

Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication



Had a warm conversation with Mrs. Sushila Karki, Prime Minister of the Interim Government of Nepal. Conveyed heartfelt condolences on the recent tragic loss of lives and reaffirmed India's steadfast support for her efforts to restore peace and stability. Also, I extended warm greetings to her and the people of Nepal on their National Day.

SRINAGAR • Friday 19, September 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 216 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Will Take Up Reopening Of Closed Tourist Destinations With HM: CM Omar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GULMARG: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday assured tourism stakeholders and players that he will take up their concerns with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and request for opening up of several closed tourist destinations in Kashmir.

The Chief Minister said this while addressing the 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) at the Gulmarg Convention Centre.

“On one hand we promote tourism, but on the other, many destinations remain closed. This is one of the biggest challenges in our difficult circumstances. When half of Kashmir is shut for tourism, promotion becomes meaningless. What do we tell the tourists— that you can ride the Gondola but the ATV grounds are closed? That you can go to Tangmarg but not to Drung, or that you can come to Pahalgam but not visit Aru and Betab Valley? Even in the

Convention Centre.

“On one hand we promote tourism, but on the other, many destinations remain closed. This is one of the biggest challenges in our difficult circumstances. When half of Kashmir is shut for tourism, promotion becomes meaningless. What do we tell the tourists— that you can ride the Gondola but the ATV grounds are closed? That you can go to Tangmarg but not to Drung, or that you can come to Pahalgam but not visit Aru and Betab Valley? Even in the

Unveils Gulmarg Convention Centre, Envisions Gulmarg As ‘Asia’s Davos’

GULMARG: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday inaugurated the Gulmarg Convention Centre, expressing hope that the world-class facility would help position Gulmarg as a premier destination for international events and conventions, “on the scale of an Asian or Indian Davos.”

Constructed at a cost of Rs 21 crore by the NBCC, the Centre aims to promote tourism, culture, business convergence and international conferencing in Jammu and Kashmir. Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq A Shah, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Farooq Yaqoob, P-06

Minister Itoo, MP Ruhullah Enter Into Verbal Brawl



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The ruling National Conference (NC) leaders including Minister Sakina Itoo and Member of Parliament (MP) from Srinagar Lok Sabha Constituency, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, entered into a verbal brawl on Thursday by castigating and reminding each other about their duties.

Minister Sakina Itoo took a jibe at Member of Parliament and her party leader Aga Ruhullah Mehdi for criticizing the government over the prolonged closure of the National

on Thursday by castigating and reminding each other about their duties.

Minister Sakina Itoo took a jibe at Member of Parliament and her party leader Aga Ruhullah Mehdi for criticizing the government over the prolonged closure of the National

PM's Strong Will Led To Security Forces Crushing Pak Terror Hubs: HM Shah

‘Congress spoilt Pakistan’s habits, PM restored security; Article 370 abrogation united Kashmir with India’

‘Our leader works for people without ever going on a holiday, others tend to grow restless unless they enjoy foreign trip every 6- months’

AGENCIES

PATNA: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asserted that India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has dealt a decisive blow to terrorism and its sponsors.

Shah, while addressing a gathering, said, “Through surgical strikes, air strikes, and Operation Sindoor, the armed forces demolished terrorist networks within their own homes inside Pakistan. It was possible only because of Prime Minister Modi’s strong resolve and political will to teach terrorists a lesson.”

He said, “By removing Article 370, PM Modi permanently united Kashmir with India. The Congress party had spoiled Pakistan’s habits. They would attack every day. PM Modi has worked to secure the country.”

The Union Home Minister said, “PM Modi has made India’s economy the fourth-ranked economy. In 2027, we will become the world’s third-



ranked economy.”

In a veiled reference to Rahul Gandhi, Shah contrasted Prime Minister Modi with other leaders: “Our leader is someone who works for the people without ever going on a holiday. In sharp contrast with others who tend to grow restless unless they enjoy a trip abroad every six months. And you know who I am talking about,” he said.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi’s “Voter Adhikar Yatra”, which concluded last month, Shah said the tour’s aim was to protect infiltrators from Bangladesh. “Should the infiltrators have the right to vote in our country? Should they have access to all the benefits that the citizens enjoy?” he asked.

Shah said Rahul Gandhi and his allies wanted the infiltrators, “who are their vote bank”, in his words, to be given jobs meant for our youths, pucca houses and the free medical

“THROUGH SURGICAL STRIKES, AIR STRIKES, AND OPERATION SINDOOR, the armed forces demolished terrorist networks within their own homes inside Pakistan. It was possible only because of Prime Minister Modi’s strong resolve and political will to teach terrorists a lesson.”

After Pahalgam Attack, Border Tourism Sees Welcome Revival

SAJID RAINA

GUREZ: The April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians, mostly tourists, led to a sharp decline in tourist inflow to Kashmir’s frontier areas, including Gurez, Karnah, and Uri. However, arrivals picked up in July and August, bringing much-needed relief to the local population.

According to the details available, official figures are yet to be released as the season is nearing its end, but locals said tourist arrivals in the areas near Line of Control (LoC) remained low until the summer months brought a boost.

Notably, Gurez, Karnah, and Uri in recent years have been promoted as destinations for offbeat tourism, with May to September considered the peak season. “In May and June this year, there were fewer visitors compared to the same period



in previous years. However, the numbers improved in July and August,” said a local.

“In May we hardly saw any visitors. Hotels and homestays remained mostly empty. It was only after June that groups began arriving,” said Bashir Ahmad, who runs a homestay.

Local traders in Karnah gave a similar account. “The season started late. By July, we began to see more families and trekkers. Before that, the area was quiet,” said Abdul Rashid, who owns a shop in Tangdhar.

Tour operators said border tension increased after the Pahalgam terror attack, which led tourists. “When people hear of such incidents, they avoid travel for a

started late. By July, we began to see more families and trekkers. Before that, the area was quiet,” said Abdul Rashid, who owns a shop in Tangdhar.

Tour operators said border tension increased after the Pahalgam terror attack, which led tourists. “When people hear of such incidents, they avoid travel for a

CS Seeks Guidance Of NITI Aayog On Tele-ICU Setup In New GMCs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday held a detailed discussion with Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. V.K. Paul, on the establishment of Tele-ICU facilities across the newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, Dr. Paul shared valuable insights and highlighted successful Tele-ICU models being implemented across the country by leading health technology providers such as Apollo Tele Health, Medanta, Cloudphysician, and Health Net. He emphasized the importance of studying these models to identify suitable strategies for J&K hospitals.

Dr. Paul further advised



that the needs and aspirations of individual hospitals, as well as their existing infrastructure, must be carefully assessed before rolling out the Tele-ICU initiative. He underscored the significance of capacity building and staff training, which would be critical to ensuring the success of such a technology-driven healthcare model in the UT.

Expressing gratitude to Dr. Paul for his guidance, the Chief Secretary reiterated the UT administration’s commitment to adopting innovative healthcare solutions. He highlighted that J&K is working towards establishing Tele-ICU facilities under the hub-and-spoke model, enabling 24x7 critical care monitoring and expert consultation.

Fruit Trucks Finally Move But Fears Over Quality Loom Large

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: President of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers and Dealers Association, Bashir Ahmad Basheer, on Thursday said the movement of fruit-laden trucks, which had been stranded due to the prolonged closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, has now resumed.

He said fruit-laden trucks, stuck for more than 15 days, have now been allowed to move, but concerns remain over possible damage and soaring freight rates.

Basheer said trucks that had remained stuck on the highway for more than 15 days have finally started moving towards their destinations. However, he cautioned that the actual condition of the fruit will only be known once the consignments reach various mandis outside the valley.



“The movement of fruit trucks has resumed, but these trucks were stranded for more than 15 days. We can only assess the damage and quality of the fruit once they reach their destinations,” he said.

Expressing concern over rising transportation costs,

Basheer pointed out that freight rates have sharply increased compared to last year.

“The fare, which was around Rs 73-75 per box last year, has now crossed Rs 200. Besides, there are not enough trucks available to

'CM Omar, His Advisor To Skip Paris Tourism Fair Next Week'



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his advisor Nasir Aslam Sogami will not participate in the tourism fair scheduled to be held in Paris later this month, sources said here on Wednesday.

Sources said that a couple of officers from Jammu and Kashmir will represent the Union Territory in the fair.

The International French Travel Market (IFTM) Top Resa Tourism Fair to promote the sector is scheduled to be held from September 23 to 25.

The officers, they said, will showcase the region’s tourism potential to attract more foreign tourists.

Earlier, reports suggested that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will lead a 3-member delegation to Paris to attend the fair—(KNO)

J&K Govt Begins Process To Appoint New State Election Commissioner

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir government has initiated the process for appointing the State Election Commissioner (SEC), the authority responsible for overseeing Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies in the Union Territory.

To begin with, the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has taken up the matter with the Chief Minister’s Office.

As per the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of a committee headed by the Chief Minister. Other members of the panel include a senior minister nominated by the

Chief Minister, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister in charge of Panchayats, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

The post of SEC has been vacant since April 27, 2025, when B.R. Sharma completed his tenure upon reaching the statutory retirement age of 65.

According to the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the SEC is appointed for a term of five years or until the age of 65, whichever comes earlier.

As previously reported, Jammu & Kashmir currently lacks both Panchayats and Block Development Councils—the first two tiers of the Panchayati Raj system—as well as Urban Local Bodies.

The term of the

PIB Sgr organizes Medical Camp for Media Fraternity in collaboration with Paras

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Press Information Bureau (PIB) Srinagar Thursday organised a special medical camp for the media fraternity in collaboration with Paras Health as part of the ongoing countrywide Seva Parv. The camp aimed at providing preventive health check-ups and consultations to journalists, recognising their important role as the bridge between the government and the people. The camp was inaugurated by Shri Qazi Salman, Director, PIB Srinagar, along with Dr. Murtuza Habib, Facility Director Paras Health. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Qazi Salman said, "The media fraternity plays a vital role in strengthening democracy by acting as a bridge between the government and the people. Their well-being is of utmost importance, and this camp is a small step to acknowledge their contribution while ensuring their health



needs are addressed." Dr. Murtuza, noted, "Paras Health is pleased to partner with PIB Srinagar in this noble initiative. Journalists often work under immense pressure and stress, and such camps are essential for their health screening and preventive care. We remain committed to supporting initiatives that promote community health and wellness." During the camp, jour-

nalists were examined by a team of doctors from diverse specialisations including Pulmonology, Ophthalmology, Neurology, and Internal Medicine. Health consultations, basic diagnostic services, and awareness interactions were provided as part of the programme. Members of the media fraternity warmly welcomed the initiative and expressed their gratitude to PIB Srinagar and Paras

Health for organising the camp. They noted that such efforts not only address their healthcare needs but also reflect recognition of the challenges and pressures associated with their profession. The camp underlined PIB Srinagar's continuing commitment to engage with the media community in meaningful ways, both professionally and through welfare-oriented initiatives.

F&ES organizes activities under 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Pariwar Abhiyan'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the nationwide campaign Swasth Nari Sashakt Pariwar Abhiyan, J&K Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) Thursday organized a free medical camp cum drug de-addiction awareness programme cum blood donation camp at F&ES Headquarters, Batamalo. The initiative was held under the leadership of Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Alok Kumar, (ADGP), reflecting his strong commitment towards the fitness, health, and welfare of the jawans. The programme was aimed at promoting health, fitness, and overall well being among firefighters, who serve as frontline responders in emergencies. Screening for non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and fatty liver was conducted during the medical camp with the help of advanced diagnostic tools. Specialists from the Direc-

torate of Ayush carried out medical evaluations, while ENT and audiometry services were extended by Paras Hospital. A blood donation camp was conducted in collaboration with LD Hospital and NGO Red Drop, wherein more than 30 personnel from J&K Fire & Emergency Services came forward to donate blood, demonstrating their dedication to saving lives beyond their line of duty. Drug de-addiction awareness session featured expert guidance from the Director, Rehabilitation Centre, and a motivational address by a Social Activist. The sessions focused on smoking cessation, harmful effects of addiction, and the availability of medicines to aid quitting. Deputy Director Command Srinagar, Medical Officer F&ES, eminent medical experts including the Director, Ujala Cygnus Hospital, and other distinguished specialists and social activists attended the event.

Special Lok Adalat for Bank cases held in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Anantnag on Thursday organized a Special Lok Adalat for bank cases at the District Court Complex, Anantnag. Special Lok Adalat was held under the directions of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Tahir Khurshid Raina

(Chairman, DLSA Anantnag) and supervision of Fozia Paul, Secretary, DLSA Anantnag. Addressing the gathering, Raina highlighted the concept of Lok Adalats and their role in providing speedy and amicable settlement of disputes. Multiple benches were constituted at the district headquarters to take up commercial as well as regular banking cases.

DDC launches Springshed Climate Adaptability Project at Shopian



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: District administration, led by District Development Commissioner (DDC), Shishir Gupta, has launched the pioneering Springshed Climate Adaptability Project, approved recently by NABARD. This initiative, a first of its kind in the district marks a significant milestone in the district's pursuit of sustainable development, capacity building, livelihood opportunities, and water security. The project aims to conserve natural springs, recharge groundwater, provide sustained irrigation and drinking water facilities, and preserve cultural heritage connected with water resources in the Zainapora block of the district. DDC emphasized the importance of conservation of springs, capacity building, and livelihood improvement through convergence.

He was briefed on project components, progress, and potential issues, highlighting the need for a complementary approach. DDC directed that local administration's technical expertise and community needs be considered, emphasizing that project success depends on stakeholder participation and a convergent approach. Comprehensive discussions were held with line departments viz. Horticulture, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Jal Shakti to ensure seamless project execution. The meeting was attended by SDM Zainapora, LDM Shopian, DGM NABARD and team, CHO, CAO, Tehsildar Zainapora, BDO Zainapora, and other officers. District administration is poised to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the people of Shopian, ensuring long-term water availability and sustainable development.

100 Farmers flagged-off from B'la for training program on Horticulture practices

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Horticulture department, district Baramulla, Thursday organized a one-day awareness-cum-training program under the CAPEX Budget 2025-26 with a focus on information, publication and dissemination. As part of the program, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Horticulture Officer Baramulla and senior officers of the department were present at the flag-off ceremony. On the occasion, 100 farmers were flagged-off from across the district



in three buses from Dak Bungalow to the Fruit Plant Nursery (FPN) Rairpora, Ganderbal, where the main training sessions were scheduled. Speaking at the event,

ACR highlighted the importance of such capacity-building programs in empowering fruit growers with updated knowledge, modern techniques, and best practices in orchard

management. He emphasized that such initiatives play a vital role in strengthening the horticulture sector, which is the backbone of the district's economy. The training program will cover multiple aspects including scientific orchard management, plant protection measures, soil health, and awareness about various departmental schemes. Experts from the horticulture department will interact with farmers, disseminate information, and provide hands-on guidance to ensure better productivity and profitability.

Budgam observes Sewa Parv with enthusiastic public participation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District administration Budgam organized a number of activities under Seva Parv Thursday on day two with great zeal and public participation across all 17 blocks and municipal committees of the district. Sewa Parv activities are being carried out with the vision of promoting community service, awareness, and saturation of Government welfare schemes. On the occasion, programs were organized at schools, ICDS centres, Panchayats, and health institutions to ensure active involvement of students, youth, and the general public. Series of awareness and outreach activities were held, which included their Swachhta drives & pledge ceremonies. Schools across Budgam, including HSS Hardapanzoo, HSS BK Pora, Boys HSS Khansahib, GPS Magraypora BK Pora, and various others, held Swachhta pledge ceremonies and cleanliness drives, instilling the spirit of hygiene and responsibility among students. Mobile vehicles also moved across towns and villages spreading the message of Swachhata Hi Seva; awareness on Nasha Mukh Bharat: Special drives and awareness sessions on drug de-addiction were held under NCORD initiatives, urging communities to play an active role in eradicating substance abuse; Poshan Mah activities in ICDS centres of BK Pora and other blocks highlighted the importance of



nutrition, hazards of junk food, and healthy dietary practices, particularly focusing on children and mothers. Besides, eco-awareness campaigns were held in Raithan Forest Range which falls under Pir Panjal Forest division on forest conservation, biodiversity protection, and the role of community in safeguarding the environment. Similarly, door-to-door campaigns were conducted

in all Municipal Committees of Budgam including Chadoora. Also in other urban areas house-to-house awareness campaigns under PMAY-Urban and other welfare schemes were held to ensure maximum enrollment. Sewa Parv also witnessed enthusiastic participation from women and youth, with cleanliness drives, plantation drives, and awareness rallies being organized at village levels. District administration Budgam stressed that the essence of Sewa Parv lies in community participation, collective responsibility, and extending the benefits of welfare schemes to every household. District administration has called upon all sections of society to actively contribute in spreading awareness about Government schemes on health, education, nutrition, sanitation, social welfare, and livelihood. The Sewa Parv activities will continue till 2nd October 2025, culminating with special events to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Budgam organizes awareness programme on NALSA-SAMVAD scheme 2025

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam under the supervision and active guidance of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman DLSA Budgam, and Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary, DLSA Budgam organized an awareness programme on NALSA (SAMVAD-Strengthening Access to Justice for Marginalised, Vulnerable Adivasis and Denotified/ Nomadic Tribes) scheme, 2025 at Govt. Hr. Secondary School Dragger, Khansahib. NALSA-SAMVAD scheme, 2025 is aimed to strengthen the previous versions by adopting a more targeted and grassroots approach to enhance access to justice for historically marginalized communities. In her address, Secretary DLSA thoroughly deliberated on the SAMVAD

scheme 2025 and said that justice cannot prevail unless individuals in the remotest corners are made aware of their constitutional and legal rights. The goals of the Constitution can only be fulfilled when legal awareness reaches every individual, regardless of location. She further highlighted that the aim of the programme is to maximize the impact and effectiveness of every intervention which is a step forward-to listen, to learn, and to lead the way in making justice accessible to all. Students of the institution actively performed and took part in different activities by showcasing their talent representing their cultural ethos and living setup. The programme witnessed active participation of students, teaching & non teaching staff of school, officials and PLVs of DLSA Budgam.

OFFICE OF THE
ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER SINGHPORA PATTAN

AUCTION NOTICE

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K, it is notified for the information of the General Public that Damaged Old (Single Story) School Buildings at Govt. Boys Middle School Goom Ahmadpora (GA Pora) Zone Singhpora Pattan will be auctioned as per the Government Order No:774-Edu of 2017 Dated:12-10-2017 by the Committee constituted for survey and auctioning of dilapidated School Buildings and other stock related items by Chief Education Officer Baramulla vide his order No.: CEO/Pig/Bl/36646-49 Dated:30-08-2025. The bidders can submit EMD for auction by or before 25-09-2025 with cash demand draft Amount Rs. 5000/- (Five Thousand Rupees Only) . Forms and Condition document can be had from the Office chambers of Zonal Education Officer Singhpora Pattan on working day. Auction will be held in school premises and will start at 11:00 am on 27-09-2025. For any further details and queries contact the office of the Zonal Education Officer Singhpora Pattan.

S.No	Description	Specifications	%age(X)	% in position	Category of building	Rate	Analysed Rate
1	U/G Foundation	RR Stone Masonry	10	10	D	1263	12.63
2	Plinth	RR Stone Masonry	6	50	D	1263	37.89
3	Superstructure	In Col by stone work	15	60	D	1263	113.67
4	Doors/Windows	C- Class Kail wood only Chowkate	13	40	D	1263	65.67
5	Flooring	Damaged C. Concrete Floor	7	20	D	1263	17.68
6	Ceiling	Playwood Ceiling	10	15	D	1263	18.94
7	Roofing	Wood work, B-Class Budloo wood with CGI sheeting	33	70	D	1263	291.75
8	External Finish	Nil	1.5	0	0	0	0
9	Internal Finishing	Colour was on Plaster	4.5	20	D	1263	11.36
Total							569.59
Plinth Area							795.0 Sft
Cost of Building=795.0 X 569.59							Rs. 452824
D/d depreciation for approximately 48 years Age @0.50% :							Rs.108677
Net Total Cost of structure: =							Rs. 344147
Saving Value @ 20% of Total Cost of Structure: =							Rs. 68829
(Salvage value= (INR) 68829)							

The Terms and Conditions of the auction notice are as under:-

1.

Each Bidder Must deposit earnest money of Rs 5000/- (Five Thousand Only) as given above in the shape of CDR from any Nationalized Bank/ Scheduled Bank Pledged to the Zonal Education Officer Singhpora Pattan . Earnest Money deposited (EMD) in the form of a CDR should reach this office before 25-09-2025..

2.

The Open auction shall be conducted by the auction Committee at 11:00 am on 27-09-2025 in presence of bidders.

3.

Earnest money of the successful bidders and the second highest bidder shall be retained and earnest money of rest of the bidders will be returned within 10 days after auction proceedings are over.

4.

The successful bidder shall have to enter into an agreement with the department within seven days from the date the sanction of the contract is communicated to him. Failing to execute the agreement with the stipulated period, the earnest money deposited by successful bidder shall be forfeited in favour of the department and contract shall be allotted to the second highest bidder. Any loss on this account shall be made good from the 1st highest bidder in terms of arrears of the land revenue rules besides blacklisting the contractor/bidder participating from future department tenders/auctions.

5.

The department reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

6.

Any other condition that the department my like to impose shall be announced on the date of opening the auction and shall be binding on the bidders.

No:- ZEO/SP/Pig/25/837-42

Date:- 18/09/2025

DIPK-6353-25

DT: 18/09/2025

Sd:

Zonal Education Officer

Singhpore Pattan

CM inaugurates Rs 35.67 crore water supply schemes in Tangmarg

Says clean drinking water for each household, development in every village is our priority

GMK NEWS NETWORK

TANGMARG: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday inaugurated and dedicated to the public five major water supply schemes of the Jal Shakti Department in Tangmarg, promising that these schemes mark only the beginning of a broad transformation of the Gulmarg-Tangmarg Assembly constituency.

Constructed at a cost of Rs 35.67 crore, the schemes will provide clean drinking water through modern Rapid Sand Filtration Plants to 40 habitations, covering 5,473 households and over 10,000 families with a population of 32,838. The projects inaugurated today include Lalpora, Chichilora, Kralpora, Ferozpora Shrai and Kashipora water supply schemes, executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission by the PHE (Kashmir FBI Division Tangmarg).

Addressing a large gathering after the inauguration, the Chief Minister said ensuring access to safe drinking water was not a favour but the government's responsibility.

"We are only repaying the trust you have placed in us. These schemes will ensure that families no longer have to depend on unfiltered water from



rivers and wells, but will now get clean, filtered water right at their doorstep. But with this facility comes a responsibility—to use water judiciously and conserve it for the future," the Chief Minister said.

Highlighting the hardships caused by erratic weather patterns, Omar Abdullah said Kashmir had witnessed both drought-like situations and devastating floods within a year. He underlined the need for rainwater harvesting and better water management to safeguard resources for coming generations.

Referring to the massive damage caused by recent floods, including the loss of 330 bridges, 1,500 km of roads, homes, agricultural land and public infrastructure, the Chief Minister praised the engineers and staff of the Jal Shakti Department for completing the schemes despite such difficult challenges. He felicitated the officials for their dedication.

The Chief Minister also assured the people that his government would not stop at water supply projects but was committed to improving roads,

healthcare, education, and employment opportunities in the region.

"This investment of Rs 35 crore is just the beginning. In the next four years, we will change the map of the Gulmarg-Tangmarg constituency. There will be no village where development does not reach, no household where progress does not knock at the door," Omar Abdullah said, reaffirming his promise of inclusive development.

Expressing his deep personal connect with the area, Omar Abdullah recalled his family's roots in Tangmarg and Gulmarg. He said it was his grandmother's family that first put Gulmarg on the global tourism map, and vowed to ensure that the region's tourism potential was revived after setbacks caused by floods and restrictions.

Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana, Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah also addressed the gathering. Senior officers including Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, AEE Tangmarg, engineers, staff and a large number of locals were present on the occasion.

Dy. CM visits NIFT Budgam, reviews institution's academic functioning, infrastructure

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Thursday conducted an extensive visit to the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Campus in Budgam, undertaking a first-hand review of the institution's academic functioning, infrastructure, and ongoing developmental works.

During the visit, the Deputy CM held a brief review meeting to assess the institute's academic progress, pedagogical methodologies, and student welfare initiatives aimed at holistic development.

Afterwards, the Deputy Chief Minister held detailed tour of state-of-the-art laboratories and workshops, which form the core of NIFT's practical learning ecosystem.

He meticulously inspected the Garment Construction Lab, the Weaving Lab, the Jewellery cum Leather Lab, and the Photography Lab. He observed that students engaged in creative processes and interacted with faculty to understand the technical nuances and industry relevance of the training being imparted.

Demonstrating a deep affection and personal connect with the students, the Deputy CM engaged in candid interactions with students from various disciplines. He encouraged them to leverage their world-class education to become cultural ambassadors of Jammu and



Kashmir, showcasing the region's rich heritage and new-age potential across India.

Keeping in view the interest of students in the various sports activities, he assured them that government will try to develop a patch of land nearby to campus as a sports field.

Highlighting the government's focus on inclusive growth and skill upgradation, the Deputy Chief Minister urged the NIFT administration to initiate specialized workshops and training programs for local ITI students and craft persons.

He emphasized the importance of handholding these artisans by providing them advanced techniques in craft technology, thereby enhancing the quality, marketability, and global demand of indigenous products.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also conducted a

thorough inspection of the ongoing infrastructural upgradation and developmental works across the campus.

He issued strict directives to the executing agencies to ensure the highest quality standards are maintained and to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards the use of substandard construction materials. He further instructed them to immediately identify and carry out all necessary repair works within the institution's premises to provide a safe and conducive environment for learning and innovation.

The Deputy CM expressed satisfaction with the overall progress of the institute and reaffirmed the government's steadfast support for NIFT to emerge as a premier center of design excellence.

During the visit, Director NIFT, Prof. Dr. Monika

Gupta informed the Deputy CM that community engagement is already an integral part of the institute's academic curriculum. She elaborated that NIFT students regularly undertake visits to various districts to interact with and provide advanced technical guidance to local artisans, effectively bridging the gap between traditional craftsmanship and modern design sensibilities.

Pertinently, this visit underscores the government's commitment to fostering excellence in education and skill development, particularly in the vibrant sectors of fashion, design, and traditional crafts for which Jammu and Kashmir is renowned.

Among others, the Deputy CM was accompanied by Managing Director SIDCO, Superintending Engineer of R&B Budgam and other concerned officers.

Srinagar heart of J&K, its development reflects overall development of J&K: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Thursday chaired the review meeting of district Srinagar and took a comprehensive review of ongoing development projects and other welfare initiatives being undertaken across the district.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mubarakh Gul, Shamim Firdous, Salman Ali Sagar, Tanvir Sadiq, Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo and Sheikh Ahsan Pardesi; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Commissioner SMC, Director SKIMS; HoDs and Directors of various line departments and other senior and district officers of district administration Srinagar.

During the meeting, the Minister took comprehensive assessment of performance of each department, besides progress on implementation of flagship schemes like Mission Yuva, HADP, PM Surya Ghar,

National TB Elimination Programme and others. She also took evaluation of physical and financial progress of various projects being executed under district CAPEX, MPLAD's, CDF, SASCI, AMRUT 2.0, and other schemes.

While reviewing status of healthcare infrastructure, rural development, road connectivity, education, and drinking water facilities across the district, the Minister directed the officers to ensure timely completion of projects and called for a result-oriented approach to address public grievances.

She reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening health infrastructure and improving emergency care facilities. She directed the district administration to devise a plan for upgradation of roads leading to all major hospitals of Srinagar city like SKIMS, SMHS, Bone & Joint, Lal Ded and others, besides a comprehensive plan should also be framed in consultation with traffic police for decongestion of roads approaching to these



vital healthcare institutions.

The Health Minister called upon all the officers to consult local MLAs before any new initiative or project is being undertaken in their respective constituencies. She underlined that the public representatives are the bedrock of any developed society and therefore it should ensure that the local legislators are taken into confidence before the commencement of any fresh initiative.

While reviewing progress of

other flagship schemes, particularly the Mission YUVA, Minister Sakeena emphasized upon the officers that all the pending cases under any scheme should be disposed off timely. She stressed upon the officers that the applicants having any deficiencies should be informed timely so that they can rectify the same and take due benefits from these schemes.

The Minister further called upon the district administration to organise awareness camps

regarding various schemes of the government in collaboration with local MLAs, so that maximum people are made aware about these schemes.

While discussing measures to enhance urban services in Srinagar, including sanitation, drainage management and sustainable urban planning, the Minister instructed officers to adopt people-friendly governance models and maintain close contact with citizens to identify pressing developmen-

tal gaps.

"Srinagar is the heart of J&K and its development reflects the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir", Minister Sakeena stated. She called upon all the officers to work with dedication so that the Srinagar city can emerge as the cleanest and brightest city of country.

She further highlighted that the development of Srinagar city adds to the image of entire J&K across the country.

While reviewing the performance of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, the Minister directed the SMC Commissioner to complete projects timely and ensure new projects are taken up only after the ongoing ones are completed.

The Health Minister, during the meeting, also underscored the importance of single line administration, highlighting that this concept was introduced by Sher-e-Kashmir, Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah to address the issues of general public without any delay.

She emphasized that accountability and coordina-

tion among departments must remain the bedrock of governance, adding that the people need to be facilitated at each level.

Calling for timely completion of all ongoing projects, the Minister underlined that duplication of work and fragmented decision-making not only delays development but also weakens public trust. She called upon all the officers to maintain quality of works in all ongoing projects. "Every rupee spent from the exchequer must translate into visible progress on the ground which will improve the quality of life of common people", Minister Sakeena said.

The Minister further highlighted that the present Omar Abdullah led Government has been formed by the trust and vote of common masses and we remain committed for providing all necessary support to this historic district's overall development.

During the meeting, Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar gave a detailed presentation on various developmental aspects of the Srinagar district.

Babila Rakwal reviews functioning of FPOs across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary Cooperative department, Babila Rakwal, Thursday chaired a meeting to review the functioning and performance of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) across Jammu and Kashmir and identify areas for their improvement.

The meeting was attended by Registrar Cooperative Societies, Mohammad Shafiq Chak; Special Secretary Cooperative Department, Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu, Director Finance Cooperative Department, Deputy Registrar from Jammu And Kashmir besides, Representative of NCDC, GM Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank, GM Jammu Central Cooperative Bank, MD KAMCO Bank, Chairman JKDCF and other concerned officers.

Speaking during the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary directed CBBOs to put up issues and difficulties being faced by them to



the department for taking up the matter with appropriate authorities. She stressed on them to maintain transparency and accountability in financial transactions and urged for strengthening governance, management structures, enhance capacity building and training for FPO members.

She also asked the CBBOs of ACB and JCCB to work in coordination with their allotted mentors, so that their FPOs can start business activities by ending FY 2025-26.

The Commissioner Secretary instructed the concerned officers to provide strong institutional and financial backing to FPOs, enhancing marketing link-

ages, branding and value addition for farm produce. She further directed them to ensure timely monitoring and reporting of FPO activities, and maintaining robust coordination between the cooperative Department, NABARD, NCDC, and CBBOs for sustainable growth.

During the meeting, Registrar Cooperative Societies gave a brief presentation on 61 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) that have been registered as FPOs, 32 in Jammu Division and 29 in Kashmir Division. He further briefed that 25 FPOs are doing business as on date while as 7 FPOs have been provided market linkage/credit linkage facilities by CBBOs.

Main Altaf inaugurates Mega Kissan Mela at KVK Kulgam

Awareness sessions, exhibitions showcasing modern agri-practices mark the event

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: As part of the ongoing Seva Parv celebrations, a Mega Kissan Mela was Thursday organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Pombay Kulgam, organized by Agriculture Department & Farmers Welfare, Kulgam under centrally sponsored sub-scheme Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

Member of Parliament (MP), Main Altaf Ahmad Larvi inaugurated the mela in presence of DDC Chairperson, M Afzal Parrey; MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami; DC Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan; Director Extension SKUAST-K, Dr.Rehana Habib; DDC members, M Abas, Jameela Choudhary, M Ibrahim, and other officers.

The mela witnessed enthusiastic participation of farmers.

Addressing the gathering, MP praised the farm-



ers of Kulgam for their awareness, ability to stay updated, and adoption of modern agricultural techniques for better production.

He appreciated the strong coordination between farmers and the district administration, terming it a model worth emulation.

Main Altaf emphasized that awareness and proper implementation of government schemes is key to empowering farmers and

urged intensified efforts to spread information about the wide range of schemes and programmes available for their benefit.

He added that agriculture and allied sectors are priority sectors, and there are several schemes in place. Awareness is essential so that people can avail themselves of their full benefits.

DDC Chairperson in his address said that such melas provide an effective platform for showcas-

ing and demonstrating modern farm technologies. He urged farmers to adopt modern practices and machinery to enhance productivity and income.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Kulgam said that although modern farm technology is available, much more needs to be done to make the agriculture sector more profitable. He emphasized that farmers' experiences and experiments must be valued.

He further stressed that SKUAST should focus its research on controlling leaf miner and other diseases that have adversely affected apple orchards.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner highlighted that farmers in the district are increasingly adopting modern agricultural practices. He added that agriculture and allied sectors form the backbone of the economy of the region which is a top

priority sector. He highlighted various achievements in agriculture and allied sectors.

Director Extension and other officers also spoke on the occasion.

The mela witnessed enthusiastic participation of farmers, who actively engaged with experts, exhibitions, and demonstrations showcasing modern agricultural innovations.

Stalls and exhibitions were installed during the Kissan Mela, showcasing various schemes, agricultural machinery, innovative practices, and technologies aimed at benefiting farmers. The event provided a platform for awareness, knowledge sharing, and interaction between farmers, experts, and different departments.

Later progressive farmers were felicitated and sanction letters were distributed among the beneficiaries to extend the benefits of various schemes.

Good Morning
Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Highway Negligence

The closure of the Srinagar–Jammu National Highway has crossed all limits of tolerance. For more than twenty days, Kashmir has been cut off from the rest of the country, and yet those at the helm have done little beyond hollow assurances. This criminal neglect has brought the valley’s economy to its knees.

The worst sufferers are apple growers, the backbone of Kashmir’s economy and the only major export from the valley. Truckloads of apples are rotting in Mandis, waiting endlessly for the road to open. Each passing day turns the growers’ sweat and toil into waste. This is not a natural disaster anymore; it is official apathy choking the lifeline of an entire population.

Apple farming sustains lakhs of families, contributes thousands of crores to the economy, and provides the valley its only dependable export. By allowing the crop to rot, the authorities are directly stabbing the very heart of Kashmir’s livelihood. The slogan of “development” rings hollow when the most basic road link remains unreliable year after year.

Enough is enough. The people of Kashmir cannot be held hostage to a single damaged highway every season. The government must stop the patch-work drama and build a permanent, all-weather alternative immediately. Anything short of this is betrayal.

If the rulers have even an iota of sincerity, they must act now, before the valley’s economy, and the faith of its people, collapses completely under their watch.

Dignity And Efficiency

The Digital Bridge Collapsing At Its Foundations

MOHD AMIN MIR

In the digital age of India, where Aadhaar has become not only an identity document but a gateway to almost every service, from school admissions to banking, from ration cards to pensions, the functioning of Common Service Centres (CSCs) is crucial. These centres are meant to be the frontline service delivery points of the government’s ambitious Digital India Mission, bringing essential digital services to the doorsteps of citizens, especially in semi-urban and rural areas. But for many ordinary citizens, this promise of efficiency often collapses in practice. My own experience is a telling example.

My young son’s Aadhaar card was suddenly suspended temporarily because his biometric details were not available in the database. Without it, he stood excluded from various services—a deeply frustrating reality for any parent. Determined to resolve the issue, I visited almost every CSC in Qazigund and Doru. Each time, I came back empty-handed. At one centre, the operator displayed sheer indifference. At another, the staff appeared untrained in even the basic procedures. At a third, the attitude was dismissive, as if they were doing me a favor. The cumulative effect was exhaustion, wasted time, and growing hopelessness. These centres, instead of acting as service facilitators, became barriers themselves.

Frustrated, I discussed the matter with my brother. His son, who happens to be the Block Development Officer (BDO) in Bijbehara, made a few phone calls and directed me to a CSC run by Arshid Hussain, located on the ground floor of the Mini Secretariat in Bijbehara, Anantnag. What I encountered there was nothing short of a revelation.

The Bijbehara Contrast: A Breath of Fresh Air

From the moment we walked into Arshid Hussain’s CSC, the difference was palpable. We were welcomed warmly—not just in a superficial way, but in a manner that radiated genuine respect and customer orientation. There was order in the workspace, discipline in the queue, and professionalism in every interaction. My son’s biometric process was completed smoothly within minutes. No unnecessary delays, no shrugging of responsibility, no cold or arrogant faces. Instead, there was attentiveness and clarity.

While waiting, I had the chance to speak with Arshid Hussain himself. In that short conversation, I discovered something rare: a CSC operator who not only understood the technicalities of Aadhaar and digital services but also grasped the deeper essence of public service. Arshid spoke about ethics, accountability, and the responsibility he felt toward the local community. He emphasized that a CSC is not merely a business but an interface between citizens and the government. “If we don’t



uphold professionalism here,” he said, “people lose faith in the system itself.” His words resonated with me. They carried the weight of truth and experience.

I also spoke to several citizens who were present at his centre for various services—Aadhaar updates, PAN card applications, pension processing, and more. The feedback was unanimously positive. Everyone I spoke to used words like helpful, respectful, professional, and efficient. It became clear to me that Bijbehara’s CSC had evolved into a model of professionalism in a landscape where many others were failing.

The Larger Problem with CSCs
My personal story is not unique. Across India, particularly in rural and semi-rural areas, citizens often complain about CSCs. The issues include:

- Lack of Professionalism: Many CSC operators treat their work casually, forgetting that they are handling sensitive public services.
- Poor Training: Several operators lack adequate technical knowledge. They fail to resolve even routine issues, forcing citizens to make repeated visits.
- Absence of Ethics: Reports of overcharging, favoritism, or simply ignoring the needs of less influential citizens are common.
- Inadequate Infrastructure: Some centres lack basic equipment, stable internet connections, or proper spaces to accommodate citizens respectfully.
- Lack of Monitoring: Oversight mechanisms are weak. Once an operator gets the license to run a CSC, accountability tends to vanish.

As a result, what was envisioned as a tool for bridging the digital divide has, in many cases, become a frustrating obstacle course for ordinary people.

Why Bijbehara CSC Stands Out
Against this backdrop, the CSC in Bijbehara emerges as a refreshing example of how things can and should work. Its success rests on a few clear principles:

- Customer-Centric Attitude: Every citizen walking in is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of background or status.

- Technical Competence: The operator and staff are well-versed in procedures, ensuring efficiency.
- Ethical Foundation: No overcharging, no dismissive behavior, no cutting corners.
- Feedback Loop: The operator actively listens to people’s experiences and makes adjustments.
- Public Trust: As a result of consistent professionalism, the centre enjoys community trust—something that cannot be bought, only earned.

Professionalism as the Missing Ingredient

Professionalism is not a vague buzzword; it is a set of practices that determine the credibility of institutions. In CSCs, professionalism should mean:

- Respecting citizens’ time by ensuring timely service.
- Maintaining transparency in fees and procedures.
- Providing accurate information without misleading clients.
- Ensuring accountability for every service rendered.
- Treating people with empathy, especially those unfamiliar with digital processes.

Unfortunately, these standards are absent in many centres. The Bijbehara CSC shows that when these values are embraced, both the system and the citizens win.

Voices of the People: Testimonials from Bijbehara CSC

One elderly man I spoke to had come for a pension-related Aadhaar linking. “I had tried in two other centres before this,” he said, “but they kept saying ‘system down’. Here, they solved it in 15 minutes. This is how it should be.” A college student applying for a PAN card told me: “I expected delays and arguments. Instead, I was treated politely, and they even explained the online tracking process to me. I didn’t feel lost.” These voices are proof that professionalism at CSCs is not an abstract demand; it is a lived experience that directly impacts people’s lives.

The Broader Significance: Restoring Faith in Governance
CSCs were created to bring gover-

nance closer to citizens. When they fail, people feel betrayed by the very system that claims to empower them. When they succeed, however, they build a bridge of trust between citizens and the state.

In Bijbehara, the CSC has become more than just a service centre. It is a symbol of faith—that governance can work, that dignity is possible, that public institutions can serve rather than exploit.

Suggestions for Other CSCs: Learning from Bijbehara

If other CSCs wish to emulate the success of Bijbehara’s model, they can adopt the following steps:

- Invest in Training: Operators must undergo continuous training, not only in technical aspects but also in customer service and ethics.
- Build a Culture of Respect: Every visitor should be treated as a valued citizen, not as a burden.
- Ensure Transparency: Clearly display fee structures and service guidelines.
- Strengthen Monitoring: Authorities must conduct periodic reviews of CSCs, including citizen feedback surveys.
- Reward Professionalism: Centres that demonstrate consistent excellence should be recognized and incentivized.
- Promote Peer Learning: Operators from weaker centres should visit successful ones like Bijbehara to learn best practices.
- Leverage Technology: Maintain proper digital infrastructure to avoid excuses like “system down.”
- Community Engagement: CSCs should not be transactional alone; they should build long-term trust with local communities.

One Professional Can Make a System Work

My son’s Aadhaar biometric update was ultimately a simple procedure. What made it complicated was the lack of professionalism in some CSCs. What solved it was the presence of professionalism in Bijbehara’s CSC. This story illustrates a bigger truth: India’s digital transformation does not depend only on policies, budgets, or technology. It depends, most of all, on people—on whether those who run institutions do so with responsibility, ethics, and professionalism.

Arshid Hussain’s CSC in Bijbehara is not perfect, but it is a shining example of what is possible. If other centres follow this path, the vision of Digital India will not remain just a slogan; it will become a reality experienced by citizens in their everyday lives. The lesson is simple yet powerful: when professionalism enters the room, frustration exits.

Mohd Amin Mir is a columnist and legal affairs writer who focuses on governance, land reforms, and institutional accountability in Jammu & Kashmir. He can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

BEYOND BLOCKADES

Preserving Kashmir's Apple Industry With Infrastructure And Policy

ER. ISHFAQ KHALIQ

In the heart of Kashmir, where mountains cradle valleys and orchards stretch like green carpets, the apple is more than just a fruit. It is dignity, survival, and the very backbone of the local economy. For decades, Kashmiri apples have traveled from these orchards to markets across India, winning hearts and feeding families. Today, however, this backbone is breaking—not because the trees stopped bearing fruit, but because the roads that carry them remain blocked.

Apples Trapped, Farmers Broken

Imagine a farmer who has worked all year pruning branches in biting winters, spraying pesticides in spring rains, praying through summer storms, and finally plucking bright red apples in autumn. That crate of fruit is his year’s hope, his children’s school fee, his household’s ration money, his loan repayment. But when the truck carrying those apples is trapped for days on the Srinagar–Jammu highway, hope begins to rot along with the fruit.

Each delay steals more than freshness; it steals trust. By the time apples reach Delhi or Mumbai, their shine has

dulled, their taste soured, and their price dropped. Farmers are forced to sell at throwaway rates, while debts keep rising.

Numbers That Speak of Pain

Kashmir produces around 20 lakh metric tons of apples every year, making it the largest apple producer in India. Nearly 7 lakh families depend directly or indirectly on this trade. Yet, during every harvest season, reports of trucks halted, highways blocked, and markets missed repeat like a cruel ritual. What natural calamities once did occasionally, road restrictions now do regularly. The Valley’s economy bleeds silently, season after season.

When an Industry Suffers, Valley Trembles

The apple industry is not just about farmers. Packers, drivers, cold-store workers, commission agents, and even street vendors survive on its strength. When trucks stand still on blocked highways, thousands of people lose their daily earnings. Schools go unpaid, medical bills pile up, and the youth instead of dreaming of innovation and business inherit a life of frustration.

Solutions are not impossible. Farmers demand only the basics:

- Uninterrupted passage for



perishable goods during harvest season.

- Better cold storage within the Valley, so fruit can wait for markets instead of markets waiting for fruit.
- Railway freight connectivity as an alternative to the vulnerable highway.
- Transparent compensation when losses occur because of preventable delays.

These are not luxuries, but necessities. To ignore them is to suffocate the one industry that keeps Kashmir’s economy alive.

A Cry from the Orchards
Walk through the orchards in September, and you’ll hear it: not just the rustle of leaves,

but the unspoken anxiety of farmers. Their apples gleam in wooden crates, but their eyes carry fear. “Will my fruit reach the market on time?” is now the question that overshadows harvest joy. If these voices remain unheard, if policies remain unmoved, the orchards may still bloom each spring, but their pride will wither. Kashmir’s backbone cannot endure endless blockages. Saving the apple industry is not just about saving fruit; it is about saving families, futures, and the very spirit of the Valley.

Better cold storage within the Valley

Better cold storage facilities in Kashmir could transform the fate of the apple indus-

try. With the ability to preserve fruit for months, farmers would no longer be at the mercy of blocked highways or fluctuating market prices. Instead, they could sell when demand peaks and prices are fair. But such infrastructure comes at a cost far beyond what small growers can afford. “Cold storages mean hope, but without government support, they remain a distant dream, as this is never possible without the support of government due to various reasons like subsidies erm loans etc.

Kashmir’s apple industry the backbone of the Valley’s economy is withering under repeated highway blockages. Trucks loaded with fruit remain stranded for days on the Srinagar Jammu Road, turning months of farmers’ toil into roadside waste. With nearly 70% of India’s apples coming from Kashmir, the crisis affects lakhs of families and the wider economy. Experts stress that better cold storage and alternate transport could give farmers hope, but without strong government support, Kashmir’s pride may continue to rot before it reaches the markets.

The author can be mailed at ishfaqalnoortech@gmail.com

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

North Kashmir Diary

Tracing Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani's Legacy



SYED MAJID GILANI

In the autumn of 2018, I traveled to Handwara in North Kashmir, a land of tall chinars, whispering pines, and sparkling streams. I had come at the invitation of disciples and family friends of my great-grandfather, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani, a respected religious personality of his time, known for his piety, knowledge, and service. Though I had heard of him all my life, being in the town he once visited created a quiet, meaningful connection. From my youth, I had read his travel diaries, accounts of his visits, manuscripts, letters, khutbaat, sermons, naats, and other writings. Most of his work is in Persian, written in exceptionally clear and beautiful handwriting, which, unfortunately, felt like Greek to me. I tried to read his Kashmiri writings, but it was his Urdu that I truly loved and connected with.

In a large, old compound surrounded by walnut trees, my eyes fell on a marble plaque. Its edges were worn, yet the letters were clear, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani – Khanqah Moulla. It also recorded that he had laid the foundation stone of the Eid Gah. Seeing it felt like stepping back in time. For a moment, I imagined him there, calm, devoted, and caring for others. Walking through various villages in Hand-

I also reflected on the challenges he faced. Traveling from Srinagar to this remote area more than half a century ago was no easy task. Roads were rough, transport limited, and journeys long.

wara, the elderly spoke warmly of him, recalling how they had learned from him and how he explained religious texts. The plaque was more than a marker; it was a reminder of a man whose spiritual guidance continues to shape lives.

I also reflected on the challenges he faced. Traveling from Srinagar to this remote area more than half a century ago was no easy task. Roads were rough, transport limited, and journeys long. Yet he came not for comfort, but out of duty and care. In his pursuit of spiritual guid-



ance and Islamic knowledge, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani traveled to remote villages across Jammu and Kashmir, as well as to places like Campbellpur (now Attock), Muree, Rawalpindi, and

Islamabad. He even performed Hajj via a six-month sea journey, at a time when the cost of Hajj was just a few hundred rupees. He founded the Eid Gah at Magam in Handwara, delivered its first sermon, and left a

lasting mark on the town. At Neelipora, Handwara, my hosts, especially Mohammad Aslam Mir, took me to the Eid Gah at Magam. Afternoon sunlight fell on the marble plaque. As I read the engraved letters, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani, Khanqah Moulla, I felt a deep sense of pride and gratitude.

Born on July 18, 1890, in the historic Khanqah Moulla of Srinagar, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani devoted his life to religion, learning, and service. He had profound knowledge of Islamic teachings, Fiqh, the Quran, and Hadith, and was fluent in Persian, Urdu, and Kashmiri. As a Unani healer, he treated physical ailments with herbs and remedies, always with compassion. His love for Islamic history and Fiqh grew throughout his life, and his spiritual guidance left a lasting impression on the people he served.

Maulana passed away on April 19, 1966, yet his teachings, deeds, and values continue to inspire those who remember him. Even today, I can hear the voices of those who welcomed me as one of their own. They did not see me as a stranger; they saw me as the great-grandson of a man they deeply respected for his knowledge and piety.

Visiting Handwara, seeing the plaque, and hearing stories of his life reminded me that the legacy of Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani lives on in the values he left behind.

Syed Majid Gilani is a government officer by profession and a storyteller by passion. He writes about family values, moral wisdom, real-life memories, and emotions. He can be mailed at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

Postpartum Care

Mother's Support Is More Effective Than Mother-In-Law's

Studies show that mothers are much more active and sensitive in taking care of women after delivery than their mothers-in-law. About 70 percent of the pregnant women got better support from their grandmothers, while only 16 percent got help from their mothers-in-law. This change is the result of the breakdown of joint families and modern thinking. The emotional attachment of the grandmother and her maternal experience becomes a support for the daughter. However, the weakening of the role of the mother-in-law is a challenge for family balance. It is important that both the mother and mother-in-law fulfill their responsibilities together.



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

In Indian society, the role of the family is important at every stage of life. When a new life is born in the house, this responsibility increases even more. Childbirth is a time when a woman is extremely weak physically, mentally and emotionally. She needs not only medical help but also care, support and sensitivity at a deeper level. Traditionally, this responsibility was considered to be of the mother-in-law in joint families, but due to changing times and social structure, this role is now gradually shifting towards the mother i.e. grandmother. A recent study has made it clear that after delivery, women get more care and support from their mother than from their mother-in-law.

This fact forces us to think on many levels. On one hand, it shows the depth and emotional strength of the relationship between mother and daughter, while on the other hand, it also raises the question that why a woman playing an important role like the mother-in-law is left behind in this process. The study found that about 70 percent of women got support from their own mother in postpartum care, while only 16 percent of women were taken care of by their mother-in-law. This statistic says a lot in itself.

The relationship between a daughter and a mother has always been based on trust and intimacy. After delivery, a woman goes through the most delicate phase of her life. Her

body is tired and weak, mentally she faces insecurity and anxiety. At such times, she instinctively goes to her mother first. The mother not only immediately understands her pain but also boosts her morale with patience and love. Every mother has experienced motherhood, so she knows what physical and mental states her daughter is going through. This is the reason why a daughter considers the care of her real mother to be the most trustworthy.

On the contrary, the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law in Indian society is often surrounded by formalities and expectations. The daughter-in-law is not able to feel as comfortable in front of her mother-in-law. Many times the difference between generations also increases this gap. The mother-in-law's way of thinking is based on old experiences, while women of today's generation rely more on modern medicine and new information. When the daughter-in-law feels that her needs are not being fully understood, she leans towards her mother. This is the reason why the role of the grandmother seems more important than that of the mother-in-law at the time of delivery.

Another big reason behind this change is the breakdown of joint families and the rise of nuclear families. Earlier, at the time of delivery, the daughter-in-law used to stay at her in-laws' house and the women of the entire family used to take care of her. The mother-in-law was considered the main responsible for this care. But now the circumstances have changed. Most daughters go to their parents' house at the time of delivery. There, the grandmother naturally takes over the responsibility. This practice has taken such deep roots in the society that now it is almost considered normal.

This change is also positive in many ways. It is very important for



a woman to get emotional security after delivery. When she has her own mother with her, she gets mental peace. Many researches show that the risk of postpartum depression is less in those women who get adequate support from their mother. The baby also benefits from the experience of the nanny. The role of the nanny proves to be very effective in small but important tasks like timely breastfeeding, cleaning and vaccination of the baby. Seen from this point of view, this trend is beneficial for the health of both the mother and the baby.

But there is another side to this picture. When the role of the mother-in-law weakens, the family balance is affected. The distance in the relationship between the daughter-in-law and the mother-in-law can increase. This distance is not limited to just caregiving but can also affect the harmonious culture of the family. After all, the mother-in-law has also gone through this process herself at some point

and the importance of her experience cannot be completely denied. If her experience and affection are not involved in this process, it is not only disappointing for her but both the daughter-in-law and the child are deprived of the support that can give them extra security.

It is important to understand here that postpartum care is not the responsibility of a single person. It is the collective responsibility of the entire family. If both the mother and mother-in-law fulfill this responsibility together, then the woman will get double support. This situation will not only be better for the pregnant woman but will also be more beneficial for the baby. Apart from this, the sweetness and trust in the relationships within the family will also increase.

Society also needs to understand that at a time like delivery, a woman needs not only physical help but also mental support and emotional

support. If a woman feels that her mother-in-law also understands her pain and needs, her confidence will increase further. Similarly, if the relationship of communication and trust between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is strong, then the balance of care will be established automatically.

Today, when access to health services and government schemes is increasing, the role of the family becomes even more important. Hospitals and doctors can do their job, but the real responsibility of postpartum care lies with the home and the family. If this responsibility is shared in a balanced manner within the family, then both the mother and the child will directly benefit from it.

Therefore, it is important to raise awareness on this subject. Families should be made to understand that postpartum care is not a matter of competition—it is not a battle between mother and mother-in-law. Rather, it is the joint responsibility of both mother and mother-in-law. The experience and affection of both together can provide the pregnant woman with the security she needs the most.

The title "Mother's care is better than mother-in-law's" is a reflection of a changing trend in society. This trend shows that in a sensitive time like delivery, a woman considers her biological mother more trustworthy and supportive. But the ideal situation would be when both mother-in-law and mother share this responsibility. This will not only be good for the health and mental peace of the pregnant woman, but will also prove beneficial for the upbringing of the child and harmony in family relationships. After all, a healthy mother and healthy child lay the foundation of a healthy society.

Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science. She can be mailed at priyankasaurabh9416@gmail.com

CS Reviews Functioning Of FCS&CA And Legal Metrology Departments

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a detailed review meeting of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) and Legal Metrology Departments, where Commissioner Secretary, Saurabh Bhagat, presented a comprehensive overview of the functioning, achievements, and upcoming deliverables of the department.

Others who were present in the meeting includes Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir/Jammu; Controller, Legal Metrology along with other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary commended the department for its achievements in digitization, Aadhaar integration, and ensuring transparency in food distribution. He stressed on the need to remove undeserving beneficiaries, strengthen consumer protection mechanisms, and ensure timely completion of deliverables to enhance efficiency in service delivery.

The Chief Secretary was

apprised that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) is benefiting over 102.54 lakh individuals across 25.61 lakh families in J&K, ensuring food security to the vulnerable sections. The distribution includes 3.70 lakh quintals under NFSA, 1.59 lakh quintals under non-NFSA, 1.24 lakh quintals under PMGKAY, and 0.20 lakh quintals under State Ayushman Ann Yojana (SAAY) on a monthly basis.

It was further informed that J&K has achieved 100% Aadhaar seeding of ration cards and beneficiaries, with 96.55% authenticated transactions, thereby ensuring transparency in public distribution. The network comprises 6611 sale outlets, of which 6362 operate online through e-PoS devices.

About the implementation of NFSA here it was given out that the AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) consumers constitute 2.21 lakh families (8.76 lakh beneficiaries) receiving 35 kg food grains per ration card monthly, free of cost.

Moreover PHH (Priority Households) constitute 14.39 lakh families (58.63 lakh ben-



eficiaries), receiving 5 kg of food grains per person per month and NPHH (Non-Priority Households) includes 8.11 lakh families (31.80 lakh beneficiaries), with food grains provided at subsidized rates along with 0.89 lakh families (3.34 lakh beneficiaries) not entitled under NFSA/Non-NFSA under exclusion category.

The Commissioner Secretary outlined key technology-driven reforms under SMART-PDS,

which includes 100% FPS automation using e-PoS devices, Digitization of beneficiary databases and Aadhaar-based biometric authentication, Migration to the new RCMS portal, with integration of migrant ration cards under process.

With respect to E-grievance redressal mechanisms via JK-Grams portal, toll-free numbers, and WhatsApp grievance numbers, the meeting was apprised that multiple modes

are in place for the consumers to reach to the authorities for redressal of their complaints in a time-bound manner.

It was also revealed that the enforcement of strict penal provisions to curb misappropriation, black-marketing, and diversion of food grains, including fines up to Rs. 8,000/quintal of wheat/rice, Rs. 120/kg in case of sugar, along with additional penalties for supervisory officers in case of non-

reporting of such malpractices had been implemented successfully in the Department.

The Department has set clear timelines for future deliverables, which includes 100% e-KYC saturation by December 2025, Full integration of migrant ration cards with PDS database by November 2025, Re-organization of the FCS&CA Department and Legal Metrology Department by December 2025, CUF facility at Bajtala (1.13 lakh KL capacity)

and land acquisition for 49,000 KL storage at Srinagar, Upgradation of PoS machines from L0 to L1 by March 2026.

As far as the working of the Legal Metrology Department is concerned it was given out that the mandate of the department is inspection and verification of all the Weights & Measures (Weights, Tank Lorries, storage Tanks, Petrol Dispensing Nozzles etc) besides regulation of packaged and imported commodities; inspection/regulation of E-Commerce entities; Regulation of LPG and Petroleum Products, Lodging of consumer complaints before Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, awareness of consumers, handholding of traders under BRAP/ EQDB etc besides other functions.

For safeguarding the interests of the consumers the Department had conducted 20455 inspections of shops & establishments, held 242 awareness camps, with 100 complaints received from consumers, 1256 challans booked and Rs 182.51 lakhs revenue realized from composition and other measures.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Will Take Up Reopening

worst times we had not kept these areas closed. So I assure you I will speak to the Home Minister and request him to open these destinations. This will build confidence and help us attract more tourists,” Omar said.

The Chief Minister said that when tourists are told certain destinations are closed, it creates a negative perception about the overall situation in Kashmir. “We must come on one page with the central government, otherwise our efforts at promotion will not succeed,” he added.

Congratulating newly elected TAAK President Farooq A. Kuthoo, Omar Abdullah assured the association of full support of the government. “Mr. Kuthoo has a strong foundation to take the association forward. In these circumstances, promoting tourism is not easy, but I want to assure you that just as we worked closely with outgoing President Rauf Trambo, we will work with TAAK under your leadership as well,” he said.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that autumn and winter seasons would bring some revival, while preparations should begin in earnest for the spring season.

Highlighting the significance of today’s gathering, Omar Abdullah said, “We will always remember that the first programme held at the Gulmarg Convention Centre was the 17th AGM of the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir. In future, many prestigious programmes of FITCI, CII, Government of India and Government of J&K will be held here, but the first will always remain with TAAK.”

The AGM was also addressed by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, prominent hotelier Mushtaq Chaya, outgoing TAAK President Rauf Trambo and newly elected President Farooq A. Kuthoo. Members of TAAK from across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh participated in the meeting.

Unveils Gulmarg

CEO GDA Tariq Hussain and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone of the Ski Hire Shop, to be developed by the J&K Cable Car Corporation, further strengthening Gulmarg’s tourism infrastructure.

Addressing the gathering, Omar Abdullah said while constructing physical infrastructure was important, its meaningful use and upkeep was even more critical.

“It is the easiest thing to build four walls. The real responsibility begins with their use and maintenance,” he said, pointing out that while NBCC completed the project within time and budget, the furnishing component was missing from the original DPR. “Tourism Department, my Advisor and I are working to finalise the furnishing so that the Centre can be put to immediate use,” he added.

The Chief Minister underlined the importance of positioning the Centre as a hub for MICE tourism, wedding destinations and high-profile events.

“We are considering linking it with SKICC’s marketing network so that Gulmarg Convention Centre can be promoted as part of a broader package,” he said. “Maintenance will also be done. And I want that one day, when we hear about Davos again and again, then people recognize it as Asian Davos, Indian Davos. I want it to develop on that scale, if not, at least on a good scale, two or three annual events will come here, in which people from all over the world will participate.”

Omar Abdullah also emphasised the need to create recreational opportunities for tourists during evenings in Gulmarg, especially in winters.

“Tourists go skiing, sledging and sight-seeing, but in the evening they are left with little to do. This facility can change that. By setting up a coffee shop, restaurant and a digital cinema projection system, we can ensure that tourists have vibrant evening

experiences, while generating revenue and keeping the asset active,” he said.

The Chief Minister urged government departments to utilise the facility for meetings, training programmes and official events until private sector interest increases.

“Education, health, social welfare and other departments can hold programmes here, ensuring the Centre’s optimum use while giving participants a refreshing change of location,” he said.

Congratulating the NBCC and the Gulmarg Development Authority, Omar Abdullah said the project was a landmark addition to Gulmarg’s tourism profile.

“With proper management, Gulmarg Convention Centre will not only serve as a hub for conferences and international gatherings but also become a vibrant space for recreational and cultural tourism,” he added.

Minister Itoo,

Highway, stating that instead of criticising the government, he should speak about the core issues of Jammu and Kashmir in the Parliament.

Speaking to reporters, Minister Itoo, said that Aga Ruhullah himself contested from the NC ticket and has been elected by the people to speak for them in the Parliament.

“Now he is pointing fingers at us. He should instead raise people’s issues in the Parliament that he deems are crucial and merit concern,” she said.

She added that Aga Ruhullah should fulfil his duties as a parliamentarian and not criticise the NC-led government here.

Pertinently, the NC patron, Dr Farooq Abdullah had also reacted to Aga Ruhullah’s statement yesterday, stating that the ongoing crisis facing fruit growers due to repeated highway closures is the outcome of the situation that is not man-made but the result of natural calamities.

Moreover, the Member of Parliament later took to X, formerly twitter and shared his work in the Parliament.

He said that those who have chosen servility cannot comprehend the role of those who continue to challenge oppression.

In a post on X, the MP wrote, “This Office understands that those who have bent their back in obedience can’t look up to see the work of those fighting oppression. Since their servility may not allow them to follow Parliament or read official communications, we will gladly courier a compilation of speeches, interventions and updates to their desks.”

He also listed several issues he has raised on the floor of Parliament, saying his record is publicly available. He said that the matters highlighted by him include the weakening of Kashmir’s apple and horticulture sector, repeated illegal detentions, encroachments on Waqf properties and concerns over road, railway and health infrastructure.

He pointed out that he had secured CT scan facilities for district hospitals and disbursed more than five crore rupees under the MPLADS fund.

The MP also reminded that he had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah to press for the release of detainees and had separately taken up highway expansion and road development with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. He said his efforts ensured that the extension of the Expressway from its existing point to Sonmarg via Srinagar was agreed upon.

In addition, the MP mentioned facilitating hundreds of patients suffering from cancer and other life-threatening diseases by granting them relief from the Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund (PMNRF). “All of this is available for public viewing on Lok Sabha TV and through RTI,” Ruhullah wrote.

“As for the unsolicited advice to ‘talk’, your obedience to oppressor may have earned you comfort, but it left us Kashmiris alone in the far harder task of challenging that very power,” he wrote—(KNO)

PM's Strong Will

treatment we provide our citizens with.

He described Gandhi’s allegation of vote theft as a “false narrative”, saying opposition parties had previously used similar tactics by alleging the BJP intended to scrap reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs. “Have the quotas for SCs, STs and OBCs been tinkered with? I can assure you that as long as there is even one BJP member in Parliament, reservations cannot be scrapped,” he said—(KNO)

4873 Fruit-Laden Trucks

departments to ensure expeditious restoration of the highway, streamline flow of traffic and address the concerns of fruit growers and traders.

Besides, the administration has also undertaken necessary measures to facilitate Valley bound trucks carrying essential commodities viz LPG, Petrol, Diesel, fresh fruits & vegetables and life saving drugs to replenish the stocks and cater to the local demand.

After Pahalgam Attack,

while. Once things settle, they come. That is what we saw this year,” said a Srinagar-based operator who organizes trips to border areas.

Despite the late start, residents said that July and August witnessed steady arrivals. “This was the time when tents were booked and local guides were in demand,” said Ghulam Nabi. “It helped many of us recover losses from the early season,” he added.

Officials from the Tourism Department said the flow of visitors to border areas is increasing overall, even if arrivals fluctuate due to security operations or weather. “The department has been promoting destinations like Gurez and Karnah, and we are seeing consistent growth in tourist interest. Border tourism is part of the larger plan to diversify destinations in Kashmir,” an official said.

For locals, the late but eventual arrival of tourists brought some relief. “We depend on these few months,” said Fayaz Ahmad from Gurez. “Even if the season started late, it ended better than we had expected in the beginning.”—(KNO)

CS Seeks Guidance

Under this model, newly established GMCs would serve as spokes, linked to a robust hub and command centre within the UT.

The Chief Secretary also proposed sending an expert team from J&K to leading healthcare institutions in the country to study the functioning of Tele-ICUs and their command centres. He noted that while J&K has unique challenges due to its difficult topography and human resource constraints, the administration is determined to tailor solutions that fit the region’s requirements.

He further stressed the need for establishing a state-of-the-art hub within J&K, supported by expert resource persons from technology partners. This hub would not only provide training to local healthcare professionals but also enable the creation of additional hubs in other parts of the UT, ensuring wider coverage and uninterrupted Tele-ICU services.

On the occasion, Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, shared that the department has proposed setting up at least a 10-bedded Tele-ICU in each of the new GMCs. He also outlined the groundwork already completed and the roadmap ahead to make the initiative a reality.

Director, SKIMS, Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, provided expert inputs based on the institute’s current facilities and experience in critical care. Principals of various GMCs also contributed their perspectives on the merits, applications, and strategies for the effective rollout of Tele-ICUs in J&K.

The deliberations mark a significant step towards the integration of advanced tele-medicine technologies in J&K’s healthcare system, with the aim of strengthening critical care delivery, especially in underserved areas of the UT.

Fruit Trucks Finally

lift the produce,” he said, adding that the truck shortage is adding to the crisis for growers and traders who are already facing huge losses due to the delays.

Meanwhile, several fruit growers from Sopore, Shopian and Pulwama told KNO that they fear their produce may have suffered extensive damage due to the prolonged halt in transit, which could affect prices and market demand.

They appealed to the government to facilitate the swift clearance of the remaining backlog and to ensure proper cold storage support in case of delays.

“We work the entire year to grow these apples. Watching them rot on the way is heartbreaking. The government must step in to control freight charges and make more trucks available,” said Ghulam Rasool, an apple grower from Sopore.

Basheer urged the authorities to intervene immediately, regulate freight rates and ensure the smooth and timely movement of perishable fruit produce to prevent further financial losses to Kashmir’s horticulture sector, which is considered the backbone of the region’s rural economy—(KNO)

J&K Govt Begins

lected District Development Councils (DDCs) will end on February 24, 2026, as their five-year tenure began on February 25, 2021, when they were constituted by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj—(KNO)

RAHI

ADVERTISERS

+91-7006034174

SARAI DANGERPORA,

SUMBAL. 193501

JKBOSE, JKACS jointly organise UT level quiz competition on HIV-AIDS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant endeavour to deepen awareness and foster empathy around HIV/AIDS afflicted persons, the Academic Division of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS), organized a UT and Divisional Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competitions simultaneously at Jammu & Srinagar.

The 19 participating teams of the final competitions were drawn from school-level and District level rounds engaging about 700 across the UT, a testament to the event's wide-reaching impact.

One team each from 19 districts of the UT participated in divisional-level competitions.

The final result at UT-level declared the team of Aalam Shah Convent School (ASCS), Banihal, Ramban at first place winning the cash prize of Rs. 10,000/-, followed by Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Arianal, Pulwama at second place with cash prize of Rs. 8,000/- and D.S Education Institution, Rajouri in third place with cash prize of Rs. 6,000/-.

The winner team will participate in the regional level event at Haryana on 22nd of this month.



Secretary, JKBOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, who inaugurated these competitions, urged the students for showing compassion towards those living with the AIDS virus.

"The society must exhibit genuine concern towards AIDS victims. Those unfortunate people need our empathy not mere sympathy. They are integral members of society, worthy of equal respect and acceptance. Awareness is the best preventive means to save the society from this menace," he said. He also expressed his satisfaction over the collaborative effort of JKBOSE and JKACS to work for this important cause.

Dr. Monika Wali, Special Guest of Honor and in-charge IEC, JKACS, in her address emphasized on the transformative role of knowledge in eradicating prejudice. "Knowledge is the antidote to stigma, and initiatives like these are invaluable channels for spreading awareness," she observed.

Dr. Sudhir Singh, Director Academics underscored the value of such programs. "Each team displayed remarkable preparation and dedication to understand AIDS-related issues. The purpose of the programme is to educate the students to save society from this fatal disease. Students shall act as beacon of light in spreading awareness in society," he added.

Joint Secretaries of JKBOSE, other senior officers of JKACS and JKBOSE, organizers of the competitions and the students of participating institutions were also present on the occasion.

Pertinently, the Red Ribbon Quiz Competition stands as a beacon of JKBOSE and JKACS's commitment to cultivate a well-informed, empathetic society. Through education and open dialogue, this initiative encourages young individuals to embrace empathy and reject prejudice.

With continued efforts in this direction, JKBOSE and JKACS are paving the way for a future where understanding and compassion thrive, laying the foundation for a united community.

KVIB organizes awareness camp, interaction program at KGP Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On the directions of Deputy Chief Minister J&K UT (Chairman J&K KVIB), Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) organized an awareness camp cum interaction program Thursday at Auditorium of Kashmir Government Polytechnic College Gogji Bagh Srinagar.

The program aimed to sensitize the general public, educated unemployed youth & especially differently-abled persons about the various government schemes being implemented by the Board.

Deputy CEO KVIB KD, Director RSETI, Principal K.G. Polytechnic College, Assistant Director (EMP) NCSC Gogji Bagh Srinagar, officials from line departments, branch heads of various banks, senior officers from LDM office Srinagar & Cluster JKB office and other dignitaries attended the program.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic response from the local community, entrepreneurs, aspiring persons, NGOs, especially differently-abled persons.

On the occasion, participants were educated about the wide range of opportunities available under the flagship programs of KVIB, including the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) designed to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship in urban as well as rural areas.

Addressing the gathering, Dy. CEO KVIB KD informed that during the last financial year district Srinagar KVIB sponsored 2447 number of cases involving project cost of Rs. 174.80 Crs and margin money of Rs. 44.25 Crs thereby creating

employment opportunities for 14682 persons under PMEGP, and under JKREGP scheme 15 number of cases were sponsored involving margin money of Rs. 45.50 lacs thereby generating employment to 120 persons.

He further emphasized the importance of availing these schemes to boost local industries and empower urban/rural communities.

The session included detailed presentations about the financial assistance, subsidies, and technical support provided under these schemes to facilitate the establishment of small and medium enterprises & the training programmes offered by the JK RSETI.

He asked the youth to involve themselves with the schemes being implemented by the J&K KVIB for their upliftment to get the benefits of the schemes

to establish their income generating ventures/units, and create employment without going after the jobs.

Special emphasis was laid on the production of eco-friendly products and leveraging traditional crafts to enhance economic sustainability. Participants were also guided on the application process, eligibility criteria, and necessary documentation required availing these benefits.

The event featured interactive sessions, where experts addressed queries and provided personalized consultations to attendees. Success stories of beneficiaries who have established thriving businesses under KVIB schemes were also shared to inspire and motivate others.

The camp concluded with the distribution of informational booklets and registration forms to interested participants.

Day-2 of Sewa Parv

Distt Shopian focuses on public health & drug awareness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In alignment with the national celebration of Sewa Parv, district administration Shopian Thursday conducted a series of activities aimed at promoting cleanliness, drug & health awareness, community service and public participation.

On the second day of the campaign today, multiple departments carried out dedicated programmes with active involvement of officials, students and community members.

Municipal Committee Shopian organized awareness programmes on water conservation and sustainability. Agriculture department held soil testing demonstrations and Soil Health Card awareness sessions, while the Social Welfare department conducted

plantation drives and Swachhta campaigns.

RDD launched a series of cleanliness drives across blocks. Health department carried out maternal and child health check-ups, nutrition counselling and anaemia prevention measures, and the Education department engaged students through poster-making and essay-writing competitions under the theme 'Say No to Drugs' to spread awareness against substance abuse.

In addition, FCS&CA department organized cleanliness activities at ration depots.

These initiatives reflect the collective spirit of Sewa Parv aimed at fostering volunteerism, spreading awareness, and strengthening community participation across the district.

Explore innovative, practical solar energy solutions for J&K: Satish Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a bid to accelerate the Government's renewable energy initiatives, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma Thursday paid a surprise visit to 'Tawanai Ghar' of the Science & Technology (S&T) Department at Bemina here and took stock of its functioning.

During the visit, the Minister directed the concerned officers to explore innovative and practical solar energy solutions that could be implemented across Jammu and Kashmir. He underlined that Mission Solar Energy, envisioned by the Chief Minister of J&K, requires dedicated efforts from all stakeholders to achieve self-reliance in the renewable energy sector.

"The Government is committed to making Jammu & Kashmir a model in the adoption of renewable energy technologies. Solar energy has vast potential here, and it is our duty to harness it in a scientific and result-oriented manner," Satish Sharma maintained.



He instructed the department to prepare detailed proposals and implementation roadmaps focusing on expanding solar installations in government buildings, public institutions, and public utilities, promoting household-level adoption of solar energy through incentives and collaborating with research institutions and private stakeholders to innovate cost-effective solutions. He also asked them to ensure timely completion of ongoing renewable energy projects under various government schemes.

Satish Sharma also took stock of the issues and grievances of the employees of the department. He assured that their genuine demands will be addressed on priority and directed

senior officers to maintain a supportive working environment.

He stressed that employee welfare is directly linked with efficiency and productivity, and the Government stands committed to resolving service-related matters in a time-bound manner.

Reiterating the Government's focus on sustainable growth, Sharma said that adoption of solar and other renewable sources of energy will not only reduce dependence on conventional power but also help protect the fragile ecology of Jammu & Kashmir.

He urged the officials to work with renewed zeal and accountability so that the vision of the Chief Minister in making Jammu and Kashmir a clean energy hub becomes a reality.

CEO JAKEDA, P.R. Dhar and other senior officers of Science and Technology Department were also present on the occasion.

Asia Cup: Mohammad Nabi's late blitz powers Afghanistan to 169/8 against Sri Lanka

IANAS

ABU DHABI: Veteran all-rounder Mohammad Nabi unleashed a powerful blitz as a masterclass in deathovers batting by hammering 60 off just 22 balls, including hitting six sixes, and powering Afghanistan to 169/8 against Sri Lanka in a must-win Asia Cup Group B clash at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium here on Thursday.

Afghanistan were floundering at 120/7 at the end of 18 overs, with Sri Lanka's Nuwan Thushara taking 4-18. But Nabi, the longest-serving member of the Afghanistan side, turned the tide with a breathtaking assault in the final two overs - amassing a jaw-dropping 46 runs, of which 32 runs came in the final over.

His 35-run stand with skipper Rashid Khan (24) was the highest partnership of the innings, and his final-over fireworks off Dunith Wellalage -

five sixes, including one coming off a no-ball - took Afghanistan from a mid-dling total to one they'll back their bowlers to defend.

Incidentally, Nabi was dropped once in the deep by Wellalage - an error which would come back to bite Sri Lanka hard. Earlier, Afghanistan had started brightly by amassing 26 runs in the first two overs. But they lost momentum after Thushara's incisive powerplay spell saw him remove Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Karim Janat, and Sediqullah Atal to reduce Afghanistan to 45/3 at the end of power-play.

Afghanistan found themselves struggling with strike rotation, especially with no boundary coming after the fourth over. Sri Lanka's fielding was electric - Kusal Perera's relay catch to dismiss Darwish Rasooli, while Dushmantha Chameera's acrobatic grab to send back Azmatullah Omarzai.

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR
DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI
DIL KE EHSAAAS

