

# Kashmir Convener



India Leading Global Solutions Through Youth Power: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at IIT Jodhpur

P/02



EDII Opens Admissions for PGDM in Entrepreneurship and PGDM in Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Venture Development

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India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2025' Concludes in Ulaanbaatar

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## LG Sinha holds security review meeting for SANJY



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha took a comprehensive review of the security apparatus and measures deployed by the security agencies to ensure safety of the pilgrims.

According to the spokesperson, he chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials to review the security arrangements for the forthcoming Shri

Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, GoC 15 Corps; S.J.M Gillani, Special Director General (Coordination), PHQ; Pankaj Thakur, Joint Director IB; Nitish Kumar, ADGP CID J&K; Rajesh Kumar, ADG CRPF; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, CEO SABS and Principal

>>>SEONP-7

### Sadhus Reach Jammu

KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Scores of sadhus have begun arriving in Jammu, the city of temples, for their onward pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in the South Kashmir Himalayas beginning July 3.

The 32-day pilgrimage will commence from the twin tracks, the traditional 48 km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14 km shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal on July 3.

A day earlier, the first batch of pilgrims will leave Jammu's Bhagwati nagar base camp and Ram Mandir for the Valley.

The shrine houses the naturally formed ice Shivalingam and over 5.10 lakh pilgrims paid their obeisance at the 3,880-meter-high shrine last year.

>>>SEONP-7

## CM Attends To Grievances Firsthand

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today held a public outreach programme at his Raabita office in Srinagar, where he listened to a wide range of issues and demands raised by individuals and delegations from across Jammu and Kashmir.

Director of IIT Jammu, Manoj S. Gaur, called for support to the Venture Fund created by IIT Jammu aimed at promoting socio-economic development in the region.

A delegation of the Kashmiri Language Union raised concerns regarding the promotion of the Kashmiri language, urging greater institutional support for its development.

A delegation of Revenue Officers submitted a memorandum seeking the reorganization of the Revenue

Department and its wings across various departments, with demand for better conditions and structured career progression for Revenue cadre officers.

Similarly, a delegation from Industrial Estate Pampore, led by its president, flagged several issues pertaining to the functioning and development of the estate.

### Raabita programme



A deputation from the J&K OBC Resident Welfare Forum highlighted various concerns of the OBC community in Jammu & Kashmir.

Representatives from the Bharat CSR Network met the Chief Minister to discuss potential tourism promotion initiatives.

A delegation from Animal Rescue Kashmir raised issues regarding the welfare and rescue of animals, requesting institutional support and awareness for their cause.

Candidates appointed under SRO-120 of 2018 called for resolution of pending compassionate

appointment cases, while another delegation being considered under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (2022)

also highlighted similar concerns regarding pendency in compassionate appointments.

A deputation of "Voice of Weekly Newspapers" from Kashmir brought to light issues faced by weekly newspaper publishers in the region.

Besides these, numerous individuals and other delegations met the Chief Minister and apprised him of their grievances and demands.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all deputations and assured them that their genuine issues would be addressed on priority.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and other senior officials were also present during the programme. (DIPR)

## He has full authority': BJP rejects Omar's powerless CM claim

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** BJP General Secretary Ashok Koul on Friday said that Omar Abdullah is the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir and holds equal powers, rejecting Abdullah's recent remarks that

he functions as a "Union Territory CM" without authority.

Koul said that no one has curtailed the chief minister's powers and that Abdullah continues to have full administrative authority. "He is our chief minister. He has equal power. No one's power has been cut," Koul said, addressing media questions in Srinagar.

Responding to Omar Abdullah's claim that he was being prevented from working effectively, Koul said that such statements indicate an unwillingness to work. "Saying

that you are not being allowed to work means you don't want to work," he said.

Koul also referred to infrastructure developments in Jammu and Kashmir over the last decade, including the 395-meter-high bridge over the Chenab River and a rope bridge. He said freight trains are now running from Srinagar to cities like Bhandra in under 30 hours, marking logistical improvements in the region. When asked about the deputy chief minister's role, Koul said the deputy CM does not hold independent authority and there

is no obstruction to the chief minister's functioning. "The deputy CM is nothing. No one is stopping him. Tell me who is stopping him?" he said. He said the absence of both the chief minister and the power minister during a recent Union minister's visit did not hinder any official interactions. Koul also said the Prime Minister has assured that statehood will be restored to Jammu and Kashmir. "There are so many departments in the administration. If the chief minister runs these departments, the state will progress," he said. (KNS)

## CBI registers case in 2014 multi-crore flood relief scam

Owais Gul

**SRINAGAR:** Anti-corruption branch of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against officials of Deputy Commissioner's Office in Srinagar, Revenue officials and brokers in post flood 2014 relief



distribution multi crore scam.

An official while sharing the details with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Upon the receipt of reliable information, a discreet verification was conducted to ascertain the veracity of allegations against the accused. The allegations were found based on facts. Thereafter, a Joint Surprise Check (JSC) was conducted in Accounts Section of Office of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar on 06.03.2025

and a formal verification was conducted by CBI-ACB Srinagar."

"The verification revealed that Accounts Section in the Office of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar and subordinate Tehsil Offices in District Srinagar have deposited unspent flood relief money in Additional Treasury Tankipora Srinagar vide T.V. No. 12, dated:- 19.09.2019 under Major-Account Head 8443-00, 800-Other-Deposit," he said.

"A few official communications from DC Office Srinagar mentioned varying figures of deposited amount Rs. 42.00 crores, Rs. 32.14 crores & Rs. 31.54 crores. Further investigation revealed that a U.O No. 1912-13/R/DCS/NCRF/Traders/2015, dated 03.07.2015 issued by DC Srinagar

directed Bazar Committees/Associations to conduct necessary verification in respect of non-insured flood affected shopkeeper/trader/business units with turnover below Rs. 10.00 lakhs and thereafter submit the lists supported by an affidavit of such genuine shopkeepers/traders to concerned Tehsil Office for flood relief. But in a case of Tehsil Central Shalteng two separate applications have been submitted

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## 5-year term of DDCs to end on Feb 24, 2026 Panchayats, BDCs non-existent since January 2024

Mubashir Aalam Wani

**SRINAGAR:** The five-year tenure of the district development councils in J&K will come to an end on February 24, 2026, while the two other tiers of Panchayati Raj system—Halqa Panchayats and Block Development Councils—have been non-existent for one-and-a-half years now.

Officials told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that existing DDCs would complete their five-year term in February next year.

"Since they were formally constituted by the Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development on February 25, 2021, they would complete their term on February 24, 2026," they said, adding that they can be dissolved even before completing their five year term on the grounds of holding simultaneous polls for all tiers of Panchayati Raj system.

Legally speaking, the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 states that District Development Councils (DDCs) have a five-year term. However, if the government decides to hold common elections for all levels of the Panchayat



system at the same time, the term of the DDCs may end earlier to match the tenure of other two-tiers.

The Panchayats and BDCs have been non-existent since January 10, 2024 as Jammu & Kashmir government is yet to hold elections to elect representatives for these bodies.

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## PM Modi visits plane crash site in Ahmedabad



KC News Network

**NEW DELHI :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today condoled the loss of numerous lives in the tragic Ahmedabad airplane crash and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families, acknowledging the immense pain and loss they are enduring.

A statement issued by PIB to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) stated that earlier today PM Modi visited the crash site in Ahmedabad to assess the situation firsthand. He met with officials and emergency response

teams working tirelessly in the aftermath of the disaster.

In separate posts on X, PM Modi said: "We are all devastated by the air tragedy in Ahmedabad. The loss of so many lives in such a sudden and heartbreaking manner is beyond words. Condolences to all the bereaved families. We understand their pain and also know that the void left behind will be felt for years to come. Om Shanti." Visited the crash site in Ahmedabad today. The scene of devastation is saddening.

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## DGCA Orders Enhanced Inspection Of All Boeing 787 Dreamliner Fleet

KC NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** Aviation watchdog DGCA on Friday ordered enhanced safety inspection of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet, a day after 241 people onboard died in the plane

crash in Ahmedabad.

There are 26 Boeing 787-8s and 7 Boeing 787-9s in the fleet of Air India owned by Tata Group.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed Air India to carry out additional maintenance actions on its Boeing 787-8 and 787-9 planes that are equipped with Genx engines with immediate effect.

These actions will be carried out in coordination with the DGCA regional offices concerned. Air India's Boeing

>>>SEONP-7

### BOTTOM STORY

## Thaejkads in full swing across Kashmir amid water woes

Jahangeer Ganaie

**SRINAGAR:** Despite facing numerous challenges, including water scarcity at a few locations and harsh heatwave conditions, the traditional paddy transplantation season—locally known as Thaejkad—is currently underway in full swing across various parts of Kashmir.

Farmers, both local and non-local, are working tirelessly to complete the process before the ideal window of June 21, ensuring the continuation of a centuries-old agrarian legacy. As per the news agency—



Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in many areas of the valley, lush green nurseries have transformed into bustling paddy fields, where the rhythmic planting

of saplings is underway. While most agricultural activities in Kashmir are now dependent on non-local labourers, this season has witnessed a collaborative

effort—local farmers, their families, including women and children, and outside workers are all actively involved in the strenuous task of transplantation.

Ghulam Rasool Dar, a seasoned farmer from Litter Pulwama, said unseasonal rains in late April delayed the initial sowing process, and further rainfall at the end of May pushed back transplantation timelines. "Despite the delay and the prevailing heatwave, we are working round-the-clock to ensure that transplantation is completed

>>>SEONP-7

## SASCI to give huge push to key infra development in J&K: Chief Secretary

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move aimed at accelerating the developmental momentum and catalysing key sectoral reforms, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-



level meeting to discuss the adoption and implementation of Government of India's transformative scheme, Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).

Launched by the Government of India in 2021-22 for States and made applicable to J&K UT from the current financial year, SASCI offers a

>>>SEONP-7



Centre Bureau of Investigation  
Government of India,  
**Anti-Corruption Branch, Srinagar.**  
Near Guest House No. 6, Near MLA Hostel, MA Road,  
Srinagar-190001  
Phone / Fax : 0194-2455514, Email- hobacsgr@cbl.gov.in  
No. 88/PA/Misc/CBI, ACB-Srinagar  
Dated:- 13-06-2025

MESSAGE;

DO NOT PAY BRIBE TO ANYONE, IF ANY OFFICER OR OFFICIAL OF ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICE DEMANDS BRIBE OR IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE CORRUPTION OR IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CORRUPTION, PLEASE MAKE A COMPLAINT TO DIG, ANTI-CORRUPTION BRANCH, CBI SRINAGAR NEAR MLA HOSTEL SRINAGAR PHONE NO'S (LAND LINE) 0194-2455514 AND (MOBILE NO.) 9419900977. YOU CAN ALSO SENT YOUR COMPLAINT ON EMAIL ID:- HOBACSGR@CBI.GOV.IN SAY NO TO CORRUPTION. BE A LEADER TO ERADICATE THE MENACE OF CORRUPTION. ISSUE IN PUBLIC INTEREST.

Sincerely,  
Sd/-  
(Raman Kumar Meena) IPS  
DIG & Head of the Branch  
CBI ACB Srinagar

DIPK-2498/25  
Dated:- 13-06-2025



# India Leading Global Solutions Through Youth Power: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at IIT Jodhpur

**JODHPUR (PIB):** Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla Friday emphasized the pivotal role of India's youth in driving the nation's transformation and solving global challenges, asserting that India is advancing by harnessing both modern science and its rich spiritual heritage.

He was speaking at the inauguration of Lecture Hall Complex – II at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that India is leading the world in finding solutions to global challenges by virtue of the talent and capability of its youth. He said that India's youth has played a great role in the country's social, economic and technological development and exhorted them to use the latest technology and innovation for the betterment of the country.

He observed that India's youth, today, is progressing towards becoming job providers rather than job seekers and IITs have played an important role in this transformation. Graduates from IITs have played an important role in strengthening the startup ecosystem in the country, reinforcing economic development, he noted.

Speaker added that there is a huge demand of Indian youth, brimming with skill and innovative ideas, across the globe. He urged that the youth of India should become active stakeholders in the country's journey on the path of 'Vikshit Bharat'.

Lok Sabha Speaker emphasized that the nation's progress lies in the harmonious integration of cutting-edge technology with timeless values rooted in its spiritual traditions. This balanced approach, he noted, not only fuels innovation and development but also ensures that growth remains ethical, inclusive, and sustainable. By drawing upon both scientific knowledge and spiritual



wisdom, India is charting a unique path toward holistic national advancement.

On this note, Shri Birla also highlighted India's success in achieving self-reliance in various fields – from manufacturing toys to defence equipment. Such endeavors, combined with the digital ecosystem of India, have given a significant boost to our resolve for an Atmanirbhar Bharat, stressed Shri Birla.

Lauding the role of IITs in advancement of technical education in the country, Lok Sabha Speaker said that every college and university in the country should strive to become a center of innovation and excellence.

He emphasized that higher educational institutions must go beyond traditional teaching methods and actively foster creativity and problem-solving among students. By encouraging research, entrepreneurship, and collaboration with industry, these institutions can play a pivotal role in driving India's growth in science, technology, and knowledge-based sectors.

He added that the students studying at IITs have enhanced the pride of India by combining modern

technology with Indian thinking and new perspectives.

The Speaker highlighted that academic spaces should not merely be places for rote learning, but vibrant ecosystems where ideas are nurtured, talents are developed, and future leaders are shaped.

He called for a renewed focus on quality education, faculty development, and state-of-the-art infrastructure to ensure that Indian colleges and universities are well-equipped to compete on a global stage and contribute meaningfully to national progress.

Referring to the glorious journey of IIT, Jodhpur, Shri Birla opined that IIT, Jodhpur, with its focused approach and hard work has introduced path breaking initiatives in the fields of global research, innovation and in promoting scientific temper in the society.

IIT Jodhpur has played a transformative role by offering a new perspective to the youth in the desert region of Rajasthan, he said.

The Speaker lauded the visionary leadership of IIT Jodhpur's Director, Prof. Avinash K Agarwal and the Institute's path-breaking initiatives in innovation, defence tech, and sustainable development for the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Lok Sabha Speaker noted that the institute, positioned in a geographically challenging area, has become a beacon of hope and progress, empowering young minds with access to world-class education, cutting-edge research, and innovative thinking.

On this occasion, Birla also distributed 'Research Initiative Grant' at IIT, which will encourage researchers and innovation related projects. Along with this, he also launched the new official website of the Institute and planted a sapling at the campus. (PIB)

## India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2025' Concludes in Ulaanbaatar

**ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA (PIB):** The 17th edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT concluded on Friday with a ceremonial closing in Ulaanbaatar. The event was attended by India's Defence Secretary, Rajesh Kumar Singh, and Lieutenant General Pushendra Singh, Director General Operational Logistics and Strategic Movement.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, Defence Spokesperson in New Delhi said the Indian Army contingent, comprising 45 personnel predominantly from a battalion of the ARUNACHAL SCOUTS, actively participated in the two-week-long exercise.

He said the focus of the joint training was to enhance interoperability between the Indian Army and the Mongolian Armed Forces while operating as a combined task force in semi-conventional scenarios in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate.

Addressing the troops at the closing ceremony, the Defence Secretary lauded the professionalism and dedication of the Indian soldiers and emphasized that the exercise reflects the deep-rooted friendship, mutual trust, and shared cultural heritage between

India and Mongolia.

Speaking at the Closing Ceremony, the Defence Secretary commended the professionalism, dedication and conduct of the Indian soldiers during Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT.



He said that this exercise is a testament to the enduring bond of friendship, mutual trust and shared cultural linkages between India and Mongolia. "It served as a platform for meaningful military cooperation and demonstrate India's unwavering commitment to regional peace and stability," he said, according to the official statement. He further added that the Indian Army's contribution to such joint initiatives not only enhances operational readiness but also reinforces India's role as a responsible stakeholder in global peacekeeping efforts.

## World Now Looks to India for Solutions to Global Challenges: Dr Jitendra Singh

**NEW YORK, (PIB):** Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday said that the world today looks up to India for addressing global challenges, owing to the country's enhanced capabilities and leadership on critical international issues.

He attributed this rising global confidence in India to the decisive governance and stability ushered in under Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi's leadership over the past 11 years. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the United Nations Ocean Conference, which saw the participation of over 150 countries including Heads of State, ministers, scientists, and policymakers, Dr Singh shared insights from his interactions at the global forum.

Dr Singh said over the last two days, he and the other members of the Indian delegation have realized how much of expectation the other countries have from India. He attributed this to the change of perception about India's capabilities that has happened over the last 11 years with certain decisive measures taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also the stability of the government offered to him over the last one decade.

Referring to the completion of the 11 years of the Modi government, Dr Jitendra Singh said that it is a pleasant coincidence that today as the Modi government completes its 11 years in office, here we are witnessing a huge surge and enthusiasm among the representatives of other member states and countries to be benefitted by India's capabilities and capacities. The Minister said, as far as the ocean related concerns and challenges are concerned, India has not only taken a lead in handling these challenges, but the strength to India's efforts came from the resolve of the political dispensation which was evident by the fact that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi referred to Deep Ocean Mission not once but twice in his independence day address consecutively for two years.

## Government of UT DI Jammu and Kashmir DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER BANDIPORA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BANDIPORA

Email-Id eomcbandipora@gmail.com

Fax-No: 01927225532

Subject: Auction of Fruits of Sonerwani Orchard of Municipal Council Bandipora.

Dated: 26-06-2025.

Reference: DULB/G/Bpr/7698422//2025/14782

e-AUCTION NOTICE

E-NIT No: MC/BPR/2025/38

Dated: 12/06/2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and as per the directions from Urban Local Bodies Kashmir vide above referred authorization e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons/parties/firms/Companies for the auction of Fruits of Sonerwani Orchard of Municipal Council Bandipora. The Minimum reserved bid is fixed as Rs. 1,24,200.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Only) as per the below mentioned breakup on the following Terms & conditions :-

Terms and conditions:

1. The aspiring/ interested bidder must be Bonafide person/party with sound financial back ground.

i) Copy of PAN with last two years Income Tax returns.

ii) The bids offered should be in a neat and clean manner recorded in both words and figures with a paste of transparent tape upon the level of offered bid. iii) While opening the bids the Auction Committee will in the first step open the qualifying criteria bid. Once the qualifying criteria bid is found upto level then the financial bid will be opened.

2. The minimum reserve bid of the above auction has been fixed Rs. 1,24,200.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Only). The intending bidder shall be bound to accompany Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) for an amount of Rs.2500/- (Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred only) from any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank pledged to Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Bandipora without which no bid document can be issued.

3. Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document fee before submission of bids amounting to Rs.500/= (Rupees Five Hundred only) pledged in favour of Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Bandipora and pay online Bank Account No. 0061040500015480 IFSC Code JAKAOWullar J&K Bank limited Main Branch Bandipora)

After finalization of auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall have to deposit full bid amount.

The bids offered by the bidders shall be exclusive of all applicable taxes.

SNO	Name of Work	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Maximum Reserve Bid	CDR
1	Auction of fruits of Sonerwani Orchard of Municipal Council Bandipora	Rs. 500/-	(Rupees Five Hundred only)	124200/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty-Four Thousand & Two Hundred Only)
		2500/-	(Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)	

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details. can be seen downloaded from the departmental [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in), as per the schedule of dates given below:

S.No	Description	Date
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	13/06/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13/06/2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	14/06/2025 from 10:00 AM
4	Bid submission End Date	19/06/2025 upto 3:00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	20/06/2025 at 02:00 PM in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora.
6	Submission of CDR.	The bidder shall be bound to accompany his bids offers with Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs.2500/- (Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred only) from any Nationalized bank, pledged to the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora, (without which offers shall be liable for rejection) The original CDR be submitted before the office on 20/06/2025 upto 12:00 pm
7	Mode of Payment	100% of the total bid amount on spot.

In case any of the above-mentioned dates is declared as holiday then the next working day will be considered for the purpose mentioned above at the same time and venue.

Instructions to the Bidders regarding E-Tendering process:

a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process

b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.

c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule.

e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white aption

) The department will not be responsible 1 for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

g) Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ challan in favour of Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora and bid securing declaration must be uploaded with the bid.

h) The Bidder must have to upload (softcopies) of the following documents (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal):-

i) Call Deposit Receipt(COR)

j) BID Securing Declaration on stamp paper duly attested by Notary.

k) Valid GSTIN/PAN Card No.

1) The Bidder should upload the Tender Document form attached below.

**DIPK-NB-790/25**

Dated: 13/06/2025

**Sd/- Chief Executive Officer  
Bandipora Municipal Council Bandipora**

## OFFICE OF THE DY. DIRECTOR FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY SRINGAR.

Tel. No. 0194-2490528(Sgr),

email:- [ddfskmr@jkpolice.gov.in](mailto:ddfskmr@jkpolice.gov.in)

Tender No: 01/FSL/SGR/NT/2025/1614

Dated: 13/06/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

For and On Behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-bid under two cover system (Technical bid in cover-1 and Financial bid in cover-2) is invited for the Supply & Installation of "SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE (SEM) WITH ENERGY DISPERSIVE X-RAY SPECTROMETER (EDS)- 01 NO." at J&K Forensic Science Laboratory, Srinagar, from the Original manufacturers/ Direct importers/ Authorized Representatives of the manufacturers/ direct importers. Detailed tender document may be downloaded at J&K Govt. Portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in), & [www.jkfsl.gov.in](http://www.jkfsl.gov.in).

The cost of the tender along with tender processing charges of Rs. 1,500/- (Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred only/-), non-refundable, shall have to be paid either through NEFT/RTGS only in the Departmental Bank Account No. 0005010100005559, maintained at J&K Bank Limited, Residency Road, Srinagar IFSC Code JAKAOCHINAR or by depositing the amount directly into the above Account No. along with the submission of requisite valid documentary proof.

IMPS mode of transfer is not verifiable and hence shall not be entertained as tender fee or tender processing charges. Bidders claiming to submit money through IMPS Mode shall be out-rightly rejected.

DD as mode of payment for cost of tender/ tender processing fees/ Bid Security shall only be entertained if the same is deposited physically against proper receipt in the Office of Deputy Director, JKFSL, Srinagar, before the closing due date of e-bid.

Bid Security of Rs. 350000.00 (Rupees Three Lac Fifty Thousand only) in the form of DD/CDR/BG (CDR from scheduled/ Nationalised Bank / BG from Nationalised Bank) with validity of 30 months. Bids submitted without sufficient bid security & validity shall be summarily rejected. Firms which are registered as (Micro and Small Enterprise) MSEs Unit(s) as defined in MSE Procurement Policy issued by Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) shall be considered for Exemption of bid security including tender fee of Rs. 1500/- as per provisions of MSME Policy.

Physical hard copy of Bid Security in form of DD/CDR/BG may be submitted to the JKFSL Srinagar before closing the due date of e-bid. Scanned copy of the same shall be uploaded along with Technical Bid, failing which bid shall be out rightly rejected.

The bidders seeking EMD exemption must submit the valid supporting document for the relevant category. Under MSE category only manufacturers for goods and service providers for services are eligible for exemption from EMD. Traders are excluded from the purview of this Policy.

Scanned copies of NEFT/RTGS/Bank Transfer/Receipt towards the cost of tender documents and tender processing charges shall have to be uploaded along with Technical Bid, failing which bid shall be out rightly rejected.

**DIPK-2485/25**

Dated: 13/06/2025

**Sd/-Deputy Director  
(Officer Incharge)  
Forensic Science Laboratory Srinagar**

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL WILDLIFE WARDEN KASHMIR REGION SRINAGAR BOULEVARD ROAD SRINAGAR

Subject:

Hiring of engineering services (PMC) Expression of Interest (EOI) issued vide No: RWLW/K/Works/25-26/21-27 Dated: 29-05-2025 for execution of works under various Government approved schemes and programs.

CANCELLATION

In view of an email received by this office from the Senior Assistant Director, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) inviting attention towards the Finance Department (Codes Division) CIRCULAR issued under endorsement No: FD-Code/24/2022-03-418 Dated: 25-02-2022, wherein, Rule 149 of the GFR-2017, provides that it is mandatory for the Government Departments to purchase goods and services through GeM (Government e-Marketplace) only, if these are available on GeM.

Therefore, it is notified for the public in general and the bidders in particular, that "Expression of Interest (Eoi) for "Hiring of Engineering Services (PMC) for execution of works under various Government approved schemes and programs" invited by this office under endorsement No: RWLW/K/Works/25-26/21-27 Dated: 29/05/2025 is Cancelled Ab-initio.

The fresh Eoi in this regard shall be published on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) shortly.

S. No.	Scope of work	Tender document fee	Earnest Money/(E MD)	Rate quoted by bidder
01	Survey/investigation/estimation, AutoCAD drawings for each work where ever needed. Formulation of BOQ's and technical vetting of quantities and rates of all items by a qualified person (Estimation & Billing engineer/ Draftsman). Formulation of SBD and assist tender opening committee/contract committee for technical and financial evaluation of the bids for each work. Complete Monitoring of allotted works (from start to completion of the work) with proper documentation of the progress and site conditions prior, during and after the execution of works.	No Tender Document Fee	Rs10000/-Rupees Ten Thousand only	Rates should be quoted by the Bidder in terms of percentage for the scope of work as mentioned

No. RWLW/K/Works/25-26/46-52

**DIPK-7855/24**

Dated: 13/06/2025

**Sd/-  
Regional Wildlife Warden  
Kashmir Region**



# DH Bandipora Conducts First Laparoscopic Appendectomy

Convener News Desk

**BANDIPORA:** District Hospital (DH) Bandipora on Friday claimed to have successfully performed its first-ever laparoscopic appendectomy, bringing advanced and minimally invasive surgical care closer to the residents of the district.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson said the procedure conducted by a team of doctors is a significant milestone for healthcare delivery in north Kashmir that will further ease the burden on tertiary-care hospitals.

Spokesperson said the landmark procedure was carried out by Dr. Bashir Ahmad Cheechak, Consultant Surgeon, with anaesthesia support from Dr. Iqbal and technical assistance from Mr. Mehmood ul Rehman, Operation Theatre Technician.



He said the entire OT staff played a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth and successful execution of the surgery.



Terming the achievement a major step in strengthening surgical capabilities at the hospital, Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani, Medical Superintendent, DH Bandipora, lauded the surgical team for their professionalism and dedication.

“This achievement reflects our commitment to providing quality, modern, and minimally invasive healthcare services to the people of Bandipora,” said Dr. Wani. “It marks the beginning of a new chapter in accessible advanced surgical care in the district.”

The introduction of laparoscopic surgery—a technique known for smaller incisions, reduced recovery time, and lower risk of complications—will significantly benefit local patients, many of whom previously had to travel to tertiary care hospitals in Srinagar for such procedures.

Dr Wani said this successful intervention not only showcases the evolving capabilities of the district hospital but also signals a broader transformation in public health infrastructure in peripheral areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

## MCB Organises Polythene Seizure Drive in Main Market



Convener News Desk

**BANDIPORA:** The Municipal Council Bandipora Friday conducted a polythene seizure drive in the Main Market area as part of its ongoing efforts to make the town plastic-free.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson said the drive aimed to curb the illegal use and sale of single-use plastic and polythene bags, which are banned due to their harmful environmental effects.

He said a team of officials from the Municipal Council, along with sanitation workers and volunteers, visited shops and roadside vendors in the market area.

During the drive, polythene bags were seized

from several establishments found violating the ban. Awareness was also spread among shopkeepers and customers about the hazards of plastic pollution and the importance of switching to eco-friendly alternatives like cloth or jute bags.

The shopkeepers were warned against further use of banned polythene items and informed about the penalties for repeat violations. Pamphlets highlighting the benefits of a plastic-free environment were also distributed. The Municipal Council urges all citizens to cooperate in this mission to make Bandipora cleaner and greener.

“Such drives will continue in other parts of the town to ensure strict enforcement of the polythene ban and promote sustainable living practices among the people”.

## DLSA Bandipora Observes World Day Against Child Labour at Sumbal

Convener News Desk

**BANDIPORA:** As part of its calendar of activities for June 2025, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bandipora observed World Day Against Child Labour at Government Girls High School, Sumbal, in coordination with Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Sumbal, and in collaboration with the Education Department, Bandipora.

In a statement issued by DLSA, an official spokesperson said the programme was held under the supervision of Chairman, DLSA Bandipora, Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, and the guidance of Secretary, DLSA Bandipora, Mr. Sheikh Babar Hussain, and Chairperson, TLSC Sumbal (Munsiff/JMIC), Ms. Rahila Rashid.

On the occasion, Assistant LADCs Abid Hussain Malla and Nazia Parveen, along with faculty members of the host school, delivered insightful lectures on the issue of child labour.

The speakers elaborated on the constitutional safeguards protecting children, including Article 23 (prohibition of forced labour), Article 24 (prohibition of employment of children in hazardous jobs), and Article 39 (directive principles ensuring children are not abused and are given opportunities for development).

The speakers stressed that children are the building blocks of the nation and must

be protected from being subjected to child labour.

They emphasized the collective responsibility of society, institutions, and the legal framework in ensuring every child's right to



education, safety, and dignity.

The event saw active participation from students and staff of Government Girls High School Sumbal, officials from TLSC Sumbal, and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) associated with DLSA.

The observance reinforced the ongoing efforts of the legal services institutions to create awareness and advocate for the eradication of child labour in alignment with national and international commitments.

## MLA Hasnain Masoodi Inspects Lift Irrigation Scheme at Lethpora

BILAL HABIB

**PAMPORE:** Member of the Legislative Assembly from Pampore and Retired Justice Hasnain Masoodi on Thursday visited the lift irrigation



scheme at Hatiwara, Lethpora in Pampore Tehsil to assess the prevailing irrigation issues affecting local farmers.

He was accompanied by Tehsildar Pampore, Malik Asif Ahmad, and other concerned officials.

During the visit, residents from Lethpora and nearby areas raised concerns over the acute shortage of irrigation water, especially for paddy cultivation. The locals urged the authorities to formulate a long-term strategy to resolve the persistent water crisis affecting agricultural activities in the region.

Interacting with both the residents and officials on site, MLA Masoodi expressed serious concern over the hardships faced by the farming

community due to the disruption in irrigation services. He issued on-spot instructions to the concerned departments to restore the irrigation facilities immediately and work out urgent solutions.

Talking to Kashmir Convener, Justice Masoodi said that during his previous visit, the entire lift irrigation system had been made functional and water supply had resumed. However, due to the recent drop in water levels in the Jhelum River, the pumps are no longer functioning effectively as they are not drawing adequate water.

“Earlier, we had assured the farmers that they could go ahead with paddy cultivation since the scheme was operational. But the current low water levels have triggered a serious crisis,” he said. “That is why I came here today—to reassess the situation with the engineers, the Tehsildar, and most importantly, to hear directly from the affected farmers.”

He added that he has directed engineers to look into short-term alternatives to ease the present situation. “One proposal is to install a drought pump that will prevent such crises in the future. With the new system in place, water supply for irrigation can be ensured even if river levels drop,” Masoodi explained.

The MLA said the concerned officers have assured him of their cooperation and committed to taking immediate steps. “We will also approach the Secretariat and take up the matter with senior officials to ensure long-term relief for the farming community. Our goal is to reduce the hardship of the farmers and support them through timely and effective intervention,” he said.

## Health Society Budgam Intensifies Tobacco Control Efforts

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**BUDGAM:** Health Society Budgam on Friday launched a comprehensive enforcement and awareness drive under the Cigarettes and



Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 in the villages of Iskanderpora, Ichama, and Pirpora of Medical Block Beerwah.

An official spokesperson said the drive was launched under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer, Budgam.

He said the initiative aimed to curb public tobacco consumption and reinforce compliance with anti-tobacco laws.

The drive focused on three key objectives viz a viz Strict enforcement of Section 4 of COTPA (prohibiting smoking in public places), Restricting tobacco sales near educational institutions (Section 6) and Ensuring mandatory display of statutory warnings at shops and public points.

Health teams on the occasion inspected markets, shops, and public spaces, distributing awareness materials and counseling violators.

Three challans were issued to individuals caught smoking in public, with fines levied as

## Indian Army Conducts Commemorative Expedition to Tololing Top

Convener News Desk

**Dras:** In a stirring tribute to the valiant soldiers of the 1999 Kargil War, the Indian Army's 'Forever in Operations Division' conducted a commemorative expedition to Tololing Peak on June 11, ahead of the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

Flagged off from the iconic Kargil War Memorial in Dras, the expedition honoured the supreme sacrifices and indomitable courage of Indian soldiers who re-captured the strategic Tololing heights during Operation Vijay—a turning point in the Kargil conflict.



Official spokesperson said a team of 30 soldiers from various units that took part in the original battle scaled the rugged heights and hoisted the Tricolour at Tololing Top, rekindling the memories of heroism that shaped India's modern military history.

In a show of jointmanship, the Indian Air Force also participated in the expedition, with officers and airmen joining their Army counterparts—symbolising the synergy and unity of the Indian Armed Forces.

As the nation prepares to observe Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26, the expedition served as a moving reminder of the bravery, patriotism, and selfless service of the Indian Armed Forces.

“This expedition is not just a physical journey; it is a pilgrimage of remembrance, reflection, and reverence,” an Army spokesperson said. “It seeks to inspire the next generation with the stories of courage that continue to define our national spirit.”

## JK Students Association Seeks Jaishankar's Intervention for Evacuation of Kashmiri Students from Iran

Convener News Desk

**Srinagar:** Amid intensifying hostilities between Iran and Israel, the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association has urged Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to take immediate steps to ensure the safety and evacuation of hundreds of Kashmiri students currently stranded in Iran.

In a letter addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs, the Association raised serious concerns over the deteriorating security situation following Israeli airstrikes on Iran's nuclear sites and subsequent retaliatory missile and drone attacks by Tehran. The Association warned that the region is teetering on the edge of a full-blown war, placing the lives of Indian students—particularly those from the Kashmir Valley—at grave risk.

“These students, most of whom had gone to Iran to pursue MBBS and other professional degrees due to affordable academic opportunities, are now caught in a potential conflict zone,” said Nasir Khuehami, National Convener of the Students Association.

He said many students are enrolled in universities located near military sites and critical infrastructure, which heightens their vulnerability. “Students have reported hearing air raid sirens, experiencing tremors, and seeing increased military activity near their hostels. Some are in cities already targeted by airstrikes,” Khuehami said.

## Bandipora Police Warns Against Rising Digital Payment Frauds

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA:** District Police Bandipora has issued a public advisory alerting shopkeepers, service providers, and the general public about a rising trend in digital payment frauds involving the use of fake transaction confirmation screens, particularly through UPI apps like PhonePe and Google Pay.

According to the police, cyber fraudsters have adopted a new modus operandi where they deceive vendors by showing doctored or fake “payment successful” screens to make it appear that a digital payment has been completed. However, in reality, no money is actually transferred to the vendor's account.

Spokesperson said the scammers often use screenshots or mobile applications that mimic genuine UPI interfaces, misleading unsuspecting shopkeepers and service providers into handing over goods or services without receiving any actual payment.

Explaining the method used by the fraudsters, the police said that these individuals typically make purchases and claim to pay through UPI apps. Instead of making the payment, they display a manipulated transaction success screen, which creates an illusion of payment. Relying on this fake confirmation, vendors hand over the goods, only to realize later that the payment was never received.

In response to the growing number of such incidents, the District Police has urged the public to remain vigilant and to not rely on the customer's mobile screen for payment verification. Instead, vendors have been advised to check the payment status on their own UPI app, wait for an SMS alert from the bank, or confirm the receipt by checking their real-time account balance before handing over goods or services.

The advisory also encourages the public to report any suspected fraud to the nearest police station or the cyber crime cell. Incidents can also be reported through the National Cyber Crime Portal ([www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)) or by calling the Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930.

Police officials reiterated their commitment to safeguarding citizens from cyber threats and urged everyone to exercise caution while dealing with digital transactions.



Editorial



Asset Monetisation

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)'s release of its first-ever Asset Monetisation Strategy for the Road Sector marks a crucial turning point in the way India finances its infrastructure growth. With rising fiscal demands and the urgent need to bridge the infrastructure gap, this strategy provides a well-structured and transparent framework to mobilise private capital, while retaining public ownership of strategic assets.

Over the past few years, NHAI has emerged as a frontrunner in adopting innovative models such as Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), and securitisation. These efforts have helped it raise more than ₹1.4 lakh crore across 6,100 km of highways under the National Monetisation Pipeline, demonstrating both market confidence and the inherent value of India's road assets.

What sets this strategy apart is its three-pronged approach: value maximisation, transparency in processes, and market development. In a sector often marred by bureaucratic delays and investor hesitancy, this structured and data-driven approach is a welcome reform. The document's emphasis on providing detailed, investor-relevant information and its commitment to fostering stakeholder engagement will likely deepen investor confidence and broaden participation.

By reducing reliance on traditional funding sources like budgetary allocations and loans, the strategy is expected to provide NHAI with a sustainable stream of revenue. This will be crucial as the government pushes ahead with its infrastructure vision under PM Gati Shakti and Viksit Bharat 2047.

Importantly, the strategy does not imply a sell-off of national assets. Instead, it represents a shift towards value unlocking without relinquishing ownership—a model followed successfully in several developed economies. It also promises to revitalise domestic infrastructure investment, create jobs, and spur ancillary sectors such as logistics, cement, steel, and construction.

However, success will depend on two key factors: institutional integrity and robust regulatory oversight. Transparent bidding, fair pricing, and enforceable contracts will be critical to sustaining investor interest and ensuring public trust. Furthermore, the benefits of this monetisation must be channelled back into expanding and maintaining the national highway network.

As India aspires to become a \$5 trillion economy, leveraging public assets through strategic monetisation is not just desirable—it is necessary. NHAI's strategy provides a timely and effective roadmap. If implemented with diligence and fairness, it could serve as a template for other sectors to follow.

Mobile Addiction: The Silent Emergency Threatening Our Children

VIJAY GARG

In the 21st-century digital age, mobile phones—once tools of convenience—have transformed into instruments of overdependence, especially for children. What began as a way to stay connected or entertained has now spiraled into a crisis that silently affects mil-



lions of young minds. Increasingly, we see toddlers barely able to talk, yet confidently swiping through videos, and school-going children glued to screens for hours. This isn't just a trend; it's an epidemic.

The childhood we once knew—filled with outdoor games, bedtime stories, playground scuffles, and deep bonding with friends and family—is rapidly vanishing. In its place stands a "digital childhood," where children as young as three are handed smartphones to keep them busy, and teenagers grow up valuing online validation more than real-life relationships.

Whether it is having meals, bathing, waiting at the doctor's clinic, or attending weddings—mobile phones are omnipresent in a child's life. For many, it has become an emotional crutch, a learning platform, an entertainer, and sometimes, sadly, a parent substitute.

One of the most alarming effects of mobile addiction is the erosion of patience. Mobile apps and games are designed to offer quick rewards—making children accustomed to instant gratification. As a result, they struggle to handle delays, failure, or boredom. A simple "no" from a parent can lead to meltdowns or anger outbursts. The habit of waiting or working gradually towards a goal is disappearing.

Even teachers observe that many children are becoming irritable and disobedient in classrooms. They demand attention, struggle with discipline, and are unable to manage setbacks or criticism.

Digital content, especially on short-video platforms like YouTube Shorts and Instagram Reels, rewires the brain for fast-paced, fragmented engagement. A child watching 200 videos in an hour is absorbing fleeting content, not meaningful information.

This creates a dangerous habit; jumping from one

distraction to another without focus or completion. Homework is left half-done, conversations are interrupted by notifications, and reading books becomes a challenge. Over time, the child's ability to concentrate, analyze, and retain information is significantly reduced.

Communication Gap and Social Withdrawal Ironically, in a hyper-connected world, children

are becoming lonelier. Real conversations—those filled with emotions, laughter, arguments, or empathy—are being replaced by emojis, abbreviations, and digital likes.

Children spend less time with parents, siblings, and grandparents. They hesitate to express feelings in person but comfortably post their emotions online. Gradually, they develop poor listening skills, limited vocabulary, and weak interpersonal connections. Many even lose the ability to maintain eye contact or engage in long conversations.

As children spend more time in the virtual world, they begin measuring their worth through the lens of likes, views, followers, and filters. A photo that doesn't get enough attention can spark insecurity. A friend not responding to a message can create anxiety. This reliance on virtual validation increases vulnerability to depression, self-doubt, and low self-esteem.

Some alarming trends:

- Sleep disorders caused by late-night screen usage.
- Fear of Missing Out (FOMO) keeping kids glued to phones till midnight.
- Increased anxiety and restlessness due to gaming failures or online comparisons.

Online games are among the biggest culprits. Many games are built around rewards, levels, and adrenaline—offering a sense of achievement but also addiction. Some children, in desperation to unlock new features or win, secretly spend money, sometimes even stealing from their parents.

Worse, many games foster toxic competition, violent behavior, and detachment from reality. News reports regularly highlight heartbreaking cases of

suicide, theft, and criminal behavior stemming from gaming addiction.

Children now commonly sleep with phones next to them, often scrolling past midnight. The blue light from screens suppresses melatonin, the sleep hormone.

Lack of quality sleep leads to:

- Irritability and anger.
- Poor academic performance.
- Weak immunity and obesity.
- Emotional imbalance and fatigue.

Children wake up tired, struggle to focus, and find themselves in a cycle of poor habits, making their school and social life suffer drastically.

Prolonged screen use is causing:

- Digital Eye Strain: Dryness, blurry vision, headaches.
- Neck and back pain due to poor posture.
- Obesity due to inactivity.
- Poor cardiovascular fitness due to lack of physical play.

According to recent surveys, children aged 5–15 in urban India now spend 6–8 hours daily on digital screens—far above healthy limits. Who Enables This Addiction? We must ask a difficult but necessary question: who is responsible?

We, the adults—parents, educators, caregivers—are often the first to introduce children to screens. Be it to "quiet" a crying baby, "keep the child busy" during chores, or "reward" them after studies—we hand over phones too easily. Many even post videos of toddlers using phones proudly on social media, unaware of the future harm.

Instead of engaging children with stories, nature, or activities, we rely on screens. The intention may be innocent, but the long-term impact is severe.

What Can Be Done? Solutions and Steps Forward This crisis calls for immediate and collective action. Here's how:

1. Digital Discipline at Home
  - Set screen-time limits: 1 hour/day for under 10 years, 2 hours/day for teens.
  - No phones during meals or before bedtime.
  - Introduce screen-free days (e.g., Sundays).
2. Model Good Behavior Children imitate adults. Parents who are always on phones send a clear message. Keep devices aside while spending time with children.
3. Encourage Real-Life Activities
  - Sports, arts, gardening, storytelling, board games.
  - Involve children in daily chores—cooking, cleaning, shopping.
4. Promote Reading and Conversations

Bring back the habit of storytelling, shared reading, and face-to-face discussions. Ask your children how their day was. Listen. Engage.

5. Monitor Content Install parental controls, track app usage, and teach children about online safety and digital etiquette.

6. School Interventions Schools should integrate digital literacy, meditation, sports, and emotional well-being programs. Teachers must encourage classroom interaction and discourage excessive digital dependence.

Let's remember: children need presence, not

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The childhood we once knew—filled with outdoor games, bedtime stories, playground scuffles, and deep bonding with friends and family—is rapidly vanishing. In its place stands a "digital childhood," where children as young as three are handed smartphones to keep them busy, and teenagers grow up valuing online validation more than real-life relationships.

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presents. They need our time, not technology. The mobile phone must serve a purpose—not become a substitute for parenting, schooling, or social interaction.

If we don't act now, we risk raising a generation that's smart with devices but struggling with life. The question is not whether mobiles are useful—it's whether we are using them, or they are using us.

Let's choose wisely—for the sake of our children.

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Peer Pressure Across Cultures: How Societies Shape Our Choices



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Peer pressure is a powerful social force that influences individuals and communities, shaping behaviors, decisions, and even societal norms. While it can have both positive and negative effects, its impact varies across cultural contexts. In India, peer pressure is often tied to academic success, family expectations, and tradition. In contrast, Western societies experience peer pressure more prominently in the spheres of social behavior, career choices, and lifestyle norms. This article explores the reach of peer pressure in both contexts, with real-life examples highlighting its far-reaching consequences.

India's collectivist society places significant emphasis on conformity, making peer pressure a deeply entrenched force that impacts personal and communal choices alike.

1. Academic and Career Pressure

Education is one of the most prominent areas where peer pressure exerts its influence in India. The societal obsession with high-stakes examinations and prestigious careers often overrides personal interests and mental well-being.

Kota, Rajasthan, a major coaching hub for competitive exams like IIT-JEE and NEET, is symbolic of the academic pressure cooker environment in India. In 2023 alone, 26 students died by suicide in Kota, highlighting the toxic pressure of expectations from family, peers, and society.

Thousands of students flock to Mukherjee Nagar each year to prepare for the UPSC exams. Many continue year after year despite repeated failures, driven by fear of social stigma or disappointing their families. The psychological toll, often ignored, results in burnout, depression, and severe anxiety.

2. Social and Cultural Norms

Indian society places strong expectations on individuals to conform to traditional values, especially in matters like marriage, gender roles, and lifestyle decisions.

Nikita Tomar was murdered in broad daylight in Haryana after rejecting a marriage proposal. The case exposed the brutal consequences of societal and familial pressure to conform to traditional gender roles and marital expectations.

Although homosexuality was decriminalized in 2018, LGBTQ+ individuals still face immense pressure to enter heterosexual marriages and conform to conservative gender norms. This form of coercive peer and family pressure often leads to long-term emotional trauma.

3. Financial and Lifestyle Pressures

India's aspirational middle class is increasingly caught in the crosshairs of consumerism, where peer comparisons and

environments, social circles, and digital spaces.

1. Substance Abuse and Risky Behavior

Peer groups play a decisive role in influencing risky behaviors,



societal standards drive excessive spending.

Extravagant weddings are often used as symbols of status, even by families that cannot afford them. The 2023 wedding of Anant Ambani, reportedly costing over 1,000 crores, set unrealistic benchmarks, intensifying pressure on middle-class families to compete socially—often at the cost of debt.

The digital boom has introduced a new form of peer pressure. Young people are increasingly drawn into mimick-

especially among adolescents and young adults.

A rite of passage in many Western college settings, binge drinking is largely normalized. According to the NIAAA, nearly 50% of college students in the U.S. engage in such behavior due to social pressure to fit in and "have fun."

Fueled by online peer influence, many American teens participated in the dangerous "Tide Pod Challenge," ingesting toxic detergent pods for viral fame. The trend resulted in multiple

Peer pressure affects every culture and society, though its manifestations differ. In India, it often revolves around academic excellence, familial honor, and rigid social norms. In Western countries, the pressure emerges in more individualistic forms—career success, physical appearance, or fitting into social groups. Regardless of geography, the underlying issue remains the same: people feeling compelled to make choices not aligned with their authentic selves.

ing influencers who flaunt luxury brands, exotic holidays, and curated lives. The race to maintain such appearances often causes financial strain, anxiety, and identity crises.

In Western societies, peer pressure commonly manifests in subtle but no less harmful ways—particularly in professional

hospitalizations and urgent warnings from health authorities.

2. Body Image and Social Media Influence

peer pressure, especially through platforms like Instagram and TikTok, has led to rising body image issues and mental health disorders.

This viral trend saw teenagers using vacuum suction devices to mimic Kylie Jenner's lips, resulting in injuries and permanent damage. It exposed how celebrity-driven peer pressure can manipulate beauty standards to harmful extremes.

A growing body of research links the use of Instagram filters to heightened body dissatisfaction. Teenage girls, in particular, feel compelled to emulate unrealistic beauty standards, often leading to eating disorders, low self-esteem, and even cosmetic surgeries.

3. Career and Workplace Pressures

Western work culture often glorifies overachievement and nonstop productivity, leading to toxic work environments and neglect of personal health.

The Japanese term "karoshi" refers to death by overwork—a phenomenon so common that the government had to introduce new regulations to reduce work hours. Employees feel intense pressure to sacrifice everything for the company, blurring the line between ambition and exploitation.

Tech professionals in Silicon Valley often work 70–80 hours a week to stay competitive. This relentless pressure has caused a wave of burnout and mental health issues, sparking wider conversations around work-life balance in modern capitalism.

Peer pressure affects every culture and society, though its manifestations differ. In India, it often revolves around academic excellence, familial honor, and rigid social norms. In Western countries, the pressure emerges in more individualistic forms—career success, physical appearance, or fitting into social groups. Regardless of geography, the underlying issue remains the same: people feeling compelled to make choices not aligned with their authentic selves.

While peer pressure can occasionally lead to positive outcomes—such as encouraging discipline, collaboration, or activism—its darker side often results in compromised mental health, identity loss, and risky behavior. The cost of succumbing to negative peer pressure can be lifelong and irreversible.

To resist it, societies must build cultures of acceptance, dialogue, and mental well-being. Empowering individuals with self-awareness, emotional resilience, and support systems can mitigate its harmful impact. Parents, educators, and policy-makers need to actively foster environments where young minds feel safe to make independent choices without fear of judgment or exclusion.

In the end, understanding and confronting peer pressure isn't just about safeguarding individuals—it's about shaping healthier, freer communities that value authenticity over conformity.

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# Whispers of Destiny: A Dream, a Mother’s Wisdom, and the Power of Faith and Hard Work



Taiba Nazir

It was Sunday evening. Dusk was falling, the sun was about to set and all the birds and insects were rushing back home. The sun was waving goodbye and the moon was setting its position bit by bit. During this beautiful evening a little boy, Hassan, ran fast. He was panting, he was running so fast that he was about to skid as he was actually late. He was playing cricket with his friends in the nearby field. Today, he was late as usual he was too worried. He was sure that Ammi jan (mother) would scold him and complain against him to his Abbu (father), Hassan, a 14 year's old boy, is the son of a merchant who lives in the countryside. Hassan lives with his two more siblings and his mother and father. Today was Sunday Hassan's holiday in school, that is why he was roaming in the streets and playing cricket.

Worried and exhausted, Hassan reached near the main gate of his home. "Oh! Allah please save me from Ammi Jan's anger. please make sure that Abbu is not back home yet please". On reaching the main gate, Hassan was tempted and was praying from being beaten by his parents. He gently opened the gate and reached the lawn where he saw their pet goat that was about to sleep. He gathered his courage and was about to open the door of the house. But fear gripped him again. Still, he encouraged himself, opened the door slowly, tiptoed inside, and quickly headed toward his room like a thief. Just then, his younger sister spotted him. She looked at Hassan as if he had stolen her favorite snacks. Hassan was amused. He stood still for a moment and then said to his sister Amina come with me, I will give you the chocolate that you were asking for. No, bhaiya (brother) I don't want to eat ", replied Amina shortly. He was sure Amina would call Ammi jan and would make him scold. Amina rushed to the hall and said " ammi jan look bhaiya has arrived". Hassan turned pale with fear. Ammi jan turned to hassan wide eyed and said " go Hassan and take a bath ". Hassan was surprised to see how angry Ammi was. He quickly ran to the bathroom and took a bath. He was very tired, but after the bath, he felt fresh. Then he walked to the kitchen and said to Ammi, "I am sorry, Ammi, for coming home so late. Today was Sunday and I was relaxed, so I didn't think about the time. I am really sorry. Please don't complain to Abbu."

Ammi stood still, and after some time, she turned to Hassan and said, "I am glad you understood your mistake. This is my first and last warning. I know you'll come home on time from now on." "Yes, yes, Ammi! I promise I'll come home on time from tomorrow," replied Hassan happily. Hassan felt relaxed. He walked to his room and took out the mat for Namaz. He had already done wudhu before his bath. He offered Namaz, then took out the Quran and recited it. After that, he sat down to do



We'll enjoy the rides, eat cotton candy, and drink mango shake. It will be so much fun!" Aisha replied, "No, amusement parks are for kids. We're not little kids anymore. Let's go to the new mall in the nearby city. We'll buy frocks and storybooks. For your wish, we can also visit the amusement park there." They started arguing, and just then, Ammi came in and said, "Why are you two arguing? We'll go wherever Abbu ji decides." Hassan added, "Yes, Ammi is right. It's up to Abbu ji. But I'm sure wherever we go, it'll be fun." Hearing this, Amina and Aisha stopped arguing and smiled



his homework. When he finished his homework, he lay down to rest. Within a few minutes, he fell asleep. After half an hour, his sister Aisha woke him up and said, "Oh Bhaiya, why do you play so much that now you can't even stand? Come on, get up, Ammi is calling for dinner. Abbu is home too, and he has brought some roasted corn!" Hassan stretched, yawned, and got up. He walked downstairs for dinner. His mother had cooked beans and rice—Hassan's favorite food. Hassan saw Abbu and said, "Asalamualaikum Abbu ji, how are you? How was your day?" "Waalikumassalam," replied Abbu with a smile. "The day was good as usual, and Alhamdulillah, I'm fine. Come, dear son, have your dinner. Today your Ammi has cooked your favorite food." Amina and Aisha spread the dastarkhwan (the sheet used for

breakfast. Abbu ji said smiling to the children, " go kids go, take your bath and get ready for the picnic but where are we going abuji", said Amina and aisha impatiently. "That's a surprise" said abu ji the family was getting ready for the picnic ,Amina and aisha wore their new dress and new head scarf ,Hasan wore his new shirt and ammi ji her new burqa ,ammi ji took delicious eatables with her ,and all of them were ready for the outing . Abu ji had booked a cab and all of them were traveling to their picnic spot on the way. Amina saw beautiful hills and beautiful birds flying over as she had spent her childhood in the hills but she had never seen these hills.She was overwhelmed to see the beautiful scenery. She said to herself , "this is better than any amusement park or any mall ",as they were about to reach abu

Jan and Abbu Ji had grown old and everything around him had changed. He found out that his family had become poor, and he himself was struggling to find a job. On that day, the result of an important exam he had taken was declared. Sadly, he had failed. Everyone in the family was worried and upset. The grown-up Hassan was full of stress and sadness. He felt broken seeing the condition of his family. He was hurt even more when he saw how people were disrespecting him and his family. The pain was too much to bear. Unable to tolerate the sorrow and hardships, Hassan decided to travel back in time. When he returned home, Ammi Jan, Abbu Ji, Aisha, and Amina were shocked and overjoyed to see him. They ran to him and asked, "Hassan, where have you been for the past 15 days? We were so tense and scared. We even



meals). Everyone said Bismillah and started eating. While eating, Amina said to Abbu ji, "Abbu ji, do you know Sana went on an outing with her parents? She said she had a lot of fun there." "That's nice, dear," replied Abbu ji. "Oh Abbu, can we also go for an outing?" Amina asked excitedly.

Abbu ji laughed and said, "My dear Amina, you should have asked me directly if you wanted to go for an outing. Why did you mention Sana? Her father was with me till 2 p.m. today!" Amina replied, "I'm sorry, Abbu ji. I really want to go on an outing." Abbu ji said gently, "It's okay, dear daughter. But remember, never tell lies. It's a bad habit, and Allah does not forgive those who lie." "I'm really sorry, Abbu ji. I promise I won't lie from now on," Amina said with honesty. "Alright, children. be ready! Day after tomorrow is a holiday, and we'll go on a picnic," announced Abbu ji. "Thank you, Abbu ji! Thank you!" all three children shouted with joy. They finished their food, praised and thanked Allah, and felt very happy and excited about the picnic. After studying for a few hours, all three went to sleep. The next morning, they woke up early, offered Namaz, had their breakfast, and went to school. At school, Hassan attended six periods. He was tired and exhausted because the day was very hot. When he reached home, he went straight to the washroom and took a bath. After bathing, he felt fresh and started drying his hair. He walked into the kitchen, greeted Ammi, and asked for something to eat. Meanwhile, Aisha and Amina were excitedly talking about the picnic. Amina said, "Baaji, we'll go to the amusement park in the city. We'll enjoy the rides, eat cotton candy, and drink mango shake. It will be so much fun!" Aisha replied, "No, amusement parks are for kids. We're not little kids anymore. Let's go to the new mall in the nearby city. We'll buy frocks and storybooks. For your wish, we can also visit the amusement park there." They started arguing, and just then, Ammi came in and said, "Why are you two arguing? We'll go wherever Abbu ji decides." Hassan added, "Yes, Ammi is right. It's up to Abbu ji. But I'm sure wherever we go, it'll be fun." Hearing this, Amina and Aisha stopped arguing and smiled. They ran off to play with their dollhouse. Hassan sat down and ate the snacks Ammi gave him. Then he left the dining room and went to his room to do homework, just like always. After finishing his homework, Hassan didn't feel like playing. He felt sleepy and slowly dozed off. In his dream, he found himself in a deep, unknown forest. There, he saw a cave that looked just like the one from the story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves. When he touched the cave door, it suddenly opened. Hassan was surprised. Inside, he saw something that looked like a car—but it had no wheels. It had a steering wheel and some strange control buttons. Just as he was about to step into the car, he woke up. His sister was calling him for dinner. Still thinking about the strange dream, Hassan walked downstairs. Abbu ji was already there. Hassan greeted him as usual. Amina and Aisha spread the dastarkhwan, and everyone started eating dinner together. Hassan was quiet, still wondering about the dream. After dinner, he offered Namaz, studied for a few hours, and then went to sleep peacefully, with thoughts of the picnic and the dream still in his mind. He again was walking through the same forest, he again saw the cave and when it opened he again saw the car-like structure. But when he again was about to take a ride in the car he woke up again. there was a mosquito buzzing near his ear, that's why he woke up. It was 2 10 clock so, he went back to sleep . Next morning he woke up early in the morning as usual, offered namaz, recited quran and then walked downstairs to have breakfast with his mother and father. to his surprise his sisters were woke up early as usual, they had also offered namaz so far and they were in the hall with their parents. Hassan greeted his parents and his sisters came running to him and hugged him and said "bhaiya , today we are going to a picnic. Hassan smiled and said " I know dear .now I understand why both of you woke up so early". The family laughed and they ate their

ji said to the kids, "we are about to reach our destiny , this is the surprise picnic spot ,this is a beautiful forest ,full of nature's bounties, this forest is different from the forest of our village it is a mixture of nature and man-made things ,here are so many shops and hotels Jit had become a tourist attraction I thought it is good than the noise of the amusement park and malls . I know all of you are tired of your daily routine so, this is a refreshment to your brain "the kids were so excited and happy .When they reached the picnic spot everyone got down from the cab and they were lost in the fresh atmosphere .At the same time Hassan noticed something, he realized that it is the same forest he saw in his dream .he then thought it is his misconception.then he went with his sisters to play all the three siblings enjoyed a lot ,but unfortunately Amina slipped and she was injured ,she cried a lot and all the family members were too worried ,the cab was very far from them so abu ji said to "Hasan go and get a bandage and a antiseptic cream from the market, take the cab and return fast ". Hassan walked through the forest and he knew the cab was very far, he was tired and he decided to take a rest . He then sat under a tree and when he was about to sleep he heard a sound, when he turned around he saw nothing there. He decided to look for the sound and he walked away .He walked in all directions but he saw nothing . He then walked forward and beneath his feet was a trap ,he walked on that trap and he fell into it .it took him about 3 minutes to stop from falling ,when he stopped, he looked around and to his surprise he saw the same cave he had saw in his dream, he was shocked that how could it be possible ,he tried to open the cave in the same manner he opened it in his dream, he touched the cave and to his surprise literally the cave opened, but instead of a car like structure he saw 7 doors there, each door was arranged as a rainbow, the doors were very strange .Hasan was shocked to see such a place beneath a trap ,he was frightened to see such strange and scared doors ,he took courage and walked near the first door Jit was red in colour he opened it and walked some time ,but he saw nothing there he turned around and saw a beast like animal there the animal appeared to be in great anger ,he was determined to attack on Hassan. But one thing was strange in that it had 6 legs and 4 ears ,but his face appeared to be like a beast. Hassan looked at him for some time and the beast was also looking at him.Hassan was looking in his eyes as the beast seemed as a fly for Hassan. Now, the beast's anger had gone somehow and it smiled at Hassan as it wanted to be his friend. Hassan smiled back towards it and the beast took Hassan on its back and walked out of the door. Then the beast and Hassan walked through all the doors, but Hassan was not finding a way to get out of this place. He opened 6 doors bit he didn't found exit door, but to his fortune in every door he found something very precious and worthy .now it was the turn of the last door to be opened, Hassan was certain that it would be the exit door .but when he opened the door he found the car like structure there, which he saw In his dream. Hassan thought that this ride would make him get out of this place. but there was a problem, that Hassan did not know that how to operate this ride ,he sighed and looked at the beast the beast gave him a old paper in which ,the instructions were written how to operate the ride, Hassan read the instructions he looked around to thank the beast but the beast was not there he was surprised . he pressed the start button but there happened nothing. Then he pressed another button and suddenly the ride began to shake. Hassan was worried but after some time he found himself in his home, everyone was so tense there, Hassan could not understand what was happening with him. when he reached there he saw a big boy just like him everyone called him Hassan. Now Hassan understood what was happening he knew that he had traveled through time in the time machine, which he thought was a car. Hassan now started hiding from everyone and decided to find out what was happening to him in the future. He saw that Ammi

thought you were kidnapped and filed a report at the police station." Aisha added tearfully, "Ammi hasn't eaten properly since you went missing, Bhaiya. She has become so weak. A few days ago, she even fainted." Hassan didn't tell them the truth about what had really happened. Instead, he smiled and said, "Don't worry, I'm back now. I got lost in the forest, but I'm safe and fine." Though he smiled for his family, inside, Hassan was full of fear and worry. What he had seen in the future kept haunting him. Even though he looked fine on the outside, something had changed deep inside him. For many days, Hassan couldn't eat well or sleep properly. He was deeply disturbed and felt depressed, thinking again and again about what he had seen.

His mother noticed his sadness and strange behavior. She was sure that something was not right with Hassan. One day, she gently spoke to him and said, "Dear Hassan, I know something strange has happened to you. For God's sake, tell me the truth." At first, Hassan stayed quiet. But then he thought that sharing his fear with Ammi Jan might make him feel better. So, he told her everything—about how he had traveled through time, what he saw in the future, and how it had made him feel scared and helpless. Ammi Jan listened carefully. She was shocked but calm. After a pause, she said, "I've never heard anything like this in my life, Hassan. But listen, my dear son, you don't need to worry. You must be brave. Remember, son, hardships come to test us, not to break us. Allah is always watching, and He helps those who try their best and keep faith." She gently placed her hand on Hassan's head and added, "The future is not fixed. If you work hard, stay honest, and pray with all your heart, your future can be better. What you saw was just a warning—a chance for you to make better choices now." Her words comforted Hassan. For the first time in many days, he felt a little peace in his heart. He wiped his tears and hugged Ammi Jan tightly.

ALLAH HAVE THE POWERTO MAKE YOUR FATE THEN BELIEVE THAT HE HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE YOUR FATE BUT YOU HAVE TO WORK HARD AND BELIEVE IN ALLAH.

When Hassan heard what his mother said he was motivated and he set out to work hard and build his future. Hassan worked very hard and soon he began to forget time travel. He worked very hard and after a few years he was a successful business man (what he wanted to be).Hassan was very famous all over the area and he realized that nothing can be achieved without hard work. He realized that his time travel was not meaningful to him now.hassan was now very happy and he led a peaceful life Hassan was bothered by the noise he heard, that Amina and aisha were coming and waking him up. When he woke up he looked around and he saw that he was still a teenager. All the things that happened with him was just a dream. The time travel, the picnic, the beast ,the businessman and everything was a dream.

Even though it was just a dream, Hassan learned a very big lesson from it. First, he understood that nothing in life can be achieved without hard work. Success doesn't come easily—it requires effort, discipline, and dedication. Second, he remembered the powerful words his mother had told him in the dream: "If God has the power to write your fate, He also has the power to change it." These words stayed in Hassan's heart. They gave him new hope, new strength, and a clear path to follow. That dream was not just a dream—it became a turning point in his life. It showed him the importance of time, truth, faith, and hard work. From that day on, Hassan decided to live every moment with honesty, courage, and determination.

The dream had lit a new light in Hassan's life—and that light would guide him forever.

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# Empower, Don't Burden: Sakeena Itoo Bats for Hassle-Free Welfare Payments

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to discuss various issues arising during the release of benefits under various flagship social welfare schemes like Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Ladli Beti, Marriage Assistance, Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) and others through Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

According to an official spokesperson, the meeting was attended by Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Secretary in Social Welfare department, Director Finance Social Welfare department, senior representatives of Jammu and Kashmir Bank and other concerned officers.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Minister

Sakeena emphasized on the facilitation of common people, especially those belonging to

we must work towards complete saturation with accountability at every level", Minister Sakeena

department to revisit the MoU held with J&K Bank by the department for



downtrodden communities and low income group.

She called upon the officers for timely disbursement of payments under various schemes to eligible beneficiaries in strict adherence to eligibility norms.

"Social welfare is not just about disbursement, it is about dignity, inclusion and empowerment of people, especially those in need.

Every eligible citizen must feel the impact of these welfare schemes in their daily lives and

implementation of Ladli Beti scheme and update some conditions in it for the facilitation of beneficiaries.

While reviewing some other issues related to smooth saturation of social sector schemes, the Minister emphasized on the importance of transparent mechanism, highlighting that delays and duplications should be completely avoided during disbursement of payments to beneficiaries.

# SASCI a Game-Changer for Infrastructure, Systemic Reforms in J&K: CS Atal Dulloo

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the adoption and implementation of Government of India's transformative scheme, Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).

According to an official spokesperson, the Chief Secretary termed the scheme a catalyst for sustainable development and infrastructure consolidation across the UT. He remarked that the window of opportunity is now with SASCI providing us a chance to reimagine and rebuild Jammu and Kashmir with resilience, transparency and innovations, he asserted.

Dulloo reiterated that alignment with the SASCI scheme is not only fiscally prudent but strategically vital for addressing the long-standing infrastructure gaps across key sectors.

He directed the departments to adopt a mission-mode approach and submit their proposals to the Finance Department for seeking necessary approvals from Central Government.

Further underlining the fiscal accountability and transparency, the Chief Secretary directed that all the 122 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) should be transitioned to the Single Nodal Agency - SPARSH platform by November 2025, aligning with the sunset deadline set by the Ministry of Finance.

Principal Secretary Finance,

Santosh D. Vaidya, highlighted that the UT is eligible for Rs 1200 crore under the "Untied"

for the financing reforms in Urban Local Bodies, aimed at enhancing the governance and

improving tenure security.

Additionally, Rs 6,000



component of the scheme. He mentioned that this portion has been allocated on the basis of tax devolution and is part of the national outlay of Rs 57,000 Cr under SASCI.

It was laid out that the scheme included multiple reform-driven components with specific fund allocations for targeted interventions. These included Rs 10,000 crore earmarked for States/UTs as their share for Centrally Sponsored Schemes and projects, with J&K eligible to secure about Rs 210 crore under this head.

Similarly, Rs 15,000 crore had been dedicated to promote affordable housing, comprehensive mobility and Blue-Green urban infrastructure, laying the foundation for sustainable urbanisation in emerging cities like Jammu and Srinagar.

Likewise, an amount of Rs 5,000 crore had been earmarked

service delivery at the grassroots level. The scheme also provisions Rs 15,000 crore as incentives for states demonstrating year-on-year capital expenditure growth, offering an added push for infrastructure investment.

The Central government had also proposed Rs 3,000 crore to promote the scrapping of old government vehicles, including ambulances over 15 years old. The scheme encourages the states to offer tax waivers, scrap-age incentives, and establish automated vehicle testing infrastructure.

With respect to mining sector reforms, Rs 5,000 crore had been put aside by central government where J&K is poised to tap into its substantial portion.

Moreover, Rs 11,000 crore and Rs 5,000 crore, respectively had been fixed for the land-related reforms in rural and urban areas, with the goal of digitizing the land records and

crore would be spent to bolster financial management reforms, including universal adoption of the SNA-SPARSH system across all schemes for increased transparency, real-time monitoring and just-in-time releases by the central government. Besides, an amount of Rs 18,000 crore are going to be received by the States/UTs for comprehensive urban planning reforms, which would support integrated master planning, inclusive zoning, and resilience-focused development.

The scheme also included an amount of Rs 5,000 crore to establish the Children and Adolescent Libraries across the Panchayats and wards. These libraries would have digital infrastructure to access resources from the National Digital Library, a move that promises to revolutionise the community-level education access in J&K.

# Shreya Singhal assumes charge as Chief Executive Officer, J&K ERA

**SRINAGAR:** Shreya Singhal today assumed the charge as Chief Executive Officer J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency, a specialised agency established by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to implement and oversee execution of all externally funded projects within the Union Territory.

Immediately after formally taking over the charge, Singhal convened an introductory meeting with senior officials of the agency,

during which she had a comprehensive overview of the organization's operational framework.

According to an official spokesperson, the senior officers provided insights into broader parameters of the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project, which is currently being executed by J&K ERA across the Union Territory.

Shreya Singhal was informed that, till date, 200 out of the total of 213 sub-projects

initiated under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project have been successfully completed, while work on the remaining sub-projects is actively progressing.

The Chief Executive Officer expressed hope that the officers and other staff will continue to work with same zeal and enthusiasm, ensuring positive change in the infrastructure development in J&K.

# Principal Secy SWD Calls for seamless implementation of schemes

**SRINAGAR:** Principal Secretary, Social Welfare, Anil Kumar Singh, today chaired an introductory-cum-review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, here.


The Principal Secretary undertook a comprehensive, sector-wise review of the implementation of all Centrally Sponsored and Union Territory-level schemes, including flagship programmes. The officers presented detailed updates on the status of various schemes through PowerPoint Presentations.

According to an official spokesperson, Anil Kumar emphasized the need for robust implementation of all schemes and stressed ensuring wide coverage of eligible beneficiaries. He specifically reviewed the physical and financial progress on the department across the Union Territory.

Key schemes reviewed during the meeting included Mission Shoshan, Saksham Anganwadi 2.0, Mission

Vatsalya, Mission Shakti, Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), Ladli Beti, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Marriage Assistance Schemes, and various welfare initiatives

for closely monitoring the recruitment process to ensure timely filling of vacancies critical to the effective implementation of programmes.



The Principal also took stock of the effectiveness of legal framework aimed at promoting social justice and protecting the vulnerable groups. Key legislations reviewed included the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

The meeting further discussed measures to strengthen child development, improve nutrition and support the welfare of marginalized sections of society, including specially-abled individuals, widows, senior citizens and members of reserved categories.

Anil Kumar stressed the need for seamless functioning of Saksham Anganwadi Centres, Vatsalya Sadans, shelter homes, juvenile homes, Child Care Institutions (CCIs), One Stop Centres for Women and other welfare facilities

# Divisional Commissioner reviews arrangements for arrival of Hajj pilgrims

**SRINAGAR:** In preparation for the arrival of Hajj pilgrims, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, chaired a meeting today

spokesperson. Addressing the officers from various departments, Div Com issued a slew of directives aimed at facilitating the pilgrims and their



to finalize the comprehensive arrangements for safe and smooth arrival of pilgrims at the International Airport Srinagar. According to an official

attendants during their arrival. He emphasized for issuing vehicle and entry passes to the attendants promptly to avoid any inconvenience during the

arrival process.

Div Com directed the concerned authorities to earmark dedicated parking spaces for vehicles accompanying the pilgrims, ensuring smooth traffic flow and reducing congestion.

He instructed the Chief Medical Officer Srinagar to deploy medical teams at the airport to provide immediate assistance to any needy pilgrims.

He further directed the Hajj Committee to deploy adequate staff to assist pilgrims, ensuring they receive the necessary support throughout their arrival.

To ensure uninterrupted vehicular movement, Div Com stressed the need for proper traffic management on the Airport road during the pilgrims' arrival.

# DLSA Srinagar Inspects Central Jail Srinagar, Legal Aid Clinics

**SRINAGAR:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the guidance of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge/Chairman DLSA Srinagar, conducted an inspection of Central Jail Srinagar and the Prison Legal Aid Clinic on Friday.

The primary objective of the visit was to assess the living conditions of the inmates and review the overall functioning of the jail and legal aid mechanisms in place.

According to an official spokesperson, the inspection was carried out by Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, accompanied by Sajad Ur Rehman, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, officials and Legal Aid Defence Counsels of DLSA Srinagar.

During the inspection, the team visited various key sections of the jail including the Legal Aid Clinic, Welfare Block, Vocational Training Centre, Computer Training Centre, Music and Fine Arts Centre, Calligraphy Centre, Jail Hospital, Kitchen Area, Women's Block, and the dedicated Women-Centric Tailoring Centre.

The team paid special attention to the Medical Centre, with a particular focus on the de-addiction facilities available to the inmates.

The inspection was also joined by Sheikh Zulfikar

concerns and the quality of services provided.

Tasleem Arief and the team attentively listened to the grievances and feedback shared by the inmates, reaffirming the commitment of DLSA Srinagar to

Parag Legal Volunteers posted at the Prison Legal Aid Clinic.

He reviewed their functioning and emphasized the importance of their role in ensuring continuous access to justice for inmates.

He encouraged the PLVs to remain proactive, compassionate and vigilant in addressing the legal needs of the prison population.

In addition to the jail inspection, Principal District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, along with Secretary DLSA Srinagar, also conducted inspection of Legal Aid Clinic at University of Kashmir.

The purpose of these visits was to evaluate the effectiveness and outreach of the legal aid services being provided at these institutions, and to strengthen coordination among stakeholders for timely and accessible legal assistance.

The officials interacted with legal aid providers and stakeholders at each location to ensure that the clinics are functioning efficiently and meeting the legal needs of the beneficiaries.

Azad, Senior Superintendent, Central Jail Srinagar; Deputy Superintendent; medical officers; and prison staff. Together, they visited all the barracks and interacted directly with the inmates, including women prisoners, to obtain first-hand insights into their

safeguard the rights and dignity of prisoners.

The interaction provided a crucial platform for inmates to voice their needs and ensured transparency and responsiveness in the justice delivery system within custodial institutions.

In addition, Chairman DLSA



# Srinagar admin organizes series of drug de-addiction awareness programmes

**SRINAGAR:** As part of ongoing Drug Free Jammu and Kashmir initiative, district administration Srinagar hosted a series of drug de-addiction awareness programmes in Shahr-e-Khaas areas and rural pockets of the district to sensitize people about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

According to an official spokesperson, the awareness programmes, held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, aimed to sensitize communities about the dangers of drug addiction and highlight Government schemes and benefits available to those affected.

These programmes were organized at Marriage Halls of Munawarabad, Khanka-e-Mohalla and Khawaja Bazaar. The anti drug awareness

participation from multiple departments, including Health, Police, Education, Social Welfare, Excise and Rural Development Department.



programmes were also held at Government High School New Theed-A and Panchayat Office, Saidpora.

The events witnessed active

Experts from these departments delivered informative sessions, shedding light on the issues surrounding drug addiction and the support

systems in place to help individuals and families.

Rural Development and Education departments played a crucial role in the programmes, raising awareness among students about the risks and consequences of drug addiction. Additionally, counseling sessions were conducted to support students and provide guidance on overcoming addiction.

During the programmes, awareness sessions on the risks and consequences of drug addiction were held and information regarding Government schemes and benefits for those struggling with addiction were highlighted in detail.

Besides, mega events will also be held in Government Degree Colleges, Schools, Arogya Mandirs, Amrit Sarovars and tourist locations across the district for celebration of 'International Day of Yoga'.

DC directed the stakeholder departments to work in a coordinated manner to ensure all the necessary arrangements well in time for successful conduct of the Yoga events.

# DC Kupwara reviews preparation for 'International Yoga Day'

**KUPWARA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Friday chaired a meeting of concerned officers at D.C Office here to review the preparations for celebration of 'International Day of Yoga' being observed on June 21.

On the occasion, DC impressed upon all the officers to work in coordination for smooth and successful celebration of the International Day of Yoga. She directed the

line departments to make all necessary arrangements well in advance at the sites where mega yoga sessions will be held to commemorate the day.

According to an official spokesperson, the meeting was informed that the main function will be held at Government Degree College Boys Kupwara where a large number of people are expected to participate in the event.



Continued From P1...

LG Sinha

Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; senior officials of Police, Army, CAPFs and Intelligence Agencies.

He directed for seamless coordination among the Civil Administration, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, J&K Police, Army, Security Forces, and all the other crucial stakeholders to ensure a peaceful and successful holy pilgrimage.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the working of the security grid and various significant steps being taken by Army, CAPFs and J&K Police to ensure foolproof security for the Yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor also reviewed the contingency plan, deployment of Police and security personnel, preparedness and response mechanism of line departments and emphasized on better coordination among all stakeholders involved in yatra management.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor gave an overview of the Yatra arrangements and key measures taken to further enhance the facilities and services for pilgrims and smooth conduct of Yatra. (DIPR)

Sadhush Reach

“The sadhus have started arriving in Jammu city. Scores have reached our temple complex, which is one of the boarding and lodging centres for the Sadhus,” said temple head Mahant Rameshwar Dass.

The famous Ram Mandir in the old city reverberates with chants in praise of Lord Shiva, as over 200 sadhus from across the country have reached here to take part in the annual yatra to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath.

“All necessary arrangements, including round-the-clock free community kitchen service, lodging, and medical facilities, are in place for the Sadhus here. We wish for a trouble-free yatra,” Dass said.

He added that his complex has been serving sadhus for generations throughout the year.

As per past practice, the people of Jammu and Kashmir welcome the pilgrims according to age-old traditions so they do not face any problems.

Ram Mandir in the Purani Mandi area of Jammu, the city of temples, hosts the sadhus and sadhvis at its sprawling complex, with the government departments lending support to ensure various facilities, including on-the-spot registration for the yatra.

Dass lauded the role of the lieutenant governor and the administration in putting up the best possible facilities for the pilgrims.

“We expect a rush of pilgrims to Amarnath this year too,” he said.

Amid chants of “Bam Bam Bhole” and “Jai Jai Baba Barfani”, the sadhus and sadhvis are eagerly waiting for the yatra to commence.

Hailing from Uttarakhand, Ram Baba has been visiting Amarnath for the past 24 years.

“We have been coming for the yatra for the past 24 years. This is our 25th year. We are waiting for the day the yatra starts, as we want to have early darshan of Barfani Baba,” he said.

He further said that he had walked from his home temple along with his group of Nathis in six days.

“I start my year with this yatra by seeking the blessing of the Ice Lingam,” he added.

Another sadhu from Odisha said he is confident of undertaking the arduous journey to the shrine with the help of a belt tied around his back to overcome pain. (ANI)

PM Modi

Met officials and teams working tirelessly in the aftermath. Our thoughts remain with those who lost their loved ones in this unimaginable tragedy,” he wrote.

Prime Minister Modi during his visit to Ahmedabad met those injured in the aftermath, including the lone survivor, and assured them of the nation's unwavering

support during this difficult time.

PM also chaired a review meeting at Ahmedabad Airport with top authorities to assess the ongoing relief and recovery efforts.

In separate posts on X, PM Modi stated: “Met those injured in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad, including the lone survivor and assured them that we are with them and their families in this tough time. The entire nation is praying for their speedy recovery.”

“Chaired a review meeting at Ahmedabad Airport with top authorities,” he added.

Pertinently, the deadly Boeing 787-8 crashed on Thursday, claiming the lives of 241 people, including 12 crew members onboard. The aircraft, operating from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, plunged into a residential complex near B J Medical College immediately after take-off from the airport. (KNO)

5-year term

Officials' sources told KNO that the government is yet to decide on timing of holding local bodies' polls in the Union Territory.

Official sources told KNO that the government is yet to decide on the timing of local bodies' polls in the Union Territory.

“The government has not yet made up its mind on when to hold the polls. It is expected that a decision on conducting local bodies elections will be taken only after the Amarnath Yatra,” they said, adding that the ECI is also expected to decide the timing of by-polls in Budgam and Nagrota segments in August–September this year.” (KNO)

DGCA Orders

787-8 Dreamliner aircraft, operating a flight from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, crashed soon after take-off on Thursday afternoon. Out of the 242 people, who were on board the plane, only one person survived. (ANI)

CBI registers

in respect of 1503 purported shopkeepers/traders by alleged Al-Falah Shopkeepers Association and Flood Affected Coordination Committee Srinagar vide No. 03/AFSA, dated 11.11.2018 and No. 106/FEC, dated 05.11.18 without affidavits and necessary verification in contravention of the said U.O,” the official said, adding, “The Officers/Officials in DC Office Srinagar and Tehsil Office Central Shalteng Srinagar have conspired & connived with alleged members of alleged Al-Falah Shopkeepers Association and alleged members of alleged Flood Affected Coordination Committee Srinagar, brokers Tariq Ahmad Malik, Tariq Ahmad Shaikh, purported shopkeepers/ traders most of whom belong to a single household and other persons in preparation of a fake list of fictitious flood affected shopkeepers/traders that was submitted to DC Office Srinagar vide No. 811/TCSS/2018, dated 16.11.2018. During verification both Al-Falah Shopkeepers Association and Flood Affected Coordination Committee Srinagar were found fictitious & non-existing.”

“The verification revealed that 401 shopkeepers/ traders of tehsil North Srinagar filed a writ petition titled Mohammad Ibrahim Moti & Ors. vide WP No. 1802/2021, CM 5983/2021 in J&K High Court Srinagar on 09.09.2021 for payment of flood relief to them. On the very next day on 10.09.2021, the honorable J&K High Court Srinagar passed an order that “This petition is disposed of in accordance with a previous judgment dated 22.11.2017,

in OWPN No. 1916/2017, titled as Ghulam Mohammad Rather & Ors. V/s DC Sgr.as the petitioners' case is deemed identical. The respondents are directed to consider the petitioners' claim based on the rules occupying the field, and make a decision within four weeks of receiving a certified copy of this order,” the official said.

He said, “Taking a cue of the Court Order dated 10.09.2021 in WP No. 1802/2021, with mala fide intentions, 24 persons out of above said 1503 purported flood affected shopkeepers/traders of Tehsil Central

Shalteng Srinagar filed a WP No. 786/2022 titled as Waheed Ahmad Lone & Ors. V/s DC Srinagar & Ors. in High Court J&K Srinagar on 18.04.2022 seeking flood relief from the Govt. under non-insured and below 10.00 lakhs turnover category. Meanwhile, the remaining 1479 (out of 1503) purported claimants also filed a separate WP No. 86/2024, titled as Jan Mohammad Dar & Ors. V/s DC Srinagar & Ors. in High Court J&K Srinagar.”

“The Hon'ble High Court issued order directing respondents to consider the claim of petitioners in terms of communication dated 26.03.2024 provided they are eligible. Both these WPs were clubbed by the Hon'ble High Court,” the official said.

“The verification established that although subject 1503 petitioners before the honorable High Court do exist physically and have active bank accounts in respective branches, projecting themselves as flood affected shopkeepers/traders they also became a part of the larger conspiracy by colluding with unknown officers/officials of DC Office Sgr. Tehsil Office Central Shalteng, brokers Tariq Ahmad Malik, Tariq Ahmad Sheikh & other persons and provided to them their name, other particulars & bank accounts for receiving wrongful gain, without any eligibility and entitlement. The verification prima facie established that the Officers/Officials in DC Office Srinagar conspired with brokers & other persons and pursued their criminal ploy by way of feeding/submitting fabricated, false & fictitious information of verification/re-verification of subject 1503 purported flood affected shopkeepers/traders to the Court of law and Govt Officers/Offices of Principal Secretary to Govt. Finance Deptt, Director General (Budget) Finance Department, Jammu & Kashmir Srinagar, and Accounts Officer with Finance Department, Jammu & Kashmir Srinagar/Jammu through series of official communications with intention to cause wrongful loss to the Govt and wrongful gain to themselves. And upon the basis of said fabricated, false and fictitious feedback/ reportage of verification/re-verification in respect of subject 1503 petitioners, these Officers/Officials of DC Office Sgr. and Tehsil Office Central Shalteng in conspiracy with pseudo beneficiaries & others have by way of inducement secured/managed revaluation/ authorization/release of Rs. 13.79 crores from Finance Department vide letter No.FD-BDGTOD- 3/5/2023-03-F.D. dated 27.09.2024 to be disbursed amongst the petitioners/ alleged beneficiaries,” the official said.

He said, “A separate revaluation/ authorization/ release of Rs. 12.00 lakhs was also secured in favour of said 24 petitioners. Therefore, Rs. 50,000 under the guise of flood relief was disbursed in favour of subject 1503 fictitious shopkeepers/traders by way of crediting the amount in respective bank accounts of alleged beneficiaries. “

“Moreover, the verification revealed that Advocate Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, who was pleading for 24 petitioners in WP titled as Waheed Ahmad Lone & Ors. was a part of this whole conspiracy as his as many as eight close family members happen to be the petitioners/ alleged beneficiaries amongst 24 petitioners, “ the official said, adding, “During verification it was prima facie established that unknown officers/officials of DC Office Srinagar & Tehsil Office Central Shalteng abused their official position and connived

with brokers namely Tariq Ahmad Malik S/o Ghulam Mohammad Malik R/o Lane No. 04, Firdous Abad Batamaloo Sgr., Tariq Ahmad Sheikh @Kabali S/o Ghulam Nabi Sheikh R/o Mustafa Abad Zainakote HMT Sgr, and other persons including alleged beneficiaries in commission of offences under section 420, 120-B r/w 420 RPC and section 5(1) d r/w section 5 (2) of J&K P.C Act Samvat 2006 (Ad-1949) section 61 r/w section BNS 318 and section 13 (1)

(a) r/w 13 (2) of PC Act 1988 (amended by J&K Re-organization Act-2019) for preparation of fake & fraudulent lists of 1503 purported flood affected shopkeepers/traders in Tehsil Central Shalteng Srinagar and subsequent wrongful disbursement of government relief funds amongst them, thereby causing wrongful gain to themselves and wrongful loss/misappropriation of Rs. 7.51,50,000 (Seven crores, Fifty lakhs and Fifty Thousand) to the State Exchequer.”

The above stated facts have necessitated a thorough investigation into this matter for looking into the modus operandi of all the persons involved in larger conspiracy so hatched for causing huge monetary loss to the state exchequer disbursed in favour of subject 1503 fictitious shopkeepers/traders by way of crediting the amount in respective bank accounts of alleged beneficiaries. (KNO)

Thaejkads in

by June 21—considered the most suitable time for a healthy crop and better yield,” he said.

Dar said that wherever water is available, many farmers are hiring skilled non-local workers to speed up the process. “Every inch of land matters. We are trying our best to cover as much ground as possible before the soil dries up,” he added.

Currently, hundreds of families can be seen across south, central, and north Kashmir engaged in the fields. The picturesque rural settings are filled with the sight of people knee-deep in muddy waters, transplanting saplings in perfect lines—a timeless image of Kashmir's agrarian culture.

According to farmers, Thaejkaad is not just an agricultural exercise, but a cultural ritual deeply embedded in Kashmir's identity. “For some, it may just be paddy transplantation. But for us, it carries immense cultural and emotional value. It is believed that this season brings blessings, prosperity, and a spiritual connection to our ancestors,” said a farmer from Budgam.

Explaining the process, farmers said that paddy cultivation involves a three-stage cycle. It starts with sowing the seeds in a separate nursery known as Thaejwaan, which matures over 40 days. Once the saplings grow to around 9 inches, the main fields are prepared—tilled and enriched with farmyard manure. Then begins Thaejkaad, the meticulous transplantation of each sapling into the main fields

A decline in water levels in many streams, canals, and rivers has rendered several irrigation schemes defunct.

People from the Shaar area of Khrew in south Kashmir's Pulwama district said they have sown now maize, moong and other pulses as there was no water available to transplant paddy.

Agriculture experts and the Department of Agriculture have been advising farmers in water-deficient areas to opt for less water-intensive crops such as pulses and vegetables.

They said that though water is available at most places, there are a few locations where people have been facing problems, which are being looked into.

An official of the department told KNO that there is a need to protect the paddy land. “Kashmir was self-dependent on rice, but now the conversion of land to horticulture and construction of houses and other buildings has reduced the paddy land,” he said.

“Currently, Kashmir is dependent on over 60 per cent of rice from other states, and the percentage has been increasing with each passing year,” he added. (KNO)

SASCI to give

unique opportunity for states and UTs to ramp up their capital expenditure through 50-year interest-free loans, thereby enabling them to invest in critical infrastructure and usher in systemic reforms across ten identified sectors.

The meeting was attended by Administrative heads of all the major departments along with other senior officers.

The Chief Secretary termed the scheme a catalyst for sustainable development and infrastructure consolidation across the UT. He remarked that the

window of opportunity is now with SASCI providing us a chance to reimagine and rebuild

Jammu and Kashmir with resilience, transparency and innovations, he asserted.

Dulloo reiterated that alignment with the SASCI scheme is not only fiscally prudent but strategically vital for addressing the long-standing infrastructure gaps across key sectors. He directed the departments to adopt a mission-mode approach and submit their proposals to the Finance Department for seeking necessary approvals from Central Government.

He directed all the departments to immediately identify the ongoing and time-bound projects that can be completed within the current financial year. He also stressed on identifying the iconic tourism related infrastructure to be raised under this scheme as this is one of the goals set under it.

Emphasising added attention to sectors that have remained infrastructure-deficient, Dulloo specifically emphasized the Mining, Urban Development and Transport as focus areas. These sectors not only hold vast untapped potential but also require urgent capital infusion to bridge critical infrastructure gaps found in these vital sectors, he noted.

Further underlining the fiscal accountability and transparency, the Chief Secretary directed that all the 122 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) should be transitioned to the Single Nodal Agency - SPARSH platform by November 2025, aligning with the sunset deadline set by the Ministry of Finance.

Principal Secretary Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, highlighted that the UT is eligible for Rs 1200 crore under the “Untied”

component of the scheme. He mentioned that this portion has been allocated on the basis of tax devolution and is part of the national outlay of Rs 57,000 Cr under SASCI.

It was laid out that the scheme included multiple reform-driven components with specific fund allocations for targeted interventions.

These included Rs 10,000 crore earmarked for States/UTs as their share for Centrally Sponsored Schemes and projects, with J&K eligible to secure about Rs 210 crore under this head.

Similarly, Rs 15,000 crore had been dedicated to promote affordable housing, comprehensive mobility and Blue-Green urban infrastructure, laying the foundation for sustainable urbanisation in emerging cities like Jammu and Srinagar.

Likewise, an amount of Rs 5,000 crore had been earmarked for the financing reforms in Urban Local Bodies, aimed at

enhancing the governance and service delivery at the grassroots level.

The scheme also provisions Rs 15,000 crore as incentives for states demonstrating year-on-year capital expenditure growth, offering an added push for infrastructure investment.

The Central government had also proposed Rs 3,000 crore to promote the scrapping of old government vehicles, including ambulances over 15 years old. The scheme encourages the states to offer tax waivers, scrap-age incentives, and establish automated vehicle testing infrastructure.

With respect to mining sector reforms, Rs 5,000 crore had been put aside by central government where J&K is poised to tap into its substantial portion.

Moreover, Rs 11,000 crore and Rs 5,000 crore, respectively had been fixed for the land-related reforms in rural and urban areas, with the goal of digitizing the land records and improving tenure security.

Additionally, Rs 6,000 crore would be spent to bolster financial management reforms, including universal adoption of the SNA-SPARSH system across all schemes for increased transparency, real-time monitoring and just-in time releases by the central government.

Besides, an amount of Rs 18,000 crore are going to be received by the States/UTs for comprehensive urban planning reforms, which would support integrated master planning, inclusive zoning, and resilience-focused development.

The scheme also included an amount of Rs 5,000 crore to establish the Children and Adolescent Libraries across the Panchayats and wards.

These libraries would have digital infrastructure to access resources from the National Digital Library, a move that promises to revolutionise the community-level education access in J&K. (DIPR)

EDII Opens Admissions for PGDM in Entrepreneurship and PGDM in Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Venture Development



**LADAKH:** Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) has opened admissions for its two-year, full-time PGDM programmes: PGDM in Entrepreneurship (PGDM-E) and PGDM in Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Venture Development (PGDM-IEV) for the academic year 2025 – 27.

Backed by AICTE approval, PGDM-E and PGDM-IEV are designed to serve as a launchpad for aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, and next-generation business leaders by combining academic rigour with real-world outcomes. EDII's focus on entrepreneurial outcomes is reflected in its alumni achievements with nearly 78% of graduates pursuing entrepreneurial careers. Of these,

54% have joined or scaled their family businesses, 23% have launched independent ventures, and 1% have established social enterprises.

With milestone-based learning approach, PGDM in Entrepreneurship enables students to tailor their entrepreneurial roadmap with practical knowledge and guidance by eminent entrepreneurs, experts, investors and noted professionals. It is particularly advantageous for students who want to launch new ventures, expand family businesses, and build impactful social enterprises. EDII offers specialisations in New Enterprise Creation, Family Business Management, and Social Entrepreneurship, giving students the flexibility to shape their

entrepreneurial journeys.

PGDM-IEV is a purpose-built programme for tech innovators aiming to transform ideas into scalable ventures. With immersive learning environment, students benefit from EDII's in-house Technology Business Incubator – Centre for Advancing and Launching Enterprises (CrAdLE), which not only provides industry exposure but also a structured support to enhance investor readiness through schemes like Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), MSME Innovative Scheme and Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIM).

“At EDII, our PGDM programmes are rooted in experiential learning and reflect the evolving nature of India's entrepreneurial landscape. We aim to nurture the talent and skills of future job creators by equipping them with the right tools, insights, and mentorship that can translate ideas into viable, scalable ventures. Whether you are looking to build a start-up or drive family business to newer heights, EDII is where your journey begins,” said Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director General, EDII.

Encroachment risis in Lajurah, Pulwama: Farmers Deprived of Access to Thousands of Kanals of Agricultural Land

Pulwama: The residents of Lajurah village in South Kashmir's Pulwama district are facing severe distress due to the lack of access roads leading to their agricultural fields. Locals allege that widespread encroachments on the village's Khas Charayi (common grazing land) have blocked pathways to thousands of kanals of farmland, critically impacting farming activities and rural livelihoods.

According to local sources, influential individuals, including some government employees and politically connected persons, have illegally occupied parts of the common land, constructing permanent structures and even residential houses. This encroachment has severely disrupted access to key agricultural zones such as Doon Khut, Badun, Bailamaen, and Gurchilamen, as well as the entire stretch from Lajurah to Koil.

“This is not just about a blocked path—it's about the future of our agriculture and economy. There are high-density orchards developed on this land, but without access roads, their potential is being crippled,” said a local farmer while pointing towards a barricaded stretch once used by tractors and carts.

Several villagers lament that even old government structures in the region have been unlawfully taken over. “It's appalling that government property meant for public welfare has been turned into private holdings,” said another aggrieved resident.

Community leaders argue that the unregulated land grab is hindering not only agriculture but also



holistic development in the area. They call upon district administration, revenue authorities, and the Rural Development Department to conduct a thorough demarcation of Khas Charayi land, identify encroachments, and restore public access routes immediately.

“This issue is about justice, development, and law enforcement,” said a local panchayat representative, urging higher authorities to take strict action.

As the people of Lajurah continue to struggle, many believe that a timely intervention could restore both livelihoods and faith in the system. Until then, the blocked fields of Lajurah remain a symbol of unchecked encroachment and administrative neglect.

NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I want to change the ownership of Electricity Agreemeent under Consumer Id 0216020007087 from my father Late Abdul Kareem Sheergojri to my ownself. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

**Abdul Gaffar SheerGojri**  
**S/O Late Abdul Kareem Sheergojri**  
**R/O Kehnoosa Bandipora**

NOTICE

I Have Changed My Name Mohd Ali Kacho (Old Name) To Kacho Mohd Ali Khan (New Name). In Future I Will Be Known As Kacho Mohd Ali Khan (New Name). If Anybody Is Having Any Objection He/ She May Contact Passport Office, Srinagar Within 7 (Seven) Days .After 7 Days No Objection Will Be Accepted.



