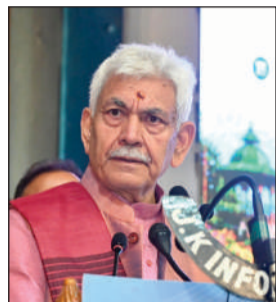


J&K Leads Nation In E-Service Delivery: LG

Says Over 98% Of J&K Panchayats Linked To Common Service Centre Network

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a national leader in digital governance and public service delivery, attributing the transformation to a people-centric approach and the strengthening of Panchayati Raj institutions. Addressing the "Seva Se Samridhhi: Panchayat-led Service Delivery" regional workshop organised by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the J&K Administration in Srinagar, Sinha said the Union Territory



had witnessed a major governance transformation over the past few years. "In 2020, we set out to build a J&K where government reaches the citizen's doorstep. With a 'People First' approach, we revolutionized public

service delivery. From just 35 online services in 2020 to more than 1,100 by 2023, the UT topped the national e-service delivery rankings," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said Panchayati Raj institutions were empowered to play a central role in governance through initiatives such as Block Diwas and Back to Village, which helped ensure that services reached people at the grassroots level and local needs shaped policy decisions.

Sinha said the administration had placed citizens' aspirations at the centre of governance | [More on P6](#)



THOUSANDS JOINED THE TRADITIONAL 7TH MUHARRAM ALAM SAHRIF procession in Srinagar's Old City, commemorating the sacrifices of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions in Karbala. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Govt Clears 8th Muharram Procession Sets Tight 2.5-Hour Schedule

Observer News Service

Srinagar, June 23: The Srinagar district administration on Monday granted permission for the traditional 8th Muharram procession to be taken out on June 24 along its historic route from Guru Bazar to Dalgate, but imposed a strict timeline | [More on P6](#)

LG Reviews Muharram Arrangements

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the observance of Muharram across | [More on P6](#)

Op Sindoor, Border Preparedness Reviewed By Parl Panel In J&K

Committee Meets LG, CM In Sgr

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Security officials on Tuesday briefed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs on measures taken to strengthen India's borders following Operation Sindoor and outlined future preparedness plans during the panel's ongoing visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

The committee, chaired by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, is on a four-day study tour of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to review strategic border security and foreign policy issues.

Committee member Rajiv Shukla said the interaction with army and security officials focused on border protection and the performance of the armed forces during Operation Sindoor.

"Today, we had a very fruitful | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly Set to Go Paperless

325 Tablets Being Procured Under NeVA Project

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly is set to go paperless, with 325 high-end tablets being purchased for legislators as well as for installation inside the House.

As per details, the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI), which handles IT procurement and services for the government, has floated tenders for the purchase of tablets and other IT equipment for the J&K Assembly under the Government of India's ambitious National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project.

According to details, 95 tablets | [More on P6](#)

AMARNATH YATRA

DGP Orders Intensified Anti-Terror Ops

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday directed security agencies to strengthen the security grid and intensify anti-terror operations across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the peaceful conduct of the annual Amarnath Yatra beginning July 3.

Chairing a high-level security review meeting at the Police Control Room (PCR) in Srinagar, the DGP reviewed security and logistical arrangements for the pilgrimage with senior officers of the Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), intelligence agencies and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The meeting was | [More on P6](#)

RESERVATION PROPOSAL

Cabinet Clears Response To MHA Queries

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet on Tuesday approved its response to queries raised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) regarding the government's proposed changes to the reservation policy, paving the way for the matter to be taken up further by the Centre.

Official sources said that the Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, discussed and cleared a draft reply prepared by the Social Welfare Department in consultation with the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The response addresses concerns | [More on P6](#)



OUR CENSUS OUR DEVELOPMENT





Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

Houselisting & Housing Census

1st to 30th June

What will you be asked?



Information of house:

- Building number
- Materials of the floor, walls & ceiling
- Ascertain use of the house- (Residential/Non-residential)
- Condition of the house

Others:

- Main cereal consumed
- Mobile number (Only for Census communication)

Basic information about the family:

- Number of family members
- Name, sex and caste of the head of the family (SC/ST or others)
- Ownership status of the house
- Number of rooms
- Number of married couples living in the house

Amenities:

- Source of drinking water
- Availability of drinking water source
- Main source of lighting
- Access to latrine
- Type of latrine
- Waste water outlet
- Bathroom facilities
- Kitchen and LPG/PNG connection
- Main fuel used for cooking

Assets:

- Radio/Transistor
- Television
- Access to internet Computer/Laptop
- Mobile phone /Telephone
- Two-wheeler/ Four-wheeler

» This stage lays the foundation for population enumeration

» All your information will remain completely confidential and secure

 **TOLL FREE - 1855**

Let us fulfill our responsibility and participate in the Census



CensusIndia2027

DIPK-NB-849/26 Dated: 23.06.2026



RGCB Scientists Uncover New Mechanism Behind Malaria Parasite's Drug Resistance

Press Trust Of India

In a major scientific breakthrough, researchers at the BRIC-RGCB here have discovered a previously unknown mechanism by which malaria parasites evade the effects of artemisinin, the world's most widely used antimalarial drug. The findings, published as an Editor's Choice article in 'The Journal of Infectious Diseases' by Christeen Davis and colleagues, show that young red blood cells, known as reticulocytes, create a protective biochemical environment that helps malaria parasites withstand drug-induced stress. The study challenges the prevailing view that artemisinin resistance is driven primarily by genetic changes within the parasite. Instead, it demonstrates that host cells themselves can significantly influence treatment outcomes, according to a statement issued here on Wednesday. The research at Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, an institution under the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), was carried out in collaboration with scientists from IISER Thiruvananthapuram, Cosmopolitan Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram, and CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune. "Our findings demonstrate that the biology of the host cell can significantly influence how malaria parasites respond to treatment," said Dr Rajesh Chandramohanadas, senior author of the study and Principal Investigator at RGCB.



"The parasite is not acting alone. It exploits the natural antioxidant defences present in young blood cells to protect itself from drug-induced stress," he said. The study is particularly relevant for children, anaemic patients, and individuals recovering from blood loss or infection, all of whom often have elevated levels of reticulocytes in circulation. Such conditions may create a more favourable environment for parasite survival during treatment, it said. Malaria parasites live and multiply inside human red blood cells. While previous research has largely focused on genetic changes within the parasite that lead to drug resistance, the new study shows that host cells

can also play a major role in determining treatment outcomes, the study said. Using highly purified human reticulocytes and advanced analyses, the RGCB team found that these immature blood cells contain abundant nutrients, antioxidants, and protective enzymes. When malaria parasites infect reticulocytes, they gain access to this protective environment, allowing them to grow faster and better tolerate oxidative damage caused by artemisinin treatment, the study said. The team observed that parasites developing inside reticulocytes were significantly less susceptible to artemisinin and related compounds compared with those growing in mature

red blood cells. Importantly, this protective effect disappeared when the parasites were transferred back into mature cells, demonstrating that the phenomenon is driven by the host cell environment rather than permanent genetic changes in the parasite. Dr Beena Pillai, Director, BRIC-RGCB, said, "The significant findings will help explain why some malaria infections show delayed clearance or persistence despite treatment, even when known genetic markers of drug resistance are absent." Beyond malaria, the work highlights a broader principle in infectious disease biology: the success of a pathogen can depend not only on its own genetic makeup but also on the physiological state of the host cells it infects. The researchers believe that future malaria therapies may benefit from targeting host-parasite interactions in addition to the parasite itself. Understanding how parasites exploit antioxidant pathways within reticulocytes could open new avenues for improving the effectiveness of existing antimalarial drugs and reducing treatment failures. Malaria continues to affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide and remains a major public health challenge in many tropical countries. By revealing how host blood cells influence parasite survival, this discovery provides an important new perspective on the disease and its treatment, the statement added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Gh. Mohd Malik S/o Mohd Sultan Malik R/o Chak Arsalan Khan Bandipora is applying for DEE Class Government Contractor Card at the Office of the Chief Engineer JKPDC Bemina. Anybody having any objection may contact above Office within seven days from the date of this advertisement after which no objection will be entertained.

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Sameer Ahmad Dar S/o: Abdul Majeed Dar R/o: Satrina Kangan Ganderbal have applied for upgradation of my contractor card. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

ab

NOTICE

I, Syed Naziya, R/o Shalimar, Srinagar, do hereby inform the general public that I had opened a Savings Account in Jammu & Kashmir bank Habbak, branch bearing account numbers 0753040210000268, under the name Syed Naziya Zehra Moosvi I now intend to change my name from "Syed Naziya Zehra Moosvi" to "Syed Naziya" in the records of the said bank. If any person has any objection to this change, he/she may approach the concerned bank branch or the relevant authority within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained, and the change shall be deemed final.

Syed Naziya
W/o Tasaduq Hussain Wadoo
Shalimar, Srinagar

media too add

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of The Naib-Tehsildar Palhallan Executive Magistrate 1st Class.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Block Development Officer (BDO) Pattan has forwarded the case file for issuance of Birth certificate in favour of Aaliya Ahad D/o Abdul Ahad Bhat R/o Nillah with Date of Birth 001-01-2013. Objections, if any, regarding the details furnished by the applicant may be submitted in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar, Palhallan within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, the case shall be processed for issuance of the Birth certificate as per rules in vogue.

Naib-Tehsildar NAIB TEHSILDAR
Palhallan

fko_R

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Riyaz Ahmad Yattoo Father of Saliha Riyaz Residing at Yadipora Palhallan hereby announce that my daughter's name is incorrectly recorded in her Aadhar as Soliya Riyaz under Aadhar no. 5835-7261-8464. Now she want to correct the same in her Aadhar Card. The correct Name is Saliha Riyaz any person having an objection to these corrections may contact the Aadhar authorities within 7 days.

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Miss Aasiya Hassan, D/o Syed Ghulam Hassan, R/o Zahid Bagh Gund Dalwash, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, wish to inform the general public that my name and my father's name have been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. XXXX XXXX 3419 as "Syed Asiya Hassan Shah Syed Bukhari" D/o "Ghulam Hassan Shah Syed Bukhari". My correct name and father's name are "Aasiya Hassan" D/o "Syed Ghulam Hassan" as per my School Certificate and other official records. I have applied for correction of the said entries in my Aadhaar records. If any person has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may submit the same to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, the correction process shall be deemed to have no objection from any quarter.

Sd/-
Aasiya Hassan
D/o Syed Ghulam Hassan
R/o Zahid Bagh Gund Dalwash,
Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla

bmj

انٹرنیٹ گورنگرام با اہلاس نذیر احمد لون نائب تحصیلدار گورنگرام اشتراک برآمدگان کی ہر خاص و عام نسبت اجرائی ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر کے نسبت دفتر ہذا میں ایک شل فاروق احمد وانی ولد غلام محمد وانی سا کہ موضوع کی پورہ تحصیل کار باہم مطلع بارہموسل کے طرف سے پیش ہوئی ہے جس میں متعلقہ پولیس کے اجراء کردہ ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ کے مطابق سائل کا برادر محمد شرف وانی ولد غلام محمد وانی مورخہ 28-04-2001 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی اپنے کنبے کے تمام اخراجات ادا کرتا تھا۔ متوفی کے وارثانہ متوفی پر ہی ڈیپنڈنٹ تھے۔ کیونکہ تفصیل مندرجہ ذیل ہے
فاروق احمد وانی برادر متوفی 52 سال مزوری
غلام حسن وانی 47 سال --
ساجد بیگم والدہ 68 سال عمر رسیدہ
شیمس بانو بیٹی
اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد نہیں ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد شہرہ اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت ہذا کو دفتری ادوات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER
POSHAN PROJECT NARVAW
LIMITED TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT OF SNP/SAG FOOD ITEMS.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from registered Cooperative Societies/Cooperative Super Bazaars/Consumer Cooperative Stores and other Cooperative Institutions registered under the Jammu & Kashmir Cooperative Societies Acts and engaged in supply of food commodities for supply of food items required under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) and Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) under POSHAN Project Narvaw for the financial year 2026-2027. The food items and specifications shall be as per the approved Recipe Committee/Formulated Menu, enclosed as Annexure-A. This notice is being published and circulated for ensuring maximum participation, transparency and fairness in the procurement process. Interested Cooperative Societies/Institutions shall submit their sealed rate quotations indicating item-wise rates per unit (Kg/Litre, as applicable) along with self-attested copies of the following documents:
Registration Certificate.
PAN Card.
GST Registration Certificate, if applicable.
Latest Renewal Certificate, wherever applicable.
Declaration regarding capacity to ensure uninterrupted supply of food items as and when required by the department.
Any other document supporting eligibility and supply capability. Any quotation accompanied by false, misleading or incomplete information/documents shall be liable to rejection.
The quotations shall be submitted in a sealed envelope superscribed "Rate Quotation for Supply of SNP/SAG Food Items under POSHAN Project Narvaw" and shall reach the office of the undersigned within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice. The quotations shall be opened on 04/07/2026 at 10:00 AM in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the participating representatives who may wish to attend.
The selection shall be made on the basis of the lowest evaluated aggregate rate of the approved SNP/SAG food basket, subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions and reasonableness of rates. Rates found unreasonable with reference to prevailing market rates may be rejected.
The approved rates shall remain valid up to 31.03.2027 or till revision/modification of the approved menu, procurement policy, Government instructions, financial rules, treasury procedures or directions issued by the competent authority, whichever is earlier.

The rate contract/supply arrangement shall be subject to the prevailing Government instructions, procurement policies, financial rules, treasury procedures, directions of competent authorities and orders of competent Courts, as applicable from time to time. Actual quantities to be procured shall depend upon beneficiary strength, approved menu and availability of funds from time to time. The rate contract and placement of supply orders shall be subject to availability of funds, admissibility of expenditure, fulfillment of all codal formalities and compliance with applicable financial and treasury procedures/instructions in force from time to time. The department shall not be liable for any procurement or supply in the event of non-release of funds, non-admissibility of expenditure, change in procurement policy, modification of Government instructions, judicial directions, or any other administrative or financial restrictions imposed by the competent authority. The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations, wholly or partly, and to cancel, modify or curtail the rate contract at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Child Development Project Officer
POSHAN Project Narvaw.

No: CDPO/POSHAN/2026/577-92
DIPK-2432/26
Dated: 23-06-2026.

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir
Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K],
Ph.0194-24 77949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops, Desktops,
Printers, Photocopiers, Faxes, CCTV Cameras,
Security System and Refilling of all Types
of Cartridges, Toners
Registered
Government
order Suppliers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Pesticide licence under name and style Malik Pesticides situated at Mattipora Pattan. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of Plant Protection officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mohammad Rafiq Malik
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Malik
R/o Mattipora Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Seed Licene Mattipora Pattan. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mohammad Rafiq Malik
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Malik
R/o Mattipora Pattan

**Office of the Executive Engineer
(Mechanical), PW(R&B), Central Kashmir**
Engineering Complex (PMGSY Building), Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir-190008

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:- Installation of Passenger Lift at Womens College Zakura
Reference:- eNIT No:- R&B/MDCK/NIT/03 of 2026-27. Dated:- 20.06.2026

i) Due to typographical error, the following sentence is hereby deleted in Page 8 of the captioned e-NIT:-
"The lift are proposed to be installed in those twenty six (26) buildings which are complete in all respects and shall be identified by concerned civil division"

ii) Similarly, the bidders are requested to read "01 No.lift" instead of "12 No.lift" in Appendix XIV (Page 46) of the captioned e-NIT.

iii) Moreover, the completion time for the said e-NIT be read as "03(Three) months" instead of "01(One) months", wherever stipulated in the e-NIT.

No.XENMC/Sgr/1005-08
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Mechanical Division
Central Kashmir
DIPK-2427/26 Dated:- 23.06.2026

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
LITTLE ANGELS GARDEN SCHOOL BUDGAM**
LIST OF MANAGING BODY

S.NO	Name of the Member	Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
01	Mohmad Younis Bhat	Late Ghulam Rasool Bhat	Naroo Budgam	M.A B.Ed	Business	Chairman
02	Shahzada Bano	W/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat	Naroo Budgam	12 th Pass	Business	Secretary
03	Irfana Nabi	Ghulam Nabi Ganie	Budgam	M. A. B.Ed	Principal of the school	Member
04	Showkat Ahmad	Ali Mohammad Bhat	Choon Budgam	B. Tech	Teacher	Member
05	Samiyah Yousuf Rather	Mohammad Yousuf Rather	Khanpora Budgam	10+2	Teacher	Member
06	Abdul Ahad Bhat	Abdul Rahim Bhat	Naroo Budgam	Under Matric	Business	Member (Parent)
07	Reyaz Ahmad Wani	Ghulam Rasool Wani	Bathara Budgam	10+2	Business	Member (Parent)

Note: If anybody have any objection in this regard please give your objections with in seven days in the office of school Budgam.

Chairman of the School
Little Angels Garden School Budgam
MCB

Children Pay Artistic Tribute to Karbala at 'Tiflaan-e-Karbala' Event

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: As the holy month of Muharram unfolds, the historic quarters of Srinagar have once again transformed into a landscape of mourning and remembrance, with black banners adorning streets and devotees gathering to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who was martyred in the Battle of Karbala over 1,400 years ago.

Amid the traditional observances that define Muharram in Kashmir, a unique initiative aimed at connecting younger generations with the legacy of Karbala was launched in Srinagar's Old City.

EdRAAK, in collaboration with Masq-e-Arba'een, inaugurated "Tiflaan-e-Karbala: Children of Karbala - A Tribute Through Art", a month-long programme designed to engage children in creative expressions honouring the martyrs of Karbala.

The opening event was held at the historic Jalali Heritage House, where nearly 50 students from various schools in the Zadal area participated over two days in a series of artistic and cultural activities. Through paintings, recitations and interactive discussions, the children reflected on the values and memories associated with Imam Hussain (AS) and the tragedy of Karbala.

Several participants produced artwork depicting scenes inspired by Karbala, while other groups presented recitations of Qir'at, Naat and Nohu. The event culminated in an exhibition showcasing the children's creative works.

Organisers said the programme sought to preserve Kashmir's centuries-old traditions of Azadari while introducing younger generations to the historical and spiritual significance of Mu-

harram through contemporary modes of engagement.

The sessions also provided children with an opportunity to interact with the architectural and cultural heritage of Kashmir. Discussions highlighted the historical significance of Jalali Heritage House, which has long been associated with the region's Muharram observances and Ashura processions.

One of the key sessions, titled "Relevance of Ashura in the 21st Century," was conducted by psychology student Nadiya Zehra and emerging artist Irfan Hussain. The discussion explored how Generation Z in Kashmir perceives Imam Hussain's message and the emotional dimensions of Karbala in an era shaped by social media and artificial intelligence.

The programme also featured contributions from art therapist Ghumar and Amir, who guided children through activities aimed at encouraging emotional expression and creative engagement. Organisers noted that such initiatives help address feelings of isolation and disconnection often experienced by young people amid increasing reliance on technology and changing social environments.

Students from government schools in Zadal participated enthusiastically in the event. Among them was Sahil, a Class VI student from Government Boys Middle School, who presented his artistic interpretation of Karbala.

Visitors to the exhibition praised the initiative for creating a shared space of reflection and unity.

"It is a deeply emotional experience where people from different backgrounds come together under the name of Imam Hussain (AS)," said Syed Ali, one of the attendees.

Full Story On Kashmirobserver.net

Sakeena Ito Reviews Functioning of SMHS, Super Speciality Hospital



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito chaired a meeting and took comprehensive review of the functioning of SMHS Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital, Srinagar, assessing patient care facilities, healthcare delivery mechanisms and overall hospital management.

The meeting was attended by Principal GMC Srinagar, Medical Superintendents of SMHS Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital, HoDs of various super specialities and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Minister held detailed assessment of diagnostic facilities and other critical services available at these facilities. She also held deliberations on quality of medical services, availability of medicines, sanitation and staff responsiveness.

Reviewing the overall functioning of these prestigious medical institutions, the Minister stressed the need to ensure that patients receive timely, efficient and compassionate healthcare. She directed the hospital administration to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene across all wards, corridors and public spaces, emphasizing that a clean hospital

environment is fundamental to quality healthcare and infection prevention.

Sakeena Ito instructed officials to strengthen sanitation protocols through regular monitoring, prompt waste disposal and periodic inspections to ensure that hygiene standards are consistently maintained. She also called for special attention to patient waiting areas, washrooms and common facilities so that visitors and attendants experience a safe and dignified environment.

The Minister underscored the importance of co-ordinated teamwork among doctors, nursing staff, paramedics and support personnel in delivering seamless healthcare services. She urged hospital authorities to remain responsive to patients' concerns and address operational challenges without delay.

Reviewing infrastructure and service delivery, the Minister directed the concerned officers to identify gaps requiring immediate intervention and expedite measures aimed at improving efficiency, reducing inconvenience to patients and enhancing the overall healthcare experience.

She reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening tertiary healthcare institutions across Jammu and Kashmir through improved infrastructure, modern medical facilities and patient-centric governance.



A young volunteer serves water to Muharram mourners during a procession in Old City, embodying the spirit of sacrifice, compassion and devotion associated with the remembrance of Imam Hussain (AS). KO Photo Abid Bhat

Traffic Advisory Issued For 8th Muharram Procession in Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Traffic Police City Srinagar has issued a traffic advisory for the 8th Muharram procession scheduled for today from 5:00 AM till the culmination of the procession.

A spokesman for traffic police said that the procession will be taken out from Guru Bazar to Dalgate, affecting traffic movement on M.A. Road and adjoining areas.

As per the advisory, there will be no movement of traffic from Karan Nagar towards Jehangir Chowk via Shaheed Gunj and Tankipora from 5:00 AM to 8:00 AM. The stretch from Jehangir Chowk-M.A. Road up to Dalgate-Badyari will remain closed for traffic from 5:00 AM till the procession ends.

Traffic coming from Batmaloo, Secretariat, and Rambagh towards M.A. Road will be diverted towards Residency Road via Hari Singh High Street during this period. Vehicles from Rainawari and Nowpora will be diverted at Mamta Hotel towards SRTC Bridge, Barbarashah, Kralkhud, Habba Kadal, and Karan Nagar. Traffic from Khanar and Ikhwan Chowk will be diverted at SRTC Bridge towards Barbarashah, Kralkhud, Habba Kadal, and Karan Nagar.

Motorists from Nishat, Shalimar, and adjacent areas have been advised to use Boulevard, Gupkar Road, Radio Kashmir, R.R. Road, and Abdullah Bridge. Traffic coming from Pantha Chowk and Sonwar will be diverted at Radio Kashmir via Residency Road

and Abdullah Bridge. Tourists and locals from Nehru Park and nearby areas can use Nehru Park, Gupkar Road, or Nishat-Fore Shore Road.

The public has been requested to avoid unnecessary movement from Karan Nagar towards Dalgate via M.A. Road on June 24 to prevent inconvenience.

For assistance, citizens can contact the Traffic Police Control Room at 103. Parking arrangements have been made at S.P. College Ground, Gindun Park, Batmaloo Bus Stand, and Zabarwan Park.

Cut-off points where no vehicles will be allowed beyond are Jehangir Chowk, Mamta Crossing, Aziz Bridge, and Ikhwan Chowk, reads the statement.

DC Attends 74th Raising Day of Zila Sainik Welfare Board

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Zila Sainik Welfare Board Srinagar observed its 74th Raising Day at Sainik Bhawan Srinagar for the welfare and resettlement of ex-servicemen, war widows and their wards, of South and Central Kashmir.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo who is also the

President Sainik Board Srinagar was the chief guest on the occasion.

The programme witnessed the participation of senior Officers from the Army, Police and Civil Administration, besides a large gathering of ex-servicemen, war veterans, veer naris, war widows and their family members from across South and Central Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the invaluable contributions and sacrifices made by the armed forces in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and integrity. He reiterated the commitment of the District Administration towards ensuring the welfare and well-being of ex-servicemen, Veer Naaris, and their families, and emphasized the importance of extending all possible support to those who have served the nation with distinction.

able contributions and sacrifices made by the armed forces in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and integrity. He reiterated the commitment of the District Administration towards ensuring the welfare and well-being of ex-servicemen, Veer Naaris, and their families, and emphasized the importance of extending all possible support to those who have served the nation with distinction.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR
Tel / Fax 0914 - 2502279 / 2502281

E- Bid Document (Auction ID:)

Out-sourcing of "Operation Management" of Eco Log Hut No.1 at Shikargah, Tral, J&K for a period of 03-years (extendable upto 5 years) on License Basis through GeM Portal.

No: Estates / 277 / DTK / 265 dated :- 20/ 06 /2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e- bids are invited online through GeM Portal for Outsourcing the "Operation Management" of Eco Log Hut No.1 at Shikargah, Tral, for a period 03-years (extendable upto 5 years) on License Basis through GeM Portal. The details are as under:

S.No	Particulars	Date/Amount	Remarks
1.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	23.06.2026 10:00 AM	Nil
2.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	29.06.2026 04:00 PM	Nil
3.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment End Date & Time	01.07.2026 04:00 PM	Nil
4.	EMD Start Date	03.07.2026 10:00 AM	Nil
5.	EMD End Date	07.07.2026 4:00 PM	Nil
6.	EMD (Bid Security) Amount in shape of CDR/FDR/DD	Rs. 20,000 /- (Rupees twenty Thousand Only)	To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir.
7.	Bid Submission/Auction Start Date	10.07.2026 10:00 AM	Nil
8.	Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time	14.07.2026 4:00 PM	Nil
9.	Reserve Bid Amount	Rs.1,9,000/- (Rupees one Lakh and nineteen Thousand Only)	Nil
10.	Bidding Time Extension	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

The e-auction shall be finalized by the Outsourcing Committee under the Chairmanship of Director Tourism, Kashmir. Reliable/resourceful and experienced agencies/persons, who fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PRE QUALIFICATION) detailed as under shall only be eligible to participate in the e-bidding process.

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GEM PORTAL)

- The bidder should be a domicile of J&K shall upload a valid domicile certificate or state subject.
- The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Additional Dy. Commissioner (ADC)/Police Station or alternatively copy of a valid PASSPORT.
- The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card.

Sd/-
Dy. Director Tourism,
Estates

DIPK-2442/26
dated: 23-06-2026

- 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
- PAMPORA: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR
 8 Muharram
 1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 35
ZUHR	12:33
ASR	5: 33
Magrib	7: 49
ISHA	9: 31

- ### This Day In History
- 451 - 10th recorded perihelion passage of Halley's Comet
 - 843 - Vikings destroy Nantes
 - 972 - Battle of Cedynia, the first documented victory of Polish forces; Mieszko I of Poland decisively defeated Otto I of Lusatia
 - 1128 - Afonso I of Portugal defeats army of his mother Theresa
 - 1314 - Battle of Bannockburn; Scotland regains independence from England
 - 1396 - Crusaders under Earl of Nevers reach Vienna
 - 1397 - Sultan Bajezid I releases captured crusaders for ransom
 - 1529 - Zürich and Catholic cantons sign Peace of Kappel
 - 1658 - French fleet recaptures Duinker
 - 1662 - Dutch invasion of Macau repulsed (Macau Day)
 - 1795- US & Great Britain sign Jay Treaty, 1st US extradition treaty
 - 1812-Napoleon Bonaparte's forces invade Russia crossing the Neman River
 - 1866 -Second Battle at Custoza: the Austrian Imperial army, joined by the Venetian Army decisively defeated the Italian army, despite the Italians' strong numerical advantage.
 - 1898- American troops drive Spanish forces from La Guasimas, Cuba
 - 1917 -Russian Black Sea fleet mutinies at Sebastopol
 - 1922 -Adolf Hitler begins a month long prison sentence for paramilitary operations; he rails against the Jewish sell-out of Germany to the Bolsheviks
 - 1930- 1st radar detection of planes, Anacostia DC
 - 1931- USSR & Afghanistan sign neutrality treaty
 - 1932- Coup ends absolute monarchy in Thailand
 - 1940- France signs an armistice with Italy during WW II
 - 1942- Africa Korps invades Egypt
 - 1943- Allies begin 10-day bombing on Hamburg
 - 1961-Iraq demands dominion over Kuwait
 - 1966 -Period of relative peace following WW II exceeds that following WW I
 - 1975- Moon tremor perceived (hit by Taurid meteors)
 - 1982- Soyuz T-6 Launch (USSR)
 - 1983- 7th Space Shuttle Mission-Challenger 2 lands at Edwards AFB
 - 1985-18th Space Shuttle Mission (51-G)-Discovery 5 returns to Earth
 - 1997- USAF reports Roswell & space aliens were dummies
 - 2012 -Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood becomes President of Egypt
 - 2014- Rebels in Ukraine have agreed to a ceasefire
 - 2016- British Prime Minister David Cameron resigns after the UK votes to leave the EU
 - 2017- UN states Yemen cholera epidemic reached 200,000 cases, with 1,300 deaths. Worst cholera outbreak anywhere in the world.
 - 2017- World record for highest altitude football match ever played at 18,799ft on Mount Kilimanjaro by women's international team
 - 2018 - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wins second term with president's AK Party winning 42% parliamentary votes
 - 2018- Women drive for the first time in Saudi Arabia after ban is lifted
 - 2019- US President Donald Trump imposes sanctions on Iran, targeted at Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in response to the shooting down of a US drone
 - 2020- Russia celebrates its victory 75 years ago over Nazi Germany with huge military parade through Red Square in Moscow (delayed from May 9 due to pandemic)
 - 2020- World Monetary fund predicts a deeper global recession with contraction of 4.9% (down from 3%), noting 2/3 of all countries used 11 trillion to support their economies
 - 2023- Wagner Group mercenaries led by Yevgeny Prigozhin rebel against Vladimir Putin's government, march towards Moscow, only a last minute deal by Aleksander Lukashenko gets them to stand down and move to Belarus

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The Two-Minute Penalty

A system built to reward merit loses credibility when a brief delay caused by circumstances beyond a student's control erases years of preparation in an instant.



Dr. Afroz Ahmad Shah



“When a student loses an examination attempt because of a delay measured in minutes, the punishment often bears little connection to the conduct involved. Academic ability, preparation and potential remain unchanged. A logistical setback becomes the sole factor determining participation.”

KO VIEW

The Tehran Thesis

Indian television studios and newspaper columns have discovered a new fascination: Tehran.

Since the cessation of hostilities between Iran, Israel and the United States, a growing number of Indian strategic commentators, many familiar faces across prime-time debates and policy discussions, have rallied behind a striking conclusion.

Iran, they argue, emerged from the confrontation with far greater strategic gains than many anticipated when the conflict began.

The enthusiasm stands out because much of this commentary originates from analysts often associated with establishment circles and national-security discourse.

Several of them openly contend that Washington still struggles to fully comprehend the consequences of what unfolded across the Middle East. Their argument rests on a simple proposition: military damage alone seldom determines victory.

Political outcomes, regional influence and bargaining leverage frequently tell a different story.

Within this narrative, Tehran occupies center stage.

Commentators point toward reports of sanctions relief, discussions surrounding frozen assets and renewed diplomatic engagement. They argue that Iran transformed a moment of acute pressure into an opportunity for strategic negotiation. Financial breathing space, expanded diplomatic relevance and renewed attention from global powers feature prominently in their assessments.

Another theme dominates these discussions: regional influence.

Analysts contend that Iran retains significant leverage through networks and partnerships stretching across the Middle East. Maritime routes, energy calculations and regional security equations continue to place Tehran at the heart of developments that major powers cannot easily ignore.

That reality, they argue, grants Iran substantial room for manoeuvre despite battlefield losses and economic strain.

Several commentators also frame the conflict through the lens of modern warfare.

According to this view, Iran demonstrated resilience under sustained pressure while preserving enough strategic capability to remain a consequential regional actor.

Survival itself becomes a form of success when confronted by militarily superior adversaries.

Israel occupies the opposite side of this assessment.

While many of these analysts previously expressed sympathy for Israeli security concerns, several now portray Israel as the principal strategic loser. Their reasoning centres on long-term consequences rather than immediate military outcomes.

They contend that the conflict heightened regional volatility, strengthened Tehran's political standing among supporters and complicated Israel's broader strategic objectives.

Critics, however, question whether Iran's economic constraints, military setbacks and domestic pressures permit the sweeping claims currently circulating across television panels. But the prominence of the argument itself reveals a notable shift in public discourse.

What once focused primarily on military exchanges now revolves around influence, endurance and political leverage. The debate increasingly examines how states convert adversity into diplomatic capital.

In that discussion, Tehran has become the central case study.

For many Indian pundits, the defining image of the conflict no longer lies in missiles, airstrikes or battlefield statistics. It lies in Iran's posture during the aftermath: its insistence on negotiating from a position of confidence, its refusal to project vulnerability and its determination to present itself as a power capable of absorbing shocks without surrendering strategic relevance.

That perception, whether ultimately validated by history or challenged by future developments, has rapidly become one of the dominant interpretations emerging from Indian strategic circles.

Across studios, columns and policy forums, Tehran's conduct now serves as a reference point in debates surrounding power, deterrence and regional influence.

The war may have ended with a truce, but the argument over its winner has only begun.

A student arrives at an examination centre after months, sometimes years, of preparation.

The journey may have included crowded roads, diverted buses, unexpected checkpoints, confusing directions, or a traffic jam that brought movement to a halt.

The delay amounts to a few minutes, but the gate has already closed. Entry is denied, and the examination proceeds without that student.

Such scenes have become common during major competitive examinations in India, particularly high-stakes tests such as NEET.

What appears to be a small administrative decision often produces life-altering consequences.

A missed examination can mean the loss of an academic year, a postponed career path, and the collapse of plans built through sustained effort and sacrifice.

Examination authorities present a straightforward justification for strict entry deadlines: large-scale tests involving millions of candidates demand robust security, identity verification takes time, uniform conditions must be maintained, examination papers need protection from leaks and tampering, and public confidence depends on integrity.

Those goals are legitimate, and few would dispute them.

But the real question lies elsewhere: Does fairness benefit from a rule that treats a candidate arriving two minutes late exactly the same as a candidate who never arrives at all?

Public debate often frames the issue as a choice between discipline and disorder. That framing simply misses the point.

Serious examination systems depend on rules. Timing regulations exist for good reasons, but the challenge is determining whether fairness is strengthened by absolute rigidity or by procedures that distinguish between fundamentally different situations.

India's current approach leaves little room for distinction.

Once the gate closes, the circumstances leading to the delay cease to exist in administrative terms. Intent becomes irrelevant, context disappears, and proportionality vanishes. Administrative certainty prevails because the rule applies uniformly.

Uniformity, however, is only one component of fairness.

A procedure can be applied consistently while producing outcomes that strain common sense.

When a student loses an examination attempt because of a delay measured in minutes, the punishment often bears little connection to the conduct involved. Academic ability, preparation and potential remain unchanged. A logistical setback becomes the sole factor determining participation.

Many examination systems around the world reach a different conclusion.

The United Kingdom provides a useful example. GCSE and A-Level regulations distinguish between candidates who arrive slightly late and those who arrive much later.

Students can often enter after the examination has begun and still receive the full duration. Examination boards receive reports regarding

delayed arrivals and make decisions through established procedures.

Timing remains important, though the system recognizes that a brief delay and a complete absence belong in different categories.

The same principle appears in other international models.

The International Baccalaureate permits supervised entry within specified time windows. Various standardized testing systems in the United States prioritize security while maintaining mechanisms for accommodations, documented exceptions, or rescheduling under certain circumstances.

Details vary, but the underlying philosophy remains remarkably similar: examination integrity and limited flexibility can coexist.

China's Gaokao presents another instructive case.

The examination is famous for its competitiveness and strict administration. Chinese authorities place substantial emphasis on helping candidates reach testing centres on time. Local governments coordinate transportation, manage traffic flows, reduce disruptions, and mobilize public resources during examination periods.

Punctuality becomes a shared institutional responsibility rather than a burden resting solely on students and families.

That distinction holds significance.

Traffic congestion, transportation breakdowns, road closures, and security delays exist in many parts of India. Long travel distances add further uncertainty. Students frequently travel through conditions that remain outside their control.

A fair examination system acknowledges those realities while preserving strict safeguards against abuse.

This does not mean abandoning deadlines. Examination gates must close at some point. Security protocols must remain rigorous. Public trust depends upon them.

Several practical options exist between abso-

lute exclusion and unrestricted entry. Supervised grace periods could accommodate minor delays while preventing communication with candidates already seated.

Conditional admissions could permit participation subject to documentation and review. Recorded exceptions could distinguish genuine logistical obstacles from negligence.

Better transport coordination and clearer logistical planning could reduce delays before candidates even reach examination centres.

Such measures would strengthen fairness without weakening security.

Merit-based systems gain legitimacy when outcomes remain closely tied to talent, preparation, and performance. Administrative procedures should support that objective rather than overshadow it.

A student's future should not turn on a delay so brief that it reveals nothing about academic capability.

Strong institutions understand the difference between firmness and inflexibility. They protect standards while preserving room for judgment. They recognize that fairness involves more than applying rules mechanically. It also involves ensuring that consequences remain proportionate to the conduct being judged.

Societies reveal their values through the way opportunities are distributed. Examination systems sit at the heart of that process.

When participation and exclusion can hinge on a matter of minutes, fairness ceases to be a procedural question alone. It becomes a test of whether the system serves the very merit it seeks to measure.

The author is a National Geographic Explorer and Senior Assistant Professor of Structural Geology at Universiti Brunei Darussalam, where he leads the Geosciences programme. He can be reached at afroz.shah@gmail.com.

Who Will Inherit Craftsmanship?

Kashmir's artisanal heritage needs new champions, new markets and a new generation willing to carry it forward.



Irshad Mushtaq

I grew up hearing stories of our great-grandfathers, the Kalakars whose hands turned wood into poetry.

Their carvings adorned homes across Srinagar, each piece a testament to patience and passion.

Today, those stories feel like relics.

The workshops of Kashmir, once alive with the hum of chisels and the scent of cedar, are quiet. Our youth scroll through feeds while the tools of our ancestors gather dust. How did we drift so far from the Mazdoor's grit, the Karigar's ingenuity, and the Kalakar's fire?

The Mazdoor is the backbone of Kashmiri craft. Picture a man hauling timber through narrow alleys, his shoulders broad from years

of labor. He doesn't just carry wood; he lays the foundation for artistry. Without his sweat, there's no canvas for creation. Yet, we rarely celebrate him. His work is seen as grunt labor, not the bedrock of culture.

I've met Mazdoors who take pride in their calluses, but their children dream of desk jobs, not the dignity of manual work. We've taught them to look away from the very hands that built our heritage.

Then comes the Karigar, the artisan who blends tradition with invention. I once watched a Karigar in a cramped shop weave a rug so intricate it seemed to tell a story. He spoke of learning from his father but also experimenting with new patterns to attract younger buyers. Karigars are innovators, keeping Kashmiri craft alive by adapting without losing its soul. But innovation needs encouragement.

Too many Karigars struggle to find markets, their work overshadowed by cheap imports. If we don't value their creativity, we risk losing the thread that connects past to present. The Kalakar, though, is the heart of it all.

These artists pour emotion into every stroke, every stitch. Our great-grandfathers were Kalakars, but so are the women painting

“We undervalue what's ours. Tourists buy machine-made souvenirs while handcrafted shawls sit unsold. We chase trends, forgetting that our traditions are timeless. And our youth? They're not lazy; they're uninspired. No one has shown them that a lathe or a loom can be as thrilling as a smartphone. We've failed to make craftsmanship cool.”

shawls with colors that seemed to sing.

Kalakars don't just create, they preserve our identity. Yet, their passion is fading. Schools prioritize math over art, and parents nudge kids toward “practical” careers.

When was the last time we told a child their sketch could be a legacy? We're starving the Kalakar's spirit, and with it, our culture's soul. Our

ancestors weren't distracted by screens. They honed their craft because it was their pride, their purpose. Today, we're hooked on instant gratification: games, reels, likes.

I'm not saying phones are the enemy, but when a teenager spends six hours swiping and zero learning to carve, we've lost something. The Mazdoor's discipline, the Karigar's curiosity, the Kalakar's devotion—these aren't just roles; they're values we're letting slip.

The disconnect runs deeper. We undervalue what's ours. Tourists buy machine-made souvenirs while handcrafted shawls sit unsold. We chase trends, forgetting that our traditions are timeless. And our youth? They're not lazy; they're uninspired. No one has shown them that a lathe or a loom can be as thrilling as a smartphone. We've failed to make craftsmanship cool.

But there's a way forward, and it starts with us. First, we must champion handicrafts. Programs that teach kids woodworking or embroidery can spark pride in their heritage. I've seen it work: a teenager in a Srinagar workshop, grinning as he shaped his first walnut box. These skills aren't just hobbies; they're lifelines to our past and bridges to our future.

Second, we need to fuel innovation. Kari-

gars can thrive if we connect them to markets and teach them to blend tradition with modern tastes. Imagine Kashmiri rugs designed with bold, minimalist patterns for urban homes. It's not dilution, it's evolution. Platforms like online marketplaces or local fairs can give artisans the spotlight they deserve.

Finally, we must ignite passion. Kalakars are born when kids are free to create without fear of “wasting time.” Art classes, community projects, even competitions can nurture their fire. Let's tell our children their work matters, that a painting or a poem can echo through generations.

Reviving Kashmiri craftsmanship isn't about nostalgia; it's about survival. The Mazdoor, Karigar, and Kalakar aren't just roles, they're the pulse of our culture. If we lose them, we lose ourselves.

Our great-grandfathers' carvings still stand in old homes, but they're fading. It's on us to pick up the tools, teach the next generation, and make our craft vibrant again. Let's not just honour our ancestors. Let's make them proud.

— The author is a Srinagar-based financial educator.



Inside Ladakh's Great Gathering

At Lamayuru's Yuru Kabgyat Festival, an ancient gathering renews faith, community, and continuity in a changing Himalaya.



Farah Zaidi

Grey clouds hung low over Lamayuru when we reached the village. Rain moved through the mountains in brief spells, drifting over ridgelines before dissolving into the distance.

High above the settlement, the ancient monastery stood against the darkening sky, surveying a landscape that seemed sculpted by imagination.

The pale, wind-carved formations of Ladakh's famed Moonland spread towards the horizon, glowing softly beneath shifting light.

Many visitors make the journey to witness Yuru Kabgyat, among the most important monastic festivals in Ladakh. Images of masked monks and sacred dances draw travellers from around the world.

A few hours in Lamayuru, however, reveal a deeper story.

The festival centres on a simple human act that feels increasingly significant in contemporary life: people coming together.

The journey itself hinted at that truth.

The road from Srinagar wound through mountain passes, river valleys, and settlements scattered between immense stretches of rock and sky. Vast terrain created an impression of solitude, though movement appeared everywhere. Shepherds guided flocks towards summer grazing grounds near Drass. Families travelled eastward with supplies packed into vehicles.

Villagers moved between settlements, monks returned to their monastery after visits elsewhere, and travellers from distant Himalayan regions followed the same route. Countless journeys converged towards a single destination.

By the time Yuru Kabgyat began, Lamayuru had transformed.

The monastery courtyard filled



with anticipation before the ceremonies even commenced. Children clustered beside elders, families settled into familiar corners, and visitors searched for vantage points.

Monks emerged in elaborate costumes and striking masks whose forms represented protective deities, spiritual forces, and moral teachings preserved through centuries of Buddhist practice.

The Cham dances soon unfolded. Viewed through a visitor's lens, the performance possessed all the elements of theatre: colour, movement, symbolism, and spectacle. But local understanding reached much further.

The dances express the victory of wisdom over ignorance, compassion over destructive impulses,

and balance over chaos. Religious meaning infused every gesture, while sacred teachings moved through ritual rather than words.

Visitors often focus first on the masks, but residents see the festival through a broader frame.

Yuru Kabgyat functions as a cultural, spiritual, and social gathering that binds communities scattered throughout the region. Relatives reunite after long separations, friends renew connections, elders share stories with younger family members, and children encounter traditions through participation rather than explanation.

Familiar faces emerge from distant villages, making the festival something lived rather than observed.

Rain swept through the courtyard during our visit, sending a silver haze across the monastery grounds. Spectators adjusted shawls and umbrellas, monks maintained their focus, and ceremonies proceeded according to a calendar shaped by centuries of practice.

That scene revealed one of the festival's most striking qualities. Its pace follows tradition rather than contemporary pressures. Social media trends, tourism schedules, and digital timelines hold little influence here. The gathering operates according to a longer sense of time, one rooted in faith, memory, and collective experience.

Time spent with local residents highlighted another reality: cultural heritage survives through participation.

Lamayuru thrives because faith, landscape, and human relationships remain deeply connected. Those bonds continue to endure despite rapid changes reshaping mountain regions.

That broader context became impossible to ignore during later travels through nearby Wanla and along smaller roads winding above the monastery.

Ladakh is experiencing profound transformation. Expanding road networks connect settlements

that once required days of travel. Tourism reaches valleys previously known mainly to local residents. Mobile networks and digital technology compress distance and accelerate communication. Economic opportunities emerge alongside complex questions about identity, development, and cultural continuity.

Within that environment, gatherings such as Yuru Kabgyat perform an important function, providing continuity amid change, strengthen relationships extending beyond village boundaries, and create opportunities for younger generations to experience inherited traditions directly.

Identity gains expression through shared practice rather than abstract discussion. The festival's significance rests less on age than on relevance.

Successful traditions adapt to changing circumstances while preserving a meaningful core. Yuru Kabgyat demonstrates that balance with remarkable clarity.

Ancient rituals remain vibrant because they continue serving present-day needs.

Visitors often leave Lamayuru with photographs of masks, costumes, monasteries, and dramatic mountain scenery. Those images capture genuine beauty, but my strongest

Villagers moved between settlements, monks returned to their monastery after visits elsewhere, and travellers from distant Himalayan regions followed the same route. Countless journeys converged towards a single destination.

memory emerged elsewhere. I remember families sitting shoulder to shoulder beneath uncertain skies. I remember children watching the ceremonies with complete attention. I remember neighbours greeting one another after months apart. I remember monks performing rituals transmitted through generations. I remember a community renewing its connection to place and to itself.

That gathering felt older than any single dance and more enduring than any individual ceremony.

Eventually the performances concluded. Crowds dispersed, vehicles departed along mountain roads leading home, and daily life resumed within the monastery and surrounding villages.

But something remained behind. The festival left a powerful impression that continuity still has a place within a rapidly changing world.

Certain communities continue creating space for belonging, and shared memory. Lamayuru accomplishes that through ritual, faith, and collective participation.

Perhaps that explains why people return year after year.

—The author is co-founder of Kashmir Off Road. She can be reached at farahzaidiali@gmail.com.



Amarnath Yatra Multi-agency Mock Drill Conducted At Jammu Base Camp

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A mock drill involving multiple security and disaster response agencies was conducted at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here on Tuesday as part of preparations for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, officials said.

The 57-day-long Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to commence on July 3.

The exercise at the sprawling complex commenced at 8 am, witnessing the participation of the National Security Guard (NSG), Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the officials said.

The Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here serves as the main base camp for the pilgrims coming from across the country before leaving for Kashmir



to pay their obeisance at the 3,880 metre high shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-Shiva lingam.

The first batch of pilgrims will be flagged off from the base camp a day before the start of the yatra along the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steeper Baltal route in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

The officials said the mock drill simulated various emergency scenarios to test the preparedness, coordination, and response capabilities of the

participating agencies.

Advanced surveillance equipment, including drones, was deployed during the exercise, while dog squads were used for anti-sabotage and area sanitisation checks, they said.

The officials said the mock drill was aimed at strengthening security arrangements and ensuring swift response mechanisms ahead of the annual pilgrimage.

The exercise focused on inter-agency coordination, crowd management, emergency evacuation procedures, and counter-terror response measures, they said.

Shutdown Across Ladakh As LAB, KDA Push For 'Credible Dialogue' With Centre

Press Trust Of India

Leh: A shutdown called by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) disrupted normal life in the Union Territory of Ladakh on Tuesday, while thousands participated in a rally here to press for a "credible dialogue" with the Centre.

The agitating groups accused the government of deepening "trust deficit" by failing to incorporate key understandings reached during the May 22 talks in the official Minutes of Meeting (MoM), besides expressing resentment against the Lt Governor-led administration for taking decisions on issues such as liquor policy, land, power, transport and tourism without consulting the people.

LAB and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have been jointly spearheading an agitation seeking statehood for Ladakh and the extension of constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule to the region. They have held several rounds



of talks with the Centre since 2021.

The LAB and KDA leaders have claimed that the May 22 discussions covered a proposed democratic structure for Ladakh with legislative, executive and financial powers, along with constitutional safeguards through a proposed Article 371K.

The two groups called for a Ladakh-wide shutdown and a rally in Leh town, accusing the Centre of failing to honour the understanding reached during the sub-committee level talks on the Union Territory's political and constitutional future. Shops, business

establishments and private institutions remained closed in most parts of the Union Territory, including Leh and Kargil, in response to the bandh call. However, transport services, exempted from the strike due to the ongoing tourism season, continued to operate normally.

According to LAB co-chairman Chering Dorjay, it was also agreed during the talks that the bureaucracy, including the chief secretary, would function under the authority of an executive led by the people of Ladakh.

However, the organisations maintain that such understandings were not properly

reflected in the minutes issued subsequently.

Reiterating their accusation against the Centre of adopting delaying tactics and failing to make meaningful progress on Ladakh's long-pending demands despite several rounds of dialogue over the past five years, Dorjay demanded continuation of the dialogue with sincerity to address all the issues in a peaceful manner.

He said the shutdown was intended to register public protest against what he called the Centre's "lack of sincerity" in addressing Ladakh's concerns and to press for a faithful implementation of the understandings reached during negotiations.

Criticising the functioning of the UT administration, he demanded the immediate rollback of all decisions taken "behind closed doors", including the new liquor policy, land conversion laws and tourism reforms, alleging that they undermined the aspirations and interests of the people of Ladakh.

11 India-Bound Ships Transited Strait Of Hormuz After Sealing Of US-Iran Peace MoU

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Eleven India-bound ships have transited through the Strait of Hormuz after the US and Iran finalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to end the West Asia conflict, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

With the US withdrawing sanctions on Iranian petroleum products as part of the peace deal, New Delhi said it is monitoring the developments in West

Asia and that its energy sourcing is guided by national interest.

"As of today, we have 10 Indian-flagged vessels still in the Persian Gulf region. In addition, two have recently arrived there," MEA spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said at a media briefing.

"Since the signing of the MoU on June 17, 11 India bound vessels have transited through the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

The vessels include three Indian-flagged crude oil tankers, each carrying over 285,000 MT

(Metric Tonnes) of crude oil; one foreign-flagged LPG carrier, one foreign-flagged crude oil tanker and six foreign-flagged bulk carriers, carrying fertilisers, he said.

"We hope that the remaining India flagged vessels would also be able to cross the Hormuz soon," Jaiswal added.

US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed the landmark peace MoU which provided for an immediate halt to all military

operations, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and the lifting of the US naval blockade on Iranian ports.

Global oil and gas prices had surged after Iran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz through which around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) usually passes.

The blockade had severely impacted energy supplies to countries around the world including India. West Asia has been a major source of India's energy

procurement.

To a question on US removing sanctions on Iranian crude oil, Jaiswal said: "We are closely monitoring all developments related to West Asia. As far as our energy sourcing is concerned, you are well aware that our policy is guided by national interest."

"Our priority is to ensure that 1.4 billion people have access to energy at affordable prices and from diverse sources. This has consistently been our policy," he said.

To a separate question, Jaiswal said India has maintained good relations with Palestine for decades.

Under our development partnership framework, we have extended several development projects to Palestine, he said.

These projects have been delivered both through bilateral channels and through United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), he added.

"In addition, we have

extended humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people on numerous occasions. We will continue to provide such support in the future as well," he noted. Jaiswal also responded to a question on the India-UAE defence partnership.

"This is a very important relationship with the United Arab Emirates," he said. In recent years, there has been a major upswing in the relationship and defence partnership plays an important role in that, he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Leads Nation

by promoting accountability and public participation. "Within three years, we translated our commitment to multi-generational change into reality and rebuilt a strong relationship of trust with citizens," he said.

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's digital progress, the Lieutenant Governor said the region recorded more than 50 crore digital transactions in the first six months of 2023 alone, far exceeding figures reported by several larger states.

He said over 15,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs) are currently operational across Jammu and Kashmir, with 4,211 of the Union Territory's 4,290 panchayats connected to the network, ensuring digital access to government services in rural areas.

Calling for greater cooperation among states and Union Territories, Sinha urged participants from across the country to study successful governance initiatives from Jammu and Kashmir, including BEAMS-EMPOWERMENT, Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani and "Your Mobile, Our Office".

The Lieutenant Governor also outlined a five-point roadmap for strengthening grassroots governance nationwide. His recommendations included setting up Village Innovation Labs in every panchayat, introducing modern capacity-building programmes for local representatives, institutionalising participatory budgeting, promoting sustainable development initiatives and expanding women's leadership roles in local governance.

He said panchayats of the future must evolve beyond administrative units and become centres of innovation, equal opportunity, sustainable development and public trust.

The workshop, organised in collaboration with the Common Services Centre Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV), brought together representatives from several states, civil society organisations, research institutions and rural technology experts to discuss ways to improve service delivery and strengthen local governance.

Outstanding gram panchayats and Common Service Centres from participating states were felicitated during the event, including Panditpora Gram Panchayat in Kupwara and a village-level entrepreneur from Budgam.

Govt Clears

requiring mourners to complete the nearly three-kilometre main stretch in about two-and-a-half hours.

The permission was accorded by District Magistrate Srinagar in favour of the Yaadgari Hussaini Committee, Kalloo Manzil Mohalla, Guru Bazar, following recommendations from the Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar.

According to the official order, the procession will commence at 6:00 am from Guru Bazar, cross Jehangir Chowk by 7:00 am, and reach the J&K Bank Headquarters area on M.A. Road around 8:30 am. The administration directed organisers to ensure strict adherence to the approved route and schedule.

The procession will pass through Guru Bazar, Budshah Chowk and M.A. Road before culminating at Dalgate.

Authorities said one side of M.A. Road will remain reserved for the procession, while the other side will be kept open to facilitate emergency and essential services.

The order also bars the use of drones during

the event and requires organisers to maintain close coordination with police, security agencies and civil authorities throughout the procession. They have additionally been directed to arrange first-aid facilities in consultation with the concerned departments.

Officials warned that no activity likely to disturb public order, communal harmony or the peaceful conduct of the procession would be tolerated.

"Any violation of the prescribed conditions shall attract legal action under relevant laws," the order stated.

The administration has also stressed the need for full compliance with security and traffic regulations issued by the concerned authorities.

The annual 8th Muharram procession, one of the most significant events in Kashmir's Shia calendar, draws thousands of mourners from across the Valley. Revived on its traditional route in recent years after decades of restrictions, the procession now requires extensive security, traffic management and emergency response arrangements across Srinagar.

Police and civil administration officials are expected to deploy elaborate arrangements along the route to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the event.==

LG Reviews Muharram

Jammu and Kashmir, directing officials to ensure seamless security, traffic management, law and order, and the availability of essential public services.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, senior administrative secretaries, police officers, divisional commissioners, municipal commissioners and other officials.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed the need for close coordination among all stakeholder departments to ensure timely and effective delivery of services during Muharram.

Reviewing preparedness, Sinha directed officials to ensure uninterrupted power and potable water supply, adequate sanitation and healthcare facilities, and the availability of ambulances, fire and emergency response teams along procession routes.

He also instructed senior officers to remain accessible on the ground for real-time monitoring and prompt redressal of public grievances.

"All arrangements should be made with utmost sensitivity and efficiency. Senior officers must remain available on the ground and maintain constant monitoring to ensure prompt response to any situation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg briefed the meeting on the arrangements being put in place by various departments for the smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed the Traffic Police to implement a comprehensive traffic management plan for both Muharram processions and the ongoing Amarnath Yatra to facilitate the movement of mourners, pilgrims and the general public.

He also asked officials to increase awareness regarding traffic advisories and cut-off timings and directed the authorities to enhance the number of RFID card counters for the convenience of Amarnath pilgrims.

Op Sindoor, Border

interaction with the army officers, security

officers and defence forces on how they protect our borders and about the performance of our forces during Operation Sindoor," Shukla told reporters.

He said the panel was also briefed on precautions being taken to strengthen border security, future requirements of the armed forces and lessons learned from past operations.

The committee began its visit on June 22 and is scheduled to travel to Kargil and Leh on Wednesday and Thursday to gain first-hand insights into border management and the security situation in frontier regions.

According to officials, the panel is examining recent developments in India's bilateral relations, the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, and challenges posed by cross-border terrorism along the Line of Control and the International Border. Discussions are also focusing on India-China relations and the situation along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh.

Panel Meets LG, CM

As part of its engagements in Srinagar, the parliamentary panel on Monday met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

During its meeting with the Chief Minister at Dachigam, the committee discussed border management, regional development and issues of national importance linked to India's external affairs. Omar Abdullah said such visits by Parliamentary Committees help in understanding the aspirations, challenges and developmental needs of Jammu and Kashmir and contribute to informed policymaking and stronger institutional coordination.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need for balanced development in border areas, with greater focus on infrastructure, connectivity, public services and livelihood opportunities.

Earlier, the committee called on the Lieutenant Governor at Lok Bhawan, where members exchanged views on border management, security and public services. Sinha highlighted the socio-economic transformation and developmental progress witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir over the past six years and said development initiatives across the Union Territory were contributing to economic growth and an improved quality of life.

The committee arrived in Srinagar after visiting Jammu and border areas, where it sought first-hand insights into security preparedness, border management and development-related issues.

Shukla said the visit was primarily aimed at assessing issues related to India's relations with Pakistan and measures needed to further strengthen security along the border.

"What must we do on the Pakistan border and what steps should we take going forward to strengthen our security? The army officers briefed us on this and their future requirements and how the work is being done here to give confidence to the local population," he said.

The committee's visit comes a day after Tharoor's remarks about "encouraging progress towards normalcy" in Jammu and Kashmir sparked criticism from some leaders within his party. Tharoor later clarified that the panel was not in the Union Territory to evaluate conditions in the Valley and that its focus was limited to matters related to foreign affairs, including India-Pakistan and India-China relations, as well as passport services.

associates and increase cordon-and-search operations around yatra routes, the national highway, railway stations and other critical installations.

He also called for strict monitoring of social media platforms and directed prompt action against misinformation and rumours that could create panic among pilgrims or the general public.

The meeting also reviewed security and administrative arrangements for Muharram. Prabhat directed officers to maintain robust security measures and coordinate closely with local Shia organisations to ensure the peaceful conduct of processions. He also ordered preparation of comprehensive traffic management plans and directed authorities to publicise procession routes in advance.

Meanwhile, security forces conducted a mock drill along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district to test emergency response mechanisms ahead of the yatra. In Jammu, the National Security Guard (NSG) carried out a hostage-rescue simulation exercise at the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas base camp as part of preparedness measures.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti also reviewed security arrangements at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, focusing on surveillance, access control, traffic regulation and inter-agency coordination.

In south Kashmir's Kulgam district, security forces intensified preventive operations, conducting searches in higher reaches, forests, orchards and nurseries. Several suspected overground workers were rounded up for questioning as part of efforts to ensure a secure environment ahead of the annual pilgrimage.

Cabinet Clears

raised by the MHA over the government's proposal to reduce reservation under the Reserved Backward Area (RBA) category by three percentage points and the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category by seven percentage points.

According to sources, the government has justified the proposed reduction in the RBA quota by pointing out that Ladakh, which was earlier part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and covered under the category, is no longer a part of the Union Territory. The government has also argued that several areas previously covered under the RBA category are now eligible for reservation under other categories.

Regarding the proposed reduction in the EWS quota, the government has reportedly informed the Centre that the population eligible under the category in Jammu and Kashmir is comparatively smaller than in many other states and Union Territories.

The Cabinet's response follows the approval of a reservation report by the UT Cabinet on December 4 last year. The report had been prepared by a three-member Cabinet Subcommittee headed by Minister Sakina Ito.

After being approved by the Cabinet, the proposal was forwarded to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and subsequently referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs for prior approval. The MHA later returned the proposal seeking clarifications on certain aspects of the recommended changes.

With the Cabinet now clearing its response, the proposal is expected to be sent back to the Centre for further consideration.

Patients Fear Treatment Disruptions as Private Hospitals Mull Withdrawal from SEHAT Scheme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Thousands of dialysis and cancer patients across Jammu and Kashmir are facing growing anxiety over the possible de-pannelment of private hospitals under the Ayushman Bharat-SEHAT Scheme from July 1, a move that could severely impact access to critical healthcare services for some of the region's most vulnerable patients.

The concern comes in the wake of the Jammu and Kashmir Private Hospitals and Dialysis Centres Association's announcement that member institutions may withdraw from the scheme, citing prolonged non-payment of dues by the State Health Agency (SHA).

For patients undergoing regular dialysis and chemotherapy, the development has sparked fears of treatment interruptions, financial hardship, and serious

health consequences. Many of these patients have been receiving cashless treatment at empanelled private hospitals for years under the Ayushman Bharat-SEHAT scheme and say they have no viable alternative if the services are discontinued.

Patients and their attendants told KNO that government hospitals are already under significant pressure, with limited dialysis facilities, oncology infrastructure, and specialist care capacity. They fear that any sudden withdrawal of private healthcare providers from the scheme could overwhelm public hospitals and leave thousands struggling to secure timely treatment.

Medical experts note that dialysed patients require uninterrupted treatment multiple times a week, while cancer patients often follow strict chemotherapy schedules. Any disruption in these treatment cycles can ad-



versely affect patient outcomes and, in some cases, pose a serious risk to life.

Families with such patients have urged the government to ensure that life-saving healthcare services continue without interruption and that patient welfare remains the top priority. They

have called for the immediate resolution of pending payment issues between the authorities and private healthcare providers to prevent a healthcare crisis.

Many patients describe the Ayushman Bharat-SEHAT scheme as a lifeline that has enabled them to access costly treatments with-

out facing devastating financial burdens. They say that discontinuation of cashless services in private hospitals would force many families to either incur huge expenses or forgo essential treatment altogether.

The patients have appealed to the government to intervene urgently and ensure that dialysis and chemotherapy services remain available under the scheme. They have sought a patient-centric transition mechanism, if required, so that no individual undergoing treatment is left without care midway through their medical course.

With the July 1 deadline approaching, patients and their families hope that an amicable solution will be reached to safeguard uninterrupted healthcare access and prevent unnecessary suffering for those battling chronic kidney disease and cancer.

Statehood Promise Will be Fulfilled: Tarun Chugh

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary and Member Parliament (MP), Tarun Chugh on Tuesday said the Centre remains committed to restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be fulfilled.

Addressing a press conference here on the 73rd death anniversary of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the BJP leader, as reported by KNO, said the Prime Minister has already indicated that statehood would be granted to Jammu and Kashmir, and the commitment remains intact. "The promise has been made, and it will be fulfilled," Chugh said.

Paying tributes to Mookerjee, he said the Jana Sangh founder sacrificed his life for the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country. He alleged that several questions surrounding Mookerjee's arrest and death in custody in 1953 remain unanswered and demanded that all records related to the case be made public. "The country deserves to know the truth," the BJP leader said. He asked why details related to the case had remained hidden for decades.

He also called for the declassification of archival records related to the 1947 tribal invasion of Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that successive governments failed to adequately document the killings, destruction and atrocities committed during the invasion.

Chugh said thousands of people belonging to different communities, including Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Pandits and Christians, suffered during the violence and said the full extent of the tragedy was never brought before the public.

Urging authorities to open government archives, he said people should have access to historical records so future generations can understand the sacrifices made during the conflict. Drawing a comparison with efforts across the world to preserve memories of historical tragedies, he said events related to the 1947 invasion should also be documented and highlighted.

Chugh said Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and the party remains committed to protecting its interests and territorial integrity. (Observer News Service)

Polish Donor Helps Save Child in SKIMS' First MUD Transplant



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major breakthrough for advanced healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) has successfully carried out its first-ever Matched Unrelated Donor (MUD) Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation on a three-year-old child suffering from Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a rare and potentially fatal disorder caused by severe immune system dysfunction.

The landmark transplant was made possible through stem cells donated by a fully matched volunteer donor from Poland, identified through DKMS, one of the world's largest stem cell donor registries. In a significant humanitarian gesture, DKMS waived the donor procurement charges, easing the financial burden on the patient's family and facilitating access to the life-saving treatment.

Addressing a press conference, SKIMS Director and EOSG Prof M. Ashraf Ganie described the achievement as a milestone in transplant medicine and a significant advancement in specialised healthcare services within Jammu and Kashmir. He congratulated the transplant team on the successful outcome and appealed to the public to actively participate in stem cell donor registration programmes.

"Many patients suffering from serious blood and immune disorders can only be cured through stem cell transplantation," Prof Ganie said, adding that expanding donor registries can greatly improve the chances of finding compatible donors for those in need.

He announced that SKIMS would actively promote donor registration and make information related to donor registries available through its official platforms to encourage wider community participation. According to KNO, the highly

specialised procedure was performed by the Department of Clinical Haematology. Experts from the department, including Head of Department Prof Sajad Geelani, Associate Professors Dr Roshma Roshan and Dr Afaq Ahmad Khan, said the transplant programme at SKIMS is being conducted according to national and international standards and has achieved outcomes comparable to leading transplant centres.

They explained that Matched Unrelated Donor transplantation is among the most complex procedures in modern medicine, involving extensive donor-recipient matching, international coordination, advanced laboratory support and intensive clinical monitoring. The successful completion of the procedure required seamless coordination from donor identification to stem cell collection and transportation across international borders.

The specialists noted that for many patients suffering from severe haematological and immunological disorders, a suitable family donor is often unavailable. In such cases, a matched unrelated donor transplant may be the only curative treatment option. They stressed that the success of this case highlights the need to strengthen transplant programmes, expand awareness about stem cell donation and enhance collaboration with national and international donor registries.

CM Omar Stresses Timely Completion of Rural Road Projects



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) across Jammu and Kashmir, with a particular focus on expediting ongoing works, improving rural connectivity and addressing bottlenecks affecting project execution.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary, Mining, Ashwini Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Anil Kumar Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda, besides senior officers of the Public Works Department and other concerned departments.

The Chief Minister reviewed the status of PMGSY works under various phases of the programme and took stock of the progress achieved in providing all-weather road connectivity to rural habitations across Jammu and Kashmir. He was briefed on the ongoing projects, newly sanctioned works and the roadmap for completion of pending road and bridge projects.

Emphasising the transformative role of rural road connectivity in im-

proving the quality of life in remote areas, the Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to ensure timely execution of all sanctioned works while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

He stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination to resolve issues affecting project implementation, particularly those relating to statutory clearances and other procedural requirements. He called for regular monitoring of works at all levels to ensure adherence to timelines and avoid unnecessary delays.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the implementation strategy for PMGSY-IV and directed the concerned authorities to expedite preparatory processes so that sanctioned works are taken up in a time-bound manner. He underscored the importance of extending reliable road connectivity to eligible rural habitations, especially those located in remote and border areas.

During the meeting, the officers presented an overview of the progress achieved under different phases of PMGSY and outlined the action plan for completion of the remaining works. The Chief Minister directed that all pending issues requiring inter-departmental coordination be addressed on priority to facilitate seamless execution of the programme.

Kulgam's 'Cucumber Village' Defies Hailstorms, Harvests 300 Quintals Daily



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Despite recurring hailstorms damaging standing crops in parts of South Kashmir, Wanigund village in the Qaimoh belt of Kulgam district continues to witness a thriving cucumber harvest, with farmers producing around 250 to 300 quintals daily.

Known as Kashmir's "Cucumber Village", Wanigund is home to nearly 200 families, most of whom depend on vegetable cultivation for their livelihood. Farmers say cucumber farming remains the backbone of the local economy, supplying markets across the Valley and generating handsome income for growers.

Talking to KNO, local farmer Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar said the village is currently producing around 250 to 300 quintals of cucumber every day. "Demand for our produce remains high across Kashmir, while market rates are also good," he said.

Dar said agriculture has become a dependable source of livelihood for many educated youth who could not secure government jobs. "There is dig-

nity in honest work. During the harvest season, families earn between Rs 8,000 and Rs 10,000 a day through vegetable sales," he said.

He said farmers in the village cultivate a variety of vegetables, including cucumber, brinjal, collard greens, peas, tomatoes and carrots. "At present, cucumber is selling at around Rs 40 per kilogram, though rates fluctuate depending on market conditions," he added.

Dar, however, alleged that benefits under Agriculture Department schemes are reaching only a few farmers. "Our crops suffered damage due to recent hailstorms, but no official visited the area. Only a handful of people receive assistance, while the majority are left on their own," he claimed.

He also raised concerns over the sale of substandard pesticides and fertilizers. "Farmers need access to genuine products. The government should take strict action against dealers selling duplicate products," he said.

Another farmer, Bashir Ahmad Wani, said hailstorms and unseasonably cold weather had affected crops to some extent, but harvesting activity continues unabated.

"Almost every household is involved in cucumber cultivation. Despite weather-related losses, the village continues to supply vegetables to markets across Kashmir," he said.

Wani also alleged that government support remains limited. "Agriculture Department schemes benefit only five to six families, while the majority of farmers are yet to receive any assistance," he claimed.

The farmers urged the administration to assess crop losses caused by hailstorms and ensure that welfare schemes reach all eligible growers.

Drug Peddler Arrested in Kulgam



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police in Kulgam have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband from his possession.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a special Naka was established by Police team of Police Station Kulgam at Chattabal crossing Kulgam. During checking, Police party intercepted and apprehended a suspicious person carrying a bag. During search, 1.187 kg of Ganja-like contraband substance and one aluminium foil filled in the said bag was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Md Rokib son of Md Mofajul resident of Chandbita, Lalkunri, Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal. Contraband item and aluminium foil have been seized. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 111/2026 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Kulgam and investigation has been initiated.

Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR
Tel / Fax 0914 - 2502279 / 2502281

E- Bid Document (Auction ID: _____)

Out-sourcing of "Operation Management" of Eco Log Hut No.4 at Shikargah, Tral, J&K for a period of 03-years (extendable upto 5 years) on License Basis through GeM Portal.

No: Estates / 277 / DTK / 261 dated :- 20/ 06 / 2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e - bids are invited online through GeM Portal for Outsourcing the "Operation Management" of Eco Log Hut No.4 at Shikargah, Tral, for a period 03-years (extendable upto 5 years) on License Basis through GeM Portal. The details are as under:

S.No	Particulars	Date/Amount	Remarks
1	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	23.06.2026 10:00 AM	Nil
2	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	29.06.2026 04:00 PM	Nil
3	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment End Date & Time	01.07.2026 04:00 PM	Nil
4	EMD Start Date	03.07.2026 10:00 AM	Nil
5	EMD End Date	07.07.2026 4:00 PM	Nil
6	EMD (Bid Security) Amount in shape of CDR/FDR/DD	Rs. 20,000 /- (Rupees twenty Thousand Only)	To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir.
7	Bid Submission/Auction Start Date	10.07.2026 10:00 AM	Nil
8	Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time	14.07.2026 4:00 PM	Nil
9	Reserve Bid Amount	Rs.1,19,000/- (Rupees one Lakh and nineteen Thousand Only)	Nil
10	Bidding Time Extension	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

The e-auction shall be finalized by the Outsourcing Committee under the Chairmanship of Director Tourism, Kashmir. Reliable/ resourceful and experienced agencies/persons, who fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PRE QUALIFICATION) detailed as under shall only be eligible to participate in the e - bidding process.

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GEM PORTAL)

- The bidder should be a domicile of J&K shall upload a valid domicile certificate or state subject.
- The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Additional Dy. Commissioner (ADC)/Police Station or alternatively copy of a valid PASSPORT.
- The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card.

DIPK-2433-26
DT: 23/06/2026

Dy. Director Tourism,
Estates

Cristiano Ronaldo Roars Back With Two Goals As Portugal Beats Uzbekistan 5-0 At The World Cup

HOUSTON: Cristiano Ronaldo scored two goals to help Portugal roll to a 5-0 win over Uzbekistan at the World Cup on Tuesday, bouncing back after a disappointing performance in the team's opening match.

The 41-year-old Ronaldo became the first player to score in six different World Cup tournaments with his goals, adding another impressive accomplishment to his storied career. He was named man of the match.

The victory gives Portugal four points in Group K Colombia, which has three points in the group, plays Congo on Tuesday night in Guadalajara.

Some critics questioned if Ronaldo should remain in the starting lineup after a forgettable performance in Portugal's 1-1 draw with Congo. But coach Roberto Martinez stuck with the superstar and his decision paid off almost immediately with Ronaldo putting the team up 1-0 in the sixth minute.

He put João Cancelo's cross into the net with his right foot to make his latest mark on



the camera after his score. Uzbekistan midfielder Azizjon Ganiev looked to have scored in the 30th minute, but it was overturned after a video review showed Abbosbek Fayzullaev fouled João Cancelo just before the play.

While Martinez kept Ronaldo as a starter, he did make two changes to the lineup. He benched midfielder Bernardo Silva for João Félix and started defender Rúben Dias, who sat out the opener with an injury, over Tomas Araújo.

Ronaldo had a great chance to score in the fourth minute when he took a cross from Mendes and just missed with his right foot as he slid to the grass. He shook his head and made a hand gesture indicating it was close.

But it wasn't long before he scored put Portugal on top.

He had a chance for a hat trick at the end of second-half injury time, but his shot was just off.

Uzbekistan next plays on Saturday night in Atlanta against Congo. Portugal's final group match is against Colombia on Saturday night in Miami.

Mccullum Insists There'S No Rift With Stokes After Turmoil In English Cricket

AP

NOTTINGHAM: England cricket coach Brendon McCullum insists his relationship with "good friend" and captain Ben Stokes hasn't been strained by the chaotic events of the past two weeks.

Stokes was dropped for last week's second test against New Zealand, along with fast bowler Gus Atkinson, amid an investigation that found they "breached specific contractual obligations" on a night out after the victory in the first test at Lord's.

Stokes and Atkinson are back in the team for the third and deciding test at Trent Bridge starting Thursday – the series is tied at 1-1 – and a report in British newspaper The Daily Telegraph on Tuesday said there was a rift between Stokes and the team leadership, which includes McCullum.

That was denied by McCullum, who said he had a "great catchup" with Stokes for more than an hour Tuesday morning.

"He looks ready to go, enthusiastic about the week, and from our point of view it's nice to have the band back together," McCullum said.

"We've been through a lot together as a working pair in leadership positions here in English cricket," the New Zealander added.



"In the end, we both want what's right and what's best for English cricket, and we're crystal clear on the direction we want this team to take."

McCullum never publicly backed Stokes to return as captain while the investigation was ongoing and said "I worry for him" in light of the post-first test night out that included a trip to a nightclub.

Since then, Stokes has played for his county team, Durham, and hit 95. Now, McCullum said Stokes looked "outstanding" and "fantastic."

"I think we had a process we had to go through, things needed to be ticked off, and we've arrived at this stage now, and we're excited to see him back leading us on," he said.

England won the first test by 115 runs before New Zealand tied the series with a dominant 253-run win at The Oval.

Stokes replaces Jordan Cox in the team and Matthew Fisher is the pacer giving way to accommodate Atkinson's return.

In the other change by England for the third test, Jamie Smith is back from paternity leave and takes over from James Rew as wicketkeeper.

India Registers Fighting 4-3 Win Over Pakistan In FIH Pro League

Press Trust of India

LONDON: India defeated Pakistan 4-3 in a pulsating FIH Pro League match here on Tuesday, extending their decade-long unbeaten streak against the arch-rivals in international hockey.

The victory lifted India to seventh in the standings and came in the first meeting between the two sides since the 2024 Asian Champions Trophy in China,

where the Harmanpreet Singh-led side had prevailed 2-1.

Ahmad Nadeem gave Pakistan the lead in the eighth minute through a penalty corner before Abhishek (22nd) struck from a field effort to draw parity.

Nilakanta Sharma then gave India the lead converting a penalty corner in the 24th minute as the Harmanpreet Singh-led side went into the breather with a 2-1 lead.

India extended their lead in the 40th minute through a field goal from Sukhjeet Singh and then Rajinder Singh made it 4-1 from a penalty corner.

But Pakistan came back strongly in the final quarter, with Abu Mahmood (53rd) and Moin Shakeel (60th) scoring from penalty corners to reduce the margin but it was not enough.

India will next take on hosts England in the London leg of the

Pro League here on Friday.

After a slow start in the opening quarter, India found their rhythm to secure their fourth win of the Pro League season.

The match began with both teams playing cautiously and trading early circle entries.

Pakistan earned the first breakthrough in the eighth minute when Nadeem capitalised on a penalty corner routine to make it 1-0.

India immediately responded with aggressive attacks but struggled to find the final pass in the third quarter.

In the final minute of the first quarter, India won three consecutive penalty corners, but Pakistan goalkeeper Ali Raza made a fine save to deny India skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

India turned up the heat with quick passing in the second quarter to find an equaliser.

In the 22nd minute, Dilpreet Singh's powerful shot was padded away by Raza, but Abhishek quickly pounced on the rebound to make it 1-1.

Three minutes later, India won another penalty corner and Nilakanta reacted sharply to the rebound and smashed the ball through the goalkeeper's legs to put India ahead 2-1.

Raza stood tall for Pakistan later in the quarter, saving penalty

corners from Jugraj Singh in the 28th minute and Harmanpreet a minute later to keep the score 2-1 at halftime in favour of India.

Pakistan increased their tempo in the third quarter, creating multiple circle entries, but the Indian backline held firm.

Defender Amit Rohidas showed great composure to break up a dangerous two-on-one counter-attack led by Pakistan's Nadeem.

M I Securities

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Duration (Years)	Total Invested Amount
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10	6.0L
15	9.0L
20	12.0L
25	15.0L
30	18.0L

Small amount, big corpus

5 Years

Corpus: ₹4.1L

Invested: ₹3.1L

Money grows to 1.4x

10 Years

Corpus: ₹11.6L

Invested: ₹6.0L

Money grows to 1.9x

15 Years

Corpus: ₹25.9L

Invested: ₹9.0L

Money grows to 2.9x

20 Years

Corpus: ₹51.8L

Invested: ₹12.0L

Money grows to 4.3x

25 Years

Corpus: ₹97.5L

Invested: ₹15.0L

Money grows to 6.5x

30 Years

Corpus: ₹1.9Cr

Invested: ₹18.0L

Money grows to 10.5x

More time = more compounding

Mutual fund investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme related documents carefully before investing.