

Kashmir Convener



NC refutes legal concerns over validity of UT elections

P/02



Union Cabinet Approves Pune Metro Phase-2 Extensions, Establishment of International Potato Centre

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ECI Launches ECINET Platform; Publishes Index Cards Within 72 Hours of Bye-Polls

P/02

Tourism Revival Endeavour

Centre to organise high-level meet in Pahalgam in July

● Tourism secretaries from states to participate



KC News Network

SRINAGAR : In a significant move to bring the tourists back to Kashmir, the Centre is planning a high-level review meeting in Pahalgam on July 7 and 8, sources said on Wednesday.

Top sources in the know of the development told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the meeting is being organised by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and will be attended by tourism secretaries from all the states.

They said the high-level meeting is being held in Pahalgam to give a clear message to the people and tourists that the destination is safe and they need not to worry.

They said that that the Jammu and Kashmir government may also build a memorial for the victims of the Pahalgam

attack within the next six months.

On April 22 this year terrorists killed 26 innocent civilians, mostly tourists, in the Baisaran Valley of Pahalgam, bringing the tourism industry in Jammu and Kashmir to a grinding halt.

According to the officials, there has been a sharp decline in the number of tourists visiting Pahalgam—from 18,000 in April to just 3,000 in June.

Preparations are underway to revive the stalled tourism industry they said. Tourism in Pahalgam and other parts of the Valley has suffered a major setback, severely affecting livelihoods in the region," they said.

After the April 22 terror attack the occupancy in hotels across the region also declined drastically. "Most of the advance bookings

>>>SEONP-7

Parliamentary panel to visit J&K in first week of July

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, a parliamentary panel is scheduled to undertake a study tour of Kashmir Valley in the first week of July. This is the first such visit following the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 civilian lives, most of them tourists.

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel, headed by BJP MP Anurag Thakur, will tour Srinagar as part of its multi-city itinerary that includes Mumbai and Coorg.

Ahead of the visit of the panel, the Jammu and Kashmir government has appointed S.P. Rukwal, Director of Geology and Mining, as coordinator of the visit.

According to an official order accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Rukwal will oversee all logistical, administrative, and protocol-related arrangements.

Two other officers from the Mining Department will work in coordination with the Lok Sabha Secretariat to ensure the success of the visit, the order reads.

The visit assumes significance as it will be first visit of a parliamentary panel to Kashmir following April 22 Baisaran attack in which 26 civilians were killed by terrorists.

>>>SEONP-7

"Samvidhan Hatya Diwas"

Emergency most inhuman act of Indian democratic history: LG Sinha

Inaugurates 1975 Emergency Exhibition at Convention Centre, Jammu
KC News Network

JAMMU: On the occasion of "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas", the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the 1975 Emergency Exhibition at Convention Centre, Jammu.

Commemorating the torturous events of the darkest chapter in the history of Independent India, the Lieutenant Governor honoured the victims of Emergency who made numerous sacrifices to safeguard constitutional values.



"I consider Emergency to be the most inhuman act of Indian democratic history and today's observation of

'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' is also an opportunity

>>>SEONP-7

Anti-Emergency Movement Was Learning Experience For Me: PM



KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the

release of a book on Emergency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that the period was a learning experience for him and reaffirmed the vitality of preserving the democratic framework.

"The Emergency Diaries – Years that Forged a Leader", which highlights

>>>SEONP-7

'Will honour individuals who resisted Emergency

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI:- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday observed brief silence as a mark of tribute to the victims of the Emergency and resolved to commemorate and honour their sacrifices.

At a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Cabinet observed a two-minute silence as a tribute to those whose constitutionally

>>>SEONP-7

HM calls Emergency anti-democratic mentality of Cong

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday

the Emergency was not a national necessity but a reflection of the anti-democratic mentality of the Congress and "just one person", a reference to then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Paying tributes to those who suffered after the imposition of Emergency by the Indira Gandhi government on June 25, 1975, Shah said the day reminds everyone that when those in

power become dictatorial, the people have the power to overthrow them.

The home minister said the Emergency was the "Age of Injustice of Congress' hunger for power".

The Modi government observes this day as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' so that the new generation is made aware of the pain

>>>SEONP-7

SANJY-2025

Multi-layered security arrangements in place: IGP Kashmir

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Multi-layered and in-depth security arrangements have been put in place for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra to ensure safe and smooth pilgrimage, Kashmir Police chief V K Birdi said on Wednesday.

"The Shri Amarnath Yatra this year is starting next week. Jammu-Kashmir Police and other security forces have made all security arrangements for the yatra. Compared to last year, this time there are multi-layered and in-depth security arrangements so as to make the yatra safe and smooth," the inspector general of Kashmir Police told reporters in Anantnag.

Birdi visited the Nunwan base camp of the yatra along the Pahalgam axis and reviewed the security arrangements for the pilgrimage which starts July 3.

The IGP said the security arrangements for the 38-day pilgrimage have been divided

>>>SEONP-7



India Returns to Space after 41 years



KC News Network

NEW DELHI: India's Shubhanshu Shukla scripted history by embarking on a space odyssey along with three others to the International Space Station as part of a commercial mission by Axiom Space on Wednesday, 41 years after astronaut Rakesh Sharma's spaceflight onboard a Russian spacecraft.

SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket blasted off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 12:01 pm IST carrying the astronauts of the Axiom-4 mission towards the ISS amid cheers from watch parties organised across the world, including at Shukla's City Montessori School in Lucknow where his parents witnessed the

historic launch.

The astronauts began orbiting the Earth 10 minutes after the launch, prompting Shukla to announce India's return to human spaceflight after 41 years.

"Kamaal ki ride thi (It was a great ride)," Shukla said soon after the Dragon spacecraft was placed in orbit around the Earth at an altitude of 200 km. The spacecraft is expected to dock at the ISS at 4:30 pm on Thursday, capping a 28-hour journey.

The Lucknow-born Shukla, former NASA astronaut Mission Commander Peggy Whitson, Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland, and Tibor Kapu of Hungary are part of the Axiom-4 mission that marks the return to space for the three nations.

Shukla became the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station, a journey that comes 41 years after Rakesh Sharma's eight days in orbit as part of the then Soviet Union's Salyut-7 space station in 1984.

"Namaskar, my dear countrymen; we have reached space after 41 years. It was a great ride," Shukla said.

"We are orbiting Earth at a speed of 7.5 km per second, I have the Indian tricolour embossed on my shoulders that tells me that I am with all of you," he said in Hindi.

"It is not just the start of my journey to the ISS but also of India's human spaceflight. I want each one of you to be part of this journey, let us embark on India's human space programme together," Shukla said.

Once in orbit, the astronauts revealed the name they gave to their brand-new capsule – Grace.

"Good things come to those who wait. Godspeed to the maiden crew of Grace," SpaceX told the crew. The astronauts will spend 14 days at the International Space Station

>>>SEONP-7

Hot, dry weather cast shadow over monsoon season in J&K



Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: The ongoing hot and dry spell in Jammu and Kashmir has resulted in a large deficit of rainfall in multiple stations across the region during the ongoing monsoon season. However, heavy rains and thunderstorms forecasted for the next 48 hours could play a crucial role in reducing this precipitation deficiency, especially in Srinagar, the summer capital, and other areas.

According to data obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar recorded the hottest night in June at 25.0°C. The

persistent dry spell has caused temperatures to rise both during the day and at night across the region.

The data shows that Srinagar and other parts of the valley, including Budgam, Bandipora, Kishtwar and Kulgam,

have experienced rainfall deficits ranging from 60% to 99%. Some stations, such as Anantnag, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kupwara and Shopian, have recorded rainfall deficits between 20% and 59%. Pulwama is the only station with near-normal precipitation, receiving 26.9 mm against a normal of 30.8 mm.

>>>SEONP-7

DSEK orders continuation of remedial coaching during summer break

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: School Education Department Wednesday ordered the education institutions to continue remedial teaching during summer vacations for schools with poor results in JKBOSE Class 10th & 12th Examinations.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Joint Director elementary education at Directorate of School Education Kashmir in a communique said, "Remedial teaching was initiated for schools that recorded unsatisfactory performance in the recently declared JKBOSE Class 10th and 12th

examinations."

It also said that DSEK has reviewed that sustained academic support is crucial to bridge learning gaps and ensure that students are well-prepared for the forthcoming biannual examinations.

DSEK said that in view of the matter, and keeping in mind the best interests of students, it is ordered that throughout the summer vacations, it shall continue without any interruption as envisaged in the already issued order for the schools identified with poor results.

"Classes shall be organized during early morning hours from 8:00 am to facilitate a conducive learning

environment and to safeguard students from extreme heat during the day," the directorate ordered.

DSEK said that the objective of remedial teaching is to strengthen the fundamental concepts of students, provide them individual attention, clarify their doubts, and equip them with exam-oriented preparation so that they can improve their performance in the upcoming biannual exams. "The subject-wise remedial plan with timelines prepared by the concerned teachers should be strictly adhered to and followed in letter and spirit," it said.

>>>SEONP-7

Congress considering going solo in J&K future polls

Mubashir Alam Wani

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress party is considering contesting future elections independently.

The development, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), was underlined during a high-level party convention in Srinagar, where All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir acknowledged that "a large section" of party workers preferred an independent electoral strategy over alliances.

"Let me ask you directly, do you want Congress to contest alone," Mir asked the gathering of party workers and leaders. A large number of attendees stood in affirmation, prompting Mir to declare that the

>>>SEONP-7

Jhelum shrinks as heatwave scorches Kashmir

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: As a prolonged dry spell and heatwave grip the Kashmir Valley, water levels in the River Jhelum and its tributaries have significantly declined, raising concerns over water availability and irrigation supplies.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), key gauging stations along the Jhelum showed a drop in water levels on Wednesday morning. At 9:00 am, the river measured just 0.96 ft at Sangam, 2.79 ft at Munshi Bagh, 2.78 ft at Asham, while the Pampore gauge recorded a negative depth of -1.16 metres. Wullar Lake stood at 1575.02 metres—well below its average of 1578.00 metres.

The tributaries feeding the river system show stress. Vishow Nallah at Khudwani registered 2.38 metres, Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi dropped to -0.35 metres, Lidder Nallah at Batkoot stood at 0.37 metres, and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama was at 1.30 metres.

However, independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng told KNO that while the situation is concerning, it is not the worst or most alarming seen in the region. "Kashmir has experienced more severe dry spells in the past," he stated.

Meanwhile, the Jal Shakti Department assured last week that water supply across the Valley remains "normal" despite rising demand and misuse.

>>>SEONP-7

Union Cabinet Approves Pune Metro Phase-2 Extensions, Establishment of International Potato Centre

NEW DELHI (PIB): The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Phase-2 of the Pune Metro Rail Project, which will extend the existing Vanaz–Ramwadi corridor (Phase-1) through two new elevated corridors—Vanaz to Chandani Chowk (Corridor 2A) and Ramwadi to Wagholi/Vitthalwadi (Corridor 2B). Together, the corridors will span 12.75 km and feature 13 new stations, connecting fast-developing areas such as Chandani Chowk, Bavdhan, Kothrud, Kharadi, and Wagholi.

According to Press Information bureau (PIB), the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the Pune Metro Rail Project Phase-2: Vanaz to Chandani Chowk (Corridor 2A) and Ramwadi to Wagholi/Vitthalwadi (Corridor 2B), as extensions of the existing Vanaz–Ramwadi corridor under Phase-1.

These two elevated corridors will span 12.75 km and include 13 stations, connecting fast-developing suburbs such as Chandani Chowk, Bavdhan, Kothrud, Kharadi, and Wagholi. The project is scheduled for completion within four years.

The estimated project cost is Rs.3626.24 crore, to be equally shared by the Government of India, Government of Maharashtra, and external bilateral/multilateral agencies. This strategic proposal is a logical extension of the existing Corridor-2 and aligns with the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), which envisions a continuous Chandani Chowk to Wagholi metro corridor to strengthen



East–West mass transit in Pune. Spokesperson said these extensions will serve key IT hubs, commercial areas, educational institutions, and residential pockets, increasing the share of public transport and ridership across the network. The new corridors will also integrate at the District Court Interchange Station with Line-1 (Nigdi–Katraj) and Line-3 (Hinjewadi–District Court) to enable seamless multimodal urban travel. Under long-term mobility planning, intercity bus services from cities like Mumbai and Bengaluru will be integrated at Chandani Chowk, while those from Ahilya Nagar and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar will connect at Wagholi, allowing

passengers to easily access Pune's Metro system. These extensions will also help decongest arterial routes such as Paud Road and Nagar Road, offering safe, fast, and eco-friendly mobility options. After completion of these corridors, the projected incremental daily ridership for the entire Line 2 is estimated at 0.96 lakh in 2027, 2.01 lakh in 2037, 2.87 lakh in 2047, and 3.49 lakh in 2057. The project will be implemented by Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (Maha-Metro), which will execute all civil, electro-mechanical, and related works. Pre-construction activities such as topographical survey and detailed design consultancy have already commenced.

According to PIB, this strategic expansion is poised to unlock Pune's economic potential, enhance its urban transport infrastructure, and contribute significantly to sustainable and inclusive development across the metropolitan region. The Union Cabinet also approved a proposal from the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to establish International Potato Centre (CIP)'s South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC) at Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

Spokesperson said the major objective of this investment is to increase food and nutrition security, farmers income, and job creation by improving potato and sweetpotato productivity, post-harvest management and value-addition.

The potato sector in India has the potential to generate significant employment opportunities in production sector, processing sector, packaging, transportation, marketing, value chain, etc. Hence, in order to untap and explore the huge potential in this sector, International Potato Centre (CIP)'s south Asia regional Centre is being established at Singna, Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

High yielding, nutrient and climate resilient varieties of potato and sweetpotato developed by CSARC will significantly accelerate the sustainable development of the potato and sweetpotato sectors not only in India but in the South Asia region also through world-class science and innovation. (PIB)

ECI Launches ECINET Platform; Publishes Index Cards Within 72 Hours of Bye-Polls

NEW DELHI (PIB): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has operationalised its newly developed digital platform ECINET during the recently concluded bye-elections in five Assembly constituencies across Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab, and West Bengal.

An official spokesperson of the ECI told reporters that the platform, designed to integrate over 40 of ECI's mobile and web-based applications, is a major step toward digital governance and real-time transparency in the electoral process.

It may be recalled that ECI had earlier this year on 4th May, announced the development of a new one-stop platform, ECINET, integrating over 40 of ECI's existing mobile and web applications. The bye-polls witnessed the successful implementation of some of the modules of ECINET, which will become fully operational in the coming weeks.

Spokesperson said ECINET is one of the various initiatives of the Commission taken under the leadership of Chief Election Commissioner Shri Gyanesh Kumar along with Election Commissioners



Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi for the timely and updated disclosure of election information for the benefit of the voters and other stakeholders.

He said a major achievement during the bye-polls was uploading of the VTR trends directly by the Presiding Officers (PROs) on ECINET as against the earlier manual process.

Government of Union of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Machinery Division Kashmir

Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir
Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org |
Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS/2025-26/09
Date	24/06/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on percentage (%) basis from Registered/Reputed firms for the below mentioned work:

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	Cost Ceiling (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Lacs)	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Annual Maintenance Contract of Air Conditioners installed in various Offices of M&HED Complex Shalteng Srinagar & Workshop Pampore	200.00	4,00,000/-	8,000/-	Works programme approved by CE vide order No. M&HED/K/Acctt/35 of 2025-26 Dt.08.05.2025.	Accorded by SE vide No. SEMHK/TS-14/17 Dt. 23.06.2025.

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

01	Publish date	24-06-2025(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	24-06-2025(18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	24-06-2025 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	07- 07-2025(18:55 hrs)
06	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	08- 07-2025(14:00 hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS- / 987-90

DPK-2929/25 DATED:-25-06-2025 **Sd/ Executive Engineer, Machinery Division, Srinagar**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

e-mail:- mdbdivisonshopian@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
CIVIL WORKS
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)
NIT No: 11/ /RnB/ SPN /e-Tendering/2025-26 Dated:- 24-06-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Item rate/Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Adv Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)	AAA No. Date	TS No. Date
1	Strengthening of Building Infrastructure of CMO Office at Mini Secretariat Shopian.	UT Capex Budget	9,304	18608/-	DEE/CEE	20 days	600/-	74-DHNS of 2025 Dated:- 20-06-2025.	07-RnB/SPN/2025-26 Dated:- 24-06-2025
2	Development/ Fencing/ of Graveyard near Keki Mazar Bongam Shopian (Part-A)	Constituency Development Scheme	2,883	5766/-	DEE	20 days	200/-	24-DDC of 2025 Dated:- 20-06-2025.	07-RnB/SPN/2025-26 Dated:- 24-06-2025
3	Development/ Fencing/ Earthfilling of Graveyard near Keki Mazar Bongam Shopian (Part-B)	Constituency Development Scheme	2,897	5794/-	DEE	20 days	200/-	24-DDC of 2025 Dated:- 20-06-2025.	07-RnB/SPN/2025-26 Dated:- 24-06-2025

Position of Funds:- Committed Project Authority:- Director Health Services Kashmir For S.No. 01 and District Development Commissioner Shopian for S.No. 02&03.

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-06-2025	
2	Document downloading Start Date.	25-06-2025	From 10.00 A.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	30-06-2025	upto 2.00 P.M
4	Bid Submission Start Date.	25-06-2025	From 10.00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	30-06-2025	upto 2.00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	01-07-2025	at 10:00 A.M

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-Challan/treasury challan /Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. **Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.**

2.1 At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Bid cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

- any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

NOTE: The "sum in dispute" shall refer to the aggregate of all the disputed amounts, both the claim(s) amount plus the counter claim(s) amount.

NOTE:- The Payment shall be made strictly as per the available allocation by the AAA authority.

DPK-2952/25 DATED:-25-06-2025 **Sd/-Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Shopian**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject: SITC of Inverter type Hot and cold (Reversible Acs)for Sleep Lab, Scan, Neurophysiology and Central Pharmacy Sections of Govt. Super Speciality Hospital, Srinagar Ref : This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/22/e-tendering Dated: 18.06.2025

CANCELLATION

In view of the administrative reason, the NIT referred above is hereby cancelled.

No: M&HDS/TS/1890-93

**Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical &
Hospitals Division,
Srinagar**

DIPK-2966/25

DATED:-25-06-2025

Government of Union of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in-----

GIST of e-tender

NIT No: MHDS/TS/2025-26/25/e-tendering, Dated:-23.06.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from OEM or their authorized dealers or registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work :-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Time of completion	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No.	Earnest Money (in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 08 Passenger Lift (G+4) in the additional Block of Govt. Dental College, Srinagar	26.00	1000/-	4 months	431 GDC of 2022 Dt 03.09.2022	M&HDS/TS/13 of 06/25	2% of the estimated cost

Position of Funds: Available with intending Department

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from **23.06.2025 (18.00 hrs)** and can be downloaded from 23.06.2025 (18.00 hrs).

2. Uploading:- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site **24.06.2025 (10:00 hrs) to 10.07.2025 (13:00hrs)** in two (02) covers.

3. Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on to **10.07.2025 at 15.00 (hrs)**

No: M&HDS/TS/ 1791-1800

DIPK-2936/25

DATED:-25-06-2025

**Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.

Near Silk Factory Srinagar- 190008.
electricdivisionrnb@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No. 46/ R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2025-26 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/3283-91

DATED: 23-06-2025.

For and on behalf of The Government of J&K (U/T) e-tenders (Single cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	E/ Cost (In. Lacs)	Cost of Tender/ Doc. (In Rs.)	2% Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion n (Calendar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks
01	Construction of Tehsil Office Keegam Shopian B.W.O Electrification	Rs. 5.83 /= lac	Rs. 300/=	Rs. 11665/=	Linked with Progress of civil work	"AAV" Class Electrical	Capex Budget 2024-25	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by District Development Commissioner Shopian vide Order No.181-DDCS of 2024 Dated:-19-11-2024

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-06-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23-06-2025 from 06.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	23-06-2025 from 06.00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	03-07-2025 upto 04.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	04-07-2025 at 02:00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

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

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft's copy. As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat \./Finance department vide No. OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

1. The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).

2. Instructions to Bidder (ITB) No.ERB/3283-91

DIPK-2933/25

DATED:-25-06-2025

**SD/=Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division Kashmir
Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh**

From unmanaged waste and broken roads to encroachments and administrative neglect, the road from Sumbal to Bandipora tells a sobering tale of civic decay. Without immediate enforcement and stronger public participation, Bandipora's roads may soon resemble relics of the past rather than infrastructure in a developing district of 21st-century Kashmir. (KNS)

Editorial



PM-Surya Ghar

The future of energy in India is not buried beneath the earth but shines above us — in the limitless power of the sun. With the launch of the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana earlier this year, the Union Government has taken a leap towards democratizing renewable energy and making it both affordable and accessible to one crore households across the country.

Approved with an outlay of ₹75,021 crore, this scheme offers far more than just solar panels. It brings freedom from power cuts, relief from skyrocketing bills, and empowerment through clean, sustainable energy.

At its core, the scheme ensures 300 units of free electricity every month, backed by 60% subsidy on rooftop solar installation and collateral-free, low-interest loans. This is not just about infrastructure—it is about economic relief and environmental justice, especially for middle- and lower-income families who struggle with hefty power bills, particularly in winters.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the promise of this scheme cannot be overstated. Harsh winters, long hours of power curtailment, and unaffordable energy alternatives have long plagued the UT. The PM-Surya Ghar Yojana offers a practical, permanent solution. With its unique geography, J&K holds immense solar potential, particularly in regions like Jammu.

The scheme's focus on creating Model Solar Villages in each district, and incentivising Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies, could transform J&K's energy landscape, decentralising power generation and ensuring energy security at the household level.

What makes PM-Surya Ghar a holistic scheme is its long-term vision and calls upon collective participation. The central government has shown intent and readiness; it is now the responsibility of state authorities, local governance institutions, and citizens to rise to the occasion. J&K administration need to initiate a fast-track implementation mechanism, simplify application and subsidy disbursal processes, and ensure that awareness reaches every household—from downtown Srinagar to border villages in North Kashmir especially tribal areas.

PM-Surya Ghar is more than a policy; it is a people's movement towards self-reliance and sustainability. It is a blueprint for a decentralised, inclusive, and green future. In Jammu and Kashmir, where power woes are chronic and economic stress is real, this scheme can become the ray of hope that lights homes, lifts burdens, and powers dreams. Let us not let this opportunity slip into darkness.

The Girl Who Grew A Forest Of Patience



FIRDOUS AHMAD MALIK

In the quiet valley village of Noorabad, nestled between rolling hills and whispering streams, lived a gentle girl named Zainab. She was no older than twelve when her life began to change in ways she couldn't yet understand. Her eyes were deep and thoughtful, holding within them stories far older than her age.

Zainab's childhood was filled with the soft lullabies of her mother and the protective laughter of her father. Their small mud house, though simple, was warm with love. Her father, a hardworking man, was the family's backbone. He would often tell her, "Patience, Zainab, is the strongest weapon you can carry in life. It is silent but powerful."

But one rainy morning changed everything. As the sun hid behind gray clouds and the village roads turned muddy, news came that her father had been in an accident. He had slipped near the riverbank while carrying wood. The villagers brought his lifeless body home wrapped in a soaked shawl. Zainab's world shattered that day.

Her mother wept silently, holding her husband's cold hand until the village elders took him away for burial. Zainab didn't cry. She only stared—confused, afraid, uncertain. That night, for the first time, she looked up at the stars and whispered,

"Where is patience, Allah? How do I find it?" Days turned into months. Her mother, once cheerful and strong, now moved like a shadow through the house. Zainab, though still a child, began helping—fetching water, cooking simple meals, and washing clothes by the stream.

The village school, once her safe place, was now a distant dream. She could not attend regularly anymore. Every time she passed by its gate, she longed to return, but duty came first.

One evening, her mother fell sick with a deep cough. Medicines were expensive, and they had no savings. Without saying a word, Zainab collected their old clothes, folded them neatly, and walked to the village market. A shopkeeper offered her a small amount, barely enough to buy a bottle of syrup and

some flour.

That night, while her mother slept, Zainab cried quietly. But still, she did not give up.

Over time, she found work as a helper at a tailor's house. The sewing machine's rhythm became the

had come to visit a nearby shrine. People spoke of him as someone who saw through hearts and offered guidance. Zainab decided to take her mother there. The journey was long, and the day was hot, but something inside her urged her forward.



soundtrack of her life. Her fingers learned to stitch, her eyes to measure, and her heart to endure. The tailor's wife once said to her, "Child, why don't you ever complain?"

Zainab simply replied, "Because complaining doesn't heal anything—it only adds more pain."

Years passed. Zainab grew into a young woman with quiet grace. Her eyes were no longer filled with tears but with quiet fire. The villagers admired her strength, though they rarely saw the battles she fought inside.

One summer, word spread that a wise dervish

When their turn came, Zainab bowed her head before the dervish. He looked at her for a long moment and then asked softly,

"Child, what is it that you seek?"

Zainab hesitated. Her lips trembled as she said,

"I am searching for patience. All my life, I have

tried to be strong, to carry burdens without complaint.

But still, I feel empty. I want to find real patience."

The dervish smiled gently.

"And what do you think patience is?" he asked.

Zainab looked down. "Something I've been miss-

ing... Something that makes pain easier to bear."

The dervish placed his hand on her head.

"You are mistaken, my daughter. Patience is not missing from your life—it is your life. Every day you woke up and chose kindness instead of bitterness, every time you sacrificed for your mother, every moment you stitched clothes to keep your home standing—you were not just searching for patience... you were living it."

Zainab's eyes filled with tears. A strange calmness settled over her heart, as if a weight she didn't know she was carrying had been lifted.

"So," she whispered, "patience is not something we find, but something we grow?"

"Exactly," said the dervish. "It's like a seed within your soul. Life waters it with trials. If you don't uproot it with anger or despair, it becomes a mighty tree. You, Zainab, have grown a forest within you."

On the way back, Zainab walked with a lighter step. Her mother held her hand tightly. There were still hardships waiting. Poverty had not vanished, and the world was still harsh—but now, Zainab knew she was not weak. She had already found the strength she'd spent years searching for.

A few years later, Zainab started a small school under a large tree near her home. She taught reading, writing, sewing, and most importantly—resilience. The girls who came to her school learned more than alphabets and numbers. They learned stories of strength, of how even in silence, the heart can shout hope.

She named the school: "Sabr o Umeed – Patience and Hope."

When asked why she chose that name, Zainab would smile and say,

"Because patience is the root, and hope is the flower."

Moral of the Story:

True patience is not the absence of pain or struggle—it is the courage to move forward in the face of them. It is a quiet force that lives within us, growing stronger with each step we take in faith. Like Zainab, we all carry the seed of patience. All it needs is time, endurance, and the belief that even in the darkest night, dawn always comes.

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Let the Question Live: Only Then Will Humanity Truly Live



ABID HUSSAIN RATHER

Dostoevsky once said that the world will reach a time when intelligent people will be stopped from thinking and questioning so that they do not offend fools. Yes, questioning is dangerous to foolishness because foolishness often relies on blind acceptance rather than thinking deeply or critically. When someone starts questioning, they begin to seek truth, understanding or clarity. Foolishness survives where questions aren't asked.

Analysing deeply, one can find that the entire human civilization stands on questions. Who am I? Who are you? What are clouds? What is the wind? Why does it blow, and why does it stop? Why does the sun always rise in the east? If the Earth is rotating, then what remains still? If all human brains have the same structure, why do some minds work more efficiently while others function less? How do we determine whether the person we consider insane is truly insane? If iron is heavier than water, then why do ships float? How is a civilization born, how does it rise, and how does it perish? How does a thought turn into a belief, and how does the same thought evolve into scientific reasoning? Someone, at some point, must have asked these questions—only then were we able to move from caves to conquering planets and making space our home. Just as silence is the mentor of sounds, a question is the father of an answer. The nature and quality of a question serve as the DNA that reveals our intellectual lineage. A question is the measure by which our intelligence, foolishness and the depth or shallowness of our thinking can be instantly assessed and the landscape of our mind can be quietly surveyed. An answer may be ordinary, but a question is never trivial.

On the surface, a question like "Why does an apple fall downward instead of rising upward?" may seem simple or even foolish. Yet, this very question unlocked the mystery of gravity and opened an entire world of scientific wonder. When all human blood is the same colour, brain sizes are similar, the Earth belongs to everyone, and death is inevitable for all, then what justifies social hierarchies and class divisions? It was from the womb of this paradox that the philosophy of Karl Marx emerged. Which is the greater force – violence or non-violence? The answer to this question is reflected in the lives of Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela.

If humans have been given intellect, then how can they be bound by a single idea or ideology for eternity? How can they be prevented from thinking in different ways? And when they are restricted, what are the benefits and consequences? This one question gave birth to the concept and movement of enlightenment.

answers have transformed themselves and progressed beyond imagination. Observe those who blindly cling to the belief that what they say is the absolute truth, and that they alone possess reality. Now compare them to those who accept they might be wrong—and who would genuinely welcome being proven so. They believe that, despite differences, continuous dialogue

That is why kings fear it and nations tremble before it. We often observe that in our madrasas, schools, colleges, and universities, a student who dares to ask questions is labelled as disrespectful, misguided, or rebellious. Instead of being encouraged to think critically and find solutions independently, students are forced to memorize like parrots—ensuring a continuous supply



“The depth of our questions is the measure of our intellectual health. Ask what no one dares, and you reveal the true terrain of your mind. Every revolution—scientific or social—began with a question someone was told not to ask.”

A question is like water—when it flows freely, it nourishes; if it is obstructed, it becomes stagnant. There is no need to look far. Just observe yourself, your surroundings and societies or states that fear questions and the search for truth. Then compare them to those that through their fearless pursuit of

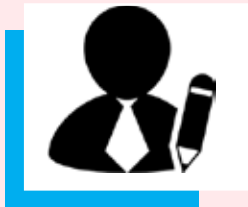
can lead us to common ground. The difference between these two mindsets defines the journey of a civilization—whether it remains stagnant or moves forward. The day we begin to eliminate phrases like "Without a doubt," "Certainly," "Well said," "That's impossible," "There is no question about it," "I refuse to hear this," "I dare not ask," "I blindly trust your word," and "This is the final verdict" from our vocabulary and instead choose to climb the ladder of inquiry and step into the realm of doubt; our long-stalled journey of intellectual evolution will begin again.

However, if you pose a question without first fully listening to and understanding the other person's perspective, it is likely to lead not to the pursuit of knowledge, but to stubbornness, argument, and unnecessary conflict. A question is more powerful than an atomic bomb and has the power to shatter authority.

of obedient but intellectually stifled and mentally enslaved generations. If we can raise a generation unafraid to ask, to reflect and respond, and to challenge inherited dogmas, we may yet begin to heal the deep political and social wounds we have long ignored. Otherwise, the angel Israfil (AS) waits silently behind the veil, eyeing the clock—for he knows, as we pretend not to, that time is not infinite. Let us raise voices that ask rather than echo, minds that probe rather than conform, and generations that challenge rather than obey. For only when the question lives, does humanity truly live.

(The author teaches Geography at GDC Kulgam and can be reached at rather1294@gmail.com)

Climate Change And Agriculture In Kashmir



Ulvee Muneer

Climate change is no longer a hypothetical future—it is a lived experience, a reality that is playing out in uneven and unpredictable rhythms worldwide. While the world struggles to come to terms with rising oceans, scorching heatwaves, and diminishing biodiversity, mountain zones such as Kashmir have their own distinct and cumulative vulnerabilities. In this context, the challenge of climate change is not merely environmental but also deeply socio-economic, with agriculture proving to be one of the most vulnerable and tenuous sectors.

Kashmir's agrarian crisis must be understood in this larger planetary context. The region, which is located deep within the western Himalaya, is undergoing climate change that fundamentally unravels the closeness between its ecology, economy, and daily lives. The Kashmir climate crisis is not just about unpredictable rainfall or diminished snowfall—it is about the incremental erosion of a centuries-old agricultural culture, a danger to the food sovereignty of a population, and the quiet dissolution of rural livelihoods.

As the planet warms globally, the stakes here extend far beyond increasing mercury. They cut to the core of indigenous systems of knowledge, undermine centuries-honed farming methods, and test the viability of existence in one of India's most ecologically and politically charged regions. Grasping climate change in Kashmir, then, necessitates more than atmospheric science—it requires an integrated perspective on an ecological unspooling with deeply human ramifications.

Agricultural Landscape of Kashmir: A Fragile Symbiosis

Kashmir agriculture is not merely an occupation; it's a lifestyle, a cultural heritage, and a vital pillar of the economy. More than 70% of the population directly or indirectly subsists on agriculture, but the industry is still very traditional, small-scale, and heavily dependent on the natural cycles.

The agricultural prosperity of the Valley has long been based on its specialised climate and glacial-fed irrigation systems. Paddy is the dominant crop on the horizon, constituting the population's staple food and a unifying emblem of agrarian identity. In addition to rice, the state produces maize, pulses, vegetables, saffron, apples, walnuts, and almonds—each crop being both a source of sustenance as well as economic opportunity. Horticul-

integration of livestock, and rainfall-fed irrigation systems developed in harmony with nature. These practices are now increasingly out of sync with the new climate realities that are unfolding.

What is especially acute about Kashmir's agricultural vulnerability is that its problem is not only weather-based but ecologically layered. Rising temperatures are causing early snowmelt, changing the sowing seasons and availability of water. Shifting precipitation patterns are heightening the spectre of both floods and droughts. The fragile equilibrium between cold winters and mild summers, essential to the hibernation and blooming of crops such as apples and saffron, is being disrupted.



Furthermore, climate change is acting in isolation. It overlaps with socio-economic stagnation, political turmoil, and infrastructural shortcomings, positioning the agricultural sector not only as vulnerable but perilously situated. Here, Kashmir agriculture is not only stressed, but is besieged by a crisis that is at once ecological, economic, and existential.

Observed Environmental Changes: Unfolding Ecological Disruptions in Kashmir's Agricultural Systems

The Kashmir Valley, once characterised by its unique agro-ecological equilibrium, is increasingly facing gross environmental changes caused by climate. This change is not merely a subtle variation in seasonal pattern but a qualitative shift in the ecological foundation of the region, with direct effects on its agrarian economy. Although the region's economy has long relied on predictable snowfall and precipitation patterns, the past few years have shown a disturbing departure from these climatic norms, deepening vulnerabilities in the agrarian sector.

Erratic Precipitation and Climatic Uncertainty

The last decade has seen gradually more unpredictable weather in Kashmir, characterised by unseasonal rain, prolonged dry periods, and a sharp decline in snowfall. The year 2024, for example, saw one of the driest periods in more than half a century, with rainfall levels dropping by about 29% below the seasonal average. Adding to this is the winter of 2025, which experienced an 80% shortage in snowfall, which is a critical seasonal supply of water for the availability of water for next agricultural season. Not only do such climatic anomalies affect sowing and harvesting seasons, but they also negatively affect the water table, which most irrigation systems in the Valley are reliant on.

Glacial Retreat and Depleting Hydrological Resources

The Himalayas, also referred to as the "Third Pole," are an essential freshwater source through their glacial storage. In Kashmir, glaciers like the Kolahoi, previously perennial sources of irrigation, are in a phase of accelerated retreat. Recent estimates indicate that melting rates have been on the rise, with consequences downstream such as declining river discharge, especially in the Jhelum basin, and the desiccation of traditional springs and streams. This process considerably jeopardises the sustainability of paddy farming, which is the region's staple farm activity and is heavily reliant on a regular water supply in key growth stages.

In addition, the shrinking of glacial mass and faster depletion of snow-fed aquifers are also causing the loss of culturally and economically important water bodies, like the Achabal Spring, and affecting both irrigation and domestic water supplies.

Biotic Stress and Weather-Induced Crop Damage

Along with hydrological alteration, warmer winters and changing temperature thresholds are encouraging the growth of pests and diseases previously limited by the cold climate of the region. Of concern, apple orchards in regions such as Shopian are suffering from diminished productivity through the loss of chill hours—a process critical to coordinated flowering and fruiting. This has been followed by an increase in pest infestations, especially during initial bloom stages, which not only reduce yield but also influence shelf life and market value of the produce.

Moreover, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are increasing. On 2 June 2025, a severe hailstorm ravaged vast areas of apple orchards in Chitragam (Shopian) and Tral (Pulwama), contributing to the collective stress of back-to-back storms over the past few weeks. Similar reports were also received previously from Shopian's Sedow-Hirpora belt and Kulgam's DH Pora. Orchardists have complained about the absence of support infrastructure in the wake of successive crop failures. As one of the farmers, Nazim Ahmad of Shopian, observed: "We spend lakhs each year on fertilisers and labour, only to lose everything in a single storm without any support."

These repeated investment losses and crop losses have fueled calls for a holistic crop insurance scheme. Farmers have shown a willingness to shell out premiums as long as the system ensures prompt and reasonable compensation. In the face of growing evidence for climate-driven agrarian distress, government relief and adaptive infrastructure fall short, adding to the vulnerable status of Kashmir fruit farmers. Likewise, saffron farming—a symbolic high-value crop of the region is showing signs of stress.

Accounts from Pampore, the traditional saffron belt, speak of a uniform fall in yields, with losses up to 70% in some areas. This downturn has been linked to extended dry spells and irregular rainfall patterns, which undermine the fragile agro-climatic conditions needed for germination and flowering of saffron crocus.

These changes mean more than ecological degradation—they involve a systemic reshuffling of Kashmir's agro-ecological structure. The altering climatic patterns, water shortage, pest infestations, and rising frequency of extreme events like hailstorms are not isolated symptoms but components of a greater, interconnected crisis. This changing reality calls for immediate attention to

promote ecological sustainability and protect the livelihoods of thousands who rely on farming in the region.

Impact on Farmers and Food Security: Fragility at the Roots of Kashmir's Agrarian Landscape

The current environmental transformations in Kashmir are not taking place in isolation; they are explicitly transforming the social and economic lifeworlds of the region's smallholder and subsistence farmers. Farming in Kashmir is closely entangled with cultural identity, local food sovereignty, and home economy. Thus, the overall impact of climate-related disturbances is not only undermining the viability of individual crops but also compromising the regional food security and socio-economic well-being.

Reducing Yields and Livelihood Uncertainty

Cultivators throughout the Valley are increasingly complaining of diminishing productivity and unpredictable yields, especially in bread grains like rice, maize, and horticultural fruits like apples and walnuts. Interviews done by local news organisations like Greater Kashmir and Rising Kashmir invariably bring out how conventional cropping calendars have been upended. Cultivators in regions like Baramulla, Pulwama, and Kulgam describe that sowing during the pre-monsoon season now overlaps with dry periods, and harvesting is frequently obstructed by sudden rain, leading to partial or entire crop failures.

A farmer from Tral, in a ground report by Kashmir Observer (2024), expressed that his paddy harvest from his two-kanal land fell by almost 40% within three years. Just like that, orchardists of Shopian and Anantnag also experience erratic flowering of apples now, which leads to substandard fruit quality and decreased market prices. These fluctuations not only erode income security but also heighten the risk of indebtedness, since most farmers depend on seasonal credit for seed, fertiliser, and labour expenses.

Migration and the Silent Displacement of Farm Labour

Another cause for concern is the slow exodus of rural youth from farming, now seen more and more as economically unfeasible. As climate risk rises and harvests decline, households are being compelled to diversify their income sources, typically by dispatching younger members to urban and town areas in order to work within construction, transport, or the informal economy.

This shift in labour has a gendered component, while men of youth ages migrate to work, women—older and less mobile—are left responsible for fields, care work, and household spaces, with inadequate institutional or technological resources. Essentially, the cost of adaptation is being passed disproportionately on those with the least access to resources, reinforcing existing rural disparities.

Disruption in Regional Food Availability

Kashmir, even though it has an agricultural tradition, is increasingly dependent on food imports from the rest of India. Gradual reduction in local rice production, the importance of which cannot be overemphasised in Kashmiri cuisine, is directly caused by water scarcity, soil degradation, and shortening growing seasons. Likewise, lowered saffron and apple yields—two high-value crops that underpinned local consumption and export economies—have reduced the Valley's agricultural surplus.

This realignment has consequences for both food affordability and dietary diversity, especially for marginalised groups. According to a 2025 Daily Kashmir Post feature, small farming households in Kupwara and Ganderbal are currently purchasing rice from the market—something unthinkable a decade back, as they were traditionally self-sufficient.

Psychosocial Stress and Farmer Disempowerment

Outside economic indicators, a heightening disillusionment and psychosocial tension among farming families are evidenced. Testimonies and interviews of villages in Budgam and Bandipora indicate an escalating feeling that farming is no longer a noble or fulfilling vocation. This intangible burden, seldom reflected in policy considerations, is a powerful contributor to farmers' disillusionment with the land.

Additionally, traditional ecological knowledge—as it has been transmitted intergenerationally—is progressively recognised as insufficient to deal with climate instability, additionally fueling a feeling of disempowerment among rural communities.

Where, in areas of low trust in institutional support structures, this disconnection is widening the distinction between policy intentions and realities on the ground.

Policy Measures: Towards a Climate-Resilient Agrarian Future in Kashmir

The susceptibility of Kashmir's agricultural economy to climate-related disruptions requires an adaptive policy response across multiple scales, reconciling long-term structural change with short-term relief measures. Policy recommendations, however, need to be anchored in the regional ecological specificity, socio-political limitations, and everyday practices of farming communities. The following steps, although not comprehensive, are critical interventions that can insulate the agricultural system from current and future climatic shocks.

1. Encouragement of Climate-Resilient Crops and Diversified Farming Systems

One of the greatest imperatives is the promotion and introduction of climate-resilient crop varieties that are adapted to Kashmir's agro-climatic regions. Institutions like the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) have already produced short-duration drought-resistant rice and maize varieties, but their adoption is still limited by a shortage of extension services and awareness. Such innovations have to be scaled up through decentralised demonstration farms, localised seed banks, and farmer-managed pilot projects with visible impacts to establish confidence.

Equally significant is cropping system diversification.

Dependence on paddy and apple monoculture has enhanced ecological risk. Therefore, incorporation of legumes, vegetables, and medicinal plants, like lavender and ashwagandha, can enhance income resilience as well as de-intensify water-demanding crops. Promotion of sericulture, which has always been a source of supplementary income in districts like Anantnag and Pulwama, can also provide an ecologically sustainable livelihood cushioning if supported with infrastructure and market facilities.

2. Irrigation Efficiency and Water Management

With the reduction in snow-fed water sources and unpredictable rainfall, irrigation systems need to be restructured. Old irrigation channels (kul systems) in some regions of south Kashmir, hitherto pivotal in community water management, are in decline. There is a critical need for revival of such micro-irrigation systems by the community in conjunction with modern measures like drip and sprinkler irrigation, particularly for horticulture.

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan and other centrally sponsored programmes need to be modified for local hydrological conditions via hydro-mapping of glacial streams, watershed management, and locally maintained and technically sound rainwater harvesting structures. Furthermore, the government needs to increase solar-powered pump subsidies in rural hamlets where electricity is still not reliable.

3. Financial Security: Crop Insurance and Credit Access

In spite of repeated failures of crops, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is still inadequately implemented in Kashmir because of low awareness, bureaucratic impediments, and trust gaps. The need is to create a locally modified insurance model that addresses crop-specific threats and regionally applicable triggers (e.g., snowfall deficit, pest attack). An alliance between local panchayats, insurance companies, and agriculture departments can establish participatory evaluation mechanisms to avoid fraud and enhance claims processing.

In addition, low-interest credit facilities need to be provided to small landholders. Marginal and tenant farmers, particularly women who increasingly control farms in view of male out-migration, need to be provided with collateral-free loans and self-help group-based microfinance models. A gender-responsive design of credit can help ensure that adaptation measures benefit the most vulnerable.

4. Capacity Building and Localised Extension Services

Climate adaptation is neither a technological issue alone, but also a knowledge and capacity problem. Farmer participation cannot be top-down. Localised extension services, operated in Kashmiri, Gojri, and Pahari languages, need to be strengthened to pass on knowledge on adaptive farm practices, early warning systems, and ecological risk management. Training modules in association with SKUAST, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and NGOs should be on organic manure use, disease observation, intercropping, and indigenous pest control.

An example is the revival of sericulture in some areas of south Kashmir, where assistance by the Department of Sericulture and skill workshops specifically focused on this have encouraged hundreds of farmers to adopt low-cost rearing practices for silkworms. Such models can be replicated and modified for other vulnerable industries.

Such interventions, though warranted, are inadequate unless they are situated in a wider institutional context that is cognizant of Kashmir's geo-political specificity, conflict-generated governance vulnerabilities, and necessity for decentralised, culturally-responsive policymaking. Climate adaptation, in the case of Kashmir, has to be more than technocratic—it must be socially inclusive, environmentally equitable, and politically sensitive.

The paper was published by Jammu & Kashmir Policy Institute (Registered as Trust) - a Srinagar-based independent, non-partisan, youth-driven institution committed to conversations on sustainable development in Jammu and Kashmir. Author Ulvee Muneer is a graduate student of SBSCE, University Of Delhi. During her graduation years, she has been an active member of Nuke-The Debating Society.

Students Deserve Quality Education Beyond Socio-Economic Barriers: Sakeena Itoo

Srinagar: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, and Health, Sakeena Itoo, on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review the performance and functioning of the School Education Department (SED) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) reported that during the detailed review, the Minister assessed key performance indicators, including learning outcomes, infrastructure readiness, teacher accountability, human resource management, and the implementation status of major schemes such as Samagra Shiksha, PM-POSHAN (Mid Day Meal), New India Literacy Programme (NILP), and PM-Shri.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena Itoo stressed the importance of accountability, transparency, and outcome-driven strategies to improve the quality of education across the Union Territory.

“We must prioritize learning outcomes, teacher training, digital access, and inclusive education. Every child, regardless of their socio-economic background or geographical location, deserves access to quality education,” she stated.

While reviewing enrolment data—especially of girls in higher secondary schools. Issuing a clarion call for a culture of



the Minister urged officials to ensure effective implementation of existing schemes to retain and improve enrolment figures.

She also called for strengthening initiatives like the Beti Anmol scheme to boost enrolment responsibility, the Minister urged educators and administrative staff to approach their duties with seriousness and commitment.

“We cannot allow complacency to derail the education of our children. Teachers are not just

government employees—they are the torchbearers of our future, and their accountability must be ensured,” she asserted.

During the meeting, the Minister also issued strict instructions regarding the rationalisation of teachers in overstuffed schools and directed that all Principals must take regular classes in addition to managing school administration.

She also ruled that no teacher transfers should be made at the zonal or district levels without prior consultation with the respective Directors of School Education. Any shifting of teacher attendance from one school to another without formal approval must be investigated, and responsibility fixed, she added.

While reviewing infrastructure development and ongoing projects, Minister Itoo directed officials to coordinate closely with executing agencies to ensure timely completion, especially in view of the limited working season in Kashmir and some parts of Jammu.

Secretary Ram Niwas Sharma presented a comprehensive overview of the department's initiatives, achievements, and challenges during the meeting.

Chief Secretary chairs 2nd SEC meeting of DMRRR

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired the 2nd State Executive Committee ((SEC) meeting of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) to review the status of disaster preparedness and assess the allocation and utilization of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta and other senior officers.

For strengthening of Civil Defence, SEC approved the release of Rs 1.72 crore under preparedness and capacity building to Commandant General, Civil Defence for procurement of sirens and generators in all the districts.

As an initiative of community based disaster management, the SEC also considered to approve the release of Rs 4 lakh to NCC units of Degree Colleges of Jammu, Reasi, Srinagar and Anantnag districts in the first phase for conduct of trainings on disaster preparedness and response.

The SEC also considered the nomination of Director General of Police as member of SEC (ex-officio) to make necessary amendments in the JK disaster management, rules 2007.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of utilising the existing resources efficiently which is critical towards saving lives, reducing response times and minimizing overall damage in case of a disaster.

The SEC also highlighted the significance of each agenda item for augmenting the capacity of the UT to be better prepared against the disasters the region is prone to.

The SEC reaffirmed its commitment to transparent and accountable use of SDRF resources. It also resolved to hold periodic reviews to monitor progress and address any emerging gaps in the disaster management framework

Mega IEC campaign organized under DAJGUA at Katianwali in Baramulla

BARAMULLA: A mega Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) was organized at Katianwali in Block Baramulla as part of ongoing efforts to promote inclusive development in tribal areas.

The programme was attended by Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Javed Hassan Beigh, DDC Member Baramulla, Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla and other officers from various departments besides the local community.

Campaign aimed to ensure 100% saturation of key government schemes in identified tribal villages by enhancing awareness, improving accessibility, and encouraging active community participation. It focuses on delivering benefits related to health, education, nutrition, skill development, livelihood, and infrastructure at the grassroots level.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents. Various departments set up information stalls to raise awareness about welfare schemes and services available to tribal communities. Traditional tribal cultural performances were also held, reflecting the rich cultural identity of the region and encouraging community engagement.

Pulwama Admin organises mega outreach camp at Sonabanger Achgooze

PULWAMA, JUNE 25: Continuing its ongoing campaign to inclusive development and last-mile delivery of services under the nationwide Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), district administration Pulwama today organised a mega Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp at Sonabanger Achgooze.

An official spokesperson said the initiative aimed to ensure the holistic development of tribal communities through focused interventions in sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, education, livelihoods, and digital empowerment.

Various government departments including Health, Education, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Forest, and others participated in the camp. Each department set up dedicated stalls offering real-time beneficiary registration, on-spot enrolments, personalized scheme consultations, and distribution of informative materials such as brochures and pamphlets to promote informed participation.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local tribal residents, including youth and senior citizens, who availed a broad range of government services delivered directly to their doorstep.

A special health camp was conducted by the Health department, where a team of doctors and paramedics provided free consultations and treatment. Particular emphasis was laid on awareness and early screening of sickle cell disease and water-borne illnesses. Health experts also educated attendees on preventive measures including safe drinking practices, hand hygiene, and early symptom identification.

To strengthen digital inclusion, a Common Services Centre (CSC) was also set up at the venue by the District CSC Coordinator. The centre facilitated Aadhaar enrolment and corrections, along with registration under government schemes and scholarship programmes.

Furthermore, during the event a collective pledge was also taken by the officials and stakeholders present, reinforcing their commitment to the socio-economic upliftment of tribal communities and the saturation of welfare services at the grassroots level.

DDC reviews Irrigation Facility water availability for paddy in Kulgam

KULGAM: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today reviewed the irrigation status and water availability in all 48 major canals and irrigation systems across the district.

During the meeting discussions were held on water availability, canal head status, command area status, besides irrigation coverage as of today was reviewed for canals including Noorabad canal, Watoo canal, Yari canal, Grimtoo canal, Buman, Banimullah canal, Sonman canal, May canal, Amnoo Lad, Bani Lad, Tethbui, Hardchoon, Nandi Canal, etc. DDC issued directions to officials of Irrigation, RDD, Revenue, Mining departments to stay available on field in their respective areas and ensure issues are timely resolved.

It was informed that 24*7 Control Room has been made operational. DDC also instructed that no employee shall leave headquarters without specific permission from district administration.

He instructed that for tail end areas of canals, special efforts by way of warbandi, manpower mobilization and leakage reduction of canals shall be taken. Ex. Engineer Irrigation was directed to coordinate with Tehsildars to redress the issues with respect to Nandi Canal which is at the tail end of the district.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam reviews conservation measures at Hokarsar

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today conducted a comprehensive review of conservation measures at Hokarsar Wetland and also discussed the proposed designation of Nambale Narkara as a protected wetland under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules.

During the review of Hokarsar Wetland, DC assessed the ongoing works aimed at improving water flow and mitigating flood risks.

He stressed the timely resolution of all revenue-related matters associated with Hokarsar Wetland and directed Tehsildar Budgam for overseeing the demarcation of wetland boundaries and its peripheries.

DC directed the concerned

departments to expedite this process on a priority basis. Emphasising the importance



of ecological integrity, DC issued clear instructions to enforce a complete ban on all land conversions within wetland zones, urging officials to take prompt legal action against any violations.

He also expressed concern over illegal garbage dumping along the wetland's peripheries, particularly along the Soibugh road. DC directed immediate removal of waste, strict surveillance, and regular monitoring to prevent further dumping. He stressed the need for stringent enforcement measures against offenders.

He also discussed the formal

90 Illegal Stone Crushers, Brick Kilns Sealed Across Pulwama

Bilal Habib

Pulwama: In a major crackdown against environmental violations, the District Administration of Pulwama has so far sealed more than 90 illegally



operated stone crushers across the Pulwama District.

Giving details, Officials said four illegal stone crushers were sealed operating in the Jawbehara area of Awantipora for running without mandatory permissions from the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Board.

The action, carried out on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Basharat Qayoom, was executed by a joint enforcement team led by District Pollution Control Board Officer Er. Bilal Ahmad Khan.

The team comprised officials from the Revenue Department, Geology and Mining Department, Police Awantipora, Power Development Department,

and the Jal Shakti Department.

During the operation, the four units—M/S Standard Stone Crusher, M/S Dilkash Stone Crusher, M/S Paramount Stone Crusher, and M/S Firdous Stone Crusher—were sealed and had their electricity and water connections disconnected.

Officials said this enforcement is part of a larger, district-wide campaign targeting industrial units operating without environmental clearances.

So far, the administration has sealed 90 such illegal units, including more than 80 stone crushers and around 10 brick kilns. “The administration has identified 110 units for action—comprising nearly 90 stone crushers and 20 brick kilns. We have already sealed 80 stone crushers, and the remaining 10 will be sealed by tomorrow,” Pollution Control Officer Er. Bilal Ahmad Khan told Kashmir Convener.

In a major joint operation conducted on Wednesday, 22 stone crushers and 3 brick kilns were sealed across Tral, Jawbehara Awantipora, and Khademoh Kakapora. Power and water connections to all sealed units were disconnected as part of the comprehensive enforcement measures.

Officials have underlined that the ongoing drive is focused on protecting public health and the environment from the damaging effects of unauthorized industrial activity.

“The operation is expected to continue in the coming days with what officials describe as a policy of “zero tolerance” toward violations of environmental laws”.

Sidha Rolls Out ‘Mission Inspection’ to Boost Heritage Preservation in J&K

Srinagar: The Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir, has launched a comprehensive initiative titled Mission Inspection from June 25 to June 30, 2025, aimed at reviewing the preservation and conservation work as well as assessing the status of State Protected Monuments across the Union Territory.

According to an official statement issued by Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR),

The mission has been conceptualized by Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, and will see six teams undertaking inspections of 150 conservation projects and 54 State Protected Monuments throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

These works are part of the Department's efforts under the Capex Budget and Phases I and II of the scheme titled Revival, Restoration, Preservation, and Maintenance of Architecture

and Heritage in J&K.

Each team has been tasked with inspecting the projects in their designated districts, evaluating the physical condition of the monuments, and making recommendations regarding their beautification and structural restoration.

The teams will also be identifying areas where intervention is needed, particularly in cases involving encroachments or stagnation of works due to disputes or lack of No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

To ensure coordinated and effective inspections, the teams will be accompanied by Nodal Officers and Executive Engineers from the Public Works (R&B) Department, with facilitation from the Divisional Administration and respective Deputy Commissioners.

The inspections will also assess readiness for Phase-

III projects and suggest new heritage sites that could be considered for notification as State Protected Monuments. The visiting teams are expected to submit their reports and raise concerns directly with the District Development Commissioners, ensuring timely administrative intervention where needed.

Director Kuldeep Krishan Sidha reiterated the department's commitment to the cause of heritage conservation and called upon all stakeholders, especially executing agencies, to uphold quality standards and adhere strictly to the stipulated timelines for completing ongoing projects.



DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner reviews progress under PMAY-Urban 2.0 in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: In order to review the progress on implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-U 2.0) in the District, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo and Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Fazlul Haseeb today held a joint meeting of Revenue and SMC Officers here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

An official spokesperson said at the outset, the Deputy Commissioner & SMC Commissioner took a detailed appraisal about the implementation of the PMAY-

Urban scheme in the District and assessed the status of registration of beneficiaries made under the scheme in Srinagar till date.



Stakeholder Departments were directed to expedite the process of verification of the cases to ensure that not a single genuine beneficiary is left out from the scheme. Stress was also laid on maintaining utmost

transparency and accountability ensuring timely disposal of the cases.

Stressing adherence to the established verification mechanism, the DC & Commissioner SMC urged Departments to act promptly in line with scheme guidelines.

The DC & Commissioner SMC emphasized upon seamless interdepartmental coordination in disposal of cases of the genuine beneficiaries. Earlier, Joint Commissioner SMC briefed the meeting about the present status with regard to execution of the PMAY-U in Srinagar District.

DCDRC B'la orders Rs.14.41 lakh compensation to poultry farmers over defective feed

BARAMULLA: District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC) Baramulla, headed by President, Peerzada Qousar Hussain along with Member, Nyla Yaseen has delivered a significant judgment in favour of two poultry farmers viz. Lone Poultry and KGN Poultry from Sopore in a case related to the supply of substandard poultry feed by Maha Feeds Agrotech and its distributor, Bhat Poultry.

According to the complainants, the poultry feed supplied to them lacked

the assured protein content of 20%, which is essential for the healthy growth of poultry birds.

The farmers reported high mortality and reduced growth in their poultry and subsequently got the feed tested at a certified nutrition laboratory in Srinagar. The test revealed that the protein content was only 15.5%, significantly below the claimed standard.

In their defence, the opposite parties denied making any assurance regarding the protein level and contended

that the complaint was baseless and likely due to viral infections rather than the feed itself.

However, the Commission found that the feed was sold without any nutritional chart on the packaging, which is a mandatory requirement under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) guidelines.

The Commission termed this omission an unfair trade practice under Section 2(47) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

After considering all the evidence and hearing

arguments from both sides, the Commission directed the opposite parties to pay Rs.5, 00,000 each to the two complainants as compensation for the losses suffered due to the substandard feed.

Additionally, the opposite parties were ordered to refund Rs.2,22,457 and Rs.1,89,016, which were the amounts paid by the complainants for purchasing the defective feed.

The Commission also directed the opposite parties to pay Rs.30,000 as litigation expenses and to recall any

poultry feed from the market that does not carry a nutritional chart. Furthermore, the Commission instructed them to ensure full compliance with BIS norms in all future supplies by displaying complete nutritional information on every feed bag.

In total, the Commission awarded a compensation amount of Rs.14,41,473 to the complainants.

The opposite parties have been given four weeks from the date of receipt of the order to comply fully with the directions issued.

Continued From P1...

Centre to

were cancelled and the footfall has been almost been negligible,” an official told KNO.

The Centre and the J&K government have been making all-out efforts to bring tourists back to Kashmir to revive the stalled tourism industry.

Last week, Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat visited Baisaran, the site of the terror attack and praised the resilience and spirit of the Kashmiris.

He also assured that foolproof security measures would be in place for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra and tourists visiting the Valley.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also chaired a cabinet meeting in Pahalgam, a first of its kind, to send a clear message that violence has no place in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

Parliamentary panel

After the terror attack, parliamentary panels had stopped visiting Kashmir. Three such panels- Department-related Standing Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs, Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing & Urban Affairs and Joint Parliamentary Committee on “One Nation, One Election” had cancelled/ abandoned their plans to visit J&K. (KNO)

Emergency most

for deep reflection and reaffirmation of commitment to democratic values and constitutional morality,” the Lieutenant Governor said according to Raj Bhawan Spokesperson.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the commemoration of imposition of Emergency on 25th June 1975, is not merely a date for historical remembrance, but a call to action to resist any future attempts to undermine India’s democratic fabric, and to strengthen our resolve to deepen the foundations of our democracy and work with complete dedication for greater success of our nation.

“We must learn from those incidents and prepare young generations to prevent such atrocities in future. It is also an opportunity to create awareness about constitutional values in every section of the society so that no dictatorial mentality can repeat it in future,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He paid homage to the countless individuals, political leaders, journalists, activists, and citizens, who bravely resisted the authoritarian regime and safeguarded the democratic values.

“In that darkest period in India’s democratic history, the soul of the country was crushed, Civil liberties were attacked, Constitutional safeguards were violated and dreams of nation-building were buried.

The suspension of fundamental rights, press censorship, and the widespread arrests of political opponents and citizens was a direct assault on the democratic dreams that fuelled India’s independence movement and were enshrined in its Constitution,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, called upon the youth to take the lead in exposing those responsible for the murder of the Constitution and democratic values.

“Dictatorship is a mindset that needs to be understood. The new generation needs to know how India’s democracy was held captive for 21 months. The new generation needs to understand how our democratic values were tarnished and how some handful of people ruthlessly bled the very soul of the democratic republic, assaulted our democratic norms, shattered India’s ancient democratic form and damaged the four pillars of democracy, for sheer political gain.

The new generation also needs to be told how our great leaders and vigilant citizens displayed great courage and unshakeable loyalty to democratic values,” he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also shared his personal experiences from the Emergency period and emphasized on educating the people about their rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

“Democracy is in the nature of India, democracy is ingrained in our veins since time immemorial, that is why India is called the mother of democracy. I also salute those great personalities who nurtured the rich tradition and heritage of this nation, those who truly enriched democratic values generation after generation.

I have full faith that the saga of sacrifices and resilience of our satyagrahis who valiantly protected the democratic values during the Emergency will continue to inspire us to further strengthen our democracy and build a truly developed India,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Political leaders and citizens who were the victims of Emergency shared the accounts of sufferings they endured during the dark period of Emergency. The Lieutenant Governor assured them that their issues and concerns will be taken up with the concerned authorities.

On the occasion, a Dogri translation of ‘Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita’, ‘Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita’ and ‘Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam’ were also released by the Lieutenant Governor.

Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K; Arvind Gupta, Member of Legislative Assembly from Jammu West; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; senior officials, political leaders, and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

Anti-Emergency

Modi’s fight for the “the ideals of democracy”, is published by BlueKraft. It will be released by Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday evening.

Modi said the book chronicles his journey during the Emergency years. It brought back many memories from that time, he said.

He said on X, “I call upon all those who remember those dark days of the Emergency or those whose families suffered during that time to share their experiences on social media. It will create awareness among the youth of the shameful time from 1975 to 1977.”

The prime minister recalled that he was a young RSS pracharak during the period.He said, “The anti-Emergency movement was a learning experience for me. It reaffirmed the vitality of preserving our democratic framework. At the same time, I got to learn so much from people across the political spectrum.”

He added, “I am glad that BlueKraft Digital Foundation has compiled some of those experiences in the form of a book, whose foreword has been penned by Shri HD Deve Gowda Ji, himself a stalwart of the anti-Emergency movement.”

The publisher in a post said the book delves into the compelling role Modi played in the fight against the Emergency.Based on first person anecdotes from associates who worked with Modi in his youth, and using other archival material, the book is a first of its kind that creates new scholarship on the formative years of a young man who would give it his all in the fight against tyranny, it said.

It added, “Emergency Diaries – paints a vivid picture of Narendra Modi fighting for the ideals of democracy and how he has worked all his life to preserve and promote it.” This book is a tribute to the grit and resolve of those who refused to be silenced, BlueKraft said, and it offers a rare glimpse into the early trials that forged one of the most transformative leaders of our time.

It has a foreword from former prime minister Gowda. (ANI)

Will honour

guaranteed democratic rights were taken away and who were then subjected to unimaginable horrors.

The Union Cabinet resolved to commemorate and honour the sacrifices of countless individuals who valiantly resisted the Emergency and its attempt at subversion of the spirit of the Indian Constitution which began in 1974 with a heavy-handed attempt at crushing the Navnirman Andolan and Sampoorna Kranti Abhiyan, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

“The Union Cabinet paid tributes to their exemplary courage and valiant resistance to the Emergency’s excesses,” Vaishnaw said.

He said the year 2025 marks 50 years of the Samvidhan Hatya Diwas – an unforgettable chapter in the history of India where the Constitution was subverted, the Republic and democratic spirit of India was attacked, federalism was undermined, and fundamental rights, human liberty and dignity were suspended.

“The Union Cabinet reaffirmed that the people of India continue to repose unflinching faith in the Indian Constitution and the resilience of the country’s democratic ethos,” Vaishnaw said.

“It is as important for the young as it is for the old to draw inspiration from those who resisted dictatorial tendencies and stood firm to defend our Constitution and its democratic fabric,” the minister said.

Vaishnaw said India, as the Mother of Democracy, stands as an example of preserving, protecting and safeguarding constitutional values. “Let us, as a nation, renew our resolve to uphold our Constitution and its democratic and federal spirit,” Vaishnaw said. (ANI)

HM calls Emergency

and torture that the countrymen faced during the Emergency, he said.

“This day tells us that when power becomes dictatorial, the people have the power to overthrow it,” he wrote on X in Hindi.

“The Emergency was not a national necessity, but a reflection of the “anti-democratic mentality” of the Congress and one person,” the minister said.

He said freedom of the press was crushed, the hands of the judiciary were tied and social workers were put in jail.

“The countrymen raised the slogan of ‘sinhasan khali karo’ (vacate the throne) and uprooted the dictatorial Congress. A heartfelt tribute to all the heroes who sacrificed their lives in this struggle,” he said.

Last year, Shah had announced that the Modi government would observe June 25 as the ‘Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas’ to commemorate the “massive contributions” of those who endured “inhuman pain” during the period.

He had also said the observance of ‘Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas’ will help keep the eternal flame of individual freedom and the defence of democracy alive in every Indian, thus preventing “dictatorial forces” like the Congress from “repeating those horrors”.

A gazette notification to this effect noted that the Emergency was declared on June 25, 1975, following which there was “gross abuse of power by the government of the day and people of India were subjected to excesses and atrocities”. (ANI)

Hot, dry

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng said there will be some relief from the heatwave starting tomorrow (Thursday), lasting for the next three to four days. “Monsoon showers expected in the coming days will bring down maximum temperatures slightly, leading to some improvement in heatwave conditions,” he said. He added that these showers are expected to reduce the rainfall deficiency, particularly in Jammu, where heavy rains are forecasted in the next 24 to 48 hours.

Temperatures across various locations on Wednesday ranged as follows: Srinagar at 32.5°C, Qazigund at 30.2°C, Pahalgam at 27.4°C, Kokernag at 30.8°C, Kupwara at 32.8°C, and Gulmarg at 23.2°C. Jammu city recorded 32.6°C, while Banihal was at 27.7°C. Batote, Bhaderwah, and Katra experienced maximum temperatures of 26.2°C, 30.6°C, and 29.0°C, respectively.

Some parts of Kashmir, including areas in Srinagar, received monsoon showers in the morning.

The weatherman here has forecast heavy rainfall in Jammu over the next 24 to 48 hours, with Kashmir Valley also expected to receive monsoon showers during the next two days. (KNO)

Jhelum shrinks as

Er Taj Mohammad Chowdhary, Chief Engineer of

Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir, informed KNO that several areas, especially in Srinagar, are receiving water via tankers. “Over a dozen tankers are operating in the city, and more can be deployed if needed. Misuse is a major concern; people are using potable water for lawns and other non-essential purposes,” he said.

Chowdhary added that all filtration plants are functioning efficiently, with priority given to essential services like hospitals. Surveillance teams have been established to monitor and curb misuse.

To address the increasing demand, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah earlier chaired a high-level review meeting in Jammu on June 19. He directed departments to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply during peak summer months, including during the Amarnath Yatra and Muharram. The Meteorological Department (MeT) Srinagar has forecast that from June 25 to 27, the weather will be generally cloudy with intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thunderstorms in many parts of Kashmir, with a possibility of heavy rainfall in some areas of Jammu Division—(KNO)

India Returns

and conduct 60 experiments during their mission. In addition to science experiments, the astronauts are flying food that celebrates their heritage: Indian curry and rice with mango nectar; spicy Hungarian paprika paste; and freeze-fried Polish pierogies. Before the flight, Shukla said that he hopes “to ignite the curiosity of an entire generation in my country” and drive innovation.

“I truly believe that even though I, as an individual, am travelling to space, this is the journey of 1.4 billion people,” he said.

Shukla is expected to participate in several outreach events during his stay at the ISS and is also expected to interact with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. (ANI)

Multi-layered

into different levels, including zonal, and security drills were held at every level on Wednesday ahead of the yatra.

“The aim of the drills is to refine our alertness, and preparedness of our actions and responses at the time of any contingency. Such drills were conducted at every place like camps, roads or interior sections along the yatra routes so that all the security forces remain alert and know what specific tasks they have to carry out to fight any contingency,” he added.

Asked about the local support to the yatra, Birdi said the yatra cannot be conducted without the support of the local population.

“They become successful due to the help and support by the locals. This time also, the people are excited to welcome the yatis and provide them any possible help,” the IGP said.

Meanwhile, security forces conducted drills at Pahalgam, Anantnag, and Qazigund in south Kashmir; Pantha Chowk in Srinagar, and Sumbal in north Kahsmir’s Bandipora district. (PTI)

Congress considering

party must start preparing on a war footing for all upcoming elections.

The event, convened to welcome Dr Nasir Hussain on his first visit to Kashmir as AICC in charge for Jammu and Kashmir, witnessed participation from JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra, Working President Raman Bhalla, and other senior leaders.

The leadership stressed the importance of full organisational mobilisation ahead of the upcoming panchayat, municipal, and District Development Council (DDC) polls while also factoring in the possibility of an early Assembly election.

“Whether or not alliances are formed, the Congress must be ready to face the people with a clear vision and disciplined structure,” Mir said. He added that internal restructuring and ground-level preparations must reflect the party’s readiness to project itself as the principal political force in the region.

The party has already begun reviewing internal roles and responsibilities to align with this shift. Mir said that future decisions on alliances will be made in consultation with AICC leadership, but the sentiment from the ground will be taken seriously—(KNO)

DSEK orders

DSEK further said that the Heads of Institutions shall ensure that remedial teaching focuses intensively on subjects and topics identified and monitor it on a daily basis with written records.

“Detailed remedial schedules shall be displayed on the school notice boards for information of students, parents and monitoring institutions and teachers engaged for remedial classes shall adopt interactive and student-friendly teaching methods, assess the progress of students regularly, and maintain comprehensive records of attendance, lesson dairies with topics covered, and student assessment and improvement,” it reads.

DSEK further said that the parents shall be sensitized and motivated to ensure that their wards attend the remedial classes regularly and make full use of this additional academic support.

“Cluster Heads shall personally monitor the conduct and quality of remedial classes by visiting schools periodically. Daily monitoring reports, along with photographs and performance reviews, shall be submitted to Cluster Heads and respective DIETs without fail,” DSEK said.

The directorate further ordered that the DIETs shall closely monitor the process and submit reports to SCERT on a weekly basis.

“Non-compliance of the instructions or any laxity in the conduct of remedial teaching shall be viewed seriously and strict disciplinary action shall be initiated against the erring officials and teachers.”

DSEK accordingly directed Chief Education Officers to implement the order in letter and spirit so that the students are fully supported academically and are better equipped to succeed in the upcoming supplementary JKBOSE examinations—(KNO)

MEA honours J&K Police for outstanding passport verification performance

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, Jammu & Kashmir Police has been adjudged among the best-performing police forces in India for their outstanding contribution to passport verification services for the year 2024-25.

“Based on official verification data, J&K Police finalized an impressive 134219 passport application verifications during the period April-2024 to March-2025 reflecting

an exceptional disposal rate and a commitment to timely service delivery,” a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The award was given by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) during the Passport Seva Divas, commemorating the enactment

of the Passport Act, 1967. This day is observed every year to mark the provision of a statutory framework for the issuance of passports and other travel documents by the Government of India.

A high-level segment of the celebration was held at CB Muthamma Hall, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi, graced by Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for

External Affairs, alongside senior officials from the MEA, other government departments, representatives from 37 Passport Offices across the country, officials from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and key service providers.

One of the key highlights of this year’s observance was the recognition of exemplary performance in the crucial area of Police and CID verification by J&K Police, an essential component in the passport issuance process.

The recognition is a testament to the relentless efforts of the officers and officials of the CID and Police departments,

who stepped beyond their comfort zones and worked tirelessly to ensure quick and efficient passport application verifications. Their hard work has brought pride to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and its police force.

The prestigious Certificate of Recognition was presented to J&K Police by the Minister of State for External Affairs. The award was received by Rayees Mohammad

Bhat (IPS), DIG CID, who represented J&K Police at the national event.

This is the first time that the dedicated efforts of J&K Police in the timely disposal of passport cases have been formally acknowledged at the national level—(KNO)

NC refutes legal concerns over validity of UT elections “Argument has no legal validity”

Peerzada Ummer

SRINAGAR: Responding to recent reports questioning the validity of legislative assembly elections in a Union Territory (UT) if it is subsequently upgraded to a state, the ruling National Conference on Wednesday dismissed such concerns as legally baseless and an attempt to sow confusion regarding the long-standing demand for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood.

Speaking exclusively to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), National Conference leader and MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi strongly rebutted the narrative that elections held in a UT would not be valid for the legislative assembly of a newly formed state post-restoration of statehood.

“I think that the government’s position, both in Parliament—where it was promised that statehood would be restored—and later in the Supreme Court, has always been clear: statehood will be restored. There is no precedent or legal indication requiring fresh elections upon restoration, nor has it ever been presented as an issue before the Supreme Court. I believe this is an afterthought and see no legal necessity for it if the state is being restored,” Justice Masoodi told KNO.

He added that for the last four to five years, the Central government’s stance—echoed by the Home Ministry, the Prime Minister, and Parliament—has consistently affirmed the commitment to restore Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood. “When the roadmap was laid out, it was repeatedly said that first delimitation, then elections, and then restoration of statehood. This sequence has been reiterated many times, with no mention of any legal hurdle or need for fresh elections after restoration,” Masoodi explained.

Justice Masoodi further questioned the origins of the current narrative, suggesting it is designed to confuse or impede the process. “No one knows where this is coming from or who is planting such stories. Since August 5, 2019, the Central government’s position has always been that statehood will be restored, with no mention of restrictions or additional requirements. If such legal impediments existed, they would have been raised before the recent elections in Jammu and Kashmir,” he said.

He stressed that the issue of statehood restoration has been under discussion for years, well before October 2024 [when JK elections were held], and has been addressed multiple times in Parliament, outside Parliament, and before the Supreme Court. “There is no mention of any such requirement in the facts and events of the past three to four years. As a legal expert, I do not believe there is any validity to these claims, nor do I think any legal process requires this transition to be handled differently,” he asserted.

Masoodi said that the notion of invalidating assembly elections due to a change from UT to statehood is unfounded. “This rhetoric has no legal validity. If Parliament had intended such a

provision, it would have been made clear during discussions on the roadmap for Jammu and Kashmir’s future,” added the NC leader—(KNO)

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement bearing Consumer ID No: 0216010015580, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Ab Khaliq wani, S/O Gh Nabi wani, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege as per my Aadhaar Card is Abdul Khaliq wani, S/O Gh Ahmad wani. Now i Want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be accepted.

Abdul Khaliq wani.
S/O Gh Ahmad wani.
R/O Arin Dardpora, Bandipora,
jammu and kashmir.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 2020 0002375, my DOB has been Mistakenly Mentioned as: 01-02-1995, while as my Actual and correct DOB as per my Aadhaar Card is: 01-01-1995. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Tahir Ahmad Reshi.
S/O Nazir Ahmad Reshi.
R/O Khurshipora (Bothu)
Bandipora, jammu & kashmir, pin

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i have lost Number plate of my vehicle Tractor bearing Registration No: JK18 - 4798, during traveling at Bandipora, if someone found please return, if not then i want to apply for its duplicate and also want to Submit missing report in police station, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days, from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Wasim Raja Reshi.
Ab Rashid Reshi.
R/O Lankreshipora.
Bandipora Jammu & kashmir.
pin code: 193502. Phone No: 6006212044.

NOTICE

The general Public is informed that the Electricity agreement bearing Consumer ID no. 0216010002640 is registered in the name of Abdul Rashid Wani S/o Ab. Ahad Wani R/o Plan Bandipora Ward no 4. Now I want to apply for the change of this agreement to Iftikhar Rashid Wani S/o Abdul Rashid Wani R/o Plan Bandipora Ward No 4. In this regard any person having any objection may file in the office of Assistant Executive Engineer (Electricity) Sub division Ajar within a period of 07 days after the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted

Iftikhar Rashid Wani
S/o Abdul Rashid Wani
R/o plan Bandipora Ward 4

