



BRIGHTER KASHMIR

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PM Modi's letter to pilgrims

'Nation first, keep yatra clean'

PM's special message pamphlets handed to pilgrims at Nunwan, Baltal Base camps

BK NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 3: As the annual Amarnath yatra started on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written a special letter to devotees, describing the annual pilgrimage as "a great blessing" and calling upon pilgrims to transform their spiritual journey into a collective commitment



Har Mahadev" and "Jai Baba Barfani", saying the pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir represents India's enduring spiritual and cultural traditions.

"Participating in the Amarnath Yatra in Jammu & Kashmir is, in itself, a great blessing," the Prime Minister wrote, adding that every year devotees from across the country eagerly await the opportunity to undertake the pilgrimage.

Calling the Yatra an "enduring chapter in India's spiritual tradition", PM Modi said it reflects the country's unity in diversity as devotees from different

towards cleanliness, safety, local livelihoods, environmental conservation, and nation-building.

In the two-page message titled "A Letter from the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the Pilgrims", PM Modi greeted devotees with "Har

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Amarnath Yatra begins from Pahalgam, Baltal amid unprecedented security



AYAAN WANI

Srinagar, July 3: The annual Amarnath Yatra commenced on Friday from both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes, with thousands of pilgrims beginning their journey to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine amid tight security and elaborate arrangements by the administration.

The first batch of nearly 5,000 pilgrims had arrived in Valley on Thursday after being flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha from Jammu.

On the Pahalgam axis, Deputy Commissioner (Yatra Officer) Anantnag Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat and Senior Superintendent of Police Amod Nagpure flagged off the pilgrims from the

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Amit Shah extends best wishes to devotees

'Govt has put in place extensive security, facilities for devotees'



BK NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 3: Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday extended his greetings to devotees on the commencement of the annual Amarnath Yatra,

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SASB asks pilgrims to register before travelling for Yatra

BK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 3: The Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) on Thursday asked pilgrims to undertake the Amarnath Yatra only after completing advance registration, saying the number of devotees allowed on the route each day is capped in accordance with directions of the Supreme Court.

In an advisory, the Board said advance registration had been opened well before the start of the Yatra through designated bank branches across the country and online platforms, with most pilgrims already

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MUTTON CRISIS ENDS IN KASHMIR



Mutton suppliers call off strike as Punjab ends levy on vehicles transporting livestock

SHAGUFTA RASHID

Srinagar, July 3: The over-a-week-long meat crisis in Kashmir ended on Friday after the Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association (KMDA) called off the strike following the Punjab

government's intervention.

The KMDA said it decided to withdraw the strike after receiving assurances from the Punjab government, paving the way for the resumption of livestock imports to the Valley.

Kashmir had been facing an acute shortage of mutton ever since the Punjab Government imposed a levy on vehicles carrying livestock through the state.

Welcoming the development, National Conference state spokesman Imran Dar credited Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for resolving the crisis through his intervention.

"Deadlock ended! Kudos to HCM @OmarAbdullahsb for his swift intervention in resolving the Mutton crisis with Punjab. Finally, relief for the people during the wedding season. Omar efforts ensured resumption of livestock

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BJP president to visit J&K on July 6-7



BK NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, July 3: The Bhartiya Janata Party national president Nitin Nambini who arrive on two-day maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir on July 6 and 7.

He will be holding threadbare discussions on the prevailing political situation in Jammu and Kashmir with the party leaders, MLAs and other functionaries.

Party sources said that the national president will arrive in Jammu on July 6 and will address a public rally in connection with the birth anniversary of the founder president of

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IWT to stay in abeyance until Pak ends terror: India

BK NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 3: India on Friday reiterated that the Indus Waters Treaty will remain in abeyance until Pakistan takes credible and irreversible steps to end its support for cross-border terrorism.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said

India's stance on the treaty remains unchanged.

"India's position on the Indus Waters Treaty is consistent. IWT stands in abeyance in response to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. Pakistan must credibly and irrevocably abjure its support for cross-border terrorism," Jaiswal said.

Ever since India decided to keep the IWT in abeyance



following the April 2025 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 tourists, Pakistan has been lying to the international community that India's decision sets a dangerous precedent for nations that share transboundary rivers.

Last year, India had said that until such time that the treaty is in abeyance, India is no longer bound

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Northern army commander reviews ops preparedness along LoC

BK NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, July 3: Northern army commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma on Friday visited the forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in the J&K's Krishna Ghati and Poonch Sectors to review operational preparedness and security measures.

During the visit, the Army Commander assessed the security situation and in-



teracted with troops deployed along the forward areas.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, visited the forward areas of the Krishna Ghati and Poonch Sectors to review operational preparedness and security measures," Northern Command said on X.

The Army Commander commended them for their alertness, untiring efforts to maintain

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Father-son duo killed in Kishtwar accident



BK NEWS SERVICE

Kishtwar, July 3: A father and his son were killed while two others sustained injuries after a tipper plunged into a deep gorge near Gulabgarh on the Sohal Road in Kishtwar district on Friday.

The officials identified the deceased as Anurudh Singh (55), son of Nand Lal, and Deepak Kumar (30), son of Anurudh Singh.

The injured have been identified as Sapoot Singh (35), son of

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CM meets MLAs, trade and tourism stakeholders

Reviews dev, business and tourism issues



BK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 3: Several public representatives and delegations and various stakeholders today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita, during which a wide range of issues relating to development, public welfare, trade, tourism and

business were discussed.

MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrota, MLA Habba Kadal Shamima Firdous and MLA Doda Mehraj Malik, called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of the developmental priorities and public welfare concerns of their respective constituencies.

The legislators highlighted

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FLOOD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY THE IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT OF KASHMIR

“

Stay updated with **real-time** measurements of the Jhelum River and its tributaries via our network of online sensors.

”

Real-time water level monitoring of River Jhelum & its tributaries

Automatic water level sensors and automatic rain gauge sensors across valley

Get instant flood alerts and updates

INITIATIVE BY

Department of Irrigation & Flood Control Kashmir

Hosted on NIC

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STAY INFORMED

STAY SAFE

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD

Dt:03.07.2026 DIPK-2845.26

CWC issues advisory on child interviews

BK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 3: The Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Srinagar, has issued an advisory prohibiting the interviewing, filming or recording of children below the age of 18 in any manner that compromises their privacy, dignity, safety or best interests.

The advisory follows a recent incident in which a school-going child was interviewed outside school premises, with the video later circulated widely on social media, exposing the minor to public scrutiny and potential psychological, emotional and social harm.

The CWC has already summoned a local news portal over a video featuring a minor student criticising Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo over the delay in announcing summer vacations.

Emphasising that children are a vulnerable group requiring special protection, the Committee said all interactions with minors must be guided by their best interests. Referring to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) guidelines on media reporting involving children, it stated that interviews should ordinarily be conducted



only with the informed consent of parents or legal guardians and, where applicable, the competent authority.

The advisory also directs journalists, vloggers and other content creators not to approach or interview school-going children in or around educational institutions without prior consent from both parents and school authorities.

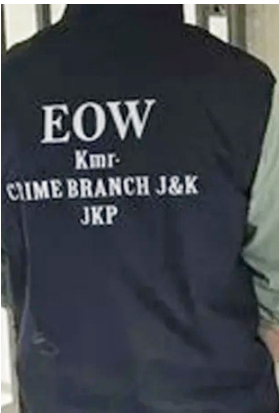
It further cautioned against encouraging children to comment on political, legal or other sensitive issues that could expose them to public criticism, online abuse, intimidation or emotional distress.

Educational institutions have been asked to sensitise students, parents and staff about safe interactions with the media and digital platforms, and to immediately report any unauthorised engagement involving children to the CWC or law enforcement agencies.

The Committee warned that any violation affecting the rights and welfare of children would be referred to the Cyber Police or other competent authorities for legal action, including removal of objectionable online content wherever permissible under law.

The advisory has come into effect immediately.

EOW files chargesheet in job fraud case



BK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 3: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Kashmir, Crime Branch J&K, has filed a chargesheet in FIR No. 67/2021 under Sections 420, 468 and 471 RPC against Fayaz Ahmad Zarger, son of Mohd. Shafi Zarger, resident of Qutub Din Pora, Aali Kadal, Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, before the Hon'ble Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, for offences of cheating and forgery.

The case was registered on the basis of a written complaint alleging that the accused, who was operating M/s HR Choice International

Education Consultancy, Karanagar, Srinagar, lured the complainant with false promises of securing a job in Bahrain. During the investigation, it was revealed that the accused had similarly duped the complainant and several other persons, collected lakhs of rupees from them, and provided forged job offer letters, visas, air tickets and other fabricated documents. To lend credibility to the scheme, the victims were made to undergo online interviews, medical examinations and execute agreements. However, no employment was arranged and the money was neither refunded nor returned. The allegations were substantiated during the investigation, and upon completion of all legal formalities, the chargesheet was presented before the competent court for judicial determination.

The general public is advised to remain vigilant against economic fraudsters and report any such incidents to the SSP, EOW Kashmir, Crime Branch J&K. Victims of economic fraud may also submit their complaints via email at sspeow-kmr@jkpolice.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, AFSHANA AKTHER, wife of Mukhtar Ahmad Mir, do hereby declare that my name has inadvertently and mistakenly been recorded as "Afshana" in my Aadhaar Card instead of my correct and complete name, "AFSHANA AKTHER." I have applied to the competent authority for correction of my name in the Aadhaar records from "Afshana" to "AFSHANA AKTHER."

If any person has any objection to this name correction, he or she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it shall be presumed that no objection exists, and the correction process may proceed accordingly.

Afshana Akther
W/o Mukhtar Ahmad Mir
R/o Madina Colony Phase 2, Lane 2, Kralpora
B K Pora, Srinagar.

Budgam hospital work stalled

BK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 3: Construction work on the under-construction District Hospital Budgam and the Centre-funded Critical Care Hospital at Rishipora in central Kashmir's Budgam district has remained suspended since January this year, reportedly due to a shortage of funds, raising concerns over delays in strengthening healthcare infrastructure in the district.

Official sources said the superstructure of the new District Hospital has already been completed. However, the remaining civil, mechanical and elec-

trical works are yet to be executed, preventing the hospital from being made operational.

According to officials, an additional 30-40 crore is required to complete the project. A supplementary Detailed Project Report (DPR) has already been submitted to the government and is presently awaiting approval from the Finance Department.

The delay has prompted calls for early release of funds to ensure the timely completion of the much-awaited healthcare facility. An appeal has also been made to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, Health and Medical Education Minis-

ter Sakina Itoo and Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance, Shailender Kumar, to expedite the approval process.

Separately, the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) has been urged to extend financial assistance of 10-20 crore under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative for procurement of MRI and CT Scan machines for the hospital, similar to the support provided to health institutions in Kargil and Anantnag.

Meanwhile, health officials have welcomed the Union Government's decision to provide advanced diagnostic equipment to Jammu and Kashmir under the

Prime Minister's special package. The package includes 275 AI-enabled portable handheld X-ray machines, nine 1.5 Tesla MRI units and four digital mammography systems, which are expected to improve access to modern diagnostic services, strengthen breast cancer screening and support artificial intelligence-based tuberculosis screening across selected government health institutions in the Union Territory.

However, locals have stressed that the benefits of such initiatives would be fully realised only after the completion and operationalization of the District Hospital Budgam.

Delegations meet LG Sinha

BK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 3: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, today and discussed various important matters pertaining to preservation and promotion of Sanskrit language and Vedic studies in the UT.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for the creation of Sanskrit faculty posts at Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra.

A delegation of All Kashmir House-Boat Owners Association, led by Chairman Manzoor Pakhtoon, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, today.

The members of the delegations projected various concerns regarding issues of House-Boat sector stakeholders including welfare of House-Boat owners operating on River Jhelum; de-



claring Kashmir House-Boats as a Heritage Asset, and House-Boat information and booking counter at Railway Station in Srinagar.

A delegation of Gandhi Global

Family Kashmir led by its J&K President Padma Dr SP Varma today called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and lauded the widespread impact of Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir

Abhiyaan in tackling substance abuse.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the organization's social initiatives and urged the members to continue their dedicated endeavours toward promoting peace, communal harmony, environmental conservation, youth and women empowerment.

M. Yousuf Bhat, Executive Member, BJP J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, today.

He raised the issues pertaining to the sale of substandard and counterfeit pesticides in District Shopian, and also put forth welfare measures for affected farmers and orchardists.

The Lieutenant Governor assured him that the matter would be examined thoroughly and appropriate action to be taken in the interest of the farming community.

Record Tourist Rush to Keran Valley

BK NEWS SERVICE

Karnah, July 3: Tourism Sees Major Boost in Keran Valley as Record Number of Visitors Arrive; 2,200 Permits Issued in a Single Day: Peerzada Sayeed Karnah, July 4: Tourism in the picturesque Keran Valley has witnessed a remarkable surge, with the scenic Hadmat Park, Parawari emerging as one of the most sought-after destinations for visitors. According to official information, nearly 2,200 tourists obtained permits in a single day to visit the banks of the Kishanganga (Gurez/Kishanganaga) River, reflecting the growing popularity of the region as a tourist hotspot. Sources said that Hadmat Park, located near the Kishanganga River, has become a favorite destination due to its breathtaking natural beauty, lush green surroundings, cool climate, and peaceful atmosphere. During the ongoing summer vacation season, tourists from across Jammu



and Kashmir as well as different parts of the country are flocking to Keran in large numbers. Known for its stunning valleys, towering mountains, dense forests, crystal-clear river, and unique border landscape, Keran has emerged as one of the Valley's most attractive tourist destinations. Visitors to Hadmat Park are enjoying the serene environment while capturing memorable photographs and videos, further enhancing the

area's popularity through social media and word of mouth. Local residents have welcomed the increasing tourist influx, saying it has significantly benefited hotels, guest houses, taxi operators, shopkeepers, and other small businesses, providing a much-needed boost to the local economy. However, they have also urged the concerned authorities to strengthen basic infrastructure, including sanitation, drinking water facilities,

parking arrangements, and security measures, to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for the growing number of visitors. People in the area believe that with continued government investment in tourism infrastructure, improved visitor amenities, and wider promotion of the destination, Keran has the potential to become one of the premier tourist attractions in Kashmir in the years to come.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION KASHMIR, J&K SPORTS COUNCIL, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
TENDER NOTICE: e-NIT No: 07 of 2026-27
DATED: 01.07.2026.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible bidders from Valid and registered with J&K Govt, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the below mentioned work for One year as per the following:

S. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender documents	E.Money Deposit	Class of contract	Time of completion
1	Landscaping and other allied works for Gymnastic hall at Gindun Rajbagh Srinagar.	Rs.600/-	Rs.20000/-	AYY/BEE/CEE/DEE class of contractor	2026-27

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of funds = M&R under Revenue Budget 2026-27
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria, specification, bill of quantities(B.O.Q) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from thedepartmentalWebsitewww.jktenders.gov.inasperscheduleofdatesgivenbelow:-
Critical Dates Table

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	01.07.2026 from 4.00PM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01.07.2026 from 10.30 AM to 15.01.2026 upto 4.00 PM
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	01.07.2026 from 10.30 AM
4	Bid submission End Date	15.07.2026 upto 04.00PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids(online)	16.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M. in the OFFICE OF THE Executive Engineer Construction Division Kashmir J&K SPORTS COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK BAKSHI STADIUM SRINAGAR

The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited in to the bank account byt he bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder.
Name of Bank = J&K Bank Ltd.
Account t Title = Executive Engineer Construction Div. Kmr. JKSC
Account No = CDG-0365010200000842
Branch = Lal Mandi
IFSC Code = JAKA05BOARD
The bidders must upload the scanned copy of bank payment acknowledgment slip.
Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) after opening of Financial Bids.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Const. Div. Kashmir
No: SC/CDK/792-96
Dated: 01/07/2026
DIPK-NB-960-26-Dt:3-7-2026

DC Ramban reviews Amarnath yatra arrangements

BK NEWS SERVICE

Ramban, July 3: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan on Friday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Lamber Yatra Camp at Banihal and Yatri Niwas Chanderkote to review the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra and to assess the services being provided to the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Varunjeet Singh Charak; Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Banihal, Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan; SDM Ramsoo, Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner carried out a detailed inspection of the registration counters, RFID issuance facilities, accommodation arrangements, sanitation and cleanliness measures, drinking water supply, medical services, security deployment, power, traffic management, lighting and other essential facilities established for the pilgrims.



Reviewing the services and facilities in Yatra Camp, the DC stressed that every service must be delivered with the highest standards of quality, efficiency and responsiveness. He directed all officers to ensure that pilgrims receive prompt, courteous and hassle-free assistance at every service point.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with the devotees and took firsthand feedback

regarding the facilities and services available at the camp. He enquired about their travel experience, registration process, accommodation, sanitation, medical facilities, security arrangements and overall comfort during their stay.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officials to issue RFID cards only after proper verification of all prescribed documents. He further instructed the officers to maintain continuous monitoring of all facilities and remain available round the clock to address any grievance or requirement of the pilgrims without delay.

The Deputy Commissioner called upon all stakeholder departments to work in close coordination, remain vigilant and ensure the timely delivery of every essential service so that pilgrims experience a smooth and spiritually fulfilling journey through district Ramban.

DC reviews sanitation, drainage and dev works in Kishtwar

BK NEWS SERVICE

Kishtwar, July 3: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma on Friday conducted an extensive inspection of Kishtwar Town to undertake a comprehensive assessment of public utility services and review the status of ongoing developmental initiatives.

The inspection covered areas near Dak Bungalow, Shaheedi Road, Gudhali Chowk, Jamia Masjid and the main market with a focus on assessing and improving sanitation, drainage and developmental works.

During the inspection, the DC carried out a detailed assessment of the drainage network to ensure its efficient functioning. He stressed the need to identify and remove blockages to prevent waterlogging and other potential hazards. He directed the Jal Shakti Department to shift utilities wherever required and address leakages at various locations on priority.

The Deputy Commissioner also

directed the EO Municipal Council Kishtwar to ensure comprehensive cleanliness and sanitation across the Town. He directed the Municipal Council to coordinate with NHIDCL for the desilting of drains to facilitate the smooth flow of rainwater and prevent waterlogging, emphasizing the need for timely execution of the works in the larger public interest.

Interacting with locals, the Deputy Commissioner sought feedback, listened to their concerns and reiterated the administration's commitment to strengthening basic amenities and civic infrastructure through coordinated efforts. He also issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for immediate redressal of identified issues, reaffirming the administration's commitment to improving public services, strengthening civic infrastructure and ensuring better amenities for the public.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ADC Pawan



Kotwal, ACR Idrees Lone, EO Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma, Tehsildar Hqrs. Mohammad Rafie Naik, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Executive Engineer PWD R&B besides other officers and concerned staff.

DC Doda chairs 3rd District Road Safety Committee meeting

K NEWS SERVICE

Doda, July 3: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda and Chairman, District Road Safety Committee Krishan Lal, on Friday chaired the meeting of 3rd District Road Safety Committee to review the road safety scenario in the district and assess the implementation of measures aimed at reducing road accidents and improving traffic safety.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar, ASP Headquarters Mohd. Aslam, ACRAshraf Pervaz, Superintendent

ing Engineer, PWD (R&B) Atul Gupta, DySP Traffic Shokat Ali, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Er. Anil Kumar Mehar, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma, Motor Vehicle Inspector and other line departments. ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, Sub Divisional Magistrates ARTO and other officers attended the meeting through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the DC directed NHIDCL, PMGSY, BRO and PWD to submit detailed reports of road accidents to the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B), who is the Secretary of the District Road Safety Committee, along with timely Action Taken Reports (ATRs).

A detailed review of the 14 identified accident hotspots in the district was conducted. The DC directed the concerned agencies to ensure installation and regular maintenance of crash barriers, rumble strips, cautionary signages and other road safety measures at all vulnerable locations. He further instructed PMGSY, PWD, NHIDCL and BRO to undertake road safety audits of all roads under their jurisdiction, identify additional accident-prone spots and submit a comprehensive mitigation plan. Emphasising regular monitoring,



ing, the DC directed all concerned departments to remove encroachments and clear construction or

dumping material lying along roadsides, particularly on single-lane roads to prevent accidents

and ensure smooth traffic movement.

The DC instructed SDMs and the ADC Bhaderwah to closely monitor roadside encroachments and ensure that no construction material or debris obstructs public roads. He directed them to identify suitable locations along highways and in town peripheries for parking accidentally damaged vehicles so that they do not pose a risk to commuters.

The meeting also reviewed the status and maintenance of crash barriers installed at accident hotspots, with directions for their regular inspection and upkeep. The functioning of roadside toilet

complexes established by NHIDCL was also reviewed.

The DC directed the concerned authorities to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply besides proper maintenance of these facilities for the convenience of travellers.

Reviewing the enforcement measures, the DC assessed the challans issued for rash and negligent driving, helmetless riding and uninsured vehicles. He directed the ARTO and Traffic Police to intensify enforcement drives and take strict action against traffic violators to improve compliance with road safety regulations.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Nation first

regions, languages, and traditions come together with a shared devotion to Shiva.

"People from different states, speaking different languages and following diverse traditions, complete this journey united by their devotion to Mahadev," he wrote.

The PM also acknowledged the role played by the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, the Jammu and Kashmir administration and security agencies in ensuring the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

"For several decades, the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and the Jammu & Kashmir administration have managed this pilgrimage with great efficiency and dedication," PM Modi said.

He praised the Indian Army, CRPF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, ITBP, BSF, NDRF, healthcare workers, doctors, sanitation workers, administrative officials, and volunteers for their service to pilgrims.

"This year as well, thousands of personnel are discharging this responsibility with commitment," he noted.

Highlighting the role of local communities, PM Modi said the pilgrimage also showcases the hospitality of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He particularly mentioned pony operators, porters, and palanquin bearers who assist devotees on the challenging mountain route, describing their contribution as an expression of India's age-old tradition of selfless service.

The centrepiece of the Prime Minister's message is an appeal to devotees to adopt five pledges during the pilgrimage.

The first pledge focuses on cleanliness, urging pilgrims to maintain hygiene and help keep the entire Yatra route clean.

The second asks devotees to strictly follow all administrative instructions, traffic regulations, and safety advisories, while exercising extra caution due to rain, slippery terrain, and cold weather.

In the third pledge, PM Modi linked the pilgrimage with the government's 'Vocal for Local' campaign, encouraging pilgrims to spend at least 10 per cent of their travel expenditure on purchasing locally made products to support the livelihoods of families and young people in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Inspired by the spirit of 'Vocal for Local,' we will spend at least 10 per cent of our travel expenses on purchasing local products. This will strengthen the livelihoods of families and youth in Jammu & Kashmir," the letter stated.

The fourth pledge encourages pilgrims to participate in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign by gifting a sapling to a sibling on Raksha Bandhan, which coincides with the conclusion of this year's Yatra.

The fifth and final pledge broadens the message beyond the pilgrimage itself.

"With the spirit of 'Nation First,' we will honestly perform our duties throughout the year and actively contribute to building a Viksit Bharat," PM Modi wrote.

Expressing confidence that the pilgrimage would become "a grand celebration of faith in Sanatan Dharma, India's cultural unity and the tradition of selfless service," the Prime Minister prayed for the safety and well-being of all devotees.

"I pray that Baba Amarnath's infinite blessings remain with all of us. May your pilgrimage be safe, auspicious, and may it fill your lives with renewed energy, awareness, and spiritual strength," he said.

Concluding his message, PM Modi expressed hope that Baba Barfani would inspire every devotee to become "more dedicated to our duties" so that together the nation could fulfil its resolve of building a Viksit Bharat.

The administration on Friday handed over the pamphlets carrying the special message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra from both Nunwan

and Baltal base camps.

Pilgrims warmly welcomed the Prime Minister's message and described it as a thoughtful gesture that further strengthened their spiritual resolve and enthusiasm for undertaking the pilgrimage.

Amarnath Yatra

Nunwan Base Camp in the early hours.

The pilgrims were later transported to Chandanwari through a special shuttle service arranged by the Motor Vehicles Department before proceeding on foot towards the shrine.

The first batch was flagged off from the Baltal Base Camp in Ganderbal by Rahul Yadav, Managing Director of J&K Power Development Corporation and Nodal Officer for the Baltal Axis, along with Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Armed) Kashmir Maqsood-ul-Zaman and Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal Sudhanshu Dhama.

The devotees chanted the religious hymns as they embarked on the pilgrimage. A light drizzle at Baltal added to the devotional atmosphere.

The Yatris expressed their satisfaction with the overall arrangements made for smooth conduct of the yatra.

According to officials, 12,168 persons performed darshan at Cave till 7 pm on Friday.

It includes 9,354 male pilgrims, 2,250 female pilgrims, 219 children, 71 sadhus, nine transgender devotees and 265 security personnel.

Meanwhile, the second batch of pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu in two escorted convoys.

According to official figures, 1,735 pilgrims bound for Baltal route departed at 3:13 am while 2,130 pilgrims heading towards Pahalgam route left at 3:38 am, taking the total strength of the second batch to 3,865.

Officials said the batch comprised 2,965 male pilgrims, 618 women, 230 sadhus, 48 sadhvis and four children.

Authorities have made tight security arrangements for the yatra. A multi-layered security grid, no-fly zones along both routes, watchtowers, intensified surveillance and real-time monitoring of pilgrim convoys have been put in place to ensure a safe yatra.

Police have also issued tamper-proof QR code-based identity cards to all registered service providers, including pony riders, to enable instant verification and prevent impersonation by militants. RFID tags have been issued to pilgrims, vehicles and service providers for real-time tracking, while an extensive network of CCTV cameras is monitoring movement along both routes.

Officials said adequate arrangements, including accommodation, medical facilities, sanitation, transport and other essential services, have been made at various camps and halting stations to ensure a smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage.

Authorities have advised devotees to travel only in authorised convoys, carry valid identity documents, follow security advisories and immediately report any suspicious activity or unattended object to the nearest police personnel or through the emergency helpline.

The 57-day pilgrimage will conclude on Raksha Bandhan on August 28.

Amit Shah

saying the pilgrimage reflects unwavering devotion to Sanatan culture, patience, restraint and an indomitable spirit.

In a post on X, Shah wished pilgrims undertaking the annual yatra a safe and fulfilling journey.

"The Amarnath Yatra is a sacred symbol of unwavering devotion to Sanatan culture, steadfast patience, restraint,

and an indomitable spirit that never accepts defeat. Today marks the auspicious commencement of this holy journey. My best wishes to all devotees heading for the darshan and worship of Baba Barfani," Shah posted.

Highlighting the Centre's arrangements for the pilgrimage, Shah said the government has put in place extensive security and facilities for devotees.

"The Modi government has made robust arrangements along the entire route, including a multi-layer security grid, QR code-based registration, and strengthened facilities for devotees' accommodation, healthcare services, and disaster management, ensuring that every pilgrim's journey remains safe, smooth, and joyful," he said.

SASB asks

securing their slots.

It said Tatkal registration is available only in limited numbers and cannot accommodate the large number of pilgrims arriving in Jammu and Kashmir without prior registration. Those reaching the Union Territory without registration have been asked to wait for their turn and undertake the pilgrimage only on the date allotted by the administration.

The Board also said some registered pilgrims were arriving before the date mentioned on their registration permits. It clarified that no pilgrim would be allowed to proceed on the route before the registered date and advised devotees to plan their travel accordingly.

Reiterating that all pilgrims would be given an opportunity to undertake the Yatra, the Board said this would be subject to the daily ceiling fixed for the route and the available capacity.

It appealed to pilgrims to follow the prescribed procedure and cooperate with the administration to ensure the orderly conduct of the pilgrimage.

Mutton crisis

supply to Kashmir, bringing much-needed relief," Imran posted on X.

The disruption began after wholesale mutton dealers suspended imports of livestock from Rajasthan, Delhi and other states, alleging that trucks carrying animals through Punjab were being subjected to an "illegal" levy. The strike also hit mutton sales across Kashmir, causing concern among families preparing for weddings.

Describing the levy on livestock-laden vehicles transiting through Punjab as "unjust", Omar Abdullah had taken up the matter with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, seeking immediate intervention to ensure the smooth movement of livestock transport vehicles.

In a letter to Mann on June 23, Abdullah urged the Punjab government to stop the unauthorised collection of fees from transporters carrying valid permits and documents.

Citing the findings of an internal committee of the Jammu and Kashmir Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Abdullah said transporters were allegedly being forced to pay substantial amounts without any legal sanction.

He noted that livestock movement is exempt from GST and warned that the continued imposition of such charges was increasing transportation costs, pushing up meat prices and burdening consumers in Jammu and Kashmir.

The strike, which continued for several days, had disrupted the transportation of sheep from Punjab to Jammu and Kashmir, triggering concerns over a possible mutton shortage in Kashmir, particularly during the ongoing marriage season.

BJP president

Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BJS), Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

"Nabin will hold detailed discussions with the party leaders and senior party functionaries to seek feedback on prevailing political situations as well as the functioning of the party," they said.

They said the implementation of various welfare schemes and programmes of the Modi government in Jammu and Kashmir will also be reviewed with the cadre.

IWT

to perform any of its obligations under the IWT.

"No court of arbitration, much less this illegally constituted arbitral body which has no existence in the eye of law, has the jurisdiction to examine the legality of India's actions in exercise of its rights as a sovereign," the MEA said in June 2025.

The IWT, brokered by the World Bank, has governed the distribution and use of the Indus River and its tributaries between India and Pakistan since 1960. The two neighbours signed the treaty after nine years of negotiations.

Northern army

operational readiness and resolve to safeguard the nation's frontiers under challenging conditions.

He urged all ranks to remain mission-focused and continue upholding the highest standards of operational excellence in the service of the nation, reaffirming the Army's commitment to maintaining a high level of vigilance along the border.

Father-son duo

Dhanterar Singh, and Ravinder Singh (35), son of Girdhari Lal. Both have been shifted to nearby hospital for treatment.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and started investigation.

CM meets

various issues requiring the government's attention, including infrastructure development, delivery of public services, implementation of ongoing development projects and other constituency-specific matters aimed at improving the quality of life of the people.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to their concerns and assured them that all genuine issues would be examined for appropriate action.

A delegation led by President Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF), Mohammad Yaseen Khan, met the chief minister and raised issues concerning the trade and business community.

Another delegation led by Chairman of the Tourist Trade Interest Guild, Zahoor Ahmed Karnai, also met the Chief Minister.

The delegation discussed measures for the promotion of tourism in Kashmir. Various initiatives aimed at boosting tourist inflow, expanding outreach and strengthening the tourism sector were also deliberated upon.

The Chief Minister appreciated the constructive suggestions put forward during the meetings and reiterated the government's commitment to maintaining regular engagement with public representatives, trade organisations and other stakeholders to ensure responsive governance, inclusive development and sustained economic progress across Jammu and Kashmir.



(Mr, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat), JKAS
Administrator,"Associated Hospitals
GMC, Srinaga
Member/Secretary Selection Committee

PM's Appeal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Amarnath pilgrims—placing the nation first while urging devotees to keep the Yatra clean—carries a significance that extends beyond a ceremonial greeting. It reminds every pilgrim that faith and civic responsibility are inseparable. A pilgrimage is not only a spiritual journey towards the sacred cave but also a collective commitment to discipline, environmental stewardship and national unity. The Amarnath Yatra is one of India's most revered pilgrimages, drawing lakhs of devotees through the rugged Himalayan terrain each year. Every pilgrim undertakes the journey with deep faith, but devotion finds its true meaning when it is accompanied by responsibility. Respecting nature, maintaining cleanliness and cooperating with authorities are as much acts of worship as offering prayers at the holy shrine. The fragile ecology of the Himalayas demands special care. Plastic waste, littering and irresponsible behaviour not only scar the pristine landscape but also threaten water sources and wildlife. A clean Yatra route reflects respect for both the sacred destination and the environment that nurtures it. Every discarded wrapper picked up, every reusable bottle carried and every effort to leave no trace becomes an offering in itself. The Prime Minister's emphasis on "Nation First" also resonates with the larger spirit of the pilgrimage. The Amarnath Yatra is made possible through the tireless efforts of security forces, civil administration, health workers, volunteers, sanitation staff and local residents who work around the clock to ensure the safety and comfort of pilgrims. Honouring their dedication means following advisories, maintaining discipline and extending courtesy to fellow travellers. Equally important is the role of pilgrims in promoting harmony. The Yatra has long symbolised India's pluralistic ethos, where people from diverse backgrounds contribute to its successful conduct. Mutual respect, patience and co-operation strengthen this tradition and reinforce the idea that faith can unite rather than divide. As thousands continue their sacred journey, the message is simple yet profound: let devotion be reflected not only in prayers but also in conduct. A clean environment, disciplined movement, respect for fellow pilgrims and gratitude towards those serving the Yatra embody the true spirit of pilgrimage. The success of the Amarnath Yatra will not be measured solely by the number of devotees who reach the holy cave, but by the values they carry back home. When faith inspires responsibility and patriotism inspires service, the pilgrimage becomes a celebration of both spirituality and nation-building. That is the essence of the Prime Minister's appeal—and a message every pilgrim can proudly carry on the path to the Holy Cave.

“Whoever saves one life, it is as if he has saved all of humanity.”
— Qur'an 5:32

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India Showcases Women-Led Development at BRICS

This disposition is not new to Bharat; it is old. Long before the language of development, our Sanskriti envisioned the feminine as the very source of power, knowledge, and prosperity, the three faculties on which any society rises, revered as the Goddesses Durga, Saraswati, and Lakshmi



SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI

PIB

Wide Angle

India assumed the BRICS Chairship on 1 January 2026 under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.” On the women's track, our contribution is a specific one. We are not bringing merely a slogan or a gallery of success stories to admire. We are bringing a working architecture, one that has reached hundreds of millions of women, and one that does not end with India but begins there, ready to be built upon wherever it travels.

That distinction is the point. For more than a decade, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has pursued women-led development as a national mission, on a scale few countries can match. During our G20 Presidency in 2023, India helped shift the global vocabulary from “women's development” to “women-led development,” not a change of phrase but a change of premise, from treating women as beneficiaries to treating them as decision-makers. The question we bring to Kochi is the one that follows that shift: once the promise is made, how do you deliver it, at scale, to the last woman in the last village? India has spent ten years answering that in practice rather than merely in principle.

This disposition is not new to Bharat; it is old. Long before the language of development, our Sanskriti envisioned the feminine as the very source of power, knowledge, and prosperity, the three faculties on which any society rises, revered as the Goddesses Durga, Saraswati, and Lakshmi. Divine power itself is named Shakti, and an oft-quoted Sanskrit verse

holds that where women are honoured, the Gods themselves rejoice. Nor was this veneration only symbolic: women seers such as Lopamudra and Ghosha composed hymns of the Rig Veda, and philosophers such as Gargi and Maitreyi held their own in the great debates of the Upanishads. For Bharat, then, women-led development is not a borrowed idea but the contemporary form of an ancient one.

Begin with decision-making itself. Nearly half of all elected representatives in India's Panchayati Raj Institutions are women, among the largest pools of elected women leaders anywhere, and the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, reserves a third of the seats in Parliament and the State Assemblies for women. Representation is not where women-led development ends; it is where it begins. A model that delivers services to women but excludes them from the decisions that shape those services is not women-led at all.

The delivery architecture rests on three components that work only in combination. The first is reach: Digital Public Infrastructure places benefits directly in women's hands, with Aadhaar-linked transfers removing the intermediaries that once diverted support before it arrived. The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana shows this reach in practice; over 4.26 crore mothers have received more than 20,060 crore in maternity benefits transferred directly to their Aadhaar-seeded accounts. The second is institutions: under DAY-NRLM, more than 10.05 crore rural women have been organised into over 90.90 lakh Self-Help Groups, the largest network of women-led community institutions in the world. The third is mobility, a deliberate path upward rather than a permanent seat at the bottom of the value chain. India now deploys 65,949 SHG women as Business Correspondent Agents, the BC Sakhis, who carry deposit, credit, remittance, and pension services into remote areas. The woman who once queued for a benefit now delivers it.

Together, these turn participation into income and ownership. Under the Lakhpati Didi initiative, 1.48 crore SHG women had reached an annual income of at least 1 lakh by June 2025, and a National Campaign on Entrepreneurship launched in January 2026 aims to train 50 lakh more through 50,000 Community Resource Persons. The same upward path runs through formal enterprise: 69 per cent of loans under PMMY and 84

per cent of Stand-Up India beneficiaries are women, and of the 2.12 lakh startups recognised by DPIIT, more than 1.02 lakh have at least one woman Director or partner, many of them in smaller cities rather than the metros. What we offer BRICS is not these brand names but the sequence beneath them: reach first, then institutions, then a structured route from beneficiary to entrepreneur.

The numbers track this shift. India's female labour force participation has risen from 23.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 41.7 per cent in 2023-24, and female unemployment has fallen from 5.6 to 3.2 per cent over the same period. With more women now in the workforce than ever before, our focus is turning to the next stage further improving the quality and income of their work.

This year's women's track has identified four priority areas, and one maps directly onto our experience: the role of women in climate action, food security, and nutrition. Here, the evidence is unambiguous: when women participate in decision-making, nutrition improves, and communities absorb shocks better. This is not abstract. Women farmers in Jharkhand hold the knowledge of seed varieties that survive dry spells; women pastoralists in Rajasthan know the migration routes that carry livestock through drought. India's task has been to build institutions that use this expertise rather than bypass it. Mission Poshan 2.0 runs through the Anganwadi network, staffed by women who are its trusted last mile; climate adaptation runs the same way, from the high-altitude water-harvesting structures built by women in Ladakh to the mangrove-protection committees on the Odisha coast. And women increasingly operate the technology of adaptation rather than merely receive it: under the Nam0 Drone Didi scheme, SHG women are trained to fly agricultural drones—a deliberate move into higher-skilled, higher-income work.

One thread is distinctly India's own. Through One District One Product, now spanning 1,102 products across 761 districts, women's collectives turn local specialties — handlooms, GI-tagged crafts, regional foods into branded, increasingly export-bound goods, with the State laying the market rails: reserved retail space at airports under the AVSAR scheme and a dedicated GeM storefront for women-led enterprises under Vocal for Local. This is sustainability in its most literal sense — local materials, local skills and local supply chains that

keep value inside the community and a form of growth that does not require a woman to leave her district to reach a market.

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, women-led development is not just an aspiration a government announces; it is a system it builds, component by component, until it reaches the last woman it was meant for. At the Ministerial meeting in Kochi this July, India will present this architecture as a contribution, not a prescription offered for what others might learn from it and adapt to conditions of their own. That system, and the evidence that it works, is what India brings to BRICS. The exchange runs both ways: India comes to Kochi ready to learn from the best practices its BRICS partners bring, and to share its own.

The Nuclear Asymmetry Angle

The most disturbing extension of this evolving asymmetry lies in the nuclear domain. The prospect of proxy actors or fourth-generation warfare entities gaining access to miniature nuclear devices for clandestine deployment in densely populated urban centres represents perhaps the ultimate asymmetric threat. While this does not yet directly relate to precision technology, the possibility of future innovation enabling non-state actors, or even smaller militaries, to deploy drone-delivered compact tactical nuclear devices for clandestine deployment cannot be entirely dismissed. Although such scenarios currently remain within the realm of science fiction, they represent the kind of conflict-driven chaos that strategic planners can ill afford to ignore. The future of warfare has repeatedly demonstrated that what appears improbable today can rapidly emerge as tomorrow's defining security challenge.

For centuries, strength in war was measured by size and endurance. The emerging battlefield is increasingly rewarding accuracy, speed of decision and intelligent application of affordable technology. Precision systems are enabling weaker powers to challenge stronger adversaries in ways previously unimaginable.

The lesson for military planners is unmistakable. In the wars of the future, mass may matter less than precision — and technology may increasingly allow the weak to fight with the reach, confidence and disruptive potential once reserved only for the strong.

Timely Nomination of KP MLAs is a Democratic Imperative

Critically, the delay also affects the ongoing discourse around the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits. Political representation could play a pivotal role in shaping policies that are sensitive to ground realities. Issues such as housing, employment, security arrangements, and cultural preservation require nuanced understanding and sustained advocacy



OMKAR DATTATRAY

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Hot Spot

The prolonged delay in nominating Members of the Legislative Assembly from the Kashmiri Pandit community is not merely an administrative lapse; it is a reflection of a deeper malaise that continues to haunt the democratic and moral conscience of the nation. For a community that has endured displacement, dispossession, and decades of exile from its ancestral homeland, political representation is not a symbolic luxury but a necessary instrument of justice, voice, and reintegration.

The absence of timely nominations raises uncomfortable questions about intent, priority, and the sincerity of commitments made to one of the most historically rooted yet tragically marginalized communities of Kashmir. Kashmiri Pandits, once an integral part of the Valley's pluralistic fabric, were forced into an exodus in the late 1980s and early 1990s under the shadow of militancy and targeted violence. Since then, their presence in the political processes of Jammu and Kashmir has been significantly diminished. While successive governments have acknowledged their plight and promised rehabilitation, the mechanisms to ensure their meaningful participation in governance have

often remained slow, inconsistent, or altogether absent. The nomination of MLAs from the community was envisioned as one such corrective measure—a bridge between displacement and democratic inclusion. Yet, the persistent delay in operationalizing this provision has rendered it ineffective. Representation in a framework is not simply about numbers; it is about ensuring that diverse voices are heard, especially those that have been historically silenced. The Kashmiri Pandit community carries with it a unique perspective shaped by cultural memory, displacement trauma, and an enduring connection to the Valley. Their insights into issues of security, rehabilitation, cultural preservation, and inter-community harmony are invaluable. By delaying their nomination, the system inadvertently perpetuates their exclusion, denying the legislative process the benefit of their lived experiences.

One must also consider the psychological dimension of this delay. For a community that has waited for decades to return with dignity and security, each unfulfilled promise compounds a sense of neglect and alienation. Political representation could serve as a powerful reassurance—a signal that the state acknowledges their suffering and is committed to restoring their rightful place in the socio-political landscape of Kashmir. Instead, the inordinate delay sends a contrary message, one that risks deepening mistrust and disillusionment. The reasons cited for the delay often revolve around procedural complexities, legal ambiguities, or shifting political dynamics. While governance does require adherence to due process, it is difficult to justify why a matter of such importance has not been prioritized with the urgency it deserves. In a region where political decisions are often taken swiftly in response to security or administrative exigencies, the slow pace of action

on this front appears incongruous. It invites speculation that the issue may not be receiving the focused attention it warrants at the highest levels of decision-making.

Furthermore, the delay has broader implications for the idea of inclusive governance in Jammu and Kashmir. The region has undergone significant political transformation in recent years, with assurances of better integration, development, and equitable representation. In this context, the continued absence of nominated representatives from the Kashmiri Pandit community stands out as a glaring inconsistency. It raises doubts about whether inclusivity is being pursued in practice or merely articulated in policy rhetoric. There is also a constitutional and ethical dimension to consider. The provision for nomination exists precisely to address gaps in representation that cannot be filled through direct elections. It is a recognition that certain communities, due to historical or structural disadvantages, may not be able to secure adequate representation through conventional means. By failing to act on this provision in a timely manner, the state undermines the very purpose for which it was created. It is not simply a delay; it is a deviation from a principle of and equity embedded within the democratic framework.

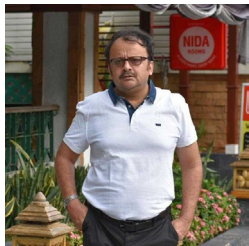
Critically, the delay also affects the ongoing discourse around the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits. Political representation could play a pivotal role in shaping policies that are sensitive to ground realities. Issues such as housing, employment, security arrangements, and cultural preservation require nuanced understanding and sustained advocacy. Without representatives from the community within the , these concerns risk being addressed in a fragmented or superficial manner. Decisions made in their absence may lack the depth and empathy that only

lived experience can provide. At the same time, it is important to recognize that nomination alone is not a panacea. It must be accompanied by genuine empowerment, clear mandates, and institutional support. However, it is undeniably a crucial first step. It opens the door for dialogue, participation, and accountability. The longer this step is delayed, the longer the community remains on the margins of the political process. The issue also resonates beyond the confines of Jammu and Kashmir. It speaks to the broader challenge of how democratic systems respond to displaced and marginalized communities. It tests the credibility of commitments made in the name of justice and reconciliation. In a country that prides itself on its democratic ethos, the treatment of Kashmiri Pandits becomes a litmus test for the inclusiveness and responsiveness of its institutions.

There is an urgent need for clarity, transparency, and action. The process of nomination must be expedited with a clear timeline and well-defined criteria. It should involve consultation with representatives of the Kashmiri Pandit community to ensure that those nominated truly reflect their aspirations and concerns. Above all, it must be guided by a sense of moral responsibility rather than mere procedural compliance. The delay in nominating MLAs from the Kashmiri Pandit community is not an isolated administrative issue; it is emblematic of a larger disconnect between promise and practice. It underscores the need for a more empathetic and proactive approach to governance, one that recognizes the urgency of restoring dignity and voice to those who have long been deprived of both. In the journey towards a more inclusive and harmonious Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring timely political representation for Kashmiri Pandits is not just a step forward—it is an obligation that can no longer be deferred.

Annu Kapoor on Uttar Da Puttar

The tagline “Karam Bade Ya Kismat?” sits at the heart of the film. Kapoor reflects on this age-old question with a gentle smile. He believes karma and destiny are not enemies but dance partners. “Karma means our actions, our honest efforts, and the choices we make every day



VIVEK SHUKLA

ENTERTAINMENT

Kapoor trained at the National School of Drama (NSD) in Delhi. Those NSD days remain some of his most precious memories. “Theatre taught me discipline, the power of words, and how to connect with people from the heart,” he recalls. At NSD, he learned not just acting skills but also the importance of observing life around him. The rigorous training helped him understand human emotions deeply- something he still draws upon in every role.

In the lively set of the upcoming comedy Uttar Da Puttar, veteran actor Annu Kapoor sits comfortably in a quiet corner during a break from shooting in Delhi. The film’s poster has already caught everyone’s eye- him perched on a toilet atop a giant Vaastu wheel, looking happily confused while surrounded by a fun cast. He is gazing towards the North direction.

Kapoor brings his trademark warmth and sharp wit to the role of an accomplished Physics teacher who teaches youngsters to crack competitive exams and deeply believes in Vaastu. His character dreams of buying a perfect North-facing house and spends years chasing that one “right direction” to fix his luck.

Kapoor says the story struck a deep chord with him from the very first reading. “This film is about ordinary people like us who look everywhere outside for answers- in directions, stars, or special rooms in the house- but forget that real change comes from within,” he shares. The teacher in the film is a man of science, yet he gets pulled into the world of Vaastu. He runs from one expert to another, faces everyday chaos, and learns through funny and touching moments that life has its own surprises.

Why did this story connect with you personally? “The theme is very relatable. We all sometimes look for answers outside ourselves instead of within. My character’s confusion between Vaastu rules and real life felt authentic. The film explores this with humour and heart. It does not mock faith- it gently shows that while Vaastu can help create harmony, true change comes from our karma- honest effort and good choices. That balance is what I liked most,” says Annu Kapoor.

You have had a long and respected career. How does this film fit into it? “Well, I have been working for over four decades. From Mr. India, Darr, Vicky Donor, Slumdog Millionaire, Raincoat, Jolly LLB 2 and many more, I have played all kinds of roles. I love stories that entertain and make you think. Uttar Da Puttar does exactly that. It is a comedy but carries a meaningful message,” he explains.

Talking about the most memorable part of making this film, Kapoor says the story feels like everyday Indian life- full of hopes, struggles, and little joys. Pro-

ducer Sandiip Kapur has a formidable record with meaningful films like Jugaad, Anaarkali of Aarah and the National Award-winning Bhonsle. That gave him confidence.

The film, written and directed by Ravinder Siwach and produced by Sandiip and Priya Kapur under Promodome Motion Pictures, has been shot across iconic Delhi landmarks like Hanuman Mandir in Karol Bagh, Connaught Place, India Gate, and Qutub Minar. These places make the story feel real and close to home for many urban Indians.

The tagline “Karam Bade Ya Kismat?” sits at the heart of the film. Kapoor reflects on this age-old question with a gentle smile. He believes karma and destiny are not enemies but dance partners. “Karma means our actions, our honest efforts, and the choices we make every day. Destiny may set the stage, but how we perform on it is up to us,” he says. His character represents millions who rearrange furniture or consult priests for better luck, yet the film gently shows that true peace comes when

we balance faith with hard work. It mixes humour and satire without mocking anyone’s beliefs. In today’s India, where Vaastu features even in big government projects, the story feels timely. It reminds viewers to laugh at their obsessions while moving forward with courage and honesty.

Kapoor trained at the National School of Drama (NSD) in Delhi. Those NSD days remain some of his most precious memories. “Theatre taught me discipline, the power of words, and how to connect with people from the heart,” he recalls. At NSD, he learned not just acting skills but also the importance of observing life around him. The rigorous training helped him understand human emotions deeply- something he still draws upon in every role.

Working on Uttar Da Puttar brought back the joy of ensemble storytelling. The cast, including Rukhsar Rehman, Brijendra Kala, Pavan Malhotra, Ishitiyak Khan and others, felt like a big family. “Everyone brought their own colours to the film. It is full of warmth, family drama, and light

satire,” Kapoor notes. The shoot in Delhi added extra fun, with the city’s energy flowing into the scenes. He hopes audiences will watch the film on its release date, 24 July 2026, and leave the theatre smiling while thinking about their own lives. “The film does not give heavy lectures. It simply says - arrange your space if it helps, but never forget to work on yourself.”

As the conversation winds down, Kapoor’s eyes twinkle with the same happy confusion seen in the poster. In a world full of stress and quick fixes, Uttar Da Puttar offers a simple message: the real “Uttar” or direction lies in balanced living. Through his long career from NSD stages to the silver screen, Annu Kapoor has shown that consistent effort and love for the craft create the best destiny. This film feels like another meaningful step in that journey- one filled with laughter, heart, and quiet wisdom.

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Clean Politics: The Cornerstone of a Developed India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Developed India 2047 places considerable emphasis on transparent governance, digital reforms and corruption-free administration



SIKANDER LONE

India has travelled a remarkable democratic journey since Independence. Today, it is not only the world’s largest democracy but also one of the fastest-growing major economies, with the ambition of becoming the world’s third-largest economy and achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. However, true national progress cannot be measured by economic growth or technological advancement alone. The real strength of a democracy lies in the integrity, accountability and credibility of its political leadership. If India aspires to become a truly developed nation, it must also free its political system from the shadow of crime and corruption.

For decades, governments of different political ideologies have promised transparent governance and clean politics. While several reforms have been introduced, the issue of criminalisation in politics continues to remain unresolved. Political parties have often viewed electoral reforms through the lens of political advantage rather than national interest. Consequently, India still lacks a foolproof mechanism to prevent individuals facing serious criminal allegations from occupying important public offices.

Against this backdrop, the proposed 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill has sparked significant debate. The Bill seeks to remove the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers or ministers from office if they are arrested in serious criminal cases carrying a punishment of more than five years and remain in judicial custody for 30 consecutive days. The proposal, which was earlier introduced in Parliament

and later referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, is expected to come up for discussion during the upcoming Monsoon Session.

The proposal addresses a growing concern regarding elected representatives facing grave charges such as murder, rape, corruption, terrorism or organised crime while continuing to hold constitutional office. Although guilt can only be established by a court of law, prolonged judicial custody in serious cases raises important questions about public trust and the ethical standards expected from those entrusted with governing the country.

At the same time, constitutional safeguards cannot be overlooked. India’s legal system is founded on the principle that every individual is innocent until proven guilty. Any law that allows removal from office solely on the basis of arrest must include strong protections against political misuse. Opposition parties have expressed concerns that investigative agencies could be used to target political rivals. Therefore, judicial oversight, transparent investigations and clearly defined legal safeguards must be integral to any such legislation.

History has shown that leaders across different political parties have continued to occupy public office despite facing serious criminal proceedings or imprisonment. This is not a problem confined to one party or one region; it reflects a broader challenge confronting Indian democracy. While courts determine legal guilt, those holding public office are also expected to uphold the highest standards of moral responsibility. Resigning during serious legal proceedings should be viewed as an act of accountability rather than political defeat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of Developed India 2047 places

considerable emphasis on transparent governance, digital reforms and corruption-free administration. However, economic development alone cannot transform India into a global leader. Political credibility and ethical leadership are equally essential. Political parties must prioritise honesty, public service, integrity and clean public records while selecting candidates instead of relying solely on electoral calculations.

Judicial reforms are also crucial. Criminal cases involving elected representatives often remain pending for years, allowing uncertainty to persist and weakening democratic accountability. Fast-track courts, impartial investigations and time-bound trials would ensure that innocent leaders are cleared without unnecessary delay while those found guilty are held accountable without prolonged legal battles.

Ultimately, strengthening democracy requires more than constitutional amendments. It demands political will, institutional integrity and ethical leadership. Both the ruling party and the Opposition have a shared responsibility to place national interest above partisan politics. Constructive debate and meaningful amendments should strengthen reform rather than obstruct it.

India stands at a historic crossroads. The dream of becoming a developed and globally respected nation cannot be separated from the need to restore public faith in politics. A democracy built on integrity, transparency and accountability will not only inspire confidence among its citizens but also enhance India’s standing before the world. The path to Viksit Bharat lies not only in economic prosperity but also in building a political system that is honest, responsible and worthy of the trust of every Indian.

Beyond Appearance, True Teaching Matters

SALEEM AHMAD ANIM

For ten years, I have stood in government classrooms across Kashmir with an M.Sc., a B.Ed., and a body that refuses to look “imposing.” My voice is soft. I am lean. People still mistake my younger brother for my elder. And for a decade, I have carried a quiet question:

Is this enough to be called “Sir”? Society still carries an old photograph of a teacher: tall, broad-shouldered, a baritone voice, a cane resting in one hand. A relic of the colonial classroom. Somewhere along the way, we confused authority with appearance and decided that “roab” was the first qualification of a teacher.

But walk into a classroom in Sopore or Anantnag in 2026. The child sitting on the third bench is not frightened of a cane. He is frightened of fractions. He is not searching for a wrestler. He is searching for someone who can explain Vita-Wonk’s “minus years” without making him feel foolish.

I will admit something. There are moments when I hesitate to speak. I notice tension before others do. I sense conflict early. Yet that same sensitivity helps me notice the child being bullied before anyone else does. It helps me recognize the gifted student who hides behind silence. Empathy is not a weakness. It is one of the finest teaching tools we possess. The National Education Policy 2020 speaks repeatedly of compassionate and empathetic educators. Empathy has never depended on height, weight, or the depth of a voice.

Today, there is a growing demand that teacher recruitment should include physical endurance tests and medical boards in addition to the Teacher Eligibility Test. I understand where that frustration comes from. After clearing competitive examinations and facing interview panels myself, I know people want fairness and quality.

But endurance for what? To stand through a forty-minute lesson? To write on the board? To supervise corridors? Certainly, every teacher should possess basic physical fitness, and every school should encourage healthy lifestyles.

Beyond that, however, teaching is not a test of muscle.

The moment we begin treating a six-foot frame or a booming voice as an unofficial qualification, we start excluding minds that could transform classrooms. Great educators have rarely been remembered for intimidating appearances. They were remembered because students chose silence,

not out of fear, but out of curiosity.

Written examinations, demonstration lessons, and interviews already examine the qualities that truly matter: knowledge, communication, judgment, and classroom management. If a soft-spoken teacher can hold the attention of forty-five restless children while explaining latitude and longitude, that is perhaps the greatest demonstration of authority imaginable. Attention earned through understanding lasts longer than attention demanded through fear.

The real danger is not a lean teacher.

The real danger is a classroom led by someone who commands silence yet cannot explain why $9\frac{3}{2}=27\%$, or who reads “Vita-Wonk” merely as a humorous story instead of an invitation to think about science, ethics, and imagination.

Fitness matters. But let fitness exist for health, not as a gatekeeper to the profession.

Let schools invest in regular health check-ups instead of unnecessary medical barriers. Let us train teachers to use thoughtful pauses instead of raised voices, and clarity instead of intimidation.

A teacher’s voice does not need to be heavy.

It only needs to be heavy with meaning.

And no measuring tape has ever learned how to measure that.

Email:- saleemanim1982@gmail.com



Min Sharma meets delegations in Srinagar

BK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 3: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, on Thursday met several public delegations from across Jammu and Kashmir and assured them of prompt action on their grievances and developmental concerns.

A delegation representing 118 lessees of the Brick & Tile Factory Industrial Estate, Pampore, highlighted the nearly four-year delay in the allotment of industrial land despite completing all required formalities. The delegation said the delay had adversely affected entrepreneurship, industrial growth and employment generation.

Giving a patient hearing, the Minister assured the delegation that the matter would be taken up with the



concerned authorities for an early resolution. He reiterated the government's commitment to promoting industrial development and ensuring that genuine entrepreneurs do not suffer due to procedural delays.

Sharma emphasized that industrial growth is vital for strengthening the econ-

omy of Jammu and Kashmir and said the government is working to facilitate a business-friendly environment through coordinated efforts across departments.

The Minister also met the Fair Price Shop Association, which raised issues related to the timely release of commissions, the functioning

of ration depots and other concerns linked to the Public Distribution System. He assured the members that their genuine demands would be examined sympathetically.

A delegation of the Kerosene Dealers Association submitted issues concerning dealers and consumers, while

representatives of NYCs presented a memorandum regarding their welfare and functioning. Sharma assured both delegations that their concerns would be considered on merit.

In addition, several delegations and individuals from different districts brought issues related to road connectivity, drinking water, electricity, sports infrastructure, civic amenities and consumer affairs to the Minister's notice.

Reaffirming the Omar Abdullah-led government's commitment to transparent and people-centric governance, Sharma said public grievances are being addressed on priority through direct public outreach and inter-departmental coordination. He assured all delegations that their issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action.

Staff shortage hits Karnah healthcare

BK NEWS SERVICE

Karnah, July 3: A severe shortage of healthcare personnel has crippled medical services in the border subdivision of Karnah, with 96 posts lying vacant and 18 health institutions remaining non-functional, severely affecting access to healthcare for thousands of residents.

According to official information, Karnah has a network of 36 healthcare institutions, including a District Hospital, Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), New Type PHCs and Sub-Centres. However, half of these facilities are reportedly non-operational due to a lack of staff and other operational shortcomings.

The vacant posts include specialist doctors, medical officers, staff nurses, pharmacists, laboratory technicians, radiographers and other essential healthcare personnel.

The shortage has forced many patients, particularly those from remote



border and hilly villages, to travel long distances to the District Hospital or other areas even for basic medical treatment.

Residents said the prolonged vacancies have severely weakened healthcare delivery in the region, leaving many villages without reliable medical services.

Locals have urged the government and the Health Department to immediately fill the vacant posts,

revive the non-functional health centres and strengthen healthcare infrastructure in the strategically important border subdivision.

They warned that unless urgent steps are taken to address the manpower shortage and restore health services, the public health situation in Karnah could deteriorate further, causing greater hardship for people living in the remote frontier region.

Martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei Mehbooba pays tribute in Tehran



BK NEWS SERVICE

Tehran/Srinagar, July 3 : Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Friday paid tribute to Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei, during her visit to Tehran, describing it as an honour to personally convey her condolences and solidarity.

In a post on X, Mehbooba Mufti wrote: "An honour for me to be here in Tehran to express my deepest condolences and solidarity on the martyrdom of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei—a revered leader who dared to stand against the tide and fought for the oppressed."

Mufti's remarks came during

her visit to Iran, where she joined other dignitaries and mourners at the condolence ceremonies. She described Ayatollah Khamenei as a leader who stood firmly against global injustices and championed the cause of the oppressed.

Earlier, Mehbooba Mufti had received an official invitation from the Iranian authorities to attend the ceremonies in Tehran. She was among a select group of invitees from Jammu and Kashmir, including several prominent Shia religious clerics.

The visit comes amid heightened regional and international attention, with political figures and religious representatives from several countries travelling to Tehran to participate in the mourning ceremonies

Akashvani launches SANJY 2026 broadcast

BK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 3,: Akashvani Srinagar today inaugurated its Special Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026 Transmission with the commissioning of a dedicated, state-of-the-art broadcast studio established exclusively for the annual pilgrimage. The facility has been set up to provide seamless, high-quality radio and digital broadcast services to Yatris and devotees across the globe throughout the Yatra period.

The dedicated studio was formally inaugurated by Gurbinder Singh, Deputy Director General (Engineering) and Head of Office, Akashvani Srinagar, in the presence of Ghulam Rasool Akhoun, Head of Programmes (Assistant Director, Programme); Suresh Chand Meena, Programme Executive; and other senior officers from the Engineering and Programme Wings.

Addressing the gathering, Gurbinder Singh described the Special SANJY Transmission as a unique broadcasting initiative covering one of the country's most challenging pilgrimage routes along both the Baltal and Pahalgam axis. He termed the dedicated studio a significant technological advancement in



pilgrimage broadcasting, equipped with the latest digital audio technology to ensure uninterrupted, high-quality transmission for the benefit of Yatris, devotees, and all stakeholders associated with the annual pilgrimage.

He said, "Our objective is to make the broadcast accessible not only to pilgrims on the ground but also to devotees across the country and around the world

through multiple terrestrial and digital platforms."

Gurbinder Singh further informed that the Special SANJY 2026 broadcasts will be available through 103.7 MHz FM Baltal, 100.1 MHz FM Pahalgam, the WAVES OTT Platform, DTH Services, the NewsonAir Android and iOS App, and the Akashvani Aradhana Channel. To strengthen connectivity and ensure uninterrupted coverage

in the challenging Himalayan terrain, two special FM transmitters have been installed at Baltal and Pahalgam, providing reliable transmission along the entire pilgrimage route to the Holy Cave, including remote and high-altitude locations.

The Special SANJY Transmission will feature a comprehensive range of programmes, including devotional music, live updates and daily reports from

the base camps and Yatra routes, interviews with pilgrims and officials, informative capsules, feature programmes, weather updates, traffic advisories, and other information of public interest to facilitate the pilgrimage.

Among those present on the occasion were Pramod Kumar, Director (Engineering); mati Samina Shah, Senior Programme Officer, Ishfaq Ahmad Shah, Head, Regional News Unit, Ashfaq Lone, Senior Broadcaster Akashvani Srinagar; Waseem Farooq, Programme Executive and In-charge, Special Transmission SANJY 2026; along with officers and staff members of Akashvani Srinagar.

The dedicated Special SANJY 2026 Transmission reflects Akashvani Srinagar's continued commitment to leveraging modern broadcasting technology to deliver timely, authentic, and comprehensive coverage of one of the country's most revered spiritual pilgrimages. Through its extensive terrestrial and digital outreach, Akashvani Srinagar remains committed to serving the information, guidance, and devotional needs of Yatris, devotees, and listeners across India and around the world.

Journalist assault sparks outrage



BK NEWS SERVICE

Kishtwar, July 3: The journalist fraternity in Jammu and Kashmir has strongly condemned the alleged assault on senior journalist Asif Iqbal Naik by a Junior Engineer of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), describing the incident as a serious attack on press freedom and the right of journalists to hold public officials accountable.

According to eyewitnesses and the victim, the incident took place inside the Deputy Commissioner's Office premises in Kishtwar when Naik questioned NHIDCL Junior Engineer Basharat Hussain Najar about the poor condition of the drainage system along National Highway-244 passing through Kishtwar town and sought his response to allegations of irregularities in the proj-

ect.

Instead of responding to the queries, the engineer allegedly lost his temper and physically assaulted the journalist in full public view. Naik further alleged that the official abused him and used the term "Gujjar" in a derogatory manner during the altercation. Members of the journalist fraternity claimed the entire incident was captured on camera. However, they alleged that no action had been taken against the accused official even more than 15 hours after the incident, triggering widespread resentment among media persons.

Condemning the alleged assault, journalists termed the administration's silence "deeply disturbing" and said repeated incidents of intimidation against media professionals have created an atmosphere where officials believe they can act with impu-

nity. They also expressed concern over what they described as the declining respect for professional journalism in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that the unchecked rise of self-styled social media operators posing as journalists has blurred professional standards and undermined the credibility of genuine media professionals.

The journalist fraternity demanded immediate action against the accused engineer and urged the Omar Abdullah-led government to ensure the safety of journalists and uphold press freedom. They stressed that media professionals must be able to question public officials without fear of intimidation, assault or harassment.

Asif Iqbal Naik said he would continue to pursue the issue and remain committed to highlighting public concerns until the drainage system in Kishtwar town is properly upgraded and accountability is ensured.

The fraternity warned that if prompt action is not taken against the accused official, it would intensify its protest to safeguard press freedom and protect the dignity and safety of journalists across Jammu and Kashmir.

PSA, PIT NDPS detentions in Awantipora



BK NEWS SERVICE

Awantipora, July 3: In a sustained drive against terrorism and drug trafficking, Police in Awantipora have booked one terror associate under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and one notorious drug peddler under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act.

The terror associate, namely Suhail Farooq lone @Sahba Farooq Ahmad Lone, resident of Lone Mohalla Nigeenpora Reshipora Tral, was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent au-

thority. Subsequently, he was detained and lodged in District Jail Baderwah.

The notorious drug peddler, identified as Manzoor Ahmad Mir @Mana Tiger son of Abdul Khaliq Mir, resident of Kadlabal Pampore, was booked under the PIT NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority and was subsequently lodged in Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

It is pertinent to mention that the terror associate was actively involved in providing logistical support, shelter, transportation, and other assistance to terrorist outfits operating in the area. And despite repeated preventive mea-

sures, he continued to engage in activities prejudicial to the security of the State, necessitating his preventive detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Similarly, Manzoor Ahmad Mir @Mana Tiger is a habitual offender with several NDPS cases registered against him. He was actively involved in the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs by supplying contraband substances to local youth in Pampore and other areas of Police District Awantipora. His continued involvement in drug trafficking posed a serious threat to society, warranting his preventive detention under the PIT NDPS Act.

J&K Police remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining peace and public order by taking firm legal action against terrorists, their associates, and drug traffickers. Such sustained preventive measures reflect the resolve of the Police to dismantle the terror ecosystem, curb the menace of drug abuse, and safeguard the lives and future of the youth.

The general public is urged to continue extending their support and cooperation by sharing any information related to terrorism or drug trafficking with the Police.

Div Com reviews Yatra arrangements at Nunwan Camp

BK NEWS SERVICE

Anantnag, July 3: In order to take the stock of facilities along Pahalgam Axis of Yatra, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Friday visited various facilities including the Frisking Point, Nunwan Base Camp, Hikers Park and the Club to inspect overall arrangements during the departure of first batch of Yatris through the route.

Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Chief Executive Officer, Pahalgam Development Authority, Additional Deputy Commissioner, SDM Pahalgam and other senior officers, the Divisional Commissioner assessed the preparedness of departments to ensure the smooth movement of pilgrims.

During the visit, Garg inspected the frisking point, eKYC verification and RFID registration counters, and reviewed the overall pilgrim facilitation system. He also interacted with yatris to obtain first-hand feedback on the facilities and services being provided.

Directing officers to maintain seamless coordination, the Divisional Commissioner emphasised the need to ensure efficient, hassle-free arrangements and the availability of all essential facilities for pilgrims, with special focus on their safety, comfort and convenience throughout the Yatra.

Taking note of the heavy influx of unregistered pilgrims, Garg



instructed the concerned officers to streamline the on-the-spot registration process to minimise waiting time and facilitate quicker registration.

He also directed officials to provide proper guidance and assistance to pilgrims requiring on-the-spot registration.

At Hikers Park, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the token-based RFID registration facility, while at the Club he inspected the on-the-spot RFID registration and eKYC updation process. Appreciating the efforts of the RFID teams, he directed officials to ensure timely completion of the daily registration quota.

Stressing that a large number of pilgrims are expected to undertake the pilgrimage in the coming days, Garg directed all departments to keep the arrangements fully functional and responsive to ensure a safe, smooth and convenient Yatra experience for the devotees.



Plum harvest begins in Kashmir

BK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 3: The annual plum harvest has begun across several parts of Kashmir, bringing fresh hope to growers despite weather-related challenges that affected flowering and fruit development earlier this year. Orchardists have started harvesting early varieties of the fruit in districts including Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama, Baramulla and Shopian, with supplies gradually reaching local markets.

Farmers said intermittent rainfall, unseasonal temperature fluctuations and hailstorms during the flowering stage had impacted fruit setting in some orchards, resulting in a lower yield compared to expectations. However, the quality of the harvested fruit remains satisfactory, offering some relief to growers.

Plum cultivation has emerged as an important source of income for many fruit growers in Kashmir, particularly those with small and medium-sized orchards. The fruit is among the first major summer horticultural produce to reach markets, providing farmers with early-season earnings before the apple harvest begins.

Growers in several villages said harvesting started



this week and will continue over the coming weeks as different varieties mature. They expressed hope that stable weather during the harvesting season would help maintain fruit quality and reduce post-harvest losses.

"This season has been challenging due to frequent rains and changing weather patterns. Although production is slightly lower, the fruit quality is good and we expect fair market returns," said a grower from Budgam.

Traders have also started procuring fresh plums from orchards for distribution to wholesale fruit markets across Kashmir and neighbouring states. Initial arrivals have witnessed encouraging demand due

to the fruit's freshness and taste.

Horticulture experts said weather remains one of the biggest challenges for stone fruits such as plums, peaches and cherries, as untimely rainfall and hailstorms during flowering and fruit development can significantly affect production. They advised growers to adopt scientific orchard management practices, including proper pruning, irrigation and pest management, to minimise losses and improve productivity.

Officials from the Horticulture Department said they continue to provide technical guidance to orchardists on disease management, nutrient application and post-harvest

handling to ensure better returns.

Besides generating income, plum cultivation contributes to crop diversification in Kashmir's horticulture sector, which remains heavily dependent on apples. Experts believe expanding the cultivation of stone fruits can strengthen farmers' incomes, create additional employment opportunities and reduce market risks associated with a single crop.

With harvesting now underway, growers are hopeful that favourable market prices and improved consumer demand will help offset the losses caused by adverse weather, making the season economically viable despite the reduced production.

Airtel expands Amarnath network

BK NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 3: Bharti Airtel has expanded its mobile network coverage along the Amarnath Yatra routes by deploying new network sites on the Pahalgam axis to provide seamless connectivity for pilgrims, security personnel and local authorities.

The telecom operator has commissioned new mobile sites at Chandanwari, Pissu Top and Betaab Valley, strengthening coverage along the Pahalgam route. The expansion complements Airtel's existing network on the Baltal route, extending reliable connectivity up to the holy Amarnath Cave Shrine.

The company said the network enhancement was carried out in coordination with the government and local administration to bolster communication infrastructure during the annual pilgrimage. The upgraded network is expected to provide uninterrupted voice and data services, facilitate emergency communications and improve digital access for lakhs of pilgrims.

Vikram R.S., Chief Operating Officer, Bharti Airtel, Jammu and Kashmir, said the company remains committed to providing reliable connectivity in challenging terrains and that the expansion across both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes reflects Airtel's continued investment in Jammu and Kashmir and its commitment to supporting pilgrims, security agencies and authorities throughout the Yatra.

The company said the initiative is part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen digital connectivity and bridge communication gaps in remote areas.



NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-IV/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date **22.07.2026** up to **15:00** Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
30.06.2026	08.07.2026	22.07.2026 15:00
Tender No.	Details of Tender	
13-2026-27- MCTM-DRM-JAT	Ordinary repairs and maintenance works for service buildings, Residential quarters, Rest house, Barracks, Station buildings, Drainage works and other Misc. and allied works in zone from KM 1.00 to 54.00 on JAT-UHP in the jurisdiction of ADEN-MCTM. (Zone work- FY 2026-27)	
Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
₹7999319.34	₹160000.00	60 days
Period of Completion		
12 Months		

Similar nature of work - "Any civil work other than track work"

Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against the tender.

No: 770-W/01/WA/JAT/2026-27 Date: 02.07.2026

SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE

2285/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/J&K Northern Railway, invites open Tender through e-tendering system from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work.

Name of Work : Provision of Pneumatic Pipeline at BDGM Washing Lines.	
Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate) : Rs. 24,69,130/- (Rs. Twenty-Four Lakh Sixty-nine Thousand One Hundred and thirty Only)	
Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit) : Rs. 49,400/- (Rs. Forty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Only)	
Bidding Start Date : As per www.ireps.gov.in	
E-Tender closing Date & Time : 27.07.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.	
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website : 27.07.2026 at 15:15 Hrs.	
Contract Period : 120 days	
Type of Tender : Open Tender (Single Packet System)	
Validity of Tender : 60 Days from the last date of submission of tender	
Tender No.: 05-2026-DEMU BDGM Dated: 03.07.2026	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

2290/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr.DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date **25.07.2026 at 14:00** Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & Time for submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion Period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
851-TRD-JAT-2026-27	Outsourcing of maintenance activities for PSI assets of TRD depots at Pathankot (PTKC), Dasuya (DZA) and Gurdaspur (GSP) under the Jurisdiction of ADEE/TR/PTKC over Jammu division for 02 years.	2,54,18,264.62	NIL	Up to 25.07.2026 14:00 Hrs.	5,08,400/-	Twenty Four (24) Months	25.07.2026 after 14:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & Invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No.: 851-TRD-JAT-2026-27 Dated: 02.07.2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

2280/2026

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. Office of the Executive Engineer, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar

Near Silk Factory Rajbagh Srinagar

email: xened-2@jk.gov.in

e-NIT No. ED-II/ 06 of 2026-27 Dated:01-07-2026

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), Executive Engineer, Electric Division 2nd Srinagar Kashmir (here in after referred as 'Employer'), invites online e-bids from approved, reputed, Govt. approved Electrical Contractors/ SSI repair unit holders transformer manufacturers / Labour Contractors having an adequate workforce having sufficient experience in carrying out similar nature of job for Rate Contract for Rewinding/Reconditioning of Fully Carbonized/Heat Up LT Coils, Fabrication of New HT Coils etc along with Dismantling and assembling of DTs of various Capacities required for immediate restoration of power supply to affected areas within the jurisdiction of Electric Division 2nd Rajbagh for the period of One year (2026-27) from the issuance of LOA or till finalization of next rate contract

1.	Name of work(s)	Rate Contract for Rewinding/Reconditioning of Fully Carbonized/Heat Up LT Coils, Fabrication of New HT Coils etc along with Dismantling and assembling of DTs of various Capacities required for immediate restoration of power supply to affected areas within the jurisdiction of Electric Division 2nd Rajbagh for the period of One year (2026-27) from the issuance of LOA or till finalization of next rate contract
2.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 7.75 Lacs
3.	Availability of Funds	Available under GIA (M&R)

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 04.07.2026; 10:00 A.M
B	Downloading of Bid Document (Start)	04.07.2026; 10:00 A.M.
C	Clarifications start date	04.07.2026;10:30 A.M
D	Clarifications end date	06.07.2026; 04:00 P.M
F	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	06.07.2026; 4:30 P.M
G	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	24.07.2026; 04:00 P.M
H	Online commercial and technical e-Bid opening date & time	27.07.2026; 1:30 P.M
I	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders
J	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division 2nd Rajbagh Srinagar (ED-2ND) Kashmir
K	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs 200.00 (Two Hundred Rupees Only)
L	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 15500 (Fifteen Thousand Five Thousand Rupees only).

- The bidders need to submit the proof / cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through treasury Challan/ DD (non-refundable) from any Nationalized / Scheduled Bank pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Electric Division 2nd Srinagar payable at Srinagar.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee for tender participation, pledged to the Executive Engineer, Electric Division 2nd Rajbagh Srinagar. No interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. The scanned copy of the T/R/Demand Draft and EMD must be uploaded along with the e-Bids.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced.
- Bidders must quote FOR ALL THE ITEMS in the price schedule/BOQ of financial bid. The bids of Bidders who will not quote for any item in financial bid shall be liable to be rejected at the discretion of the Employer keeping in view the interest of the KPDC.
- KPDC reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof, if any major lapse/ deviation is found. The decision of KPDC will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday/closed day for department's office, then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- As per Finance Department Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025, "Every participating bidder/contractor has to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder."
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

NO: ED-II/TS/7363-66

Date: 01.07.2026

DIPK-NB-961-26-Dt:3-7-2026

Sd-
Executive Engineer
Electric Division 2nd Srinagar

Northern Railway strengthens arrangements for Amarnath Yatra

BK NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, July 3 : With the annual Amarnath Yatra underway, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway has made elaborate arrangements at Jammu Tawi Railway Station to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims arriving from across the country.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal, along with commercial and operating officials, inspected the railway station to review facilities and assess preparedness for the yatra. "The railway authorities have established a fully covered passenger holding area equipped with seating, lighting, fans, coolers and drinking water facilities. Round-

the-clock housekeeping services have also been deployed to maintain cleanliness, while additional staff have been stationed to ensure timely water supply to trains," the statement said.

It said a 24x7 help desk has been set up at the station where railway personnel, along with Scouts and Guides, are assisting pilgrims with train schedules, platform information, medical aid and other services.

To ensure security and effective crowd management, additional ticket checking staff, commercial officials and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel have been deployed, while CCTV surveillance and continuous monitoring from

the railway war room have also been put in place.

Meanwhile, Platform Nos. 4 and 5 at Jammu Tawi Railway Station have been commissioned for train operations, with Train No. 13152 becoming the first train to operate from the newly commissioned platform on Friday, the statement said.

The railway administration has appealed to pilgrims to undertake the journey only after completing registration, purchase tickets from authorised counters, avoid accepting food or beverages from strangers, refrain from unnecessary crowding on platforms, and contact the Rail Madad Helpline 139 or the station help desk for assistance.

SKUAST-K boosts livestock dev in Gurez

BK NEWS SERVICE

Gurez, July 3: Reinforcing its commitment to sustainable livestock development and conservation of indigenous animal genetic resources, the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) organised a two-day awareness, animal healthcare and input distribution programme in Gurez from June 30 to July 1.

The programme was organised by the Division of Animal Genetics & Breeding, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Shuhama, under the ICAR-NBAGR Network Project on Animal Genetic Resources, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Gurez, and the Department of Animal Husbandry. The initiative aimed to promote conservation of indigenous livestock, enhance productivity and strengthen the livelihoods of tribal farming communities.

Held under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Nazir Ahmad Ganai, the outreach programme brought together scientists, veterinary experts, extension professionals and livestock farmers to promote scientific livestock management and climate-resilient farming practices.

Chief Guest Dr. Ravinder Kumar, Principal Sci-



entist at ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cattle, highlighted the importance of indigenous livestock genetic resources in ensuring sustainable livestock production, climate resilience and nutritional security. He encouraged farmers to adopt scientific livestock technologies to improve productivity and contribute to the vision of a "Viksit Gurez."

Guest of Honour Dr. Mahesh Dige, Senior Scientist at ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, emphasised the need to conserve native animal breeds and appreciated SKUAST-K's continued efforts to strengthen the livestock sector through scientific interventions, awareness programmes and capacity building in remote tribal areas.

Earlier, Prof. (Dr.) Syed Shanaz Shafi, Professor and Head, Division of Animal Genetics & Breeding, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of conserving indigenous animal genetic resources. She said native livestock

and poultry breeds are naturally adapted to the harsh Himalayan climate and play a crucial role in sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and climate-resilient agriculture.

A key highlight of the programme was the distribution of livestock inputs. As many as 100 indigenous Kashmiri poultry birds were distributed under the ICAR-NBAGR Network Project to promote conservation and multiplication of native poultry germplasm. In addition, 300 Keystone Golden birds were distributed under the ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Poultry, under the guidance of Principal Investigator Dr. Azmat Alam, to encourage backyard poultry farming, particularly among women's Self-Help Groups, thereby enhancing livelihoods and household nutrition.

To support animal health, around 50 livestock farmers were provided free deworming medicines and mineral mixtures.

During the technical session, Dr. Shahid Ahmad Shergojri, Associate Professor, Division of Animal Genetics & Breeding, educated farmers on scientific breeding, conservation of indigenous poultry, genetic improvement and sustainable livestock management. Scientists also conducted practical demonstrations on scientific feeding, breeding, healthcare, disease prevention and climate-resilient livestock production. Farmers actively participated in interactive sessions and sought scientific solutions to challenges affecting livestock production.

The programme was attended by Dr. Izhar Ahmad, BVO Gurez; Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, VAS; Dr. Jauhar Rafeeq; Dr. Shahada; scientists and officials from KVK Gurez; officers of the Department of Animal Husbandry; and a large number of progressive livestock farmers and women beneficiaries from across the Gurez Valley.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Jauhar Rafeeq, Scientist, KVK Gurez, who expressed gratitude to all scientists, collaborating institutions and participating farmers. Special appreciation was extended to Prof. Raihana Kanth and Dr. Hilal Head, KVK Gurez, for their support in ensuring the successful conduct of the programme.

Saving Kashmir's Vanishing Wetlands

But there's a flip side. Too often, people now talk about "development" like it's just a matter of laying down more concrete or adding a few more kilometers to a highway. The number of tunnels or how much money goes into these projects that is why these have become the yardsticks for progress. In all this push for better roads and faster trains, the environment ends up as an afterthought.



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When Dr. Karan Singh pointed out that Dal Lake is now only a third of its original size, and wetlands like Hokersar and Anchar are all but virtually gone, he wasn't just reminiscing about old Kashmir. He was sounding the alarm. Dal Lake isn't just a spot for tourists, and those wetlands aren't just names on a map but they're the backbone of the Valley's life, shaping its civilization, economy, and culture over the centuries. Watching Dal shrink and wetlands disappear isn't some small, local problem. It's a sign that things are unraveling across Kashmir. The lakes, marshes, springs, and floodplains once supported people and balanced the climate. Now, cities are spreading out, roads and buildings are popping up everywhere, and the land is changing fast. What's at stake isn't just the water or the open spaces only but it's the region's whole sense of ecological security. That's what Dr. Singh's warning is really about. He's forcing everyone, from leaders to the everyday person, to face a tough question: Can Kashmir really chase growth and modernization without wiping out the natural foundations that make life in the Valley possible in the first place? The last ten years have completely changed the landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. Highways stretch wider than before, tunnels carve through mountains to make travel quicker, and new rail lines bring the Valley closer to the rest of the country. Cities and towns keep getting new urban projects, each one reshaping life a little more. All this new connectivity opens doors interestingly for more jobs, an easier way to get around, a rise in tourism, and better access to hospitals, schools, and markets. Roads and railways aren't just convenience here; they're lifelines. For years, the region's tough terrain kept whole communities cut off, making it hard to grow, compete, or even get basic services.

But there's a flipside. Too often, people now talk about "development" like it's just a matter of laying down more concrete or adding a few more kilometers to a highway. The number of tunnels or how much money goes into these projects that is why these have become the yardsticks for progress. In all this push for better roads and faster trains, the environment ends up as an afterthought. The conversation rarely stops to ask: what about the mountains, rivers,

or wildlife that make this region unique? So the real question for Kashmir isn't whether to keep building. That's a given. It's whether the region can shape its future without sacrificing its fragile Himalayan environment or whether growth and sustainability can go hand in hand, instead of pulling in opposite directions. The past decade has completely changed the face of Jammu and Kashmir. Highways stretch wider, tunnels cut journeys short, and railways now tie the Valley into the rest of India. Cities and towns are transforming, bit by bit, with new urban projects springing up everywhere. With all this new connectivity, you get more jobs, bustling tourism, smoother trade plus people now reach essential services without much hassle. It's pretty clear: roads, railways, modern amenities are key for the region's future. For so long, rough terrain and isolation left people without real opportunities. Those old barriers made life

Kashmir has always been a water civilization. The Valley emerged around rivers, lakes, wetlands, marshes, and springs that shaped its settlement patterns, agriculture, economy, and culture. The Jhelum River, Dal Lake, Wular Lake, Hokersar, Anchar, and countless smaller wetlands functioned as nature's infrastructure long before modern engineering entered the landscape.

amazingly these projects get all the attention, while the region's delicate ecology barely gets a mention. So, it's not really about saying no to building new things. The real question is how can we build in a way that doesn't wreck the fragile Himalayan landscape? That's the challenge Kashmir faces right now.

Kashmir has always been a water civilization. The Valley emerged around rivers, lakes, wetlands, marshes, and springs that shaped its settlement patterns, agriculture, economy, and culture. The Jhelum River, Dal Lake, Wular Lake, Hokersar, Anchar, and countless smaller wetlands functioned as nature's infrastructure long before modern engineering entered the landscape. These water bodies moderated temperatures, recharged groundwater, absorbed floodwaters, filtered pollutants, and sustained biodiversity. Farmers depended on them for irrigation, fishermen for livelihoods, and communities

of neglect, encroachments, pollution, and unregulated urban growth have disrupted this delicate relationship between society and nature. Water bodies are increasingly viewed as vacant land available for development rather than as essential ecological assets. This transformation in planning priorities has created vulnerabilities that are becoming increasingly visible.

The disappearance of wetlands is a problem for Kashmir. Hokersar, which was one of the important wetlands in the Valley is not doing well. The ecosystem of Hokersar has been badly damaged. Anchar Lake has become very small because people have built things on the land and polluted the water. Many small wetlands and floodplains have been turned into homes, shops, roads and cities. People often think that wetlands are useless.. That is not true. Wetlands do things that we cannot easily do with our technology. They help with floods they fill up the water underground they are home to many different kinds of plants and animals they keep the temperature from getting too hot or too cold and they keep the water flowing properly. When wetlands disappear the Valley is not as strong. The water that used to be absorbed by the wetlands now floods the cities. The water is not clean. There are not many plants and animals. The cities are getting hotter due decline in sponge. The things that wetlands do for us without us noticing are getting harder to replace. The problem with Dal Lake is not the environmental issue. It is part of a problem that affects the health of the environment in the Valley. This is a problem that can hurt the Valleys ability to grow and develop in the term. The disappearance of wetlands like Hokersar and Anchar Lake is an issue. The Vanishing Wetlands are a concern, for Kashmir.

Thus, the statement of Dr. Karan Singh conveys warning about the vanishing water bodies of Kashmir, is an environmental and civilizational reminder. It highlights that the degradation of lakes, wetlands and rivers is not only a consequence of uncontrolled urbanisation and climate change, but also a sign of degradation of ecological consciousness and poor governance. The loss of these fragile ecosystems would mean not only the loss of water security and rich biodiversity for Kashmir, but the loss of an intrinsic part of its cultural identity and heritage. His message is thus the urgent need for collective action through scientific conservation, sustainable development and active public participation to restore and protect these invaluable natural resources for future generations. The future of Kashmir's environment depends on how seriously this warning is heeded today to safeguard the resources for the posterity.



harder and made development uneven across the region. Better roads and links can turn things around. But here's the thing: in Kashmir, talking about "development" now almost

always means laying down more concrete, laying more track, or counting funds spent. All the big announcements focus on how many kilometers were built, how many tunnels opened. Lost in the excitement is the environment

for drinking water and transportation. The beauty of Kashmir that attracted travelers and poets for centuries was inseparable from these ecological systems. Unfortunately, decades

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