

Good Morning

Kashmir

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J&K Must Prepare Youth For Jobs Beyond Govt Sector: CM



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Stressing the need to reduce dependency on government employment, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday called for a paradigm shift in Jammu and Kashmir's educational framework, emphasizing job-oriented skill training to prepare the region's youth for the private sector and self-employment.

"We cannot give government jobs to everyone. If we have to prepare our children for the future, we have to give them the skills to compete in the job market, whether in Jammu and Kashmir, elsewhere in the country or abroad," the Chief Minister

said while laying the foundation stone for developmental works at Kashmir Government Polytechnic, Srinagar, and e-inaugurated infrastructure upgrades worth 4.20 crore across Government Polytechnics in Kishtwar, Ramban, Kulgam and Kupwara.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister called for greater focus on skill development and vocational education, stressing that preparing youth for the future job market must go hand in hand with formal education.

He emphasised that skill development programmes must be aligned with emerging market requirements and the employment

Strengthen Preparedness Against GLOFs, Avalanches: MHA To J&K

'Plug Gaps In Early-Warning Systems, Improve Community Preparedness'

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Home Affairs has asked Jammu and Kashmir and other Himalayan States and Union Territories to strengthen monitoring and early-warning systems for glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and snow avalanches, with a focus on vulnerable areas and timely evacuation.

The directions, were issued during a review meeting chaired by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, which was attended by senior officials from Jammu and Kashmir and other Himalayan states, including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, were also present. Representatives of central disaster management and scientific agencies also attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the preparedness of Himalayan regions to deal with GLOFs and avalanches, including the identification of vulnerable glacial lakes, avalanche-prone areas, possible flood flow paths and locations requiring enhanced surveillance.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the



directions assume significance as several high-altitude areas of the Union Territory remain vulnerable to avalanches and other mountain-related hazards, particularly during periods of heavy snowfall, rapid warming and extreme weather.

The MHA asked the authorities to ensure that warnings generated by scientific and technical agencies reach district administrations and communities without delay and are followed by appropriate action.

The Union Home Secretary called for a shift from a

response-based approach to one centred on advance risk assessment, preventive mitigation and preparedness at the community level.

The states and UTs were also directed to review their existing disaster management and evacuation plans, identify shortcomings and take corrective measures before extreme events occur.

The meeting also took stock of GLOF mitigation projects sanctioned by the Centre in 2024 and called for their expedited implementation.

THE DIRECTIONS COME AMID GROWING CONCERN OVER climate-linked hazards in the Himalayan region, where changing weather patterns and the rapid melting of glaciers can increase risks associated with unstable glacial lakes and snow avalanches.

Centre—Ladakh Talks MHA Calls Sub-Committee Meet In Delhi On Sept 9

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Home Affairs has convened a meeting of the sub-committee on issues concerning the Union Territory of Ladakh on September 9 in New Delhi.

In a post on X, Chief Secretary Ladakh Ashish Kundra, confirmed the development, stating: "The Ministry of Home Affairs has fixed an official meeting

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of the sub-committee on 9th September in Delhi. This is part of the ongoing dialogue for deepening democratic processes in Ladakh."

The sub-committee constituted in 2024 comprises officials from MHA, Ladakh administration and representatives of Apex Body Leh and Kargil Democratic Alliance- the two bodies seeking constitutional safeguards for the region, which was part of Jammu & Kashmir till October 30, 2019—(KNO)

'J&K To Witness Rain, Thunder Showers Today'



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Thursday said that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thunder-showers at many places on Friday, with brief intense showers possible at some locations.

According to the latest weather forecast accessed, the weather is expected to remain generally dry from September 5 to 12, though brief spells of rain or thundershowers may occur at isolated to scattered places, particularly during the early morning and forenoon hours.

The MeT Centre has advised people to remain cautious on September 4, saying brief intense showers at localised places could trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides.

Farmers, however, may continue harvesting and other agricultural operations, the weather office said.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained above normal at several places in the Union Territory on Thursday.

Srinagar recorded

Security Operation Underway Terrorists Trapped In Yusmarg Area Of Budgam

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SRINAGAR: A group of terrorists have been trapped by the army's Para commandos and the Rashtriya Rifles in J&K's Budgam district on

Thursday during a CASO (Cordon & Search Operation) after intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the district.

Top sources said, after receiving specific inputs about the presence

J&K Bank To Fill 1400 Posts, Notification In Coming Weeks



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank has approved around 1,400 posts for recruitment, opening the prospect of a major employment drive for young people in Jammu and Kashmir after a prolonged gap in large-scale hiring by the bank.

Managing Director and CEO Amitava Chatterjee said the bank's Board had approved the posts for adver-

tisement in the coming weeks. The recruitment will be focused on candidates holding J&K domicile, while around 40 positions will be available to residents of Ladakh.

The recruitment exercise is expected to be among the bank's largest in recent years and comes at a time when employment remains one of the most pressing concerns among educated youth in the Union Territory.

The detailed

School Buildings, Shops Linked To JeI Attached Under UAPA In Sopore

BILAL DAR

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday attached several properties including a school linked to proscribed terror outfit Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Police attached two buildings, six shops and two kanals of land in Sopore area of the north Kashmir district, after completion of due legalities under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), a spokesman said.

The attachment was carried out after completion of due legal process under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), a police official said.

The properties, identified as the Islamia Model School complex at Dooru, came under scrutiny during the investigation of FIR No. 42/2025 registered at



Police Station Sopore under Sections 10 and 13 of the UA(P) Act. The school has remained closed since 2022.

"Through sustained investigation, scrutiny of official and revenue records, and verification through concerned authorities, the linkage of the premises with Jamaat-e-Islami J&K was established," the spokesperson said.

Based on a detailed dossier submitted by Sopore Police, the

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, vide order dated August 12, 2026, notified the premises under Section 8(1) of the UA(P) Act, 1967. Thereafter, on the request of Sopore Police, the District Magistrate, Baramulla, issued necessary orders under Sections 8(3) and 8(4) of the UA(P) Act.

"In pursuance of these orders, Sopore Police, accompanied by the Executive Magistrate, carried out the attachment

CS Reviews Rollout Of Water Transport, PM E-DRIVE Initiatives In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday reviewed the status and implementation status for introduction of inland water transport on the rivers Jhelum and Chenab, besides the rollout of electric mobility infrastructure under the Government of India's PM E-DRIVE scheme in J&K.

The meeting besides ACS, PWD was attended by Secretary, Transport; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/ Kashmir; VC, LCMA; Representative from IWAY and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for time-bound completion of all enabling infrastructure, including terminals, access facilities, navigation arrangements and removal of obstructions in terms of utility shifting,



so that water transport can be operationalised within the set deadline.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the progress being made for developing inland water transport facilities along identified stretches of the River Jhelum (NW-49), River Chenab (NW-26) and River Ravi (NW-84).

On this occasion the Secretary Transport, Avny Lavasa apprised

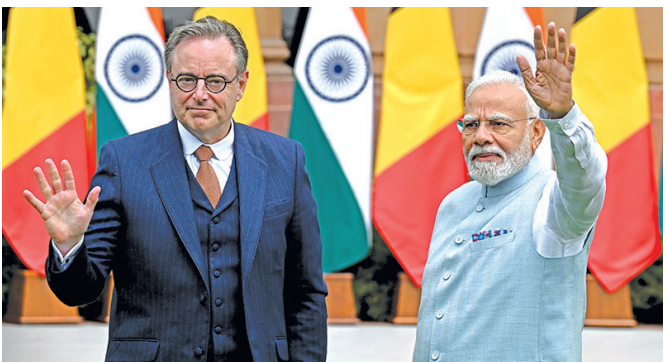
India, Belgium Call For Dialogue, Diplomatic Engagement On West Asia Crisis

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NEW DELHI: India and Belgium on Thursday discussed the evolving situation in West Asia and stressed the need for dialogue and diplomatic engagement to address challenges in the region peacefully.

The discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Belgian counterpart Bart De Wever in New Delhi on Thursday covered a range of global issues, including recent developments in Ukraine and West Asia.

"The two Prime Ministers also exchanged views on major international developments, including recent developments in Ukraine and in West Asia. Regarding the war in Ukraine, both sides reaffirmed their support for efforts towards the achievement of a compre-



hensive, just and lasting peace through dialogue and diplomacy, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law," read a Joint Statement issued following the meeting between two leaders.

"On West Asia, they discussed recent developments of concern in the region and

underscored the importance of dialogue and diplomatic engagement to address challenges in a peaceful manner. They also stressed the importance of ensuring the safety and security of maritime routes and of maintaining safe and unimpeded maritime shipping," it added.

According to the statement,

the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to further deepening and diversifying the India-Belgium partnership, guided by mutual trust and a shared vision for peace, prosperity, and development.

"They agreed that the expanding bilateral partnership shall continue to be guided by a shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, gender equality, and a rules-based international order. Building on these foundations, they expressed confidence that the India-Belgium Partnership would continue to deliver tangible benefits for both peoples and the world and also contribute to strengthening collaboration between India and Europe in addressing shared global challenges," it noted.

Pak Intruder Apprehended Along IB In Kanachak

AGENCIES

JAMMU: A Pakistani intruder was apprehended by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the International Border in the Kanachak sector of Jammu on Thursday morning, officials said.

Officials said that, the intruder was apprehended by personnel of 44 BSF Battalion near Border Out Post (BOP) Sohan in morning hours.

He said following the apprehension, the man was taken into BSF custody, while senior officials also reached the spot and took stock of the situation.

Pertainly, the apprehended person is presently being questioned to ascertain his identity, purpose of entry and other relevant details, officials said—(KNO)

Vande Bharat To Make Experimental Halt At Anantnag



UMAISAR GULL

ANANTNAG: The Ministry of Railways has approved an experimental stoppage of the Jammu Tawi-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express at Anantnag railway station, officials said.

In a communication issued by the Railway Board, the Board said the stoppage will be provided for Jammu Tawi-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express, at Anantnag.

The Railway Board has directed that the stoppage be introduced from an "early convenient date", subject to requisite securi-

ty clearance. The Board has also directed the concerned authorities to closely monitor ticket sales at Anantnag station to assess the performance of the stoppage.

"Give wide publicity, ensure compliance and confirm," the communication states.

The move is expected to improve rail connectivity for residents of Anantnag and adjoining areas and benefit tourists, traders, students and other passengers travelling between Jammu and Kashmir.

The stoppage will initially be experimental, with passenger response

Bangladesh HC calls on CM Omar in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, M. Riaz Hamidullah, Thursday

called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here.

The Chief Minister welcomed the High Commissioner to Jammu and

Kashmir and held discussions on areas of mutual interest, including horticulture, medical education and other potential areas of cooperation.

FDA intensifies Enforcement against Misbranding, Labelling Violations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has intensified enforcement activities across the Union Territory, with special focus on compliance with prescribed labelling requirements for meat and meat products.

A team headed by the Deputy Commissioner Food Safety, Kashmir, inspected various establishments, including Hospital Canteen, Kupwara, which was found violating various provisions of the food safety regulations and had failed to declare the nature/type of meat being served to consumers. A show cause notice was issued to the concerned FBO, and the case has been filed before the Adjudicating Officer (Additional Deputy Commissioner), Kupwara.

The premises of Ishfaq Ahmad Sheikh M/s Paak Foods situated at Regipora, Kupwara was also inspected, where violations pertaining to prescribed labelling requirements were found. A notice was issued to the concerned Food Business Operator (FBO), and a complaint will be filed before the competent court in accordance with law in terms of section 52 and 53 of the Act.



As the said products were manufactured at M/s Paak Foods, Wahdatpora, Budgam, the manufacturing premises was subsequently inspected by the concerned Food Safety authorities. On examination of the product labels, "Minced Kabab" was found to be misbranded and misleading, in contravention of the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020.

Accordingly, a complaint under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, has been filed before the Adjudicating Officer, Budgam, against Amjad Ali Bhat, Proprietor, M/s Paak Foods, Wahdatpora, Budgam, under Sections 52 and 53 of the Act.

Under Section 52, misbranding of food is punishable with a penalty which may extend to ₹3 lakh, while Section 53, relating to misleading advertisements, provides for a penalty which may extend to ₹10 lakh.

The Food & Drugs Administration, J&K, reiterated that misbranding, misleading labelling, misrepresentation of food articles and violations of prescribed food safety requirements will be dealt with in accordance with law.

The field officers have been directed to maintain strict vigil and ensure prompt regulatory action against violations, with the objective of safeguarding consumer health and ensuring compliance with prescribed food safety standards across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

FIR lodged against driver for endangering human lives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Traffic Police Rural Jammu, in its continued drive against overloading of passenger vehicles Thursday lodged another FIR against driver of Public Service Vehicle (Passenger Auto) TATA-Magic bearing Registration No. JK08J-7968.

As per the officials, SO Traffic Billawar, during routine checking at Dhar Road near Kandharnoo Tehsil Ramkot, intercepted a passenger Auto bearing Registration No. JK08J-7968, which was on its way from Rajwalta to Gujroo Nagrota. During checking, the vehicle driven by Mohit Kumar S/O Mohinder Kumar R/O Rajwalta Tehsil Ramkot was found overloaded with 09 excess passengers against the seating capacity of 08 passengers (Total 17) thereby posing a serious threat to the safety of passengers and



increasing the likelihood of accidents.

The vehicle history showed that the vehicle has already been challaned thrice for overloading. Accordingly, FIR No. 180/2026 U/S 281/125/BNS has been registered against the driver at Police Station Billawar District Kathua.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic Rural Jammu), Farooq Qaiser

stated that the matter will be taken up with the concerned authorities for cancellation of the Registration Certificate of the vehicle as well as the Driving License of the driver involved. He further urged all vehicle owners and drivers to ensure strict compliance with the MV Act/ Rules warning that stringent action will continue against the violators.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress under various agriculture schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Thursday chaired a detailed meeting to review the progress and implementation of schemes of the Agriculture Department including Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project (JKICP) and other related schemes in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a department-wise review of progress under JKICP and directed the Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Horticulture Planning & Marketing (HP&M) and Fisheries to expedite the establishment of the remaining units and ensure their completion on priority.

The progress under L2 and L3 registrations on the KKG Portal was also reviewed. The concerned departments were directed to accelerate registration and make concerted efforts towards timely achievement of the allotted targets.

Reviewing the status under Daksh Kisan, the Deputy Commissioner



directed the concerned departments to accelerate course completion and ensure that all pending activities are completed within the prescribed timelines.

The status of credit-linked cases under HADP was also reviewed. The Lead District Manager (LDM), Ganderbal was directed to ensure disbursement of sanctioned cases and expedite clearance of the cases pending at various bank branches, so that eligible beneficiaries receive the intended benefits without delay.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed progress under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme and directed the concerned banks to expedite the processing and clearance of all pending cases.

He further directed all concerned departments to intensify registration under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana

(PM-KMY) and undertake focused efforts to improve coverage of eligible beneficiaries under the scheme.

During the meeting, the District Level Committee (DLC) approved several applications under JKICP and HADP, for further processing as per the prescribed procedure.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for time-bound implementation, regular monitoring and coordinated efforts by all concerned departments and stakeholders to ensure that the benefits of HADP and JKICP interventions reach the farming and allied-sector community in a timely manner.

The meeting was attended by the concerned district officers, representatives of line departments, banking institutions and other stakeholders associated with the implementation of agriculture schemes in the district.

MLA Kulgam inaugurates school building at GHSS Hanger

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Thursday inaugurated a newly constructed three-storey 10 rooms academic block at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Hanger, constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.1.43 crores.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kulgam, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, Exen R&B, Fayaz Ahmad Kar, Principal of GHSS Hanger, Masroor Ahmad Ganie, other officers, dignitaries, teachers and students of the institute.

Speaking on the occasion, M. Y. Tarigami



underscored the vital role of upgraded public infrastructure in fostering quality education. He noted that equipping government institutions with modern, spacious classrooms is essential for creating a conducive learning environment for local youth and preparing them for future challenges.

"Our children are talented, but they need a proper environment to learn, to dream and to compete. If

we want quality education, we must first give quality infrastructure to our public institutions", said the MLA.

Chief Education Officer Kulgam commended the execution of the project, highlighting that the additional multi-storey facility will significantly address space constraints, accommodate growing enrollments, and support diverse curricular and co-curricular activities.

SHEW Mission Shakti Shopian conducts Educational Kit Distribution Drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative, the Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti, Shopian organised a distribution programme at Government Primary School, Agapathri, with the objective of encouraging education, promoting the well-being of girl children, and supporting their continued participation in school.

During the programme, school bags and educational kits were distributed among the students to support their educational requirements and encourage regular attendance and active participation in learning. The initiative aimed to create



a supportive environment in which every child, particularly girls, is provided with equal opportunities to pursue education and realise her full potential.

On the occasion, the officials and representatives of the Sankalp Hub sensitised the students about the core objectives of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, emphasising the importance of girls' education, safety, dignity, equal opportunities, and empowerment.

The programme concluded with an appeal to parents, teachers, and community members to work collectively towards promoting girls' education and creating an inclusive and supportive environment for every girl child. The initiative reaffirmed the commitment of Mission Shakti Shopian towards strengthening awareness, education, and empowerment of girls in the district.

Three-Day Research Methodology Workshop concludes at GCOE Sgr

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A three-day workshop on Research Methodology, organised by the Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Srinagar, concluded Thursday at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE), Government College of Education, M.A. Road, Srinagar.

The workshop was organised with the objective of strengthening the research capabilities of scholars and providing them with a comprehensive understanding of various aspects of research methodology, from identification of research problems and literature review to research design, publication and research ethics.

The workshop commenced with an inaugural session during which Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin, delivered a comprehensive address on the essence and significance of research. He emphasised the crucial role of quality research in addressing challenges at the local, national and broader levels. He also guided the scholars on identifying and selecting relevant research problems and stressed the importance of maintaining academic rigour and adhering to the principles of research ethics.

Over the course of the three-day programme, resource persons conducted sessions on diverse and important aspects of

the research process, with particular emphasis on research ideation, observation, literature review, research design, journal publication and other practical dimensions of conducting meaningful and quality research. The interactive sessions and discussions provided scholars with an opportunity to engage directly with the resource persons, clarify their queries and gain practical insights into the various stages of research.

At the valedictory session, Registrar, Cluster University of Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Syed Wilayat Hussain Rizvi, reaffirmed the University's commitment to strengthening its research culture and creating an enabling academic environment for scholars. He encouraged the participants to explore emerging areas of research with strong academic and practical relevance. He also urged the scholars to build upon the rich academic legacy of the University's constituent colleges and contribute meaningfully to academia and society.

Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of the workshop and particularly appreciated the increasing participation of women scholars in research. She encouraged the scholars to work with dedication and perseverance towards producing quality, relevant and impactful research.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Thursday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Kupwara Hot & Kupwara Old line will be observed due to which power supply to Arampora, Drugmulla, Whole Kupwara Town, Gulgam, Bategam, DC Office Complex, Whole Lolab & Machil Valley and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 05 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kupwara Hot line will be observed due to which power supply to Arampora, Drugmulla, Whole Kupwara Town, Gulgam, Bategam, DC Office Complex and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 07 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Khansahib Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Mujpathry, Khansahib, Raithan, Gurwaite and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM on 07 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV KP Bagh line will be observed due to which power supply to Mehjoornagar, Jawaharnagar, Kursoo, Rajbagh Zero Bridge, Gogijabagh, Lalmandi, KP Bagh, Soiteng PHE and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 10 & 15 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Kangan Surfraw line will be observed due to which power supply to Gund, Kullan, Ganganger, Sonamarg, Fraw, Ganiwan and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 05 September 2026.

Meanwhile, the Chief Engineer has informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Pampore BK Pora Line, earlier scheduled for 03 & 07 September, 2026, has been rescheduled.

As per the revised schedule, the shutdown will now be observed on 09 September, 2026, from 08:00 AM to 02:00 PM.

DC Budgam conducts Block Diwas in Khag

Says district admin committed to robust development of far flung areas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Thursday chaired a Block Diwas programme at the Block Headquarters Khag to take stock of public issues, demands and progress of developmental works.

During the programme, locals of Khag Block and adjoining villages raised various demands related to road, power, drinking water, healthcare improvements and sports infrastructure development in the area.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the people and directed the concerned officers to address the issues raised on priority and ensure time-bound redressal of genuine grievances.

The public also projected the need for playfields in far-flung areas of Khag. The Deputy Commissioner said that the District Administration is committed to establishing playfields in far-flung areas of the block to provide better sports facilities and opportunities to local youth.

He said that the District Administration is committed to robust development of far flung areas and ensure equitable development of people living in remote areas.

He stressed upon officers to maintain close coordination, expedite ongoing developmental works and ensure effective implementation of government schemes for the benefit of the people.

Senior district and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the programme and listened to the public issues for necessary action.

DLSA organises awareness programme for drivers on women's safety

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam organised an awareness programme for drivers and helpers of public transport with the objective of sensitising them about the rights, safety, dignity and comfort of women commuters and the important role of transport personnel in ensuring a safe and respectful public transport environment.

The awareness programme focused particularly on women's reservation in public transport, women's safety and prevention of harassment and misconduct. The drivers and helpers were sensitised about the importance of ensuring that earmarked/reserved seats for women are made available to women commuters and that such seats are respected in letter and spirit.

Nazeer Ahmad Wagay served as the Resource Person for the programme. He sensitised the participants about the legal rights of women, their safety and dignity in public transport, prevention of harassment and the duties and responsibilities of drivers and helpers towards women passengers. He emphasised that transport personnel have an important responsibility to ensure that women commuters

are able to travel in an environment free from harassment, intimidation, discrimination and other forms of misconduct.

During his interaction with the participants, the Resource Person highlighted the need for polite and respectful behaviour towards women commuters and impressed upon the drivers and helpers that any act of harassment or misconduct against women may

attract legal consequences. The participants were also advised to remain vigilant and to respond responsibly to any situation affecting the safety, dignity or comfort of women passengers.

The programme further emphasised that harassment of women is a punishable offence under law and that every driver and helper must discharge their duties with professionalism, responsibility and sensitivity.

The participants were encouraged to contribute towards creating a safe, inclusive and women-friendly public transport system.

DLSA Budgam stressed that safe and dignified public transportation is essential for ensuring women's equal participation in public life and called upon drivers and helpers to act as responsible stakeholders in safeguarding the rights, dignity and security of women commuters.

CM chairs meeting to discuss proposed modifications in Master Plans of Jmu, Sgr

Master plans to focus on planned growth, ease of doing business, environmental safeguards



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired the 91st Board of Directors meeting of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) and 85th Board of Directors meeting of Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), to discuss proposals regarding amendments to be made in the Master Plans of Jammu and Srinagar.

Chairman SDA Shabir Hussain Bhat and Chairman JDA Rupesh Kumar made separate presentations on the proposed plans.

The discussions covered proposed amendments, public feedback, regulatory requirements and measures for planned and sustainable urban development.

For Srinagar, the meeting discussed Town Planning Schemes, safeguards for Dal, Nigeeen and other water bodies, alignment with J&K Unified Building Bye-Laws-2021, and reforms to simplify land-use zoning and building permissions.

The Revised Jammu Master Plan-2032 was also discussed for 15 planning zones, rationalisation of land-use categories, geo-referenced mapping and aligning

CM Omar extends Janmashtami greetings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami.

In his message, the Chief Minister said the festival of Janmashtami symbolises the triumph of righteousness, truth and compassion

major infrastructure projects in the plan document Environmental and heritage safeguards, including protection of the Tawi riverbed and watercourses, were also deliberated upon.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to balance planned urban growth, reforms for ease of doing business, addressing public concerns and ensuring environmental protection while finalising the proposed Master Plans.

The meetings were attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister

over evil.

He expressed hope that the occasion would strengthen the bonds of communal harmony, brotherhood and mutual respect among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister prayed that the festival brings peace, prosperity and happiness to all, and strengthens the spirit of unity and harmony in society.

ter Dheeraj Gupta, ACS Finance Shailendra Kumar, ACS PWD Anil Kumar Singh, Commissioner Secretary Planning, Monitoring & Development Department Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Mandeep Kaur, Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary Law, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar, Commissioners of Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Jammu Municipal Corporation and other concerned officers.

Jammu-based officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Kashmir gears up for International Film Festival

Div Com calls for seamless coordination, ownership of responsibilities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As Kashmir prepares to witness the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJ&K), the final contours of the mega event are taking shape, with administration putting in place a comprehensive and closely coordinated mechanism to ensure a seamless experience for filmmakers, delegates, guests and audiences.

In this backdrop, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg today chaired a high-level meeting at the Auditorium of the Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), bringing together officers and stakeholders associated with the arrangements for the festival.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Secretary Information, Director DIPR, SSP Srinagar, SSP Security, SSP Traffic, Heads of Departments, Nodal Officers, Liaison Officers and

officials of the Information Department.

Setting the tone for the final phase of preparations, the Divisional Commissioner called for disciplined execution, close coordination and a clear sense of ownership among all officers entrusted with responsibilities. He impressed upon the Nodal Officers and Liaison Officers to not only take ownership of their assigned duties but also clearly envisage the wider ambit of their responsibilities so that every component of the festival is executed in a well-knit and coordinated manner.

Underscoring the importance of real-time coordination, the Divisional Commissioner directed the officers to maintain a continuous flow of information and ensure zero communication gaps among departments and field teams. He stressed that timely sharing of information and prompt response to emerging requirements would be critical to the smooth con-



duct of the festival.

The meeting provided an extensive review of arrangements spanning from arrival and transportation to accommodation of guests, opening & closing ceremony, sightseeing guided tours of guests and participation at festival venues.

The Divisional Commissioner assessed preparations at the airport, the transport plan, accommodation arrangements for guests, guided tours, film screenings, floating cinema, parking facilities, beautification of parks and venues, establishment of help desks and selfie points, setting up

of stalls and other allied arrangements.

During the meeting, the Director Information gave a detailed briefing to the Nodal Officers on their respective responsibilities, action points and operational requirements. The responsibilities encompass the entire movement and facilitation chain, beginning from Jammu Airport and extending to Srinagar Airport and the principal festival venues, including SKICC and INOX.

The briefing was aimed at ensuring that every officer remains fully apprised of his or her role, the scope of intervention and the

coordination required with other departments and field teams, thereby creating a unified operational framework for the festival.

The Nodal Officers, in turn, apprised the meeting of the preparations undertaken at their respective deployment sites and locations, highlighting the progress made and the arrangements being put in place for the successful conduct of the event.

With the festival entering its final preparatory phase, the meeting reinforced the administration's commitment to presenting a professionally coordinated and welcoming experience for visitors and participants.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, SSP Srinagar and other officers assured full cooperation and support from their respective departments, reaffirming their commitment to working in close coordination for the seamless and successful conduct of the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir.

Javid Dar lays foundation stones of major development projects in Rafiabad



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar laid the foundation stones of several important development projects in Rafiabad, covering education, healthcare, public amenities and recreational infrastructure.

The projects, involving a cumulative sanctioned cost of Rs 3.29 crore, are aimed at strengthening essential infrastructure and ensuring improved facilities and services for the people at their doorsteps.

At Nowpora (Tujer Sharief), the Minister laid the foundation stone for the development of a Children's Park, to be executed by PW(R&B) Division Sopore, at a sanctioned cost of Rs 80 lakh. The facility will provide children with a dedicated space for recreation and outdoor activities while adding to the public amenities available in the area.

At Bomai, Javid Dar laid the foundation stone for the construction of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Com-

puter Laboratories besides an Additional Classroom Room (ACR) at Boys Secondary School Bomai under Samagra Shiksha. The project, to be executed by PW(R&B), has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 1.44 crore.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for construction of a Mini Super Bazar at Bomai Zaingeer, sanctioned at a cost of Rs 55 lakh. The facility is envisaged to strengthen local market infrastructure and facilitate convenient access to essential commodities for the residents.

In the health sector, the Minister laid the foundation stone for construction of a Sub-Centre at Goripora, Darapora, at a sanctioned cost of Rs 50 lakh. The health facility will enhance access to basic healthcare services and further strengthen the rural healthcare network in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that strengthening grassroots infrastructure is central to the government's development agenda, with focused attention being given to ensuring that people in rural and underserved areas have access to quality public facilities in their

vicinity.

He said that development is meaningful only when it brings visible and tangible improvements to the lives of people, adding that infrastructure in sectors such as education, healthcare, recreation and basic amenities is being strengthened in a planned and phased manner.

Javid Dar emphasized that the projects being undertaken in Rafiabad reflect the government's commitment to balanced, inclusive and people-centric development, with priority being accorded to improving public infrastructure and enhancing the quality of services at the grassroots level.

He directed the concerned executing agencies to ensure strict adherence to quality specifications, prescribed timelines and financial discipline, stressing that public-funded projects must be completed efficiently and to the satisfaction of the people.

The Minister further underscored the need for close monitoring of ongoing works and effective coordination among departments to ensure timely completion and optimal utilization of resources.

He reiterated that the government remains committed to accelerating development in rural areas and creating a stronger infrastructure base that contributes to improved quality of life, better public services and greater socio-economic opportunities for the people.

Achal Sethi reviews NeVA preparedness ahead of Autumn Session of JKLA



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi chaired a high-level meeting at the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review the preparedness for implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) ahead of the forthcoming Autumn Session.

Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit, along with senior officers of the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on taking stock of the arrangements and preparedness required for the effective rollout and smooth functioning of the NeVA platform, which is aimed at facilitating digital and paperless legislative proceedings.

The Commissioner Secretary reviewed the progress achieved on various components of the initia-

tive, including technical preparedness, digitisation and processing of legislative business, system integration and coordination among the concerned departments and stakeholders.

Achal Sethi stressed the importance of completing all requisite technological, administrative and procedural arrangements well in advance of the commencement of the Autumn Session. He underscored that effective implementation of NeVA would enable seamless digital handling of legislative documents and business, reduce dependence on physical paperwork and facilitate efficient communication and coordination between the Legislative Assembly, legislators and government departments.

He called for close coordination among all stakeholders and directed the officers to ensure that all pending technical and procedural requirements are completed within the stipulated timelines.

Javid Dar exhorts officials to ensure prompt, time-bound redress of public grievances



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday directed the concerned officers to accord highest priority to public grievances and ensure their prompt, time-bound and effective redress.

The Minister issued the directions while interacting with the individuals and delegations who called on him and apprised him of various issues concerning their respective areas.

Assuring the delegations of necessary intervention, Javid Ahmad Dar said that all genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments and authorities for appropriate action.

The Minister directed the officers to adopt a proactive, responsive and people-centric approach in addressing the public concerns and ensure that no genuine grievance remains unattended.

He called for close inter-departmental coordination and regular monitoring of pending issues to expedite their resolution and eliminate avoidable delays.

Emphasising the need to strengthen development at the grassroots level, the Minister directed the concerned officials to take result-oriented measures for addressing issues related to basic infrastructure, roads, public utilities and other essential services. He stressed that development works should be closely monitored and executed efficiently to ensure visible benefits to the people.

Javid Dar underscored that responsive governance, accountability and timely delivery of public services are fundamental to strengthen the public trust in government institutions. He called upon the officers to remain accessible to the people, maintain regular field-level engagement and ensure that genuine public concerns are translated into concrete action and measurable outcomes.

CS Dulloo reviews quality, disposal of migrant property grievances across Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a meeting to comprehensively review the quality and disposal of grievances lodged by Kashmiri migrant property holders across all ten districts of the Kashmir Division under The Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint on Distress Sales) Act, 1997.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R), Chandraker Bharti; Secretary, Revenue; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; Relief Commissioner (Migrant), besides senior officers of other concerned departments.

The Chief Secretary directed the Divisional and District Administrations to ensure quality, thorough and time-bound disposal of every grievance, with particular emphasis on cases pending for long periods. He stressed that every complaint must be examined comprehensively and decided strictly on merit, ensuring satisfactory resolution for the concerned property owners.

Calling for greater use of technology in the management and protection of migrant properties, the Chief Secretary directed the remaining districts to expedite completion of geo-tagged



inventories of migrant properties. He observed that comprehensive digital inventories would provide a reliable asset database and strengthen monitoring, protection and management of such properties.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, gave an overview of the statutory framework governing migrant properties and the various Government orders and circulars issued from time to time to safeguard the interests of migrant property holders and bring greater clarity and efficiency in implementation of the Act.

A detailed presentation by the Relief Commissioner (Migrant) highlighted the progress achieved in strengthening the institutional, administrative and technological framework for protection of migrant properties and disposal of related grievances.

The review revealed significant field-level action for retrieval and protection of migrant land under the statutory powers vested with District Magistrates as legal custodians.

Between January and July 2026, 522 Kanals and 15.9 Marlas of migrant land were retrieved and secured under Superdari or handed over to the original owners. Adding that Bandipora emerged among the leading districts with retrieval of 146 Kanals and 7 Marlas, followed by Baramulla with 82 Kanals and 10 Marlas, Kulgam with 80 Kanals and 0.5 Marlas, Ganderbal with 53 Kanals and Srinagar with 50 Kanals and 16.9 Marlas.

The meeting was informed that the Online Migrant Grievance Portal (RRCM) has so far registered 12,223 complaints, covering various categories of violations, including 5,341 encroachment cases, 2,874 trespassing cases and 442 cases relating to record tampering.

Of these, 10,038 cases have been closed by the District Magistrates, while 7,605 cases have received final approval through the RRCM mechanism.

The administration has also instituted an independent Telephonic Quality Verification mechanism through the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, to assess the quality of disposal of cases shown as closed.

Of the 4,918 applicants successfully contacted during the verification exercise, 4,605 expressed satisfaction with the disposal of their cases. The remaining grievances have been flagged for further administrative scrutiny and necessary remediation.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Mother Tongue Is Dying, And We Are Watching

The downward slide of any nation or civilisation begins when it starts believing that everything borrowed from elsewhere is superior to what it already possesses. The habit of blindly adopting and copying others may look fashionable for a while, but it slowly erases the very identity of a people. And the first casualty of that erosion is language. Kashmiri language is today under pressure as perhaps never before in its long and remarkable history. What centuries of political upheavals, invasions, migrations and social transformations could not destroy, we are dangerously close to destroying ourselves. There is no invading army standing at the gates of Kashmir to silence Kashmiri. There is no external enemy systematically removing Kashmiri words from our homes. We are doing it ourselves. We increasingly speak to our children in borrowed languages, decorate our conversations with unnecessary foreign words, and treat Kashmiri as something suitable only for grandparents, folk songs or occasional cultural functions. In our own homes, many parents proudly announce that their children cannot speak Kashmiri, as if linguistic alienation were an achievement. What a tragedy. A language is not merely a collection of words. It carries a civilisation's memory, humour, wisdom, folklore, emotions, worldview and collective experience. When a language disappears, an entire way of understanding the world disappears with it. The irony is that those who loudly proclaim themselves champions of Kashmiri are often contributing little to its survival. Some have turned the language into a ceremonial possession, a subject for seminars, speeches, awards and photographs, while its everyday use continues to shrink. The real defenders of Kashmiri are not those who merely deliver passionate speeches about its glorious past. They are the parents who speak it at home, the teachers who teach it properly, the writers who produce meaningful literature, the broadcasters who use it naturally, and the institutions that give it a living space in education, administration and public life. Kashmiri does not need pity. It needs users. It does not need another conference where its decline is discussed in polished language. It needs Kashmiri to be spoken in kitchens, classrooms, offices, markets and playgrounds. We must also stop confusing modernisation with cultural surrender. Learning English, Hindi, Urdu or any other language is not the problem. The problem begins when learning another language requires us to abandon our own. A Kashmiri who speaks several languages is enriched. A Kashmiri who is ashamed of speaking Kashmiri is impoverished. The greatest threat to Kashmiri today is therefore not another language. It is our own growing indifference. We have inherited Kashmiri after thousands of years of history. We have no moral right to hand it over to the next generation as a museum piece. And perhaps the most uncomfortable question must be asked of the self-styled custodians of Kashmiri: what exactly are you protecting if the language is no longer being spoken by its own people? A language survives not because committees declare it important, but because people use it. If Kashmiris continue to replace their mother tongue in their homes, neglect it in schools and reduce it to cultural symbolism, then one day we may have countless institutions celebrating Kashmiri, and very few Kashmiris actually speaking it. That would not be the tragedy of an enemy defeating us. It would be the tragedy of a people voluntarily surrendering a part of themselves. Kashmiri does not need champions who merely speak about it. Kashmiri needs Kashmiris who will speak in it.

Waste To Wonder Garden

Turning Waste Into A New Invention

Waste to Wonder Garden is a unique invention made from the waste that we usually consider useless. It is a beautiful example of how things that are no longer useful in their original form can be reused and turned into something creative and meaningful. This garden has been created from waste coming out of the city. Things like old vehicles, washing machines, refrigerators, tyres, containers, and other discarded materials have been given a new form and a new purpose. When we hear the word waste, the first thing that usually comes to our mind is something that should be thrown away. We use something, and when it becomes old or stops working, we simply put it in the garbage. We rarely stop and think about what else that object could become. The Waste to Wonder Garden makes us think differently. It shows us that everything we call waste is not necessarily useless. Sometimes, it only needs a little creativity and a different way of looking at it. The Waste to Wonder Garden is situated within the small confines of Polo Ground, but the message it conveys is much larger than the size of the garden itself. It teaches us how waste products from our own city can be made to serve people in such a way that they would be able to enjoy looking at them and learning about them. The waste material that was otherwise going to be discarded has found a new purpose. The main purpose of this garden is to make people understand how important it is to reuse and recycle things instead of simply throwing them away. We should not always think that once an object has stopped serving its original purpose, it has no value. There can be many ways of using the same thing again. We only need to think creatively. For example, an old tyre may no longer be suitable for a vehicle, but it can be reused as a flower pot or as part of a garden decoration. An old container can also be turned into a planter. Similarly, old machines and other unused objects can be used creatively instead of being immediately thrown away. This is the kind of thinking that the Waste to Wonder Garden encourages. We often buy new things for our homes because we want our surroundings to look beautiful. We buy flower pots, decorations, and other items from the market without thinking that many things already present in our homes can be reused. An old bucket, bottle, box, container, or even a broken household item can sometimes be turned into something useful. With a little effort,



these things can be painted, decorated, and used in a completely different way. If we start following this idea in our homes, streets, gardens, and public places, we can reduce the amount of waste around us. It does not mean that every single thing can be reused, but before throwing something away, we can at least think about whether it has another possible use. This issue becomes even more important taking into account the increasing amount of waste being produced in cities. Daily many different things are thrown away. Some things can be used again; some can be recycled. Throwing waste anywhere in an untidy manner leads to the creation of unsanitary areas, which causes various environmental issues. Moreover, waste may cause pollution that can be harmful to people's health as well as to the environment. Thus, minimising waste involves not only keeping streets clean but also becoming responsible about the environment as a whole. If everyone tries to make a small effort to use things again, the overall effect can become quite impressive. The Waste to Wonder Garden gives us a simple example of this. Instead of allowing discarded objects to remain waste, they have been creatively used to make something new. It shows that creativity can change the value of an object. What looks useless at first can become useful when we give it a new purpose. The idea can also be followed by children and young people. They can be encouraged

to use waste materials for creative activities. Schools and colleges can organise activities where students make useful or decorative things from materials that would otherwise be thrown away. This can help them understand the importance of recycling and reuse practically. It could also make us more responsible with regard to our purchases and discards. So accustomed are we to changing our old possessions for new ones that we often forget the worth of putting into use what we already have. Before purchasing something new, we can question ourselves if we have an item at home which would do the trick. Before discarding something, we can enquire if it can still be repaired or repurposed. The Waste to Wonder Garden is a reminder that we do not always need expensive materials to create something beautiful. Sometimes, the material is already around us. We just need to recognise its potential. A garden made from waste may seem like a small idea, but it can create a big change in the way people think. When people see old and discarded objects being used creatively, they may begin to realise that waste management is not only about throwing garbage into the right place. It is also about reducing what we throw away and finding ways to use things again. If we start reusing things in our homes, every street, every garden, and every public place can become a little cleaner. We can reduce unnecessary waste and at the

same time encourage creativity. Instead of seeing an old object only for what it was originally made for, we can think about what it can become. The Waste to Wonder Garden therefore gives us a very simple message: do not consider everything as waste just because it is old or no longer useful in its original form. Give it a second thought before giving it away. The most beautiful aspect about this garden may be that it alters our view of common things. Scrap cars are not mere waste. Used washing machines are not just junk to be thrown away. An old refrigerator is not just a piece of useless material. With some imagination, all of these things can become parts of something new. This garden makes us realise that invention is not necessarily about making something out of fresh materials. Invention is sometimes about using existing materials for new purposes. If we all begin with small changes, reuse before throwing, repair before replacing, and create before discarding, we can make a difference. The Waste to Wonder Garden may be a small corner of Polo Ground, but its idea can reach every home, every street, and every person. It reminds us that the things we call waste may not be the end of a story. They may simply be waiting for someone to give them a new beginning. Sometimes, all waste needs is a little creativity, a new idea, and a second chance to become a wonder.

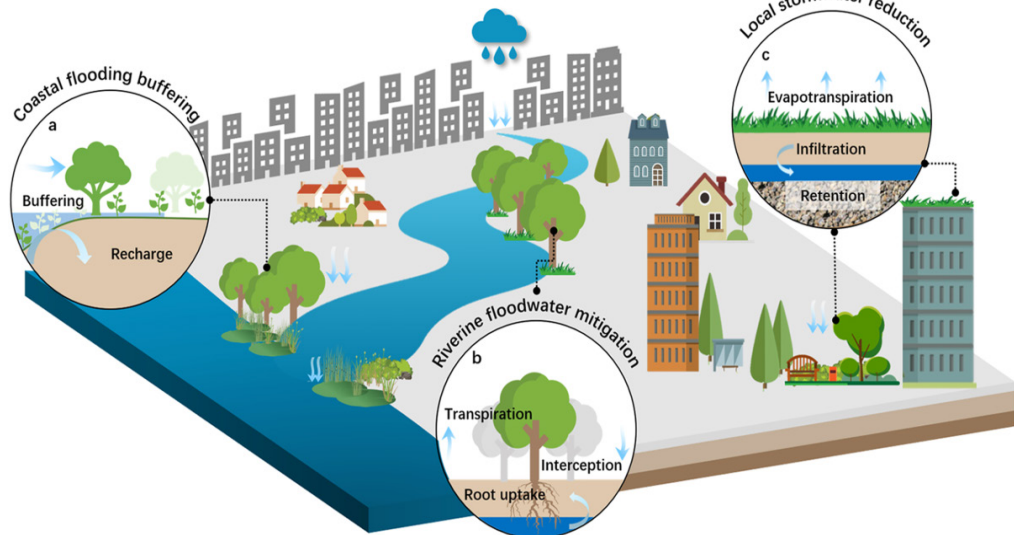
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Urban Flooding: Rain Woes Or Planning Failure?



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Indian cities seem to repeat the same story every monsoon—a few hours of heavy rain, waterlogging on roads, vehicles stuck in traffic jams, flooded underpasses, water entering homes and shops, and the administration scrambling for relief and evacuation efforts. Rapidly developing metropolitan areas like Delhi-NCR and Gurugram are examples of this. The question is, are floods in these cities solely the result of excessive rainfall? The answer is no. Urban flooding is a crisis born out of the interaction of natural rainfall and human disruption. While changing weather has certainly increased the risk, poor urban planning and weak governance have exacerbated the situation. Urban flooding occurs when rainwater exceeds the city's drainage, groundwater infiltration, and natural or artificial water storage capacity. In rural areas, water has the space to spread and seep into the ground through fields, ponds, and natural channels, but increasing concretization in cities blocks natural waterways. As a result, even heavy rainfall over a short period can cause widespread waterlogging. The primary reason for Indian cities becoming flood-prone is changing rainfall patterns. Climate change is increasing the frequency of heavy rainfall over short periods of time in many areas. Drainage systems designed based on historical rainfall averages are unable to handle such intense rainfall. The intense monsoon rains in Delhi-NCR are a case in point. The problem



isn't just the total amount of rainfall, but also the excessive concentration of rainfall over a short period of time. Another major reason is rapid concretization. Cities like Gurugram have seen rapid expansion of residential colonies, high-rise buildings, commercial complexes, and roads over the past few decades. Ground that previously absorbed rainwater is now covered with cement and asphalt. This reduces groundwater recharge and increases surface runoff. When large amounts of water flow simultaneously to roads and drains, the drainage system quickly fails. Encroachment on natural drains and waterways also exacerbates urban flooding. Urban development often ignores the fact that every watercourse has its own natural flow area. Narrowing drains, covering them, or building on their banks obstructs water flow. Similarly, the disappearance of ponds, lakes, and wetlands robs cities of their natural water storage areas. The degradation of wetlands and water bodies in Delhi-NCR points to this problem. Weak and unorganized

stormwater drainage systems further exacerbate the problem. In many cities, the capacity of drains has not been increased to meet local needs and current rainfall conditions. In many places, sewer and stormwater drainage systems are interconnected, causing both systems to be overwhelmed during heavy rains. Furthermore, plastic and other solid waste clogs drains. This means that as much as rain is a major problem, so too is the waste we ourselves dump into the drainage system. Therefore, it's not appropriate to consider urban flooding solely as a natural disaster. It's also a failure of governance. In cities, responsibilities for roads, building construction, drainage, land use, environment, and disaster management are often divided among different agencies. When an area becomes waterlogged, assigning responsibility becomes difficult. Lack of coordination leads to one department building a road, another constructing a drain, and a third granting land use permission, but planning doesn't consider the entire catchment area as a single unit. Flood risk and catchment

areas are not adequately addressed in urban master plans. Despite existing regulations governing construction in low-lying areas, floodplains, and around water bodies, they are not effectively enforced. Unauthorized construction and encroachment gradually destroy natural waterways. Pre-disaster risk reduction should be a priority, rather than focusing on post-disaster relief and rescue. Building climate-resilient cities requires first considering the city as a natural watershed, not just a collection of buildings and roads. The concept of a "sponge city" can be useful for this. Its aim is to capture, absorb, and reuse rainwater within the city, rather than letting it drain rapidly. Permeable surfaces, rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, and local water harvesting structures can be developed in parking areas, sidewalks, and other suitable locations. At the same time, "blue-green infrastructure" must be integrated into urban planning. Ponds, lakes, wetlands, rivers, streams, urban forests, and green spaces are not just

aesthetically pleasing; they are the city's natural flood-fighting system. Their conservation and restoration help retain water, infiltrate the ground, and regulate temperatures. Stormwater drainage design capacities will also need to be adjusted to account for future climate conditions. Instead of relying on outdated rainfall data, it's essential to incorporate updated climate models and extreme rainfall projections into planning. GIS-based flood-risk maps can be developed to determine which areas should limit construction and where additional water storage capacity needs to be developed. It is also essential to provide local bodies with financial resources, technical expertise, and adequate decision-making power. Each city should develop a comprehensive Urban Flood Risk Management Plan, integrating drainage, land use, water bodies, waste management, and disaster management. Clear accountability should be established between municipal bodies and relevant agencies. Ultimately, extreme rainfall cannot be completely prevented, but it can be significantly reduced from becoming an urban disaster. This requires integrating meteorology and climatology with urban planning. Natural water bodies must be protected, concretization must be balanced, and administrative accountability must be strengthened. Cities must transform from being mere drains of rainwater, to being cities that manage rainwater wisely. The path to combating urban flooding in the era of climate change lies not in more pumps and more relief, but in better planning, stronger local governance, and an urban system that is in harmony with nature. (Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Good Morning

Kashmir

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■ National Nutrition Week 2026

Building A Healthier India Through Better Food Choices



RAKSHANDA GUL

Good nutrition begins with the food choices people make every day. Yet eating well is not simply a matter of knowing which foods are considered healthy. What we eat is influenced by family habits, cultural preferences, work schedules, convenience, affordability, and information available online. As a result, even when people try to make healthy choices, their daily meals may not always provide the nutrients the body needs.

In India, National Nutrition Week is celebrated every year between 1-7 September. This period offers the chance to educate people about the significance of balanced diets, malnutrition, and proper nutrition throughout the various stages of one's life.

The theme of nutrition is particularly important because India faces a dual challenge: undernutrition continues to affect vulnerable groups, while overweight and obesity are also becoming concerns. Good nutrition is therefore not simply about eating more or less. It is about eating a varied, balanced and appropriate diet.

Understanding a balanced diet. Healthy eating does not require expensive ingredients, imported superfoods or restrictive diets. The ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition's Dietary Guidelines for Indians 2024 emphasise dietary diversity, adequate nutrients, vegetables and fruits, pulses, nuts and oilseeds, while limiting foods high in fat, sugar and salt.

A balanced Indian meal can be built around familiar foods such as roti, rice, dal, rajma, chana, vegetables, curd, paneer, eggs, fish or lean meat and seasonal fruits. The important consideration is the overall combination and quantity rather than following a fashionable diet.

Protein should not be overlooked. Protein is an important part of a healthy diet because it supports growth, maintenance and repair of body tissues. A simple approach is to include a protein-rich food in each main meal. Affordable choices include dal, rajma, chana and other pulses; milk, curd and paneer; eggs; soybean, tofu and soy products; fish, chicken or lean meat; and nuts and seeds. Different people require different amounts of food and nutrients, so there is no single protein target or diet plan that suits everyone.

Different foods provide different vitamins, minerals, fibre and other beneficial compounds. This makes

dietary variety important. Instead of relying on one or two familiar vegetables, families can include seasonal produce of different colours along with pulses, fruits, nuts, seeds and dairy or suitable alternatives. The ICMR-NIN guidelines specifically encourage variety among cereals, millets, pulses, vegetables and fruits. Healthy choices do not have to be expensive. Seasonal foods such as guava, papaya, amla, spinach, carrots, pumpkin, beans and locally available greens can provide useful nutrients. Adding vegetables to main meals and choosing whole fruit instead of juice can be simple steps towards greater dietary variety.

Words such as "healthy," "natural," "multigrain," "high-protein," "low-fat," "baked" and "sugar-free" can influence purchasing decisions, but one marketing claim does not tell the whole nutritional story. Consumers should look beyond the front of a packet and check the ingredient list, serving size, added sugars, sodium or salt, saturated fat and the overall composition of the product. A product marketed as "multigrain" or "low-fat" may still contain considerable amounts of sugar, salt or refined ingredients. Food labels are therefore useful tools, but they need to be read carefully.

Excess sugar, salt and unhealthy fats do not come only from obvious sources. Biscuits, cakes, breakfast cereals, flavoured yoghurt, sweetened drinks, packaged juices, namkeen, chips, instant noodles, sauces, pickles, papad and many ready-to-eat foods can contribute significant amounts. The ICMR-NIN guidelines advise limiting foods high in fat, sugar and salt and avoiding foods and beverages with added sugars. Reducing these foods does not mean eliminating every packaged product. The goal is to make them occasional rather than allowing them to become the foundation of the daily diet.

A nutritious food can still contribute excess energy when eaten in very large quantities. Nuts, seeds, ghee, paneer, smoothies and dried fruits can all be part of a healthy diet, but portion size matters. Using a regular-sized plate, serving food rather than eating directly from a packet, eating slowly and paying attention to hunger and fullness can help people avoid unnecessary overeating.

Skipping meals, following extremely restrictive diets or trying "detox" programmes may appear attractive when social media promises rapid weight loss. Such approaches can be difficult to sustain and may result in inadequate intake of energy, protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals. The better approach is to develop sustainable eating habits suited to an individual's age, activity level, health status and nutritional needs.

Similarly, supplements should not be treated as replacements for a balanced diet. Vitamin, mineral or other



supplements may be appropriate in specific circumstances, but their use should be based on individual nutritional requirements and, where necessary, professional medical advice.

What does a balanced Indian plate look like? A healthy Indian plate does not need to look dramatically different from the

In India, National Nutrition Week is celebrated every year between 1 - 7 September. This period offers the chance to educate people about the significance of balanced diets, malnutrition, and proper nutrition throughout the various stages of one's life.

food many families already prepare.

A meal can combine cereals or millets with pulses or another protein source, vegetables, a suitable dairy or alternative and, where appropriate, a portion of fruit. The exact combina-

tion can vary according to culture, availability, dietary preference and individual nutritional requirements.

The ICMR-NIN guidelines emphasise that nutrient requirements vary according to age, sex, physiological status and physical activity. Nutrition needs change throughout life. There is no single diet plan that works equally well for everyone. During pregnancy and lactation, there will be specific nutritional needs. Senior citizens might require sufficient intake of protein and other micronutrients according to their personal conditions.

Likewise, there could be specific nutritional needs for someone engaged in strenuous activities as compared to someone who leads an inactive lifestyle. Therefore, there are chances that blindly following someone else's nutritional diet plan on social media may not suit everyone. Nutrition education is especially important for children. Long periods of screen use can reduce opportunities for physical activity, while watching television or using mobile devices can encourage mindless snacking. When frequent consumption of chips, biscuits, sweets, sugary drinks and other highly processed foods is combined with low physical activity, children may be at greater risk of unhealthy weight gain.

Families could be helpful in making healthy foods readily available and ensuring outdoor exercise. Simple adjustments that families could make: healthy eating is not about changing entirely the way your family prepares food. Some simple measures can be taken to ensure your daily diet is balanced: Include some protein in your meals. Make sure there are always some vegetables included. Eat whole fruits instead of drinking their juice. Slowly reduce too much sugar and salt. Go for simple snacks like fresh fruits, roasted chana, curd, hard-boiled eggs, nuts, or homemade food. Never eat straight out of big packets of food. Always read the food labels before buying any food item. Keep healthy food visible and handy. The objective is not perfection. Small changes that can be maintained over time are

more useful than extreme diets that last only a few weeks.

Nutritional deficiencies do not always produce obvious symptoms in their early stages. Persistent tiredness, weakness, difficulty concentrating, unexplained weight loss, pale skin, hair fall, brittle nails, dizziness or frequent illness can have many possible causes and should not automatically be attributed to a dietary deficiency.

When such symptoms persist, appropriate medical evaluation is more reliable than self-diagnosis or starting supplements without advice.

The 2025 Global Hunger Index gave India a score of 25.8, categorised as "serious," and ranked India 102nd among 123 countries included in the ranking. The report recorded child wasting at 18.7%, child stunting at 32.9%, undernourishment at 12.0%, and under-five mortality at 2.8%. The same report also shows substantial long-term improvement in India's GHI score, from 38.1 in 2000 to 25.8 in 2025. These figures show why nutrition cannot be viewed only as an individual lifestyle issue. Access to nutritious food, maternal and child health, sanitation, healthcare, education and household food security all influence nutritional outcomes.

India's nutrition efforts extend beyond National Nutrition Week. September is also observed as Rashtriya Poshan Maah, creating a wider platform for nutrition awareness and community participation. The ICMR-NIN's 2024 guidelines also make clear that nutrition is connected with physical activity, healthcare, safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and wider socioeconomic conditions. National Nutrition Week should therefore be more than a seven-day awareness campaign. It can encourage families, schools, communities and institutions to make practical improvements that continue throughout the year.

A healthier India does not require everyone to follow the same diet. It requires people to understand their nutritional needs, choose a greater variety of nutritious foods, limit excessive sugar, salt and highly processed foods, remain physically active and make informed decisions. National Nutrition Week 2026 is a reminder that good health begins with everyday choices. Better nutrition is not about expensive foods or complicated diets; it is about balance, variety, moderation, awareness and making healthier choices possible for everyone.

The Author is a Writer and Social commentator with a Master's in Food Science and Technology and a B.ED. Writes on themes related to women's empowerment, rural livelihoods, entrepreneurship, health, and changing social realities in the Kashmir Valley. She can be mailed at rakshandagul629@gmail.com

The Rise Of India's Electric Vehicles Ecosystem

In August 2025, Suzuki inaugurated the "e VITARA", its first made-in-India global strategic Battery Electric Vehicle. The vehicle has been exported to over 100 countries, including Europe and Japan illustrates how India is embracing electric vehicles and building them for the world.

With this single milestone, India became Suzuki's global manufacturing hub for EVs.

This transformation is the outcome of more than a decade of determination and consistency in building infrastructure needed to develop it.

India's journey of electric mobility began in 2015 with the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan and the FAME scheme.

The ambition has been driven by three clear priorities: (a) cutting the country's rising petroleum import bill, (b) tackling worsening urban air pollution, and (c) lowering greenhouse gas emissions from transport, which accounts for roughly 9% of India's total emissions.

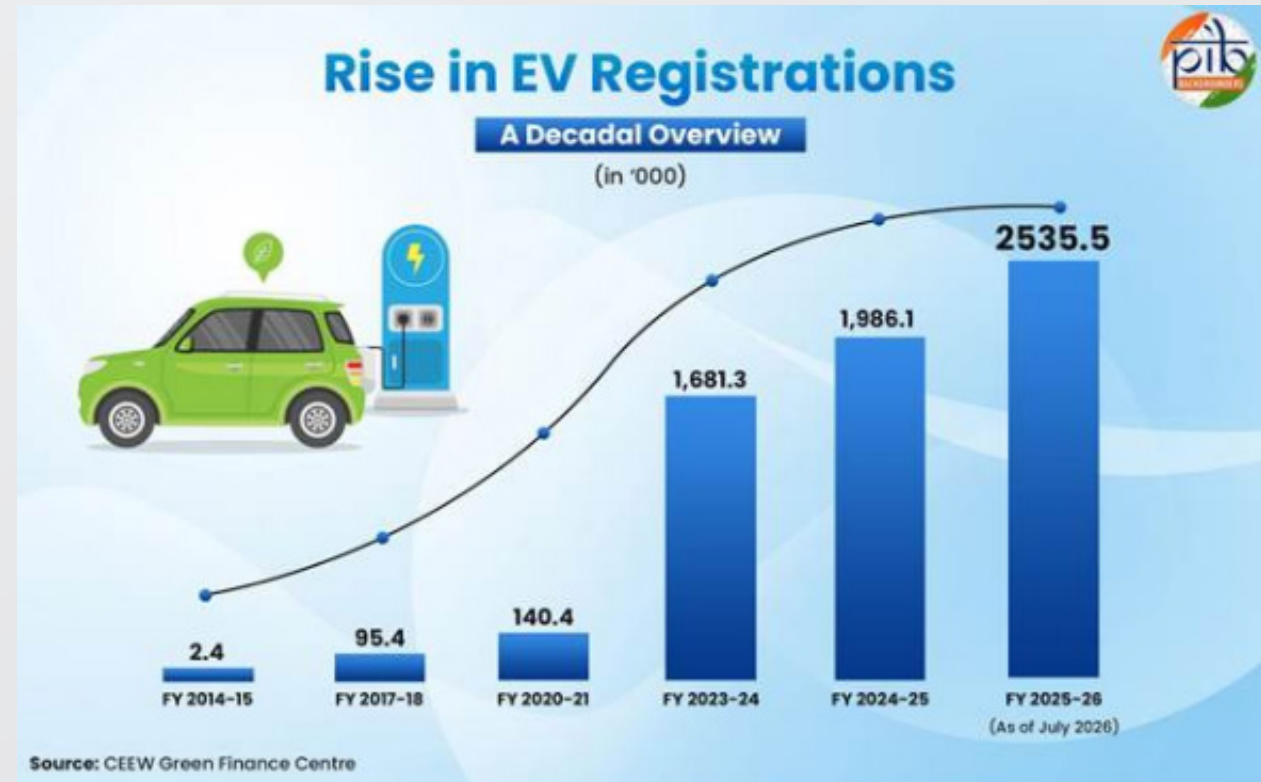
A decade down the line, what started as a policy intervention has evolved into a national priority, aided by government incentives and rapid technological progress.

Today, the shift to EVs in India is understood not merely as an environmental necessity but as a great economic opportunity.

The Growing Numbers

The numbers have grown from a modest figure of 50,000 EVs sold in 2016, to a 46-fold increase within a decade in 2025 India sold 2.3 million units, quite an impressive rise.

This growth has outpaced the global EV market, which grew multiple folds from 918,000 units in 2016 to 18.78 mil-



lion in 2024.

India's EV penetration, which stood at just one-fifth of the global average in 2020, has now risen to over two-fifths of the global figure by 2024.

EV adoption itself has surged from a mere 0.08% in 2016 to 8.26% in 2026, with electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers leading the charge last year.

The figures of export have also risen from just USD 1.2 million in 2020 to USD 84 million in 2024, among which Nepal,

Indonesia, and Japan are among the top destinations.

Amidst the growing momentum is a rapidly expanding charging network: as of July 2026, over 52,000 public charging stations exist across the country, nearly a third of them fast-charging enabled.

Investment is flowing in the industry. India's EV ecosystem raised over USD 1.4 billion in 2025, a 27% jump from the previous year, with manufacturers capturing the bulk of this

funding.

The Policy Behind the Growth

This outcome wouldn't have been possible without sustained government intervention.

Especially the PM E-DRIVE Scheme, with an outlay of INR 10,900 crore, has already supported the sale of 22.12 lakh EVs against a target of 28 lakh, while channeling thousands of crores into electric buses and charging infrastructure.

Similarly, the PLI Scheme for Auto-

mobile and Auto Components has disbursed over INR 2,377 crore in incentives, majority of it directed toward EV manufacturers.

Recognizing that batteries make up 35-40% of an EV's total cost, the PLI ACC Scheme has committed INR 18,100 crore to build 50 GWh of domestic battery manufacturing capacity.

States have become equal partners in this push. As many as 29 states and Union Territories had notified EV policies as of December 2025, offering capital subsidies, land allotments, and tax waivers to attract investment.

A concessional 5% GST rate on all electric vehicles.

Meanwhile, the newly launched National Mission on Manufacturing has named EVs a key "seed" sector for India's industrial future, and the India Electric Mobility Index now tracks how states are performing on this journey.

What Lies Ahead

As of now, India's EV market is valued at USD 3.71 billion, and by 2024 it is projected to grow to USD 191.04 billion. The government aims for 30% of all vehicle sales to be electric by 2030, backed by a planned 1.32 million charging stations nationwide.

With nearly 400 EV startups now driving innovation in batteries, charging, and AI-enabled features, India is positioning itself as an upcoming manufacturing and export hub.

That is precisely the reason the e VITARA rolling off an Indian assembly line for global markets should not be seen as an isolated story. It is the manifestation of a reimagined road ahead for India while slowly moving away from fossil fuel dependency.

Courtesy- PIB Srinagar

IGP Kashmir Reviews Security & Crime Situation in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone Sujit Kumar-IPS Thursday visited District Anantnag and chaired a security and crime review meeting at District Police Office (DPO) Anantnag.

The meeting was attended by DIG South Kashmir Range Javid Iqbal Matoo-IPS, SSP Anantnag Amod Ashok Nagpure-IPS, and other senior officers of District Anantnag.

During the meeting, the IGP Kashmir reviewed the overall security situation and crime scenario in the district. He took a detailed assessment of security arrangements, crime prevention measures, investigation of cases and ongoing police operations.

The IGP emphasized strengthening the security grid, maintaining close coordination among field formations and ensuring timely and effective action against criminal and anti-social elements. He also stressed upon enhancing preventive measures and maintaining heightened vigilance to ensure peace and security in the district.

The senior officers briefed the IGP Kashmir about the prevailing security and crime situation and the measures being undertaken to further strengthen policing and public safety

Massive Eid-e-Milad rally culminates at Dargah Hazratbal

Thousands converge at revered shrine; procession marked by prayers, Durood-o-Azkar

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: A massive Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) rally culminated at the revered Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar on Thursday, as devotees from different parts of Kashmir converged at the shrine to commemorate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) with religious fervour and devotion.

The grand procession witnessed the participation of a large number of devotees, including religious scholars, students, youth, elders and children, who joined the rally from different areas of the Valley and proceeded towards Hazratbal.

As per details obtained, separate processions were taken out from Nagbal in Ganderbal, Harwan in Srinagar and Soibugh in Budgam, besides other parts of the Valley, with the rallies converging at Dargah Hazratbal.

The programme was organised by the Muttahida Ulama Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat Jammu and Kashmir.

As the processions moved towards the Hazratbal shrine, devotees recited Durood-o-Azkar and Naats and raised religious slogans, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere along the routes.

The procession culminated at Dargah Hazratbal, where devotees offered prayers and paid obeisance at the revered shrine, which houses the Holy Relic believed to be of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The gathering also featured addresses by religious scholars, who highlighted the life, teachings and message of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), particularly his teachings of peace, compassion, brotherhood, humanity and mutual respect.

The administration had made elaborate arrangements ahead of the observances in view of the large number of devotees expected at Hazratbal. The arrangements included drinking water, power supply, sanitation, healthcare, traffic management, parking, transportation, fire safety and security measures—(KNO)

7 Autonomous Hill Councils created in Ladakh UT

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh on Wednesday established seven Autonomous Hill Development Councils for the Union Territory.

Close on the heels of the creation of five new districts in Ladakh, taking the total to seven, the LG constituted one Hill Development Council for each district.

According to a notification issued by the Administration of Ladakh, the Councils are as follows: Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh for the District of Leh; Hill Development Council, Kargil for the district of Kargil; Hill Development Council, Sham for the district of Sham; Hill Development Council, Nubra for the district of Nubra; Hill Development Council,

Changthang for the district of Changthang; Hill Development Council, Zaskar for the district of Zaskar; and Hill Development Council, Drass for the district of Drass.

While the term of the Hill Council in Leh ended on October 30, 2025, the Hill Council in Kargil still had more than two years left in its five-year tenure.

Sources in the administration of Ladakh SAID that the term of the Hill Council Kargil has automatically ended, as the latest notification supersedes all previous notifications regarding the constitution of Hill Development Councils in Ladakh.

“In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997 (Act No. XXXI of 1997), as amended from time to time and in supersession of all previous notifications in this regard, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh hereby constitutes the following Autonomous Hill Development Councils for the respective districts of the Union Territory of Ladakh for the purposes specified under the said Act...,” reads the notification.

There was no official statement from the Ladakh administration regarding the remaining term of the Hill Council Kargil, whose tenure was scheduled to end in October 2028.

As per the notification, the seven Councils shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as are conferred or assigned to them under the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997.—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

J&K Must Prepare

opportunities being created in sectors such as tourism, agriculture, horticulture, manufacturing, construction, healthcare and technology. The Chief Minister called for regular review of courses and training programmes in ITIs and polytechnics so that outdated skills and equipment are replaced with training relevant to contemporary industry requirements.

He said the level of attention given to universities should also be extended to the skill-development network of ITIs and polytechnics, including improvement of infrastructure, training quality and modern equipment.

Highlighting the employment potential emerging from major projects in J&K, he said the skill-development ecosystem must be designed around the requirements of upcoming investments and industries.

The Chief Minister also said the government would work to strengthen the network of skill-development institutions over the next three years and improve their infrastructure and quality.

He further stressed the need to ensure greater employment opportunities for local youth in industries and projects coming to J&K, saying companies should be encouraged to employ trained local youth before looking outside the region for skilled manpower.

The Chief Minister said J&K’s objective should not be merely to send labour outside but to prepare skilled professionals capable of securing better-paying employment and competing in international markets.

He also felicitated students who secured overseas placements, underscoring the Government’s commitment to strengthening technical education and creating meaningful employment opportunities for J&K’s youth.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, MLA Karnah Javed Ahmed Mirchal, Secretary Skill Development Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, Director Skill Development Department Dr Owais Ahmed, Principal Kashmir Government Polytechnic Srinagar Shafqat Ara, faculty members and students were present on the occasion.

Terrorists Trapped

of terrorists in the Yusmarg highland meadow area of Budgam, 10 Para Commandos patrolling the higher reaches of Yusmarg established contact (exchange of gunfire) with the hiding terrorists.

“Troops of 53 Rashtriya Rifles have rushed to the spot, and the cordon has been reinforced to ensure that the terrorists are prevented from escaping under the cover of darkness,” a top source said.

The area falls under the jurisdiction of Khansahib police station of Budgam, the source said, adding that reportedly, two terrorists are trapped inside the cordon.

Reinforcements of police and CRPF have also moved in to strengthen the cordon.

Major anti-terrorist operations have previously also been carried out in Budgam district, including January 2023 operations in Charar Shareef (Zinpanchal/Hapatnar) and Redbugh (Magam) area in which two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in a brief gunfight.

In January 2022, three Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) terrorists were killed during an overnight encounter in Zolwa Chadoora village.

In October 2020, encounters in the Chadoora and Nowgam outskirts resulted in the killing of terrorists.

The biggest operation was carried out in Charar-e-Sharief town of Budgam in 1995. The operation resulted in a 66-day military standoff because of the siege led by Pakistani terrorist Mast Gul at the historic Sufi shrine of J&K.

In February and March 1995, Mast Gul and a group of armed terrorists took control of the town and holed up in the 14th-century shrine of Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani.

Joint forces surrounded the town to cut off supplies and force a surrender.

The army avoided a direct assault to protect the holy shrine and prevent civilian deaths.

Terrorists placed explosive devices and landmines on the roads to block troops.

The tense standoff lasted for more than two months. On the night of May 11, 1995, a massive fire broke out and destroyed the shrine and hundreds of wooden homes in the town. The cornered terrorists set the fire and Mast Gul managed to escape during the confusion and returned to Pakistan.

The fighting resulted in the deaths of about 20 terrorists, two soldiers, and five civilians.

Strengthen

The MHA stressed the need for regular exchange of risk information between state departments, district administrations and scientific and technical institutions to improve preparedness.

The directions come amid growing concern over climate-linked hazards in the Himalayan region, where changing weather patterns and the rapid melting of glaciers can increase risks associated with unstable glacial lakes and snow avalanches.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on strengthening early-warning, monitoring and response systems to reduce casualties and damage to infrastructure and property in vulnerable Himalayan areas—(KNO)

'J&K To Witness

a maximum temperature of 32.5 degrees Celsius, which was 4.7 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 17.5 degrees Celsius, 2.3 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 31.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 15.2 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 25.8 degrees and 12 degrees, respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 32.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.1 degrees, while Kokernag recorded 29.2 degrees and 15.6 degrees, respectively.

Gulmarg, meanwhile, recorded a maximum of 21.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 10.4 degrees.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 33.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 22.7 degrees. Banihal recorded 29.5 degrees and 18.5 degrees, Batote 26.7 degrees and 19.3 degrees, Katra 30.2 degrees and 21.9 degrees, and Bhaderwah 29.6 degrees and 16.4 degrees, respectively.

No significant rainfall was recorded at the listed stations during the period ending Thursday evening, according to the MeT data—(KNO)

J&K Bank To Fill

advertisement, including the number and nature of posts, eligibility criteria and selection process, is expected to be issued in the coming weeks.

The bank’s decision also comes against the backdrop of a wider debate over employment

opportunities for local youth and the role of J&K Bank as an institution with a strong regional presence.

Chatterjee has said the recruitment will remain locally focused, providing an opportunity to candidates from Jammu and Kashmir while also making a separate provision for eligible candidates from Ladakh. [KNT]

School Buildings,

of the notified properties on ground in accordance with law,” the spokesperson added.

The action is the outcome of sustained investigation aimed at identifying and legally proceeding against properties and assets linked to proscribed organisations and their associated networks, police said.

“Sopore Police reiterates its commitment to take firm and lawful action against proscribed organisations and separatist ecosystems and to ensure that properties linked to such organisations are not used for furtherance of unlawful activities,” police said.

The Jamaat-e-Islami was declared a proscribed organisation by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2019, following the abrogation of Article 370. Since then, security forces have been taking action against properties and assets linked to the organisation across the Kashmir Valley.

CS Reviews Rollout

the meeting that in River Jhelum, a 106-km cruise corridor from Sangam to Gund Prang has been identified for development. Land for 11 terminal locations has been identified at strategic points including Marham (Sangam), Pantha Chowk, Zero Bridge, Amira Kadal, Chattabal, Sumbal and Gund Prang, among others.

She further divulged that removal of local coffer dams is a key requirement for ensuring uninterrupted navigation along the Jhelum stretch. The Public Works Department (PWD) has been tasked with removal of 52 such structures, of which 18 have already been cleared.

On the Chenab, a 9-km stretch between Reasi and Akhnoor Fort has been identified for cruise-based water transport, while a 15-km stretch of the River Ravi at Sohar in Jammu is also being developed for the purpose.

The meeting was further informed that the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has awarded the tender for procurement of 10 specially designed hybrid eco-vessels, each having a passenger capacity of 20 persons. The vessels are scheduled for delivery by March 2027.

Later the Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the PM E-DRIVE Scheme in J&K, under which the administration is working towards establishing a robust charging ecosystem to support the transition to electric mobility.

The meeting was informed that 50 locations across Jammu and Kashmir have been identified and found technically feasible for installation of public EV charging stations.

These include 17 sites in Jammu, 5 in Kathua, 4 in Rajouri, 3 in Udhampur, 4 in Doda, 2 each in Ramban and Reasi, and 1 in Samba. Similarly in Kashmir Division, the identified sites include 4 in Srinagar, 3 in Baramulla and 1 each in Anantnag, Budgam, Ganderbal, Pulwama and Kupwara.

The Chief Secretary was also apprised of the proposal for procurement of 200 electric buses under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model. The proposal has received in-principle

approval at the Government of India level and is being taken forward for procurement through Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL).

The Chief Secretary directed all concerned departments and agencies to work in close coordination to ensure that the charging infrastructure, electrical connectivity, land requirements and other supporting facilities are put in place well ahead of the deployment of electric buses.

Emphasising the importance of integrating both initiatives with J&K’s broader tourism, urban mobility and environmental sustainability goals, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to maintain strict timelines and continuous monitoring at every stage.

He stressed that the initiatives should translate into visible, sustainable and people-centric transport solutions, with the water transport projects and electric mobility infrastructure being progressed in a coordinated manner towards the targeted implementation within the stipulated timeframe.

Vande Bharat To Make

and ticket sales to be monitored before a decision is taken on its continuation.

Railway sources said that the stoppage is likely to become operational by the end of September. The exact date of commencement, along with the arrival and departure timings at Anantnag, is yet to be notified—(KNO)

India, Belgium

The two leaders underlined the importance of people-to-people ties and connectivity with efficient visa services.

“In this context, they recognised the need for smooth and quick processing. As exchanges between India and Belgium are intensifying, visa processing capacity by diplomatic missions in Belgium and India will significantly increase. Given the specific need, both leaders welcomed the ongoing reinforcement of the Belgian visa delivery services in India,” the statement detailed.

Welcoming the signing of the European Union (EU) MoU on Comprehensive Framework of Cooperation on Mobility and the launch of a pilot EU Legal Gateway Office in India, the leaders highlighted that the initiatives would promote legal pathways for movement of professionals, skilled workforce and students and further strengthen people-to-people ties between India and the EU.

“They agreed that as trade, investment, and people-to-people ties continue to grow, enhanced mobility of skilled professionals, students, researchers, and business travelers would be essential. Both leaders underscored the importance of strengthening connectivity and encouraged airline operators to explore the establishment of direct air connectivity between Belgium and India,” the statement mentioned.

The two leaders also welcomed ongoing cooperation between Belgium and India in the healthcare sector, including initiatives facilitating the mobility of qualified nurses from India to Belgium, as well as the broader and thriving civil society cooperation in healthcare and education.

They encouraged continued discussions towards signing an MoU on Mobility and Migration.

Amid the deepening and diversification of India-Belgium ties and expanding India-Europe and India-EU engagement, Prime Minister Wever invited PM Modi to undertake a bilateral visit to Belgium at a mutually convenient time.

ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL

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DAR MATTING SHOP

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

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CMYK

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Min Rana reviews pollution concerns in Dal Lake

Says protection of Dal Lake a shared responsibility of all stakeholders

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday chaired a meeting to review the prevailing pollution concerns in Dal Lake besides assessing measures being undertaken for its protection, conservation and restoration.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman, J&K Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA); Chief Engineer, PHE/I&FC Kashmir; Chief Engineer, UEED Kashmir; Regional Director, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir and Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle, Srinagar.

Emphasising that protection of Dal Lake is a shared responsibility of all concerned agencies as well as the public, the Minister directed the authorities to adopt a coordinated and sustained approach to control pollution and safeguard the ecological health of the lake. He stressed the need for both immediate interventions and long-term measures to address the various sources of pollution.

“Dal Lake is an inval-



uable ecological, cultural and tourism asset of Kashmir. Its protection is a shared responsibility, and all concerned agencies must work together to control pollution and ensure its long-term conservation and restoration,” Javed Rana said

Dal Lake is one of Kashmir’s most iconic water bodies and a major attraction for tourists visiting the Valley. It also has significant ecological importance, supporting aquatic biodiversity and fish species. The Minister underscored the need to preserve the lake’s natural ecosystem and ensure that increasing human activity does not adversely affect its ecological balance.

During the meeting, the officers briefed the Minister that sewage water is being properly treated through the exist-

ing arrangements before it flows into Dal Lake. They further informed that, under AMRUT, a 30 MLD sewage treatment plant is presently under construction and is expected to be completed within the next two years. The facility will further strengthen wastewater treatment and help reduce pollution pressure on the lake.

The meeting also reviewed various short-term measures being undertaken by the authorities. These include regular removal of encroachments, daily collection and removal of waste, deweeding operations and conversion of aquatic weeds into bio-fertilisers.

The authorities also informed the Minister that proper enforcement measures are being carried out regularly to check activities contributing to pollu-

tion and degradation of Dal Lake.

Javed Rana directed the concerned authorities to further strengthen pollution-control measures and ensure effective coordination among all agencies involved in the management of the lake. He called for regular monitoring of water quality and identification of pollution hotspots so that corrective measures could be taken promptly.

The Minister emphasised that the conservation of Dal Lake requires a multi-pronged approach, encompassing wastewater treatment, solid-waste management, removal of encroachments, deweeding, pollution monitoring and strict enforcement. He also stressed the importance of sustained public awareness and participation, particularly among communities and stakeholders living around and dependent upon the lake, to make conservation efforts more effective and enduring.

He directed the concerned departments to remain closely engaged and ensure that both short-term measures and long-term interventions translate into tangible improvement in the ecological health of Dal Lake.

DC Pulwama Chairs District NCORD Meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Thursday chaired the District-level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting at the Meeting Hall of the Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the measures being undertaken to curb drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking in the district.

At the outset, the District Social Welfare Officer, Pulwama, gave a detailed presentation on the initiatives undertaken to combat the drug menace under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, including awareness and IEC activities, treatment and rehabilitation measures, enforcement action and other interventions being carried out by various departments.

The Deputy Commissioner sought a detailed appraisal from the concerned departments regarding the progress

made in the implementation of anti-drug measures and stressed the need for a unified and coordinated approach involving all stakeholders to effectively address the menace.

Emphasising the need to protect the younger generation from substance abuse, the DC stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure drug-free campuses in all educational institutes. He directed them to formulate a detailed action plan for strengthening preventive measures, awareness activities and monitoring mechanisms in and around educational institutions.

The functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), Pulwama, and Drug De-Addiction Centre, Tral, was also reviewed in detail.

On the occasion, Dr. Qayoom sought feedback regarding treatment facilities, patient admissions, counselling services and rehabilitation measures.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure

effective counselling, timely treatment, regular follow-up of recovered individuals and their gradual integration into society through skill development, livelihood opportunities and other suitable support mechanisms.

He called for optimal utilisation of the available treatment and rehabilitation facilities and stressed the need for proper profiling and follow-up of drug-affected persons to facilitate their sustained recovery and social reintegration.

On the occasion, SSP Pulwama, Sahil Sarangal, and SSP Awantipora, Sajad Ahmad Shah, apprised the meeting of the enforcement measures being undertaken by the Police against drug peddling and trafficking. They also briefed the chair on the ongoing efforts to strengthen surveillance and action against those involved in narcotics-related activities.

Later, the meeting also reviewed the status of NDPS cases registered across the

district. During the review, the Deputy Director Prosecution presented a detailed overview of cases under investigation, prosecution and trial.

Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for close coordination among the Police, Prosecution and other concerned agencies to ensure expeditious investigation and effective prosecution, with a view to improving conviction rates and strengthening deterrence.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination, intensify preventive and enforcement measures and maintain sustained focus on the campaign to safeguard the youth and contribute towards the objective of a drug-free Pulwama.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Awantipora and Tral, and other members of the committee.



GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION OFFICER SRINAGAR/GANDERBAL



e- NIT NO:- 02 of 2026-27 DATED:- 02-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders on two cover system are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./ Central Govt. Organizations for the following work: -

S.No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Location	Adv. Cost (RS. in Lakh)	Bid security (EMD)	Tender Fee	Time of Completion	Class of contractor (Class PWD Contractor/ Forest Contractor)
1	I. Laying of crates (16' x4' x4') in 4' x4' mesh wire (made from 4 mm BA wire (wire as per IS 280) machine woven both ends ben, with filling of boulders/ stones not less than 15 cms. In dia with 2 lids as anti-erosion measures detailed estimates duly countersigned by the DSCO confirming to rates prevailing in the PWD schedule.=	UT CAPEX	Krishni Nallah Chanthan	16.23	0.324/=	800/=	30 Days	B/C
	II. Erection of DRSM Checkdams as anti soil eroision measures incl. all operations as per Forest Schdule							
	III. Laying of crates (16' x4' x4') in 4' x4' mesh wire (made from 4 mm BA wire (wire as per IS 280) machine woven both ends ben, with filling of boulders/ stones not less than 15 cms. In dia with 2 lids as anti-erosion measures detailed estimates duly countersigned by the DSCO confirming to rates prevailing in the PWD schedule.		Trag Nallah Chanthan Waliwar					
	IV. Erection of DRSM Checkdams as anti soil eroision measures incl. all operations as per Forest Schdule							
	V. Laying of crates (16' x4' x4') in 4' x4' mesh wire (made from 4 mm BA wire (wire as per IS 280) machine woven both ends ben, with filling of boulders/ stones not less than 15 cms. In dia with 2 lids as anti-erosion measures detailed estimates duly countersigned by the DSCO confirming to rates prevailing in the PWD schedule.		Khari Nallah Wani Mohalla Gussan Nallah					
	VI. Laying of crates (16' x4' x4') in 4' x4' mesh wire (made from 4 mm BA wire (wire as per IS 280) machine woven both ends ben, with filling of boulders/ stones not less than 15 cms. In dia with 2 lids as anti-erosion measures detailed estimates duly countersigned by the DSCO confirming to rates prevailing in the PWD schedu		Chanthan Waliwar					

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website:- www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of AA: Accorded Position of TS: Accorded Position of Funds: Budgeted

Publishing Date:	02-09-2026 from 07:00 PM
Download Start Date:	02-09-2026 from 07:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	02-09-2026 from 07:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	09-09-2026 Upto 04:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	21-09-2026 at 01:30 PM in the Office of the Joint Director Soil & Water Conservation Department Srinagar Kashmir
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed. Date will be notified separately.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 22/09/2026 at 2 PM in the Office of Joint Director, Soil & Water Conservation Kashmir Haft Chinar Srinagar Kashmir. In case of date of opening of the bid being public holiday, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bidders shall deposit the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Tender Fee, & Additional Performance Security through online mode into the designated Centralized Pooling Account No.0110010200001106 in the name of Director Soil & Water Conservation Department Jammu & Kashmir, IFSC: JAKAOMOVING, Moving Branch Civil Secretariat, Jammu and Kashmir Bank, strictly in accordance with Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026. Submission of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/ TDR/ Bank Guarantee or any other instrument shall not be permissible. Documentary proof/receipt evidencing successful remittance of the EMD and Tender Fee shall be uploaded along with the bid, failing which the bid shall be liable for rejection as non-responsive. Every participating bidder shall mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder.(As per Circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 dated 08-07-2025 of the J&K Finance Department).
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce Performance Security (3%) within 07 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work. Notwithstanding the above, the Bid Security deposited by the successful bidder(s) shall stand retained and shall be credited to the account of the concerned Division as Performance Security and adjusted under the applicable Performance Security Deposit Head.
- Bidder is advised to visit and examine the site, its surroundings and familiarize himself with the existing facilities and environment, and collect all other information which he may require for preparing and submitting the bid and entering into the Contract. Claims and objections due to ignorance of existing conditions or inadequacy of information will not be considered after submission of the bid and during implementation.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

No: DSCO/Sgr-Gbl/350-53
Dated:02.09.2026

DIPK-5330-26
DT: 03/09/2026

District Soil Conservation Officer
District Srinagar/ Ganderbal

DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE, KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CANNING INSTRUCTOR KASHMIR(SRINAGAR)

EXTENSION NOTICE-II

Subject:- Extension of dates for receipt of application invited for undergoing Six Month training course in the art of fruit and vegetable preservation.

Due to a low volume of applications received within the initially stipulated time frame, and to ensure ample opportunity for all eligible youth across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to establish their livelihood, the last date for submission of application forms for the Six Months Training Course at the Fruit and Vegetable Craft Centre, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, is hereby extended up to 12-09-2026. Accordingly, the revised schedule for the selection process and commencement of training is ordered as under:

Last date for receipt of application forms: 12-09-2026.
Date of Personal Interview / Screening: 14-09-2026 (11:00 AM).
Display of final Selection List: 15-09-2026.
Commencement of offline classes:17-09-2026.

All other terms, eligibility conditions, and documentation requirements featured in the original advertisement notice shall remain strictly identical. Candidates must bring their original academic and domicile credentials at the time of the interview. Field functionaries are directed to optimize outreach to maximize student enrollment.

Sd/-
K.S. Sodhi
Chief Canning Instructor
Kashmir (Srinagar)

DIPK-5325-26
DT: 03/09/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION DOORU.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT 32 OF R&B/Dooru/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/2246-51 DATED 03-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Renovation of Old Hospital at Dooru	24.60 lacs (20.85+ 3.75)	800	49200	3 months	District Capex (Untied Grants)	CEE, BEE Class only/MSME

Position of AAA : Accorded. Position of TS: Accorded.

The date of completion is subject to the availability of funds.

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		03-09-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	04-09-2026	(09:00 AM)
		To	14-09-2026	(06:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	04-09-2026	(09:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	14-09-2026	(06:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)		15-09-2026	(11:30 AM)
		In the office of the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Dooru.		

- Bids must be accompanied with a Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned in the Remarks of the Receipt/Transition ID or DC no (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and Receipt of EMD (2% of advertised Cost), also deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned in the Remarks of the Receipt. (The Date of receipt of EMD and Tender Fee should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date). The same EMD/Tender Fee receipt should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

Note: a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs500/- whichever is lower. b. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower

- The Bid security amount of the successful Bidder shall, upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HoD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be furnished by the Bidder in cash to the designated Authority. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- The rates quoted in the BOQ are exclusive of GST. GST @18 Percent shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.
- The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Dooru.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
- The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security with in specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
 - Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within28 days after fixation of contract.
 - If at any stage of work, the Bidder backup from the contract, again the Performance security/ EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.
- The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement as laid down in NIT.
- All financial rules and conditions as laid down in GFR 2017, Manual for procurement of works, procurement of goods and Engineering manual (latest) shall be applicable.
- Decision for selection of brand by the Engineer Incharge/Executive Engineer will be binding on the contractor and no cost adjustment shall be allowed in any account and no claim on this account shall be entertained.
- Performance Security shall be released 60 Days after DLP is over successfully.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-5282-26
DT: 03/09/2026

(Er Mohd Ashraf Khan)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Dooru

YSS Girls Cricket-Yasoob, Vitasta, Ayyaman, Adfar Shine in IDPL

GMK SPORTS DESK

ANANTNAG: The Inter-District Provincial-Level Cricket Tournament, being organised by the District Youth Services & Sports, Anantnag, witnessed a highly competitive day of cricket, with teams displaying impressive batting, bowling and fielding skills across different venues in the district.

The day's action featured a number of exciting matches, with Anantnag, Kupwara, Shopian, Srinagar, Baramulla and Ganderbal registering victories in their respective matches. Several individual performances also stood out, adding further excitement to the tournament.

At Chowgund Ground, hosts Anantnag registered two convincing victories. In the first match, Anantnag defeated Pulwama by 13 runs. Batting first after Pulwama won the toss and opted to field, Anantnag posted 95 for 2, with Saima Jan scoring 31 off 24 balls and Muqadas Jan contributing 29 off 26 balls. In reply, Pulwama managed 82 for 6, with Arooba Jan scoring 24 and Jasiya Jan contributing 16 runs. For Anantnag, Yasoob Rashid and Maleeha Zahid claimed two wickets each. Yasoob Rashid was adjudged Player of the Match.

Anantnag continued their impressive run in the second match at Chowgund, defeating Ganderbal by 10 wickets. Ganderbal were restricted to just 36 runs, after which Anantnag chased down the target in only 2.4 overs, reaching 39 without loss. Muntaha Jan top-scored with 19 off 10 balls, while Yasoob Rashid once again delivered an effective bowling performance and was named Player of the Match.

At Nadegaon, Kupwara and Shopian were involved



in a series of competitive matches.

In the another match, Kupwara defeated Srinagar by nine wickets, restricting Srinagar to just 40 runs. Kupwara successfully chased the target, scoring 49 runs, with Aiman Bashir making 18 off 13 balls and Musyan Lateef scoring 13 off seven balls. Arhmaan Shaheen was adjudged Player of the Match for his impressive bowling performance.

Shopian later registered a 28-run victory over Srinagar. Shopian posted 107 runs, before restricting Srinagar to 79 for 2. Faika Bilal led the Shopian batting effort with a valuable 32 off 24 balls and was declared Player of the Match.

In another match, Kupwara defeated Shopian by 43 runs. Kupwara scored 93 for 4, with Mannat remaining unbeaten on 26. Shopian could manage only 50 for 8 in reply. Aamina was adjudged Player of the Match for his contribution with the ball for Kupwara.

At Zamalgam, Srinagar produced a comprehensive performance against Bandipora, registering a 65-run victory. After winning the toss and electing to bat, Srinagar posted an imposing 137 runs, powered by a spectacular 81-run innings from Vitasta off just 26 balls. Manzar contributed 29 off 18 balls. In reply, Bandipora were restricted

to 72 runs. Vitasta explosive batting performance earned her the Player of the Match award.

In another high-scoring encounter at the same venue, Kupwara recorded a commanding victory over Bandipora. Batting first after Bandipora elected to field, Kupwara posted 163 runs. Ayman Bashir smashed 61 runs off only 20 balls, while Marmmat and Maryam contributed 31 and 25 runs, respectively. Bandipora failed to mount a successful chase, and the match sheet recorded a 132-run victory for Kupwara. Aaiman Bashir was adjudged Player of the Match for his outstanding batting display.

At another venue, Baramulla defeated Budgam by 37 runs. Batting first after winning the toss, Baramulla scored 116 runs, with Adfar Jan producing a brilliant 61 off 28 balls. Budgam, in reply, were restricted to 79 runs despite contributions from Shaziya, who scored 18, and Sarwat, who added 13 runs. Adfar Jan was adjudged Player of the Match for his match-winning performance.

In another closely fought encounter played at Doru, Ganderbal registered a thrilling three-run victory over Budgam. After winning the toss and opting to bat first, Ganderbal posted 116 runs. Their innings was anchored by Sadaf,

who produced an impressive 47 off 21 balls. Afra contributed 20 off 19 deliveries, while Mehreb added six off four balls. Budgam fought hard in reply but finished on 113 runs, falling just three runs short of the target. Muntazir top-scored with 31 off 22 balls, while Maryam and Bishna contributed 10 and 9 runs, respectively.

The match went down to the final stages, with Ganderbal holding their nerve to secure a narrow victory. Sadaf of Ganderbal was adjudged Player of the Match for her outstanding batting performance.

The tournament is providing emerging players with a structured and competitive platform to showcase their abilities, gain valuable match exposure and develop their sporting skills.

The performances of players such as Yasoob Rashid, Vitasta, Aaiman Bashir, Adfar Jan, Faika Bilal and Sadaf further underlined the depth of talent emerging through the tournament.

The Directorate of Youth Services & Sports continues to promote grassroots and competitive sports by providing young athletes with opportunities to participate at higher levels and nurture their potential through organised sporting events.

DG YSS, DC Ramban felicitate winners of Division-Level Chess Championship

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: The closing ceremony of the Inter-District Division-Level Chess Competition (Boys) Jammu Province 2026-27 was held Thursday at Yatri Niwas Chanderkote under the aegis of the Department of Youth Services & Sports, J&K.

Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta was the Chief Guest, while Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan also graced the occasion.

ACR, Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Tehsildar, Deep Kumar, DYSSO, Nazir Hussain and other senior officers and sports lovers attended the event.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation of around 150 young chess players representing different districts and schools of Jammu Province. The participants showcased remarkable talent, strategic thinking, discipline and sporting spirit throughout the competition.

The championship



featured Boys' Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories, providing young players an important platform to demonstrate their skills and gain valuable competitive exposure.

Addressing the gathering, the DG called upon coaches and Technical Officials to carefully identify promising chess talent and nurture their skills through regular coaching, mentoring and guidance. She emphasised that the knowledge gained through recently organised chess training programmes and seminars should be effectively passed on to young players.

The DG stressed the need for a long-term approach towards player development, urging coaches to prepare talented youngsters not merely for individual events but for competitions at divisional, UT and national levels. She encouraged the participants to "dream big", ask questions, continuously learn and seek guidance from their teachers, parents and coaches.

The DG also appreciated the District Administration Ramban for its continued support, cooperation and hospitality in successfully hosting the championship. Acknowledging the geo-

graphical challenges of the district, she lauded the commitment and coordinated efforts of the administration and the organising team.

During the ceremony, the DG and Deputy Commissioner felicitated the winners and runners-up of different categories. In the Under-14 category, District Jammu secured the first position, followed by District Kathua. District Jammu also emerged winner in Under-17, with District Kathua securing the runners-up position. In Under-19, District Kathua bagged the first position, while District Jammu finished runner-up.

The DG congratulated all winners, runners-up, players, coaches and Technical Officials for their dedication and sporting spirit. She also appreciated the efforts of the District Youth Services & Sports Officer Ramban Nazir Hussain, officers, officials, coaches, Technical Officials and field staff for the successful conduct of the event.

La Liga: Real Madrid open weekend while Athletic play Atletico in main clashes

IAN S

MADRID: Real Madrid will kick off the fourth round of the La Liga 2926-27 season when Jose Mourinho's side travels to face Real Betis on Friday night.

The game at what is expected to be a hot Estadio de la Cartuja promises to be Real Madrid's sternest test yet after a bright start to the season, with 10 goals in three matches and Kylian Mbappe and Jude Bellingham both in excellent form.

Betis began the season with back-to-back 1-0 wins but suffered a 5-2 defeat at Levante last weekend and will be keen to respond. The Seville club completed the deadline-day signing of Dani Ceballos after he rescinded his Real Madrid contract, but the 30-year-old lacks the fitness to feature on Friday.

Saturday opens with Athletic Bilbao hosting Atletico Madrid at San Mamés. Athletic impressed in



last weekend's 2-0 win at Celta Vigo as the players continue to adapt to new coach Edin Terzic's tactics, although Terzic may adjust his high defensive line against an Atletico side built to attack on the break through players such as Ademola Lookman and Giuliano Simeone. Much will depend on whether Julian Alvarez features after the transfer window closed without his departure.

Rayo Vallecano continue their nomadic start to the season while work continues at their Vallecas Stadium. Rayo face Racing Santander in Leganes, with Racing boosted by last weekend's entertaining 3-2 win over Elche.

Villarreal coach Inigo Perez will hope his side's first home game of the campaign also brings their first win after opening the season with two draws and a surprise defeat to Alaves.

Villarreal host Deportivo La Coruna, which could hand debuts to new arrivals Jose Gimenez and Marc Casado, who joined from Atletico Madrid and FC Barcelona respectively.

FC Barcelona travel to Valencia on Sunday. Valencia have struggled with one draw and two defeats, and coach Carlos Corberan will hope deadline-day signing Harvey Elliott from Liverpool strengthens the midfield. Reigning champion Barcelona have scored 12 goals in three games, with new arrival Anthony Gordon settling in well.

40th Day of Remembrance



Firdous Ahmad Khan

The 40th day of remembrance of the late Firdous Ahmad Khan, son of late Muhammad Sultan Khan, was observed today. A Quran Khawani was held to pray for the departed soul and seek Allah's mercy and forgiveness for him. On this solemn occasion, the family remembered their beloved departed soul with prayers and heartfelt remembrance. May Almighty Allah grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, illuminate his grave with Noor, and grant patience and strength to the bereaved family.

Remembered by:

Bashir Sidiq, Samina Bashir
Aban Bashir, Wasalat Bashir
Qaifa Bashir, Zahid Manzoor

May Allah grant him Maghfirah and eternal peace. Ameen.

INOX

LIVE the MOVIE

SRINAGAR

PROD. SCENE TAKE ROLL

DATE DIRECTOR CAMERAMAN

AWARAPAN 2

U/A 16+

HINDI

06:00 PM

BOOKING ON FIRE

TOXIC: A FAIRY TALE FOR GROWN-UPS

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HINDI

02:15 PM

MIRZAPUR THE MOVIE

HINDI ATMOS

02:55 PM

06:45 PM

HINDI

01:40 PM

05:30 PM

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