthcare professionals attended the inaugural ceremony.

Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar and senior officials were also present.

Hot, Humid Weather

been advised that they may continue harvesting and other agricultural operations.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained above normal across several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 33.5 degrees Celsius, which was 4.6 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature was 19.6 degrees Celsius, 3.6 degrees above normal.

Jammu recorded a maximum of 34.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 26.2 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara registered a high of 34.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 32 degrees Celsius, followed by 31.2 degrees Celsius at Kukernag and 30.4 degrees Celsius at Banihal.

In the tourist destinations, Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 28 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.2 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg registered a maximum of 24 degrees Celsius and the lowest minimum temperature in the valley at 12.2 degrees Celsius.

Katra recorded a maximum of 30 degrees Celsius and received 84.2 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours ending 8:30 am on Saturday, the highest rainfall among the stations listed by the department.

The Met Centre advised people to remain cautious in areas vulnerable to flash floods, mudslides and landslides during intense showers—(KNO)

US Controls Strait

two-thirds of the levels recorded before the US operation and continue to rise, the statement said.

“The only one that has control of the Strait of Hormuz right now is the United States Navy,” Trump said on August 10.

“We have a blockade that’s been infallible. It’s a steel wall... We control the Strait, 100%,” he added.

Trump has repeated the assertion several times during August. On Thursday, he said the United States had control of the strait while Iran was receiving nothing through it.

“The Strait of Hormuz is open. We have control, and we have the blockade. Iran is not getting anything; nothing is going through,” Trump said.

The administration argued that Iran’s ability to use the strategically important passage as leverage had been weakened by American military operations and the blockade on Iranian exports.

Former deputy national security adviser KT McFarland said Iran had overplayed its hand by closing the strait.

“For 50 yrs Iran blackmailed world. No longer. That card is dead,” McFarland said in remarks cited by the White House.

John Spencer, chair of urban warfare studies at West Point, said the US blockade was effective despite statements coming from Tehran.

“Iran’s claims that it has closed the Strait of Hormuz are false. It has neither closed the strait nor effectively stopped maritime traffic,” he said.

The White House said the blockade formed part of a broader campaign of economic pressure designed to cut Iran off from sources of revenue.

“The economic pressure on the Iranian regime is only tightening,” the administration said.

It cited Operation Economic Outcast, a US campaign aimed at isolating Iran economically and disrupting what Washington describes as Tehran’s remaining financial lifelines.

The White House said Trump would continue applying pressure on Iran until the country was no longer able to threaten the international community. It did not specify what military or diplomatic conditions would lead Washington to end the blockade.

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow maritime passage connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. Oil and liquefied natural gas exports from several Gulf countries move through the waterway, making its security important to energy-importing countries, including India.

Probe Into Kishtwar

not only into the alleged rape of the minor but also into the entire chain of events that followed, leading to her death. The alleged Panchayat intervention, the pressure exerted on the victim’s father to compromise the matter, and the role of other persons who may have facilitated or attempted to suppress the case require thorough investigation,” Nath said.

She said the alleged intervention of the panchayat is an important aspect requiring urgent scrutiny, particularly the allegations that the girl’s impoverished and illiterate father was pressured to compromise the matter, offered money to remain silent and allegedly made to affix his thumb impression on a blank paper.

“These allegations cannot be treated as an isolated or incidental episode, particularly when they arose after the minor’s pregnancy came to light,” she said.

According to the petition, after the pregnancy became known, people allegedly associated with the principal accused became involved and a panchayat was convened.

The petitioner alleged that he was “chastised and pressured” to remain silent and accept a compromise, while money was allegedly offered in return.

He stated that he rejected the proposed compromise and insisted that the accused and others be proceeded against in accordance with law.

The petition further alleged that the father was subsequently made to put his thumb impression on a blank document under duress, without knowing what was written on or made out of it.

The plea sought identification and examination of all persons present at the panchayat, the circumstances in which the document was prepared and the thumb impression obtained, and the alleged source and purpose of the money offered.

The plea alleged that the girl was sexually exploited by the principal accused for months together resulting in her pregnancy. The family said they came to know of the pregnancy only when the minor developed a serious medical condition.

The petition thereafter traces a series of events involving her examination at Public Health Centre at Chatroo, ultrasound at Kishtwar, treatment at District Hospital Kishtwar, transfer to Doda, delivery of a dead male child and subsequent transportation towards Punjab, culminating in her death.

It sought investigation into the alleged attempts to terminate the pregnancy, the procurement and administration of medicines, the role of persons who transported or accompanied the minor, the treatment provided at different health facilities and the circumstances surrounding her death.

Nath said the petition also seeks preservation and examination of hospital records, ultrasound reports, medical prescriptions, ambulance records, GPS/location data, CCTV footage, call-detail records, electronic communications, financial records and forensic/DNA evidence.

It also seeks scrutiny of the alleged circumstances in which the minor was recorded in hospital records as the wife of a 13-year-old boy, and the identification of the person or persons responsible for furnishing such information.

The petitioner has additionally sought examination of possible administrative, institutional or statutory lapses concerning the safety of the minor at the school and the handling and reporting of the matter after her pregnancy came to light.(PTI)

Suspected Pak Drone

they added.

According to officials, the joint search operation took place at Khuban, Nagain, Khtrail, Godu Falal, Padetar, Chor Mottu, Kia, Kheba, Bhed, Marta, Joffar, and the adjoining areas in the Udhampur-Kathua forest belt on Friday evening and is still underway.

In Rajouri, another search operation was launched in Gaibas, Mithiyani, Mogla and Narla after villagers informed about the movement of two suspected armed persons, believed to be terrorists.

Officials said there have been no contact with any suspected persons so far.

Question Injustice

in the face of adversity, stressing that determination, resilience and hard work can transform challenges into opportunities. He stated that over the last decade, the Government, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has similarly sought to convert challenges into opportunities by promoting an ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’, strengthening semiconductor manufacturing, digital public infrastructure, start-ups and the manufacturing sector. He urged the students not to fear uncertainty, but to focus on solutions, work with dedication and continuously strive for self-improvement, which is key to success.”

Highlighting India’s growing achievements in the space sector, Rajnath Singh stated that the country has progressed from launching missions with limited resources to undertaking advanced programmes, including human spaceflight and an Indian space station. He also underlined the growing role of the private sector, with Indian space start-ups making significant advances in launch vehicles and satellite technology.

On the significant progress made in the education, research and innovation ecosystem over the past 12 years, Raksha Mantri said expenditure on research and development has doubled, the National Education Policy has been introduced after 34 years, and Indian youth are excelling in international Olympiads, launching start-ups, building unicorns and developing advanced technologies. He added that India is increasingly becoming a global innovation powerhouse as it has risen in the Global Innovation Index and emerged as the world’s third-largest start-up ecosystem. He assured that the Government will continue to create an ecosystem where the youth can explore, innovate, experiment, create and develop solutions for a better society.

Singh underscored the importance of preserving and taking pride in the country’s culture, civilisation and heritage, stressing that the journey towards a Viksit Bharat and Aatmanirbhar Bharat cannot be measured by economic growth alone. Economic strength makes a nation prosperous, while cultural self-confidence makes it great, he said, underlining the efforts to promote Indian languages, the Indian knowledge tradition and cultural heritage.

“India has emerged not merely as a major economy, but as a nation that believes in its own civilization, culture, and potential. Today, when we speak, the world listens. We do not just follow rules; we set them. Today’s generation takes pride in the nation’s identity, has faith in its civilisation, and trusts in the future. This is the most significant transformation that has taken place in ‘New India’. The spirit of ‘Believe in India’ lies behind the success of ‘Make in India’, he said.

Budgam-Katra Direct

through the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) mobile application, the Indian Railways website or helpline 139 before commencing their journey.

Northern Railway said it remains committed to providing safe, smooth and comfortable travel facilities to passengers.

287 Indians Among

also remain missing as of 5 pm on Saturday. A six-member forensic experts team from India is expected to reach Kathmandu on Saturday to assist in the analysis of DNA samples for identification of mortal remains.

“A specialised technical team for tunnel rescue reconnaissance reached Kathmandu yesterday and started working from today to assist in tunnel rescue in the impacted area. Based on their recommendation, a specialised tunnel rescue team from India with equipment is expected to reach Nepal today,” MEA stated.

Meanwhile, Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel on Saturday expressed gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu for her concern and the support extended by the government of India following the devastating flash floods in Nepal that left hundreds dead and caused widespread destruction.

“On behalf of the Government and the people of Nepal, I extend our deepest gratitude to Your Excellency Smt Droupadi Murmu for your kind concern and also for the generous support and solidarity extended by your government following the recent calamity in Nepal,” the Office of the President of Nepal posted on X.

Paudel also conveyed condolences over the tragic loss of Indian lives in the aftermath of the catastrophic flood on Wednesday.

“We also offer our heartfelt condolences and profound sympathy to the Government and the people of India for the tragic loss of Indian lives in the disaster of August 26, 2026,” he stated.

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Oxygen plant remains defunct at DH Shopian, patients depend on cylinders

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SHOPIAN: Patients requiring continuous oxygen support at District Hospital Shopian are facing inconvenience as the hospital's central oxygen generation and pipeline system has remained non-functional for more than two months, leaving the health facility dependent on individual oxygen cylinders.

The prolonged disruption has become a matter of concern for patients and their attendants, particularly those suffering from serious respiratory ailments and elderly patients who require uninterrupted oxygen support. Attendants said the dependence on cylinders has added to the logistical burden on both patients and hospital staff and could pose difficulties in situations where several patients need oxygen simultaneously.

In the absence of the central oxygen supply



system, oxygen cylinders are reportedly being shifted between different wards to meet the requirements of patients. Attendants said that while cylinders are being arranged, the system is less convenient than a functional central pipeline, especially during emergencies and periods of increased patient load.

The issue has caused particular concern among families of patients suffer-

ing from chronic respiratory conditions such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), for whom any interruption in oxygen support can become critical.

Hospital staff and attendants have also expressed concern over the repeated transportation and replacement of oxygen cylinders in various wards. They said the arrangement requires constant monitoring and

movement of cylinders and may become challenging during busy periods when multiple patients simultaneously require oxygen.

The situation has also raised concerns about the hospital's preparedness to deal with emergencies involving several patients who may need continuous or high-flow oxygen support, particularly during critical cases and sudden increases in patient admissions.

They have sought attention of higher ups in this regard so that needy patients don't suffer anymore.

An official of the health department said that they have taken the issue with the concerned Mechanical and Hospitality Division for restoration of the oxygen generation plant. He said repair and restoration work was in progress and the facility was expected to become functional within the next 10-15 days—(KNO)

Relief Commissioner reviews delivery of essential services in migrant camps

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation (M), J&K to review the status of delivery of essential services in the migrant camps, ongoing developmental works and proposed maintenance, upkeep, and repair works for the current financial year in migrant camps. The progress of extension of social sector schemes to the eligible migrant beneficiaries was also reviewed.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Relief Organization and Nodal Officers from the allied Government Departments like Jal Shakti Department, Public Works Department(R&B), Jammu Power Development Corporation, Urban Environmental Engineering Department, Health Department, School Education, Garden & Parks Department, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Labour & Employment Department, Skill Development Department and Rural Development Department. Tehsildars/ Camp Commandants of respective areas also attended.

While reviewing the status of basic amenities like safe drinking water, power supply and sanitation in the camps, the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner instructed the officers of the Jal Shakti Department to take all requisite measures to ensure uninterrupted water supply in the migrant camps and press adequate water tanker supply in the operation



to supplement the water shortage. It was apprised by the concerned Executive Engineers that both the short term and long term measures are being taken to redress the water supply issue. As a long term solution, the Department is conceiving a major project with tentative financial implication of about Rs 10 Cr for improvement/ augmentation of the water supply in Jagti Township. Dr Karwani also emphasised upon conducting of water quality tests at frequent intervals to ensure clean and hygienic drinking water supply.

The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) apprised that the major/renovation works in all migrant camps which, inter-alia includes repair/renovation of more than 200 building blocks and about 5000 flats and community halls etc in all migrant camps in Jammu will be taken up shortly, as tender finalisation is in closing stages. Pertinent to mention that the Government has recently accorded administrative approval involving financial implications of Rs.82.45 Cr for these works. Besides, PWD(R&B) is formulating a comprehensive project for development of internal roads/lanes, development of parks and face lifting of all migrant schools, health dispensaries

and Sub-District Hospital Jagti. Dr Karwani emphasised upon conducting a structural audit of all buildings. The PWD (R&B) was instructed to ensure repair/renovation works are taken up in order of priority basis to be fixed in due consultation with the public and concerned camp commandants.

The UEED apprised that Sewage Treatment Plants involving financial implications of about Rs 11.5 Cr have been finalised for Migrant Camps Nagrota, Muthi-Buta Nagar and Purkhoo, on the lines of similar STP functional at Jagti township and work will be started shortly. Regarding extension of social sector schemes, it was observed that nearly 2600 families have availed benefits of social sector schemes, subsequent to the digitization and integration of the migrant ration cards into the national database. It was also decided that another round of extensive outreach camp shall be conducted from the second week of September at various locations in Jammu to create awareness/facilitation in filling of applications about various social sector/welfare schemes, self employment and skill development schemes of the Government.

GBHSS Nadihal Celebrates National Sports Day with Great Enthusiasm

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Boys Higher Secondary School Nadihal Bandipora Saturday celebrated the National Sports Day 2026 with great enthusiasm, energy and sporting spirit.

The day-long celebration was organized by the Sports Wing of GBHSS Nadihal to commemorate the birth anniversary of the legendary Indian hockey player Major Dhyani Chand and to promote the importance of sports, physical fitness, teamwork and a healthy lifestyle among students.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of Principal GBHSS Nadihal, teaching and non-teaching staff members and students, who came together to make the celebration a memorable and vibrant sporting occasion. On the occasion, Principal GBHSS Nadihal, Mohammad Hussain Magrey appreciated the efforts of the Sports Wing for organizing the event and encouraged students to actively participate in sports and recreational activities.

The celebrations continued throughout the day with a variety of sports and recreational activities. Students and staff members participated with great excitement, displaying remarkable energy, teamwork and sportsmanship.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the felicitation and appreciation of the national-level players of the institution who represented the school at national competitions during the previous year.

Chari Mubarak Yatra returns to Poonch

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: The Annual Chari Mubarak Yatra Saturday returned from Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Mandir, Mandi to Shri Akhara Mandir, Poonch, marking the culmination of the sacred pilgrimage amid religious fervour, devotion and the chanting of bhajans and kirtans.

The Chari Yatra Led by Shri Shri 1008 Swami Vishwaatma Saraswati Ji Maharaj, the Chari Mubarak was accompanied by a large number of devotees. The sacred procession was received with great reverence and honour at Shri Akhara Mandir, Poonch by Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain Bhat, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed, members of the Yatra management, devotees, prominent



citizens and officers of the civil administration and police department.

Chari Mubarak was also accorded a Guard of Honour on its arrival at Shri Akhara Mandir.

The occasion once again reflected Poonch's longstanding tradition of communal harmony, peace, brotherhood and mutual respect, as people from different communities came together to welcome the sacred procession and participate in the concluding ceremony.

Following the arrival of the Chari Mubarak, the participants gathered at Shri Akhara Mandir, where the congregation

was addressed by Shri Shri 1008 Swami Vishwaatma Saraswati Ji Maharaj.

Swami Ji expressed his gratitude to the District Administration, Police Department, Yatra management, devotees and the people of Poonch for extending their full cooperation and support for the smooth and successful conduct of the Yatra.

Recalling his association with Poonch since 2009, Swami Ji said that the annual Yatra has, over the years, continued to receive wholehearted cooperation from the people as well as the administration of the district.

Man killed in motorcycle-car crash in Sopore

AGENCIES

SOPORE: A motorcyclist died after his motorcycle collided with a Maruti Ignis car in the Brath Kalan area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday.

An official said that the accident occurred at Brath Kalan, leaving the motorcyclist seriously injured. He was shifted to SDH Sopore by the car driver, where doctors declared him dead.

The deceased has been identified as Tajamul Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Sheikhpora Boma. His body has been kept at SDH Sopore for medico-legal formalities.

The official said the car driver handed himself over to police after the accident and was taken into custody for further investigation.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PMGSY (JKRRDA) DIVISION PULWAMA.

e-mail id: xenpmgsy-pul@jk.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No.12 EE/PMGSY-Pulwama/ e-tendering of 2026-27, Dated 29/08/2026

For and on behalf of Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis (Single Cover) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:

S.No	Name of the work	Adv. Cost (in Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Document. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (Bid security) (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Call	M.H. of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Restoration L038-Kharwar to Tulran.. road ,Package No.JK10-188	16.95	800	33900	30 Days	3 rd	MH 5054,SH-2181 of Capex Budget 2026-27 (Sasci-II)	B,C
2.	Restoration Shopian to Aglar road, Package No.JK10-159	4.99	300	9980	20 Days	3 rd	MH 5054,SH-2181 of Capex Budget 2026-27 (Sasci-II)	D
3.	Restoration L064-Sadipora to Sadew. road ,Package No.JK10-186	7.99	300	15980	25 Days	3 rd	MH 5054,SH-2181 of Capex Budget 2026-27 (Sasci-II)	C,D

Note: - Rate includes carriage (wherever applicable.)

Position of AAA : Accorded

Position of T.S : Accorded

Major Head of Account : M.H-5054, Sub Head: 2181 (PMGSY Roads) "Sasci"

The important dates and time are as under:-

	29/08/2026
1. Date of issue of tender notice	29/08/2026
2. Date of Pre bid Meeting	31-08-2026 At 11.00 AM
3. Bid submission start date	29-08-2026 from 18.30 PM
4. Bid submission End date	05-09-2026 up to 12:00 PM
5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05-09-2026 at 1:00 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Pulwama.

1. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and bids should be submitted online on website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in. The bidders are required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

2. Tender document fees as mentioned in column 4 and security/ Earnest money should be submitted online as per Govt. Circular issued by the Finance Deptt, J&K Govt. Vide No. FDCoDe/290/2026, Dated : 22.05.2026. The bid security/earnest money shall be valid for a period not less than 60 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

3. The original documents, submitted by L1 should be same as uploaded online (scanned copies) otherwise the allotment will not be issued. The tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to Participate in any further/future tendering process in PMGSY for a period of one year.

4. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 60 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

No:- EE/PMGSY/Pul/2026/ Dated:-

DIPK-5124-26 DT: 29/08/2026

Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Pulwama

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-mail, id, xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (SHORT TERM)

e-NIT No: MHDH/TS/2026-27/e-NIT/52

Date: 25/08/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from Experienced registered/reputed firms or authorized dealer's/ workshop holders for the below mentioned work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SITC) of Heavy Duty High Pressure Washer and allied works at SCCR Kupwara	1.18	200.00	2360	10 days	Accorded	Accorded

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 27-08-2026 (10.00hrs) .

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 27-082026 (13:00hrs) to 03/09/2026 (1400 hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids : The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 03/09/2026 (1600hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.

4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

5. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

No: - MHDH/T S/1694-1701 Dated:- 25/08/2026

DIPK-5114-26 DT: 29/08/2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-mail, id, xenmhd-handw ar a@jk. gov. in

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (SHORT TERM)

e-NIT No: MHDH/TS/2026-27/eNIT/50

Date: 25/08/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from Experienced registered/reputed firms or authorized dealer's/ workshop holders for the below mentioned work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Repairs and Maintenance to Soil Compactor New (EC 5250) pertaining to Mechanical and Hospital Sub-Division 1st Handwara.	1.6585	200.00	3350	10 days	Accorded	Accorded

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 27-08-2026 (10.00hrs) .

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 27-082026 (13:00hrs) to 03/09/2026 (1400 hrs) in two covers.

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4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

5. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

No: - MHDH/T S/1678-85 Dated:- 25/08/2026

DIPK-5092-26 DT: 29/08/2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara

KU marks 15th National Sports Day with Three-Day sporting extravaganza



GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir (KU) joined the nationwide celebrations of the 15th National Sports Day with a three-day sporting extravaganza, organised by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPE&S) from August 27 to 29.

The celebrations commemorated the 121st birth anniversary of legendary Indian hockey player Major Dhyan Chand and were held in pursuance of the clarion call of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Held under the national theme "Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat", the celebrations featured a range of sporting, educational and awareness activities. Students from various Departments of the University participated enthusiastically in the events.

While congratulating the Directorate and the participants on this occasion Vice Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message said that National Sports Day is an important occasion to recognise the transformative role of sports in shaping a healthy, disciplined and confident generation. She emphasised that participation in sports goes beyond physical fitness, inculcating values of teamwork, perseverance, discipline and sportsmanship among young people.

"Universities have an important role in nurturing sporting talent and cre-

ating greater opportunities for students to participate in sports. I hope that such initiatives would further strengthen the culture of sports at the University and inspire more young people to pursue sporting activities with dedication and enthusiasm," said the Vice-Chancellor.

The celebrations began on August 27 with students joining the Khelo India Samvaad through video conference, during which Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with students, athletes and sports enthusiasts across the country. The interaction emphasised the need to foster a strong sporting culture and encourage greater participation of youth in sports.

On August 28, students participated in hockey, badminton, cricket, table tennis and volleyball activities. The day's sporting events were followed by a pledge to uphold sports integrity and promote clean, fair and dope-free sports.

The celebrations culminated on August 29 with a sports quiz competition, which saw enthusiastic participation from students of different Departments. The quiz tested their knowledge of sports, sporting personalities, major sporting events and India's rich sporting heritage.

Registrar, KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, highlighted the role of the younger generation in strengthening India's position as a global sporting powerhouse. "I encourage our

students to pursue sports with dedication and discipline and continue participating in sporting activities throughout the year," he said.

Director DPE&S KU Prof. Raies Ahmad, delivered a presentation titled "Olympic Journey: From 776 BC to 1896 AD", tracing the evolution of the Olympic Games from ancient Greece to the revival of the modern Games in Athens in 1896.

Prof. Raies also spoke about Major Dhyan Chand's remarkable contribution to Indian hockey and his role in inspiring generations of sportspersons. He also highlighted India's preparations to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, describing it as an important milestone in strengthening the country's global sporting stature.

A prize distribution ceremony was subsequently held at the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports. Mementos were presented to the winners of the sports quiz, while the ground staff were also felicitated by Prof. Raies Ahmad.

The event was coordinated by In-Charge M.P.Ed Programme, Dr. Basharat Ali, with assistance from Lady Sports Assistant Surjeet Kour. The proceedings of the prize distribution ceremony were conducted by Shabista, a third-semester student, while Assistant Professor Dr. Iqbal Kabir delivered the formal vote of thanks.

SKUAST-K celebrates National Sports Day with 'Ek Ghanta Maidan Mein'

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) celebrated National Sports Day at its Shalimar Campus with a series of sporting activities centred around the theme "Ek Ghanta Maidan Mein", encouraging students to devote at least one hour every day to physical activity and sports.

The programme was organized at the Sports Ground of the Shalimar Campus to commemorate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, the legendary Indian hockey player and one of the country's greatest sporting icons.

The programme was inaugurated by Dean Students Welfare, Prof. S. A. Gangoo, who interacted with the participating students and encouraged them to make sports and physical activity an integral part of their daily routine.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Gangoo highlighted Major Dhyan Chand's



remarkable contribution to Indian hockey and his enduring sporting legacy. He stressed that regular participation in sports is vital for physical fitness, a healthy lifestyle and mental well-being, urging students to spend at least one hour every day on the sports ground.

The celebration featured a volleyball match and a tug-of-war competition between student teams from the Faculty of Horticulture and Agricultural Engineering. The Faculty of Horticulture team emerged victorious in volleyball, while the Agricultural Engineering team won the tug-of-war competition.

The winning teams and participants were felicitated

with medals in recognition of their sporting performance and spirit. Dr. Mudassir Ali and Dr. Owais, along with many students and spectators, witnessed the matches and cheered on the participating teams.

The programme was organized by Students Welfare Officer Dr. Seemi Lohani, who said such activities provide students an opportunity to engage beyond the classroom while promoting teamwork, discipline, fitness and sportsmanship. The celebration, she added, contributes towards creating a vibrant, healthy and dynamic campus environment and encourages students to adopt an active and balanced lifestyle.

'Advent of WTC, T20 style batting behind quick Test finishes': Michael Atherton

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former England cricketer Michael Atherton opined on the shortened Test matches in this decade. Several Test matches have been finished in 2-3 days in the last few years, with a recent Australia-Bangladesh Mackay Test, which was completed in two days.

Atherton analysed the growing quick finishes in Test cricket, attributing it to several factors. Speaking on Sky Sports during the rain-

delayed start to Day 3 of the England vs Pakistan 2nd Test, the former English opener stated that T20 cricket's high-risk batting, bowlers getting an advantage in the World Test Championship period, the DRS technology and a good crop of fast bowlers are reasons for the quick finishes.

"If I give 4-5 reasons from the top of my head, we would go into each one: batting is higher risk now because of T20 cricket. If you take more risk, you have more chance

of getting out. There's a good crop of fast bowlers around right now. DRS has had an impact; umpires are more likely to give LBWs.

"Pitches have become more advantageous since the advent of the World Test Championship; teams are generally looking to get home advantage more. So, whether it is turning pitches in India, or seam-friendly pitches in England, pitches have become more bowling-friendly since the advent of WTC," he said.

NIT Srinagar Holds Cricket Match, Tug-of-War as Sports Activities Continue

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organised a cricket match between students and faculty and staff members on Saturday, besides holding a Tug-of-War competition among students as part of its ongoing sports activities aimed at promoting fitness, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit on campus.

The cricket match witnessed enthusiastic participation from both teams and provided students, faculty and staff an opportunity to showcase their sporting skills while strengthening interaction and team spirit.

Batting first, the students' team posted 132 runs for the loss of 10 wickets in 20 overs at a run rate of 6.60. Faisal Rasool scored 40 runs off 40 balls, including three fours and a six. Umaid Bashir, who captained the students' side, contrib-



ed 14 runs off eight balls, while Mohammad Ayan scored 13 runs off 15 balls.

On the bowling side, Saqib Malik was the leading wicket-taker, returning figures of four overs, no maidens, 29 runs and three wickets. Shabir-Ibn-Yousuf also claimed three wickets, conceding 19 runs in four overs. Prince Sharma took two wickets for 13 runs in two overs, while Ayush Shrivastav picked up one wicket for 20 runs in three overs.

Shahid Hamid bowled two overs and conceded 12 runs, while Dr Manoj Kumar conceded 15 runs in two overs. Faisal bowled two overs for 14 runs, while Sohail Baba bowled one over and conceded six runs.

In reply, the faculty and staff team, representing NIT Srinagar J&K, scored 135 runs for the loss of one wicket in 13.2 overs, chasing down the target with nine wickets in hand and 40 balls to spare.

Aaqib Sheikh anchored the chase with an unbeaten 63 off 44 balls, including five fours and five sixes, at a strike rate of 143.18. Sohail Baba, who also kept wickets, remained unbeaten on a brisk 59 off 33 balls, with three fours and four sixes at a strike rate of 178.79.

Faisal Irshad, captain of the faculty and staff side, scored four runs off three balls before being dismissed leg-before-wicket by Umaid Bashir,

who claimed the only wicket for the students.

The faculty and staff innings included nine extras—eight wides and one bye—and recorded a run rate of 10.13.

The cricket match was followed by a Tug-of-War competition among students, which witnessed active participation and enthusiasm. The event emphasised teamwork, coordination, physical fitness, collective effort and sporting discipline.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, said sports are an important component of holistic student development and play a significant role in building discipline, leadership, resilience and team spirit.

He appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students, faculty and staff and said the institute would continue to provide opportunities for students to engage in sports and extracurricular activities alongside academics.

Shopian hosts Divisional Level U-17 Girls Table Tennis Championship



GMK SPORTS DESK

SHOPIAN: The Inter-District Divisional Level U-17 Girls Table Tennis Championship concluded Saturday at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Shopian, bringing together young table tennis talent from across the Kashmir Division.

The championship witnessed participation from 50 players representing ten districts, accompanied by their respective escort teachers.

The event provided a competitive platform for young athletes to showcase their talent, determination and sporting spirit.

On the concluding day, PEM Shopian, Altaf Hussain Malik, highlighted the importance of sports in maintaining a healthy and disciplined lifestyle. He appreciated the

efforts of the Department of Youth Services and Sports in promoting sporting activities and creating opportunities for young athletes to excel in different disciplines.

Malik also lauded the arrangements made by the DYSSO Shopian for hosting the divisional-level championship. He encouraged the young players to participate in sports activities with greater enthusiasm and pursue their sporting aspirations with dedication.

The final match was played between Srinagar and Budgam, with Srinagar emerging as the winner. Budgam secured the second position, while host district Shopian finished third, marking a commendable performance by the local players.

National Sports Day celebrated with Great Enthusiasm in Anantnag



GMK SPORTS DESK

ANANTNAG: National Sports Day 2026 was celebrated with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit across District Anantnag, with vibrant activities organised in all 12 Zones of the Department of Youth Services & Sports.

The celebrations were organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of Hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, whose extraordinary contribution to Indian hockey continues to inspire generations of sportspersons.

As many as 21828 boys and girls enthusiastically participated in various sports and fitness activities organised across the district. The impressive participation reflected the growing interest of young people in

sports and the commitment of the Department towards promoting a healthy, disciplined and active lifestyle among youth.

The celebrations provided a platform for young participants to showcase their sporting talent while promoting the values of discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, fitness and fair play.

The National Sports Day celebrations also highlighted the important role of sports in youth empowerment, nation-building and creating a positive and drug-free environment for the younger generation.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports, District Anantnag, reaffirmed its commitment to providing greater opportunities to every young boy and girl to participate in sports and pursue excellence at higher levels.

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SRINAGAR

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GOOD VIBES
GOOD TIMES

IT'S MOVIE TIME!

MOVIES Watchlist

30 AUGUST 2026 | SUNDAY

AWARAPAN 2
(U/A 16+)
HINDI
11:10 AM | 01:55 PM | 04:45 PM

TOXIC:
A FAIRY TALE FOR GROWN-UPS
A
HINDI
02:00 PM | 05:45 PM
HINDI ATMOS
11:00 AM | 03:00 PM | 07:00 PM

SPIDER-MAN:
BRAND NEW DAY
(U/A 13+)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
11:00 AM | 07:45 PM

FOR TICKETS CALL: +91 95416 13868