

Good Morning Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication



Narendra Modi
@narendramodi

The Indian community in Namibia is extremely optimistic about closer India-Namibia friendship and this reflected in the special welcome in Windhoek. I am extremely proud of our diaspora, particularly the manner in which they have retained a connect with their culture and traditions

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CM Omar Calls For Promoting MICE Tourism, Cultural Events



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday chaired the Board meetings of Sher-i- Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) and Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC) after the Boards were reconstituted recently with Chief Minister as chairman of both the Boards.

CM chaired back-to-back board meetings here at SKICC Srinagar. He presided over the 19th board meeting of SKICC which was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Administrative Secretaries of Finance, Tourism, DG Planning, Director Tourism, MD JKTDC and Director SKICC.

Chief Minister emphas-

sized the need for SKICC to emerge as a prominent place for conferences and other events so that the SKICC is utilized to its optimal level and it is able to earn sufficient revenue to bear its own expenses. He called upon the SKICC management to employ strategic marketing tools to acquaint corporates and private organizations about this facility which has the potential to be hub of activities all the year round. CM expressed concerned over under-utilization of SKICC and asked Tourism department to build a distinct MICE brand identity for the SKICC so as to utilize this facility. "It is essential to target corporates, event planners, and government agencies to ensure higher bookings for SKICC and minimize unutilized days. This would help SKICC to

●P-06

...Pulwama **Terror Attack**

Operatives Purchased Aluminium Powder Online, Says FATF

Reveals Terrorists Exploited Online Platforms To Obtain Explosive Materials

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has revealed that a key component—aluminium—used in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack was procured by the perpetrators through an online platform.

The FATF 2025 report, quoting officials states that a suicide bombing that targeted a convoy of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), resulting in the deaths of forty personnel in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, was a "big conspiracy" and the terrorists acquired aluminium, the key component used in the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) through the e-commerce platform Amazon (EPOM).

The report states that the attack was planned and carried out by the group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JuM) terrorists and the investigations revealed that a large quantity of explosives was moved across the border into India for the attack.



"The aluminium powder procured online was used to enhance the impact of the blast," it adds.

The FATF report said that the case demonstrates the ways in which terrorist groups are using commercial platforms to access materials that can be used in attacks. "The use of legitimate business infrastructure, such as e-commerce services, poses a growing challenge to counter-terrorist financing efforts," it added.

As a result of the investigation, nineteen individuals were charged under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, including sections related to terrorist financing.

Among those charged were seven foreign nationals, including the suicide bomber.

Law enforcement agencies recovered moveable and immovable assets connected to the operation, including vehicles and locations ●P-06

Centre Allocates Rs 4,224 Crore For 316 Rural Roads In Jammu And Kashmir

PEERZADA UMMER

SRINAGAR: The Union Rural Development Ministry has sanctioned Rs 4,224 crore for the construction of 316 roads across 19 districts in Jammu and Kashmir under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase 4 (PMGSY-4), with a total project length of 1,781 kilometers.

Sources said, that the highest number of roads stand sanctioned in Rajouri district. It will see the construction of 41 roads with an allocation of Rs 588 crore 12 lakh. Rajouri's road projects include multiple locations such as Manjakot, Darhal, Kalakot, Dhangri, Nowshera, and Budhal among others.

Poonch follows closely with 40 roads ●P-06

Rain Brings Relief From Heat Conditions In Kashmir



OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: The mercury has plummeted across Jammu and Kashmir, with Srinagar recording a fall of 15 degrees after rainfall in the summer capital of the region and other parts over the last three days. The heatwave has ended abruptly ●P-06

Spider Mite Infestation Sparks Concern Among Apple Growers

JAHANGEER GANAIE



SHOPIAN: A fresh pest outbreak has raised concern among apple growers in south Kashmir, as the spider mite infestation has been reported in several areas of Anantnag and Shopian districts, ●P-06

'J&K Targets Rs 1 Lakh Crore Agri GDP By 2030'

WARIS FAYAZ

SOPORE: Director Agriculture, Kashmir Sartaj Ahmed Shah on Wednesday said that they are aiming to boost agricultural and allied sectors' contribution to the Union Territory's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to Rs 1 lakh crore by 2030, up from the current Rs 37,000 crore.

Ahmed in Sopore, said that achieving this ambitious target would only be possible if farmers are provided with timely access to quality inputs such as seeds, irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides.

He urged fertilizer and pesticide dealers to uphold quality control and regulatory compliance.

The Director announced that the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is being considered for inclusion of apple orchards, which are

currently not covered.

"While maize and paddy are the main crops under coverage right now, there is a strong need to include apples. We are optimistic that the scheme will be approved by September, and by next

season, apple growers will be able to avail insurance benefits under RWBCIS," Ahmed stated.

Addressing concerns over fertilizer quality, the Director clarified that there have been no formal complaints of misbranded or substandard chemical fertilizers like DAP, Urea, or MOP in the region so far.

"A complaint cannot be considered valid unless verified through lab testing. The tests are conducted at the Lal Mandi facility, and unless the nutrient value falls below the permissible limit, we cannot label any ●P-06

CS Visits Nunwan, Chandanwadi Base Camps To Assess Yatra Arrangements



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday visited the Nunwan Base Camp at Pahalgam to review the arrangements made for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025.

He chaired a high-level meeting with senior officers of the civil administration, police, security forces, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) and other line departments to assess the facilities being provided to the pilgrims for ensuring their yatra in a seamless manner.

During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary was given a comprehensive briefing on various ●P-06

Doctors' Shortage Inherited, Can't Be Fixed Overnight: Sakina

WARIS FAYAZ

BARAMULLA: Minister of Health & Medical Education, Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said that the shortage of doctors in remote areas is a legacy issue, not a recent failure, saying that around 500 new appointments were made to bridge the gaps.

Minister, said "the shortage of doctors is something we inherited. You can't expect things to be fixed in one year when for six years there were no doctors, no medical staff and no proper infrastructure. These are problems that take time to resolve."

She said that under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, the current administration has taken steps to address the crisis, particularly by strengthening human resources in the health sector. "We issued 309 appointment orders to degree-holders to serve in remote and underserved areas. Recently, another 111 appointments were made to further bridge the gap in healthcare delivery."

On specialist recruitment, the Minister highlighted that consultant-level appointments through the Services Selection Board



(SSB) have also progressed and efforts are underway to deploy them effectively.

However, Itoo admitted that despite upgrades in infrastructure, new post creations and essential facilities like equipment, medical assistants and support staff have lagged. "Buildings were constructed quickly, but they lack basic medical equipment and manpower. We need to consolidate these efforts now."

She appealed to all stakeholders to work together for systemic improvement. "We need support from everyone — the media, the public and all departments, to strengthen healthcare delivery. The administration remains committed to bringing lasting change," she added.

Regarding GMC Baramulla, the Minister said that the government is committed to strengthening healthcare ●P-06

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DC Srinagar inspects progress of ongoing works on S R Gunj PHC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday conducted a comprehensive onsite inspection of the ongoing construction works on Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) S R Gunj (Maharaj Gunj) in Shahr-e-Khaas area of the City.

During the comprehensive site visit, DC reviewed each construction component, assessed the current progress of the health facility being constructed. He also took stock of the pace and quality of the work.

While reviewing the progress, DC was apprised that over 50 percent of the works including brick-work, internal plastering, door & window framework and tile work stands almost completed with the remaining works being carried out at a fast pace.

On the occasion, DC directed the concerned executing agency to ensure accelerating the pace of



works on each component of the prestigious project so that the local population is benefitted.

He underlined the importance of inter-departmental coordination to resolve issues, if any, in the project to eliminate delays ensuring timely completion of the health facility.

DC stressed the impor-

tance of robust inter-departmental coordination to promptly address any issue, to avoid delay, so that the health facility is made operational at the earliest. He maintained that the health facility will strengthen the healthcare infrastructure in the Shahr-e-Khaas area of the City and provide quality

healthcare facilities to the residents.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; Executive Engineer R&B, Executive Engineer KPDCL, Tehsildar Khanyar, Zonal Medical Officer, S R Gunj and others concerned.

MISSION YUVA

DC Srinagar reviews sanctioning of cases of entrepreneurs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure swift and seamless implementation of Mission YUVA scheme aimed to facilitate the success of enterprises in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Wednesday chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, DC took a department wise review in implementation of Mission Yuva scheme and stressed the stakeholder departments to ensure swift and seamless implementation of the scheme to facilitate the success of youth-led enterprises in the district.

DC stressed strong on-ground implementation and effective interdepartmental coordination to avoid delays in sanctioning & disposal of benefits to the eligible beneficiaries. He directed regular performance monitoring of progress under Mission YUVA on a daily basis and convening District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meetings every Wednesday till the disposal of all the received applications.

On the occasion, DC asked the stakeholder



departments to redouble the efforts to ensure swift processing/verification and uploading of Mission Yuva cases on the portal.

He stressed on implementation of Mission YUVA into a viable platform for empowering youth through sustainable self-employment and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the district.

Earlier, DC took a detailed appraisal about the status of awareness campaigns going on at Panchayat level, Municipal Wards of the district aimed to cover

all eligible beneficiaries under Mission Yuva.

He also evaluated the progress of DPR formulation by the stakeholder departments including EDI, DIC, DSEO and Employment department and was informed that as many as 329 DPRs have been formulated so far and are being submitted to DLIC for accord of approval.

During the meeting, detailed information was given on the status of Mission YUVA including the number of applica-

tions received, processed, sanctioned, etc under the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Deputy Director Employment, Dr. Sheeba, DSEO, Shah Ismail Bangroo, LDM(Banks), Nilofer Jan and Officers from EDI, NABARD, NRLM, Agriculture and other concerned Departments.

ADC Kupwara visits Drugmulla, undertakes inspection of govt. offices

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara,

Gulzar Ahmad Rather conducted a surprise inspection of various government offices in the Drugmulla Tehsil today.

The inspection covered several government offices including the New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) Drugmulla, Tehsil office Drugmulla, Block Development office (BDO) Drugmulla, and Government Girls Middle School Bumhama.

During the visit, ADC observed that a number of employees at the BDO office were found unauthorisedly absent from duty.

While reviewing the functioning of the Tehsil Office Drugmulla, NTPHC Drugmulla, and the Government Girls Middle School Bumhama, ADC expressed satisfaction on their overall working. He appreciated the commitment of staff at these offices and institutions.

At the Government Middle School Bumhama, he held an interactive session with the teaching staff and emphasized the need to strictly adhere to the online class schedule, urging teachers to follow it in letter and spirit to ensure uninterrupted learning for students.

District administration reiterated its commitment to maintaining accountability and improving service delivery across all departments in Kupwara district.

Secy DLSA B'pora holds monthly review meeting with LADCs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In order to assess the performance of Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) of district Bandipora, a monthly review meeting of LADCs was convened in the office chamber of Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bandipora.

The meeting aimed to ensure that the LADCs are meeting the standards of service delivery as well as to identify challenges faced by them, and to discuss strategies for improvement of their work profile in dispensation of justice.

The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Bandipora and the chief LADC along with his team participated in the said meeting.

Secretary DLSA, Bandipora reviewed their work done statements as per their job profile mentioned in LADC Modified Scheme, 2022.

Chief LADC presented the status of the cases assigned to them, including the number of cases sub-judice in the various courts, their disposal, and pendency. He submitted that a total of 64 cases are with them out of which 35 cases are of Sessions Trial and 29 are of Magisterial Trial.

Secretary DLSA, Bandipora reviewed the case files

and registers maintained by the LADCs and observed that they are attending their cases properly and are maintaining their respective registers for handling remand work, bail work, legal assistance provided by them to the legal aid beneficiaries at pre-arrest, arrest and remand stage on daily basis.

Moreover, they have also maintained the relevant records regarding their visits paid to Police Stations and jails as per their job profile and also conducted awareness programmes as per calendar of activities issued by J&K LSA and direction of DLSA Bandipora.

Chief LADC brought several issues into the notice of the Secretary DLSA Bandipora and sought their redressal.

Secretary, DLSA Bandipora, assured the Chief LADC that he will take up the matter with the Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, for filling up the vacant posts of supporting staff at the earliest and extension of instant scheme to Peripheral courts.

It was resolved that the Legal Aid Defence Counsels shall ensure compliance with the resolutions adopted and Secretary, DLSA, Bandipora shall monitor the progress of the Legal Aid Defence Counsels and review their performance.

‘My Right to Sight’ campaign kick-starts from GHSS Vessu in Qazigund

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: In a significant step aimed at strengthening student health services in schools, School Education department Anantnag, in collaboration with Help Poor Voluntary Trust (HPVT), formally launched the ‘My Right to Sight’ initiative at Government Higher Secondary School Vessu, Qazigund.

Chief Education Officer Anantnag, Ali Mohammad Bhat, District Education Planning Officer Anantnag, Dr. Syed Reyaz Ahmad (also serving as Project Manager, HPVT), Principal of HSS Vessu, faculty members, and students from various institutions of Cluster Vessu attended the event.

This noble initiative is designed to enable the early detection and timely correction of vision-related issues among school-going children. Through this project, students will receive comprehensive eye examinations, and corrective spectacles will be provided free of cost to those identified with vision impairments.

In his address, CEO Anantnag praised the humanitarian efforts of the Help Poor Voluntary Trust and reiterated the department's commitment to the overall well-being of students, highlighting that



good vision is fundamental to effective learning and academic success.

Speaking on the occasion, DEPO Anantnag emphasized the critical convergence of health and education, and encouraged Heads of Institutions and teaching staff to extend their full cooperation during the project's implementation across their respective schools.

Project Manager HPVT provided a detailed overview of the project's vision and execution plan. He reaffirmed HPVT's mission to serve marginalized communities and ensure that no child is left behind due to

untreated visual disabilities.

Under Phase-I, the ‘My Right to Sight’ campaign will cover all Govt. Schools in the Zones of Aishmuqam, Qazigund, Vailoo, and Verinag, aiming to benefit hundreds of students, particularly from remote and underserved areas of district Anantnag.

The launch event concluded with a symbolic screening of students, marking a promising beginning to a student-centric health initiative. The program was enthusiastically received by both students and faculty, and is widely regarded as a crucial step towards building a healthier and more inclusive educational environment.

Mediation for the Nation

Chairman DLSA B'pora holds review meeting with Judicial Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In order to promote mediation as a preferred mode of dispute resolution to reduce the backlog of cases and promoting amicable dispute resolution, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora Wednesday convened the review meeting of all the judicial officers of district Bandipora.

DLSA, Bandipora, under the leadership of its Chairman, Khalil Ahmad Choudhary (Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Bandipora conducted a comprehensive meeting to officially launch the ‘Mediation for the Nation’ campaign, a 90-day Mediation Drive.

The campaign aims to settle pending civil, family, commercial, MACT, Land Acquisition, Bank Recovery and compoundable criminal cases across

all courts in the district through effective mediation, ensuring timely justice and reducing the burden on the Courts.

During the meeting, Chairman DLSA Bandipora, who is also the Principal District & Sessions Judge, emphasized the importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, especially mediation, in building public trust and promoting peace in the community. He encouraged all judicial officers of district Bandipora to identify the maximum number of cases for mediation and to actively participate and coordinate to make the campaign a success.

“This 90-day mediation drive is a step towards justice at the doorstep. Mediation not only saves time and resources but also preserves relationships. We

also appeal to the litigant public to come forward and take advantage of this initiative,” Chairman DLSA stated.

He also emphasized the importance of Lok Adalats in strengthening access to justice for all. He highlighted how disputes, especially in MACT and matrimonial matters, can be resolved efficiently with mutual understanding and without prolonged litigation.

“The goal of the Special Lok Adalat on MACT and Matrimonial Cases scheduled on 26th July, 2025 is to provide timely justice, reduce the pendency of cases, and offer relief to the aggrieved parties through compromise and settlement. Both MACT and matrimonial cases deeply affect lives and families, and deserve sensitive yet swift handling,” he said.

Chairman DLSA

encouraged all judicial officers of district Bandipora to identify the maximum number of cases for the said Special Lok-Adalat and coordinate to make the Lok Adalat a success.

During the session, Chairman DLSA also directed judicial officers to identify and prioritize cases related to serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris. He stated that these sections of society have made immense contributions and sacrifices for the nation and must receive expedited and respectful access to justice.

“It is our duty to ensure that the families of armed forces personnel, including Veer Naris, do not face unnecessary legal delays. Their cases must be identified and resolved with utmost sensitivity and urgency,” the Chairman said.

DLSA Srinagar launches 90-Day ‘Mediation for the Nation’ campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a determined push to strengthen alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and bring justice closer to the people, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the leadership of Tasleem Arief (Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar and Chairman, DLSA), convened a high-level review meeting with all judicial officers of district Srinagar.

The meeting marked the formal launch of the ambitious ‘Mediation for the Nation’ campaign, a 90-day nationwide drive aimed at promoting mediation as a time-bound, efficient, and relationship-preserving tool of justice.

The campaign, as envisioned by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA), seeks to identify and resolve a wide range of pending matters civil disputes, family conflicts, commercial cases, MACT claims, land acquisi-

tion matters, bank recovery suits, and compoundable criminal cases, through structured and effective mediation processes in every court of the district.

Addressing the Ld. Judicial officers, Chairman DLSA called mediation ‘the justice of tomorrow delivered today,’ and stressed that mediation not only reduces the burden on courts but also restores peace, dignity, and mutual respect between disputing parties. He urged all judicial officers to actively spearhead the identification of suitable cases and promote a culture of dialogue and reconciliation in their respective courts.

“This drive is not just about resolving cases, it’s about transforming how we deliver justice. Mediation empowers people to settle disputes amicably, without prolonged litigation. We appeal to the litigant public to embrace this opportunity and resolve their disputes with dignity, speed, and satisfaction,” said Tasleem Arief.



Rana inaugurates Officer's Block at Deers HQ Bemina

Reviews GIS leveraging for forests conservation, management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, Wednesday inaugurated the newly constructed Officer's Block at Deers Headquarters in Bemina, marking a significant step towards enhancing the department's infrastructure and operational efficiency.

The ceremony was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta and other senior officers.

The building has been constructed by PWD/R&B Division Srinagar with an expenditure amounting Rs 128.019 lakh.

During the inauguration, the Minister emphasized that the new facility would streamline administrative operations and provide a modern and efficient work environment for officers.

He highlighted Omar Abdullah- led Government's commitment towards improving the



infrastructure, leading to better conservation and management of forests.

The Minister appreciated the Deers HQ for setting up an office suited to current times besides improving the overall administrative efficiency of the department.

Later, the Minister reviewed the functioning of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing and inspected the Geographical Information System (GIS) lab.

Rana underscored the

importance of GIS in leveraging technology for efficient and precise tracking and management of forest resources. He noted that GIS plays a crucial role in safeguarding J&K's rich biodiversity and fostering sustainable development.

The GIS system captures and analyzes a range of geographical data to help departments and organizations make long-term plans regarding biodiversity richness, flood-prone areas, climate change issues and forest fire-prone

areas.

The Minister was briefed about the department's working including the completed and ongoing projects besides the future expansion plans. He appreciated the department's performance on some of the pressing issues related to ecology and environment.

The officers also highlighted their issues and concerns hampering department's functioning and sought Minister's intervention in redress of the same.

Maintain high level of vigilance throughout Amarnath Yatra: DIG Jammu

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma on Wednesday conducted a thorough security review of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and stressed the significance of maintaining a high level of vigilance throughout the duration of the pilgrimage.

The 38-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high shrine commenced on July 3 from the Valley via the twin tracks — the traditional 48-kilometre-long Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-kilometre shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

The number of pilgrims, who have paid obeisance at the cave shrine, has crossed one lakh.

The DIG, who looks after the operational area of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts, conducted a review of the security and other arrangements for the ongoing yatra by undertaking ground-level checks and convening a high-level meeting to get feedback from officers, a police spokesperson said.

During the review, Sharma visited the lodge-



ment centres and Langar sites in the three districts and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to ensure the safety and security of the pilgrims, he added.

The DIG highlighted the need for meticulous planning and execution of security measures to address any potential threats and challenges.

He stressed the significance of maintaining a high level of vigilance throughout the duration of the yatra.

Sharma instructed the officers to conduct regular reviews and mock drills to ensure that all plans are effectively implemented.

He also directed proper checking of vehicles plying on the roads and thorough

verification of vendors, with immediate necessary action to be taken in case of any suspicious activity.

The DIG directed all officers to lay special focus on the security being extended to the pilgrims en route, at places of stay — especially the base camp at Bhagwati Nagar — and at all lodgement centres and Langar sites.

"All officers were exhorted to implement Operation Third Eye in their respective jurisdictions in coordination with other stakeholders for foolproof security of the yatris," he said.

Sharma further directed that officers and personnel deployed for yatra security and on the highway remain extra vigilant at their designated points.

The DIG also interacted with the yatris during the review and advised passengers travelling in private vehicles to follow police instructions and preferably travel in official convoys for a safe and secure journey.

He also inspected all en route joint checkposts, ambush points, Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), Road Opening Parties (RoPs) and border posts, and met with Village Defence Guard members of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts.

The DIG briefed them about the sensitivity of their duties and directed them to remain extra vigilant.

"Moreover, all officers were directed to strengthen all nakas, especially in the border areas as well as within the city during night hours and early morning. They were also tasked with identifying locations where additional nakas need to be established for the security of yatris," he said.

Sharma also instructed officers to maintain proper liaison with intelligence agencies of the Army, paramilitary forces and other security agencies in their respective jurisdictions, and to share intelligence on a real-time basis. (PTI)

Javid Dar chairs a reviews meeting of irrigation facilities in rain-fed areas



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the irrigation facilities and identify areas for improvement in rain-fed areas of J&K at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting assessed the current situation and explored the strategies to further enhance irrigation infrastructure and water management practices to benefit the farmers community.

Director Command Areas Development, Kashmir; CEO IWMP; Chief Engineer PHE Kashmir; Superintendent Engineer, PHE Mechanical Circle North; Executive Engineer PHE, Ground Water Division Kashmir; Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

The Minister directed

the concerned officers to work out potential solutions like implementing modern irrigation technologies, improving water storage and distribution networks and promoting the water conservation practices.

Dar emphasized the government's commitment towards bolstering the agricultural sector, with a particular focus on enhancing the irrigation facilities in rain-dependent areas, to support the farmers and improve crop productivity.

The Minister directed the concerned to identify the suitable site in solely rain-fed areas of the districts where borewell can be taken up under various schemes.

Javid Dar emphasised the need for intensifying the awareness campaigns and providing training to farmers on water conservation techniques, efficient irrigation methods and sustainable farming practices.

Takeena Itoo distributes relief cheques among fire victims in B'la

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Education, Takeena Itoo, Wednesday distributed relief cheques worth Rs 13 lakh among the 25 fire affected families of Mohalla Jalal Sahib, Old Town Baramulla.

The assistance was provided under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund during a distribution ceremony held at Dak Bungalow.

MLA Baramulla Javid Hassan Baig; MLA Uri Sajjad Shafi; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar and other senior officers of district administration were also present on the occasion.

The Minister expressed heartfelt solidarity with the victims, reaffirming the government's commitment to stand with the



citizens in times of crisis. "This is not just financial support, it is government's commitment towards providing assistance to our citizens in times of distress", she maintained.

The Minister asked the administration for ensuring proactive measures to prevent such incidents in the future, including better fire safety infrastructure and awareness in vulnerable areas. She

also directed the district administration to ensure all necessary rehabilitation measures are taken without delay.

While interacting with the victims, the Minister assured them of continued support from the government.

The victims expressed gratitude for the timely intervention and appreciated government's active role in facilitating the much-needed relief.

Takeena Itoo inaugurates State-of-Art main building of GDC Boniyar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Takeena Itoo, inaugurated the State of Art main building of Government Degree College (GDC) Boniyar here Wednesday.

MLA Uri Dr. Sajjad Shafi; MLA Baramulla Javed Hassan Baig; Director Colleges Dr. Firdous Ahmad Giri; Principal GDC Boniyar, Professor Parveen Kousar; faculty members of college; students and locals were present during the inaugural ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized government's commitment towards providing equitable access to quality education in remote and rural areas. "This new infrastructure is not just a building, it is a symbol



of government's vision to empower the youth of Boniyar with knowledge, opportunity and a bright future", she stated.

Highlighting various initiatives of the government regarding development of education sector, Takeena outlined that this upgraded infrastructure would significantly enhance the academic environment in the college and attract more students from the

surrounding areas.

The Minister further said that education sector, particularly in remote and underserved areas, is being upgraded so as to provide best and quality education to students near their vicinities.

On the occasion, the Minister also interacted with the students, encouraging them to make full use of the facilities for excellence in academics as well as community development.

Transport Comm visits Baltal, Domail Base camp; reviews transport arrangements

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan Wednesday conducted an extensive visit to key locations along the Amarnath Yatra route to review the transport arrangements and coordination among various agencies.

He was accompanied by ARTO Ganderbal and other field officials.

The visit included inspections at Baltal, the base camp at Domail and a high-level review meeting with key stakeholders, including SSP Traffic (Rural), Camp Director Domail, OC Beacon

and officials of the SSB.

The focus of the meeting was to streamline the vehicular movement, ensure road safety, monitor transport operations and enhance inter-agency coordination for benefit of the pilgrims.

At Baltal, the Transport Commissioner reviewed free transport services being provided to pilgrims. He interacted with the drivers and instructed them to prioritize safe, disciplined and comfortable travel for all the pilgrims. He also received positive feedback from the pilgrims, many of whom expressed satisfaction with the transport facilities and

services being made available during the Yatra.

He also visited the Weighing Bridge at Sonamarg, where he directed the ARTO Ganderbal to submit a comprehensive proposal for modernization of the facility. This included integration of advanced monitoring gadgets and provision of adequate accommodation and infrastructure for the staff working at the site.

The Transport Commissioner emphasized the need for sustained vigilance, coordination and public service commitment to ensure continued success of the Yatra operations.

IN THE FOUM OF THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER, J.V FOREST DIVISION, BARAMULLA

Extract of order passed by the Authorised Officer—Cum- Divisional Forest Officer, J.V Forest Division Vide No.DFO/JV/AO/2025-26/168-73 Dated 08-07-2025 in connection with case no. 320-27/JV/Bla of Doabgah Forest Range.

"Therefore, I am of the opinion that justice will be done by confiscating the seized vehicle along with the timber. I therefore issue order under sub sec 3 of sec 52 of IFA 2020 that the seized Truck bearing Regd No. JK05B/1315 (Engine No: NA, Chaises No: NA) along with the Deodar/Kail Sawn 18 in number equal to = 39.78 Cft is confiscated to the UT. The confiscated vehicle along with its relevant document is lying with Range Officer Half Wrought Factory Baramulla as custodian of the concerned confiscated asset. The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 10 - 08 - 2025. The timber be handed over to FDC Baramulla. The copy of this order be communicated to the Conservator of Forest, North Circle Sopore. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused person/persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the Union Territory. The file be consigned to records after its due completion"

(Satyendra Maurya) IFS

Authorized Officer-Cum-Divisional Forest Officer

Jehlum Valley Forest Division,

Baramulla

DIPK-3475-25

DT: 09/07/2025

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CUM DISTRICT MAGISTRATE KUPWARA

Phone: 01955-253335; Fax: 01955-252130; Email:- paaddc-kup@jk.gov.in

EXTENSION ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Subject: Temporary Engagement of Chartered Accountant/Professional Expert for DPR Formulation under Mission YUVA (Three-Month Term) Extension thereof.

In view of the low response, sanction is hereby accorded for the extension of the Advertisement Notice issued vide this office Order No: DDCK/25/558-60 dated 30.06.2025 and published on 01.07.2025. The last date for submission of applications is hereby extended up to 14th July, 2025, for the temporary engagement of a Chartered Accountant (CA) or Professional Expert for a period of three (03) months under Mission YUVA.

This engagement is aimed at supporting the formulation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and Quotation Pro-forma/Invoices for aspiring entrepreneurs, and is intended to strengthen the functioning of the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) in the district.

Terms and Conditions:

The terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the original advertisement.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates may submit their detailed Resume/CV, along with self-attested copies of qualification and experience certificates, in the office of the District Employment & Counselling Centre (DECC), Kupwara on or before three (03) days from the date of publication of this notice.

For queries, contact:

decckupwara@gmail.com

Note: This engagement is purely temporary and does not confer any right to permanent employment in Government services.

No: DDCK/25/2562-64

Dated: 08/07/2025

DIPK-3456-25

DT: 09/07/2025

District Dev. Commissioner

Kupwara

Secure Yatra

The deployment of advanced surveillance technologies like geo-fencing and Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) by Jammu and Kashmir Police for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra marks a significant step toward modernizing security measures for one of India's most revered pilgrimages. In a region where ensuring safety has always been a complex challenge, the integration of real-time monitoring tools reflects a proactive approach to threat prevention while minimizing disruption to devotees.

The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, an important stretch for the yatra, has often been vulnerable to security risks. By implementing geo-fencing, a system that creates virtual boundaries and triggers alerts upon unauthorized movements, the authorities can now monitor pilgrim movement with unprecedented precision. This not only enhances situational awareness but also enables quicker responses to potential threats. Similarly, the use of FRS at key checkpoints allows for seamless, non-intrusive screening, ensuring that known threats are identified without inconveniencing pilgrims.

The police have assured that these systems are being operated within legal and ethical boundaries, strictly for security purposes. Given the history of terrorism in the region, such measures are not just justified but necessary. The yatra's smooth conduct is a testament to the delicate balance between maintaining religious freedom and ensuring public safety. However, technology alone cannot guarantee security. The success of these systems depends on seamless coordination among security personnel, intelligence agencies, and local administration. The establishment of quick response teams and centralized control rooms is a welcome move, but sustained vigilance and adaptability will be key as threats evolve.

The Kulgam Police's initiative sets a precedent for this pilgrimages. As India moves toward smarter policing, the focus must remain on leveraging technology responsibly, enhancing security. For now, the seamless integration of these tools during the Amarnath Yatra is a reassuring sign of progress in safeguarding both faith and safety.

Braving The Seasons

Building All-Weather Schools

MOHD AMIN MIR

When winter descends on Kashmir, Himachal, Ladakh, or even parts of Uttarakhand and the Northeast, the school bell falls silent. Snow-laden rooftops, bone-chilling winds, broken window panes, and unheated classrooms force an annual exodus from education. For decades, children in these regions have been conditioned to equate December through February not with learning, but with an enforced break—winter vacations that are longer than academic terms.

This seasonal interruption is not only a disservice to the intellectual development of children but also a systemic failure to ensure the constitutional right to education year-round. While developed nations in Europe—many of them colder than Kashmir—conduct regular schooling throughout the harshest of winters, Indian Himalayan regions shut doors for three months. This glaring gap demands one fundamental reform: the creation of All-Weather Schools.

This article argues why all-weather schools are the next frontier in India's educational equity and infrastructure policy. It outlines the essential components of such institutions and presents a cost-effective roadmap to implement them across climate-vulnerable regions.

What Are All-Weather Schools?

"All-weather schools" are educational institutions designed to function uninterrupted throughout the year, regardless of climatic conditions. They are thermally insulated, well-lit, energy-efficient, and digitally connected buildings equipped with heating or cooling systems, weather-proofed architecture, and a pedagogical calendar that does not bend before nature's tantrums.

While the term may sound luxurious in the Indian context, it is an essential infrastructure for educational parity. In Finland, Norway, Switzerland, Canada, or northern Japan—countries where snow covers the land for 4-5 months—children go to school daily. Why can't India's mountain states aspire to the same?

The Indian Reality: Winter Shuts Down Learning

In states and Union Territories like Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and parts of Arunachal Pradesh, schools remain closed for 60 to 90 days in winter. Temperatures often plunge below minus 5°C, buildings lack insulation, and children are forced to stay home. Online learning is patchy due to poor connectivity, and printed homework packets do not compensate for lost teacher interaction.

This educational disruption has several long-term impacts:

- Learning gaps widen, particularly in early childhood education.
- Dropout rates increase among girls and marginalised groups.
- Working parents struggle to manage children at home for extended periods.
- Academic calendars get squeezed, forcing rushed teaching.

Learning from Europe: How Cold Countries Keep Schools Open

A look at how nations manage education in freezing climates offers a masterclass in planning. In countries like Finland or Switzerland, where daily winter temperatures can fall to -15°C, school remains uninterrupted. Here's how:

- Central Heating & Thermal Insulation: Schools have central heating systems—geothermal, electric, or radiator-based—that maintain a stable indoor temperature.



- Double-Glazed Windows & Insulated Walls: All school buildings are required by law to have thermally insulated architecture, reducing heat loss and energy consumption.
- Weather-Ready Clothing Policies: Children are provided or required to wear snow boots, thermal coats, gloves, and caps. Weather is not a reason to stay home.

- All-Purpose Indoor Spaces: Sports, assembly, and extracurriculars are held in heated indoor auditoriums or gyms when outdoor conditions are hostile.
- Prepared Transport Infrastructure: Snow-clearing, heated buses, and safe routes ensure children can commute to school safely.
- Calendar and Flexibility: Academic calendars are structured with buffer days and allow flexible attendance in rare weather extremes—but not blanket closures.

Modified Academic Calendar with Micro-Vacations

A complete shutdown of 2-3 months in winter is an outdated British-era policy. Modern educational calendars in cold countries adopt micro-breaks and staggered schedules.

Digital Infrastructure as Backup, Not Primary Mode

Relying solely on online classes during winter is unrealistic in areas with low internet penetration. However, pre-recorded lectures, TV broadcast lessons, and offline tablets can complement physical classes.

Solution: Supply teachers with solar-powered teaching kits and preloaded content during emergency closures. Develop region-specific winter e-modules in local languages.

Transport & Access Pathways

Even the best-equipped schools are useless if children cannot reach them. Snowlocked roads, iced footpaths, and broken footbridges prevent access.

Solution: Involve Public Works Departments (PWDs) and Rural Development agencies to ensure school routes are cleared regularly. In remote areas, consider setting up winter hostels for children from inaccessible hamlets.

Teacher Training and Incentives

Teachers themselves often seek long winter holidays due to poor working conditions. All-weather schooling needs motivated, well-trained educators who can teach in diverse climates.

- Introduce winter teaching allowances
- Conduct training modules on winter pedagogy
- Offer rotational deputation incentives for teachers in snow-prone zones

Community Involvement & Awareness

Parents and communities often resist winter schooling due to safety and health concerns. Behavioral change must accompany infrastructure.

Solution: Run awareness campaigns through radio, panchayats, and religious leaders, assuring parents of warm facilities and student welfare. Community-school partnerships can ensure smooth daily functioning.

The Economics of Warmth: Is This Affordable?

Critics may argue that all-weather schools are too expensive. But consider this: the cost of one government bungalow can fund complete insulation and heating for ten schools. The real question is budgetary prioritization, not affordability.

Moreover, carbon-efficient designs—like solar heating, passive architecture, and insulated eco-bricks—are long-term savings, not costs. With the Centre already funding Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, a new "Weather-Proof School Fund" for cold and hot climate regions is both feasible and necessary.

Case Study: Gurez Valley's Winter Schooling Pilot

In 2023, the Bandipora District Administration initiated a pilot in Gurez, one of Kashmir's coldest and most remote valleys. Using community volunteers, they kept three schools open during a 45-day winter window by providing:

- Room heaters
- Thermal uniforms
- Emergency medicines
- Snow clearance on paths

The result? 100+ students attended classes regularly, and learning outcomes remained stable. This low-cost, high-impact model can be replicated in hundreds of villages.

Policy Recommendations: A National Mission for All-Weather Schools

India needs a dedicated national mission to make year-round schooling a reality across climate-stressed zones. Recommendations include:

National All-Weather School Policy for Hill States

- A central guideline under NEP 2020 for climate-resilient schooling infrastructure.
- Mandatory Building Codes for School Construction in Cold Zones
- Special Winter Uniform and Nutrition Grants for Children
- State-Level Academic Calendar Reforms and Flexibility
- Public-Private Partnerships for Solar Heating Solutions
- Block-level Micro-Planning and Monitoring Units

A Nation That Teaches, Come Rain or Snow

To build the knowledge economy India dreams of, we must begin by making learning resilient to nature's seasons. A child in Ganderbal or Lahaul deserves the same uninterrupted schooling as a child in Gurgaon or Chennai. Geography should not dictate literacy. Climate should not cancel curiosity.

The time has come to shift from vacationing through winters to learning through them. All-weather schools are not an extravagance; they are an educational necessity and a moral imperative.

Mohd Amin Mir is a columnist and development writer focusing on education, rural governance, and institutional reform in Jammu & Kashmir and the Himalayan belt. He can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

MSMEs In J&K: Harnessing Local Potential For Economic Growth

VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

The MSME sector in Jammu & Kashmir is showing positive growth, particularly in employment generation and registrations. According to IBEF, Jammu & Kashmir UT leads in employment generation under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). In every developing economy Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a significant role. A growing economy has to be backed by strong MSMEs which not only helps in generating employment and exports but also act as a nursery of entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Indian economy thrives through the means of enterprise creation as one of the prime movers of the economy. In this direction, "Make in India and Made in India" movement is integral to entrepreneurship development across the country. Therefore, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a vital role for strengthening the Indian economy.

In order to recognize the vital role that MSME businesses play in economic growth, development, and job creation worldwide. The vital role of MSMEs is in fostering global collaboration, encour-

aging innovation, and supporting entrepreneurs across sectors. It highlights the need to build stronger networks that empower small businesses to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. MSMEs are the backbone of India's economic landscape, pivotal in employment generation, entrepreneurship promotion, and economic development. MSME is the growth engine for the UT of J&K as well as national economy, contributing significantly to the GDP, employment creation and

wealth. There is no doubt that the industry-centric policies, provisions of financial assistance, handholding to new and existing enterprises have encouraged MSMEs and other industries in J&K.

The MSME sector in Jammu and Kashmir plays a vital role in the state's economic landscape. It encompasses a wide range of enterprises, from traditional handicrafts and agriculture-related businesses to modern manufacturing and technology-driven startups. The government's sup-

port through various initiatives, including financial incentives, skill development programs, and access to credit, fosters entrepreneurship and economic development in the region. This sector contributes significantly to job creation and industrial growth, making it a cornerstone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy.

MSMEs are of great importance in India's economic development, serving as engines of growth and drivers of socio-economic progress. These enterprises are integral to job creation, particularly in rural and backward areas, contributing significantly to the reduction of unemployment and poverty. MSMEs are a vital component of the global economy, representing approximately 90% of businesses, contributing to over 70% of employment, and accounting for about 50% of the world's GDP. In emerging economies, formal MSMEs contribute up to 40% of national income (GDP). By understanding the importance of MSMEs and the positive impact their support can have, people are empowered to contribute directly to the growth and sustainability of these businesses, fostering economic diversity, local entrepreneurship, and community development.

The MSME sector in India makes a contribution of around

30% to the nation's GDP. Moreover, it contributes about 40% to the total exports of India and provides more than 110 million job opportunities in the country. The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in India, formally established by the MSMED Act of 2006, encompasses businesses engaged in manufacturing, processing, or preservation of goods. MSMEs in J & K have served as significant sources of employment, particularly in economically disadvantaged regions. They provide opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labour, thereby contributing to job creation and reducing unemployment rates.

It is to be appreciated that UT of Jammu & Kashmir has taken many such initiatives in form of policy and schemes which are aimed at reducing the cost of doing business, enhance ease of doing business and help MSMEs achieve scale and improve competitiveness. The exploring MSMEs in J & K serve as an opportunity to highlight their significant role in sustainable development and economic progress, thereby raising public awareness of their contributions.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Smartphone Addiction: The Fine Line Between Necessity And Obsession



MASROOF MANZOOR

One of the greatest misfortunes of the present era, engulfing people of all ages—from infants to the elderly—is the excessive time wasted on smartphones, particularly on social media. This grave concern not only devours invaluable time but also consumes one's entire life. Various studies reveal a significant decline in the time people spend with their families, as they increasingly favor scrolling through social media. Watching videos, especially short reels that last only a few seconds, has become a common trend among individuals of all ages and genders. These seemingly harmless clips trap users in endless cycles of mindless consumption, causing them to lose hours without realizing it, only to be left feeling bored and unfulfilled.

The reckless use of smartphones has left a harmful mark on individuals' time. Time is one of the greatest blessings from Allah (SWT), the most invaluable asset a person possesses. It is the capital of life, and every individual is a trader of their own time. Unlike material wealth, time is not something that can be stored for later use; it flows continuously, minute by minute, second by second.

Consider the example of an ice seller whose business demands relentless effort. If he neglects his work even for a moment, his entire capital—his ice—melts away. Similarly, a person who carelessly wastes even an hour of their time is at a loss. Time, once gone, can never be recovered.

A true Muslim does not have "free time" in the sense of idle moments. Allah (SWT) says in Surah Ash-Sharh (94:7):

"So when you are free, strive in worship."

This verse instructs believers to transform their idle time into worship, as it is the best investment. It highlights the immense importance Islam places on utilizing time wisely. Addi-



tionally, in Surah Al-Mu'minun (23:3), Allah (SWT) describes the believers as:

"Those who avoid vain talk."

This teaches Muslims to distance themselves from frivolous activities and instead engage in meaningful pursuits. A Muslim should strive to spend every available moment in ways that yield beneficial results—whether through worship, learning, or productive work. Even leisure activities should be chosen wisely, ensuring they contribute positively to one's life rather than merely passing time.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized the importance of time in

numerous hadiths. He (PBUH) said:

"The feet of the son of Adam will not move on the Day of Resurrection until he is asked about five things: his life and how he spent it, his youth and how he utilized it, his wealth—how he earned it and how he spent it—and his knowledge and what he did with it." (Tirmidhi)

This hadith serves as a powerful reminder that every second of our lives is accountable. On the Day of Judgment, we will be questioned about how we used the time granted to us. Another profound hadith in Sahih Bukhari states:

"There are two blessings which

many people lose: good health and free time."

This highlights how people often take these blessings for granted, wasting them instead of maximizing their potential.

There is nothing inherently wrong with social media or smartphones; they can be valuable tools for communication, learning, and productivity. However, excessive and uncontrolled usage turns them into distractions. If we fail to recognize this and do not consciously resist, we risk squandering time that could have been used productively.

Time is a priceless blessing, and

using it effectively leads to prosperity. By being mindful of our smartphone usage, prioritizing meaningful activities, and aligning our daily routines with Islamic teachings, we can avoid becoming losers in both this life and the hereafter. Let us reflect on our habits, reduce unnecessary screen time, and invest our moments in actions that bring lasting benefit—spiritually, intellectually, and socially. Only then can we truly honor the gift of time bestowed upon us by Allah (SWT).

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NAAC Goes Binary

India's higher education watchdog ditches grades for credibility—but will it level the field or deepen the divide?

DR. NAWAZ SARIF

Nearly a year after India's accreditation system faced sharp criticism for awarding higher ratings with questionable ease, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is set to scrap its decades-old, multi-tier grading system—A++, A+, B, and the like. In a major policy reset, NAAC will soon roll out a Binary Accreditation Framework, classifying colleges and universities simply as either "Accredited" or "Still-to-be Accredited." It's not just a procedural update, but a clear admission that the old system has lost its credibility—and a move to rebuild public trust.

To avoid flattening all institutions into a single category, NAAC is also introducing a second layer to the reform. Institutions that are already accredited will be evaluated under a parallel track called Maturity-Based Graded Level Accreditation (MBGLA), which aims to assess long-term institutional development along a five-stage continuum: Foundational, Developing, Proficient, Advanced, and Exemplary. This dual approach seeks to distinguish between institutions working to meet minimum standards and those demonstrating continuous improvement in governance, innovation, research, pedagogy, and responsiveness to societal needs.

The overhaul is rooted in two key reform drivers: the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Dr. Radhakrishnan Committee on NAAC Reforms. While NEP 2020 laid out the vision for a transparent, robust, and learner-focused accreditation system, the Radhakrishnan Committee translated that vision into a concrete roadmap—recommending the shift to a binary accreditation model, backed by a maturity-based evaluation framework. Together,

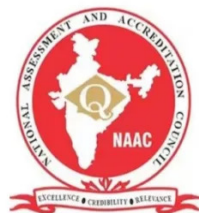
they signaled a break from the old regime of compliance-heavy paperwork and episodic grading. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, the University Grants Commission (UGC) and NAAC are now moving to align accreditation with these imperatives—prioritising institutional growth, accountability, and credibility over box-ticking metrics.

Though the Indian higher education system had long grown accustomed to layered grades like A++, A+, and B, the intent behind this shift is not simplification for its minimalism but credibility. Over time, the symbolic value of high grades diminished, as institutions increasingly secured top ratings through strategic documentation rather than genuine reform. In some cases, those with persistent systemic shortcomings still managed to achieve A++ grades, eroding public faith in the process. In this context, the binary model is not a retreat but a reset—an effort to restore legitimacy by ensuring institutions first meet minimum standards before advancing further.

The MBGLA model, in turn, offers not just a structural alternative but a shift from static labels to developmental trajectories. It moves the conversation from what an institution is to what it is becoming. At its core, it acknowledges that meaningful improvement takes time, reflection, and consistent effort. It could spark a much-needed cultural transformation within the system, encouraging genuine introspection, institutional self-review, and long-term planning—not for show, but for substance. If implemented with fairness and integrity, the model may break the shackles of surface-level fixes and inflated scores that have lost public trust. It looks out for the Silver-lining that the accreditation can become a process of transformation, not just evaluation.

However, this vision demands a decisive break from the performative culture that has long characterized India's accreditation landscape. Though NAAC has described its framework as voluntary and developmental, it became closely tied to funding, affiliation, and regulatory approval. For many resource-strapped institutions, the process devolved into a box-ticking exercise focused more on docu-

structure, and digital divides. Without sustained mentoring and funding support, expecting these institutions to scale maturity levels risks reinforcing a two-tiered system: one for data-rich, innovation-ready institutions, and another left behind. For the model to succeed, it must empower struggling institutions, not punish them, and confront the deep-rooted inequalities it risks reinforcing.



NAAC
National Assessment
and Accreditation Council

NAAC introduces new Binary Accreditation System

mentation than development. Despite several revisions, the older system remained susceptible to superficial compliance and even manipulation. MBGLA attempts to reclaim the purpose of accreditation by shifting the focus from static scores to authentic institutional evolution.

Yet, the reform brings its own set of risks. While MBGLA advances a vision of merit-based differentiation, it could inadvertently deepen existing inequalities. Government-funded colleges in rural and semi-urban areas already face critical gaps—faculty shortages, inadequate infra-

At the ground level, the shift reflects a broader move toward digitised, data-driven evaluations, reducing reliance on manual documentation and in-person peer reviews. While this aligns with India's broader push for digital governance in education, it assumes a level of institutional digital readiness that many colleges—especially those in rural and semi-urban areas—simply do not possess. Without a clear roadmap and sustained capacity-building support, the transition risks becoming aspirational rather than operational. Moreover, as funding, public perception,

and global collaborations increasingly hinge on MBGLA outcomes, the reform must ensure equity and fairness in its execution.

A related concern is the transition for institutions currently graded under the older Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF). Will these designations be retained, recalibrated, or phased out? And how will students, employers, and policy bodies interpret the shift from static grades to developmental maturity levels? NAAC must undertake widespread stakeholder consultations and provide clear timelines, training, and communication strategies to ensure clarity and continuity.

While the full draft of the MBGLA policy is still awaited, its direction is unmistakable. It flows directly from the NEP's core commitments: enhancing transparency, improving accountability, and enabling institutions to evolve through differentiated, evidence-based evaluation. NAAC is not just revising its forms—it is rethinking the very idea of accreditation itself. The old alphabet of quality assurance—A, B, C—is being rewritten. The new grammar is one of Credibility, Maturity, and Demonstrated change.

Whether this transformation leads to deep, systemic improvement or simply creates a new set of benchmarks, remains to be seen. But one thing is certain: accreditation is no longer about passing an exam—it is about documenting a journey. How institutions respond to this call will shape not only their accreditation status, but their relevance in an increasingly competitive global education landscape.

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J&K House in Delhi Under Fire for Demolishing Fourth Floor to Build VIP Suites

Citizens, activists decry mismanagement, misplaced priorities as accommodation crisis deepens

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir House in New Delhi, a vital facility meant to accommodate residents of the Union Territory visiting the national capital, is facing growing public outrage over the controversial demolition of its fourth floor to construct VIP suites. The move, which comes at a time of an acute accommodation shortage, has sparked accusations of gross mismanagement, elitism, and lack of transparency.

The fourth floor, which previously housed several functional rooms used by patients, students, and government employees from

J&K, has been entirely razed. In its place, the Resident Commission is reportedly building luxury suites exclusively for VIPs — and doing so using old or recycled construction materials, according to officials familiar with the developments.

The demolition has drastically reduced the number of available rooms in the J&K House, making it even more difficult for common citizens to find lodging during urgent visits to the capital — especially for medical treatment, administrative work, or education-related purposes. “Getting a room at J&K House was already a challenge. Now, with an entire floor gone, it’s nearly impossible

for ordinary citizens,” said Feroze Ahmad, a Srinagar resident who recently accompanied his father for treatment at AIIMS.

Many visitors are now being forced to stay in expensive private hotels or guest houses in Delhi, burdening families who come from economically weaker backgrounds.

The decision to construct VIP suites at the cost of basic public accommodation has angered civil society groups, activists, and former officials. “The very purpose of the J&K House is being defeated. Instead of expanding capacity or modernising existing rooms, they are catering to VIPs. This speaks volumes about the priorities of the

administration,” said an RTI activist who has filed queries regarding the renovation expenses.

Activists argue that the current state of the J&K House reflects a broader pattern of governance where elite comfort is prioritised over public welfare. “What’s even more troubling is that these suites are being constructed using old materials, raising questions about safety and transparency. Who approved this? Was there any public tendering process?” the activist asked.

Sources within the department allege that the renovation is being carried out without a detailed master plan or public consultation.

There are also concerns that costs may be inflated and accountability diluted due to the lack of regular audits or oversight.

“This entire renovation project is being executed behind closed doors. No details have been shared with the public about the cost, the contractors involved, or the reasons behind using old materials for new VIP rooms. It reeks of mismanagement and possibly corruption,” said a senior retired bureaucrat familiar with the functioning of the Resident Commission.

With no official statement yet from the Jammu and Kashmir Resident Commission in Delhi,

the silence has only intensified suspicion. Civil society groups are now demanding a full audit of the renovation work, including a breakdown of expenditures and the rationale for demolishing the existing floor.

“Public properties are meant to serve the people, not just a handful of high-ranking officials. There should be a detailed inquiry into this,” said advocate Asif Mir, a Delhi-based lawyer who often assists Kashmiris with legal help in the capital.

Several RTI applications seeking information about the renovation project, expenditure, and design plans have reportedly gone

unanswered — compounding concerns about opacity in the functioning of the J&K House.

Until recently, the J&K House was seen as a refuge for residents needing government support during difficult times in Delhi. However, with reduced capacity, silence from the administration, and rising discontent, the facility now symbolizes a growing disconnect between governance and the people it is meant to serve.

As criticism mounts and calls for accountability grow louder, the future of the J&K House renovation project — and the public trust in its management — remains uncertain.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

CM Omar Calls For

augment its revenue”, CM said during the meeting. CM also called upon making recoveries of outstanding dues pending with departments, private entities and individuals. CM also called for assigning clear roles to the staff and better supervision to get best out of the available human resource.

This was the first Board meeting of SKICC after the Board was recently reconstituted with Chief Minister as chairman of the Board. The last board meeting of the SKICC Board had been held in November 2020.

The agenda delved on action taken on decisions of previous board meetings, audit reports, reconciliation of accounts with AG’s office, status of segregation of utilities between SKICC and Centaur Hotel which has been outsourced to Leela Palace & JSW Realty by the UT Administration last year, HR matters and absorption of Centaur Hotel staff in other organizations of Tourism department.

In another meeting, Chief Minister chaired 95th Board of Directors meeting of the J&K Tourism Development Corporation and stressed on the need to increase the visibility of JKTDC assets so that tourists and people in general seek accommodation in JKTDC hotels and guest houses earnestly. He called upon improving the services and facilities in JKTDC properties to enhance the experience of guests so that they prefer to take JKTDC accommodation every time they visit J&K.

CM expressed concern over misuse of JKTDC properties and revenue leakages. “Every single JKTDC asset be installed with an independent smart meter,” CM asserted, underlining the need to improve monitoring of JKTDC huts and hotels and to check misuse of assets. He called upon improving the overnight-stay potential of huts in remote tourist areas. CM gave directions to make maximum number of rooms including premium ones available for better marketability through Online Travel Aggregators so that JKTDC hotels and huts are used to optimum capacity. He called for developing JKTDC App for efficient marketing and better accessibility to its services.

CM called for audit of assets to evaluate the lacunae and how to improve deficiencies. The JKTDC management was directed to adopt best practices being followed in the private sector to improve its functioning.

Among various agenda points discussed in JKTDC board meeting, the onboarding of Online Travel Aggregators for marketing and sale of hotel rooms and accommodations, reimbursement of outstanding dues from other departments, revision of rentals of JKTDC accommodation allotted to various departments & organizations, financial statements, unpaid dues of retired officials and action taken on previous board decisions figured prominently.

JKTDC Board meeting was also attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secy to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries of Finance, Tourism, Industries, DG Planning, Director of Tourism & Managing Director JKTDC.

Operatives Purchased

used as hideouts. The FATF said that jurisdictions should work with private sector entities to improve oversight of transactions involving dual-use materials. It added that enhanced coordination between financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies, and e-commerce providers is necessary to address the misuse of online platforms in support of terrorist activities.

Pertinently, in Pulwama terror attack case on August 25, 2020, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a 13,500-page chargesheet in a special NIA court in Jammu. The chargesheet named 19 accused, including Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, his brothers Abdul Rauf Asghar and Ammar Alvi, and his nephew Mohammed Umar Farooq, who was later killed in an encounter in 2019.

The NIA stated that the attack was directed by JeM’s Pakistan-based leadership, with clear digital, forensic, and oral evidence establishing links between local operatives in India and their Pakistani handlers.

The NIA further noted that Adil Ahmad Dar, the suicide bomber, was deliberately projected as a local terrorist to give the impression that the attack was home-grown. However, investigations revealed extensive planning, logistics, and material support from across the border.

The NIA also named six individuals still at large, including Mohammad Ismail, Sameer Ahmad Dar, and Ashaq Ahmed Nengroo all of whom had fled to Pakistan in addition to Masood Azhar, Rauf Asghar, and Ammar Alvi—(KNO)

Centre Allocates Rs

sanctioned, funded at Rs 484 crore 92 lakh. These include roads in Bufliaz, Lasana, Mankot, Surankot, Loran, Mendhar, and Poonch town itself. Doda district has 31 roads planned with a budget of Rs 661 crore, covering areas like Chirala, Bhaderwah, Changa, and Udaipur.

For Ramban 26 roads have been approved with Rs 416 crore 10 lakh allocated, including projects in Ramban, Banihal, Rajgarh, Ramsu, and Ukhral. Reasi will see 21 roads constructed with Rs 400 crore 53 lakh sanctioned, covering localities such as Katra, Thakurkot, Anras, and Mahore.

Udhampur’s allocation stands at Rs 304 crore 18 lakh for 20 roads, including projects in Udhampur town, Sevna, Chenani, Panchari, and Khoon.

Further allocations and road counts for other districts are as follows:

Kishtwar: 20 roads, Rs 250 crore 32 lakh (including Bunjwah, Marwah, Mughal Maidan) Kathua: 15 roads, Rs 323 crore 89 lakh (covering Kathua, Barnori, Duggan, and others)

Kupwara: 14 roads, Rs 89 crore 68 lakh (including Hayma, Machil, Qadirabad)

Budgam: 14 roads, Rs 88 crore 45 lakh (Pukherpora, Khan Sahib)

Baramulla: 13 roads, Rs 95 crore 45 lakh (Baramulla, Bhijama, Uri)

Kulgam: 13 roads, Rs 63 crore 29 lakh (Frisal, Manzgam, Damhal Hanjipora)

Pulwama: 12 roads, Rs 97 crore 60 lakh (Aripal, Tral, Pampore)

Bandipora: 9 roads, Rs 8 crore 57 lakh (Bandipora, Gurez, Hajin)

Ganderbal: 8 roads, Rs 37 crore 90 lakh (Gund, Bracelet, Lar)

Anantnag: 7 roads, Rs 3 crore 51 lakh (Bring, Pahalgam)

Jammu: 6 roads, Rs 84 crore 31 lakh (Nagrota, Bhalbal Brahmana)

Samba: 3 roads, Rs 67 crore 81 lakh (Nud, Purmandal, Samba)

Pertinently, the Union Ministry of Rural Development had initially sought detailed reports on roadless villages from the Jammu and Kashmir government. Following scrutiny by central officers dispatched from Delhi, the Ministry sanctioned the project and shared the final list with senior state officials.

The Public Works Department (PWD) of Jammu and Kashmir, as per sources, has already begun the tender allocation process after receiving approval from the Central Government.

The project aims to improve rural infrastructure and connectivity significantly, facilitating better access to markets, healthcare, and educational institutions for residents of remote villages—(KNO)

Rain Brings

following the fresh rainfall in Srinagar and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The ongoing season has seen record-breaking temperatures in Srinagar and parts of the Valley, with Srinagar breaking a 72-year-old record by witnessing a maximum temperature of 37.4 degrees on 5 July.

However, the intermittent rainfall that continued over the last three days has cooled down the temperature, with Srinagar recording a maximum of 22.7 degrees - 8.0 degrees below normal.

Similarly, Qazigund, a gateway to Kashmir, recorded 23.1 degrees, which was 5.5 degrees below normal, while Pahalgam’s temperature settled at 20.5 degrees - 5.7 degrees below normal.

In Kokernag, the mercury settled at 23.9 degrees — 3.4 degrees below normal; Kupwara recorded 23.8 degrees — 7.3 degrees below normal; and Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, recorded 15.6 degrees — 6.2 degrees below normal.

Meanwhile, the Jammu region also recorded below-normal temperatures, with Jammu city recording a maximum of 31.4 degrees - 4.0 degrees below normal.

Banihal recorded 25.5 degrees (3.8 degrees below normal), Batote 23.3 degrees (4.2 degrees below normal), Katra 28.8 degrees (3.4 degrees below normal), and Bhaderwah 25.4 degrees (5.6 degrees below normal).

Moreover, the Director of the Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that generally cloudy weather is expected tomorrow, with the possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places. “A few places in Kashmir and Jammu divisions may receive intense showers and torrential rain, with the possibility of heavy rain at isolated places in Jammu division,” he said.

He added that from 11 to 13 July, hot and humid weather is expected again, with the possibility of a spell of light rain and thundershowers at scattered places. A spell of light to moderate rain and thundershowers is also anticipated at many places from 14 to 16 July.

Furthermore, the MeT has issued an advisory stating that there is a possibility of intense showers at a few places in J&K, with

the potential for heavy rain at isolated locations in Jammu division.

“Flash floods are expected at some vulnerable spots, along with landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones until tomorrow,” it reads. It also warns of a possible rise in water levels in rivers, streams, local Nalas, and waterlogging in some low-lying areas.

Additionally, farmers have been advised to suspend irrigation and other farm operations until tomorrow—(KNO)

Spider Mite

compounding the existing challenges faced by orchardists after the earlier outbreak of leaf miner.

Growers from Zainapora subdivision in Shopian and Dachnipora hamlet of Anantnag district have observed widespread damage to their orchards caused by spider mites — a pest previously uncommon in the region.

“We first noticed the spider mite recently and sprayed insecticides, which initially worked,” said Tanveer Ahmad, an orchardist from Zainapora. “But now the pest is back and has spread to more areas. This is creating serious distress for us.”

Farmers believe the infestation may have originated from non-native high-density apple plants being imported without stringent quarantine measures.

“This pest wasn’t known in our orchards earlier. Just like leaf miner, which emerged in recent years, spider mite too seems to have arrived with imported apple plants,” said Bashir Ahmad Mir, a grower from Dachnipora. “We suspect these plants are not being properly checked at the quarantine level.”

Growers pointed out that the problem might be linked to apple plant material brought from European countries like Italy. They urged authorities to thoroughly investigate the source and tighten phytosanitary protocols.

“We are not against new technology or high-density plants, but authorities must ensure proper quarantine before these plants are distributed,” said another farmer from Dachnipora.

Officials from the horticulture department have visited the affected areas and collected samples for investigation. “Our teams have visited the locations, and samples are being examined. We urge farmers to strictly adhere to advisory guidelines,” a senior horticulture officer said. “These issues arise when standard advisories on plant care and pest control are not followed properly. For now, the situation is under control.”

Despite the official assurances, farmers continue to worry about the future of their produce. With apple farming being the backbone of South Kashmir’s rural economy, the emergence of newer pests like the spider mite is a blow they can ill afford.

“Our orchards are our lifeline. The government must act swiftly and transparently to identify the origin and ensure such threats don’t recur,” They said.

They have demanded a high-level inquiry in this regard so that things can get clear and necessary steps can be taken accordingly—(KNO)

'J&K Targets Rs

fertilizer as misbranded. Thankfully, none of the samples of DAP, Urea, or MOP have shown any such deficiency,” he said.

On the recent climatic challenges, the Director acknowledged that the heatwave had triggered drought-like conditions in many areas. However, he added that the recent rainfall has come as a blessing and could potentially reverse the losses.

“We were witnessing a distressing dry spell, but by the grace of Allah, the weather changed and some rainfall occurred. If we receive another couple of good showers, we expect much of the crop damage to be recovered. We are hopeful for a decent harvest,” he said—(KNO)

CS Visits Nunwan,

aspects of Yatra management including accommodation facilities, tent arrangements, water supply, power supply, health care services, sanitation measures and other essential logistics. It was informed that round-the-clock monitoring mechanisms have been established to ensure uninterrupted services and promptly address any emergent issues faced by the pilgrims.

The Chief Secretary took a detailed review of the security protocols, including the deployment of personnel, surveillance measures and technology-based interventions such as facial recognition systems, CCTV surveillance and integrated control rooms for real-time coordination. He laid emphasis on multi-tier security arrangements for safety of the devotees.

Following the review, Dulloo conducted

an extensive inspection of the Nunwan Base Camp. He interacted with a cross-section of stakeholders including pilgrims, medical and paramedical staff, officials from various departments, service providers and langar sevadars. He took first-hand stock of the facilities on the ground and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the collective efforts of all the departments and agencies and urged them to continue working with the same commitment to ensure the safe, smooth and successful conduct of the Yatra.

The pilgrims also expressed their satisfaction with the overall arrangements and commended the administration for its dedicated and proactive approach in facilitating the sacred pilgrimage.

Later, the Chief Secretary visited the Chandanwadi Camp, where he inspected the medical facilities, availability of emergency response systems and preparedness for high-altitude health emergencies. He interacted with the health officials and directed them to ensure adequate deployment of medical staff, ambulances and medicines to cater to the needs of pilgrims traversing this critical point of the Yatra route.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by the District Magistrate, Anantnag, S. F. Hamid; Senior Superintendent of Police, Amrit Pal Singh; Camp Directors and senior officers of Civil Administration, Police Department, SASB and others.

Doctors' Shortage

infrastructure. She highlighted that important requirements, such as a Cath Lab, MRI facility and other critical equipment, have already been sanctioned through budget allocations supported by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the assembly. “These provisions are being made to ensure that patients with heart-related issues or those requiring MRI scans receive timely treatment right here,” she said.

She acknowledged that while gaps remain, significant progress has been made over time. “Since this government took over, appointment orders for 500 new doctors have been issued, especially for deployment in far-flung areas,” she stated, underlining the administration’s focus on rural healthcare delivery.

Reflecting on past inefficiencies, Ittoo said that poor governance over the last 8–9 years had led to a breakdown in work culture, with some doctors skipping duty to run private clinics. “That has changed now. Accountability has improved and patient care is gradually being restored,” she asserted.

“While challenges remain, we are working to improve things step by step,” she added.

Responding to concerns raised by journalists over selective media access during high-profile government visits, she said that such exclusions are unfair and should be addressed with consistency and transparency.

She acknowledged the vital role media plays in conveying both the government’s challenges and achievements to the public. “If government issues and achievements don’t reach the people, it becomes difficult for them to understand what the administration is doing,” she said.

The Minister, however, said that sometimes meetings include discussions that are not meant for public dissemination. But if one media outlet is allowed inside, then all should be permitted. Either allow everyone or no one — that’s only fair. “If this happened today, I would say sorry. But next time, it won’t be repeated.”—(KNO)

NOTICE

I want to correct the Parentage of my daughter in his school records at Mallinson Girls School Sheikh Bagh Srinagar Studying in class 2nd Admission No. 7529-24M from Shah Niyaz Ahmad to Niyaz Ahmad Shah and Mother Name Rabiya to Rabiya Niyaz Now the same is to be corrected. If anybody having any objection may contact the principal of said school within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained

NIYAZ AHMAD SHAH
Father of:- FATIMA NIYAZ
Mother Name:- Rabiya Niyaz
R/o:- BOT SHAH MOHALLA LAL BAZAR SRINAGAR

Both countries just warming up, will score faster and more: PM Modi in historic address at Namibian Parliament

WINDHOEK: Using cricketing analogy to underscore the vast potential for growth in India-Namibia bilateral ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that both countries are only "warming up" and will "score faster, score more" in the years to come.

Addressing the Joint Session of the Parliament of Namibia in Windhoek during his one-day State Visit to the African nation, PM Modi said that both countries are part of the Global South and have people sharing similar hopes and dreams.

"Our bilateral trade has crossed \$800 million, but like on the cricket field, we are just warming up! We will score faster and score more! We are honoured to support Namibia's youth through the Entrepreneurship Development Centre. It will be a place where business dreams can get mentorship, funding and friends, too," said PM Modi.

PM Modi began his address by mentioning that he stands before the Namibian lawmakers as "a representative of the Mother of Democracy", bringing with him the warm greetings from 1.4 billion people of India.

Highlighting that India and Namibia share strong democratic ideals and values, he also

recalled the legacy of Dr. Sam Nujoma, the founding father of Namibia, stating that at the heart of this historic relationship are the people of the two countries.

Charting the goal for future of the India-Namibia partnership, PM Modi emphasised that India will walk hand-in-hand with Namibia and in solidarity with the Global South. He stated that India and Namibia have much in common with both countries having fought colonial rule.

"We not only value our ties from the past, but we are also focused on realising the potential of our shared future. We see great value in working together on Namibia's Vision 2030. And, at the heart of our partnership are our people. Over 1700 Namibians have benefited from scholarship and capacity-building programmes in India," he mentioned.

Both countries, he said, value dignity and freedom with the constitution guiding them to uphold equality, liberty and justice.

"It's the power of India's Constitution that a daughter from a poor tribal family is today the President of India. It's this very Constitution that gave someone like me the chance to become Prime Minister. Not once, not twice, but three times. When you have nothing, the Consti-



tution gives you everything!" he said.

India, said PM Modi in his address, is not only progressing with its own development but also giving direction to the dreams of the world, with a special emphasis on the Global South.

"This is India's message: that you can achieve success by following your own path, with your culture and dignity intact," stated PM Modi.

He highlighted that Namibia is the first country to adopt India's UPI and soon, people of the African country will be able

to send money faster than one can say "Tangi unene", or thank you very much.

"India is ready to supply Namibia with a Bhabhatron radiotherapy machine for advanced cancer care. This machine, developed in India, has been deployed in 15 countries and has helped half a million patients in different countries with critical cancer care.

"Our development partnership in Africa is worth over \$12 billion. But its real value is in shared growth and shared purpose. We continue to build local skills, create local jobs and support local innovations. We also invite Namibia to join the Jan Aushadhi programme for access to affordable and quality medicines. Under this programme, the costs of medicines in India have been brought down by 50-80 per cent. It's helping more than one million Indians daily. So far, it has helped patients save nearly USD 4.5 billion in healthcare costs," said PM Modi.

As he began to address the Parliament, PM Modi received a standing ovation from lawmakers and chants of 'Modi, Modi' also reverberated in the air.

This was PM Modi's third address to a Parliament in a week.

On July 3, Prime Minister Modi addressed a special session of the Parliament of Ghana, becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to do so.

A day later, on July 4, PM Modi, at the invitation of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, addressed the Joint Assembly of the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago (T&T). He was the first

Prime Minister from India to address the T&T Parliament, and the occasion marked a milestone in India-Trinidad & Tobago bilateral relations.

Earlier, following their discussions on further strengthening bilateral ties, Prime Minister Modi and Namibia President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah witnessed the exchange of two Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) in the fields of health and entrepreneurship, in Windhoek.

The MoU on setting up of an Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Namibia and another on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine came on the occasion of PM Modi's one-day State Visit to Namibia, the first at the level of Prime Minister after 27 years.

In addition, it was announced that Namibia has joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and Global Biofuels Alliance.

The African nation is also the first country to enter into a licensing agreement to adopt UPI technology with the announcement on launching of Digital Payments system in Namibia later this year being an outcome of the signing of the UPI technology licensing agreement between NPCI and Bank of Namibia in April 2024.

Bihar Bandh brings state to halt, opposition calls revision 'Vote Bandi'

PATNA: Bihar Bandh by the INDIA Bloc against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list being conducted by the Election Commission brought the state to a grinding halt, with the opposition terming the revision as 'Vote Bandi'.

The bandh saw widespread impact across the state, with train and road blockades, tyre burnings, and protests disrupting daily life in Patna and other districts.

Supporters of Purnea MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav blocked tracks at Secretariat Halt railway station in Patna early morning.

Top INDIA Bloc leaders, including Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Tejashwi Yadav, Dipankar Bhattacharya, and Mukesh Sahani, joined protests across the capital.

Heavy police deployment was seen, but incidents of road blockades and slogan-shouting occurred throughout the day.

Tejashwi Yadav alleged, "The central government and Election Commission are conspiring to remove names of the poor, back-



ward, and minorities to weaken democracy."

LoP Rahul Gandhi echoed, "The BJP stole elections in Maharashtra, and now the same is being done in Bihar through voter list revision."

Bihar Bandh has a widespread impact in several districts across the state.

In Hajipur of Vaishali district, RJD MLA from Mahua assembly constituency, Mukesh Roshan, staged a protest by playing cricket on the roads; a buffalo was tied to block roads in Bhagwanpur.

"The revision is being done under pressure from the Centre to deprive the poor and backward of their right to vote," Roshan said.

In Darbhanga, RJD leaders blocked the Namo

at Hospital Chowk during the enforcement of the bandh, requiring police intervention.

Opposition leaders dubbed the voter list revision as "Vote Bandi," alleging it was a deliberate move by the Centre and the Election Commission to remove crores of names ahead of the elections, weakening the mandate of marginalised communities.

District administrations deployed heavy security and appealed for calm, but significant disruption was reported across Bihar, affecting office-goers, students, and essential services.

While the Election Commission maintains that the SIR is a routine process to clean and update the voter list, opposition leaders have declared that if their demands are not met, the movement will be intensified in the coming days.

With Bihar Assembly elections scheduled for October-November 2025, the voter list revision has emerged as a flashpoint between the government and the opposition.

The INDIA Bloc sees it as a political strategy to influence voter demographics, while the state administration views it as a technical exercise ahead of elections.

Indian space regulator approves Musk's Starlink services for 5 years

NEW DELHI: The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) on Wednesday announced that it has approved Elon Musk's Starlink for a period of five years in the country.

With this, the final regulatory hurdle for the cheaper internet service to start rolling out its commercial satellite broadband operations in India has been cleared.

In a statement, IN-SPACe said it "has granted authorisation to Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited, New Delhi (SSCPL) for enabling provisioning of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation, namely Starlink Gen1."

"The Starlink Gen1 Constellation is a global constellation with 4408 satellites orbiting Earth at altitudes varying between 540-570Km capable of providing about 600 Gbps throughput over India," it added.

The authorisation will enable SSCPL to provide satellite communication services in India.

"IN-SPACe authorisation to SSCPL has a validity period of five (5) years from the date of authorisation or end of operational life of Gen1 constellation - whichever is earlier," the regulator said.

Starlink now needs to acquire spectrum from the government and establish ground infrastructure for its services.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is set to grant trial spectrum to the US-based space firm to complete security compliance demonstrations.

Starlink has signed its first commercial agreements with VSAT providers in India. VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) service providers offer satellite-based internet and communication solutions, particularly for locations with limited or no terrestrial connectivity.

Yogi govt achieves historic milestone: Over 37 crore saplings planted in a single day

LUCKNOW: Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh created history on Wednesday with a record-breaking plantation drive. As part of the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0" initiative, the state planted 37,21,40,925 saplings by 6:06 PM, surpassing the government's set target of 37 crore by an impressive 21,40,925 saplings.

Known for his tough stance on the mafia and a soft heart for children, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is deeply committed to environmental conservation. Acknowledging the growing threat of global warming, the state once again prioritised a large-scale afforestation campaign this year.

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0," the state launched the Plantation Mega Campaign

Collaboration between NBFCs and banks needs to be institutionalised: FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: Gross loan advances by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) have grown significantly, doubling from Rs 24 lakh crore as of March 2021 to Rs 48 lakh crore as of March 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

Addressing the 'NBFC Symposium 2025' here, she said NBFCs have emerged as an important source of credit for segments that have historically been underserved or excluded.

"The NBFC ecosystem has over 9,000 registered entities, which range from large infrastructure lenders to niche players in microfinance and asset-backed lending. Together, they fulfil a range of credit needs and are the first point of contact for crores of citizens and small businesses seeking financial empowerment," the Finance Minister told



the gathering.

Recent regulatory measures such as the restoration of risk weights on bank lending and the easing of financial conditions are expected to further improve credit prospects, strengthening the overall funding environment for the sector.

"With the recent RBI measures reducing the costs of funds to the sector, I urge NBFCs to pass on the benefits of this reduction onto customers. The government remains committed to supporting the NBFC sector by enabling a responsive policy environment," she stated.

The Finance Minister further said she wants to assure the industry that "we are committed to a consultative approach, and the issues flagged in the consultations with NBFCs will be examined with due attention."

"Deep collaboration between NBFCs and banks, especially through co-lend-

ing arrangements, needs to be there. Such partnerships should be institutionalised and scaled. A seamless digital co-lending architecture, common onboarding standards, and interoperable servicing platforms can greatly enhance credit flow to underserved sectors while ensuring risk-sharing and efficiency," she highlighted.

NBFCs are no longer 'shadow banks', their stronger regulation and oversight is the best testimony of their importance in the financial system and the broader economy.

"Some systemically significant NBFCs have grown in size and complexity, with governance and compliance standards comparable to banks. This marks an important evolution, where robust NBFCs can graduate to banks, creating a continuum of institutional growth within the financial sector," she noted.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER

MINI-SECRETARIAT GANDEBAL

Tele/fax No. - 0194-2416040 (email :- dshogbl@gmail.com)

*****TECH SECTION*****

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Ganderbal invites "Expression of Interest (EOI)" from registered / public sector Insurance companies for insurance of livestock (sheep & Goat) and various sheep / goat units under various departmental schemes for the year 2025-26. The interested Insurance companies may send their EOI as per the terms and conditions given below:

General conditions:

1.

The sealed Expression Of Interest (EOI) should reach the office of the undersigned by or before 26.07.2025 (Saturday) up to 2:00 p.m. and shall be opened on the same day in the office chamber (Room No. 358, Mini Sectt. Ganderbal) of the undersigned at 3:30 p.m. in presence of the committee to be constituted for the purpose and authorized representatives present at that time if any.

2.

The expression of interest mentioning the annual premium per adult sheep in terms of percentage of cost / value of animal. The rate should be inclusive of all taxes, and other miscellaneous expenses (transportation charges, cost of tags etc and other incidental charges.

3.

No complaint will be entertained and considered on the plea of postal delay or otherwise and also no correspondence will be made or entertained regarding non-compliance of any terms or conditions.

4.

The interested companies shall have to abide by the standard terms and conditions as laid down in GFR, manual of procurement of consultancy and other services.

5.

If the date of opening of the EOI is declared as public holiday, then the same shall be opened on the next working day on the same time, terms and conditions.

6.

The expression of interest is only an offer issued with no commitment and this office reverses the right to withdraw the EOI at any stage without assigning any reason or disqualify any applicant at any stage should it be necessary.

Other terms and conditions:

1.

The expression of interest must include assurance statement from the company for hassle free settlement of the cases/insurance claims including all possible assistance.

2.

The insurance policy shall provide indemnity against death due to all diseases, natural disasters, outbreaks, calamities, accidents, wild animal attacks, and deaths during transitions.

3.

The diseases namely Enterotoxaemia, Sheep pox, PPR and FMD shall also be covered under the policy if the animal is successfully vaccinated against these diseases. Since Sheep and goat migrate from lower to higher altitude during the peak summer months, as such the claims arising outside the geographical area are to be included without any extra premium.

4.

The maximum value of animal (sheep/ goat) is to be assessed jointly by the owner and the insurance company in presence of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon.

5.

Claim, if any, will have to be settled within fifteen (15) days after submission of claim related documents.

6.

The insurance company shall nominate a Nodal Incharge exclusively for the district who shall be responsible for smooth execution of work in the district.

7.

Any other condition that is not indicated here can be incorporated in the Expression of Interest before execution of contract, if required.

No: DSHOG/Tech/2025-26/ 1511-15

Dated: 08.07.2025.

DIPK-3450-25

DT: 09/07/2025

District

Sheep Husbandry Officer

Ganderbal

