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Zero Infiltration Must Be Ensured: HM

Shah Tells Forces To 'Choke Supply Lines' Of Terrorists

Security Grid, Drone Threat & Infiltration Routes Reviewed



KO Web Desk

Jammu: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday directed the security top brass to ensure zero infiltration from across the border and eliminate Pakistani terrorists hiding in the upper reaches of the Jammu region.

Shah issued the directions while chairing a high level security review meeting at Lok Bhavan here, shortly after returning from Hiranagar.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, J&K Chief Secretary Atal Duloo, Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, J&K Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, White Knight Corps GOC Lt Gen P K Mishra, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Deka, BSF Director General Praveen Kumar, CRPF Director | [More on P10](#)

'Op Sindoor Added A Golden Chapter To BSF History'

Observer News Service

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that the Border Security Force has completely destroyed 118 Pakistani posts and three terrorist launch pads along the Jammu and Kashmir frontier during | [More on P10](#)

Development Review Today

Amit Shah will chair a meeting to review the development of Jammu and Kashmir at 10.30 am on Saturday at Lok Bhavan. The meeting will be attended by LG Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Chief Secretary Atal Duloo and other senior officials. The Union Home Minister is scheduled to leave for New Delhi later on Saturday afternoon. | [More on P10](#)

Diesel To Cost Rs 2 More In J&K From Apr 1

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Diesel prices in Jammu and Kashmir will increase by Rs 2 per litre from April 1, 2026, following the government's decision to reduce the rebate on high speed diesel.

Announcing the move in the Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the rebate on high speed diesel would be cut by Rs 2 per litre. The decision is aimed at rationalising fuel prices and boosting revenue. "We must improve the impact of public | [More on P6](#)

Mixed Reactions: Industry Cheers, Workers Raise Concerns

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Budget 2026-27, presented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday, evoked mixed reactions, with business and industrial bodies welcoming long-pending initiatives, while trade groups and employee unions flagged concerns over sectoral relief, exports and regularisation of temporary workers.



Trade leaders said the Budget, with a total net outlay of Rs 1,13,767 crore, a projected GSDP of Rs 3,15,822 crore and a fiscal deficit of 3.69

percent, reflects a focus on infrastructure, welfare and sectoral development. However, they pointed out gaps in targeted relief for tourism, MSMEs and trade.

KCCI welcomes long-pending proposals. The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed proposals such as the Unity Mall with Rs 200 crore support and the Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence | [More on P10](#)

Load Verification Drive Not Linked to Tariff Hike:Govt

Says Electricity Tariffs Unchanged For 3 Yrs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday clarified that the ongoing electricity load verification drive in un-metered areas is a routine exercise aimed at ensuring accurate billing and has no connection with any hike or revision in power tariffs.

The clarification was given by the Power Development Department | [More on P10](#)

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Omar Abdullah on Friday presented a Rs 1.27 lakh crore Budget for 2026-27 in the Legislative Assembly, asserting that the financial plan seeks to lay a strong foundation for sustainable growth, social harmony and economic prosperity in the Union Territory.

Presenting his second Budget as Finance Minister, Omar said the government remains committed to transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a modern, progressive and economically vibrant region through investment, innovation and participatory



governance.

The Chief Minister pegged total gross receipts and

expenditure at Rs 1,27,767 crore, which includes Rs 14,000 crore | [More on P10](#)

180 Cr For Amarnath Yatra Infra

The tourism industry is a key pillar of economic growth and livelihood generation in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Friday, while announcing measures to promote sustainable tourism, pilgrimage infrastructure and cultural preservation in the annual budget for 2026-27. Presenting the budget in the assembly, Abdullah said | [More on P10](#)

Anti-People & Directionless: Budget Draws Flak From Oppn

Agencies

Jammu: Leaders across the opposition spectrum on Friday slammed the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Budget, calling it "hopeless, bureaucratic and anti-people", while alleging that it ignores unemployment, daily wagers and the poor.

Leader of Opposition (LoP) and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma described the budget as "National Conference-centric" and "anti-people".

"This is a budget for NC MLAs. There is nothing in it for the common people of Jammu and Kashmir," Sharma said. He alleged that funds allocated by the Centre were diverted to NC-held constituencies.

He accused the government of betraying daily wagers by failing to announce a clear, time-bound | [More on P10](#)

Can Right To Be Forgotten Apply To Online News? SC To Examine

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: "This is a new age," the Supreme Court on Friday said as it emphasised the need to balance the rights of freedom of press under Article 19 of the Constitution and an individual's right to dignity, privacy and right to be forgotten under Article 21.

A bench of justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan

agreed to examine a media house's plea challenging an order of Delhi High Court which has upheld an injunction order of a trial court directing restraint on circulation, publication of news concerning an accused, who has been discharged in a criminal case.

The high court on December 18, 2025 had directed media organisations to take down news | [More on P10](#)



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Eco-Hamlets, Not Relocation

Govt Outlines New Dal Lake Rehab Policy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has reiterated that rehabilitation of Dal dwellers will be carried out under an in-situ conservation model, allowing families to continue living within the Dal Lake ecosystem while ensuring environmental protection and sustainable development.

In a written reply to an unstarred Assembly question tabled by MLA Tanvir Sadiq, the Housing and Urban Development Department said the long-standing rehabilitation process has shifted away from relocation towards conservation-based habitation, recognising Dal dwellers as an integral part of the lake ecosystem.

The government informed the House that around 1,808 families have already been rehabilitated from Dal Lake to Rakhī Arth Colony, where land and housing plots were provided free of cost along with compensation for acquired properties. However, the reply clarified that further large-scale relocation has not yielded substantial results over the past decades.

Citing deliberations of the High-Level Committee headed by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the government said a decision was taken to adopt in-situ conservation, enabling continued dwelling within the lake while making the ecosystem vibrant, dynamic and environmentally sustainable.

The Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority has been tasked with framing a comprehensive policy through public consultation under the CBC mode.

As per the policy framework, priority hamlets where maximum rehabilitation has already been carried out will be excluded from in-situ conservation, while only a limited number of structures within the lake will be identified for rehabilitation based on updated surveys. The total number of structures inside the lake is to be fixed after verification.

The government said eco-hamlets are being developed instead of relocating Dal dwellers elsewhere, and that the rehabilitation and conservation scheme has been approved in principle by the Board of Directors of JK LCMA and endorsed by the High-Level Committee.

Responding to concerns over prolonged uncertainty and alleged harassment, the government maintained that the decisions were taken with the intention of balancing environmental conservation with humanitarian considerations and without any intent to harass Dal dwellers.

According to KNT, the House was informed that administrative reforms have been initiated to monitor rehabilitation progress, with nodal officers and committees constituted to oversee implementation and address grievances.

Paras Health Hosts 'Umeed Ke Sitare' to Celebrate Cancer Survivors



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Cancer Day, Paras Health Srinagar organised 'Umeed Ke Sitare', a survivor-focused initiative aimed at celebrating cancer survivors while addressing key challenges faced by patients during diagnosis, treatment, and recovery. The programme brought together cancer survivors, caregivers, doctors, and hospital leadership to promote awareness, early detection, and emotional strength in the fight against cancer.

Amid rising cancer incidence and persistent gaps in early detection, the initiative was led by Dr Murtuza Habib, Facility Director, Paras Health Srinagar, along with the hospital's clinical leadership including Dr Altaf Umar Ramzan, Chairperson – Neurosurgery; Dr Azhar Jan Batto, Director – Head & Neck Oncology; Dr Shabnam Bashir, Director – Breast & Colorectal Cancers; Dr Shah Naveed, Director – Surgical Oncology; and Dr Saquib Zaffar Bandy, Director – Medical Oncology. They were joined by Dr Hamza Wani, Associate Director – Surgical Gastroenterology; Dr Aadil Ashraf, Senior Consultant – Gastroenterology; Dr Saqib Ahmad Shah, Senior Consultant – Medical Oncology; and Dr Najma Wani, Associate Consultant – Gynaecology, who highlighted advances in cancer treatment, the importance of early screening, and the role of

emotional and family support in recovery.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Murtuza Habib, Facility Director, Paras Health Srinagar, said, "Many cancer patients struggle not just with the disease, but also with fear, misinformation, financial stress, and emotional isolation. 'Umeed Ke Sitare' is our effort to remind patients and families that cancer is treatable, survivorship is real, and timely medical intervention can save lives. This initiative reinforces our commitment to compassionate and comprehensive cancer care in the region."

Emphasising the clinical perspective, Dr Azhar Jan Batto, Director – Head & Neck Oncology, Paras Health Srinagar, said, "A large number of cancer cases still reach hospitals at an advanced stage due to delayed reporting and lack of awareness. Through initiatives like 'Umeed Ke Sitare', we aim to educate people about early warning signs, reduce stigma, and encourage regular screening, which can significantly improve outcomes."

As part of the initiative, Paras Health Srinagar also conducted a free oncology screening camp, benefiting over 60 individuals, to encourage preventive healthcare and early diagnosis. During the programme, cancer survivors also shared personal journeys of resilience and recovery, highlighting the role of early diagnosis, family support, and timely medical care.

Youth Found Dead under Mysterious Circumstances in Bemina

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 25-year-old youth was found dead under mysterious circumstances at his home in Bemina area of Srinagar on Friday, officials said.

An official told KNO that a young man was found dead at his residence in Bemina and

was subsequently shifted to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased has been identified as Sarmad Naseer Bhat (25), son of Naseer Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Bemina, Srinagar.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated an investigation.

Pre-Dawn Blaze Guts Multiple Houses in Nowhatta



Abid Bhat/KO

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A major fire broke out in the Syedpora area of Nowhatta in Srinagar during the early hours of Friday, gutting at least nine structures, officials said.

According to Fire and Emergency Services, teams rushed to the spot soon after receiving the distress call and found several residential houses engulfed in flames. The firefighting operation was hampered by the congested layout of the locality and the intensity of the blaze, prompting the deployment of additional fire tenders and manpower from multiple fire stations across the city and adjoining areas.

Officials said the situation worsened after multiple gas cylinders exploded inside the affected houses, causing the fire to spread rapidly to neighbouring structures. Firefighters launched large-scale operations and, after sustained efforts, managed to bring the blaze under control.

To strengthen the firefighting effort, water was also drawn from the reservoirs of Jamia Masjid. District authorities and residents acknowledged the cooperation extended by the management during the emergency, which proved crucial in containing the fire.

The operation was led by Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services Dr Mir Aqib Hussain, under the supervision of senior fire officers and in-charges of the responding stations. Personnel

Mirwaiz Expresses Anguish over Nowhatta & Chattabal Fire Incidents

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mirwaiz Muhammad Umar Farooq expressed deep grief and anguish over the devastating fire incident in Shahampora, in the vicinity of Jama Masjid in which at least nine residential houses were gutted, leaving several families homeless in the harsh winter, and the fire incident in Chattabal area yesterday in which also many houses were gutted.

Addressing the Friday congregation, Mirwaiz said that during winter unfortunately there is a rise in fire incidents across the city, causing suffering to people. He asked residents to exercise greater caution, especially during winter months when the use of heating devices increases the risk of fire hazards.

At the same time, Mirwaiz stressed that the concerned departments, particularly the Fire & Emergency Services, must be

better prepared to deal with such emergencies in densely populated areas like Shahre Khas.

Mirwaiz appreciated the courage and dedication of the firemen who risk their lives to save people and property, but remarked that without proper equipment and adequate water supply, their efforts are severely hampered. He noted that water had to be drawn from the fountain of Jama Masjid, which eventually helped in bringing the fire under control.

After Friday prayers, Mirwaiz personally visited the affected area, met with the victims, and expressed solidarity with the distressed families. He assured them of all possible support and assistance during this difficult time.

Mirwaiz asked the Government to take immediate cognizance of this mishap and that in Chattabal area and provide all assistance to the fire affected households.

nel from Police Station Nowhatta, along with local volunteers, also assisted in preventing the fire from spreading further.

According to KNT, no loss of life or injuries were reported in the incident. The cause of the fire is being

investigated.

Meanwhile, the Fire and Emergency Services department has urged the public to strictly adhere to safety guidelines, particularly in the use of electrical appliances and gas cylinders, to prevent such incidents.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (OPEN)
- Mughal Road - (CLOSED)
- Srinagar-Leh- (CLOSED)

HIJRI

CALENDAR

18 Shaban

1447

PRAYERS

FAJR

5:59

ZUHR

12:45

ASR

4:27

Magrib

6:10

ISHA

7:31

انتقال پُر ملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی عبدالعزیز بٹ ولد محمد رمضان بٹ مرحوم ساکنہ باغ مہتاب باؤس نمبر 44 نزدیکیک غوثیہ مسجد مورخہ 5 فروری 2026ء بروز جمعرات اس دارفانی سے انتقال کر گئے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس نصیب کرے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی مورخہ 8 فروری 2026ء بروز اتوار صبح 10.30 بجے اُن کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع زندشاہ مسجد رعناداری نزدیک زندشاہ بھکری انجام دی جائے گی۔

سگواراں

فاروق احمد بٹ، طارق احمد بٹ، مشتاق احمد بٹ

9419004495,99069933016

NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No:5400-7163-7353 has been wrongly entered as Mohammad Akram Chopan. while my correct and actual Name is Mohmad Akram Chowpan Now I want the same to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohmad Akram Chowpan S/o Mohmad Shaban
R/o Khargam Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in my passport has been inadvertently recorded as Azizi Begum. While my correct and actual Name is Azi Begum. Now I want the same to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Azi Begum W/o Ali Mohammad Bhat
R/o Buran Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No:8361-1888-0836 has been wrongly entered as Asifa Rasool. while my correct and actual Name is Aasiya Rasool. Now I want the same to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Aasiya Rasool W/o Mir Irfan
R/o Sheerabad Khore Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice No. 433_TELE_JAT_27_25_26, Closing Date/Time 02.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. NIT HEADER

Contract Type	Works
Name of work	Provision of replacement of old charger, battery banks, and provision of protection of devices, cable and power system over the Jammu Division
Tender Closing Date & Time	02.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Uploading Tender	06.02.2026 at 17:56 hrs.
Advertised Value(₹)	₹1,45,83,194.86
Earnest Money(₹)	₹2,22,900/-
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	16.02.2026
Period of Completion	04 Months

Tender Notice No.: 433_TELE_JAT_27_25_26 Date: 06.02.2026

434/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

AAP Leader Shot Dead in Punjab

Press Trust Of India

Chandigarh: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Lucky Oberoi was shot dead by an unidentified assailant outside a gurdwara in Punjab's Jalandhar on Friday, shortly after he came out of the shrine after paying obeisance, police said.



The incident took place around 7:30 am, when Oberoi was leaving the gurdwara in Jalandhar's Model Town area.

Opposition parties -- Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) -- slammed the AAP government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, over the incident, alleging that the state's law and order has collapsed under its rule.

CCTV footage showed as Oberoi (43) came out of the gurdwara and sat in his car -- a Mahindra Thar -- an assailant wearing a black hoodie approached him on foot, opened indiscriminate fire and fled along with an accomplice, who was waiting for him on a two-wheeler at a short distance.

Oberoi suffered multiple bullet injuries and was rushed to a hospital in an unconscious state. He subsequently succumbed to the injuries, ACP, Jalandhar, Parminder Singh, said over the phone.

The window panes of Oberoi's sports utility vehicle (SUV) and another car parked nearby were shattered due to the firing.

Satwinderpal Singh alias Lucky Oberoi was the AAP in-charge of a ward in Jalandhar

Cantonment and a financier by profession.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav visited the crime scene and held a review meeting with senior officers. Yadav said the investigators have got many leads.

An unverified social media post purportedly by foreign-based gangster Jograj Singh alias Joga Pholriwal claimed responsibility for the incident.

Several allegations were levelled against Oberoi in the post, which mentioned that he was killed due to personal enmity. It was also claimed that the incident was linked to a dispute pertaining to the presidency of a college.

Responding to reporters' questions in Jalandhar on whether the incident could be linked to personal enmity or could have got anything to do with student politics, the DGP said various theories have come to the fore. However, he added that no organised-crime angle has surfaced so far.

Asked if the shooter and his accomplice have been identified, Yadav said he cannot share details of the investigation, but stressed that they have got many leads.

Asked about the social media post in the name of Pholriwal, he said, "We will track the IP (internet protocol) address. Whosoever has committed the crime will be given exemplary punishment."

The DGP said the chief minister has taken updates on the case.

He said police teams have collected mobile-tower dumps to advance the investigation through a technical analysis.

The assailants might have carried out a reconnaissance of Oberoi's movements, police sources said.

Jalandhar Police Commissioner Dhanpreet Kaur said preliminary investigations have found that the assailant and his accom-



High-stakes Iran-US Talks Wrap Up in Muscat

Talks end positively, next round under review

Trans Asia News

Muscat: Iran and the United States held indirect talks in Oman on Friday, marking their first known diplomatic engagement in months after Washington joined Israel in its military onslaught on Iran, a conflict that sharply deepened mistrust between the two adversaries.

The Omani-mediated discussions, held at a palace on the outskirts of Muscat, focused on laying the groundwork for future negotiations rather than reaching immediate agreements. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described the meeting as "a very good start," offering cautious optimism while acknowledging that deep distrust remains a major obstacle.

The Iranian and American delegations met Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi separately over roughly six hours of shuttle diplomacy. According to Araghchi, multiple rounds of indirect exchanges were conducted in what he called a "positive atmosphere," with Oman playing an "active" role in conveying messages between the two sides.

"During these talks, after

a long period of interruption, Iran's positions and concerns were fully conveyed," Araghchi said in a live interview on Iranian state television. "Our interests, the rights of the Iranian people, and all matters that needed to be stated were communicated clearly, and the views of the other side were also heard."

He said both parties would now consult their respective capitals before deciding how to proceed. "The decision on the continuation and framework of negotiations will be made after consultations," he added, noting that a preliminary consensus exists on keeping the process alive.

The US delegation was led by special envoy Steve Witkoff and included Jared Kushner, adviser and son-in-law of President Donald Trump. In an unusual development, US Navy Adm. Brad Cooper, head of US Central Command, also attended the meeting -- a move that drew attention because previous diplomatic rounds did not include a senior military presence. The American side offered no immediate public comment following the talks.

Oman's Foreign Ministry later confirmed that its foreign

minister held separate consultations with both delegations aimed at "preparing the appropriate circumstances for resuming diplomatic and technical negotiations." The statement stressed the parties' shared interest in ensuring long-term regional security and stability.

The renewed contact comes eight months after Israel's 12-day war with Iran in June, which derailed earlier diplomatic momentum and intensified regional anxieties. Gulf Arab states have expressed fears that further escalation could drag the wider region into conflict. Tensions remain high in key waterways, with recent incidents including US forces downing an Iranian drone near the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and Iran attempting to stop a US-flagged vessel in the Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran has insisted the talks must be limited strictly to its nuclear programme. "Our discussions are focused solely on the nuclear issue, and we are not engaging with the Americans on any other subject," Araghchi said, adding that negotiations must occur in a calm environment "free from tension and threats."

Suicide Attacker Kills 31 Worshippers During Friday Prayers in Pakistan

Sajjad Hussain

Islamabad, Feb 6 (PTI) At least 31 worshippers were killed and 169 others injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a mosque during Friday prayers in Pakistan's capital, officials said, in one of the worst terror attacks targeting the Shia Muslim community in recent years.

The powerful explosion, which was heard from a far distance, took place at Khadijah al-Kubra mosque in the Tarlai area of Islamabad, the police said in a statement.

The suicide bomber was stopped at the gate of the mosque, but he detonated himself, police and eyewitnesses said.

Islamabad Deputy Com-



missioner Irfan Nawaz Memon confirmed that at least 31 people have been killed and 169 others injured -- some of them critically.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast. However, police sources said that the attacker was a for-

eign national and had links with Fitna al Khwaraji, a term used for Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Al Jazeera however reported that TTP has denied the responsibility and instead the report hinted at possible involvement of Daesh.

TN On Alert After Mysterious Mass Crow Deaths

Press Trust Of India

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government on Friday sounded a high alert following reports of large-scale crow deaths in various parts of the state, triggering concerns over a potential outbreak of avian influenza.

In a swift response to the mounting biosecurity threat, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries issued a comprehensive advisory mandating stringent precautionary measures for poultry farmers and handlers of wild birds across the state.

Speaking to PTI, Director of Public Health, Dr A Somasundaram said, the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (DPH) had also released a separate communication, appealing to the public to follow strict safety protocols.

"Based on the Central government's circular regarding the prevalence of Avian Flu in Tamil Nadu, we have issued the advisory," he added.

The DPH has advised individuals to seek immediate medi-



cal assistance if they experience flu-like symptoms, including cough, cold, fever, or breathing difficulties. Specific caution has been urged for those working in slaughterhouses and personnel handling sick or dead birds.

Meanwhile, the Animal Husbandry department has directed its officials to intensify surveillance and step up vigil to detect any unusual sickness or mortality among crows, migratory birds, and commercial poultry.

Sources said under the new protocols, veterinary staff have been strictly instructed to refrain from conducting autopsies of dead birds in the field. Instead, they have been advised to refer all carcasses to designated Regional Disease Diagnostic Labs to ensure clinical accuracy and containment.

17 Indian Students Violently Killed in Canada Since 2018

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Seventeen Indians studying in Canada died on account of "violent attacks" during 2018-2025, the government informed Parliament on Friday.

Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, in a written response to a query in Lok Sabha by AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi on incidents of violence against Indian students abroad, shared a country-wise tabulated data.

According to the data, the total number of Indian students in various foreign universities in different countries who had died on account of violent attacks during 2018-2025 stood as: Canada (17), the US (9), Australia (3), the UK (1), China (1), Denmark (1), Germany (1), Grenada (1) and Kyrgyzstan (2).

Owaisi asked the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) whether the government is aware of the "rising incidents of violence against Indian students abroad" and if any timely investigation has been conducted in this connection.

"The Government accords high priority to the safety and security of Indian students abroad and monitors incidents of violence against them. Violent and untoward incidents against them are immediately taken up by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad with the concerned authorities of the host country to ensure that they are properly investigated and the perpetrators are punished," Singh said.

In his response, he shared a "country-wise list of the total number of Indian students in foreign universities who had died on account of violent attacks since 2018".

Indian missions and posts

Violent and untoward incidents against them are immediately taken up by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad with the concerned authorities of the host country to ensure that they are properly investigated and the perpetrators are punished

also take steps to maintain regular contact with Indian students enrolled in foreign universities in their jurisdictions and conduct pre-orientation sessions with them upon their arrival in foreign lands to brief them on potential challenges, risks and precautions to be taken while studying overseas, including the issue of advisories from time to time, he said.

With a view to ensuring effective communication and timely support, Indian students are encouraged to connect with the local Indian missions and posts through various means, including the MADAD Portal of the MEA, WhatsApp groups created specifically for Indian students, consular camps, open houses and emergency hotlines, the government said.

Owaisi also asked about diplomatic steps taken by the government to enhance safety and mitigate risk for students in high-risk countries, and whether the government maintains any helpline to make complaints in case of distress abroad.

EU Accuses TikTok of 'Addictive Design,' Seeks Changes

Associated Press

London: The European Union on Friday accused TikTok of breaching the bloc's digital rules with "addictive design" features including autoplay and infinite scroll, in preliminary charges that strike at the heart of the popular video sharing app's operating model.

EU regulators said their investigation found that TikTok hasn't done enough to assess how its features could harm the physical and mental health of users, including children and "vulnerable adults."

The European Commission said it believes TikTok should change the "basic design" of its service. The commission is the EU's executive arm and enforcer of the 27-nation bloc's Digital Services Act, a sweeping rulebook that requires social media companies to clean up their platforms and protect users, under threat of hefty fines.

TikTok denied the accusations. "The Commission's preliminary findings present a categorically false and entirely meritless depiction of our platform, and we will take whatever steps are necessary to challenge these findings through every means available to us," the company said in

a statement.

TikTok now has a chance to reply to the commission's findings, which could lead to a so-called non-compliance decision and possible fine worth up to 6 per cent of the company's total



annual revenue.

"Social media addiction can have detrimental effects on the developing minds of children and teens," Henna Virkkunen, the commission's executive vice-president for tech sovereignty, security and democracy, said in a press statement. "The Digital Services Act makes platforms responsible for the effects they can have on their users. In Europe, we enforce our legislation to protect our children and our citizens online."

The preliminary findings from Brussels are the latest example of pressure that TikTok and other social media platforms are facing over youth addiction.

(O B I T U A R Y)

YOUSUF MURAD

Bani Walid, Feb 6 (AP) Thousands converged on Friday in northwestern Libya for the funeral of Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, the son and one-time heir apparent of Libya's late leader Moammar Gadhafi, who was killed earlier this week when four masked assailants stormed into his home and fatally shot him.

Mourners carried his coffin in the town of Bani Walid, 146 kilometres southeast of the capital, Tripoli, as well as large photographs of both Seif al-Islam, who was known mostly by his first name, and his father.

The crowd also waved plain green flags, Libya's official flag from 1977 to 2011 under Gadhafi, who ruled the country for more than 40 years before being toppled in a NATO-backed popular uprising in 2011. Gadhafi was killed later that year in his hometown of Sirte as fighting in Libya escalated into a full-blown civil war.

As the funeral procession got underway and the crowds swelled, a small group of supporters took Seif al-Islam's coffin away and later performed the funeral prayers and buried him.

Attackers at his home

Seif al-Islam, 53, was killed on Tuesday inside his home in the town of Zintan, 136 kilometres (85 miles) southwest of the capital, Tripoli, according to Libyan's chief prosecutor's office.

Authorities said an initial investigation found that he was shot to death but did not provide further details. Seif al-Islam's political team later released a statement saying "four masked men" had stormed his house and killed him in a "cowardly and treacherous assassination," after disabling security cameras.

Seif al-Islam was captured by fighters in Zintan late in 2011 while trying to flee to neighboring Niger. The fighters released him in June 2017, after one of Libya's rival governments granted him amnesty.

"The pain of loss weighs heavily on my heart, and it intensifies because I can't bid him farewell from within my homeland -- a pain

Thousands of Libyans Bid Farewell to Slain Gadhafi's Son Seif al-Islam



that words can't ease," Seif al-Islam's brother Mohamed Gadhafi, who lives in exile outside Libya though his current whereabouts are unknown, wrote on Facebook on Friday.

"But my solace lies in the fact that the loyal sons of the nation are fulfilling their duty and will give him a farewell befitting his stature," the brother wrote. Since the uprising that toppled Gadhafi, Libya plunged into chaos during which the oil-rich North African country split, with rival administrations now in the east and west, backed by various armed groups and foreign governments.

Gadhafi's heir-apparent

Seif al-Islam was Gadhafi's second-born son and was seen as the reformist face of the Gadhafi regime -- someone with diplomatic outreach who had worked to improve Libya's relations with Western countries up until the 2011 uprising.

The United Nations imposed sanctions on Seif al-Islam that included a travel ban and an assets freeze for his inflammatory public statements encouraging violence against anti-Gadhafi protesters during the 2011 uprising. The International Criminal Court later charged him with crimes against humanity related to the 2011 uprising.

Prolonged Closure of Tourist Spots Affecting Livelihoods: CM Omar



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said closure of tourist destinations, including Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan and Yousmarg, for about nine months due to security concerns has affected local livelihoods, and the government is considering a relief package.

Abdullah also said that he will take up reopening of the spots with the Union home minister.

Replying to questions by MLAs Saif-ud-Din Bhat and Nazir Ahmed Khan in the assembly, the CM said

closure has hit ATV operators, pony-walas, guides and other stakeholders, including youth who availed loans for tourism ventures.

"I would take up the issue of reopening these tourist destinations with the Union Home Minister, who is currently visiting Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The chief minister stated that the prolonged closure has adversely affected the local economy and severely impacted the livelihood of ATV operators, vehicle owners, ponywalas, stall owners, guides and other stakeholders dependent on tourism activities in these areas.

He said reopening involves security considerations beyond the tourism department's mandate and informed that the Snow Skating Games at Doodhpathri could not be held after an incident at Pahalgam, while a ropeway project at Tosamaidan has been proposed under the Parvatmala scheme.

Abdullah also said posts in Gurez are largely filled as per sanctioned strength and recruitment in JK is governed by the Civil services decentralisation and recruitment) Act, 2010, as amended in 2020, providing employment on domicile basis without area-specific reservation.

Regularisation of Daily-Rated, Casual Workers on Cards: CM

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said his administration will soon announce a "structured roadmap" to regularise daily-rated and casual workers employed in various government departments, a long-standing demand.

Addressing the Legislative Assembly, CM said a high-level committee was constituted last year to examine the legal and financial aspects of the issue.

"I assure this House that my government is committed to a just and humane resolution. Based on the committee's recommendations, a phased roadmap for regularization will be announced," the Chief Minister said as per KNS.

The move could impact thousands of workers who have served for years in temporary roles.

CM Omar Abdullah also acknowledged the role of ASHA and Anganwadi workers, calling them the "backbone" of public health and early childhood systems, and pledged to ensure timely release of their honorariums.

Separately, he announced an enhancement in the honorarium for vocational instructors in the UT.

First Exotic Bulls Consignment Reaches Kashmir by Train

JAMMU: In a first-of-its-kind initiative, bulls of exotic breeding were transported from Bengaluru to Jammu and Kashmir through railway parcel vans, with the consignment reaching Budgam railway station in the valley on Friday, officials said.

The transportation of 23 bulls was carried out under the breeding development programme of the agriculture and animal husbandry department and facilitated by the Northern Railways' Jammu division, marking the first time that livestock has been moved over such a long distance to Kashmir via rail.

Officials said that six bulls were unloaded at the Bari Brahmana goods shed in Jammu, while the remaining 17 were offloaded at the Budgam goods shed in central Kashmir.

"The parcel train, which departed from Bengaluru in Karnataka, passed through several states before reaching the Valley via the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)," officials said.

They further informed that strict Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms and special chambers were enforced to ensure the safety and welfare of the animals during transit.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal, said that the initiative is expected to boost the region's dairy sector. "The arrival of these high-quality exotic bulls will help improve local cattle breeds in Kashmir and significantly enhance milk production capacity," Singhal said.

"Transportation by rail has reduced costs compared to road transport and ensured safe and timely delivery, even during adverse weather conditions," he added.

Singhal noted that the initiative would help increase the income of dairy farmers and could herald a new phase of growth in the dairy sector in the region.

"This success shows that Kashmir is now fully connected to the national freight network, which will also facilitate trade of livestock and agricultural products in the future," he said.

Railway officials termed the development a significant step towards strengthening freight transportation and supporting agricultural and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir. (Observer News Service)

AKANUNDUN Mesmerises Audiences at Theatre Festival 2026



Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The Kashmiri folk musical theatre production Akanundun received an overwhelming response at Bharangam 2026, the Silver Jubilee edition of the International Theatre Festival of India, captivating a packed venue that included cultural stalwarts, theatre veterans, directors, playwrights, scholars, students of theatre, and a large general audience.

The performance marked a historic and celebratory moment for Kashmiri theatre on a major national and international platform.

From the opening moments, Akanundun held the audience in rapt attention. The auditorium resonated with repeated applause and standing ovations, as the jam-packed crowd responded to the production's powerful musical storytelling, live performance

energy, and emotional depth. The musical language—rooted in Kashmiri folk traditions, Sufi poetry, and Reshi mysticism—created an immersive theatrical experience that deeply moved audiences.

The production was widely seen as a historic return of Kashmiri folk theatre, presenting the Bhand Pather form through a contemporary theatrical lens while remaining firmly anchored in tradition. Conceived as an experiment to bring Kashmir's folk theatre into modern stage design and performance aesthetics, Akanundun demonstrated how indigenous forms can evolve without losing their essence. Its success at the festival affirmed the production as a hopeful model for the future of Kashmiri theatre.

Akanundun was presented by Theatre for Kashmir (Peather Baraye Kasheer) in collaboration with the Na-

tional Bhand Theatre. The production was adapted, designed, and directed by Arshad Mushtaq, with original music composed by Manzoor ul Haq. Performance guidance and support were provided by Shah-e-Jehan Baghat, with the production brought to life by a dedicated ensemble of 35 actors and Sufi musicians, performing live on stage.

The International Theatre Festival committee felicitated the artists and the director, acknowledging the production's artistic excellence and its significant contribution to the preservation and renewal of indigenous theatre traditions. The play was particularly appreciated for introducing a strong ensemble of young Gen Z performers, trained in the Bhaand lineage, positioning tradition as a living, evolving practice rather than a static cultural artifact.

Kashmir Protesters Condemn Suicide Attack on Shia Mosque in Pakistan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A suicide bomber blowing himself inside a Shia mosque at Islamabad in Pakistan that left more than 31 worshippers dead sparked multiple protests across Kashmir on Friday.

According to the details available with KNO, members of the Shia community held massive demonstrations across Baramulla, Srinagar, and Bandipora. Protesters raised anti-Pakistan slogans and condemned the attack on Shia worshippers in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Protesters were held at Chainabal Pattan (Baramulla), Imambara Zadibal, Harwan (Srinagar), Inderkote-Sumbal (Bandipora) and Diver Parihaspora, reports said.

Demonstrators raised slogans like "Pakistan Murdabad" and "Hukumat-e-Pakistan Murdabad."

Meanwhile, India condemned the bombing at an Islamabad mosque and condoled the loss of life it has caused. "It is unfortunate that, instead of seriously addressing the problems plaguing its social fabric, Pakistan should choose to

delude itself by blaming others for its home-grown ills," the statement said. "India rejects any and every such allegation, which is as baseless as it is pointless," it added.

Pertinently, at least 31 people were killed and 169 injured in an explosion at a mosque during Friday prayers in Islamabad.

Police said a suicide bomber detonated a device after approaching the gates of the Shia-mosque in the Larai area of the city, while eyewitnesses said the blast was preceded by the sound of gunfire(KNO)

Govt Shuts Down 158 Stone Crushers, Hot Mix Plants

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered the closure of 158 stone crushers and hot mix plants between January 1, 2021 and January 1, 2026, for operating in violation of environmental norms, Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Javed Ahmed Rana said on Friday.

Replying to a question by MLA Ajaz Ahmad Jan in the Assembly, Rana said the J-K Pollution Control Committee issued closure directions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Jan informed that units are permitted to establish only after meeting the prescribed pollution control criteria and installation of required pollution control devices. Legal action is initiated against violators in line with directions of the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court, he added.

According to PTI, the minister mentioned that all riverbed mining projects are regulated through the environmental clearance mechanism, with mandatory compliance to Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016, besides measures like water sprinkling, covered transportation and restricted mining hours.

Army Chief visits White Knight Corps in Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Friday visited the headquarters of White Knight Corps, also known as XVI Corps, here and assessed the operational preparedness in the region.

Gen Dwivedi also pinned Station House Officer of Majalta Sub-inspector Abdul Satar Choudhary with a commendation disc at a ceremony for his exceptional role in a recent operation

in Joffer forest in Ramnagar area of Udhampur which led to the killing of two hardcore Pakistani terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit, officials said.

"The Chief of Army Staff visited White Knight Corps to review the prevailing security situation and assess operational preparedness in the region. He was briefed on the counter-terrorism grid and appreciated the synergy in joint operations between the security forces," Ad-

ditional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army wrote on X, as per PTI.

It said the army chief commended the efforts of all stakeholders and emphasised the need for vigilance and people-centric approach while conducting operations in the region.

"COAS also expressed confidence in the leadership and troops of White Knight Corps in safeguarding peace and security in the region," the post read.



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (MECHANICAL), PW(R&B), CENTRAL KASHMIR
ENGINEERING COMPLEX (PMGSY BUILDING), RAJBAGH SRINAGAR KASHMIR-190008

DATE EXTENSION-01

Subject:- SITC of 13 No. MRL 05 passenger lift at Transit Accommodation Zewan
Reference:- eNIT No;- R&B/MDCK/NIT/25 of 2025-26. Dated:- 22.01.2026

Due to zero response, the last date of Bid Submission will be 12-02-2026 (16:00 hrs) & opening of technical bid will be 13-02-2026 (at 12:00 hrs.)

Rest, all other terms and conditions of the said e-NIT (with annexures) shall remain same.

Sd/-

Dated:- 05.02.2026

DIPK-10677-25

DT: 06/02/2026

Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Mechanical Division
Central Kashmir



Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir (UT)

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BANDIPORA

Email: eomcbandipora@gmail.com, ceo-mcbandipora@jk.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Preparatory action for Swachh Survekshan-2025

In pursuance of the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, 2022 & 2025 (as amended/notified from time to time), and in compliance with the directions of the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, it is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the following measures are being strictly enforced within the municipal limits of Municipal Council Bandipora:

- Complete ban is imposed on the use, sale, storage, supply, transport and distribution of single-use plastic and non-biodegradable plastic carry bags and plastic products less than 120 microns and 75 microns, including Styrofoam and thermocol items.
- Prohibited items include plastic carry bags, plastic plates, cups, cutlery, straws, earbuds with plastic sticks, wrapping/packing films for sweet boxes, invitation cards and cigarette packets, etc.
- Littering, open dumping, non-segregation of waste at source and non-compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 is a punishable offence.
- Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) are directed to ensure on-site processing of wet waste. Failure shall attract penal action.
- Illegal dumping of untreated fecal sludge, construction & demolition waste, or any waste in drains, open areas or unauthorized locations is strictly prohibited.
- Manual hazardous entry without prescribed safety gear is strictly banned.
- User charges and sanitation service tariffs, as notified by the Municipal Council, shall be payable by households, commercial, institutional and industrial establishments.

LEGAL ACTION, ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES

Any person found violating the above provisions shall be issued warnings, spot fines and e-challans, and shall be liable to pay penalties ranging from ₹500/- to ₹3,000/-, or higher as applicable, under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, 2022 & 2025, and other relevant Municipal Bye-laws. Repeated violations shall invite stringent legal action and prosecution.

PUBLIC COOPERATION REQUIRED:

Citizens are urged to use public toilets and sanitation facilities provided across the city. Maintaining hygiene and cleanliness is a shared responsibility, and your cooperation is essential for a cleaner and healthier Bandipora. All residents, shopkeepers, vendors, institutions and stakeholders are hereby directed to ensure strict compliance in the interest of public health, cleanliness and environmental protection.

This Notice is effective immediately

ANNEXURE-A

Penalty / Spot Fine Rate Table:

(Under Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, 2022 & 2025 as amended/notified from time to time)

S. No.	Nature of Violation	Applicable Penalty / Spot Fine
1	Use, sale, storage or distribution of single-use plastic	500 - 2,000
2	Use of plastic carry bags below 120 microns / 75 microns	500 - 2,000
3	Sale or use of banned plastic items	500 - 2,000
4	Littering / open dumping in public places	500 - 2,000
5	Non-segregation of waste at source	500 - 2,000
6	Non-payment of user charges / sanitation tariff	500 - 2,000
7	BWGs failing to process wet waste on-site	1,000 - 3,000
8	Illegal dumping of C&D waste	1,000 - 3,000
9	Dumping of untreated fecal sludge	1,000 - 3,000
10	Manual hazardous entry without safety gear	1,000 - 3,000
11	Repeated violation of SWM / PWM Rules	1,500 + legal action

NOTE:

- Penalties shall be imposed through spot fine / e-challan / notice by the enforcing authority.
- Repeat offenders shall be liable for enhanced penalties and prosecution under applicable rules.
- Penalty rates are subject to revision as per rules notified from time to time.
- Payment of fine shall not absolve the violator from rectifying the violation.

By Order Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Bandipora

NO: MC/BPR / SBM /2025-26 / 390
Dated: 06/02/2026

DIPK-NB-3185-25
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Issued By
Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council Bandipora

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KO VIEW

Kashmir’s Rich Fusion

Kashmir in recent years has been attracting cultural travellers and art lovers like never before, and many are seeing the valley with fresh eyes after decades when much of its beauty was brushed aside. Young locals are rediscovering it too, exploring their heritage, cinematic landscapes, and the mix of cultures that have transformed life here, giving the valley its own charm, energy, and character. Srinagar’s old city brings this blend to life. Wooden balconies sit next to stone shelters and soulful sanctums, while craftsmen keep family traditions alive and experiment with patterns and styles brought by travellers over the years. Doors, windows, and walls show care and creativity, highlighting how different cultures have come together and giving the city a personality all its own. Kashmiri food tells its own story, mixing local tradition with flavors from faraway places. Music shares the same mix, keeping the past alive while moving into the present. Sufiana Kalam weaves melodies from Persia and Central Asia with local tunes, while folk songs tell stories of love, nature, and everyday life. Young musicians add modern instruments to these traditional sounds, creating music that feels fresh and familiar, connecting generations through rhyme and rhythm. Textiles show this blend too. Pashmina shawls combine local weaving with Persian-inspired designs, and carpets bring together patterns from different regions, creating pieces admired around the world. Colours, textures, and designs reflect creativity, pride, and history, turning fabrics, clothes, and rugs into living maps of Kashmir’s culture that people use and experience every day. Festivals bring towns and villages to life with music, food, and markets overflow with items that mix tradition and new ideas. Children sing songs from distant lands, artists blend styles in their work, and writers connect stories from elsewhere with life in the valley, keeping culture alive across generations. Kashmir grows by sharing, blending, and celebrating culture. Visitors find beauty at every turn, and locals feel the richness of daily life. The valley shows how traditions and new ideas come together to create something bright, lively, and full of energy.

Budget Dilemma

The Jammu & Kashmir Budget 2026-27 prioritizes routine allocations and cautious planning, leaving critical challenges in jobs, power, infrastructure, and public services largely unresolved.

Ahmad Ayaz

The Jammu & Kashmir Budget for 2026-27 offers a revealing snapshot of the Union Territory’s priorities, but it underscores a pattern of cautious continuity rather than bold reform. While allocations cover routine sectors and reiterate policy commitments, the budget struggles to present a transformative vision capable of addressing the region’s deep structural challenges. Close scrutiny of its figures, directives, and sectoral promises highlights both missed opportunities and the limits of incremental planning. Employment dominates the headline announcements. Local industrial units are urged to prioritize hiring regional residents, responding to long-standing youth unemployment concerns. This apparently appears promising, but the practical feasibility is questionable. Most industrial units in the region are small, facing operational constraints including irregular supply chains, limited technological access, and scaling challenges. Without targeted support, expecting them to absorb a significant local workforce risks producing symbolic rather than meaningful outcomes. Creating real employment demands a multi-layered strategy. Vocational and technical training centers must equip the workforce with skills aligned to industry needs. Tax incentives, low-interest loans, and simplified regulations can encourage local industrial expansion. Beyond manufacturing, growth in ancillary sectors such as logistics, IT-enabled services, and tourism-related employment is essential to broaden opportunities. Without these supporting measures, the budget’s employment promise is likely to underdeliver. The power sector receives attention but remains constrained by legacy issues. Despite abundant hydroelectric potential and ongoing investments, frequent outages, rising costs, and unreliable supply persist. The budget reiterates goals to improve generation, reduce losses, and ensure reliability but lacks clear timelines or operational detail. Previous initiatives, including smart meters and anti-theft measures, have yet to produce tangible results, hampered by technical issues and weak monitoring. Tariff adjustments often emphasize revenue over consistent supply. Upgrading transmission networks, establishing independent project oversight, and fostering public-private partnerships could link energy expansion to industrial growth, but these elements are missing from the current plan. Infrastructure and public services show incremental funding without innovation. Road maintenance, urban planning, and public utilities receive allocations similar to prior years, prioritizing upkeep over transformative projects. Landslides and snow frequently disrupt highways, while cities like Srinagar face traffic congestion, narrow roads, and insufficient parking. Public transport remains underdeveloped, and informal systems often exploit commuters. Urban water supply is intermittent, forcing households toward costly alternatives, while drainage systems fail during monsoon, threatening public health and commerce. Effective solutions would include preventive maintenance, intelligent traffic management, and



“Unlocking Jammu & Kashmir’s potential requires proactive governance, coordinated sectoral planning, investment in human capital, modern infrastructure, and transparent oversight. Without these elements, incremental allocations risk maintaining the cycle of unmet expectations. Only a bold, reform-oriented approach can turn numbers on paper into meaningful outcomes for the region’s citizens.

structured public transit networks, but the budget remains focused on routine allocations. Fiscal policy reflects caution. The budget emphasizes expenditure control, minor development schemes, and sustaining existing services, while revenue generation through investment incentives or structural reform receives little attention. Simplifying taxation, supporting entrepreneurship, and improving governance efficiency could expand the revenue base and reduce reliance on central transfers. Accountability measures are also underdeveloped. Independent audits, project evaluations, and citizen oversight remain largely absent. Education and skill development receive routine funding, but gaps remain in curriculum modernization, vocational training, and industry-academia collaboration. A more ambitious approach could align the young workforce with emerging sectors such as IT, renewable energy, and tourism, increasing employability and fostering entrepreneurship. Tourism and cultural sectors, despite immense natural and historical assets, receive routine allocations without strategic initiatives to improve connectivity, safety, or service quality. Enhancing tourist circuits, modernizing accommodations, and promoting local crafts could generate income while preserving cultural heritage. Healthcare continues to face infrastructure and personnel shortages, particularly in remote areas. Routine allocations without systemic interventions

limit access and efficiency. Expanding telemedicine, mobile units, preventive campaigns, and primary care networks could improve coverage, but these reforms are absent. At the heart of these challenges lies governance. Chronic issues in power, infrastructure, employment, and public services are not purely financial. They reflect gaps in planning, monitoring, and implementation. Without robust accountability mechanisms, allocations may fail to translate into results. Independent audits, performance-linked evaluation, and citizen engagement are crucial to ensure that budget promises deliver tangible benefits. The 2026-27 budget signals continuity over ambition. It offers minor improvements but falls short of addressing pressing needs in employment, infrastructure, power reliability, public services, education, tourism, and healthcare. Unlocking Jammu & Kashmir’s potential requires proactive governance, coordinated sectoral planning, investment in human capital, modern infrastructure, and transparent oversight. Without these elements, incremental allocations risk maintaining the cycle of unmet expectations. Only a bold, reform-oriented approach can turn numbers on paper into meaningful outcomes for the region’s citizens.

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Dangers in Blind Devotion

Kashmiri youth face emotional and psychological harm when devotion turns into unquestioned obedience.

Fiza Khan



Anxiety, depression, guilt, and loss of self-confidence often follow. Many lose trust in spiritual systems and personal relationships alike. Some carry trauma for years without seeking help, hesitant to approach family, authorities, or mental health professionals due to fear of judgment or blame. True faith emphasizes moral conduct, patience, and respect for others. Guidance that creates fear, secrecy, or dis-

comfort signals abuse rather than devotion. Faith connects people to almighty, rather than to the unchecked authority of a single individual. Calling out misuse protects the essence of spiritual guidance and preserves its role in community life. Families and communities have an important role to play here. They must open conversations about personal

boundaries, emotional well-being, and safe guidance to help young people identify manipulation. Religious education should teach critical thinking alongside moral lessons. Communities should create spaces where victims can speak openly without shame or judgment. Legal awareness is equally crucial. Demanding or sharing intimate content without consent is a crime under Indian law, but many victims remain unaware of their rights. Information campaigns, workshops, and community discussions can provide practical knowledge and empower individuals to seek help.

“Faith has long offered strength in Kashmir, but it must not demand silence, fear, or loss of personal agency. Spirituality should inspire and guide, rather than control or harm. Awareness, dialogue, and courage to question harmful practices can ensure that spiritual systems remain sources of guidance and healing instead of tools for exploitation.

Faith has long offered strength in Kashmir, but it must not demand silence, fear, or loss of personal agency. Spirituality should inspire and guide, rather than control or harm. Awareness, dialogue, and courage to question harmful practices can ensure that spiritual systems remain sources of guidance and healing instead of tools for exploitation.

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Views expressed in this article are author’s own.

There Is a Beautiful Life in Pax Kashmir

A soldier's notebook reveals a human portrait of Kashmir as seen through routine, conversation, and curiosity, rather than strategy or strife.

Shaheena Akhtar

One afternoon in Srinagar, Colonel Vikas Thakur walks along Dal Lake with his friend Subhash. On the water nearby, a handful of women lean from their narrow boats, pulling up thick weeds for cattle fodder. Their hands move almost instinctively, shaped by years of doing the same work on the same lake.

Thakur raises his camera, then stops. One of the women looks up and snaps at him in Kashmiri. He doesn't understand a word, but he gets the message.

He laughs, a little embarrassed, and gives an awkward wave. Subhash leans in and explains, smiling. "She's asking if you have sisters or a mother at home," he says. "Go take their pictures."

The moment is funny, human, and strange, and it teaches Thakur something essential about life here: people are alive, present, and rooted in daily routines, regardless of the past.

This interaction forms the seed of Pax Kashmir, a book built on observation, conversations, and small discoveries rather than strategy or official memory.

Thakur's perspective is unusual because he writes as a serving army officer who steps away from operations and intelligence.

He walks the streets, cycles the boulevards, rides in shikaras, and stops to talk to anyone willing. He takes notes and lets stories unfold naturally. His authority comes from time spent among people, watching, listening, and learning.

That's why his book reads like a long conversation with the valley itself.

The first chapter, "Dangerous Kashmir," contrasts past and present. Thakur recalls the early 2000s, when a simple stop at a toll plaza or handing out a loaf of bread could invite suspicion.

Back then, fear and frequent escalations drove daily movement in Kashmir. He then moves to 2023 Srinagar, alive late at night, welcoming tourists, and hosting international delegates.

The chapter gives a sense of relief and change without spelling it out, showing the valley through lived experience rather than headlines.

"What's in a Name!" brings humour and culture to the page. Thakur notes shop signs, houseboats, and surnames that seem ordinary but reveal stories of commerce, heritage, and



cleverness.

"Subhana the Worst" is a carpet shop whose name stuck after a British customer scolded the owner for a delayed delivery. The name survives in restaurants run by his descendants.

Such small stories combine wit, history, and local memory, giving readers a sense of Kashmiri humour and adaptability.

In "Dal Never Dull," Thakur cycles along the Boulevard, crossing bridges, observing people skating, walking, or fishing, and watching houseboats float silently.

He notes schoolgirls in tracksuits, elderly men sipping tea, anglers lining the water, and women rowing boats loaded with fodder. He brings Mughal history, modern festivals, and everyday realities together, showing the lake as a living, breathing place.

"Amphibious Kashmir – I" and "Amphibious Kashmir – II" focus on the Hanji community

and houseboat life.

Thakur learns about how colonial rules defined boat life, houseboats offered work for generations, and tourism revived these floating homes.

Hearty talks with boat owners, especially Shaqeel and his father Aizaz Sahib, reveal pride, challenges, and courage. He observes kitchens, woodwork, and the careful handling of water systems on the lake.

Both these chapters teach readers about the human side of infrastructure and history in Kashmir.

"Water Woes" shows how environmental change affects life. A heatwave shrinks rivers, forcing Thakur and his son onto a motorcycle ride toward Pir Ki Gali.

Along the way, he notices irrigation channels, families picnicking in apple orchards, and water being diverted for farming.

The chapter blends travel, environmental observation, and personal reflection seamlessly.

Chapters such as "Wadi-e-Lolab" and "Papier Mache" highlight landscape and craft. Thakur describes villages, handmade goods, and regional traditions with curiosity. "The Great Kashmiri Tamasha" captures everyday drama, playful quarrels, and local performances.

Through these chapters, readers feel how culture lives in ordinary routines rather than in grand monuments.

"Immortal Kashmiri Poetesses" and "Bridging Kashmir" focus on culture and connection. Thakur brings back poets like Habba Khatoon, showing how women founded language and history. Bridges in Srinagar serve as meeting points where life flows naturally, weaving together neighbourhoods, commerce, and shared memory.

Religion and heritage appear in chapters such as "Ancient Hindu Ruins," "Ancient Hindu Temples," and "Muslim Rishis of Kashmir."

Thakur writes about caretakers, pilgrims, and local stories without turning the text into moralizing or nostalgia. He observes practices, rites, and devotion, showing how spiritual life exists side by side, layered with centuries of history.

"Three Important Tree Species of Kashmir" and "Winter With Names!!" focus on ecology and language. Trees, seasons, and words prompt local wisdom. "Paradise Within Jannat" and "Adventure in Kashmir Highlands" return to physical experience, altitude, and beauty, always grounded in human presence.

Later chapters, like "After Pahalgam" and "Boat Pushers and River of Blood," touch on past violence, but the book never sensationalizes.

Thakur shows how people continue their routines, adapt, and live. Life flows along with rivers and mountains.

The final chapter, "Haute Couture Personalised," ends with craft, labour, and identity.

Clothing and design show how people express themselves and sustain livelihoods. Thakur observes details of woodwork, embroidery, and household organization.

Human skill, pride, and creativity take center stage, rather than conflict or politics.

The book closes on a powerful note. Thakur sits with a craftsman whose hands



THAKUR DELIVERS A KASHMIR RARELY WRITTEN ABOUT.

The valley appears through streets, houses, markets, rivers, and gardens. People appear in full colour, doing ordinary things that matter deeply. By stepping out of uniformed authority and entering everyday life, Thakur writes a book that feels like walking alongside him. The result is immersive, humane, and entirely memorable.

move with certainty and care. Street noise drifts in. Someone asks a question. The man answers with a smile and keeps working. It is a moment ordinary and extraordinary at once.

It mirrors the opening scene with the women on Dal Lake. And together, these two episodes frame Pax Kashmir as a book about noticing, learning, and connecting.

Thakur delivers a Kashmir rarely written about.

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By stepping out of uniformed authority and entering everyday life, Thakur writes a book that feels like walking alongside him.

The result is immersive, humane, and entirely memorable.

— The author is a Srinagar-based scholar of English literature. She can be reached at shaheena.akhtar195@gmail.com.

Mental Health Without Direction

Personal stories from clinics and streets show how mental health in Kashmir moves on goodwill and chance, while clear pathways to care remain absent.

Dr. Nowsheen Jan

A 33-year-old woman sits across from a psychologist, uneasy and weighed down by reactions she no longer trusts.

She talks about anger that rises fast and leaves damage behind, often before she can stop herself.

During the assessment, she shares a moment that still unsettles her, recalling how a surge of rage once drove her toward her husband with a knife.

Outside a clinic, such a story usually triggers a swift response. Families step in, police enter the scene, and judgement spreads quickly through society.

But inside the clinic, the focus shifts. The first question is simpler and more human, asking whether this story should begin with blame or start with care.

Anger shows up in everyday life, and almost everyone feels it sooner or later.

Trouble begins when that anger spills out and harms someone, because it often points to pain that never found words.

That pain can grow from early experiences, loss, or pressure that keeps building over time.

Mental health develops slowly, formed by family life, daily surroundings, and the expectations people live with.

The woman's story shows what happens when someone runs into old pain that never got settled, all within a tight social space.

People speak about mental health more than ever now, in homes, schools, and public life. But what people still look for is a clear and consistent way to turn those conversations into real help.

A second story unfolds in public view.

A 62-year-old man wanders the streets after the death of his wife. His speech drifts, and his actions draw attention. Many respond with irritation or fear, and a few offer food and move on.

A local health worker finally alerts services, and a critical care ambulance brings him to the mental hospital in Rainawari.

Food can help someone get through the day, but a mental crisis needs real care.

What many people see on the street has a medical name: acute psychosis. When help comes early, people often settle and feel safer. But when it comes late, confusion and harm usually grow.

The problem goes beyond hospitals. On the street, many people sense something is wrong but do not know what they are seeing or who to call when it happens right in front of them.

A third case enters through hospital corridors.

A 55-year-old woman arrives with long-standing stomach pain, repeated vomiting, and loss of appetite. Her file carries layers of prescriptions, including anxiety medicines taken regularly without relief.

Psychological assessment reveals high anxiety scores.



Therapy here holds a clear role. It supports her in processing painful life events, building coping skills, lowering health risks, and improving daily function.

But therapy neither erases suffering nor denies reality. It changes how life continues alongside pain.

This distinction still confuses many.

Kashmir speaks openly about mental health today. Campaigns appear, conversations feel easier, and public language sounds kinder.

But beneath this surface, care remains fragmented. Roles stay undefined, referral routes remain informal, and support depends on chance encounters rather than clear systems.

Conversation alone brings comfort, but healing depends on structure.

Stigma continues to guide choices silently. Mental hospitals often appear as places of confinement rather than healing. Fear of labels and social consequences keeps many away from care.

Silence feels safer than treatment, while social judgement adds pressure. Anticipated comments from relatives and neighbours hold real power.

Mental illness still meets moral readings rather than medical understanding. Delayed care follows, and outcomes worsen.

Private suffering fills many homes. A student in Kashmir prays daily, understands scripture, and keeps faith close, but

struggles to open a textbook for days. The pressing question shifts toward whom to approach.

These moments reflect distress seeking direction rather than weakness or defiance.

Too often, a listening ear remains absent.

Public behaviour often divides into three groups: some seek help openly, many avoid care entirely, and others seek help in secrecy.

This invisible watching eye deepens fear and keeps suffering hidden.

Mental emergencies remain poorly recognised. Physical crises such as heart attacks prompt swift action. Panic attacks, suicidal thoughts, acute psychosis, and severe withdrawal often pass as drama or odd behaviour. Limited mental health literacy allows crises to grow unchecked.

Public understanding also narrows mental health into a few labels. Sadness turns into depression. Unusual behaviour turns into madness. Repetition turns into obsessive disorder. Complex human experiences flatten into stereotypes. Depression takes centre stage, though it forms only one part of a wide spectrum.

Children who struggle in school need assessment rather than dismissal. Withdrawn children need attention. Children who suppress emotion and accept harm too early need care rather than praise. Young people without work need guidance and support. Adults living with anger need structured help. People receiving cancer care benefit from psy-

chological support alongside medical treatment.

Those living with long-term illnesses need mental health care woven into routine treatment.

Mental health touches behaviour, coping, emotional expression, stress, identity, trauma, and daily function.

Narrow focus hides early signs and delays support until crisis arrives.

Change begins early. Mental health literacy belongs in school curricula alongside lessons on nutrition and biology. Children benefit from learning emotional regulation, early signs of distress, and paths to help. Teachers, who observe young minds daily, stand well placed to support early recognition.

Care in Kashmir remains tilted toward medicine alone. Therapy often appears secondary. In many health systems elsewhere, psychologists serve as the first point of contact. They assess severity, begin therapy when appropriate, and refer to psychiatrists when medication fits.

Such clarity reduces overload and strengthens care. Locally, psychologists remain underused despite their role in assessment and recovery.

Prescription-heavy systems strain psychiatrists and leave patients without full support. Therapy and medication work best together.

Medical practitioners across fields benefit from psychological assessment before long-term psychiatric medicines begin. Balanced care blends therapy, physical activity, daily routine, and social support with medical treatment.

Mind and body share deep connections. Depression, heart disease, metabolic conditions, and hormonal disorders often develop together.

Women living with PCOS face much higher rates of anxiety and depression due to hormonal and metabolic factors alongside social stress. Referrals rarely flow both ways, revealing a wider gap.

Resources exist across Kashmir, but connection between them remains weak. Doctors, psychologists, dietitians, and fitness professionals work side by side rather than together.

This separation fuels repeated tests, heavy medicalization, and prolonged suffering.

Real reform rests in linking existing services through clear referral pathways and shared care models. Seeking help reflects survival and self-preservation.

Mental health finds meaning when conversation meets structure.

The story returns to the 33-year-old woman and her moment of rage.

Her future depends on access to a system that understands, assesses, and supports.

Without such a system, stories repeat. With it, healing gains a real chance.

— The author is associated with the Kashmiri American Society for Healthcare, Medical Education and Research (KASHMER).

ASF ENTERPRISES

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NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in my **Aadhaar Card bearing No:- 8361-1888-0836 has been wrongly entered as Asifa Rasool.** while my correct and actual Name is **Aasiya Rasool.** Now I want the same to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Aasiya Rasool
W/o Mir Irfan
R/o Sheerabad Khore
Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that on my Driving Licence bearing DL No. AR08 20220001468, my father's name has been wrongly recorded as MOHAMMAD RASHEED, whereas his correct name is MOHAMMAD RASHEED MIR.

I intend to get the above-mentioned entry corrected in my Driving Licence records. If anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the ARTO Office, Sopore within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: ABID AHMED
S/o: MOHAMMAD RASHEED MIR
R/o: Sultan Daki, Uri, Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir
PIN Code: 193123

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

I intend to get the above-mentioned entries corrected in my Driving Licence records. If anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the ARTO Office, Sopore within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: GH MOHMA REASHI
S/o: AB GAFFAR REASHI
R/o: Kokothal, Kreeri, Baramulla
Pin Code: 193198

ab

Email id.: eomc-uri@jk.gov.in

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SANITATION SERVICE

Through the medium of this notice, all shopkeepers, Restaurant Owners and other establishments within the limits of Municipal Committee Uri are hereby informed to install twin dustbins in your shops/restaurants for segregation of waste generated in your shop/restaurants. Non-compliance of this penalty/spot fines for non-segregation, littering and non-compliance of SWM Rules 2016. Accordingly, the Twin Compartment Garbage Hooper of Municipal Committee Uri will reach on your shop and collect the segregated waste. If any shop keeper found in violation of SWM Rules by way or found any sort garbage in front of his shop, he will be penalized with heavy fine.

Therefore, all individual households/commercial establishments, offices and hotels etc. are accordingly hereby informed by medium of this notice to approach Municipal Committee Uri for availing the services of sanitation by paying the nominal charges fixed by the Municipality as user charges.

No.: MC/URI/2025-26/1134-36
Dated: 06/02/2026

Executive Officer
Municipal Committee
Uri

Email id.: eomc-uri@jk.gov.in

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR USER CHARGES

Through the medium of this notice, To inform all waste generators (households, shops, commercial establishments, hotels, institutions, etc.) of their mandatory obligation to pay monthly/annual charges for waste, collection, segregation, and disposal. The charges have been fixed as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. The Rate Structure: Fees categorized based on the type and size of the property or establishment (e.g., residential area in square feet, number of hotel beds, type of shop).

Therefore, all individual households/ commercial establishments, offices and hotels etc. are accordingly hereby informed by medium of this notice to approach Municipal Committee Uri for availing the services of sanitation by paying the nominal charges fixed by the Municipality. Failing of which he will be penalized with heavy fine as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

No.: MC/URI/2025-26/1137-39
Dated: 06/02/2026

Executive Officer
Municipal Committee
Uri

Email id.: eomc-uri@jk.gov.in

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR PLASTIC WASTE NOTIFICATIONS

By the virtue of the notice Municipal Committee Uri notified ban on the use, sale and storage of non-biodegradable plastic bags/ plastic products less than 120 microns, in compliance with Plastic Waste Management Rules 2022. The city enforced complete ban on storage, supply, transport, sale or distribution of single use/Throw-away Plastic, Styrofoam and thermocol.

1. The Municipal Committee Uri enforced Ban (monitoring and e-challan) on non-biodegradable plastic bags/single-use plastic products less than 75 microns.

2. The Municipal Committee Uri has issued a notification towards complete ban on storage, supply, transport, sale or distribution of single use plastic.

3. The Municipal Committee Uri notified ban on the use, sale and storage of non-biodegradable plastic bags/ plastic products less than 120 microns, in compliance with Plastic Waste Management Rules 2022 and fine collected.

4. The Municipal Committee Uri has notified ban on the use, sale and storage of non-biodegradable

plastic bags/ plastic products less than 75 microns, in compliance with Plastic Waste Management Rules 2021.

5. The Municipal Committee Uri notified ban on the use, sale and storage of non-biodegradable plastic bags/ plastic products less than 75 microns, in compliance with Plastic Waste Management Rules 2021 and fine collected.

Any kind of violation shall be dealt heavy challans as per the Rules.

No.: MC/URI/2025-26/1140-42
Dated: 06/02/2026

Executive Officer
Municipal Committee
Uri

Email id.: eomc-uri@jk.gov.in

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BULK WASTE MANAGEMENT

Through the medium of this notice, it is hereby notified for the information of the general public that, in accordance with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, all establishments falling under the category of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) within the jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Uri are required to strictly comply with the prescribed waste management norms.

As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, all Bulk Waste Generators are mandatorily required to process their wet (biodegradable) waste at source through appropriate on-site waste processing methods such as composting or bio-methanation, as applicable.

All concerned Bulk Waste Generators are, therefore, directed to ensure immediate compliance with the above instructions. Any failure to comply with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules shall invite penal action as envisaged under the said rules and other applicable municipal regulations.

No.: MC/URI/2025-26/1143-45
Dated: 06/02/2026

Executive Officer
Municipal Committee
Uri

Email id.: eomc-uri@jk.gov.in

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ZERO WASTE

Through the medium of this notice, it is hereby informed to the general public, institutions, event organizers, commercial establishments, and other stakeholders that Municipal Committee Uri is committed to implementing and enforcing Zero Waste practices within its municipal jurisdiction.

Whereas, with a view to promoting sustainable waste management and environmental protection, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Zero Waste practices have been framed and shall be strictly enforced, particularly during public events, functions, gatherings, and in the routine operations of Bulk Waste Generators and other establishments.

All concerned are hereby directed to ensure strict segregation of waste at source, reduction and elimination of single-use plastics, on-site processing of wet (biodegradable) waste, and scientific disposal of dry waste in accordance with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules and Zero Waste guidelines issued from time to time.

Any non-compliance with the above directions shall invite action under the applicable rules and municipal regulations.

No.: MC/URI/2025-26/1146-48
Dated: 06/02/2026

DIPK-NB-3179/25
dated: 06-02-2026

Executive Officer
Municipal Committee
Uri

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Dairy Sector A Key Engine Of Agricultural Economy: Javid Dar

'Milk Output Targeted At 43 Lakh MT By 2030'



SAMBA- Minister for Agriculture Javid Ahmad Dar Friday said that the dairy sector has emerged as one of the most dynamic pillars of the rural economy of Jammu and Kashmir, playing a transformative role in improving the socio-economic condition of small, marginal and landless farmers.

During his visit to the Animal Farm at Bari Brahmana, Samba, the Minister said that the J&K government has identified the dairy sector as a key growth engine of the agricultural economy and a cornerstone for strengthening rural livelihoods. Under the Dairy Development Project of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), the government has adopted a mission-mode approach to enhance the milk productivity and overall production, with the objective of ensuring higher farm incomes, improved profitability and sustainable livelihoods for dairy farmers.

He informed that Jammu and Kashmir currently produces around 30 lakh metric tonnes of milk annually and the government has set an ambitious target to increase this making

to 43 lakh metric tonnes by 2030, thereby bridging the demand-supply gap and positioning the Union Territory as a net milk exporter.

Highlighting a historic milestone, the Minister announced that for the first time ever, the UT government has imported elite breeding bull calves from the United States of America to accelerate genetic upgradation of the bovine population through large-scale Artificial Insemination (AI).

"So far, 35 high genetic merit bull calves have been imported while five more are currently under quarantine in the USA. After completing mandatory quarantine at the Animal Quarantine Station, Bengaluru, 23 bull calves reached Jammu and Kashmir yesterday while the remaining 12 are in transit," he said.

Out of the imported bull calves, 18 have been allotted to the Semen Station, Hakkal (Jammu) and 17 to the Semen Station, Ranbirbagh (Kashmir), significantly strengthening the semen production capacity across both the regions. These bull calves belong to the top one percent of global genetic merit, selected through rigorous scientific evaluation.

CM Pushes For High-Value, Tech-Driven Agri, Rs 1,878 Crore Capex Announced

Budget Bets Big On Digital Farmers, Dairy Boom

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR— Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday announced a capital expenditure allocation of ₹1,878 crore for agriculture and allied sectors, stressing that the Jammu and Kashmir government is focused on transforming farming into a high-value, technology-driven and income-oriented sector.

Presenting the Union Territory Budget in the Assembly, Abdullah said agriculture is undergoing a paradigm shift under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the IFAD-supported J&K Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP).

"Our focus has moved away from subsistence farming towards a climate-resilient, productivity-driven and remunerative agricultural ecosystem," he said.

According to Budget documents, the cultivated area in J&K has increased from 12.71 lakh hectares to 13.50 lakh hectares, while the seed replacement rate has risen from 12 per cent to 22 per cent, improving crop productivity.

The Chief Minister said protected cultivation has been expanded with the establishment of 332 hi-tech greenhouses and 848 polyhouses over nearly 30 hectares, enabling farmers to increase



cropping intensity and mitigate weather-related risks.

Oilseed cultivation has also registered significant growth, with the area expanding from 1.4 lakh hectares to 2.1 lakh hectares, resulting in a doubling of production and reduced dependence on imported edible oils, he said.

Abdullah highlighted digital empowerment of farmers as a key reform area, noting that over eight lakh farmers have been onboarded through Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs), with 1,300 centres currently operational. He said the government aims to achieve universal digital farmer coverage by March 2027 through the Digital Crop Survey. Under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana, more than 2.01 lakh farmers covering over 75,000 hectares were insured during Kharif 2025, providing protection against crop losses, he added.

The Chief Minister said irrigation potential has been created for 4.53 lakh hectares under Command Area Development and Modernisation schemes, with further expansion planned in 2026-27.

Allied sectors such as mushroom cultivation, apiculture and horticulture have also seen growth. Mushroom production has risen to 2,742 metric tonnes, while honey production has crossed 3,895 metric tonnes, supported by the distribution of over one lakh bee colonies.

In horticulture, Abdullah said high-density plantations have been expanded, with fruit production rising to 26.92 lakh metric tonnes in 2024-25. A mega fruit nursery with a capacity of five lakh saplings has been commissioned at RS Pura in Jammu, while elite nurseries are being developed in Udhampur and Anantnag.

FCIK Praises Budget, Calls It Blueprint for Resilient J&K Economy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has hailed the 2026-27 Budget presented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as a visionary and reform-driven blueprint, poised to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a modern, progressive, and economically vibrant region—anchored in resilience and propelled by hope.

FCIK appreciated the Chief Minister's resolve that the soul of Jammu and Kashmir has been forged through testing times, with a government committed to turning obstacles into stepping stones and aspirations into achievements.

The Federation sees this spirit reflected in the Budget's focus on economic revival, inclusive growth, and participatory governance, and welcomed the commitment to building a business-friendly ecosystem that fosters innovation and attracts investment.

FCIK noted the strong macro-economic outlook outlined in the Budget, with GSDP projected at 2,88,422 crore for 2025-26 at 11 percent growth, and sectoral composition of Primary 20%, Secondary 18%, and Tertiary 62%, underscoring the need for production-oriented growth alongside services for balanced

and sustainable development.

The Federation appreciated the continued emphasis on capital expenditure, infrastructure creation, and reform-linked investments, essential for economic capacity building.

While recognizing the importance of fiscal prudence, FCIK emphasized that enhanced Capex—even at the cost of a higher fiscal deficit for a limited period—is vital to build durable economic assets.



FCIK lauded the Budget's strong emphasis on agriculture and allied sectors, including horticulture, dairy, fisheries, apiculture, irrigation, protected cultivation, and digital farmer services.

FCIK, which had long advocated for it, emphasized that the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme—implemented in a challenge mode and comprising 29 key projects—has the potential to strengthen rural livelihoods, enhance productivity, expand value chains, and ce-

ment the primary sector as the backbone of the economy.

The Federation welcomed the proposed amendments to the Industrial Policy aimed at sustaining industrial growth and emphasized that all corrective measures should be closely aligned with stakeholder inputs and suggestions.

FCIK urged that a comprehensive policy—including a revised public procurement framework and measures for the revival of sick industrial units—be finalized and implemented before the start of the new fiscal year.

The decision to grant sick industrial units the same incentives as new units is a progressive step, expected to facilitate rehabilitation, modernization, capacity upgradation, and employment protection. Similarly, the move to allow self-certified regulatory compliances is a necessary reform that should be extended across the entire industrial ecosystem.

However, the Federation expressed disappointment that key measures, including power amnesty on interest and demand charges for outstanding arrears, VAT relief on regulatory compliances, and resolutions for other industrial bottlenecks, were not included in the Budget. FCIK remains hopeful that these critical interventions will be announced alongside the broader policy framework.

RBI Keeps Interest Rates Unchanged After US Trade Deal Boosts Outlook

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI- The Reserve Bank of India kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged on Friday, as expected, as inflation remained at manageable levels, and growth concerns eased following trade agreements with the US and the European Union.

The central bank's six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the repurchase, or repo rate, at 5.25 per cent. The RBI retained its neutral policy stance, signalling rates will stay low for some time.

US President Donald Trump earlier this week announced a cut in tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent from 50 per cent, easing a key pressure point on India's economy and markets. The first tranche of the pact is likely to be finalised by next month, which includes a reduction in US tariffs.

Announcing the decisions of the MPC, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said external headwinds have intensified, but the successful completion of the trade deal with the United States bodes well for the economy.

The RBI has cut rates by a total of 125 basis points since February 2025, marking its most aggressive easing cycle since 2019. It reduced rates by 25 basis points at its previous meeting in December.

While the inflation remains



benign, economic activity remains resilient.

"Amidst heightened geopolitical tensions and elevated uncertainty, the Indian economy is in a good spot with strong growth and low inflation. Inflation remains below the tolerance band, and its outlook continues to be benign," Malhotra said.

"With the signing of a landmark trade deal with the European Union and the US trade agreement in sight, growth momentum is likely to be sustained for a longer period."

The current policy rate is appropriate, the governor said, adding that inflation was benign and future rate moves will depend on growth outlook and inflation.

"Inflation, especially underlying inflation, is low. It's much lower than even our forecast...underlying inflation is very, very benign. So, I expect policy rates should remain at low levels for a long time," he told reporters post MPC announcement.

"Whether they will go down even further, I will leave it for the MPC to decide going forward."

RBI Raises GDP Growth Projection Of Q1, Q2 Of FY27

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI- The Reserve Bank on Friday revised upwards GDP growth forecast for the first quarter of the next fiscal year to 6.9 per cent and 7 per cent for the subsequent three months on the back of trade deals, GST rationalisation, and robust farm output.

In December, the RBI had projected real GDP growth for the June quarter of 2026-27 at 6.7 per cent and 6.8 per cent for the July-September period.

Projections for the full year 2026-27 will be announced in the next monetary policy statement in April after taking into account the new GDP and CPI series with updated base year (2024=100).

"The Indian economy continues on a steadily improving trajectory, with real GDP poised to register significantly higher growth of 7.4 per cent in 2025-26, as compared to the previous year. Amidst global headwinds, private consumption and fixed investment supported growth," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said while unveiling the monetary policy.

Going forward, he said economic activity is expected to hold up well in 2026-27.

Agricultural activity will be supported by healthy reservoir levels, robust rabi sowing, and improvement in crop vegetation conditions.

Further, improving corporate sector performance and



sustained momentum in the informal sector should boost manufacturing activity, he said.

Also, construction sector growth is expected to remain firm and services sector should continue to be resilient, with strengthening domestic demand.

On the demand side, the momentum in private consumption is expected to sustain in 2026-27 while rural demand continues to be steady, the governor said.

The governor said recovery in urban consumption should further strengthen with continued support from GST rationalisation and monetary easing.

"High capacity utilisation, accelerating bank credit, conducive financial conditions, and the government's continued emphasis on infrastructure should give an impetus to investment activity," Malhotra said.

He further said the recently concluded India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) and the prospective India-US trade deal, along with several other trade agreements, will support exports over the medium-term.

Digital Fraud Victims to Get ₹25,000 Compensation: RBI

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI- Amid growing digital fraud, the Reserve Bank on Thursday said that banking customers will receive compensation of up to Rs 25,000 for a fraudulent transaction.

A customer will be paid the compensation even in cases where the customer ends up sharing the one-time password (OTP) with the fraudsters, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra told reporters here.

The money will be paid to the bank customers from the Rs 85,000-crore Depositor Education and Awareness Fund, central bank officials said, making it clear that a customer can get compensation only once in a lifetime and provided that no malafide intent is found.

Even though their overall value is low, two-thirds of

the digital frauds are under Rs 50,000 in amount, the RBI brass said, stressing that a bulk of the fraud-hit people stand to benefit from the facility.

"As long as they are defrauded, whether on their own accord or anyone's accord, no questions asked, Rs 25,000 will be paid. We will compensate them as long as it (the transaction) is unintended and they have lost the money," Malhotra said.

He added that it is important to have customers' "skin in the game", and 15 per cent of the fraud amount will have to be borne by the account holder even if the fraud is under the Rs 25,000 limit. In cases of high-value fraud, the compensation will be capped at Rs 25,000.

A draft of the compensation framework will be issued soon for public consultation, Malhotra said.

Deputy Governor Swami-

nathan J said that the money will be paid out of the DEA Fund, which also includes deposits which are unclaimed for over 10 years.

"It is that particular segment, which unwittingly becomes a victim of such frauds, is what we are trying to cover. So, the financial impact (of compensating) may not be very high," he added.

Separately, Deputy Governor Shirish Murmu said that an awareness campaign asking depositors to reclaim their deposits has helped increase the run rate of the deposits to about Rs 5,000 crore per year now.

Malhotra also announced that the RBI will be coming up with additional safety tools to prevent fraud, such as having lagged credit to beneficiary accounts and also additional authentication to ensure that senior citizens are not duped by unsuspecting people.

RBI Rate Pause Signals End Of Easing Cycle: HDFC Bank Economist

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Reserve Bank of India's decision to keep policy rates unchanged indicates that the rate cut cycle is nearing its end, with 5.25 percent likely to be the terminal rate heading into FY27, according to Sakshi Gupta, Principal Economist at HDFC Bank.

In a brief assessment, Gupta said the RBI appeared comfortable with recent growth momentum and potential gains from newly announced trade deals, a view reflected in the upward revision of GDP growth projections for the first half of FY27. She said this supports expectations of a 20 to 30 basis point upward revision in FY27 growth to around 6.9 percent.

At the same time, she cautioned that inflation risks remain tilted to the upside, with the RBI revising its inflation outlook for H1 FY27. Gupta flagged higher precious and base metal prices, rising input costs and possible weather-related disruptions as key factors that could push inflation estimates higher.

She added that while recent RBI measures are expected to improve system liquidity and support credit transmission, global yield pressures and supply-demand imbalances may keep bond yields elevated in the near term.[KNT]

Stock Markets End Higher; ITC, Banks Lead Recovery

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI- Stock markets closed higher on Friday after the Reserve Bank of India kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged as expected and proposed allowing banks to lend to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) with certain prudential safeguards to deepen the financing pool for the real estate sector.

Helped by fag-end buying, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 266.47 points or 0.32 per cent to settle at 83,580.40 in a volatile session. From the day's low of 82,925.35, the benchmark jumped 655.05 points at the end of trade.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 50.90 points or 0.20 per cent to end at 25,693.70.

The Reserve Bank of India kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged on Friday, as expected, as inflation re-

mained at manageable levels and growth concerns eased following increased government spending in the Budget and reduced tariff pressures after a trade deal with the United States.

The central bank's six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the repurchase or repo rate at 5.25 per cent. RBI retained its neutral policy stance, signalling that it is likely to remain on hold for now.

From the Sensex firms, ITC jumped the most by 5.09 per cent. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid and Bajaj Finserv were among the other major gainers.

Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Adani Ports, Asian Paints, Eternal and HCL Tech were among the major laggards.

Among sectoral indices, BSE FMCG jumped the most by 2.05 per cent, followed by telecommunication (0.91 per cent), power (0.64 per cent), realty (0.63 per cent), energy (0.45 per cent), consumer durables (0.44 per cent) and capital goods (0.41 per cent).

BSE Focused IT tanked 1.71 per cent. IT (1.41 per cent), services (0.87 per cent), PSU Bank (0.50 per cent), and auto (0.26 per cent) also closed lower.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 2,857.46 points or 3.53 per cent, and the Nifty surged 868.25 points or 3.49 per cent.

"To further promote financing to the real estate sector, it is proposed to allow banks to lend to REITs with certain prudential safeguards," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said while unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Zero Infiltration

General G P Singh, and other senior military, police, civil and intelligence officers.

Sources said Shah reviewed the ongoing anti terror operations, the anti infiltration grid and counter drone measures amid intelligence inputs suggesting the presence of terrorists waiting to infiltrate into Indian territory.

"Security forces should ensure that there is zero infiltration from across the border," sources quoted Shah as saying during the meeting.

He also directed the forces to choke the supply lines of terrorists operating in the upper reaches of the Jammu region and intensify anti terror operations to neutralise them.

The meeting assumed significance amid stepped up counter terror operations following nearly a dozen encounters in Kathua, Udhampur and Kishtwar districts over the past two weeks.

In these operations, four Pakistani terrorists were killed, officials said.

Shah reiterated that the central government would provide all necessary resources to achieve the goal of a terror free Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest.

He lauded the security agencies for acting firmly against terrorists and their support networks and for maintaining peace and tranquillity in the Union Territory.

Second Review in a Month

This was the second high level security review meeting chaired by Shah within a month. On January 8, he had chaired a similar meeting in New Delhi and directed security agencies to continue counter terror operations against terror infrastructure and financing in mission mode.

Earlier, the Union Home Secretary had also chaired a security review meeting in Jammu during his visit on January 14 and 15.

After the meeting, Shah interacted with the families of security personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty and handed over appointment letters to the next of kin, sources said.

'Op Sindoor Added

recent operations.

Shah began his two day visit to Jammu by reaching the Border Out Posts Gurnam and Bobiya in the Hiranagar sector along the India Pakistan border.

Addressing BSF personnel, Shah said that whenever the country's borders have faced threats of infiltration, the BSF has stood like an impregnable wall in defence of the nation. He said the bravery displayed during Operation Sindoor has added a golden chapter to the force's six decade long history.

The Home Minister said that BSF's Jammu and Kashmir Frontier destroyed 118 Pakistani posts and three terror launch pads. He said Sub Inspector Mohammad Imtiaz Ahmad and Constable Deepak Chingakhram, who were killed in the line of duty, were awarded the Vir Chakra, calling it a matter of immense pride.

Shah said that during the period, the BSF also received 16 gallantry medals and several commendation certificates. He paid floral tributes to martyrs at the Ajey Prahari memorial and planted a sapling at the Bobiya border outpost.

Later, Shah inaugurated welfare projects worth Rs 7 crore for BSF personnel, including solar water heaters, solar power plants and an officers' mess. He also laid the foundation stone for BSF infrastructure projects worth Rs 242 crore.

Describing BSF personnel as the finest example of discipline and dedication, Shah said the force has demonstrated courage not only along borders but also in challenging areas such as Manipur and Maoist affected regions of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. He also praised the BSF's humanitarian role during natural disasters, particularly floods in Punjab.

The Home Minister said border challenges have evolved over time and many threats are now technology driven, making modernization essential. He said the 61st year of the BSF has been dedicated to modernization and welfare, with the Ministry of Home Affairs working continuously on both fronts.

Shah said the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains committed to the welfare of security personnel and announced that a special welfare scheme for BSF personnel would be introduced soon. He also stressed that it is because of the unwavering duty of BSF personnel that the nation sleeps securely.

He also appreciated the contribution of women personnel in the BSF and later had lunch with the soldiers. The event was attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the Union Home Secretary, Director of the Intelligence Bureau, the Director General of the Border Security Force and other senior officials.

J&K Tables Rs 1.27

towards ways and means advances and overdraft. Excluding these, the net Budget size stands at Rs 1,13,767 crore.

Of the total outlay, Rs 80,640 crore has been earmarked for revenue expenditure and Rs 33,127 crore for capital expenditure. Revenue receipts are projected at Rs 90,018 crore, while capital receipts are estimated at Rs 23,749 crore.

The Union Territory's own revenues, including tax and non-tax sources, are projected at Rs 31,800 crore. Central assistance is estimated at Rs 42,752 crore, along with Rs 13,400 crore under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Deficit, GDP and Growth Outlook

Highlighting fiscal indicators, Omar said the tax to GDP ratio is projected at 6.6 percent in 2026-27, compared to 7.5 percent in 2025-26.

The fiscal deficit for 2026-27 is estimated

at 3.69 percent, marginally higher than 3.63 percent in 2025-26 but significantly lower than the revised estimate of 5.5 percent in 2024-25.

The Gross Domestic Product of Jammu and Kashmir is projected at Rs 3.15 lakh crore in 2026-27, indicating a growth rate of about 9.5 percent, similar to the previous year.

Challenges and Fiscal Constraints

Referring to challenges faced during the past year, Omar said geopolitical factors, the Pahalgam terror attack and floods in parts of Jammu region had adversely impacted economic activity.

"All sectors, including tourism, handicrafts, horticulture and agriculture, were badly affected, leading to job losses and financial distress for families," he said.

Omar noted that own tax and non-tax revenues meet only about 25 percent of the Union Territory's budgetary requirements. He said nearly 60 percent of total expenditure goes towards salaries, pensions and debt servicing.

Welfare Measures Announced

The Budget announces a series of welfare measures, including six free LPG cylinders per year for Antyodaya Anna Yojana households and full fee waivers for economically weaker students from Class 9 to college.

Monthly sponsorship support for orphan children, scholarships for tribal students and free government transport facilities for persons with disabilities have also been announced.

Agriculture and Rural Focus

The government has proposed crop insurance coverage for apple, saffron, mango and litchi crops, expansion of controlled atmosphere storage facilities and promotion of micro and sprinkler irrigation.

Medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation, livestock genetic improvement labs in every district and a push for ODF Plus status in rural areas also form part of the proposals.

Education, Youth and Health Initiatives

In the education sector, the Budget proposes JK e-Pathshala DTH channels for Classes 1 to 12 without internet access, modernisation of anganwadi centres into Bal Vidyalayas and indoor sports facilities in government schools.

The healthcare sector will see expansion of Lal Ded Hospital with IVF and NICU facilities, a new Mother and Child Hospital at GMC Anantnag, Cath Labs in Rajouri, Baramulla and Doda, and emergency hospitals in Uri and Poonch.

Energy, Infrastructure and Governance

The Budget proposes revival of Kathua and Handwara Biotech Parks, solar pumps for farmers, solarisation of government buildings and creation of solar villages in tribal areas.

A full transition to SPARSH with Aadhaar-based Direct Benefit Transfer has been proposed to enhance transparency. Rs 180 crore has been allocated for modernisation of Amarnath Yatra infrastructure.

Describing the Budget as a roadmap for development, Omar urged members of the House to work collectively for the region's growth.

"This Budget is not merely a ledger of figures. It is a fiscal compass charting our path towards a brighter horizon," he said.

Free LPG, Fee

The welfare package includes monthly sponsorship support for orphan children, scholarships for tribal students and free government transport facilities for persons with disabilities.

Omar said the welfare measures were framed to cushion vulnerable groups amid economic pressures, while the government continues to pursue fiscal discipline and long-term growth.

180 Cr For Amarnath

that despite challenges such as the Pahalgam terror attack incident and subsequent floods, Jammu and Kashmir recorded over 1.61 crore tourist visits in 2025, reflecting resilience and sustained confidence in the destination.

"The government proposes to build a sustainable, inclusive and year-round tourism economy, balancing infrastructure development with environmental conservation and community participation," he said.

The chief minister said that the government will focus on developing world-class tourist destinations, strengthening tourism circuits and positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a global tourism brand with financial and technical support from the Union Ministry of Tourism.

He said, "Environmental infrastructure has been prioritised with the sanctioning of a 3.2 MLD sewage treatment plant at Gulmarg and upgradation of the solid waste management plant, while similar measures are planned at Sonamarg to protect fragile ecosystems".

The government is also working on the restoration of heritage sites and shrines through the culture department, he added.

Abdullah said that the government remains committed to ensuring the safety and comfort of pilgrims visiting the Shri Amarnath Ji shrine.

He said more than 200 infrastructure works for the annual pilgrimage were completed during 2025-26, and proposed an outlay of Rs 180 crore during 2026-27 to further modernise pilgrimage infrastructure in partnership with the Border Roads Organisation.

Tourism diversification through winter sports, water sports and adventure tourism is underway, with water sports facilities being developed at Wullar-Manasbal and Bani-Basohli, the chief minister said, adding that sports tourism is also being promoted through events like the Kashmir Marathon and Jammu Marathon.

The second Kashmir Marathon held in 2025, along with a three-day expo, recorded

over 3,000 registrations from 27 states and Union Territories and 11 countries, generating Rs 2.11 crore through sponsorships and Rs 0.20 crore in registration fees, he said.

Abdullah said that the government will organise an international film festival in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation during 2026-27 to promote cultural diversity and stimulate the local economy.

Also, the JK Tourism mobile app has been launched to provide verified real-time information, integrated booking services and AI-based assistance to tourists.

According to the chief minister, the home-stay policy has helped address accommodation shortages, with over 1,600 registered homestays in the Kashmir division and more than 300 in the Jammu division, supported through concessional financial assistance from J&K Bank.

Highlighting initiatives for creating employment, Abdullah said skill development and entrepreneurship remain a core component of the government's strategy, and a dedicated skill mission will be launched to equip the youth with industry-ready technical skills, internships and on-the-job training opportunities.

The tourism and youth affairs sector has been allocated Rs 472 crore under capital expenditure for 2026-27, which is Rs 61 crore higher than the revised allocation for 2025-26, he said.

On culture, the chief minister said the government has prioritised preservation and promotion of heritage assets. Besides, a provision has been made to complete ongoing projects under Phase-I of the Heritage Revival, Restoration and Maintenance Scheme and fast-track projects under subsequent phases.

Abdullah also proposed the restoration of the Mughal-era Nishat Garden in Srinagar, modernisation of the SPS Museum, strengthening of the public library network and establishment of new cultural centres at Bandipora, Shopian, Anantnag, Kishtwar, Udhampur, Poonch and Budgam.

He said the culture department has been allocated Rs 109 crore under capital expenditure for 2026-27.(PTI)

Anti-People &

regularisation policy and ignoring unemployment. "Nearly 24,000 jobs have been outsourced with no written exam or transparent process. This budget is deceptive and disappointing," he said, adding that earlier promises of free electricity and LPG cylinders remain unfulfilled.

People's Conference (PC) chief and Handwara MLA Sajad Lone criticised the government, saying the budget was "drafted by bureaucrats" and lacked political direction.

"The budget is as good or as bad as it was last time. It's a budget by bureaucrats, and there is no political input in it," Lone said, adding that it reflects "repeated gratitude to the Centre" but "no independent policy framework".

He questioned the government's claims of financial limitations, saying, "Are there any restrictions in the budget? There are none," Lone said, accusing the administration of diluting the earlier promise of 12 free LPG cylinders to poor families.

PDP leader and MLA Pulwama Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra termed the budget "hopeless and vague", saying it offers "no healing or hope" to the people.

"There is nothing for the youth, even though 60-65 per cent of our population is young," Parra said, adding that local youth were ignored as "24,000 posts have been outsourced" while "six lakh outside labourers" work in J&K.

He said promises made in the previous budget, including free gas cylinders, remain unfulfilled. "A budget reflects intent, and that intent is missing," he said.

PDP MLA from Budgam Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi also expressed disappointment, saying the budget "failed to relieve the poor" and urged the government to honour previous commitments.

"We are disappointed that the budget failed to bring real relief to J&K's poor. Promises made on the National Law University (NLU) must also be fulfilled," he said.

Adding to the criticism, BJP MLA Shagun Parihar said the budget "once again deceived" the people. "This year too, the budget is a deception and a fraud. This time, too, we did not get solutions for the people. Daily wagers and the Awaam have all been ignored," she said.

BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa likened the budget to "old wine in a new bottle". "Old wine in a new bottle, and the bottle very beautifully designed, but those who hold it in their hands slip away," he remarked while speaking in the House.

Randhawa questioned the government over its unfulfilled promise of free LPG cylinders. "When people didn't get 12 cylinders in one-and-a-half years, who will give six? Not a single word was said about daily wagers, not even a single letter," he said, terming the budget "empty on substance."

BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma said the government's schemes were "good on paper" but lacked clarity and time-bound delivery.

"Government schemes are good, but people lack clarity. The budget appears premature; benefits must be transparent and time-bound," he said, adding that governance should focus on inclusivity rather than labels. "I don't label Kashmiris anti-national," he said.(KNO)

Diesel To Cost

expenditure by leveraging scale, competition and private initiative. Hence, it is proposed to reduce the rebate on HSD by Rs 2 per litre," the Chief Minister said, adding that the move would also encourage a

gradual shift towards cleaner technologies.

He said that even after the reduction in rebate, the price of diesel in Jammu and Kashmir would remain lower than in neighbouring states such as Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

The Chief Minister said the government needs to explore all possible avenues to enhance revenue generation while continuing to strengthen social protection for the poor. He added that the budget focuses on expanding social security for vulnerable sections while improving Jammu and Kashmir's competitiveness through grassroots level reforms.

"This budget strengthens welfare measures and also drives infrastructure development, productivity and economic growth in a fiscally prudent manner," he said.

Mixed Reactions:

with Rs 20 crore, calling them long-standing demands of the business community.

KCCI said the Unity Mall would improve market access for artisans and craftsmen and termed the Self-Certification Scheme for MSMEs, offering a three-year grace period for clearances, a positive step.

The Chamber also appreciated social welfare measures including six free LPG cylinders for Antyodaya Anna Yojana households, full fee waivers for students from Class 9 to 12 in government schools and colleges, enhanced disability pensions benefiting over 1.62 lakh people and free government transport for persons with disabilities.

Support for agriculture and horticulture through crop insurance, new Controlled Atmosphere stores, milk processing plants, irrigation subsidies and Embryo Transfer Technology labs was also welcomed.

However, KCCI expressed concern over the absence of interest subvention or credit support for tourism, trade, transport and MSMEs, especially in the backdrop of the economic slowdown after the April 22 Pahalgam attack. The Chamber also flagged declining exports and lack of clear incentives for handicrafts and handloom sectors.

FCIK calls Budget visionary, flags gaps

The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir described the Budget as a visionary blueprint, praising its focus on economic revival, participatory governance and investment-friendly reforms.

FCIK welcomed the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme, amendments to the Industrial Policy, self-certification for compliance and support for sick industrial units, but raised concerns over unresolved issues such as power amnesty, VAT relief and industrial bottlenecks.

Trade bodies see balanced approach

Rahul Sahai, Chairman of the Jammu Business Council of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, termed the Budget balanced and progressive, citing GST-related relief, revival of SIC units, assurance of 24x7 power till 2027-28 and new projects like the Jagti water park and Jammu Zoo.

KTMF President Mohammed Yaseen Khan said most pre-Budget discussions with the Chief Minister were reflected in the proposals, adding that while some measures could have been stronger, the Budget benefits the common people.

Temporary employees raise concerns

EJAC General Secretary Sajad Parray expressed disappointment over the lack of a clear timeline or roadmap for regularisation of temporary employees. He said delays in committee reports, gaps in minimum wage implementation and lack of clarity on inclusion criteria have prolonged uncertainty for nearly 4.5 lakh temporary workers.

ICC highlights fiscal stability

The Indian Chamber of Commerce, Jammu Chapter, welcomed the Budget as progressive and fiscally stable despite funding constraints. Rahul Sahai said the inclusion of Jammu and Kashmir under the SASCI scheme and continued focus on capital expenditure, infrastructure and governance reforms would support long-term growth.

Stakeholders, however, stressed that while the Budget addresses several long-pending demands and welfare measures, focused economic relief, export promotion, tourism revival and clarity on employee regularisation remain crucial for sustained growth and employment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Can Right To Be

reports related to the person, while upholding the injunction passed by the trial court in a defamation suit.

The top court issued notice to the person, who has sought direction to be forgotten, and other media organisations and sought their responses by March 16.

The top court also said that the December 18 Delhi High Court order will not be treated as precedent but refused to stay the defamation proceedings.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for the media house which had challenged the high court's direction, said the right to be forgotten cannot be applied to online news.

Datar, assisted by advocates Garima Bajaj and Chanan Parwani, urged the court to decide the issue as several high courts like Madras, Rajasthan and Punjab and Haryana have given their opinion on the issue.

Datar submitted that the 2017 KS Puttaswamy case popularly called privacy judgement has said that right to privacy does not include right to erase history.

The bench asked Datar what would happen if the media houses repeat the same news again and again and in conflict with right under Article 19 (1)(a) or Article 21 of the Constitution will prevail.

Datar responded that even in newspapers, a news report, once printed, remains and in case of conflict "right to know will prevail. The news cannot be erased".

He added that even after a person is discharged by the trial court and the discharge

order is challenged in the high court, the case is very much alive.

Justice Nagarathna then said how can we reconcile with the right to be forgotten as one cannot be forgotten if it is in news.

Datar said although they have complied with the order and taken down the news item regarding the person in question, any news item online after a certain period goes into the archive.

"We have complied with the directions of the court and taken down the news item. We have even covered the discharge of the person in the criminal case. The problem is if we remove that person's name from a news item, the entire story about the incident also goes," the senior counsel said.

Justice Bhuyan intervened and said, "Nowadays a wall of privacy is being created to deny citizens information. It is not good for democracy."

Datar, while requesting the court to lay down the proposition of law, said that the high court has expanded the scope of the "right to be forgotten" and allowed it to be used as a tool to erase history.

He said several high courts are passing the order while treating the Delhi High Court's order as precedent and they are getting a number of petitions seeking removal of their names from the news item.

He sought stay of the order and said the person wanted the news item to be taken down globally.

"If a court makes adverse remarks. This is news for the media. Now can those reports be taken down simply because the remarks are later set aside?" Datar said, urging the court to clearly define what the right to be forgotten is, and how it can be reconciled with the press freedom.

The counsel appearing for online legal portal 'Indian Kanooon', which was also directed to remove court orders and content by the high court, supported the challenge and flagged the serious implications of directing takedown of judicial records themselves.

Justice Nagarathna said, "This a new age. Now, people will like to be forgotten in the age of social media. There are several defamatory contents being made online. Interesting issue, we will look into it."

Several leading media houses of the country have been made party in the petition.

On July 24, 2024, the top court said removing judgements from public domain by court orders under the right to be forgotten after the acquittal of an accused in criminal cases will have "very serious ramifications".

It had agreed to examine the knotty question of law as to whether an accused, after being absolved in a criminal case, can seek removal of the judgement from the public domain, including digital platforms, in exercise of their right to be forgotten.

The issue has been pending before the apex court.

Load Verification

(PDD) in a written reply to a question raised by Congress MLA Gulam Ahmad Mir during the ongoing Budget Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

The government informed the House that there has been no change, hike or revision in electricity tariffs for the past three years, except for Power Intensive Units (PIUs).

"There is no tariff escalation at present," the minister in charge of the Power Development Department said, adding that domestic consumers have not been affected by any tariff revision.

The government said instructions were issued to power distribution companies (DISCOMs) in December 2025 to constitute special teams for verification of existing load agreements in non-metered areas.

The exercise is being carried out as part of compliance under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to improve billing efficiency, revenue realisation and reduce losses in the power sector.

"DISCOMs are conducting routine load surveys or inspections in non-metered areas. Inspection has been a regular feature of the department," the reply said.

"Videography-Based Checks"

To ensure transparency, inspection teams are using mobile phone videography to document actual electricity usage during verification, replacing the earlier practice of seizing electrical appliances.

The government clarified that load agreements are revised only when a discrepancy is found between the sanctioned load and the actual connected load during physical verification.

"Evidence-based load revision is carried out only where the agreed load and actual usage are found at variance," it said.

Addressing concerns over increased electricity bills, the government said any rise in bills following the verification drive would be due to correction of load agreements to reflect actual usage, and not because of any change in tariff slabs or policy.

"Billing is an incidental outcome of enforcement of load norms and not a separate policy decision," the reply said.

The government said safeguards have been put in place to prevent arbitrary action against genuine consumers. Load enhancement is carried out strictly on the basis of physical verification supported by video evidence.

Consumers can raise grievances through the JK Samadhan portal or approach DISCOM authorities at different levels, from the subdivision to the managing director, it added.

The government clarified that the load verification exercise falls within the operational mandate of DISCOMs and does not constitute a tariff revision. Therefore, it has not been placed before the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for approval.

The drive, it said, is part of ongoing efforts to modernise the power distribution system, improve revenue collection and curb losses.

Sooryavanshi Blitz Seals India's Sixth U-19 Title

Press Trust of India

HARARE: Cricket's latest wunderkind Vaibhav Sooryavanshi played arguably the most breathtaking knock in the history of U-19 World Cup to fire India to a record-extending sixth title with a 100-run drubbing of England in the summit clash here Friday.

Sooryavanshi's 80-ball 175, which comprised a record 15 sixes and as many fours, propelled India to an imposing 411 for 9 after England opted to bowl first.

Bruised and battered following Sooryavanshi's brutal onslaught, England's innings ended at 311 in 40.2 overs after being set an improbable target of 412 against a well-rounded bowling attack.

Caleb Falconer top-scored for England with a scintillating 67-ball 115, leaving a lasting impression on the biggest stage while helping his side reduce the margin of defeat.

This was after the 14-year-old Sooryavanshi produced a knock for the ages and raced to the three-figure mark in a mere 55 balls to become the second fastest centurion in this competition.

The triumph, which ensured India's continued dominance in the age-group showpiece, could be attributed to a robust domestic structure, vast talent pool, exposure to advanced coaching, high-quality preparation, and passion for the game among the country's youth.

India last won the tournament in 2022.

Once India crossed 400 in the final, they were the



overwhelming favourites to emerge victorious, and that is exactly how the script panned out, with the bowlers performing as a collective outfit.

To some extent, the achievement bore resemblance to the exploits of world-class Indian U-19 teams of the past that featured the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, but this side led by Ayush Mhatre has carved a niche of its own, especially in terms of sheer ruthlessness, and no one exemplifies that better than that raging force called Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

Sooryavanshi's knock is the record for the best individual score in a U-19 World Cup final and is also the highest team total in the summit showdown of the tournament.

The opener exploded when it mattered the most, reaching his fifty in just 32 balls and continued in the same vein to torment the English bowlers with his wide range of strokes. His second fifty came off just 23 balls.

As many as 150 off his 175 runs came off bound-

aries thanks to his 15 sixes and as many fours during a knock in which he literally toyed with the opposition attack and turned the Harare Sports Club into his playground.

He now holds the record for most sixes in a Youth ODI innings, surpassing his own 14 maximums against UAE at ICCA Dubai in December.

Sooryavanshi now also has the fastest 150 (off 71 balls) in U-19 cricket, bettering the 98 balls taken by England's Ben Mayes against Scotland at the same venue earlier in the competition.

To put things into perspective, Vedant Trivedi saw Sooryavanshi celebrate both his 100 and 150 while facing only four balls between the two landmarks.

Such was Sooryavanshi's onslaught that India's run rate was around 10 at the halfway mark and the projected total was 500 at that stage of the game.

However, the boy from Bihar's Samastipur, after leaving the cricket world awestruck in little less than two hours, got out in the 26th over while trying

Late Entrants Scotland Out to Prove a Point Against West Indies

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Scotland will look to show their last-minute entry into the T20 World Cup was no fluke when they open their campaign against two-time champions West Indies here on Saturday, turning an unexpected opportunity into a chance to rattle bigger rivals.

Following negotiations with the Bangladesh Cricket Board for close to a month, the ICC were eventually forced to replace Bangladesh with Scotland, who thus made a dramatic entry to the global showpiece barely two weeks



before the start.

Bangladesh had four group matches scheduled in India, including three in Kolkata, but the BCB remained adamant about not travelling, citing "security concerns".

It all began after the BCCI on January 3 instructed Kolkata Knight Riders to release Mustafizur Rahman from their IPL 2026 squad amid deteriorating relations between India and Bangladesh.

All hell broke loose a day later as the BCB informed the ICC that the Bangladesh team would not travel for its matches to India and remained adamant, opening the door for Scotland based on their ranking.

But the late entrants Scotland, who came fourth in the European Qualifier, behind Netherlands, Italy and Jersey, insisted they are not merely stand-ins.

"We're very sympathetic towards Bangladesh players. But we still

2022-23 T20 World Cup in Australia with Watt claiming 3/12 and have beaten them twice across formats, including a seven-wicket ODI win at the 2023 World Cup Qualifier.

"I don't think teams will take us lightly. We've caused a few upsets in the past. We had a really good start against England in the last World Cup game that was sadly rained off. I don't think teams will be taking us lightly at all."

Despite minimal preparation time, the belief within the squad is strong, particularly among the younger players suddenly thrust onto the global stage.

"We got a lot of youngsters in the team at the moment and how more excited can they be. Ten days ago they were sitting and doing nothing, now they're here in India playing in a World Cup, it's absolutely amazing for them, we're all so excited to be here and ready to go."

Pakistan's India Game Boycott Not Our Concern: Max O'Dowd



Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: The "perceived" pressure on Pakistan after deciding to boycott the game against India is of no concern to the Netherlands opener Max O'Dowd, who says his team is firmly focussed on winning its T20 World Cup opener against Salman Ali Agha's men here on Saturday.

With Pakistan boycotting their league game against India as a show of solidarity for the ousted Bangladesh, they would have to win all their remaining three games starting with the one against the Dutchmen in order to qualify for the Super Eights.

Asked if Pakistan would be under huge pressure due to the impending pull-out, O'Dowd replied: "Look, to be honest, I don't have much to say about Pakistan boycotting against India, that's completely out of our control. We just kind of focus on what we're doing, what we need to do tomorrow, which is to try and beat Pakistan."

"We have got three (vs USA, Namibia and India) very important games coming up after that, so we just have to play the game that's in front of us and everything else will unfold."

O'Dowd, who has played 87 T20I games and has a strike-rate of 122 with a century and 16 fifties, didn't want to disclose his team's strategy while hinting that there will be plans in place for individuals in the opposition.

"I'm not going to come out here the day before a game and tell you what we're going to exploit, there's definitely areas that we speak about, we have our analysis meetings and there's certain things with certain guys and that's what we'll try and exploit," he said.

"But then again, you've got to understand, they're very good players and sometimes plans work, sometimes they don't, but you have to be as prepared as you can, which we feel we are."

Pakistan have four different kind of spinners -- left-arm orthodox Mohammed Nawaz, right-arm leg-break Abrar Ahmed, off-spinner Saim Ayub and the surprise package -- Usman Tariq, who bowls side-arm off-spin.

"Of course, they've got high quality spinners, thankfully we've spent the last month and a half working very hard on that end and facing spin in these conditions and like I said, guys have upskilled and we've done our homework on a lot of their spin bowlers," said O'Dowd, who along with the squad prepared at Chennai Super Kings Academy in Chennai before the start of the tournament.

"For us, it's going to be tough of course, just like any other team that we come up against because Pakistan have got a great spinning group, but we feel confident that we can play our style and be successful."

MP Pacer Sen Blows Away J&K Batting

Press Trust of India

INDORE: Madhya Pradesh pace-bowling stalwart Kuldeep Sen registered his fourth career five-wicket haul as the former champions dismissed Jammu & Kashmir for a paltry 194 on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal here on Friday.

The 29-year-old former India ODI player returned figures of 5 for 66, ripping through the top order, after which left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya (3/26) strangled the middle order as Jammu & Kashmir failed to recover and were dismissed in just 67 overs.

At stumps, Madhya Pradesh had wiped out 28 runs from the J&K total without losing a wicket, with Harsh Gawli (8 not out) and Yash Dubey (14) at the crease.

Madhya Pradesh, the 2021-22 champions, struck early as Sen removed opener Yawer Hassan (13) and one-down Shubham Pundir (1) in suc-



cessive overs, leaving Jammu & Kashmir reeling at 30 for 2.

However, Shubham Khajuria (60 off 140 balls) played a responsible knock to steady the innings, guiding them past the 100-run mark, even as the runs came at a snail's pace, with J&K reach-

ing the landmark only in the 45th over.

But once Khajuria departed after a 79-run third-wicket stand with skipper Paras Dogra (33 off 91 balls), things quickly went downhill for J&K as they slid to 136 for 8 and were eventually bundled out for a sub-200 total.

Email id: - eomc-uri@jk.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SANITATION SERVICE

Through the medium of this notice, all shopkeepers, Restaurant Owners and other establishments within the limits of Municipal Committee Uri are hereby informed to install twin dustbins in your shops/ restaurants for segregation of waste generated in your shop/restaurants. Non-compliance of this penalty /spot fines for non-segregation, littering and non-compliance of SWM Rules 2016? Accordingly, The Twin Compartment Garbage Hooper of Municipal Committee Uri will reach on your shop and collect the segregated waste. If any shop keeper found in violation of SWM Rules by way of found any sort garbage in front of his shop, he will be penalized with heavy fine.

Therefore, all individual households/commercial establishments, offices and hotels etc. are accordingly hereby informed by medium of this notice to approach Municipal Committee Uri for availing the services of sanitation by paying the nominal charges fixed by the Municipality as user charges.

No:- MC/URI/2025-26/1134-36

Dated: - 06/02/2026

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR USER CHARGES

Through the medium of this notice, To inform all waste generators (households, shops, commercial establishments, hotels, institutions, etc.) of their mandatory obligation to pay monthly/annual charges for waste, collection, segregation, and disposal. The charges have been fixed as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. The Rate Structure: Fees categorized based on the type and size of the property or establishment (e.g., residential area in square feet, number of hotel beds, type of shop).

Therefore, all individual households/commercial establishments, offices and hotels etc. are accordingly hereby informed by medium of this notice to approach Municipal Committee Uri for availing the services of sanitation by paying the nominal charges fixed by the Municipality. Failing of which he will be penalized with heavy fine as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

No:- MC/URI/2025-26/1137-39

Dated: - 06/02/2026

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR PLASTIC WASTE NOTIFICATIONS

By the virtue of the notice Municipal Committee Uri notified ban on the use, sale and storage of non-biodegradable plastic bags/ plastic products less than 120 microns, in compliance with Plastic Waste Management Rules 2022. The city enforced complete ban on storage, supply, transport, sale or distribution of single use/Throw-away Plastic, Styrofoam and thermocol?

- The Municipal Committee Uri enforced Ban (monitoring and e-challan) on non-biodegradable plastic bags/single-use plastic products less than 75 microns?
- The Municipal Committee Uri has issued a notification towards complete ban on storage, supply, transport, sale or distribution of single use plastic?
- The Municipal Committee Uri notified ban on the use, sale and storage of non-biodegradable plastic bags/ plastic products less than 120 microns, in compliance with Plastic Waste Management Rules 2022 and fine collected.
- The Municipal Committee Uri has notified ban on the use, sale and storage of non-biodegradable plastic bags/ plastic products less than 75 microns, in compliance with Plastic Waste Management Rules 2021.
- The Municipal Committee Uri notified ban on the use, sale and storage of non-biodegradable plastic bags/ plastic products less than 75 microns, in compliance with Plastic Waste Management Rules 2021 and fine collected.

Any kind of violation shall be acted heavy challans as per the Rules.

No:- MC/URI/2025-26/1140-42

Dated: - 06/02/2026

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BULK WASTE MANAGEMENT

Through the medium of this notice, It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that, in accordance with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, all establishments falling under the category of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) within the jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Uri are required to strictly comply with the prescribed waste management norms.

As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, all Bulk Waste Generators are mandatorily required to process their wet (biodegradable) waste at source through appropriate on-site waste processing methods such as composting or bio-methanation, as applicable.

All concerned Bulk Waste Generators are, therefore, directed to ensure immediate compliance with the above instructions. Any failure to comply with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules shall invite penal action as envisaged under the said rules and other applicable municipal regulations.

No:- MC/URI/2025-26/1143-45

Dated: - 06-02-2026

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ZERO WASTE

Through the medium of this notice, it is hereby informed to the general public, institutions, event organizers, commercial establishments, and other stakeholders that Municipal Committee Uri is committed to implementing and enforcing Zero Waste practices within its municipal jurisdiction.

Whereas, with a view to promoting sustainable waste management and environmental protection, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Zero Waste practices have been framed and shall be strictly enforced, particularly during public events, functions, gatherings, and in the routine operations of Bulk Waste Generators and other establishments.

All concerned are hereby directed to ensure strict segregation of waste at source, reduction and elimination of single-use plastics, on-site processing of wet (biodegradable) waste, and scientific disposal of dry waste in accordance with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules and Zero Waste guidelines issued from time to time.

Any non-compliance with the above directions shall invite action under the applicable rules and municipal regulations.

No:- MC/URI/2025-26/146-48

Dated: - 06-02-2026

DIPK-NB-3179-25

DT: 06/02/2026

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI



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For more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BGI-O-JK-004/18-12-2025

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