

Crop losses due to wild animal attacks to be covered under PMFBY from 2026 kharif season

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Crop losses due to wild animal attacks will be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from the Kharif (summer-sown) sowing season 2026, providing major relief to farmers, the government said on Tuesday.

In addition, losses incurred due to inundation of paddy crops because of heavy rains and floods will also be covered under the PMFBY.

In a statement, the agriculture ministry pointed out that farmers across India have been facing crop losses due to attacks by wild animals, such as elephants, wild boars, nilgai, deer, and monkeys.

These incidents are par-

ticularly common in regions situated near forests, wildlife corridors, and hilly terrains, it added.

"Under the revised framework, crop loss due to wild animal attack will now be recognised as the fifth Add-on Cover under the Localised Risk category," it added.

States will notify the list of wild animals responsible for crop damage and identify vulnerable districts or insurance units based on historical data.

"Farmers will be required to report losses within 72 hours using the Crop Insurance App by uploading geotagged photographs," the ministry said.

Many states have been making demands in this regard. "The modalities

have been prepared in accordance with the PMFBY Operational Guidelines, ensuring a scientific, transparent and operationally feasible framework for implementation nationwide, and will be rolled out from Kharif 2026," the statement said.

The ministry noted that crop losses due to wild animal attacks often went uncompensated as they were not covered under the crop insurance.

"Paddy farmers in flood-prone and coastal states have been repeatedly affected by inundation during heavy rains and overflowing waterways," the statement said.

Paddy inundation was removed from the localised calamity category in 2018

due to concerns about moral hazard and the difficulty of assessing submerged crops. However, its exclusion led to a significant protection gap for farmers in districts prone to seasonal flooding.

Taking note of these emerging risks and challenges, the Department of Agriculture constituted an expert committee.

The recommendations of the committee have now been approved by the Union Minister of Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The ministry said it has now recognised the modalities for covering 'crop loss due to wild animal attacks and paddy inundation' under the PPMFBY.

"With this important decision, farmers suffering

localised crop damage will now receive timely and technology-based claim settlement under PMFBY," the statement said.

This coverage is expected to significantly benefit farmers in states with high human-wildlife conflict, including Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand. Farmers in the Himalayan and Northeastern states such as Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh will also benefit.

Paddy farmers in coastal and flood-prone states will also be covered under the scheme.

AIBCU President seeks 27% OBC Reservation in J&K, appeals for support to Madina accident victims' families

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Abdul Majid Malik, President of the All India Backward Classes Union (AIBCU) (Regd), held a press conference today at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, urging the Government of India and the Jammu & Kashmir Administration to implement the full 27% reservation for OBCs in the Union Territory, similar to other states across the country.

He stressed that ensuring the rightful quota is essential for social justice and equitable opportunities.

Malik also expressed deep condolences to the families who lost their loved ones in the tragic accident at Madina.

He appealed to the Prime Minister to extend every possible assistance to help bring back the mortal remains of



President AIBCU, Abdul Majid Malik talking to reporters.

the deceased, ensuring dignified closure for their families.

During the press briefing, Malik requested the government to reserve a certain percentage of seats in admissions and jobs for local aspirants in prominent institutions such as Mata Vaishno Devi University, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri, IIM

Internship-Driven hiring emerges as key strength at CUJ

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: This year, a remarkable trend observed across recruiters was a strong preference for internship-based hiring, where companies sought students that transition into full-time employment.

Recognizing this shift, CU Jammu strategically strengthened its internship ecosystem resulting in a significant rise in internship offers and subsequent job placements.

Students who secured internships were among the first to receive full-time job confirmations, reaffirming the effectiveness of this approach.

The Training & Placement Office, under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, proactively organized a series of campus recruitment and internship drives designed to match industry expectations.

These initiatives played a critical role in helping students secure opportunities, especially in domains like sales, business operations, technology support, and research-based roles.

"We are thrilled to witness our students step into meaningful roles across various sectors," said Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu. "The growing emphasis on internship-based hiring has been a turning point for our students, and our collaborative efforts with industry partners, faculty members, and the career services teams have ensured that students receive the right exposure and training."

Telecom, EdTech, Software, and Semiconductor companies visited the campus to conduct interviews as part of the ongoing recruitment and internship drive for B.TECH, and MBA.

The highest package offered during the current

placement season was Rs 8.09LPA, while the average package stood at Rs 3 LPA, reflecting the increasing industry recognition of CU Jammu graduates.

The University's Training & Placement Cell continues to strengthen industry partnerships, conduct pre-placement training, and facilitate internships and recruitment drives to equip students with skills that meet modern workforce demands.

With this achievement, the Central University of Jammu further solidifies its position as a center of academic excellence and employability, demonstrating its commitment to bridging the gap between education and industry through an internship-driven placement strategy.

DC Rajouri receives National Honour from Prez for Excellence in Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: In a moment of immense pride for District Rajouri, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma was on Tuesday honoured by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, for the district's outstanding performance under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative. The award recognises Rajouri's exemplary achievements in promoting community-led water conservation and sustainable resource management.

Despite challenges during the implementation phase, including incidents of Pakistani shelling in border areas and the concurrent Operation Sindoor, the district administration-supported by the unwavering spirit of Jan Bhagidari, completed and geo-tagged all water recharge structures well before the 31st May deadline.



President, Droupadi Murmu presenting award to Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma.

This accomplishment stands as a testament to the resilience and determination of both the administration and the public.

As part of the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari programme, Rajouri successfully geo-

tagged 4,208 rainwater harvesting structures, including 132 Amrit Sarovars, 894 ponds, 510 bowlis, 2,270 harvesting tanks and 408 dugwells.

These efforts have significantly enhanced the district's

J&K spinners imitate pacers after batters' brilliance to edge closer to victory

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Mirroring the destructive impact of pacers Sunil Kumar and Aquib Nabi in the first innings, the spin duo of left-arm orthodox Abid Mushtaq and off-spinner Sahil Lotra combined to claim six crucial wickets in Hyderabad's second innings, following remarkable batting performances by Abdul Samad and Kanhaiya Wadhawan and their collective efforts have propelled J&K significantly closer to victory against a formidable Hyderabad side in the ongoing Ranji Trophy Elite Group-D clash at the JKCA Hostel Ground today.

Earlier, resuming from an overnight score of 275/4, J&K scored a massive total of 422 runs in their first innings in reply to Hyderabad's 170 runs, thus setting a target of 472 runs for the opponents.

Samad scored a master-

class century, making 125 runs off 200 balls, studded with 10 fours and 4 sixes, while Kanhaiya Wadhawan contributed fabulous 95 runs off 110 balls with 11 fours and one six. Tanay Thyagarajan was the most successful bowler for Hyderabad who took 4 wickets, while Kartikeya Kak bagged 2 wickets.

Chasing a huge total, Hyderabad were tottering at 169/7 at stumps on day-3 today. Tanmay Aggarwal (47) and G Anikethreddy (35*) were the major contributors, while all other batters failed to show resistance and application.

Hyderabad is still trailing by 303 runs with just 3 wickets in hand. Abid Mushtaq was the pick of the bowlers for J&K, who captured 4 wickets by conceding 56 runs in 16 overs, while Sahil Lotra bagged 2 wickets and Aquib Nabi claimed one.

BJP will not allow divisive forces to derail peace, development: Sat

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) and BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul held day-long organizational meetings of Jammu, Jammu South, Jammu North, Jammu Border, and Akhnoor Districts at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The meetings were attended by J&K BJP General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, District Presidents Nand Kishore, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Kuldeep Raj Sharma, and Rinku Choudhary, MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Yudhvir Sethi, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Arvind Gupta, Surinder Bhagat, Mohan Lal Bhagat, and Devyani Rana, Secretaries Reema Padha and Arun Sharma, besides senior leaders Ayodhya Gupta, Vinay Gupta, Rajinder Singh

Chib, Brijeshwar Rana, Parduman Singh, Rajiv Sharma, and other district functionaries.

In his address, Sat Sharma emphasized increased ground working and personal contact for strengthening the party's organizational structure at the grassroots. He said that BJP's strength lies in its disciplined cadre, continuous public outreach, and the unwavering commitment to solving people's issues. He stressed ensuring the Pravas (dedicated visits) of



BJP J&K President Sat Sharma chairing a meeting.

senior leaders to every mandal and booth area. He also called upon MLAs and district leaders to be pro-active, accessible, and responsive, building deeper relations with the public. He also directed all district units to intensify field activities, improve public engagement, and ensure every programme reaches the last worker and every household.

Sat Sharma further asked the party leaders to not to allow any divisive or disruptive forces to derail Jammu & Kashmir's journey of

peace, development, and empowerment. He said the party stands firmly committed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a stable, prosperous, and united Jammu & Kashmir.

Ashok Koul outlined the forthcoming party programmes to be implemented at the ground level, particularly those focused on interacting with common citizens and strengthening the booth structure. He said that introspection was conducted regarding ongoing initiatives like AtmaNirbhar Bharat, under which party leaders must conduct door-to-door outreach, encouraging citizens to support the local economic ecosystem by purchasing local products.

He also reviewed programmes being conducted as part of the 150 years of Vande Mataram and 150 years of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, urging all districts to observe these events with full participation at the booth level.

Celebration of 5 Years of NMBA held at GGM Science College



Faculty and students taking pledge.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: GGM Science College, Jammu, proudly celebrated the completion of five successful years of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) - a nationwide campaign aimed at eliminating drug abuse and promoting a healthy, responsible, and addiction-free society. The event was organized on the college campus with the active cooperation of the NCORD Committee, NSS Unit, and the staff members of the institution.

The programme began with a warm welcome of dignitaries, followed by an overview of the objectives of the Abhiyan. Students, faculty members, and NSS volunteers participated enthusiastically, reaffirming their commitment to spreading awareness regarding drug-free living.

To mark the significance of this national initiative, a special Pledge Ceremony was conducted. All participants took a solemn oath emphasizing their responsibility to stay away from harmful substances and to encourage peers, families, and communities to adopt a

healthy and addiction-free lifestyle.

A series of awareness lectures and interactive sessions were held during the celebration. The speakers highlighted the alarming rise of substance abuse among youth and emphasized the need for continuous awareness, counselling, and community engagement. The resource persons discussed preventive approaches, early identification of addiction symptoms, and the importance of psychological and social support.

Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College, addressed the gathering and appreciated the efforts of the NCORD Committee and NSS Unit. He stressed the role of academic institutions in shaping responsible citizens and reiterated the firm commitment of the college to continue organizing such awareness programmes for the welfare of students.

Dr. Rahul Kait, Convener, NCORD Committee, coordinated the event and highlighted the college's active role in implementing the guidelines of

the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. He encouraged students to serve as ambassadors of anti-drug awareness in society. The programme was actively supported and organized by Dr. Neha Sharma, NSS Programme Officer, who motivated the NSS volunteers to contribute meaningfully to drug awareness initiatives within and outside the campus. She appreciated the enthusiasm shown by the volunteers during the lectures, pledge ceremony, and awareness activities.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, acknowledging the cooperation of faculty members, NSS volunteers, NCORD Committee members, and students. The celebration reinforced the collective resolve of the GGM Science College community to continue working towards a drug-free environment.

The college remains committed to conducting regular awareness drives, outreach activities, counselling sessions, and community programmes in alignment with the vision of Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

CUJ research scholar receives best paper presentation certificate

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Rumeeta Sharma, a research scholar from the Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu, has been awarded the Best Paper Presentation certificate for her research paper titled "From Print to Screens: Investigating Digital Reading Habits among University Students in Jammu Division" at the 19th International and 55th Annual Conference of ELTAI (English Language Teachers' Association of India).

The conference was hosted by the Department of English and Cultural Studies, School of Humanities and Performing Arts, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, from 12th to 15th November 2025 under the theme "Lessons Taught, Lessons Learnt:



VC CUJ, Prof. Sanjeev Jain felicitating a student.

Teacher and Learner Narratives." Her research paper was adjudged as one of the best research papers in the category of Research Scholars in a highly competitive pool of 544 presentations from scholars, teachers, administrators, and practitioners across India and abroad.

Her research examined the evolving digital reading behaviors among university students in the

Jammu region, shedding light on shifting literacy practices, learning preferences, and the implications of screen-based reading on academic engagement.

The paper received appreciation for its strong empirical foundation, clarity of analysis, and relevance to current digital-pedagogical discourse. Along with a certificate, cash prize of Rs. 2000 was presented to Rumeeta during the valedictory ceremony

in the presence of distinguished academicians, conference delegates, and ELTAI officials.

Expressing her gratitude, Rumeeta credited her achievement to the continuous support, guidance, and motivation of her research supervisor, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Assistant Professor, whose guidance, encouragement, and insightful feedback played a pivotal role throughout her research

journey.

Dr. Ravi Vanguri applauded her efforts and also pointed out that Christ University is one of the prominent and leading universities, and the international conference organized with the association of the ELTAI is widely recognized as one of the most prestigious academic gatherings in the field of English language teaching and research in India. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, appreciated the research scholar and supervisor for her achievement and also appraised it as a milestone in her research journey.

Prof. Asit Mantry, Head, Department of Educational Studies congratulated both the scholar and supervisor for this achievement, which recognizes not only them but also for the Department as well as the University.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.reps.gov.in with closing date 09.12.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.reps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.reps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
Open	Works	Single Packet System	17.11.2025	25.11.2025	09.12.2025/ 15:00 Hrs
Details of Tender:					
Provision of Rubberized level crossing at 37 Nos existing level crossings in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-III/FZR.					
Tender No.		Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
179-2025-26-Sr.DEN-III-FZR		₹63665356.72	₹468300.00	60 Days	10 Months

Similar nature of work: "Road Work or LC gate road or Paving Work".

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

Tender No: 179-2025-26-Sr.DEN-III-FZR Date: 17.11.2025

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