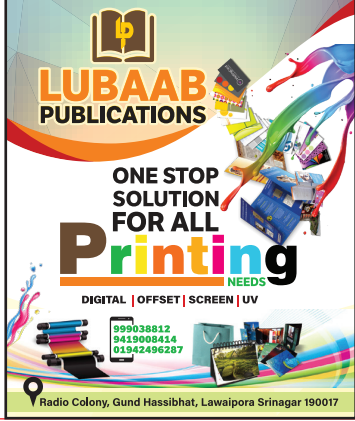


Srinagar
Tuesday
August 19 | 2025
22 Safar, 1447 AH
Issue No: 196
Volume: 15
Pages: 12
Price: Rs 02/-

15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATION

HEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



Moderate To Heavy Rains Lash Kashmir Valley



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: Moderate to heavy rains lashed wide parts of Kashmir on Monday, prompting authorities to set up emergency control rooms in vulnerable parts of the valley, officials said. Heavy rains lashed Srinagar, Kupwara, Baramulla, Anantnag

and Pulwama districts of the valley since Monday morning. They said in the Warnov forest area of Lolab in Kupwara, torrential rains accompanied by thunder forced people to rush towards safer places, fearing a cloudburst. The Indian Meteorological Department's Srinagar Centre

TURN ON PAGE 2

‘Stay vigilant, take precautions’

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: The Jammu and Kashmir government has put both the authorities and the public on alert after the Meteorological Department (MeT) Srinagar forecasted moderate to heavy rainfall in multiple districts in the coming days, raising fears of flash floods, landslides, and other calamities in the hilly Union Territory.

Following the weather advisory, the government has directed deputy commissioners, senior officials, engineers, and frontline employees to remain on the highest level of preparedness.

The District authorities have been asked to ensure readiness of relief camps, and stock essential supplies like medicines, food

TURN ON PAGE 2

Sonamarg receives season’s first snowfall, rains damp J&K

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: Sonamarg, a picturesque place in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, received the season's first snowfall on Monday, while rains

TURN ON PAGE 2

J&K on High Alert After Cloudbursts, Heavy Rainfall

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: Amid multiple incidents of cloudbursts and heavy rainfall in recent weeks, authorities have sounded a high alert and stepped

TURN ON PAGE 2

WEATHER VAGARIES:

Flashfloods, Cloud Bursting Claimed Over 300 Lives In 12 Years In J&K

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: Jammu & Kashmir has recorded 552 fatalities due to Extreme Weather Events (EWEs) in more than a decade, with heavy snowfall topping the list with 182 mortalities, followed by 119 due to flashfloods from 2010 to 2022, data by the Meteorological department reveals.

As per the data, 1942 lightning events have been recorded during the period, which claimed 42 lives.

The highest deaths of 182 have been reported due to heavy snowfall, the data reads, adding that 42 such incidents have been reported in over one decade. 119 deaths have been reported in flash floods, as 168 such incidents were reported from 2010 to 2022.

The data reveals 31 windstorm incidents leading to 20 deaths, while 186 landslide incidents have claimed 71 lives during the period.

No deaths have been reported due to the heatwave conditions. However, 37 cold wave events have claimed seven lives so far across Jammu and Kashmir. A total number of 409 heavy rainfall events were reported, which have claimed 111 lives in the region, the data revealed.

The highest mortalities of around 60 have been

TURN ON PAGE 2

Former Revenue Official Sentenced to 3.5 Years in 17-Year-Old Bribery Case

■ HT News Desk

PULWAMA, AUG 18: After a legal battle spanning over 17 years, the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court in Pulwama today convicted a former Girdawar (revenue official), Ghulam Hassan Kumar, for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹2,000 for the demarcation of land in 2008.

Special Judge Dr. Noor Mohammad Mir sentenced Kumar to three and a half years of simple imprisonment and imposed a total fine of ₹30,000. In a strongly worded judgment, the court described corruption as a “malignant affliction that strikes at the very foundation of a democratic polity and the rule of law.”

The case dates back to June 16, 2008, when Mohammad Yousuf Mir of Shopian lodged a complaint with the Vigilance Organization Kashmir (VOK), now the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). Mir alleged that Kumar, the then Girdawar of Circle Kegam, Shopian, had demanded ₹2,000 to demarcate a plot of land measuring 18 Kanal and 18 Marlas.

Acting on the complaint, the VOK laid a trap. The currency notes provided by the complainant were treated with Phenolphthalein powder and a trap team was constituted, which included an independent witness from the Commercial Taxes Department.

The team caught Kumar red-handed accepting the tainted money at the private office of a local Patwari in Sindu Shirmal, Shopian. The ₹2,000 was recovered from the back pocket of the trousers he was wearing. Subsequent chemical tests of his hand wash and the pocket wash turned positive, confirming his contact with the treated currency notes.

During the extensive trial, the prosecution examined twelve witnesses. The complainant, Mohammad Yousuf Mir (PW1), gave a detailed account of the demand and acceptance of the bribe during his initial testimony. However, during cross-examination, he made some concessions towards the accused. The court noted that his statement recorded under Section 164-A of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. PC) before a magistrate was consistent with the

TURN ON PAGE 2

Rescue Operations Enter Day 5 of Kishtwar Cloud Burst at Chisoti village

Rescue Teams, High-Tech Vehicles, Sniffer Dogs Working Across Multiple Locations, Army’s temporary bridge reopens routes

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, AUG 18: Rescue operations at cloudburst hit Chisoti village in Kishtwar district continued for fifth running day on Monday.

Officials told said that more than 60 persons have died and 70 are reported missing.

“Rescue teams are working across

multiple sites to search for survivors and recover bodies. Large-scale rescue operations are on near the cloudburst site,” they added.

It may be recalled that the cloudburst wreaked havoc in the Chashoti area, a key location on the route of the annual Machail Mata Yatra on August 14. The pilgrimage had commenced on July 25 draws a large

number of devotees to the Chandi Mata temple in Machail, located in the Paddar Valley.

According to the officials special all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) have been deployed to access locations where people are believed to be trapped under debris. “The terrain in the area is difficult to navigate, and the

TURN ON PAGE 2

Cong seeks special central package

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUG 18: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress on Monday demanded a special Central relief and rehabilitation package for the victims of the cloudburst in Chisoti village of Kishtwar district.

As many as 63 people were killed as flash floods

TURN ON PAGE 2

8 officers deployed to oversee rescue work

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, AUG 18: The Lieutenant Governor administration on Monday deployed 8 senior IAS and IPS officers to supervise relief and rescue operations in the cloudburst-hit Chisoti village of Kishtwar district that left 62 people dead.

On August 14, flash floods triggered by the cloudburst 14 in Chisoti — the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple — also left at least 116 people injured.

Eighty-two people — 81 pilgrims and one

TURN ON PAGE 2

KASHMIR MEAT SCANDAL :

Only 2 FIRs Is Justice Delayed? As 12,000 Kg Rotten Meat Seized So Far

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 18 : More than fifteen days have passed since authorities seized over 12,000 kilograms of decomposed and unlabelled meat from various locations across Kashmir. Despite the scale of the operation, only two individuals have been booked, raising widespread public concern and causing a significant downturn in the local food industry.

The administration initiated the crackdown following repeated tip-

offs, which enabled the department to trace the supply chain and conduct targeted raids.

Local restaurant owners reported an 80 per cent decline in business following the scandal, attributing the drop to a lack of visible government action and enforcement at meat markets.

People have expressed frustration over the delay in issuing any official ban or clear guidelines, warning that such inaction could jeopardise public health.

TURN ON PAGE 2

Rotten Meat Scare Boosts Veg Restaurants in Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: Vegetarian hotels and restaurants across Kashmir are witnessing a remarkable increase in footfall following the shocking revelations about rotten meat being supplied to various parts of the valley.

TURN ON PAGE 2

‘No threat of floods in Kashmir’

Jhelum levels well below danger mark, say officials

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: Even as intermittent rains lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, the authorities ruled out any immediate flood threat in the Valley, saying water levels in the Jhelum and its tributaries remain well below the danger mark.

However, in Jammu's Poonch district, rivers witnessed a sharp rise with the Suran crossing the danger level before receding slightly.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that

the Jhelum and its tributaries are being continuously monitored, with all levels currently below the alert threshold.

According to the gauge readings of earlier today available, river Jhelum stood at: Sangam (21’/25’) = 1.89 ft; Pampore (4.5/5.0) = (-)0.59 m; Munshi Bagh (18’/21’) = 4.47 ft; Asham (14.0’/16.5) = 3.69 ft.

For tributaries, the data showed: Vishow Nallah at Khudwani (7.75/8.50) = 2.44 m; Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi (5.4/5.7) = (-)0.36 m; Lidder Nallah at Batkoot (1.5/1.65) = 0.17 m; Doodh-ganga Nallah at Barzulla (3.65/3.8) =

0.60 m; Sindh Nallah at Doderhama (3.65/3.9) = 0.75 m.

Officials from the Irrigation and Flood Control (IFC) Department Kashmir said they are continuously monitoring gauge levels across Jhelum and its tributaries.

“At present, the situation is under control and there is no flood threat in the Valley. People living near streams and rivers are advised to stay alert,” he said.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng also ruled out the

TURN ON PAGE 2

Experts rule out ‘mass fish death’ in Dal Lake Sgr

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: Reports of large-scale fish deaths in Dal Lake have stirred concern among fishermen and residents, with experts from the Fisheries Department at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST) ruling out the claims, saying that assertions “appear exaggerated.”

The locals expressed concern as earlier in the day, a video went viral from Dal Lake Srinagar, where a man in a boat was holding a fish over the paddle, showing that the fish had died in the water of Dal Lake.

“Even a few fish dying in Dal Lake is worrying and we want authorities from the Fisheries Department and LCMA to check it properly. The reason might be the

TURN ON PAGE 2



2047’, Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook space sector reforms after assuming office in 2014.

Singh, the Minister of State in the PMO, said after opening up the space sector for private players in 2020, India's space economy has already reached USD eight billion and would touch USD 45 billion in the next decade.

He said India will undertake an uncrewed space mission involving a robot ‘Vyommitra’ in 2026,

TURN ON PAGE 2

Public Accounts Committee reviews Audit Paras of PWD in Srinagar

Stresses timely completion of road, other projects in J&K

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review the audit paras pertaining to the Public Works Department (PWD).

The meeting was chaired by PAC Chairman Sham Lal Sharma and attended by members including Mubarak Gul, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Javid Hassan Baig, Sajad Shaheen and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan.

The Committee undertook a detailed examination of Audit Paras 4.8 (2000-01), 4.7 (2001-02) and 3.20 to 3.23 (2016-17) pertaining to the PWD (R&B) Department.

The members discussed key issues including rational and timely fund allocation, geo-tag-



ging, technical and administrative approvals, preparation of DPRs, forest clearance, tendering and e-tendering processes besides adherence to financial code formalities.

The Chairman stressed the need for strengthening the road

network and upgrading infrastructure across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised that better connectivity is a basic requirement for the people and underscored the importance of strict monitoring to ensure quality control in project

execution.

The Committee called for timely completion of projects, immediate attention to the maintenance of damaged roads for public convenience and timely tendering to fully utilize the working season in Kashmir. It also

directed that the pending works be expedited and completed within stipulated timeframes.

The Chairman further instructed that accountability be fixed on officers for delays in project execution. He sought a comprehensive report on violations of financial codes and irregularities in fund allocation.

Underscoring the vital role of the PWD, the Chairman stressed greater transparency, accountability and seriousness in its functioning. He reiterated the PAC's mandate to promote transparency, fiscal discipline and accountability in governance.

The meeting was attended by Principal Accountant General J&K, K. P. Yadav; Principal Secretary PWD, Anil Kumar Sharma; Secretary Legislative Assembly; Director General Accounts and Treasuries; Director Planning and Finance; Chief Engineers and other senior officers.

Awareness prog for artisans, weavers organised at Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUG 18: The Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Kulgam today organised an awareness programme for artisans & weavers at town hall Devsar.

The initiative aimed to empower local artisans & weavers by providing them information about various govt schemes, financial assistance programs, marketing support and skill development.

The programme witnessed participation of more than 100 artisans & weavers from across the Kulgam district especially from Devsar area.

Officers from the dept addressed the gather-



ing and shared insights regarding benefits under various schemes.

On the occasion, Assistant Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kulgam Sheikh Hemayun Javid highlighted the commitment of department for the upliftment of traditional crafts. He encouraged artisans to utilise digital platform for marketing & expanding their reach.

The session also included distribution of brochures, interactive Question-Answer session, experience sharing of some prominent Awardees.

Lead District Manager Kulgam, resource persons from JKEDI Kulgam and Craft development institute Srinagar also shed light on various initiatives.

DC Kupwara Pays Maiden Visit to Sub Division Handwara

HT News Desk

HANDWARA, AUG 18: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shri Shrikant Balasahb Suse (IAS), conducted his first official visit to Sub Division Handwara today. The visit was aimed at reviewing the progress of various administrative and developmental activities in the region.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner closely reviewed the ongoing digitisation of Jamabandis and Cadastral maps, which are part of the broader land records modernization initiative. He stressed the importance of accuracy and timely completion of the digitisation work to ensure transparency and better service delivery to the public.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed about



disaster preparedness measures in the Sub Division in light of ongoing rains and weather predictions by MET department, along with other key administrative and developmental issues.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Shri Javed Naseem Masoodi (JKAS), Shri Fayaz Ahmad Geelani (JKPS), and Tehsildar Handwara accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit. They provided a detailed overview of ongoing developmental projects and shared a comprehensive brief on the overall status of the Sub Division.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the local administration and urged officers to maintain momentum in developmental works and public service delivery.

Batmaloo residents up in arms against water scarcity

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: Anger brewed in Lachmanpora locality of Batmaloo on Monday as residents came out on the streets to protest against the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, accusing it of failing to provide regular drinking water supply. The protesters blocked the main road in the area, bringing traffic to a halt for a considerable time.

Carrying empty utensils in their hands, locals voiced strong resentment, saying that they have been left to suffer without water despite raising the issue repeatedly with the concerned department. "Our complaints have fallen on deaf ears. Families are struggling every day, yet officials show no urgency," a resident remarked.

The protesters said that the water shortage has forced them to travel long distances to fetch water, which has created severe inconvenience, particularly for elderly people, women, and children.

The road remained blocked for some time until police and civil officials reached the spot and tried to pacify the demonstrators. The residents, however, warned that they would intensify their agitation if regular water supply is not restored at the earliest.

Farooq, Omar Abdullah condole demise of Maulana Rehmatullah Qasmi's mother

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have expressed profound grief over the demise of mother of renowned Islamic scholar and founder of Darul Uloom Raheemiyah, Maulana Rehmatullah Mir.

In their condolence message, the leaders extended heartfelt sympathies to Maulana Qasimi and his family, praying for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

They described the deceased as a pious and noble soul who raised her children with deep moral and religious values, which is reflected in Maulana Qasimi's contribution to Islamic education and society.

Seminar on GRIHA Certification for Green Buildings Organized

Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: The Indian Buildings Congress (J&K Chapter), in collaboration with the Alumni Association of NIT Srinagar, Civil Engineering Students Association (CESA) and JK Green Technologies, organized a Seminar on GRIHA Certification for Green Buildings at the National Institute of Technology, Hazratbal, Srinagar. The seminar was inaugurated by Er. Aamir Ali, Chairman, Indian Buildings Congress (J&K Chapter), who emphasized the urgent need to adopt sustainable building practices in Jammu and Kashmir, given the fragile Himalayan ecosystem and rising challenges of climate change. He highlighted that GRIHA certification provides a structured framework for ensuring energy efficiency, waste reduction, and eco-friendly construction, and urged engineers and students to act as champions of green technology in their professional careers.

Dr. (Prof.) Mohammed Ashraf Shah, Dean Alumni Association and International Affairs, NIT Srinagar, welcomed the participants and

announced that the seminar marked the first phase of the Alumni Back to Classroom (ABC) Program, launched by the Alumni Association. Under this initiative, distinguished alumni share their professional insights, real-world experiences and practical wisdom with students and faculty, helping bridge the academia-industry gap. The keynote experts included Er. Bashir Ahmed Dar, Managing Director JK Green Technologies and Former Secretary Technical, J&K Power Development Department, Govt. of J&K, who has been the batch topper of Electrical Engineering, REC Srinagar, 1996; and Er. Suhail Qadir, Electrical Engineer, Batch 1990, REC Srinagar, currently heading the Qatar Energy and serving as the Founder Managing Partner of JK Green Technologies.

The seminar was attended by students and faculty of NIT Srinagar, including Dr. Saad Parvez, Professor Mechanical Engineering; Dr. Shahid Saleem, Professor Mechanical Engineering and Dr. Shagoofa Rasool Shah, Professor Civil Engineering, Dr. Dasari Karthik, Coordinator CESA, Dr HS Pali, NIT Alumni Association. Also present were eminent engineers and

professionals including Er. Rafiq Ahmed Rafiq, Former Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir and Er. Abdul Aziz Lone, Executive Engineer. The seminar also witnessed participation from nearly 100 online attendees across India. Online participants included Er. Ravinder Shekher, Vice Chairman IBC (J&K Chapter); Er. Irfan Shafi Parray, Honorary Secretary IBC, Er. Ankur Nanda Treasurer IBC, Er. Muzafar A. Beigh, Asst. General Manager, BSNL, Er. Syed Shabir Rufai, Principal, SSM Polytechnic College, Adil Rashid Naqash, CAO, SSM, Er. Shaista Was-eem, besides other staff and students of SSM College of Engineering, Parhaspora; Government Polytechnics and ITIs; SP College; Amar Singh College and engineers from Public Works Department, BSNL, PMGSY, Irrigation & Flood Control, Power Grid Corporation of India and REW Kashmir. The experts addressed various questions raised by participants, making the session highly interactive and enriching. The seminar was coordinated by the office bearers of the Civil Engineering Students Association (CESA), including its President Sabaat Riyaz Qureshi.

JKCIP Launched at Neelpora, Handwara in Presence of Dignitaries & Farmers

HT News Desk

HANDWARA, AUG 18: The Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) launched at Panchayat Ghar Neelpora, Magam Handwara in presence of dignitaries, social activists, senior citizens and farmers.

The project, supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is aimed at strength-



ening agriculture and allied sectors by complementing the Government's Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). While HADP focuses on large-scale transformation and infrastructure, JKCIP will address

gaps by promoting value chains, niche crops, entrepreneurship and climate-smart farming.

Officials said the initiative will particularly benefit high-value sectors such as saffron, black cumin and off-

season vegetables, besides providing processing and marketing support. The project will also promote agri-startups, extend assistance to pastoralists and fisherfolk, and ensure coordination through HADP structures.

The programme was attended by officers from allied departments. A large gathering of farmers and community representatives also participated in the event.

Chairman DDC Kulgam inaugurates Kisan Sampark Abhiyan Rural Credit Workshop

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUG 18: As part of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, "Rural Credit Workshop" under JKCIP-IFAD, was inaugurated by Chairman DDC Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parry, today at Yam-rach.

On the occasion, he appreciated the initiatives aimed at empowering farmers and strengthening the rural economy.

Parry stressed upon the farmers to take advantage of the Govt. schemes for prosperous life.

Chief Scientist & Head Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kulgam, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Ganai, briefed the DDC and farmers about the objectives of the programme. The event witnessed a huge participation of locals, including farmers, entrepreneurs, FPOs and representatives from agriculture and allied



departments.

Chief Agriculture officer,

Farooq Ahmad Reshi sensitized farmers about various centrally sponsored schemes and shared information on new opportunities and benefits available for rural entrepreneurs especially under HADP and JKCIP.

He also advised the farmers to register themselves on JKCIP portal. Bank officials provided a detailed report of various schemes in agriculture and Rural credit.

Committee on Petitions reviews progress of AIIMS Awantipora

Stresses on speedy work completion, early commissioning of prestigious project

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: The House Committee on Petitions of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today held a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review the progress of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Awantipora.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, and members including Mushtaq Guroo, Salman Sagar, Waheed u Rehman Para, Mian Mehar Ali, and Thakur Randhir Singh also participated in the meeting.

At the outset, the Committee conducted a detailed review of

works related to infrastructure development, procurement of machinery, work force and other allied projects.

The Chairman emphasized that strict adherence to execution timelines is crucial for ensuring the timely commissioning of this prestigious project.

"This project holds immense importance for the people of Kashmir and must be completed at the earliest for their convenience and benefit," the Chairman said.

He directed the concerned authorities to expedite the pace of all incomplete works and ensure their completion in a time-bound manner.

The Committee further



stressed that AIIMS Awantipora should be commissioned as a single integrated unit, with all facilities including OPD and IPD services made operational simultaneously for the general public.

The Chairman also said that the Committee shall also undertake on spot inspection of the project to check quality and pace of work.

Executive Director AIIMS, Dr. S. Mohanty, who was also present, briefed the Committee about the progress achieved so far.

He informed that MBBS courses are expected to commence from July 2026, while OPD and IPD services are likely to start by the end of the same year.

Meanwhile, the Committee also deliberated on various other issues raised through petitions.

Members underlined that every petition would be taken up seriously and reviewed thoroughly to ensure appropriate redressal.

The Chairman stressed upon the officers to comply and submit detailed reports on the issues pertaining to their respective offices, failing which it shall be treated as non-compliance.

The discussions focused on working out practical, effective, and time-bound solutions to the grievances of citizens, with members actively offering constructive suggestions and feedback.

Tanvir Sadiq visits JLNH Hospital, pushes for early completion of projects

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: Member Legislative Assembly Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, today visited the JLNH Hospital, Rainawari and reviewed the RKS Scheme in a meeting here. He also reviewed other upgradations going on at the hospital.

During the Rogi Kalyan Samiti meeting, he released Rs 10 lakh from his Constituency Development Fund to address urgent requirements, including construction of an auditorium and procurement of essential medical equipment.

Sadiq emphasized the need to ensure comprehensive patient care, stressing that patients must be treated with utmost compassion and professionalism. He reviewed the functioning of various departments and assured full support in strengthening both the medical staff and hospital infrastructure.

Acknowledging the dedication of doctors and paramedics, he congratulated them for their services but also cautioned that any dereliction of duty will be dealt with sternly. He further directed the Medical Superintendent to recall paramedics currently posted outside JLNH Hospital so that adequate staff strength is maintained.

Tanvir also took stock of the completion of the new hospital build-



ing, noting that the Chief Minister is keen to see it completed on priority. He spoke to the concerned departments and instructed them to ensure early completion of pending

works.

The review meeting was attended by Medical Superintendent, JLNH, Dr. Tariq, Dy. Medical Superintendent, Dr. Asifa Jan, and other senior officials.

Inclement Weather: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir M Raju Reviews Overall Scenario, Functioning of Essential Services

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18:

In view of the incessant rainfall across the Kashmir Valley, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, M. Raju, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the operational status of essential services and evaluate the region's disaster preparedness in case of any emergency situation.

The meeting was attended by SMC Commissioner Fazlul Haseeb, Director IMD Srinagar, Additional Commissioners of Kashmir, senior officers from KPDCL, Jal Shakti (PHE), Mechanical Engineering Department, Health Department, R&B, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) besides representatives of other line departments.

Flood Monitoring & Preparedness

The Divisional Commissioner took stock of the water levels in the Jhelum and its tributaries, with the Irrigation & Flood Control Department presenting live data from monitoring stations. Officials informed that while water levels had risen

due to continuous rainfall, the situation was under close observation, and all embankments and flood channels are being patrolled to identify and plug any vulnerabilities.

He directed the I&FC Department to keep flood response teams on standby, ensure the availability of sandbags, pumps, and other equipment, and maintain strict vigil in low-lying and vulnerable areas.

Status of Essential Services

Electricity Supply: Officials from KPDCL reported that power supply remained largely stable, with only minor outages in certain 11kV feeders due to tree falls and waterlogging. Rapid restoration teams have been deployed for immediate repairs and replacements.

Drinking Water Supply: The Jal Shakti Department (PHE) confirmed that water supply schemes are functioning normally. Backup arrangements and generator sets have been placed at critical pumping stations to ensure uninterrupted service.

Road Connectivity: The R&B and Mechanical Engi-

neering Department informed that all major high-ways and inter-district routes are open. Continuous clearance of debris and dewatering at waterlogged points is being carried out. Special focus was laid on ensuring uninterrupted access to hospitals and emergency services.

Health Sector Preparedness: Health officials briefed about adequate availability of emergency medicines, ambulances, and staff deployment to respond to any crisis.

Urban Flooding & Dewatering Efforts

SMC Commissioner Fazlul Haseeb presented a detailed account of dewatering operations in Srinagar city. He informed that high-capacity pumps have been strategically deployed in low-lying areas and major intersections prone to waterlogging, particularly in Lal Chowk, Bemina, Batamalo, Jawahar Nagar and Residency Road.

He added that field teams are working round-the-clock to minimize inconvenience to the public and ensure smooth vehicular and pedestrian movement.

Divisional Commissioner's Directives

Divisional Commissioner M. Raju stressed:

"Our top priority is to ensure uninterrupted essential services and safeguard public life and property. Departments must remain in a state of full readiness, with proper coordination and quick response systems to deal with any eventuality arising from this inclement weather."

He directed all line departments to:

Submit comprehensive status reports on service operations by evening. Maintain real-time inter-departmental coordination for better decision-making.

Keep emergency helplines functional and widely publicized for public use.

Ensure on-ground presence of officers in vulnerable areas for immediate redressal.

Public Advisory

The Divisional Commissioner also appealed to the general public to remain vigilant and follow advisories issued by the administration and IMD.

Deputy Commissioner, SSP Inspect Flood-Prone Areas in Poonch, Review Preparedness Measures

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

POONCH, AUGUST 18: Amid continuous rainfall and rising water levels, Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shafket Hussain Bhat and Additional Deputy Commissioner (ACR) Mohammad Sayeed on Sunday conducted an extensive tour of flood-prone areas in Poonch district to take stock of the on-ground situation and assess the district's readiness to tackle any emergency.

Field Inspection of Vulnerable Areas

The team inspected critical spots including SK Bridge, Mangnar Nallah, and the stretch from Porani Poonch to Betar Nallah, which are traditionally prone to flooding during incessant rains. Officials from the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, PWD, PHE, Mechanical Engineering, and Police accompanied the inspection team and provided real-time updates about the situation.

At each location, the officers evaluated the water discharge capacity, stability of embankments, and functioning of dewatering pumps. They instructed field engineers to strengthen weak points and keep sandbags and other flood control measures ready for immediate deployment.

Directives for Round-the-Clock Vigil

Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma directed all line departments to remain on high alert and ensure 24x7 monitoring of vulnerable points. He stressed that men and machinery, including excavators and rescue boats, must be positioned at key locations for swift response in case of flash floods or breaches.

He also emphasized maintaining uninterrupted road connectivity to hospitals and relief centers, directing the PWD and Mechanical Engineering Department to remain in readiness for clearance of debris, landslides, or road blockages caused by rainfall.

Police & Civil Administration Coordination
SSP Shafket Hussain Bhat assured that police control rooms are fully functional round-the-clock to receive public distress calls.

DC Udhampur reviews implementation of TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

Stresses intensified testing, community outreach & Ni-Kshay Mitra registration

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 18:

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting with officers of the Health Department to review the status of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan with a focus on accelerating efforts towards eliminating the disease from the District.

She also presided over a meeting of the District TB Co-morbid coordination Committee.

The meeting was attended

by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; PO Poshan Subash Dogra and other officers of the Health Department.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil Manhas presented a comprehensive Power-Point presentation, highlighting the district's performance with regard to the TB elimination programme.

The DC also reviewed the implementation of the Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative, launched under

the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to provide additional support to TB patients and improve treatment outcomes.

The DC reviewed the status of NAAT and X-ray testing, treatment success rate and Ni-Kshay Mitra registrations, while directing the concerned authorities to increase TB testing and strengthen diagnostic facilities. She emphasized the importance of enhanced counseling to ensure early detection and timely treatment of TB cases.

The DC called for intensified awareness campaigns, increased testing and collective efforts to achieve the goal of TB eradication. She directed concerned to work in close coordination to achieve 100% screening coverage by October 2025.

The Health Department was asked to prioritize outreach to vulnerable and underserved populations, especially those residing in remote areas. She directed officials to map vulnerable groups, strengthen diagnos-

tic and treatment services and promote early detection through focused screening and testing drives.

The District Tuberculosis Officer was instructed to organize dedicated health camps and conduct intensified awareness drives across the district to identify and treat TB patients promptly. She also urged the general public to voluntarily register as Ni-Kshay Mitras to support TB patients and contribute to this national mission of creating a TB-free India.

Rana reviews progress on synthetic athletic track at Batidhar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

MENDHAR, AUGUST 18: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted an inspection of the under-construction Synthetic Athletic Track at Batidhar, Mendhar. It is a key infrastructure project being developed at an estimated cost of 600 lakh.

During the visit, the officials briefed the Minister that nearly 40% of the construction work has been completed so far.

Expressing satisfaction with the progress, the Minister emphasized the need to accelerate the remaining work without compromising on quality standards.

In a major boost to the project, the Minister also announced the commencement of additional supporting infrastructure at the site. This will include construction of change rooms, spectator seating tiers and protective works, sanctioned at an addi-



tional cost of 200 lakh.

These enhancements are aimed at improving the overall utility of the facility and preparing it to host athletic events.

Reiterating the Omar Abdullah Government's commitment towards promoting sports in border and remote regions, the Minister said the project will play a vital role in providing improved infrastructure and meaningful opportunities for the youth of Mendhar and surrounding areas.

DC Kupwara reviews status of applications under PMAY (U) 2.0

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, AUGUST 18: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee (DLC) to review the applications received under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U 2.0).

ADDC Kupwara, Mufti Fareed ud din; ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; Tehsildars, officers from Agriculture, Municipal Committees, Social Welfare and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the Committee discussed the status of applications submitted under PMAY-U 2.0 and examined their eligibility as per the scheme guidelines. The DC emphasized for ensuring transparency and adherence to norms while scrutinizing the cases so that the benefits of the scheme reach the genuine beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure proper verification of the applica-



tions received so that the deserving households are provided financial assistance under the PMAY-U 2.0 scheme.

The DC directed the concerned officers to expedite the verification process and remove bottlenecks, if any, to facilitate timely approval and sanction of houses under the scheme. He also stressed on close coordination among the concerned departments for effective implementation of PMAY-U 2.0 in the District.

Rana reviews relief, rehabilitation measures in Mendhar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

MENDHAR, AUGUST 18: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, convened a meeting today to review relief and rehabilitation measures being undertaken in the affected areas of Poonch district due to recent landslides.

The meeting was attended by Sub-Divisional Officers and senior officials from the concerned departments, who presented detailed on-ground reports highlighting the current situation in their respective areas.

During the deliberations, the Minister was briefed about the damage to residential structures, road networks and public utilities in the landslide-prone zones.



Following a comprehensive review, the Minister issued a series of directives aimed at ensuring swift, coordinated and effective response measures by all the concerned departments.

He instructed the Revenue and line departments to immediately initiate a thorough assessment of

damages, with special attention to loss of life, property, livestock and standing crops. He emphasized the need for assessments to be completed with accuracy and urgency to facilitate timely relief and compensation.

The Rural Development Department, Flood Control Department

and Forest Department were directed to jointly undertake protection and mitigation measures in the vulnerable areas.

The Minister stressed the importance of immediate temporary rehabilitation and financial assistance in accordance with the disaster relief guidelines.

To alleviate immediate suffering, the Minister ordered equitable distribution of essential relief materials, including food, clean drinking water, medicines, blankets and other basic necessities. He called for enhanced coordination among the civil administration, disaster management authorities and local voluntary organizations to strengthen relief efforts.

Reaffirming the Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to the safety, rehabilitation and welfare of every affected citizen, the Minister called for a proactive, coordinated and people-centric approach from all departments. He assured that his office will closely monitor the situation until full restoration and rehabilitation is achieved.

Canal Recharge Halted Post Cloudburst Damage, Restoration Work Initiated

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, AUGUST 18: The authorities have temporarily suspended the recharge of the Main Ravi Canal (MRC) following heavy damage caused by flash flooding triggered by a cloudburst at Jodh Ghatti earlier this week.

According to officials, the canal suffered a major breach near RD 26204m, where excessive rainfall and gushing waters deposited large amounts of silt and debris, severely compromising canal operations. Two critical canal syphons—Janglote syphon at RD 26204m and Kathera syphon at RD 27285m—were completely choked, disrupting the normal flow of water and making recharge operations unsafe.

"Given the extent of the damage, recharge of the MRC is not technically feasible at present. The breach and heavy silt deposition have weakened the structure, posing risks to nearby habitations and standing crops," a communiqué issued by the Executive Engineer, RCC Upper Division Kathua, stated.

A technical team of engineers and field staff has already conducted a site inspection to assess the structural damage. Preliminary reports suggest that extensive restoration work, including de-silting, repair of embankments, and strengthening of the affected syphons, will be required before canal operations can resume.

The damage to the canal has also raised concerns among the farming community in Kathua and adjoining areas, as the Ravi Canal remains a major source of irrigation for large tracts of agricultural land. Farmers have urged the administration to expedite restoration efforts to prevent any adverse impact on the ongoing cropping season.

District authorities assured that repair work will be taken up on war footing, and alternative arrangements for irrigation and water supply are also being explored to minimize hardship to the affected population.

"The safety of nearby communities and the integrity of the infrastructure remain our top priorities. We request public cooperation and patience while restoration work is carried out," the communiqué added.

Meanwhile, the Irrigation & Flood Control Department has initiated a damage assessment survey and will soon prepare a comprehensive action plan for long-term strengthening of canal embankments to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Mission YUVA: Training Imparted to YUVA Doots at Rajouri, Focus on Youth Empowerment & Entrepreneurship

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, AUGUST 18: A Capacity Building Programme for YUVA Doots of Rajouri district was today held in the Dr Raj Kumar Thapa Memorial Conference Hall of PWD Dak Bungalow. The programme was organized under the supervision of District Nodal Officer Mission YUVA (Additional Deputy Commissioner) Chander Prakash and Joint Director Employment Jammu Paramjeet Singh.

The session aimed at equipping YUVA Doots with the skills and knowledge required to act as grassroots ambassadors of Mission YUVA, a flagship initiative designed to promote entrepreneurship, skill development, and employment opportunities among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Deputy Director Employment Mohammad Nawaz Choudhary, in his address, elaborated on the vision and objectives of Mission YUVA. He emphasized that the role of YUVA Doots is not limited to awareness generation but also includes handholding aspiring entrepreneurs, connecting them with financial institutions, and ensuring they can avail benefits under various government schemes. "YUVA Doots must become catalysts of change in every panchayat and block by motivating talented youth to take up entrepreneurship rather than solely depending on government jobs," he said.

District Nodal Officer (ADC) Chander Prakash, while interacting with the participants, stressed the immense responsibility entrusted upon YUVA Doots. He said they must proactively reach out to unemployed and educated youth, organize awareness drives, and extend mentorship. "Your dedication and sincerity will determine the real impact of Mission YUVA. Each success story you help create will inspire dozens of others in the community," he added.

Joint Director Employment Paramjeet Singh Raina urged the YUVA Doots to serve as a bridge between administration and youth, ensuring that the government's employment and self-employment initiatives penetrate to the last mile. "Your role is not only administrative but also motivational.

Commissioner State Taxes inaugurates renovated conference Hall at Excise and Taxation Complex, Jammu

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, AUG 18: Commissioner State Taxes, Jammu and Kashmir, PK Bhat, on Monday inaugurated the newly renovated Conference Hall at the Excise and Taxation Complex, here.

The state-of-the-art facility has been designed to enhance the department's capacity for meetings, training sessions, and official engagements.

Additional Commissioner Administration and Enforcement Jammu, Namrita Dogra, Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Ashima Sher and other officers and officials of the department were present on the occasion.

Following the inauguration, Commissioner PK Bhat addressed the of-



ficers present in the hall, emphasizing the importance of modern infrastructure in fostering efficiency and collaboration within the department. He commended the efforts of all those involved in the renovation project and urged the team to continue their dedication to public service.

Additional Commissioner Nam-

rita Dogra expressed her gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful completion of the renovation. In her vote of thanks, she highlighted the collective effort and commitment that made the upgraded conference hall a reality, noting its significance in supporting the department's operational goals.

DC Inaugurates Knowledge Nexus Library at Doda, Boosts Academic Infrastructure

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, AUGUST 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh today inaugurated the newly established Knowledge Nexus Library at Mandir Gali, Nagri near Government Medical College, marking a milestone in strengthening educational infrastructure in the district.

The newly built library has been equipped with state-of-the-art amenities to create an ideal study environment. It is fully air-conditioned and features comfortable seating, separate study desks, RO mineral water (hot/cold), CCTV surveillance, free Wi-Fi, LED-lit cabins with charging points, seat reservation options, daily newspapers, magazines, religious books, and a canteen facility.

Speaking on the occasion, DC



Harvinder Singh said the initiative was aimed at giving students, researchers, and readers a safe, inclusive, and knowledge-driven space. "This library will become a hub of intellectual activity and will benefit the youth preparing for com-

petitive exams, college students, and general readers alike. It will not only promote reading habits but also help in personality development, career guidance, and building an informed society," he added.

The inauguration was attended

by civil society members, senior officers, SHO, educationists, and local dignitaries, all of whom lauded the district administration for prioritizing knowledge resources alongside physical infrastructure.

Several students present at the event expressed excitement over the facility. "For the first time, we have a library with such modern amenities in Doda. Free Wi-Fi, proper lighting, and a peaceful environment will help us prepare better for exams like UPSC, JKPSC, and NEET," said Shazia Begum, a student preparing for civil services.

The Knowledge Nexus Library is not just limited to books—it also plans to host career counseling sessions, workshops on skill development, motivational talks, group discussions, and reading competitions in the coming months.

The administration is also exploring the idea of introducing a digital library platform to provide access to e-books, journals, and online study materials.

Community leaders at the event hailed the library as a step towards bridging educational gaps in hilly districts like Doda, where students often face challenges due to lack of facilities. They also stressed that such initiatives will discourage migration of students to other towns for study purposes and help retain local talent.

With this launch, Doda has taken a progressive stride toward creating a vibrant academic ecosystem, where knowledge, technology, and community converge. The library is expected to soon emerge as one of the district's most visited educational hubs.

Director Agriculture Jammu Reviews Progress of HADP, NABARD & CSS Projects; Stresses Quality, Timeliness, and Farmer-Centric Delivery

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, AUGUST 18: Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta, today chaired an extensive review meeting in the Directorate's Conference Hall to assess the physical and financial progress under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), NABARD-supported initiatives, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

The review brought together a wide range of stakeholders including Deputy Director (Central) Sanjeev Rai Gupta, Joint Director (Planning) Priyanka Parihar, Regional SMS Sanjay Anand, Chief Agriculture Officers of Udhampur and Poonch, Technical Officer HADP (DAJ), along with other officers and technical experts. CAOs from all other districts of Jammu Division participated virtually.

Key Directives from Director Agriculture

Time-bound execution: All projects and schemes to be completed within set deadlines to



avoid seasonal delays.

Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs): CAOs directed to submit updated reports regularly for effective monitoring.

Transparency: 100% subsidy disbursal through DBT mode to ensure benefits reach farmers without middlemen.

Quality Assurance: Strict adherence to codal formalities and DPR guidelines in all infrastructure works.

Inter-departmental coordination: Stronger synergy with al-

lied departments (Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture) for integrated outcomes.

Focus Areas Discussed
Farmer Training & Awareness: Training programmes, as per the approved training calendar, to be intensified for capacity building in modern farming, climate resilience, and market linkage.

Niche Crop Expansion: Officers directed to identify potential zones for high-value niche crops (like exotic vegeta-

bles, saffron, and specialty pulses) to diversify income sources.

Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (MAPs): Discussion held on developing cluster-based approaches for lavender, lemongrass, and rosemary, aligned with the Aroma Mission, creating opportunities for youth and self-help groups.

Kisan Sathi Portal: Progress of farmer registrations and digital services reviewed; emphasis laid on ensur-

ing 100% coverage of eligible farmers.

Integrated Farming System (IFS):

Project No. 13 under HADP identified as a flagship model to promote crop-livestock-Director's Call for Farmer-Centric Approach

Speaking during the meeting, Director Anil Gupta stressed: "Our work should reflect directly in the lives of farmers. It is not the volume of files or expenditure figures that define

our success, but the enhanced productivity, income, and dignity of the farmer. HADP and CSS are designed to transform rural livelihoods, and we must ensure every farmer feels this change on the ground."

He directed officers to document grassroots success stories of progressive farmers, women SHGs, and youth-led startups to serve as motivation for others. He also encouraged officers to step out of offices and conduct regular field inspections for di-

rect interaction with farmers.

Challenges and Way Forward
While progress has been made in infrastructure development and farmer outreach, challenges such as delayed DPR clearances, erratic rainfall, shortage of field-level manpower, and need for upgraded machinery were highlighted by CAOs.

In response, the Director assured that additional support would be taken up with higher authorities, and departments must utilize convergence opportunities with NABARD, RKVY, and allied schemes for resource optimization.

Looking ahead, Anil Gupta outlined a three-point roadmap: Strengthen Monitoring Mechanisms—Real-time review of works through district dashboards.

Enhance Farmer Participation—Build farmer-producer groups and cooperatives under HADP.

Promote Climate-Smart Agriculture—Integrate water-use efficiency, organic farming, and soil health management into district plans.

HT EDITORIAL

Do something for posterity with respect to environment

A human being is greedy in nature and in order to fulfil his greed he or she can go to any extent. Over the years human beings have caused extensive damage to the environment and they have virtually played with Mother Nature. The consequences of the damages caused to the environment are becoming visible with every passing day. At the end of the day it is the human being that has to bear the brunt of the same.

Day in and day out there are reports of cloud bursts and flash floods from different parts of the country with Jammu & Kashmir being no exception. In the recent past many incidents of cloud burst and flash floods in the union territory have come to the fore. Since a cloud burst is a natural phenomenon no one can stop the same, but one can minimize the damages caused by the same. This needs to be looked into by the common masses as well as by the people at helm.

Over the years the green gold has vanished across the globe and the presence of forests has been reduced to a great extent in Jammu & Kashmir as well. Since the trees have been felled like anything the soil has become loose and caves in even after a slight rainfall. Since a cloud burst brings with it a huge volume of water the soil is not able to absorb the same. As a result of this all the property that comes in the way of water gets washed off.

There have been many instances where people, animals, houses, hotels, commercial establishments and vehicles get washed off as soon as there is a cloud burst. Since time immemorial we have been listening about the importance of ecological balance and maintaining the same at any cost. Since trees have been cut the mountains and hillocks have been taken over by the people. Constructions have come up and as such the ecological balance has been disturbed. Once the weather turns adverse then the people come to know about their follies.

A lot of talk has been going on about afforestation and the experts have been urging the people to plant more and more trees. It has been observed that the plantation of trees has become symbolic with people more interested in publicity rather than real work. It is imperative that the corrective measures are taken so that some sanity is restored with respect to the environment.

Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group:
Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi),
Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor:
Syed Jahangir Bukhari,
Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio
Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora
Srinagar -190017,
Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad
Cell No - 9697071471,
Editorial Section: 7006846797,
Multimedia Section: 9419008414,
Advertisement Section: 9697071471
RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231

BOOKS PEEKING AT: READING S. MASHOOQ'S KITABAYN JHANKTI HAIN



■ Dr. Areef Jamaei

Reading a book is indeed a cherishing experience. It is not just a good habit to pass one's time in the companionship of books. It is actually benefitting from the experience of the author in some sittings on which the author spends decades together. So, a book nourishes the reader by enriching her/his thoughts. The reader's worldview is enlivened by the stream of new thoughts which penetrate the reader's mind. It is, as such, a transfer of knowledge from the author to the reader. It doesn't, however, mean that the reader accepts everything which s/he receives from the writer. The content rather raises her/his level of information and awareness. As such, the reader gets more opportunities for picking up better choices which s/he comes through.

By making a critique of the authors' content, the reader actually tries to pick up the right things therefrom. The content thus sifted and analyzed is thus rendered more beneficial for the readers in general. Even if the reader rejects or doesn't accept some of the writer's thoughts, it is still a learning process for the reader because by going through the text the reader is exposed to some different outlook other than her/his own. This exposure leads the reader to see the reality vis-à-vis different aspects of life through different angles and s/he, as such, doesn't remain confined to a monolithic idea regarding life.

A voracious reader with an appetite of literary criticism is very soon compelled to put forth her/his feedback on the content which s/he goes through. Banking upon the sources/content s/he has at hand, such a reader, it is but natural, is "instinctively" led to authorship. It in no way means that s/he just "vomits" whatever s/he comes across. Such a reader, actually, relates to his life experience whatever s/he reads. It is by combining her/his creative prowess with the content which s/he reads that s/he starts contributing to the literary-cum-creative field.

Our author, S. Mashooq Ahmad, has been fortunate enough that he has been a dedicated reader since his student days at Kashmir University. It is his aptitude as a serious reader that has helped him to appear as a unique literary critic and a promising essayist. Prior to the book under review, he has been successful in putting forth three books, viz., Mayn Nay Daikha, Dabistan-i Kashmir Kay Roshan Sitaray and Kotahiyan. This book, Kitabayn Jhankti Hain (Books Peeking At) is his fourth presentation.

This 188-page book has been published by GNK Publications, Kashmir in 2024. After his Apni Baat (Preface) in the beginning, in which the author says that the book includes "reviews on collections of poetry, essays, short stories, mini fiction and literary criticism," (p. 8) there is an introduction of the book by famous Iqbal Studies expert and renowned novelist, Dr. Riyaz Tauhidi Kashmiri entitled Kitabayn Jhankti Hayn: Mutala'i Kutub Ki Mufid Jankari (Kitabayn Jhankti Hain: A Beautiful Guide to Book Reading).

The introduction is followed by thirty reviews of different books consisting of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Writing about Muhammad Asadullah's Hawa'yan, our author writes that "contrary to the critics who echoed the slogan of literature for the sake of literature and literature for life, Muhammad Asadullah gave the slogan of literature for Radio!" (p. 14) This collection, according to our author, "is loaded with humour," and "as radio talks, bear the quality of direct conversation, which is the basic quality of an essay." (p. 13)

Next review is on Noor Shah's



Kaisa Hai Yaihi Junun. Noor Shah, we know, is Valley's reputed short story writer, besides being a novelist, sketch writer, dramatist, mini fiction writer, translator and film feature writer. Kaisa Hai Yaihi Junun, according to our writer, "is a bouquet of short stories, mini fiction, radio dramas, film features and translations." (p. 18) Another write-up presents an analysis of Munawwar Osmani's Front Seat, a collection of his nineteen essays with Front Seat as the first essay of the collection. (p. 28) With Front Seat as the central theme or face of the collection, our author declares the writer "full of prospects and opportunities and successful among the contemporary essayists." (p. 31)

Intibaq: Aik Mukhtasar Ja'izah is a review of Nisar Ahmad Siddiqui's collection of sixteen interviews published in 2022. These interviews, according to our author, is a beautiful presentation about the life and literary output of different poets, litterateurs and critics of Pakistan in the form of interviews covering all the facets of their lives. (pp. 32-33)

Another review presents an introduction of Ali Shaida's La Bah La, which is the third collection of his poems published in 2020. According to our author, "La Bah La sums up the conditions of separation, reunion, deep feelings, sentiments, sincerity, breach of trust and the time spent by the poet in intoxicating experience of love!" (p. 37) Ahsas wa Idrak ka Mauzu'ati Ja'izah sums up yet another poetic genre, Ruba'i (Quatrain). Ahsas wa Idrak is actually a selection of 245 quatrains of Dr. Maqbool Ahmad Maqbool published in 2015. These quatrains, as per S. Mashooq, put forth multiple meanings. The poet sometimes, in a didactic tune, "gives lessons of self assessment and introspection, while as at other occasions, adores money more than position, status, religion and morals!" (p. 46) The poet, our author says, "sometimes cautions (the reader) and sometimes advises us to become pious and good!" (p. 50)

Our author has next reviewed Hissar of Rahim Rahbar, published in 2018. The short stories in the collection "have variation with religion with all its symbolism." (p. 54) Besides, "there are some allegorical stories, such as, Namrud, Habil, Nag Phuni, Hissar, Kahani aik Raat ki and Sang Tarash." (p. 54) The author had next reviewed Zahid Mukhtar's Dastak Si Dil Par which contains thirty-six editorials abs one interview. According to our author, "the writer sometimes yearns to come out of all relations, helplessness and responsibilities and sometimes confesses that everything couldn't be

made open." (p. 58)

The analysis of Mushtaq Mahdi's Aangan Mayn Woh, published by Mahdi Publications, Mallabagh, Hazratbal has brought forth "the artful presentation of the real condition of people with all its agonies, issues, anxieties and sorrows." (p. 65) While reviewing Nishat Yasmin Khan's Amman Namah, published in 2017, the author says that "the writer has emerged as a successful story teller who has succeeded in exploring every title she has chosen." (p. 69) In Dr. Muhammad Shafi Ayaz's Kharafat, published in 2021, as per our author, "there is humorous style pointing towards social evils and there is also a reference towards many a beneficial practice." (p. 74)

Our author has termed Iqbal Hasan Azad as Ahsas Ka Fankar while reviewing his short story collection Qatrah Qatrah Ahsas. This collection, according to our author, "has come to fore after the writer has penned down others' restlessness, anxiety and feeling." (p. 77) While reviewing Kachoo Asfandiyar Khan's Parkalah-i Guftar, published in 2022, our author is of the view that "these essays point towards all those evils which humans are stuck in and, ironically, many of the virtues which humans should have been bestowed with are shown as the qualities of beasts." (p. 82)

The author has also presented an analysis of Dr. Riyaz Tauhidi Kashmiri's Ma'asir Urdu Afsanah: Tafhim wa Tajziyah, Vol. II. The author has put the writer in the category of "good critics who don't thrust their views on their readers." (p. 86) While presenting his views on Dr. Nazir Mush-taq's Tinkay, published in 2021, the author says that "Dr. Mushtaq has constructed the edifice of his stories from (the creative bits of) straw (creative thought) which introduce the reader's to a vast creative world." (p. 92) About Raja Yusuf's Naqsh-i Faryadi, with thirty-three short stories and twenty-seven micro-fiction, the author is of the view that "the collection gives a vivid presentation of Kashmir's scenic beauty, her mountains, her waterfalls, her crystal clear water and her beautiful spots with its recent sorrowful state of affairs in a beautiful allegorical style!" (p. 98)

Writing about Bashir Shakir's Gulrang, a collection of articles, reviews and overviews and published in 2022, our author says that "the study of the collection reveals that the writer has been much influenced by Allama Iqbal and Akbar Hydari." (p. 105) About 'Umair Ahmad's Pir-i Kamil, our author is of the view that "the novel is a comparison of right and wrong; a priority;

a (path) selected to tread upon! Here is spirituality, reform, path of virtue, confidence and proof-based reasoning; where neither confidence could be broken nor proofs could be rejected." (p. 107) In Tariq Shabnam's Gumshudah Daulat, published in 2020, our author "finds the story back which has been lost by modern short story, (and here the reader) gets lost in the world weaved by Tariq Shabnam." (p. 110) Ashok Patwari's Salwatayn, published in 2023, according to our author, "highlights the writer's attachment with Kashmir; its memories; Kashmiri Pandits' migration and the wounds of this migration; and a picture of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood (in Kashmir)!" (p. 117)

While writing his views about Dr. Altaf Hussain Yatoo's Tajalliyat-i MA'rifat, published in 2023, our author writes "Dr. Altaf has dived deep in the ocean of wisdom and has emerged with pearls (of wisdom) therefrom and has made a rosary therewith." (p. 121) About Dr. Faridah Tabassum's Naqsh-i Tanqid, published in 2022, our author says that "women are not too far behind in Urdu literary criticism. They can rather perform great feats in the field." (p. 124) Our author declares Dr. Gulzar Wani's Gard-i Safar "such a collection of poems in which there is no inclusion of any ghazal which, in itself, is quite unique keeping in view the popularity of ghazal in Urdu." (p. 129)

Next, there is a review of a book by Dr. Faiz Qaziabadi on a contemporary Iqbal Studies expert, Prof. Bashir Ahmad Nahvi. The peculiarity of the book, according to our author, is that "it is a tribute to a teacher who is alive" (p. 133) and "the book is very important vis-à-vis Prof. Nahvi's life and his contribution to Iqbal Studies." (p. 140) Our author has next given a review of Tayyib Furqani's book on Ibn Safi which "presents an overview of Ibn Safi's characters, their background, their natural style, their influence on literature and readers, their importance and their detailed and critical analysis." (p. 146) Another review included in the collection is on Dr. Falak Feroz's book Husn-i Intikhab. However, the book, according to our author "comes under the category of articles or columns instead of essays." (p. 147)

Tayyib Ahsan Tabish's collection of articles, Tu Tu Mayn Mayn, as per our author "presents a gift of humour for the readers." (p. 152) together "with polished satire that don't injure the reader!" (p. 155) Our author has put Gawi of Ruqayyah Jamal "in the category of mini-stories with no new story-line which are prevalent among literary novices!" (p. 156) Presenting a brief review of the edited work of Zahid Zafar on Tarannum Riyaz's short stories, our author is of the opinion that "every reviewer has endeavoured her/his level best to present different aspects of the writer's short stories and the literary intricacies therein." (p. 165) Our author has concluded the review section of his book with Abba Piyaray of Shama Akhtar Ansari and Asma Akhtar Ansari, daughter of Akhtar Hussain Ansari. Actually a tribute to a father, the book, as per our author "is a must read in an age when parents are ill-treated during life and forgotten altogether after death." (p. 168)

Adbi Ma'shoqiyyat, containing introduction of our author's three books, is the concluding section of the book. Here, Dr. Shabnam Afsha, Dr. Altaf Hussain Yatoo and Prof. Rafi Haidar Anjum have respectively reviewed our author's Mayn Nay Daikha, Dabistan-i Kashmir Kay Roshan Sitaray and Kotahiyan.

The review collection of S. Mashooq, as such, serves literature in two ways around: one, introducing literature to the lovers of literature and two, introducing the lovers of literature to literature. Our author thus is "one man, two mission!"

The author is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies at GDC Sogam. Feedback: alhussain5161@gmail.com

LITERATURE

Jane Eyre:

The Struggle For Identity & Independence

By: Charlotte Bronte



■ Nasir Ali

Abstract

The aim of this essay is to examine Jane's personal progress through the novel *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. It addresses the issue of personal development in relation to social position in England during the nineteenth century. The essay follows Jane's personal journey and quest for independence, equality, self-worth and love from a Marxist perspective. In the essay close reading is also applied as a complementary theory. Keywords: Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte, personal progress, nineteenth-century.

Jane Eyre is considered a feminist novel primarily for the ways in which Jane's character challenges the norms of Victorian society. As a young girl, she struggles to fit in with the other children in her household, and as she grows up, she continues to yearn for independence from traditional ideas of Victorian womanhood. Jane provides reflective commentary on gender roles throughout the novel, arguing that women, who experience the same range of feelings as men, are forced to lead unfairly restrictive lives. She refuses to accept this fate, however, by continually asserting her freedom, emphasizing her value as an individual, and choosing to walk away from marrying Rochester. Although Jane does marry Rochester in the end, the fact that marriage is not her ultimate goal and that she returns to him on her own terms gives Jane Eyre a distinctly feminist quality.

When the novel begins, the title character is a 10-year-old orphan who lives with her uncle's family; her parents had died of typhus. Other than the nursemaid, the family ostracizes Jane. She is later sent to the austere Lowood Institution, a charity school, where she and the other girls are mistreated; "Lowood," as the name suggests, is the "low" point in Jane's young life. In the face of such adversity, however, she gathers strength and confidence.

In early adulthood, after several years as a student and then teacher at Lowood, Jane musters the courage to leave. She finds work as a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she meets her dashing and Byronic employer, the wealthy and impetuous Edward Rochester. At Thornfield Jane looks after young Adèle, the daughter of a French dancer who was one of Rochester's mistresses, and is befriended by the kindly housekeeper Mrs. Alice Fairfax. Jane falls in love with Rochester, though he is expected to marry the snobbish and socially prominent Blanche Ingram. Rochester eventually reciprocates Jane's feelings and proposes marriage. However, on their wedding day, Jane discovers that Rochester cannot legally marry her, because he already has a wife, Bertha Mason,

who has gone mad and is locked away on the third floor because of her violent behaviour; her presence explains the strange noises Jane has heard in the mansion. Believing that he was tricked into that marriage, Rochester feels justified in pursuing his relationship with Jane. He pleads with her to join him in France, where they can live as husband and wife despite the legal prohibitions, but Jane refuses on principle and flees Thornfield.

Jane is taken in by people she later discovers are her cousins. One of them is St. John, a principled clergyman. He gives her a job and soon proposes marriage, suggesting that she join him as a missionary in India. Jane initially agrees to leave with him but not as his wife. However, St. John pressures her to reconsider his proposal, and a wavering Jane finally appeals to Heaven to show her what to do. Just then, she hears a mesmeric call from Rochester. Jane returns to Thornfield to find the estate burned, set on fire by Rochester's wife, who then jumped to her death. Rochester, in an attempt to save her, was blinded. Reunited, Jane and Rochester marry. Rochester later regains some of his sight, and the couple have a son.

The *Jane Eyre* book is celebrated as a literary classic for its profound contribution to literature and society. Charlotte Brontë's exploration of themes like individuality, morality, and gender equality was groundbreaking in Victorian England. By presenting Jane as a strong, self-reliant heroine, the novel challenges societal norms and sets a precedent for character-driven storytelling, blending Gothic elements with emotional depth.

KEY EVENTS AND TURNING POINTS

The *Jane Eyre* book is marked by pivotal events that shape Jane's journey and character. It begins with her harrowing childhood at Gateshead, where she suffers abuse from her aunt and cousins. A key turning point occurs when Jane boldly confronts her aunt, demanding justice for her mistreatment, and is subsequently sent to Lowood School.

At Lowood, Jane endures harsh conditions but finds solace in the friendship of Helen Burns and guidance from Miss Temple. Helen's tragic death leaves a lasting impression on Jane, teaching her resilience and faith. After completing her education, Jane becomes a governess at Thornfield Hall, where her encounter with the enigmatic Mr. Rochester marks a pivotal turning point in her life, forcing her to navigate love, uncover hidden truths, and confront her evolving sense of identity and independence.

Their growing connection leads to a proposal, but the discovery of Mr. Rochester's secret — his wife, Bertha Mason, hidden in Thornfield's attic — forces Jane to leave, prioritizing her moral principles and independence.

After wandering destitute, Jane finds refuge with the Rivers family, who later reveal themselves as her cousins. Jane inherits a substantial fortune, securing her financial independence and reinforcing her autonomy. A pivotal moment occurs when she feels an inexplicable



JANE EYRE

The Original 1847 Edition With Complete Illustrations
(A Classic Illustrated Novel of Charlotte Brontë)

CHARLOTTE BRONTË

pull towards Rochester, prompting her return to Thornfield. There, she discovers the estate has been destroyed by fire, a tragedy that forever alters their lives.

In the ruins, she discovers a humbled, blind Mr. Rochester, whose wife perished in the blaze. Their reunion signifies mutual growth, love, and equality, culminating in their marriage. These *Jane Eyre* book moments highlight themes of resilience, morality, and the enduring quest for identity and belonging.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF JANE EYRE

Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, first published in 1847, remains one of the most influential novels in English literature, not merely because of its story but because of its unique voice and radical themes for the time. It is more than a romance; it is a powerful exploration of morality, independence, class, and the struggle for female identity in a patriarchal world. Through the character of Jane Eyre, Brontë created a heroine who was at once ordinary and extraordinary, embodying both the constraints of her time and the yearning for freedom that transcends centuries.

At its core, the novel is a bildungsroman—a coming-of-age story that follows

Jane from her troubled childhood to her maturity as a woman. What makes Jane's journey compelling is her constant struggle between passion and principle. Raised as an orphan in a hostile household and later educated in a strict institution, she develops a fierce sense of self-worth that guides her throughout the novel. Unlike many heroines of Victorian fiction who are defined by beauty, wealth, or social status, Jane is plain, poor, and socially insignificant. Yet Brontë turns these supposed disadvantages into strengths, allowing Jane's moral integrity and inner strength to shine more brightly than any external charm.

The novel also challenges the rigid social hierarchy of Victorian England. Jane's relationship with Mr. Rochester is a striking example of this tension. On the surface, Rochester embodies the typical male authority figure: wealthy, commanding, and deeply flawed. Yet Jane refuses to be reduced to a subordinate in their relationship. Her insistence on equality—declaring that they are "equal, as we are"—was revolutionary in a period when women were expected to submit quietly to male authority. Brontë uses this relationship not only as a love story but also as a symbolic battle

for recognition and dignity.

Another critical dimension of *Jane Eyre* lies in its exploration of religion. The novel presents multiple models of religious practice: the cold and hypocritical Mr. Brocklehurst, the self-denying Helen Burns, the devout yet rigid St. John Rivers, and Jane herself, who develops a more personal, balanced spirituality. Through these contrasting figures, Brontë critiques extremes of both hypocrisy and fanaticism, while upholding a vision of faith rooted in compassion, integrity, and freedom of conscience.

Equally significant is the novel's Gothic atmosphere. From the mysterious Thornfield Hall to the eerie figure of Bertha Mason, the "madwoman in the attic," Brontë weaves supernatural elements with psychological depth. Bertha Mason, in particular, has become a subject of critical debate. Some view her as a symbol of Rochester's moral corruption or as Jane's dark double, representing the suppressed rage and desires of Victorian women. Later feminist critics, most notably Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar in *The Madwoman in the Attic*, argued that Bertha embodies the silenced female voice and the destructive consequences of repression. In this sense, *Jane Eyre* becomes not just Jane's personal story but also a broader commentary on the condition of women in the 19th century.

Yet, despite its progressive themes, the novel is not free from criticism. The depiction of Bertha as a Creole woman has been read as reinforcing colonial stereotypes. The narrative largely sidelines her humanity, presenting her as a monstrous obstacle rather than a fully realized character. This reflects the imperialist attitudes of the era and complicates the novel's feminist reputation. While Jane demands equality for herself, her sympathy does not extend to Bertha, raising questions about the limits of Brontë's vision of justice.

Ultimately, the enduring power of *Jane Eyre* lies in its ability to blend the personal and the universal. Jane's story is deeply intimate—her voice draws the reader into her emotions, her doubts, and her triumphs—yet it also resonates with broader struggles for freedom, equality, and self-definition. Brontë's genius was to create a heroine who insists on the right to feel, to think, and to choose for herself, even when such claims seemed audacious in Victorian society.

Jane Eyre is not just a romantic novel but a profound work of moral and social critique. It confronts the limitations imposed on women, questions class and religious orthodoxy, and experiments with Gothic and realist traditions. Jane's unwavering demand to be recognized as an equal human being makes her one of the most inspiring heroines in English literature. More than 175 years after its publication, the novel continues to speak to readers, reminding us that the quest for dignity and independence remains as urgent today as it was in Brontë's time.

The writer is a PG in English Literature/ PGD In Journalism & Mass comm. He can be reached at nasirali440@gmail.com

Student Life: A Journey of Growth and Discovery



■ Suresh Kumar

Student life is a unique and transformative phase in a person's life. It's a period filled with learning, challenges, friendships, and self-discovery. Whether in school or university, student life lays the

foundation for one's future — both personally and professionally.

One of the most defining features of student life is the pursuit of knowledge. Students attend classes, complete assignments, and prepare for exams. While academics are important, student life is not only about textbooks and lectures. It also includes participation in extracurricular activities like sports, music, art, and student organizations, which help in developing confidence, leadership, and teamwork skills.

Friendships made during this time often last a lifetime. From



group study sessions to sharing meals and late-night talks, the

bonds formed during student life play a key role in emotional support

and growth.

However, student life also

comes with challenges. Managing time, dealing with peer pressure, meeting academic expectations, and sometimes being away from home can be overwhelming. But these experiences teach resilience, discipline, and independence.

In the end, student life is a journey — not just of academic growth, but of becoming a more capable and confident individual. It's a time to explore passions, learn from mistakes, and shape dreams into goals.

skwadhw321@gmail.com

Meditation: Science, Medicine and the Path to the Spiritual Enlightenment



■ **Surinderpal Singh**

The Meditation was once considered a purely spiritual discipline has now gained recognition within modern medicine and neuroscience. In the modern era of science and technology meditation has emerged as a powerful tool for uplifting the mental and physical well-being of the humans. The roots of meditation are rooted in ancient traditions of different religions and nowadays this technique has adapted into manifold of various secular practices. The meditation involves conscious regulation of attention, awareness and breathing practice. Nowadays it is practiced across the globe for stress reduction, emotional balance, improved cognitive functioning and spiritual growth.

SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL BASIS OF MEDITATION

The advances in the field of neuroimaging, psychophysiology and medical research have revealed about how meditation is positively affecting the physical body and mind:

Neurological Changes:

Functional MRI and EEG studies has shown that meditation enhances activity in the prefrontal cortex, anterior cingulate cortex and hippocampus which are specialized areas associated with attention, learning and memory.

Stress Response Regulation:

The Meditation reduces activation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, lowering cortisol (the stress hormone). This translates into better resilience against anxiety and depression.

Autonomic Nervous System Balance:
The Meditation practices like mindfulness and transcendental meditation increases the parasympathetic activity (rest-and-digest mode), leading to lower heart rate, improved digestion and reduced blood pressure.

Inflammation and Immunity:

The regular meditation lowers inflammatory markers (e.g., C-reactive protein, IL-6) and boosts immune system function which further aids in prevention of various physical and psychological diseases.

MEDICAL BENEFITS OF MEDITATION

1. Mental Health

Meditation helps in reducing the symptoms of anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. It helps in enhancing the focus, memory and creativity. Meditation further plays a vital role in improving the emotional stability and resilience.

2. Physical Health

The Meditation helps in decreasing the risk of hypertension and cardiovascular disease.

It can improve the sleep quality and reduces the problem of insomnia. The meditation alleviates chronic pain by modulating pain perception pathways.

3. Lifestyle and Behavioral Benefits

The Meditation is a best tool to enhance self-control which further results in aiding the drug addiction recovery. It also promotes healthy aging by preserving telomere length (associated with cellular longevity). It also encourages mindful eating, weight management and lifestyle

balance.

TECHNIQUES OF THE MEDITATION

Meditation is not a single practice but a broad spectrum of combined techniques each with unique physiological and psychological effects:

1. Mindfulness Meditation

This technique focuses on non-judgmental awareness of the present moment. It helps in breaking the cycle of automatic negative thought patterns.

2. Transcendental Meditation

This method of meditation uses silent repetition of a mantra to reach deep relaxation. It promotes alpha and theta brain wave activity.

3. Loving-Kindness Meditation

This is a unique style of meditation which cultivates compassion and empathy toward oneself and others. Thus this technique enhances social connectedness and reduces hostility.

4. Breath-Based Meditation

Breath based meditation involves rhythmic breathing techniques which balances sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous activity.

5. Zen Meditation

This particular method is rooted in Zen Buddhism and this system emphasizes posture and open monitoring. It also encourages deep calmness and awareness of existence.

6. Yoga Nidra

This is a special guided meditation way leading to conscious relaxation and helps in achieving the state of trance. It also helps to improve sleep and mental clarity.

WAYS OF PRACTISING MEDITATION

1. Posture:

Meditation depends upon the position of an individual and it can be practiced

while sitting cross-legged on a chair with a straight spine or lying down.

2. Environment:

Quiet space, minimal distractions, preferably with natural light or calm surroundings are the minimal basic requirements for meditation.

3. Focus Point:

One needs to concentrate on the breath, mantra, visualization or bodily sensations while practicing meditation.

4. Consistency:

Daily practice is more effective than occasional long sessions.

5. Guidance:

Beginners may benefit a lot from guided meditation apps, teachers or group practices.

URATION OF MEDITATION

Beginners:

For the beginners 5–10 minutes daily is sufficient to build habit.

Intermediate:

The individuals who have some practice of meditation should opt for 20–30 minutes practice twice daily is recommended in many traditions.

Advanced/Spiritual Practitioners:

1–2 hours of daily practice that is often broken into sessions is recommended for the spiritual practitioners that can lead them to profound transformations.

Scientific Evidence:

The various scientific surveys and researches have suggested that even 20 minutes/day for 8 weeks mindfulness practice can impart measurable brain changes.

SCOPE OF MEDITATION

Despite of vast medical benefits meditation has a transcendental dimension. Ancient trends and traditions has described the meditation as a gateway to:

1. Self-Realization –

It helps the individuals to have direct experience of one's consciousness beyond the domains of the mind-body identity.

2. Transcendence of Ego –

Liberation from fear, attachment, and suffering.

3. Union with Universal Consciousness –

Described as Samadhi, Nirvana, or Moksha, where the meditator experiences oneness with all existence.

4. Higher Human Potential –

Intuition, compassion, wisdom, and creativity blossom when the mind is calm and clear.

5. Integration with Modern Science

Neuroscience continues to explore how meditative states correspond to altered states of consciousness, opening pathways for bridging spirituality and cognitive science.

Meditation is a tool which has combined the essence of science, medicine and spirituality. It's special ability to improve physical health, mental balance and emotional well-being is now fully recognised by the scientific evidences. The major contribution of meditation is to help individuals transcend limitations and discover inner peace and that helps in moving and individual toward spiritual enlightenment. In the era marked with the changing scenario of the world in the field medical therapy, educational systems and daily life, meditation should not be treated as personal practice rather it should be considered as a social tool for cultivating global harmony and collective well-being.

The author is a Faculty in Science Department at Sri Amritsar Sahib Pubjab

HEADLINES TODAY INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS

Are you a writer, poet, storyteller, columnist, or feature writer with a passion for literature or health writings? Headlines Today offers a platform to share:

Literature Section: Well-crafted essays, literary articles, reflections, and creative writings.

Health Section: Well-researched articles, expert columns, and in-depth feature reports from professionals and specialists.

Send your contributions to:

Dr Basharat Khan

Honorary Editor: Literature & Health Sections (HT) at

chogalwriter76@gmail.com

YOUR WORDS CAN INSPIRE, INFORM, AND IGNITE; LET THEM BE HEARD.



IT'S TIME TO ACT – SAY NO TO DRUGS, SAY YES TO HEALTHY FUTURE!

Youth are the backbone of our society. Let's unite to eliminate the curse of drug addiction once and for all. Together, we can build a healthier, stronger, and addiction-free tomorrow.

LET'S PLEDGE TODAY – TO STAND UNITED AGAINST DRUG ABUSE. An awareness initiative by



Space Devoted in Public Interest by HEADLINES TODAY

DR. SAJAD AHMAD PALLA
MBBS, DNB (Medicine)
Specialist Physician - Comprehensive Adult Care
✓ Expertise in:
• Hypertension (High BP)
• Diabetes & Metabolic Disorders
• Thyroid Illnesses
• Respiratory & Lung Diseases
• General Internal Medicine
OPD Timings:
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM • 10:00 AM
Location: Khaliq Medicate, Near Postoffice, Tangmarg Bus Stand
Compassionate Care - Accurate Diagnosis - Patient-Centered Treatment
Book your appointment now! +91 98 58 55 607 +91 7780 895 122

SHIFA MEDICAL CENTRE
Detect Early Signs of Heart Attack
Get a checkup with the best Cardiologist of Valley
☎ 7051022389
DR TARIQ RASHID
Director & Head, Department of Cardiology
Dr. Qasim International Cardiology
MBBS, MD (DM) (SMA)
GOLD MEDALIST
10+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
5000+ SUCCESSFUL CARDIAC INTERVENTIONS
OPD Timings 4PM - 7PM Hospital Location Shifa Hospital Magamul bagh Srinagar

KASHMIR'S HEART IS IN GOOD CARE!
Experienced Cardiologists, World-Class Facilities
Treatment For:
• Angina • Valve Stenosis
• Heart Attack • Block in Heart (PADA, BDA)
• Heart Failure • Arrhythmia
CALL TO KNOW MORE 1800 889 8984
Free Angioplasty through Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana
Ujala Cygnus KASHMIR
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

Now don't worry about the cost of treatment
Book an appointment 18008898984
Facilities available
• Angiography
• Angioplasty
• Percutaneous
Free Angioplasty by Ayushman Bharat / Golden card
All TPA panel facilities, CGHS, ECHS & SGHS card applicable

Medanta Mediconsult Centre
NEURO OPD
Dr. Jyoti Sehgal
Director
Neurology
Institute of Neurosciences
Symptoms:
• Paralysis
• Loss of Memory
• Back Pain
• Epilepsy
• Neuralgia
• Numbness in Hand and Feet
• Parkinson's Disease
• Headache
• Sleeplessness / Insomnia
Wednesday, 23rd July 2025
9:30Am to 1:30Pm
Venue: 30A, AIO Green Belt,
(Opp. Hotel Asia-Bandh HP Petrol Pump),
Gandhi Nagar, Jammu-180004
☎ 96222 00900 / 94191 91439

Dr. Sheikh Mustafa
M.B.B.S, MD (OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY)
Former Associate Professor GMC Srinagar
Fellowship reproductive health & research
(Geneva Switzerland)
Available At
RADIOCARE
Imaging & Diagnostic Centre
☎ 8082641411 radiocareimaging@gmail.com
Nowpora Bandipora Gurez Road Near Board Office

DR. SANJEED SULTAN KAWOOSA
(MBBS, MD DGO)
SENIOR CONSULTANT GYNAECOLOGIST & OBSTETRICIAN
(Reg. No.: 23527)
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION ON:
DAY: Saturday
TIME: From 4:00 PM onwards
VENUE: Mediwave Chemists & Druggists,
Near J&K Bank, Gulmarg,
Kreeri
For prior appointments,
Kindly contact:
7006441407
9797080837
YOUR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ARE OUR PRIORITY.

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR **Heart Health?**
HEALTHY HEART PACKAGE ₹999/-
• Lipid Profile • ECG
• Cardiac Consultation • TMT / ECHO
Book an Appointment

Dr Lal PathLabs
Book Your Full Body Health Check-up
SwasthFit
₹ 699/-*
₹ 1820/-
30 PARAMETERS COVERED
Glucose Fasting, Uric Acid, Creatinine, Cholesterol, Complete Blood Count, TSH Ultra-Sensitive

ESSCO PLACEMENTS PVT. LTD
Your Future begins here
ADMISSION Open
Study In BANGLADESH!
✓ MBBS / BDS / Engineering / Other Professional Courses
✓ Top Government & Private Universities
✓ Hassle-free Admission Process
✓ Visa, Documentation & Travel Assistance
✓ 100% Genuine Consultancy – Trusted by Thousands
Why Choose Us?
• Guaranteed Admissions in Top Govt. & Private Universities
• Full Support with Visa, Documentation & Travel
• Affordable Fee Structures
• Experienced & Trusted Consultancy
Apply Early to Secure Your Spot!
Visit us today and take the first step towards a brighter future!
For More Details, Contact Us Now:
Umer Abad, Zainkote, HMT, Sgr.
7006710373 - 7051779981
info@esscoplacements.com, esscoplacements@gmail.com
www.esscoplacements.com

DC Srinagar conducts review meeting of DDMA on preparedness & mitigation measures of the district administration

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: In the wake of inclement weather forecast, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess preparedness of concerned departments.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner/CEO DDMA Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Director Meteorological Centre, Mukhtar Ahmad, SP Headquarters, Umar Shah, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineers of R&B, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers of PDD, R&B, I&FC, all Tehsiladars, Block Development Officers and officers of other concerned departments were present in meeting.

At the outset, the chairman DDMA/DC stressed on utmost co-ordination among line Departments and ensuring a robust disaster mitigation plan to swiftly respond



to any exigent situation, if any, in the District. He directed the officers to remain in a state of readiness by mobilising all men and machinery on ground particularly at vulnerable spots to avoid any loss of human lives or property damages.

The Chairman DDMA/DC laid emphasis on round the clock monitoring of areas vulnerable to possible inclement weather and ensuring timely dissemination of information among the people so that people are updated about the evolving situation well in time.

He emphasized departments to remain on alert mode and ensure close liaison with the local communities, field staff and Police for strengthening on ground communication during this period. He emphasized the importance of preemptive action and asked officials to keep their ground staff on alert mode well in advance.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the existing response strategies of line departments and called for enhanced coordination to ensure a prompt and effective response in case of any exigency.

DC Kupwara hands over sanction letters to 48 beneficiaries under Mission Yuva

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, AUGUST 18: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse today handed-over sanction letters among 48 beneficiaries for establishing their own business ventures under different sectors, in a function at Conference Hall D. C Office, here.

ADDC Kupwara, Mufti Fareed ud din; Lead District Manager, Tanveer Ahmad; Cluster Head, Branch Heads of J&K Bank and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

The Deputy Commissioner while interacting with the beneficiaries, expressed his good wishes to them for establishing their own business ventures. He urged the beneficiaries to utilize the loan amount prudentially for their overall success in the field.

The DC directed the Bank officials to ensure speedy disposal of the cases under Mission Yuva so that maximum unemployed youth can get benefitted under the programme throughout the district.

Meanwhile, sanction letters amounting to Rs.3.25 crore were provided to 48 beneficiaries on the spot who shall establish their income generating units under various sectors.

These sectors include Dairy, Retail, Computer & IT, Pharmaceuticals and Medical and others.

It was informed that 155 sanction letters commensurating Rs.9.60 crore have



been distributed till date among the youth for starting their business ventures under the Mission Yuva.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a review meeting on Mission YUVA in which 563 cases were approved by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC).

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Mufti Fareed Ud Din, AD Employment, LDM Kupwara, and officials from the Employment Department, District Industries Centre Kupwara, and other concerned.

Mission YUVA is a flagship initiative aimed at empowering and facilitating youth towards self-employment and entrepreneurial ventures, thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities across the district.

PCCF conducts extensive tour of Forest Divisions of North Kashmir

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force (HOFF), J&K, S K Gupta carried an extensive tour of various Forest Divisions of North Kashmir during which he inspected ongoing construction work of Forest Check Post at Trumgund near Hygam in JV Forest Division, Baramulla where he directed for completion of remaining works and making FCP functional at earliest.

He also inspected Reshwari Forest Rest House (FRH), in Mawar Range of Langate Forest Division where he also convened a review meeting of all Divisional Forest Officers from the Circle. The officials on the occasion presented detailed report on ongoing forestry works.

PCCF also assessed several key infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing the visitor experience in the Bungus Valley.

He inspected newly constructed Bungus Visitor Centre, a state-of-the-art facility designed to provide information on the valley's rich biodiversity and ecotourism opportunities.

Gupta also checked the camping site, view points, walking trails and newly built block officer's hut and a modern wayside amenity developed by Forest Department.

Further, PCCF also inaugurated and dedicated to public a 20 km trek route connecting Badi Behak - Duddi - Lashar - Bangus. The route has been developed in three phases from Badi Behak to Duddi Behak (8 km), Duddi to Lashar Valley (4 km), Lashar Valley to Bangus (8 km).

The initiative aims at positioning Bangus as a model off-beat eco-tourism destination, thereby attracting nature enthusiasts and adventure tourists.

Javid Dar visits Saffron belt, assures support for growers

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PAMPORE, AUGUST 18: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayat, Javid Ahmad Dar, today visited the saffron belt of Lethpora, Chandhara and Khrew in Pampore, Pulwama district, to engage with the saffron growers and reaffirm the government's commitment to their welfare.

The visit underscores the government's dedication towards preserving and promoting Kashmir's iconic saffron industry.

During his visit, Agriculture Minister interacted with the saffron growers and took stock of their issues and concerns. These included irrigation challenges, real estate pressures and the need for modern agricultural technologies. He assured immediate redressal

of their issues and emphasized the government's efforts to strengthen the saffron sector through targeted interventions.

Javid Dar also attended a training program at the India International Kashmir Saffron Trading Centre (IIKSTC) in Dussu, where he addressed the saffron growers, highlighting the importance of saffron as a cultural and economic asset.

The event was graced by the presence of MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi and others.

Director Agriculture provided a comprehensive briefing to the dignitaries, joined by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Pulwama, the Administrator of IIKSTC and other officials. They highlighted the progress made under the National Mission on Saffron.

MLA Pampore discussed the regional dynamics and the importance of supporting the saffron farmers.

Javid Dar reiterated the success of the National Mission on Saffron. The introduction of e-auctions at IIKSTC has ensured fair pricing, with saffron prices rising from 80,000 per kg to 2,20,000 per kg in 2021-22, directly benefiting the farmers, he added.

PCCF conducts extensive tour of Forest Divisions of North Kashmir

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force (HOFF), J&K, S K Gupta carried an extensive tour of various Forest Divisions of North Kashmir during which he inspected ongoing construction work of Forest Check Post at Trumgund near Hygam in JV Forest Division, Baramulla where he directed for completion of remaining works and making FCP functional at earliest.

He also inspected Reshwari Forest Rest House (FRH), in Mawar Range of Langate Forest Division where he also convened a review meeting of all Divisional Forest Officers from the Circle. The officials on the occasion presented detailed report on ongoing forestry works.

PCCF also assessed several key infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing the visitor experience in the Bungus Valley.

He inspected newly constructed Bungus Visitor Centre, a state-of-



the-art facility designed to provide information on the valley's rich biodiversity and ecotourism opportunities.

Gupta also checked the camping site, view points, walking trails and newly built block officer's hut and a modern wayside amenity developed by Forest Department.

Further, PCCF also inaugurated and dedicated to public a 20 km trek

route connecting Badi Behak - Duddi - Lashar - Bangus. The route has been developed in three phases from Badi Behak to Duddi Behak (8 km), Duddi to Lashar Valley (4 km), Lashar Valley to Bangus (8 km).

The initiative aims at positioning Bangus as a model off-beat ecotourism destination, thereby attracting nature enthusiasts and adventure tourists.

ICRISAT, Hyderabad Joins Hands with SKUAST-Kashmir to Foster Innovative Research

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: In a landmark initiative aimed at advancing agricultural innovation and strengthening research capacity in the Himalayan region, a high-level delegation from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, visited the Dryland Agriculture Research Station (DARS), Rangreth, of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The visiting team was led by Dr. Stephen Blade, Deputy Director General (Research and Innovation) at ICRISAT, accompanied by Dr. Manzoor Hussain Dar, Global Head (Seed Systems), and Dr. Damaris A. Odeny, Cluster Leader (Genomics and Trait Discovery). Key Agenda & Discussions

The visit centered on strengthening academic and research linkages between the two premier institutions. Detailed discussions were held on:

Establishing the Himalayan Centre for Climate-Resilient Agriculture (HIMRCA) at DARS, Rangreth. Collaborative research in climate-smart agriculture, genomics, crop improvement, and seed systems.

Joint efforts to promote integrated farming approaches suited to the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

Capacity building and student exchange programs to enhance research skills and international exposure. The ICRISAT team expressed keen interest in becoming a strategic partner in the proposed HIMRCA, envisaged as a hub for innovation, advanced research, and farmer-centric technology development in the Himalayan region.

Focus on Farmer-Centric Outcomes

During the visit, both institutions emphasized that research outcomes must be translated into field-level solutions. Special focus areas identified include:

Development of climate-resilient crop varieties tailored to cold-arid and temperate zones.

Strengthening seed production and delivery systems to ensure quality seeds reach marginal farmers.

Promotion of sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices to safeguard soil and water resources.

Leveraging digital platforms and AI-based tools for crop monitoring, pest management, and weather advisories.

Future Roadmap

The visit laid the foundation for a long-term collaborative framework between SKUAST-K and ICRISAT. Some of the agreed next steps include:

MoU signing for formalizing the partnership.

Establishment of joint research projects on climate resilience, seed innovation, and biotechnology.

Farmer outreach programs to demonstrate new technologies in real-world farming conditions.

International training workshops and seminars for students, scientists, and extension workers.

JMC Commissioner reviews repair, restoration of street lights at ward-level camps

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, AUGUST 18: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has intensified efforts to improve civic amenities by launching a special drive for repair and restoration of street lights across the city. The campaign aims to ensure that every lane, road, and public space in Jammu remains well-lit, thereby enhancing public safety, convenience and quality of life.

To review the functioning of this initiative at the grassroots level, Commissioner JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav today visited the street light repair camp organized at Roopnagar. The camp witnessed active participation of former councillors, local residents and community leaders, who welcomed this initiative and expressed their appreciation for the Corporation's citizen-friendly approach.

During the inspection, Dr. Yadav interacted with municipal employees managing the camp as well as the residents registering their complaints. He personally



reviewed the complaint registration mechanism and assured people that their grievances would be resolved on priority.

The Commissioner directed the officials present to ensure that all registered complaints are resolved within 15 days. Stressing the importance of accountability, he instructed teams to monitor progress ward-wise and to submit regular reports on resolved cases.

He also appealed to the public to take maximum benefit of this

facility, encouraging citizens to register their complaints either by visiting these ward-level camps or by using the online complaint registration system provided by JMC.

Under this special drive, street light repair camps are being set up in every ward of Jammu city, providing residents a convenient platform to register their grievances locally. At the same time, JMC has strengthened its online complaint system, making it as

sible for people to register issues digitally without visiting the camps. This dual approach is designed to make the process more inclusive, transparent and efficient.

Local residents of Roopnagar ward expressed satisfaction with the initiative, noting that having direct access to officials in their locality helps build trust and ensures quicker redressal. Former councillors present at the camp lauded the Commissioner's proactive approach and described it as

a step towards more responsive urban governance.

The ongoing campaign forms part of JMC's broader vision to modernize civic infrastructure and enhance public services in Jammu. By combining on-ground outreach with digital grievance redressal platforms, the Corporation is striving to ensure that no complaint goes unresolved and that Jammu's street lighting network is restored to an efficient and modern standard.

Dy CM visits relief camp, hospitals; assures comprehensive support to cloudburst-hit families

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, AUG 18: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today visited the relief camp established at SIDCO Ghati Industrial Estate, Kathua to take stock of arrangements being extended to the families affected by the recent cloudburst.

The Deputy Chief Minister interacted with the displaced families, heard their concerns and assured them of full government support.

“The government stands shoulder to shoulder with the affected families in this hour of crisis. Every possible measure will be taken to ensure their immediate relief and long-term rehabilitation,” the Deputy Chief Minister said while addressing the victims at the relief camp.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister also inspected the nearby bridge connecting the



adjoining villages of Ghati which was damaged in the incident. He directed the concerned authorities to take up immediate restoration work. “Restoration of con-

nectivity is the top priority and the administration has been directed to execute works on war footing,” he asserted.

The Deputy Chief Minister also

visited the Military Hospital Pathankot where he enquired about the well-being of the injured admitted following the Ghati cloudburst. He appreciated

the timely response of the medical staff and instructed them to provide best possible treatment to the injured till their full recovery.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited Government Medical College Kathua where he met the injured and families affected by cloudbursts and flashfloods at Jakhole and Janglote. He assured them that all necessary assistance including medical care and rehabilitation support, will be extended without delay.

“The safety and well-being of the people is our foremost concern. The Government will leave no stone unturned in providing relief and rebuilding the damaged infrastructure,” the Deputy Chief Minister reaffirmed. He also directed the district administration to maintain round-the-clock monitoring in all calamity-hit areas and ensure timely assistance to the affected population.

Public Notice

I have changed my name from Khurshied Ahmad to Khurshheed Ahmad Qazi. In future I will be known as Khurshheed Ahmad Qazi.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Public Notice

The name sameer Ahmad ganie S/o Gh Nabi ganie in the electricity consumer id 0206050013095 is wrongly mentioned. Actual real name is sameer ullah dome s/o Ghulam nabi dome R/o Checki kawoosa, kawsa jagir budgam. If any body has any objection in this regard they will invoke sub division Narbal within the period of seven days. After completion of said period, No objection will be entertained.

Sameer ullah dome
S/o Ghulam nabi dome
R/o Checki kawoosa, kawsa jagir budgam
District ; Budgam
Tehsil: Narbal
Sub: division: Narbal

Public Notice

I, Mohd Saleem Lone, S/o Shakeel Ahmad Lone, R/o Pahalgam, Anantnag, hereby inform that my Date of Birth has been wrongly mentioned in my Driving Licence No. JK03 20130023715.

Date of Birth mentioned in Driving Licence: 08/04/1990

Correct Date of Birth (as per Aadhaar Card): 20/03/1992

I request the concerned authority to kindly update my Date of Birth as per my Aadhaar Card records. If anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may notify the RTO Office, Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir within 7 days of this publication.

Thank you,
(Mohd Saleem Lone)

DC Ganderbal finalizes arrangements for Annual Gangabal Yatra

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, AUG 18: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review and finalize the arrangements for the upcoming Annual Gangabal Yatra.

At the outset, the DC took stock of the preparedness and finalized arrangements regarding lodging, sanitation, drinking water, firewood, toilet facilities, deployment of SDRF, and other essential requirements to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the pilgrimage.

The DC directed the concerned departments to put all arrangements in place by or before 26th August, as the Yatra is scheduled to commence on August 30, 2025, from Naranag, with the advance party proceeding towards Gangabal on August 29.

The BMO Kangan was instructed to prepare a detailed deployment plan of doctors, along with adequate medicines, oxygen cylinders, and other essential medical equipment. The Executive Engineer KPDCI was directed to ensure proper electricity supply and availability of gensets at identified locations.

Similarly, the ACP Ganderbal was tasked to arrange mobile toilet facilities at prominent locations along the route.

With regard to drinking water facilities, the Jal Shakti Department informed that in addition to portable water supply, a sufficient number of water bottles will be kept available at locations where portable drinking water is not feasible.

SDM Kangan was asked to personally monitor all arrangements to ensure that the Yatra concludes smoothly and successfully.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihagi; SDM Kangan, and other concerned officers.

KPDCL PDL Employees Demand Immediate Regularization, Seek Principal Secretary's Intervention

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: The Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCI) PDL Employees Union has urged the Principal Secretary, Power Department, to step in urgently and resolve the long-pending issue of regularization of temporary PDL workers.

Union Chairman Mohammad Yousuf Gusoo and Provincial President Imtiyaz Ahmad Shah said that thousands of employees, many of whom have been serving for over two decades, remain in limbo despite being the “backbone of J&K’s power sector.” They recalled that these workers risked their lives during the devastating 2014 floods and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 to keep electricity flowing, yet their legitimate rights remain denied.

Union Chief Spokesman Waseem Raja Khan noted that, despite drawing meager salaries, these workers continue to perform critical duties such as power restoration, patrolling, billing, and maintenance in harsh winters, scorching summers, and during snowstorms. He added that even with SRO 381 of 1981 and a 2012 Cabinet decision in place, promotion and regularization files have been unnecessarily delayed.

Official data reveals that on January 14, 2019, the Departmental Promotion Committee had recommended regularization of 3,284 eligible employees. That year, out of 6,186 PDL workers, as many as 5,550 had already completed more than seven years of service.

Union Vice President Abdul Hamid Najjar pointed out that only 2,081 Class IV posts were created in 2021, which he termed “grossly insufficient.” The union also alleged that cases of eligible workers from North, South, and Ganderbal (1997–98 batches) remain pending, describing it as “blatant injustice.”

Union General Secretary Ijaz Ahmad Kupwara said the repeated delays have left the workforce “demoralized and deeply frustrated.”

The Union has demanded that all eligible PDL workers be regularized without further delay and that all vacant posts in KPDCI be reserved exclusively for them to safeguard their rights.

Public Notice

It is inform general public that I have lost my 8th class discharge Certificate, now I want duplicate, in this regard any body having any objections he/she may contact Govt. Girls Middle school Nowgam within 3 days, after expiry no objections will be entertained.

Deloitte India celebrates Paralympic pride defining India’s tomorrow

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 18: India’s future is being shaped by individuals who dare to dream beyond boundaries and strive to realise their full potential. Deloitte India today reaffirmed its commitment to associating with diverse talent, exemplified by its partnership with 18-year-old Sheetal Devi, the world’s first female Para archer without arms and a Paralympic medallist.

Picking up a bow at 15 despite the mockery, she became World No. 1 at 16, earned the Arjuna Award and a Paralympic bronze at 17. Sheetal continues to break barriers, defy limits, and embody the freedom to dream, persevere and achieve.

Romal Shetty, Chief Executive Officer, Deloitte South Asia, said, “India’s greatest strength lies in its people, in their ability to dream big, rise above challenges, and turn possibilities into achievements. Sheetal’s journey is a shining example of what can be achieved when resilience meets opportunity. At Deloitte India, our vision is to not just witness Bharat’s progress, but to actively enable it beyond the metros by creating opportunities, building platforms



and providing the right ecosystem where India’s talent can thrive”

Sheetal Devi shared, “The journey to the podium is never just about one person, it’s about those who believe in you and give you the confidence to aim higher. Every arrow I shoot is a reminder that no challenge is insurmountable. My journey has been shaped not just by my determination, but also by the support of people and organisations who believe in my potential. Deloitte India’s encouragement is more than a gesture, it is a

statement that talent, in all its forms, deserves to be seen, celebrated, and supported. I hope my story inspires others to embrace challenges, chase their dreams, and never underestimate the power of perseverance”

By celebrating and amplifying stories like Sheetal’s, Deloitte India continues to invest in the country’s most valuable resource, its people. Together, we can create a foundation where talent is nurtured and opportunities are unlocked to ensure that India’s place on the world stage grows stronger.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG NIT 57 OF R&B/Anantnag/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/5172-81, DATED 14-08-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are being invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	Class
1.	Interior roads of Anchidora and Chee.	20.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 16.95 + (18% GST Amount 3.05)	800	40000/	10 Days	BEE & CEE Class Only
2.	Upgradation / Improvement of Link road taking off from Anchidora Prakashpora main road upto of Macadamization.	19.99 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 16.94 + (18% GST Amount 3.05)	800	39980/	10 Days	BEE & CEE Class Only
3.	SBT Road Sarnal.	19.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 16.10 + (18% GST Amount 2.90)	800	38000/	10 Days	BEE & CEE Class Only
4.	Usman Colony Moominabad.	7.95 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 6.74 + (18% GST Amount 1.21)	300	15900/	07 Days	CEE & DEE Class Only
5.	Bakshiabad Link Road.	7.99 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 6.77 + (18% GST Amount 1.22)	300	15980/	07 Days	CEE & DEE Class Only
6.	Interior Roads of Batengoo (Radiant Colony) and Uranhall near Bridge to Donipora road.	10.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 8.48 + (18% GST Amount 1.52)	600	20000/	10 Days	CEE & DEE Class Only
7.	Jamia Masjid Aung to Nowbugh Road (1st 500 Mtr)	20.99 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 17.79 + (18% GST Amount 3.20)	800	41980/	10 Days	BEE & CEE Class Only
8.	Bijbehara Shopian Road(km 1st to 4th)	14.97 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 12.69 + (18% GST Amount 2.28)	600	29940/	10 Days	BEE, CEE & DEE Class Only
9.	HP Bagh Road	13.96 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 11.83 + (18% GST Amount 2.13)	600	27920/	10 Days	BEE, CEE & DEE Class Only
10.	RH Canal Punjpora including Army camp Punjpora	10.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 8.47 + (18% GST Amount 1.53)	600	20000/	10 Days	CEE & DEE Class Only
11.	Sangam Naina Road	8.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 6.78 + (18% GST Amount 1.22)	300	16000/	10 Days	CEE & DEE Class Only
12.	Balyara Road (Balance Part)	10.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 8.47 + (18% GST Amount 1.53)	600	20000/	10 Days	CEE & DEE Class Only
13.	Higher Secondary Arwani to Loktipora	11.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 9.33 + (18% GST Amount 1.67)	600	22000/	10 Days	BEE, CEE & DEE Class Only

M.H of Account: Pothole Programme 2025-26

Project Authority: R&B Department.

Position of Authorization: Authorized vide No. PWD- PIng/277/2025-05-PWD (7659593), Dated 12.08.2025.

Position of TS : TS Accorded.

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](#) on the dates listed below: -

S. No.	Particulars	Date	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-08-2025	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 15-08-2025 To 20-08-2025	(10:00AM) (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 15-08-2025	(10:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 20-08-2025	(04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	21-08-2025	(11:00AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

1. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan/Receipt (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

2. 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 Anantnag. (The Date of EMD {CDR/ FDR/BG} should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and validity of EMD at the time of opening of bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond bid validity of 120 days. 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 total cost, which will be released 60 days after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. (The Date of Performance Security {CDR/FDR/BG} should be after the date of issuance of Letter /LOI to deposit the Performance security). Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the LI as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](#) and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (tender receiving authority).

5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5.1 The rates quoted in the BoQ are exclusive of GST. GST @18 Percent shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.

Sd/- (Er.Syed Ishfaq Ahmad)
Executive Engineer, R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK: 5234/25 | Dated: 18-08-2025



CMYK

15TH PUBLICATION
**HEADLINES
TODAY**
Voice To The Voiceless

Srinagar, Tuesday
19-August-2025

HT - NATIONAL / WORLD



@HEADLINESTODA17



@headlinestodaydaily



@headlinestoday



@headlinestodaynews

11

‘Diwali Dhamaka’ may be a breather for auto sector with expected 10 per cent GST rate cuts

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech from the ramparts of Red Fort apparently sets the stage for Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms, a forerunner programme of the government launched in 2017.

Stressing on the GST overhaul, the Prime Minister hinted towards a tax relief on the upcoming Diwali, calling it 'Diwali Dhamaka.'

The term 'Diwali Dhamaka' is expected to bring rationalisation of the GST rate for the automobile sector, which is good news for troubled carmakers and auto sector enthusiasts.

Reportedly, the government has proposed lowering of GST on small petrol and diesel cars and two-wheelers to 18 percent from the current 28 per cent, which can be a major relief for manufacturers and auto enthusiasts.

Moreover, GST on tractors is also expected to be reduced to 5 per cent from the current 12 per cent.

Small cars refer to a category of vehicles that are small, lightweight, and fuel-efficient models designed for urban commuting and navigating narrow streets. These cars are losing their popularity as consumers are steadily shifting to SUVs.

This expected GST reduction rejuvenates the troubled small



and diesel car market segment in India. The GST cut will make these vehicles more affordable to people,

and manufacturers will also set up their plants by recognising the sales opportunity.

As the news of expected GST rate cuts sparked, the shares of major car manufacturers witnessed a spike. Shares of Maruti Suzuki rose about 9 per cent today.

Moreover, other prominent names, including Mahindra & Mahindra and motorbike manufacturers Hero MotoCorp and Bajaj Auto, also performed well.

The proposal of GST rate rationalisation is first to be reviewed by the Group of Ministers (GoM), and then it goes for final approval to the GST Council.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is a constitutional body that oversees and makes recommendations on issues related to the implementation of GST in India. UNI SAS SSP

Chinese Foreign Minister in Delhi, meets EAM, to meet PM, NSA, India-China ties likely to ramp up

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 18: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today stressed the need for India and China to move ahead in bilateral relations with a candid and constructive approach from both sides and said relations between the "world's two largest nations" should be guided by "three mutuals—mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest."

In his opening remarks at the delegation-level talks with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the External Affairs Minister said "differences should not be allowed to become disputes nor competition conflict."

The Chinese Foreign Minister who arrived here this evening on a three-day official visit, was having delegation-level talks with the External Affairs Minister. He will have discussions with National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval tomorrow on the border issue and other bilateral matters.

He will also call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi tomorrow.

Both Wang Yi and Ajit Doval are Special Representatives (SRs) of their respective countries to discuss border issues.

Welcoming the Chinese Foreign Minister to India for the 24th round of Talks between the Special Representatives of India and China, Dr Jaishankar said the occasion provides an opportunity to meet and review bilateral ties. "This is very important because the basis for any positive momentum in our ties is the ability to jointly maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas." "It is also essential that the de-escalation process moves forward," he added.

The 23rd meeting between the SRs of the two countries on the border issue was held in Beijing in December 2024 and had reached "a six-point consensus," according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

"It is also an appropriate time to exchange views on the global situation and some issues of mutual interest," Dr Jaishankar said.

The visit, first by a Chinese Minister since both countries' Leaders met in Kazan in October 2024, is significant as it is being held in the background of Tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on both countries.

Dr Jaishankar said that having seen a difficult period in bilateral relationship, the two nations seek to move ahead. "This requires a candid and constructive approach from both sides." He said their talks would cover economic and trade issues, pilgrimages, people-to-people contact, river data sharing, border trade, connectivity and bilateral exchanges. "I would like to follow up on some particular concerns that I had brought up with you, when I visited China in July."

He said that when the world's two largest nations meet, it is natural that the international situation will be discussed. Hinting at the Tariff diplomacy of the US, Dr Jaishankar said "We seek a fair, balanced and multi-polar world order, including a multi-polar Asia. Reformed multi-lateralism is also the call of the day."

"In the current environment, there is clearly the imperative of maintaining and enhancing stability in the global economy as well. The fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is another major priority. I look forward to our exchange of views. Overall, it is our expectation that our discussions will contribute to building a stable, cooperative and forward-looking relationship between India and China, one that serves both our interests and addresses our concerns."

Ukrainian President Zelensky says Russian war machine's overnight strikes display Kremlin's true intentions

■ **United News of India**

KYIV, AUG 18: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky amidst the ongoing Russian military action and his arrival in Washington DC asked Moscow to stop, stating that the Kremlin's overnight strikes were "demonstrative" of Russia's true intentions and showcased its "cynical" position on war, reports The Guardian.

Stating that Moscow's military campaign has left swathes of areas destroyed and many dead,



Zelensky said, "And at this very moment, the Russians are attacking Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, the Sumy region and Odesa, destroying residential buildings and our civilian infrastructure."

Claiming that Russian troops were going out of their way and "deliberately killing people, particularly children", the Ukraine President said, "seven people have been killed as a result of the drone strike in Kharkiv, the youngest being a girl who is only a year and a half old, and dozens have been injured, including children."

"In Zaporizhzhia, missile strikes injured 20 people and killed three. My condolences go out to all of the victims' families and loved ones," he added.

"There was also a deliberate Russian strike on an energy facility in Odesa owned by an Azerbaijani company, implying that it was an attack not only on us but also on our relations and energy security."

He noted that the attacks are going while he is in the US to meet with President Donald Trump.

"They are aware that a meeting is taking place today in Washington that will address the end of the war. We will have a discussion with President Trump about key issues," he explained.

"Along with Ukraine, the leaders of the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Finland, the European Union, and Nato will participate in the conversation. Everyone seeks dignified peace and true security."

Berating the Kremlin, Zelensky said that the Russian 'war machine' will continue to kill and destroy in its mission to pressure Ukraine, Europe, and humiliate all attempts at diplomacy. UNI ANV SS

Delhi CM takes stock of flood preparedness amid rise in Yamuna level, says city in safe zone

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 18: Amid a marked rise in the Yamuna water levels, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today carried out an extensive review of the city government's flood management and preparedness during a visit to the banks of Yamuna river and adjoining areas, beginning the inspections from Asita Ghat, and going on to Chhath Ghat, DM East Office, drain regulator No. 12 and the Control Room.

The CM has said that in view of the water being released from Hathnikund Barrage, and heavy rainfall in the Upper Yamuna region, the Central Water Commission has issued an advisory that the water level of the river in Delhi may rise up to 206 meters.

She assured that this time no flood-like situation would arise in the city, and all the concerned departments are working round the clock in vigilance, and the situation is fully under control.

The CM assured the people of the city that there is no need to worry, as their safety is the government's top-most priority.

Gupta also informed that 14 boats have been deployed at key locations for relief and rescue operations, and additionally, to ensure that Yamuna water does not reach main roads and traffic movement remains unaffected, the Irrigation and Flood Control department has been instructed to take all necessary steps.

As per the CM, the residents living in floodplains where water may reach as a natural phenomenon, have already been alerted by the administration and necessary arrangements have been made to shift them to



safer places.

She has also directed that all the regulators be kept fully operational, and added that a "Central Flood Control Room" has been set up at the office of DM East, which is now functioning as a central coordination hub for the entire city, with representatives from all civic agencies stationed there 24x7.

CM shared that apart from the Central Control Room, 15 wireless stations have been established this year to monitor Yamuna water levels and water-logging-prone areas at all times.

All equipment to be used in relief and rescue operations have been fully checked, and concerned departments have made concrete arrangements to safely relocate people from the Yamuna floodplains in case of a flood situation, CM added.

Gupta informed that presently, more than one lakh cusecs of water is being released into the Yamuna, but it is flowing ahead smoothly without obstruction and at the same pace – unlike before.

She said that this time the govern-

ment has been closely monitoring all aspects related to the Yamuna's water levels, and departmental teams are constantly monitoring the flow, discharge, and water level status.

Delhi's Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Parvesh Verma was also present during the CM's visit to check the flood preparedness on ground and take stock of the present situation. CM recalled that in August-September 2023, Delhi had faced an unprecedented flood when the Yamuna's water level rose to 208.6 meters, submerging several residential areas and severely affecting public life.

She said that at that time, desilting of drains and maintenance of barrages had not been properly done, and even the ITO Barrage gates were blocked and jammed.

However, this time, after six months of continuous work, all gates of the ITO Barrage have been fully opened and the desilting of drains has been completed, thereby enhancing their capacity, she claimed, adding that the government has made preparations at every level. UNI APS RN

Nepal achieves major milestone by eliminating Rubella, says WHO; India aims for 2026 target

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 18: India is ramping up its efforts to eliminate rubella, a contagious disease affecting mainly infants and children, with a goal to meet the regional target by 2026.

Meanwhile, neighbouring Nepal has successfully eliminated rubella as a public health problem, according to the World Health Organisation.

This is a big achievement for Nepal, announced by the global health agency today.

In a statement here, Dr. Catharina Boehme, WHO Officer in Charge for South-East Asia, praised Nepal's success and said it shows the strong commitment of the

country's leaders, health workers, volunteers, and informed communities who all worked together to protect babies and ensure a future free from rubella.

Rubella, also called German measles, is a very contagious virus. It is especially dangerous for pregnant women because it can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, or serious birth defects. Fortunately, rubella can be prevented with safe and affordable vaccines.

Nepal is the sixth country in the WHO South-East Asia region to reach this milestone. Other countries like Bhutan, DPR Korea, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste have also eliminated rubella or measles.

The WHO's Regional Verifica-

tion Commission for Measles and Rubella in South-East Asia reviewed Nepal's health data and immunization records and confirmed that rubella has been eliminated in Nepal, said the statement.

Pradip Paudel, Nepal's Minister of Health and Population, thanked everyone involved in this success. He highlighted the strong national immunisation programme and the support from partners like Gavi and WHO.

He urged continued efforts to make sure no child in Nepal suffers from vaccine-preventable diseases, as per the statement.

Nepal started using the rubella vaccine in 2012 with a large campaign for children aged 9

months to 15 years. A second dose was added to the routine schedule in 2016. Four national vaccination campaigns in 2012, 2016, 2020, and 2024 helped reach many children, even during difficult times like the COVID-19 pandemic and earthquakes.

By 2024, over 95% of children in Nepal received at least one dose of the rubella vaccine. Special efforts like an 'immunisation month', reaching out to missed children, and encouraging districts to become 'fully immunized' helped the success.

Nepal also introduced a strong new testing method to monitor rubella, the first country in South-East Asia to do so.

Rajesh Panday, WHO Representa-

tative to Nepal, praised the cooperation between the government, health workers, partners, and communities and said that the WHO will continue to support Nepal in keeping this achievement.

According to health experts here, India has made significant progress in controlling rubella but has not yet been officially verified by WHO as having eliminated the disease. India introduced the rubella-containing vaccine in its Universal Immunization Programme in 2017 and has been working on increasing vaccine coverage nationwide.

However, due to its large population and diverse regions, India still faces challenges in achieving full elimination. UNI AJ SSP

ITALIAN PM GIORGIA MELONI ARRIVES IN US FOR MEETING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP, TO FOCUS ON EU-UKRAINE SECURITY GUARANTEES

■ **United News of India**

ROME, AUG 18: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni arrived in the US to join Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for his meeting with President Donald Trump today.

The Italian PM had expressed positive feelings about the Alaska Summit, saying that it offered a 'glimmer of hope'.

Before her departure, her office reiterated the statement made by Rome on the Sunday meeting between PM Meloni

and other European leaders ahead of their US visit.

The statement stressed "the importance of continuing to work with the United States to end the conflict and achieve a peace that ensures the sovereignty and security of Ukraine,"

reports The Guardian.

Rome further emphasised the need to "maintain collective pressure on Russia and ensure solid and credible security guarantees".

On the security guarantees for Ukraine, Meloni said on Sat-

urday that Trump had highlighted an Italian proposal during his summit with Putin in Anchorage that was "inspired by Nato's Article 5".

"The starting point of the proposal is the definition of a collective security clause that

would allow Ukraine to benefit from the support of all its partners, including the USA, ready to take action in case it is attacked again," Meloni added.

Meloni last travelled to Washington in April for a bilat-

eral with Trump. The two leaders met again in Rome just over a week later for the funeral of Pope Francis, before which Trump and the Zelensky held a brief but symbolic one-to-one talk in St Peter's Basilica. UNI ANV SS





BCCI Introduces Injury Replacement Rule in Multi-Day Games

■ [Espncricinfo](#)

NEW DELHI: The BCCI has introduced a "serious injury replacement substitute" rule for in domestic cricket to prevent injured players from risking themselves further in the match. This applies to games that take place over multiple days and will come into effect from the Duleep Trophy, which opens the 2025-26 season on August 28. It will be active in the Ranji trophy as well, India's premier first-class cricket competition.

This replacement can be any non-playing member of the squad, should be like-for-like, and will need an approval from the match referee after teams are able to medically produce a report that underlines the seriousness of the injury of the concerned player. The injury has to have happened during the game and needs to be external (like taking a blow resulting in a deep cut or fracture) rather than internal (like a hamstring strain).

This addition was debated within the BCCI circles in the aftermath of Rishabh Pant batting with a broken foot against England in Manchester, and has been swiftly incorporated into the playing regulations.

The regulation states, "under all circumstances, the serious injury replacement player shall be from nominated substitutes at the time of toss."

"Only in the case where the wicketkeeper is seriously injured and needs a replacement then the match referee may allow a wicketkeeper from a player outside the nominated substitutes if there is no wicketkeeper in the nominated substitutes."

Both the player being replaced and the replaced player shall be considered to have played in the

match for records and statistical purposes.

At present, international cricket only allows substitutions in the event of a player suffering concussion or contracting the Covid-19 virus.

During India's tour of England earlier this year, Pant (foot) and Chris Woakes (shoulder) suffered dislocations, which left their respective teams in a 10 vs 11 battle. Both players braved further injury to come out and help their team's cause, which added to the debate about whether there needs to be place in the rules for substitutions in case of serious injury.

India coach Gautam Gambhir was for it, England captain Ben Stokes was less so, arguing that the system could be gamed.

The ICC, in reviewing its own playing conditions earlier this year, was open to the idea of its member nations trialling injury substitutes in domestic cricket.

BCCI adopts ICC's ball change rule

The BCCI has also adopted ICC's new rule change in ODIs that phased out two balls in the format after 34 overs. The rule will be in effect from the Vijay Hazare Trophy, BCCI's 50-over competition for senior men.

"Each fielding team shall have two new balls for its innings to be used in alternate overs, i.e. one from each end for overs 1 to 34," the new guideline states.

"At the end of over 34, the fielding team will choose one of the two balls from the innings to be used for all the remaining overs of the innings. The other ball will be added to the stock of replacement balls for the innings."



Spoke on Brevis' Batting, Not IPL Signing Amount: Ashwin

■ [United News of India](#)

CHENNAI: Senior spinner R. Ashwin has clarified his statement regarding the signing of Dewald Brevis by Chennai SuperKings, asserting that his focal point was the South African's batting performances and not the amount for which he was allegedly acquired midway through IPL 2025. A controversy erupted when Ashwin, currently part of the CSK roster, hinted on his YouTube channel that the five-time IPL champions were willing to pay "extra" to secure Brevis' services. His comments allegedly forced the IPL franchise to issue a clarification.

"My intent in the old video was to talk about Brevis' batting, not about his IPL signing amount. We have to understand that every player who plays in the IPL has a contract with the franchise and the tournament."

The franchise and the IPL have a binding contract and if there is anything wrong, it won't be ratified," said Ashwin on his YouTube channel. To underline his point, Ashwin termed Brevis a "special talent." "Injury replacements are very common in the IPL. It is about how you go about the rule flexibility. That is the point. If you are a CSK and South Africa fan, then it is time to be extremely excited about Brevis. He is a special talent," he added. CSK issued a clarification on Saturday after Ashwin's statement about the signing made headlines. The franchise said the signing process of the



South African batter was in "complete compliance with the rules and regulations" of the league.

"Chennai Super Kings categorically clarifies that all actions taken by the franchise during the signing process of Dewald Brevis as a replacement player during TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 were in complete compliance with the rules and regulations of IPL," CSK said in a statement. "In April 2025, Dewald Brevis was signed for a league fee of INR 2.2 crore as a replacement player for the injured Gurjapneet Singh, who was picked up at the IPL 2025 Player Auction held at Abadi Al Johar Arena, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for a price of INR 2.2 crore," the statement further added.

Sinquefield Cup: Gukesh Returns, Praggnanandhaa Targets Podium

■ [United News of India](#)

ST LOUIS: World Champion D Gukesh returns to classical chess after a short break, taking on a formidable field at the Sinquefield Cup starting Monday. Meanwhile, fellow Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa will be aiming for a podium finish in the fifth and final leg of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT), seeking to bolster his current fifth-place position in the overall standings.

Although the absence of world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, who has publicly distanced himself from classical chess, has been noted, the Sinquefield

Cup remains a crucial event. It marks the culmination of the GCT, with qualification spots for the grand finale later this year at stake. Among the biggest threats to the Indian duo are American GM Fabiano Caruana, France's Alireza Firouzja, and the resurgent Levon Aronian, who now represents the United States. All nine regular GCT players will compete in this elite ten-player round-robin event.

While Gukesh's recent form in rapid and blitz may not make him a top favourite, classical chess remains his strongest format. Praggnanandhaa, on the other hand, has already qualified for the 2026 Candidates Tournament, where he may challenge

Gukesh for the world title. Both Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa have also committed to playing in the Grand Swiss in Uzbekistan next month, signalling their hunger for further titles and international dominance. In the current GCT standings, Praggnanandhaa holds an edge over Gukesh, but consistency will be critical against seasoned opponents. France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave is among the top contenders, while 42-year-old Levon Aronian, fresh off back-to-back wins in Freestyle Chess (Las Vegas) and the St. Louis Rapid & Blitz, is enjoying a strong run of form. The Sinquefield Cup will be played over nine rounds, with a total prize pool of USD 350,000.

AREATH TOURS
HAI & UMIRAH GROUP
PURANI HAVELI, HYDERABAD - (TS) INDIA

TATA

TAFI

HAI 2026
(1447 Hijri)

Lowest Budget Package
(30-35 Days)

Rs. 4,99,000/-

GST 5% Extra
TCS 5% Extra

PACKAGE INCLUDES
HAJ VISA, VIA FLIGHT HYD TO HYD,
ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

Makkah Building
Stay in Aziziya Building
5 DAYS OF ARKAN E HAJI
8 to 12th Zilhajja
With Food

MINA - Service Category "D"

Transport
Mina, Arfath, Muzdalifa
Jed-Makkah-Madinah-Jed

Madina Hotel
600 to 700 Meters
Distance

PURANI HAVELI, HYDERABAD - (T.G) INDIA. Phone : 040-66338338
Contact : 08686433846 | 09700118674 | 09392644008 | 08977712893
E-mail : arfathhours@gmail.com | arfathhour@yahoo.in

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL

Printing

NEEDS

NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS
LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES
VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES
3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY
WALL PAINTINGS

999038812
9419008414
01942496287

Gund Hassi Bhat, Radio Colony, Lawaypora, Srinagar

JK FABRICS

SUITING AND SHIRTING

GOWN AND DRESS MATERIALS | PARTY WEAR AND SEMI-PARTY WEAR |
COTTON SUITS | WEDDING SUITS | 7-DAY SUITS FOR THE BRIDE

+91-7006764737 | +91-6005078346