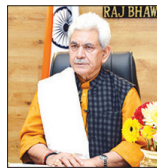


Good Morning Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Our society's diversity, cultural heritage, and national unity are expressed through hundreds of languages and dialects. We must understand the unity inherent in all Indian languages, learn them, and make efforts towards the preservation and promotion of linguistic and cultural heritage.

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India Showed How Strong Our Retaliation Can Be: Rajnath On 'Op Sindoor'



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Asserting that India shapes its destiny through decisive action and preparedness, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said that success of 'Operation Sindoor' has sent a clear message to the world that victory is a routine outcome for Bharat in any operation.

Speaking at an event held in South Block, New Delhi, to mark 60 years since the 1965 India-Pakistan war, the Defence Minister, referred to the military response to the April 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam. "The Indian armed forces acted with firm resolve during 'Operation Sindoor'."

Pertinently, the operation was launched to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead. Indian armed forces destroyed the headquarters of terror outfits deep inside Pakistan and

Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). The skirmishes between the two countries continued till May 10. Indian forces hit 13 military and air-base targets and eliminated over 100 terrorists at nine separate locations. The hostilities ended after Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called his Indian counterpart and requested for a ceasefire.

Singh said, "The Pahalgam terror attack pushed the entire nation into mourning but did not weaken the country's will to act. The leadership decided that those responsible must face consequences that would be remembered by one and all."

Singh said, "Operation Sindoor reflects a broader shift in the country's approach towards national security. India's growing focus is on modernising its defence infrastructure, improving training, and equipping the

India Will Achieve Robust Growth Through Unity, Peace: LG Sinha

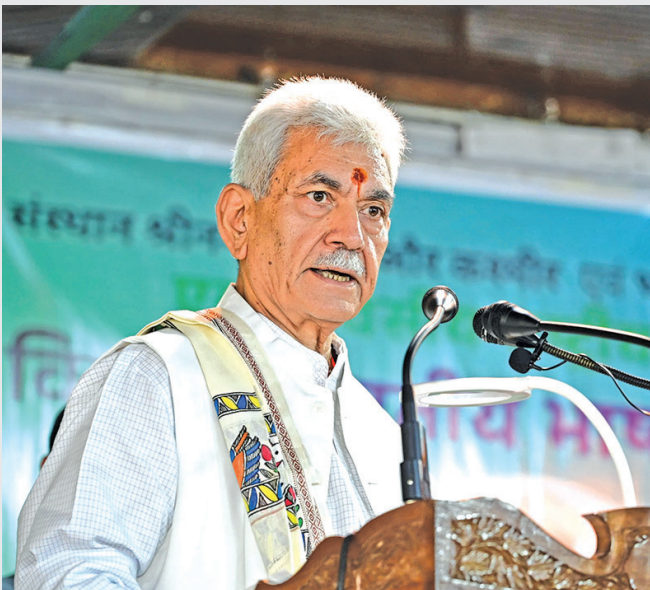
Delivers Keynote Address At National Seminar On 'Integration In Indian Languages' At NIT

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: India will achieve robust development in an atmosphere of peace and stability with the spirit of unity and fostering a strong collective identity, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday.

With the peace and stability, with the spirit of unity and common goals, and fostering a strong collective identity, India will achieve robust development, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said while speaking at a national Seminar on Integration in Indian languages organised by National Institute of Technology, Srinagar and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

"Despite diverse background, languages, dialects and ideas, a common national identity and shared consciousness unite us all. We must harness the power of unity in diversity for nation-building. Our effort should be to ensure that Hindi continues to serve as an essential bridge, connecting people from different linguistic backgrounds, motivate people to learn other



languages, enhancing mutual cooperation and economic integration," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said India's rich linguistic landscape is a source of strength. He said hundreds of languages and dialects have helped in building a cohesive society, which is driving trans-

India's rich linguistic landscape is a source of strength

Hundreds of languages and dialects have helped in building a cohesive society

LG calls upon the youth to transcend linguistic differences and unite the nation to transform India into Viksit Bharat

21st century is India's century. It is written in stone

Consistent growth and productivity will make India a dominant global power

DESPITE DIVERSE BACKGROUND, LANGUAGES, DIALECTS AND IDEAS, A COMMON national identity and shared consciousness unite us all. We must harness the power of unity in diversity for nation-building. Our effort should be to ensure that Hindi continues to serve as an essential bridge,

Apple Growers Reel Under Losses As Bulk Supply Floods Mandis



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The demand for Kashmiri apples has started declining in outside markets as thousands of trucks carrying the fruit arrived simultaneously after being stuck for days on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

Growers said that not only has the bulk supply lowered the rates drastically, but the prolonged halts have also deteriorated the quality of the fruit, leaving them to count heavy losses.

For over a week, fruit-laden trucks were stranded along the highway due to repeated closures caused by landslides and repair work.

With the road now partially restored, nearly 5,500 apple trucks were released over the past two days, according to officials.

Growers thanked the government for allowing all vehicles and requested them to work in a way so that such a bad situation won't come to fore again.

President of Fruit Growers-cum-Dealers Union, Bashir Ahmad Basheer, explained this: "Whenever produce in bulk quantity

Industrial Growth Must Translate Into Jobs, Livelihoods For Youth: CM

Reviews Functioning Of Industries & Commerce Department



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday directed the Industries & Commerce Department to adopt a proactive and inclusive approach in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's industrial ecosystem, with a special focus on employment generation, sustainability and competitiveness.

Chief Minister emphasized the need for handholding of MSME units which are in distress but still revivable

with minimal government intervention. He asked officials to identify such units at an early stage so these do not become defunct. "Such units can generate significant employment if supported in time," he said.

Chief Minister expressed concern on slow progress under capital expenditure during current fiscal particularly under PMEGP & REGP schemes asking the department to at least match the last year's progress.

Chief Minister

Centre Announces Relief Package For Jammu Kashmir Flood Victims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan Friday visited flood-affected border village of Badyal Brahmana in R S Pura.

Upon his arrival, the Minister first visited the fields to assess the damage to standing crops. Later, the minister addressed a large gathering of flood victims, including farmers. He said the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi stands by the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this time of crisis.

The Minister pledged that the Union Government would provide all possible assistance to the affected population following consultations with the J&K government which would submit reports with respect to the assessment of damages suffered during the floods. He said



teams from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Jal Shakti, Rural Development and Agriculture have already conducted surveys in the affected parts of the Union Territory. They will also submit their reports while the assessment of damages is ongoing. Once the state government submits its memoranda, the Central government will leave no stone unturned in providing

relief, he said.

After his visit to Badyal Brahmana, the Minister returned to Jammu city and chaired a review meeting with the J&K government. Later, he addressed the media and announced a slew of relief measures. Shri Chouhan announced that one instalment under PM-Kisan would be released immediately to the farmers affected by

CS Reviews Plan To Boost J&K Food Safety

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step aimed at safeguarding public health and ensuring the availability of safe and quality food products, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired an inter-departmental coordination meeting to review the comprehensive action plan on food safety across the Union Territory.

The review comes in the backdrop of recent seizures of substandard meat and dairy products in different parts of the UT, raising serious concerns over food adulteration and public safety.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, H&ME; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir;

Secretary, Law; Commissioner, FSD; Director, FCS&CA, Jammu/Kashmir; DG, Budget; DirectorHealth, Jammu/Kashmir besides other senior officials.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary directed the Food and Civil Supplies Department to take stringent action against unlabelled and non-standard packaged food items, particularly imported products that fail to specify ingredients and product details, terming such practices as blatant violations of law.

He took a detailed appraisal of the action plan prepared by the Food Safety Wing in collaboration with key departments, including Housing & Urban Development, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry,



Operation Sindoor Heralded New Kind Of Warfare: CDS Anil Chauhan

AGENCIES

RANCHI: Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, said Operation Sindoor heralded a "new kind of warfare", and ensured that India beat Pakistan decisively in every escalation during the strike.

Unlike traditional warfare, this was fought on land, in air and sea, electromagnetic space and cyber domains, where the adversary was seen only through the help of satellite and electronic images or signal intelligence, he said.

The top military officer also said the first strikes during the operation were conducted at 1 am to avoid civilian casualties across the border.

"It was a new kind of warfare... Till now, we have assumed victory in terms of capture of territory, the number of equipment destroyed, or the number of



prisoners of war you have captured or soldiers you have killed... These were associated with traditional ways of fighting warfare.

"One of the matrices of victory over here is the sophistication of our attack, which was demonstrated there... Precision strikes for long-distance targets during the night required special efforts... We beat Pakistan decisively in

every escalation during Operation Sindoor," Gen Chauhan asserted.

The first strikes took place between 1-1.30 am on May 7 on nine identified terrorist targets to prevent civilian casualties, he said during an interaction with school children on Operation Sindoor at the Raj Bhavan here on Thursday.

Operation Sindoor was launched in the

Political Purge

EC Axes 12 J&K Parties For Failing To Contest Elections

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Nearly a month after delisting three J&K-based parties, the Election Commission on Friday deregistered 12 more political parties from the Union Territory.

According to an official order, the poll body struck off the registration of 12 parties that failed to contest any election in Jammu & Kashmir over the past six years.

These parties did not participate in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, or the 2024 Assembly polls—the three electoral exercises conducted by the Election Commission since 2019 in J&K.

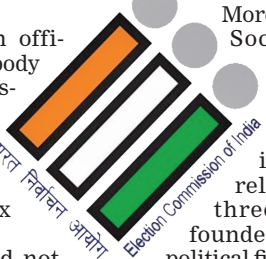
The parties identified by the Commission include: Backward Classes Democratic Party, Duggar Pradesh Party, Front of Revolutionised Creative Efforts, Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Party (Secular),

Kashmir Development Front, Jammu & Kashmir National Democratic Front, Nature Mankind Friendly Global Party, Jammu & Kashmir Save Party, Secular Party of India, Jammu State Morcha (Progressive), Social Movement Party, and Secular Party of India.

Although many of the delisted parties were relatively obscure, three were either founded by prominent political figures or rooted in significant causes.

Jammu State Morcha was formed on the eve of 2002 Assembly elections to advocate for a separate state for Jammu.

The Jammu & Kashmir National Democratic Front was headed by Abdur Rashid Kabuli, who won on a Janata Party ticket in 1977 from the Eidgah segment of Srinagar. Kabuli was supported by the Awami Action Committee, which was declared



'Nearly 5,500 Fruit Trucks Allowed To Move In Last 2 Days'



REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: The authorities on Friday said that nearly 5,500 fruit trucks have been allowed to move in the last two days and that petrol shortage in the Valley is expected to end by this evening.

Speaking with reporter, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, said that the restoration work on the national highway is in full swing and has been completed to a large extent.

"In the last two days, nearly 5,500 fruit trucks have been allowed to move. Similarly, the movement of vehicles carrying essentials is also being allowed," he said.

He said that the essentials

including petrol arrived in Kashmir today and the shortage is expected to end by this evening (Friday). "I urge people not to be panicked as all the essentials will be made available for them," he added.

The closure Srinagar-Jammu highway, triggered by the landslides due to heavy rainfall, led to the shortage of petrol in the Valley and also left several fruit trucks stranded.

Meanwhile, high freight charges and an acute shortage of transport continue to haunt Kashmir's fruit sector despite repeated assurances from the government.

Growers said they are being forced to pay triple the usual rates to

Sewa Parv 2025

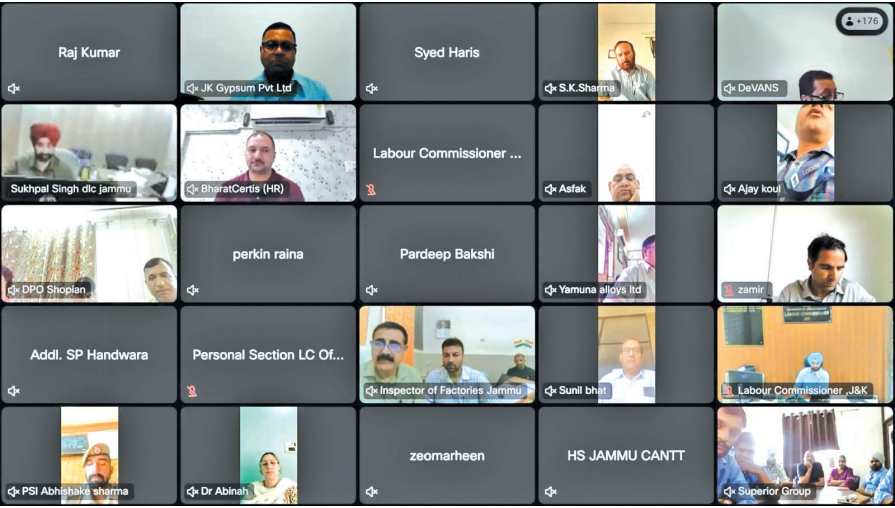
Labour Commissioner J&K hosts online Webinar on Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Labour Commissioner J&K Charandeep Singh Friday chaired an online webinar as part of the ongoing activities of SewaParv 2025. The webinar was organised on the theme “Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan” and witnessed vibrant participation from across the Union Territory. More than 1000 participants joined the programme online, including representatives from the civil administration, police administration, private employers and employees, as well as various NGOs.

The programme began with a welcome address by S. Sukhpal Singh, Deputy Labour Commissioner (Jammu), followed by introductory remarks by Labour Commissioner J&K, Charandeep Singh. He highlighted the proactive role of the Labour Department in implementing welfare measures, particularly those aimed at women welfare. He also led the Shramik Shakti Pledge, affirming collective commitment to empowering women workers.

The webinar featured



a galaxy of distinguished speakers who shared valuable insights on women's empowerment and child protection.

Dr. Ellina Samantroy, Fellow at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (Noida), delivered a thought-provoking address on advancing gender equality in the world of work, with special reference to labour laws and international labour standards.

Prof. Renu Nanda, Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Jammu, emphasized the pivotal role of women as change makers in promoting hygiene,

education, and social well-being, underscoring their contribution to building healthier families and communities.

Further, Nimisha Rajput, President of the Child Welfare Committee Samba, highlighted the legal frameworks and welfare schemes aimed at protecting and empowering young girls. Najwan Nazki, Deputy Labour Commissioner Kashmir, elaborated on women's empowerment through the effective implementation of labour laws and social security measures, while Amit Kumar, Assis-

tant Labour Commissioner Ramban, spoke in detail about addressing the persistent challenge of child labour. The programme concluded on a gracious note with a vote of thanks presented by Roopali Gandotra, Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central).

The session served as a meaningful platform for dialogue on women's empowerment, protection of children, and the importance of collective responsibility in building stronger families and communities under the vision of Sewa Parv 2025.

ACB Arrests Poonch Patwari for Accepting Bribe on False Pretences

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: In a swift operation, the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested a government official for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe from a victim of recent natural calamity.

The accused has been identified as Jameel Ahmed Bhat, who served as the Patwari of Patwar Halqa Shahpur in District Poonch.



The action was initiated following a written complaint from a local resident. The complainant alleged that his house had suffered damage during the recent heavy rainfall in the region. After filing a report at the Police Station Poonch, the victim approached Patwari Jameel Ahmed Bhat with the necessary documents and application forms to process his case for compensation.

According to the ACB, the Patwari exploited the victim's vulnerable situation and allegedly demanded a bribe of ₹20,000 to offi-

cially process the compensation file.

Unwilling to succumb to the illegal demand and citing financial constraints, the complainant instead approached the ACB unit in Rajouri and filed a formal complaint against the official.

Acting promptly on the allegation, the ACB registered a case (FIR No. 06/2025) at Police Station ACB Rajouri under Section 7 of the Prevention

of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) and launched an investigation. A trap was laid by a team from ACB Rajouri. The officials successfully caught the accused Patwari red-handed while he was demanding and accepting a reduced bribe amount of ₹15,000 from the complainant. He was immediately arrested on the spot.

Following the arrest, the ACB also conducted searches at the residential premises of the accused Patwari. The ACB has stated that further investigation into the case is underway.

Panderthan FC Edges Iqbal Sports in Penalty Thriller to Advance



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a captivating display of skill and nerve, Panderthan FC secured a dramatic victory over Iqbal Sports FC in a penalty shootout to advance to the next round of the 4th Badamwari Knockout Football Tournament on Thursday.

The highly anticipated encounter, played before an enthusiastic crowd at the Badamwari grounds, was a classic tale of defensive grit and missed opportunities. Despite a high-intensity ninety minutes and subsequent extra time, neither side could break the deadlock, with the match finishing 0-0. Both teams exhibited electrifying, end-to-end football, creating numerous scoring chances, but were ultimately thwarted by a combination of stout defending and errant finishing.

As the match moved to penalties, the tension reached a fever pitch. It was Panderthan FC who held their composure under immense pressure, converting their crucial spot-kicks. The hero of the hour was undoubtedly their goalkeeper, Saleem, whose exceptional performance between the posts continued into the shootout. He pulled off a series of decisive, spectacular saves to deny Iqbal Sports FC, single-handedly sealing his team's passage forward.

For his match-winning contributions and impeccable goalkeeping that kept a clean sheet for over 120 minutes, Saleem was deservedly awarded the Man of the Match honour. The victory propels a jubilant Panderthan FC into the next stage of the tournament, which continues to deliver thrilling football and captivate local fans.

but also minimizes harmful environmental impacts. She noted that recycling is not merely a waste management strategy but a way of life that resonates with India's cultural values of responsibility, discipline, and sustainability. "Recycling is central to building a sustainable future. It conserves resources, reduces pollution, minimizes landfill use, and paves the way for a circular economy that benefits both people and the planet," Dr. Shahnaz remarked.

Explaining the 3Rs of Recycling—Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle—Dr. Shahnaz shared several creative recycling activities and DIY tips. These included reusing glass jars as storage containers, transforming old clothes into reusable shopping bags, repurposing

cardboard boxes for household organization, turning tin cans into plant pots, and composting kitchen scraps.

Speaking on the occasion, Sr. Asst Prof. Dept of Religious Studies, Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Reza drew attention to the ethical and spiritual dimensions of environmental protection. He emphasized that religions across the world preach cleanliness, and responsibility towards nature, and thus avoiding waste and pollution is both a civic and moral obligation.

Youth welfare Officer, Dr. Adil Amiz Nazki, who conducted the programme proceedings, said such initiatives are vital in nurturing socially responsible citizens and aligning the university's commitment with the larger Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 movement.

Markazi Roma Reshi Centre Celebrates Annual Dastarbandi Ceremony

MUKHTAR DAR

PULWAMA: The Markazi Roma Reshi Centre, Rahmoo, Pulwama, Thursday organized its annual Dastarbandi Ceremony, honoring the achievement of completing the memorization of Holy Quran, wherein four students were acknowledged after years of religious study.

The ceremony marks a significant achievement for the students involved, with the completion of the memorization of the Holy Quran representing hard work and dedication to religious study. The event hosted several Islamic scholars, members of the community, teachers, and families of the students who accompanied the students to celebrate the day.

Tariq Ahmad, head of the Markazi Roma Reshi Centre, noted the significance of the day. He said in comments to the media,



"It is a day of joy and ceremony for the students and the parents, teachers, and community."

Tariq pointed out the greater meaning of the day, stating, "It is an occasion of significance that highlights the centuries old tradition of valuing knowledge and learning in Islam, whilst also reinforcing the bonds of the community in faith, unity and shared responsibility."

The ceremony included

thought-provoking speeches by prominent Islamic scholars, who served to enlighten the students as they are now ready to take their places as religious leaders and provide community service.

In addition to traditional education in religion-related subjects, the Markazi Roma Reshi Centre is also recognized for its progressive models of learning. The Centre is equipped with advanced computer

technology and contemporary learning modules, providing hundreds of children access to elementary computer education, digital literacy and religious learning modules. This cross learning methodology recently inaugurated by Rouble Nagi Art Foundation was intended to help equip students with the tools necessary for a successful transition to modern education and workforce environments.

Literary Organisations Mourn Demise of Zahoor Jaipuri

Son of famous Urdu poet Akbar Jaipuri remembered for his boundless warmth, literary passion

AZHAR HAJINI

SRINAGAR: Kashmir is in mourning following the passing of Syed Zahoor Hussain, popularly known as Zahoor Jaipuri. The beloved son of the renowned Urdu poet Akbar Jaipuri, he breathed his last in the early hours of the Friday morning after a courageous battle with a prolonged illness.

Zahoor Jaipuri was widely cherished as a central figure within Kashmiri society, known for his affectionate nature and generous spirit. For many, his home in Goa was a cherished haven, a place where any Kashmiri far from their homeland could find a warm welcome, heartfelt conversation, and a profound sense of family.

His loss is felt most deeply by his close family and friends. In a heart-



felt tribute, Azhar Hajini, Media Secretary of Kashmir's oldest literary organisation Halqua e Adab Sonawari and a noted broadcaster, remembered him as a fatherly figure.

"Zahoor Sahib was an epitome of affection and kindness. He was a fatherly

figure to me. He will always be in our memories and hearts. We truly owe him," an emotional Hajini stated.

The bond between their families was profound. Hajini shared that his late father, Dr. Aziz Hajini, considered Zahoor Jaipuri a brother, often instructing

his son to regard him as a paternal uncle (Chachu). "He was my uncle in spirit, in love, and in his unmatched affection," Hajini added.

Beyond his role as a community patriarch, Zahoor Jaipuri was a passionate custodian of Kashmiri literature. He actively participated in literary events and dedicated himself to highlighting the immense contributions of his father, the legendary Akbar Jaipuri. His demise has been met with an outpouring of grief from literary organisations across the valley. J&K's famous literary amalgam Adbee Markaz Kamraz and Wahab Cultural Society has also consoled the demise.

Zahoor Jaipuri is survived by his wife, two children, and a legacy of kindness that touched countless lives.

CUK holds workshop on recycling waste

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Continuing with the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva campaign-2025, Department of Students Welfare (DSW) and National Service Scheme (NSS), Central University of Kashmir (CUK), jointly organised a one-day workshop on "Recycling Waste: Advocacy for Swachhata" at the Green Campus here on Friday.

Addressing the participants, Coordinator, NSS, Dr. Shabir Ahmad Ahanger, highlighted the alarming statistics of waste generation in the country. He highlighted how improper waste disposal contributes to pollution, climate change, and health hazards. Warning against the dangers of unchecked plastic use and improper waste disposal,

Dr. Shabir Ahmad explained the harmful effects of plastics on land, water, air, wildlife, and human health. He pointed out how micro-plastics have infiltrated the food chain and underscored the long-term consequences of waste mismanagement, including global warming, biodiversity loss, and climate change disasters such as floods and cloudbursts.

In her presentation, Officer NSS, Dr. Shahnaz Akhtar, underscored the need to integrate recycling into everyday life as part of the Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata campaign. Dr. Shahnaz advocated for systematic waste segregation, explaining that separating waste into categories like organic, recyclable, and hazardous waste not only makes recycling more efficient

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOIL CONSERVATION OFFICER DISTRICT, SRINAGAR/GANDERBAL.

e-TENDERING

Short Term Tender Notice: 01 of 2025-26 dated 16-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

Name of Works							
S/N	Name of work/Location	Adv. Cost (₹. In Lacs)	EMD (Amount in ₹.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion	Defect liability period (DLP)
01	Astan Nallah Chanthan i.Erection of DRSM Check dams as anti Soil erosion measures incl. all operation as per forest Schedule = 364 cum	4.00	0.08	D	200/=	30 days	6 months
02	Gawas Nallah Naranag i. Providing and Laying of crates 16"x4"x4' in 4"x4" mesh wire made from 4mm BA Wire (wire as per IS 280) machine woven both ends bend, with filling of boulders/stones not less than 15 cms in dia with 2 lids as anti erosion measures as per Detailed Estimates prepared by JE and Asstt. Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kangan vetted by Engineer PWD (R&B) Sub Division Ganderbal and counter signed by DSCO confirming to rates prevailing in the PWD schedule= 31 No. Yarmuqam	4.77480	0.955	D	200/=	30 days	6 months
03	i. Providing and Laying of crates 16"x4"x4' in 4"x4" mesh wire made from 4mm BA Wire (wire as per IS 280) machine woven both ends bend, with filling of boulders/stones not less than 15 cms in dia with 2 lids as anti erosion measures as per Detailed Estimates prepared by JE and Asstt. Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Lar vetted by Engineer PWD (R&B) Sub Division Ganderbal duly counter signed by DSCO confirming to rates prevailing in the PWD schedule= 18 No.	4.86095	0.97	D	200/=	30 days	6 months

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities,(B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

Publishing Date :-	17-09-2025
Download Start Date :-	18-09-2025 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date :-	18-09-2025 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date :-	06-10-2025 upto 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid (online) :-	08-10-2025 at 2:00 PM in the Office of the Joint Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department Kashmir
Date of Opening of Financial Bid (online) :-	To be notified after evaluation of technical bid

Important work instructions/specifications	
A. Particulars of Work for SOIL & MOISTURE CONSERVATION WORKS	
1.DRSM Check dams as anti Soil erosion measures incl. all operation as per forest Schedule. The rate includes the cost of collection, carriage of stone to the work site, fashioning of stones to be used along the exposed faces in the construction of DRSM. It should be preferred only in sites which experience low to moderate rainfall and are free from flash floods.	
2. Providing and Laying of crates 16"x4"x4' in 4"x4" mesh wire made from 4mm BA Wire (wire as per IS 280) machine woven both ends bend, with filling of boulders/stones not less than 15 cms in dia with 2 lids as anti erosion measures as per Detailed Estimates prepared by JE and Asstt. Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kangan vetted by Engineer PWD (R&B) Sub Division Ganderbal and counter signed by DSCO confirming to rates prevailing in the PWD schedule	
No:DSCO/Sgr-Gbl/430-433 Dated :16-09-2025	DIPK-6395-25 DT: 19/09/2025
Sd/= District Soil Conservation Officer Srinagar/Ganderbal	

'BACKBONE OF HEALTHCARE'

CS for strengthening Nursing Education

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a meeting to comprehensively review the quality and standards of nursing education across the Union Territory, emphasizing that nursing forms the backbone of the healthcare delivery system.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health & Medical Education; Principals of GMC Jammu and Srinagar; Chairperson, J&K Allied & Healthcare Council (A&HCC); Registrar, J&K Nursing Council; Principals of Nursing Colleges, and other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took stock of the functioning of newly established Nursing Colleges across districts, including the range of courses offered and the enrolment of students. He directed that diploma-level courses should be progressively

upgraded to degree and post-graduate programmes in order to build advanced capacities in the nursing sector.

He further instructed for early completion and operationalization of Nursing Colleges at Sopore, Kulgam, Shopian, and Budgam, besides exploring the feasibility of establishing such colleges at few left out districts. The Chief Secretary also stressed on the need to phase out obsolete courses that do not contribute meaningfully to patient care, and to introduce new courses aligned with emerging healthcare needs.

Highlighting the crucial role of quality teaching, he underscored that only well-qualified faculty should be engaged in these institutions. He called for framing Recruitment Rules for Nursing Colleges, filling up vacancies through recruitment agencies, and creating posts wherever required to ensure that standards of teaching and



training remain uncompromised.

Reviewing the functioning of the recently established J&K State Allied & Healthcare Council (SA&HC), the Chief Secretary directed that it be further strengthened with adequate manpower and robust monitoring mechanisms, in line with the National Commission for Allied & Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) guidelines and checklists for institutional readiness.

The Secretary, H&ME, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, while presenting an overview, informed that significant progress has been achieved in nursing education. Over the past

year, 360 new B.Sc Nursing seats, 80 Post Basic B.Sc Nursing seats, and 25 M.Sc Nursing seats have been added across colleges in the UT. From the next academic session, Nursing College Jammu will also offer 60 additional Post Basic B.Sc Nursing seats, he added.

It was further revealed that

J&K presently has around 50 Nursing Colleges with a total intake capacity of 3,040 seats. In addition, 8 institutions are offering 233 M.Sc Nursing seats, 14 institutions 805 Post Basic B.Sc Nursing seats, while dozens of institutes collectively cater to more than 5,600 GNM, 5,200 FMPHW, and 2,300 MMPHW students across the UT.

Registrar, J&K Nursing Council, Dr. Sandeep Singh, apprised that examinations for 14,738 candidates in para-medical courses had been successfully conducted. He also reported recognition of 28 new Pharmacy institutions with an intake of 1,800 seats in Diploma in Pharmacy, which is now a mandatory qualification for obtaining drug licenses.

Chairperson, J&K A&HCC, Dr.Sabhiya Majid, elaborated on the mandate of the NCAHP Act, 2021, which came into force as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions.

She explained that the NCAHP and State Councils are responsible for regulation and maintenance of standards in allied and healthcare education and services, assessment of institutions, maintaining central and state registers of professionals, and fostering research and adoption of latest scientific advancements.

She further elucidated that presently, 10 recognized categories spanning 57 professions fall under its ambit, with the scope set to expand in order to uphold the quality, dignity, and recognition of allied healthcare professionals nationwide.

Reiterating the government's commitment, the Chief Secretary emphasized that strengthening nursing education and allied healthcare systems is pivotal for enhancing patient care, meeting the growing healthcare demands, and creating a skilled workforce to serve the people of J&K.

NCB Cracks Syndicate Supplying Narcotics

from South Kashmir to West Bengal

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In a major breakthrough against narcotics trafficking, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Srinagar Zonal Unit, has arrested the key receiver of a 10,735 kg consignment of charas that was recently seized in South Kashmir.

Officials said that the follow-up operation was launched after the initial arrests of three persons in connection with the case, including the mastermind, the middleman, and the supplier of the contraband. Investigations revealed that the seized charas was meant to be transported to Kolkata for further distribution.

Acting on this lead, NCB Srinagar, in close coordination with its Kolkata unit, conducted a targeted operation in the Bowbazar locality of Kolkata—an area described by officials as highly sensitive and risky due to its criminal underbelly. During the

raid, sleuths arrested Khoka Dey alias Khokha Da, a resident of Kolkata, who was identified as the intended recipient of the consignment.

racket connecting Jammu and Kashmir with West Bengal.

"This arrest is a significant success in dismantling the syndicate. It high-



According to investigators, Dey is a habitual offender with a history of drug trafficking. He was found to be actively engaged in facilitating the distribution of narcotics in Kolkata and adjoining areas, making him a critical link in the syndicate's supply chain. His arrest, officials said, has confirmed the interstate nature of the trafficking

lights the spread of the network and the challenges of narcotics trafficking that exploit our youth for illicit gains," an NCB officer told KNT. The officer added that the case demonstrates how trafficking routes are no longer localised but span across multiple states, requiring strong coordination between enforcement agencies.

The NCB stressed that

enhanced interstate collaboration was crucial in cracking the case. "Our Srinagar and Kolkata teams worked together to ensure the arrest. We are now pursuing backward and forward linkages to identify more associates of the syndicate and to choke the flow of narcotics at every stage," the official said.

Sources revealed that the charas seized earlier in South Kashmir was part of a larger supply chain with established connections in metropolitan cities, where demand fuels large profits. Investigators believe that the Kolkata module was instrumental in pushing narcotics into wider distribution channels across eastern India.

The arrest of Khoka Dey, who is now in custody, is expected to lead to further revelations about the syndicate's financiers, transporters, and street-level peddlers. Officials said that more arrests are likely as the investigation progresses. [KNT]

Health of tomorrow rests in shade of

what we plant today: Dir SE

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Directorate of School Education Jammu, in collaboration with the Social Forestry Department, today transformed its premises into a theatre of green resolve by organizing a plantation drive under the banner of Sewa Parv 2025.

The drive commenced with the Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, leading from the fronts by planting the first saplings, joined by the senior officers of the Directorate. Their gesture was swiftly mirrored by the Directorate staff, affirming that the health of tomorrow does indeed rest in the shade of what we plant today.

Dinesh Joshi, Range Officer represented the Social Forestry Department Jammu, accompanied by staff members of the department, who lent both expertise and solidarity to the initiative—turn-



ing the act of planting into a shared civic and moral enterprise.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Chowdhary observed: "A sapling is a silent promise—a cov-

enant between us and generations yet unborn. As we plant, we do not merely adorn the soil, we safeguard air, water, and the rhythm of life itself. I urge every teacher to

kindle in their pupils this reverence for the green, for the forest is a book that teaches patience, resilience, and balance. To students I say: plant with your own hands, nurture with your own heart, and watch how a tiny stem grows into a living guardian of your tomorrow."

In resonance with this vision, parallel plantation drives were carried out across schools of Jammu Division, where teachers guided and students participated, thus extending the ethos of Sewa Parv 2025 from the Directorate to the very classrooms where the future takes root.

The Directorate underscored that the plantation drive is not to be read as a mere ceremonial observance, but as a collective pledge—by officers, teachers, and students alike—to align human duty with nature's rhythm. In the greening of courtyards and classrooms, the spirit of Sewa Parv 2025 found its truest expression.

Surinder Choudhary, Sakeena Itoo visit DH

Pora, lay foundation stone of Rest House



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along with Minister for Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo Friday visited Damhal Hanji Pora and laid foundation stone of Rest House which will come up with an estimated cost of 2.94 crore.

Addressing a large gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government is committed towards improving infrastructure across all sectors to provide better services to the people. He directed the concerned engineering wing to ensure timely completion

of the Rest House and other projects while maintaining quality standards.

The Deputy CM said that the government led by Omar Abdullah is determined to fulfil all promises made to the people. He further stated that several projects are going on to boost connectivity, public amenities, and holistic development, in line with the government's vision of inclusive growth across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Deputy CM added that transparency, accountability, and a pro-people approach remain the government's top priority.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo said that under the leadership of the Omar Abdullah, the government is working with a clear vision to ensure holistic development across all regions of J&K.

She further stated that the establishment of the Rest House will add to development profile of this area.

The Health Minister highlighted that the current government has restarted several long-pending projects, besides many new projects have been sanctioned, particularly in health sector, to improve overall well-being of the people.

Dy. CM visits affected stretch

of NH-44 at Thard Udhampur

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary Friday visited the affected stretch of the NH-44 at Thard here and held on-spot assessment of ongoing restoration works.

During the visit, Regional Officer, NHAI, R. S. Yadav, briefed the Deputy Chief Minister about the status of ongoing restoration works, including widening as well as restoration of the second tube of NH-44. He also apprised him about the laying of WBM layer so that the traffic movement can smoothly run and surface is main-

tained properly.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while interacting with officers of NHAI, directed them to expedite the restoration process for the convenience of commuters and the general public. He further instructed the executing agencies to mobilize men and machinery and work in double shifts for restoration of second tube to ensure timely completion of the works. He stressed that the restoration of safe and smooth connectivity of National Highway remains the top priority of the Government.

Choudhary also appre-

ciated the efforts made Regional Officer NHAI and his entire team for restoration of NH-44.

During the visit, the Deputy CM also enquired about the stranded vehicles on NH-44 and directed for smooth facilitation of all these vehicles.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also interacted with the local residents at Thard, listened to their grievances regarding the damage caused to houses. He assured them that every possible effort is being made by the Government to compensate and rehabilitate the affected families.



Sewa Parv-2025

DC Srinagar initiates work on

Public Toilet Complex at DC office



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing fortnight-long Sewa Parv campaign, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday initiated construction work on Public Toilet Facility complex at DC office Complex.

The new facility is being constructed to enhance public sanitation and civic amenities within the complex to promote cleanliness, hygiene and public welfare.

The public convenience includes separate washrooms for male, female and persons with special abilities.

Speaking on the occasion, DC reaffirmed the

district administration's commitment to ensuring improved cleanliness, hygiene, and accessibility for both office employees and visiting citizens and said that this was initiated today under the Sanitation & Hygiene vertical of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Executive Engineer R&B, citizens, stamp vendors and other associated persons were present on the occasion.

Implement MSP,

Compensate

Farmers, Ghulam

Hassan Mir to NCGovt

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Former Minister and Apni Party leader Ghulam Hassan Mir on Friday said that the Omar Abdullah government should implement a minimum support price (MSP) and compensate affected farmers.

Talking to media, Mir said that the fruit industry suffered heavy losses due to the road blockade. The government should come forward to compensate affected apple farmers, and it should also introduce MSP to support them.

While criticizing CM Omar Abdullah, he said that before

asking for control of the national highway, the CM should look at matters under his own control and assess what progress has been made. There is a difference between what they say and what they do. People are fed up with this government, he said.

He added that during election

years there is patience, but failures make people angry from the very beginning. Floods came, rains came, the road got damaged, and travel became difficult for the people of Kashmir, yet the government remained unmoved, he said.

He also said that before elections big promises were made, including

restoration of statehood, Article 370, and one lakh jobs. But so far, nothing has happened, and the government has no roadmap for these jobs.

Those who suffered losses should be given compensation, and there should be a minimum support price so that losses can be recovered, he added. (KNS)

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Unkept Promises And Growing Discontent

The Omar Abdullah-led government, despite assuming power on the back of tall promises and people’s repeated faith in the National Conference, has little to show beyond the populist step of free bus rides for women. This single measure, though welcome, hardly addresses the deep-rooted problems confronting the common Kashmiri. Rising unemployment, inadequate public services, and poor infrastructure continue to haunt the people, making the gap between promises and performance ever wider.

What is more worrying for the party is the disillusionment within its own ranks. Aga Ruhullah, the parliamentarian from Srinagar and a leader with a mass base, has openly signaled disenchantment with the government’s policies and its failure to address basic issues. His criticism reflects not just personal dissatisfaction but a larger sentiment that is brewing silently among party cadres and supporters alike.

The National Conference has historically commanded trust in the Valley, but trust is not infinite. People have voted for it time and again in the hope of better governance, employment opportunities, and relief from day-to-day struggles. If the leadership continues to rely on symbolic populism instead of meaningful reforms, it risks alienating not just its traditional vote bank but also key leaders who give it credibility among the masses.

The Abdullah government still has an opportunity to correct its course. It must act decisively, deliver on its promises, and address the genuine grievances of the people before disenchantment turns into rejection. For a party that has thrived on legacy and loyalty, the time to prove commitment through action is now—or the cracks may become too deep to repair.

Nagarvan Nishat: A Step Towards Green Urban Spaces



SYED SHUJA ANDRABI

Nestled under the magnificent Zabarwan Hills, the Nagarvan Nishat has been developed by the J&K Forest Department under the Nagar Van Yojna. Spread over 20 hectares, this park is emerging as an important green zone that combines environmental conservation, recreation, and tourism promotion.

The park has been carefully planned to act as both a recreational hub and an environmental buffer. Around 200 conifer and mela species plants have been introduced, enriching the biodiversity and creating a refreshing landscape. Visitors can already find wooden benches and resting points installed across the site, making it a welcoming spot for families, nature lovers, and those who wish to escape the busy city life for a while.

With its serene walking paths and natural charm, Nagarvan Nishat is shaping up as a new tourism spot—a complement to the nearby Mughal gardens and Dal Lake, yet offering a quieter, more natural experience. Although the park is still in the process of development, a proper road already connects it. Only a few stretches need repair, and once addressed, the approach will become even smoother and more welcoming for families, students, and tourists.



Nagarvan Nishat is more than a plantation site; it is a living example of how conservation, recreation, and community benefit can be combined. By creating safe green spaces, the project aims to improve quality of life, encourage nature-based learning, and open modest livelihood opportunities for locals in the long run.

The foundation stone of this project was laid by Principal Chief

Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Mr. B.K. Singh in the presence of Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Mr. Irfan Rasool Wani on 28th January 2025. Their leadership, along with the efforts of the Urban Forestry Division, has made this vision possible.

The Forest Department is also working on developing similar projects across other parts of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The depart-

ment is no longer just the guardian of “Green Gold” but is now emerging as a partner in tourism, revenue generation, and livelihood creation for the local population. This transformation is only possible due to the visionary leadership at the top and the tireless commitment of officers on the ground.

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BEYOND MEGAWATTS

The Human Cost Of Kishtwar's Hydroelectric Boom



AYAAN SAROORI

Kishtwar, one of the largest districts of Jammu and Kashmir in terms of area with rich flora and fauna and nourished by the mighty Chenab River. The district has emerged as a hub of hydroelectric power projects, with several projects under-construction to transform into the “Rising Power Hub of India.” However, the extensive reach of river Chenab over the district significantly boosted the capability to generate hydroelectricity.

It holds a huge potential of generating electricity from water and several projects are currently under-construction, which will generate thousands of megawatts (MW) of electricity over operation, not only for J&K but for different states of India. Meanwhile, the operational and oldest power project of Kishtwar is Dul-Hasti which generates 390MW of electricity since the year 2007. Besides this, under-construction projects are Pakal Dul, Kwar, Kiru, Ratle and Kirthai which will emerge Kishtwar as giant contributor to India’s energy sector.

However, among the upcoming projects, Pakal Dul, currently under construction, is estimated to generate 1,000 MW and the Ratle hydroelectric plant will contribute 850 MW as they both stand as macro-scale projects. While other smaller-scale projects like Kwar, Kiru and Lower Kalnai are slated to add 1,212 MW combined. All of these plants will sustain on the river Chenab for operations. For time being, it is hoped that over the completion of all these projects, Kishtwar is set to lead in the energy sector and bring some relief to its people, who still demand free electricity.

Kishtwar’s cry for free electricity



Kishtwar, being a lone district to have several hydroelectric plants, projected one measure player to contribute to the country’s energy sector in future. Apart from the under-construction power plants, the district generates 390MW of electricity from the operational Dul Hasti plant. Whereas, the aspirations of people towards free electricity remain unfulfilled and suppressed. However, the district, having immense potential for hydroelectricity and having an operational plant, people still cry for free electricity.

Following a call by social activists, media persons, influencers for peaceful agitation, the public was urged to raise their concern before the administration to ensure free electricity to the district, which is the hometown to several power plants. However, after several processions people joined the protest under the slogan

‘Hanari Bijli Hamko Do’. Meanwhile the District Magistrate imposed restrictions on unauthorized gatherings, citing the need to maintain public order. However, the principal session judge of Kishtwar put the same order under ‘stay’, and eventually the momentum built by the public towards the cause was halted and it never regained.

CSR Needs to Go Beyond Papers

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), a contribution made voluntarily by companies to a better society and a cleaner environment remains lost in the Kishtwar. Meanwhile the Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 makes mandatory for several companies with huge turnover, net worth and net profit to spend over these social responsibilities. Unfortunately, development using these resources remains limited to offices and papers. While ground

reflects its reality, it is profound with unfulfilled promises.

Faisal Hussain, a political leader and DDC member, had told me in December 2023, ‘Effective Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices are essential for sustainable development.’

In the midst of Kishtwar town, a large ground named Chowgan attracts a huge local populace and is one of the major public spaces. However, the ground lacks several basic facilities that a recreational park should have, such as water coolers, new benches, and beautification through the planting of a variety of flowers. Investment of CSR funds in places like Chowgan would improve public convenience and provide several facilities, alongside the efforts of the governing body, the Kishtwar Development Authority (KDA). Similarly, there are several

tourist places which require investment to attract a huge populace with different facilities, sustainable models which focus on preserving local flora and fauna.

For people in Kishtwar, the district should be given free electricity, not as a gesture of gratitude but because the people genuinely deserve it, having provided their resources for exploitation.

The unfair and unjustified charges for electricity usage within the district not only deprive people of their rightful share but also raise a serious concern: are they not valued enough to receive free electricity, despite being part of an emerging leader in India’s energy sector?

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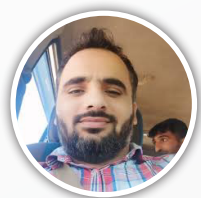
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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Kashmir's Apple Industry In Peril

From Highway Blockages To Sustainable Solutions



FAROOQ AHMAD BAKLOO

Every autumn, as the Kashmir Valley transforms into a canvas of red and green with apple orchards ready for harvest, one would expect celebration, prosperity, and security for the millions of people whose livelihoods are tied to the fruit. Instead, the season often turns into a time of anxiety and despair. In 2025, torrential rains and floods once again blocked the Srinagar Jammu National Highway, the sole road artery connecting the valley with the rest of India. Thousands of trucks loaded with apples were trapped for days, unable to move forward. With apples being a highly perishable crop, the fruit began to decompose in the stranded trucks, forcing many growers to abandon hope of any profit. Social media was soon filled with heart-breaking videos of farmers digging massive pits and burying apples worth lakhs of rupees. For them, the loss was not just financial but symbolic of the systemic neglect they face year after year. Although the government rushed to launch a special train service to transport apples to different fruit markets across the country, this intervention came as too little, too late. Once the produce in transit begins to rot, no logistical bandage can restore the loss. The question, therefore, is not about temporary relief but about structural reform: why, in this high-tech age, do the fruit growers of Kashmir still remain hostage to conventional bottlenecks and natural calamities?

The apple industry is not just one sector among many in Jammu and Kashmir it is the very backbone of the rural economy. The region produces nearly 75 percent of India's apples, contributing more than 8,000 crore annually to the economy. An estimated 3 million people, ranging from orchard owners and daily wage laborers to packers, transporters, and traders, are directly or indirectly dependent on apple production. Entire districts survive on this crop, making it a lifeline for the valley's economy. Yet, despite this massive contribution, the sector remains fragile. Its heavy dependence on a single highway for transportation, coupled with the lack of local preservation and processing infrastructure, leaves it highly vulnerable to both natural and man-made disruptions.

Every closure of the highway means daily losses running into crores of rupees. And when closures extend to a week or more, the losses become devastating. Farmers who have already invested heavily in fertilizers, pesticides, packaging, and transport are left with mountains of debt and no income to repay. The apple that should symbolize prosperity instead becomes a source of financial ruin.

Beyond statistics and economic reports lies the human tragedy of Kashmir's apple crisis. Consider the



plight of an ordinary orchardist: he spends the entire year tending to his trees, often taking loans from banks or private lenders to buy fertilizers, pesticides, and packaging materials. When harvest season arrives, he hires trucks to transport his produce to fruit markets in Delhi, Mumbai, or Bengaluru. But when floods or landslides close the highway, his carefully packed fruit is stuck in traffic for days. By the time the truck finally reaches its destination, half the apples are rotten, and the buyers refuse to pay even the transportation cost. The grower, already neck-deep in debt, is forced to accept humiliatingly low prices. For many, the only option is to dump the produce into pits, a painful act that symbolizes not just wasted fruit but wasted effort, wasted money, and wasted dreams. The psychological toll of this cycle is enormous. Farmer distress, depression, and even suicides have been linked to such losses. In a region already grappling with socio-political instability, the additional burden of economic despair is a recipe for deeper crises.

Learning from Global Apple Hubs

Kashmir's challenges are not unique; other apple-producing regions in the world have faced similar obstacles but have found ways to overcome them. In Washington State in the United States, which produces over half of America's apples, advanced cold storage systems and large-scale processing units ensure that very little fruit goes to waste. Apples there are converted into juices, ciders, vinegar, dried slices, and even beauty products, guaranteeing market value even for lower-quality produce. In China, the world's largest apple producer, cooperative models dominate the sector. Local cooperatives run their own cold storages, packaging plants, and processing units, ensuring growers do not remain entirely dependent on long-distance transportation.

We have world stores like when when Russia banned apple imports from Poland in 2014, Polish farmers faced a severe crisis, but instead of

letting their produce rot, the government promoted processing industries like apple juice concentrate and sought new markets in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, ensuring farmers' incomes were protected; similarly, in the USA, when floods and storms damage transport routes, the USDA crop insurance program compensates growers, while strong cold-storage networks allow apples to be sold months later without losses such strategies show how countries safeguard their apple industry in tough times, and regions like Kashmir can learn from these models to build resilience. Even within India, Himachal Pradesh has shown progress by investing in controlled atmosphere (CA) stores and encouraging fruit processing industries. The result is that while growers in Himachal can hold their produce for months and wait for favorable prices, their Kashmiri counterparts remain trapped in a sell-now-or-lose-all cycle. The lesson is clear: the problem is not with apple farming itself but with the lack of modern infrastructure and forward-looking policies.

Turning Apples into Wealth: Local Value-Addition

One of the biggest weaknesses of Kashmir's apple economy is its overwhelming dependence on fresh fruit sales. More than 95 percent of the harvest is sold as raw apples, with very little value addition. This makes the sector highly vulnerable, because once transport is disrupted, the fruit has no alternative use. The obvious solution is to establish large-scale value-addition industries within the valley. Apples can be processed into a variety of products: juices, jams, jellies, ciders, pickles, sauces, dried apple chips, and apple cider vinegar all of which have both domestic and international markets. Even apples that do not meet fresh market standards, such as blemished or undersized fruit, can be profitably utilized. Setting up such industries through public-private partnerships, cooperative models, or state-supported enterprises would not only reduce wastage but also generate thousands

of jobs in food processing, packaging, marketing, and logistics. By retaining more of the value chain within the valley, Kashmir could transform its apples from a fragile commodity into a resilient industrial base.

Preserving the Harvest: Cold Storages and Micro Units

Another critical step is the creation of adequate cold storage infrastructure. Currently, the valley's cold storage capacity falls far short of its production, forcing farmers to sell their produce immediately after harvest, even when prices are low. Building modern cold storages in every high-production block can allow apples to be preserved for six to eight months, giving farmers the flexibility to sell when markets are favorable. But large-scale facilities alone are not enough. There is also a need to encourage micro cold storages small, affordable preservation units that farmers or cooperatives can own themselves. Government subsidies, low-interest loans, and technical support can make this possible. Innovative solutions such as solar-powered cold rooms could bring preservation even to remote areas. By enabling farmers to hold back their produce during highway closures or market slumps, cold storage can turn recurring crises into manageable delays, protecting both income and dignity.

The Case for a Dedicated Apple Research Institute

If Kashmir is to secure its future as a global apple hub, it needs more than infrastructure it needs knowledge and innovation. A dedicated apple research institute in the valley could revolutionize the sector by focusing exclusively on improving quality, yield, and resilience. Such an institute could develop climate-resilient varieties to withstand erratic rainfall, research low-cost preservation technologies, and introduce modern orchard management practices. It could also serve as a training center for farmers, teaching them techniques in pruning, pest control, packaging, and marketing. By linking scientific research with grassroots practice, the institute

could ensure that Kashmir's apples not only survive but thrive in an era of climate change and global competition. Moreover, it would provide new employment opportunities for educated youth in horticultural research, extension services, and agribusiness.

Beyond the Highway: Alternative Transport Solutions

Relying on a single highway for a crop that sustains millions is a structural vulnerability. The time has come to explore alternative transport solutions. A dedicated freight rail corridor for perishable goods from Kashmir to India's major fruit markets would be a game changer, ensuring faster, cheaper, and more reliable movement of apples. Similarly, subsidized air cargo services during peak harvest months could provide an emergency alternative during highway blockages. Even within the valley, better road networks and intra-district connectivity would ensure that apples reach cold storages and processing units without delay. Investing in such transport infrastructure is not a luxury but a necessity if the state and central governments are serious about protecting the apple industry.

From Fragility to Resilience: The Wider Benefits

The measures proposed—local processing, cold storages, research institutes, and better transport—are not just about saving apples from rotting. They are about transforming Kashmir's economy from fragility to resilience. By reducing dependence on a single highway, the region can insulate itself from climate shocks. By creating local industries, it can generate employment for youth, reduce migration, and boost women's participation in the workforce. By investing in research, it can improve quality and compete in global markets. And by preserving fruit longer, it can stabilize prices and reduce farmer distress. In short, these reforms can turn a cycle of despair into a cycle of hope. Kashmir's apples can move from being a symbol of loss to a symbol of innovation and prosperity.

The apple crisis of 2025 should not be seen as just another seasonal mishap; it must be treated as a wake-up call. Every year, floods, landslides, or snowfalls block the highway, and every year, farmers suffer colossal losses. The government's ad hoc measures, whether special trains or emergency market interventions, cannot address the root problem. What is needed is a comprehensive, long-term strategy that combines infrastructure, industry, research, and transport reforms. Kashmir's apples deserve better than to rot in stranded trucks or be buried in pits. They deserve to reach markets across India and the world in their full value-added potential. Most importantly, the farmers who nurture these orchards deserve security, dignity, and prosperity. Protecting Kashmir's apples is not just an agricultural priority; it is an economic, social, and moral imperative. The time for piecemeal solutions is over. The valley must now invest in structural reforms that will safeguard its apple industry for generations to come.

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India Showed How

forces to deal with any challenge. This preparedness is intended to prevent resource constraints during future operations.”

He said the response to the Pahalgam terror attack demonstrated that India decides its own course through action and preparation. “The retaliation proved that the country’s armed forces operate with a sense of duty that places national sovereignty above all else,” Singh added.

The Defence Minister recalled the 1965 conflict with Pakistan. “India at the time was facing uncertainty but managed to withstand the pressure. The leadership under then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri provided clarity and direction during a difficult phase and kept national morale intact.”

He said, “Wars are not won only through armed confrontation, but through unified national effort. The events of 1965 exhibited how collective decisions and unity among citizens contributed to the country’s ability to overcome military threats.”

The Defence Minister said that the government continues to pay attention towards the needs of serving soldiers, ex-servicemen, and the families of those who lost their lives in duty.

The ceremony was attended by war veterans, families of fallen soldiers, and senior military officials including Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Western Army Commander Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar, and Delhi Area GOC Lieutenant General Bhavnish Kumar—(KNO)

India Will Achieve

“You have to create a glorious and developed India by completely eliminating every trace of colonial mindset,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the entire world is looking towards India with hope for future prospects.

“The 21st century is India’s century. It is written in stone. Consistent growth and productivity will make India a dominant global power,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also encouraged the young students to learn new languages, broaden perspectives and drive innovation.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the NIT Srinagar for establishing the Official Language Cell and organising numerous activities for promotion of Hindi language.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated writers, scholars, and researchers for their important contribution to the promotion of diverse languages.

Shri Atul Bhai Kothari, National Secretary, Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas; Prof. Binod Kumar Kanojia, Director, National Institute of Technology, Srinagar; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr GV SundEEP Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; members of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas; prominent literary personalities, scholars, faculty and students were present.

Apple Growers Reel

reaches mandis, it disturbs the entire supply-and-demand chain. Prices are bound to go down.”

He added, “This time the problem is worse, because most of this produce had remained stuck on the highway for almost a week. The fruit condition has deteriorated, yet the freight charges remain extremely high. It is a double loss for us.”

Growers said that while their produce was stuck en route, the buyers in mandis such as Delhi, Chandigarh, and Azadpur know that this fruit has remained stuck on the highway for days together and they are giving very low returns, further pushing Kashmiri apples growers in losses.

Abdul Rashid, President of Fruit Mandi Jablipora, said the arrival of thousands of trucks at a time has created oversupply. “On top of that, the fruit is no longer fresh due to the long delays. Farmers will inevitably suffer heavy losses because buyers will negotiate at throwaway prices,” he said.

Many growers lament that they have invested heavily in cultivation this year, including in fertilisers, pesticides, packaging, and labour. “We are entirely dependent on this harvest for our livelihood. If we don’t even recover our input costs, how will we sustain ourselves?” one farmer added.

Meanwhile, the administration said that efforts are underway to normalise the situation.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, told reporters that the highway restoration work is progressing swiftly. “In the last two days, nearly 5,500 fruit trucks have been allowed to move. Similarly, the movement of vehicles carrying essentials is also being ensured,” he said.

The Kashmir apple industry, which provides livelihood to over 3.5 million people, has already been hit hard by erratic weather, rising freight costs, and falling market prices. This latest disruption, growers fear, could further break their backbone—(KNO)

Industrial Growth Must

also reviewed the New Central Sector Scheme aimed at encouraging new investments and incentives provided under the scheme. CM assessed the claim wise progress achieved under the scheme and called for completion of targets fixed under the NCSS.

He also asked Industries Department to prioritize setting up of industries for which either raw material is readily available or the market is locally available for finished products.

Calling for a review of the land policy in industrial estates, Omar Abdullah stressed on ensuring early allotment of land to Units which have deposited premium but their

proposals for land transfer remain in limbo. CM gave directions for early completion of 46 new Industrial Estates and to take up development of existing industrial estates to ensure judicious and productive use of industrial land.

On improving the business climate, the Chief Minister urged the department to explore what J&K can itself do to enhance the Ease of Doing Business, beyond national benchmarks. He further instructed officials to design policies that attract new industries in the wake of new GST rate slabs announced by Central Government, with a clear differentiation of how J&K can uniquely position itself compared to neighboring states.

To ensure stronger policy implementation, Omar Abdullah asked the department to seek structured feedback from new industries that have applied under Single Window Clearance or begun operations under the SWC system, so that operational gaps can be identified and addressed.

With regard to GI certification of crafts, the Chief Minister called for augmenting GI certification testing facilities so that dealers do not suffer due to limited capacity of Handicrafts department, cautioning that without adequate systems in place, the very purpose of GI tagging would be undermined.

“Industrial development in J&K must not only attract investment but also ensure it translates into jobs, livelihoods, and sustainable growth for our youth and artisans,” Omar Abdullah said.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh made a detailed presentation highlighting the department’s progress.

He informed that investment realization in J&K during FY 2024-25 has reached 4145 crore, nearly 10 times higher than the pre-2021 average, while the current fiscal (up to August 2025) has already seen 4001 crore worth of projects grounded, generating 5,111 jobs in the formal industrial sector. For the first time, multiple units with investment exceeding 500 crore have been set up across sectors such as metals, plastics, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and food processing.

The presentation further revealed that MSMEs contribute 8% to J&K’s GDP and employ over 10.88 lakh people, including 15% women. Initiatives such as the MSME Health Clinic, Udyam registration drives across 4914 blocks, and capacity-building programmes under the RAMP scheme have been launched to support this backbone of the economy.

On the startup ecosystem, Singh informed that registrations have surged from just 69 in 2020 to 1,127 in 2025, with a marked shift towards technology and service-based ventures. The meeting was informed that J&K is also set to host a Startup Summit in collaboration with Startup India, MEITY, and SIDBI in October this year in Srinagar.

The meeting was also informed that 4.39 lakh artisans are registered across J&K, with exports more than doubling to 1163 crore in 2023-24. Srinagar has been designated as a World Crafts City by the World Crafts Council and recognized by UNESCO under its Creative Cities Network. A QR-based certification mechanism for craft products, the first of its kind globally, has also been introduced.

The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who is also Minister Incharge Industries & Commerce, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Heads of the Departments of Industries & Commerce and other senior officers.

Centre Announces

the floods in the Union Territory.

He also announced that workers in the flood-affected areas would get additional 50 man-days under MGNREA, increasing their entitlement to 150 from the existing 100 man-days guaranteed under the programme in view of the natural calamity. The Union Minister also announced that farmers would receive compensation for their domestic animals which perished in flood waters. He said as reported by the J&K administration, about 5000 houses have been damaged which would be built again for which he would approve assistance immediately. The agriculture minister said under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Rs.1,30,000 would be provided for the construction for each house, with a separate toilet. Hailing Self Help Groups for their work, he said, they, too, have suffered losses, and Rs.76 crore would be released for them.

Chouhan suggested that the sand accumulated in the fields due to floods must be used by the farmers in whose land it is deposited. In this case, he said the Mining Department of J&K must relax the rule in favour of the affected farmers.

The agriculture minister said J&K Government has about Rs.2,499 crore available for disaster management, which will be utilised for the recent floods, adding that if more funds are required, the Central government will extend further assistance. He said J&K government would take up renovation of damaged canals and embankments with the Central assistance.

CS Reviews Plan

and District Administration. The plan lays out both immediate and long-term measures to eradicate the entry of substandard food items into J&K and ensure strict compliance with food safety norms.

Key Features of the Action Plan, as laid out by the Commissioner, DFCO constitutes formation of joint inspection teams and flying squads for surprise checks, particularly targeting high-risk sectors such as meat, milk, and bakery products. It also envisages accomplishing district-wise mapping of food

businesses, including primary producers, processors, and vendors, to enable targeted inspections.

One more feature of this robust action plan is the strengthening of infrastructure & surveillance. It involves establishment of checkpoints and cold-chain facilities at toll plazas, entry points, and major transport routes for high-risk food consignments. Besides strict monitoring of consignments from outside states to prevent import of sub-standard products.

It also encompasses addressing the deficit of nearly 257.5 lakh kg of meat through regulated and safe supply mechanisms and development of modern slaughterhouses with frozen storage facilities for scientific meat processing and distribution.

Another pillar of the strategy is enforcement of mandatory sanitary and hygiene practices at meat shops and other food hubs and deployment of qualified veterinary officers for routine inspections.

Launch of mass awareness campaigns in collaboration with NGOs, SHGs, and cooperatives to educate citizens on food safety and hygiene. Additionally initiatives to encourage public reporting of food adulteration and related malpractices would also be encouraged.

Monthly meetings of District-Level Advisory Committees (DLACs), comprising officials from multiple departments, to review progress and address challenges.

Food Safety Wing to lead licensing, inspections, and traceability, while Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Departments promote good agricultural and veterinary practices. District Administrations will expedite legal proceedings against violators.

Chief Secretary Dulloo emphasized that effective inter-departmental coordination will be the cornerstone of this initiative. He directed all concerned departments to work in close synergy to ensure that only safe, hygienic, and quality food reaches the markets.

This comprehensive strategy is not just about regulation but also about building awareness, accountability, and trust. This comprehensive action plan is a comprehensive initiative to protect the public health and ensuring the availability of safe and quality food for all. The administration urges all citizens and food business operators to support this initiative for the collective well-being of the Union Territory.

Operation Sindoor

aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 people, mostly tourists.

“Earlier, we did the Balakot operation, but we didn’t have satellite images or photos... But what we did at 1 am now (Operation Sindoor), despite difficulty in collecting evidence in the darkness of night, was due to twin reasons — first, we had confidence in our capabilities that we could take imagery, and the second, we wanted to avoid civilian casualties.

“The best (option) would have been the time of 5.30 am or 6 am... But that time of the first Azan or Namaz... many civilian lives would have been lost. We wanted to avoid that completely,” Gen Chauhan said.

He said that India was monitoring the neighbouring nation’s flying activities for some time and chose the strike on the night of May 7, as the weather was clear with no rain prediction.

Contrary to the general notion that the army was engaged at seven targets and the air force at two, the “navy was also involved in the strikes with S400 and S120, and deployment of navy commandos in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab in addition to the Arabian Sea”, he said.

“During Uri and Balakot, we chose land and air medium, but in this operation, a surprise element was there as we adopted a new strategy, which was needed for success, and used drones, the capability of which we acquired,” Gen Chauhan said.

He said the evolving character of warfare is now driven more by technology than the sheer number or territorial occupation.

“Modern warfare demands that we fight today’s conflicts with tomorrow’s technology. The battlespace is no longer limited to traditional domains of land, air, and sea and has expanded to include space, cyber, the electromagnetic spectrum, and even the cognitive domain. In recent operations, this shift was evident.

“India was able to strike deep into enemy territory with long-range precision weapons, guided by satellite imagery, electronic surveillance, and signal intelligence, often without direct visual contact with the adversary. These were non-contact, multi-domain operations where success was not measured by the ground captured, but by the level of dominance and sophistication displayed across all levels of escalation,” he emphasised.

Giving an example of the strike on Sarjal village in Pakistan’s Punjab, he said that though it appeared to be an unremarkable location comprising merely an old primary health centre, technical intelligence confirmed it had been a base for repeated terrorist infiltrations.

The precision strike neutralised a key node in the adversary’s network, reflecting the effectiveness of a technology-led approach, the chief of defence staff said.

This paradigm shift in warfare requires rethinking traditional metrics of victory. Success is no longer solely defined by body counts or territorial gains, he said.

Instead, it is measured through strategic deterrence, operational sophistication and information dominance.

The army, navy, and air force have learnt many lessons from Operation Sindoor to ensure higher levels of preparedness and integration, Gen Chauhan said.

“As warfare continues to evolve, our

armed forces are not just adapting; they are actively shaping the future battlespace. Victory today lies not only in decisive action, but in the ability to maintain superiority across all domains,” he said.

He also noted that ‘fauj’ (military) is the only place where there is no nepotism.

“Merit is rewarded, and there is recognition of work. You (children) should aspire to join the armed forces if you want to serve the nation, and explore the country and the world,” Gen Chauhan said.

He added that the armed forces made maximum efforts this year to rescue citizens amid a high number of natural calamities. (ANI)

EC Axes 12 J&K

an unlawful association by the Central Government in 2025.

The Nature Mankind Friendly Global Party is led by Babu Singh, a former minister in the PDP-Congress government. He was arrested in a Hawla case in 2022—(KNO)

'Nearly 5,500 Fruit

send their produce to outside markets, leaving them on the verge of massive losses.

Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union president, Bashir Ahmad Basheer, said that apart from the highway crisis, low demand and other issues, the profits of growers are being eaten away by soaring transport costs.

He appealed to the administration to intervene immediately by deploying RTC (Road Transport Corporation) vehicles at every mandi to stabilise freight rates.

Basheer said that RTC vehicles have been deployed at Fruit Mandi in Shopian and Sopore, but they must also be deployed at other mandis.

“Earlier, we used to pay around Rs 60 per box via the National Highway route, but this year the rates have skyrocketed to Rs 200. On the Mughal Road, the charges are even higher—over 200 per box,” said Abdul Rashid, a grower from Shopian. “At these rates, how can a farmer survive? We are not traders with multiple sources of income. For us, apples are the only livelihood.”

Another grower, Mohammad Yousuf from Pulwama, stated that private transporters were taking advantage of the crisis. “We were assured that freight charges would be kept under check, but the ground reality is completely different. If the government is serious, it should immediately deploy RTC trucks at every mandi. That will automatically bring down the rates,” he said.

Fruit growers’ associations accused transporters of creating a shortage. “The government must step in. Unless RTC trucks are made available, private transporters will continue to loot the growers. Every day of delay is pushing farmers towards bankruptcy,” Basheer said.

He added that the soaring costs come at a time when growers are already facing uncertainty due to highway closures and market volatility. “If immediate action is not taken, not only will growers suffer, but the entire horticulture economy of Kashmir will be hit hard,” he said.

Growers said the government should not only ensure free movement of trucks on highways but also regulate freight rates. “We want the administration to fix uniform charges and deploy RTC vehicles at mandis across Kashmir. This is the only way to save us from exploitation,” said Ghulam Nabi, a grower from Baramulla.

The apple industry, which provides livelihood to nearly 3.5 million people in J&K, is seen as the backbone of the region’s economy. But with freight charges spiralling and transport shortage persisting, growers fear that their season’s hard work will go in vain—(KNO)

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Mitsotakis dials PM Modi as India and Greece vow to strengthen strategic partnership

IAN S

ATHENS/NEW DELHI: Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Friday called PM Narendra Modi, conveying Hellenic Republic's support for the early conclusion of a mutually beneficial India-European Union Free Trade Agreement and for the success of the next year's AI Impact Summit.

Mitsotakis also shared warm wishes on the occasion of Prime Minister Modi's birthday with PM Modi expressing his heartfelt appreciation for the gesture.

"Both leaders welcomed developments in bilateral relations across sectors such as trade, investment, technology, shipping, defence, security, connectivity and people-to-people ties, and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the India-Greece Strategic Partnership," read a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) after the phone call.



"Prime Minister Mitsotakis conveyed Greece's support for the early conclusion of a mutually beneficial India-EU Free Trade Agreement and for the success of the AI Impact Summit to be hosted by India in 2026. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. The leaders agreed to remain in touch," it added.

India-Greece relations - based on shared cultural values, commitment to

foster economic growth, collaboration in the fields of security and defence, shipping, maritime and marked by convergence on regional and global issues - were elevated to 'Strategic Partnership' during PM Modi's visit to Greece in August 2023.

The two countries have also been cooperating closely in various multilateral forums.

In February 2024, Mitsotakis paid a State visit to India - the first bilateral

Head of State/Government level visit from Greece to India after 15 years - during which both countries further strengthened and deepened the strategic partnership.

Both leaders had emphasised that the shared values of democracy, freedom, international peace and security, rules-based international order, respect for international law including UNCLOS, and human rights, as well as the shared historical linkages and long-standing ties between the two countries are at the core of the growing strategic relationship.

Prime Minister Modi and Mitsotakis had also discussed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) for enhancing connectivity between India and Europe through engagement and cooperation among the countries of the region including in the fields of trade, commerce, investment, technology, energy, logistics, ports and infrastructure.

India rejects EU criticism over participation in Russian-Belarusian military exercise



IAN S

NEW DELHI: Rejecting the criticism from European Union on India's participation in multilateral Zapad exercise held in Russia's Nizhny, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday pointed out that several countries, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members like the United States, Turkey and Hungary, have also participated in the major exercise as observers.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, while responding to a question on the comments made by European Commission Vice President Kaja Kallas recently, highlighted that the Ministry of Defence has already shared details regarding India's participation in the Zapad exercise.

"I would also at the same time would like to point out that several other countries including NATO countries such as United States, Turkey and Hungary are also or have also participated in this exercise as observers," Jaiswal said during a weekly media briefing held in New Delhi.

Kallas had remarked about India's participation in the military exercise and its purchase of the Russian oil being a hurdle in India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks.

"I am not communicating on behalf of India. So, you can ask them the arguments on that side. We will meet in person as well, because this is a great concern for our countries. If you want closer ties with us, then why participate in exercises that are existential threats to us. So, to be very clear on this message. We are not taking this, lightly, but I will not just reflect on our conversations and be communicating on their behalf," Kallas told reporters.

Earlier, the Russian Foreign Ministry had dismissed as "baseless" the West's concerns over India's participation in the

military drills.

Welcoming India's participation, Russian Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova asserted that Zapad 2025 exercises were "exclusively defensive" in nature and were aimed at repelling potential aggression.

"One would like to believe that NATO observers will help debunk Western myths about the drills' aggressive nature," Zakharova said during a media briefing in Moscow.

The Zapad-2025 joint strategic exercise is the final stage of joint training of the Armed Forces of Russia and Belarus held between September 12-16 at 41 land and sea training grounds in both countries.

On September 9, an Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 65 personnel departed for Russia's Nizhny to participate in the multilateral joint military exercise. According to Ministry of Defence, the contingent comprised of 57 Indian Army personnel along with seven personnel from the Indian Air Force and one from the Indian Navy. The Indian Army contingent was led by a battalion of the Kumaon Regiment along with troops from other arms and services.

"The multilateral Exercise ZAPAD 2025 is aimed at enhancing military cooperation, improving interoperability, and providing a platform for participating armies to exchange tactics, techniques and procedures in the domains of conventional warfare and counter-terrorism operations.

"The exercise will focus on joint company level operations in open and plain terrain, wherein troops will undertake missions ranging from joint planning, tactical drills, and special arms skills. It will offer a valuable opportunity to hone joint operational capabilities, integrate emerging technologies, and operate in a multinational combat environment," the ministry stated.

India tops in FDI stocks in Nepal



IAN S

KATHMANDU: Even though China maintains that it has topped Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) commitments to Nepal in recent years, it is actually India which continues to rule the roost when it comes to the actual stock of FDI prevailing in the country.

According to a study released recently by the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), the Central Bank, the FDI stock from India topped the chart. FDI stock is the total accumulated value of Foreign Direct Investments over time.

According to the Survey Report on Foreign Direct Investment in Nepal (2023-24), total FDI stock in Nepal stood at Rs 333 billion in fiscal year 2023-24, with paid-up capital accounting for 50.7 per cent, reserves 36.7 per cent, and loans 12.6 per cent.

Of the total FDI stock, India ranked in the top position (32.3 per cent), followed by China (10.2 per cent), Singapore (8.3 per cent), Ireland (6.9 per cent), and South Korea (6.1 per cent).

India has topped the chart at a time when Chinese investors have been making huge FDI commitments, consistently leading the chart over the last decade, according to the Department of Industry, where industries including those with FDI are registered. Till mid-June of fiscal year 2024-25, Chinese investment commitments to Nepal topped the chart with 44.77 per cent, followed by India with 19.55 per cent, the department said.

"India continuing to have dominant FDI stocks in Nepal suggests that huge FDI pledges from China have not been

realised to the maximum levels," Prakash Kumar Shrestha, former Executive Director of NRB told IANS. "On the other hand, Indian FDI stocks in Nepal have remained since the early 1990s, and recently, Nepal received huge Indian investment to develop the 900 MW Arun 3 Hydropower Project in eastern Nepal," he added.

India's SJVN Limited, a state-owned company, has been developing one of the largest hydropower projects in Nepal, which is now nearing completion.

The same Indian company has also been awarded two other hydropower projects — the 669MW Lower Arun Hydropower Project and the 490MW Arun-4 Hydropower Project. The latter will be developed in partnership with the Nepal Electricity Authority.

Rajesh Kumar Agrawal, former President of the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), a representative body of medium and large scale industries, said India's FDI stock continues to remain high because of the significant FDI Nepal received in the 1990s when companies including Unilever Nepal, Dabur Nepal and Arati Strips Pvt. Ltd among others established in Nepal with investment from India.

"Even though Chinese investment commitments have surpassed India's in recent years, it will take time for the realisation of Chinese investment commitments in Nepal," he told IANS.

Not all FDI commitments are realised, according to experts. "It depends on several factors — investment climate, market availability, investor mentality, the situation of alternative markets, among others," said Shrestha.

India and Canada agree to initiate necessary steps to reactivate bilateral dialogue mechanisms

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India and Canada held pre-Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in New Delhi on Friday, agreeing to initiate necessary steps to reactivate bilateral dialogue mechanisms in diverse sectors, including trade, defence, energy, civil nuclear, security and law enforcement, critical minerals, space, science and technology, and agriculture.

During the meeting, the officials from both countries reaffirmed the importance of India-Canada ties, anchored in shared democratic values, respect for the rule of law, and commitment to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"The discussions provided an opportunity to review the state of India-Canada bilateral relations and exchange views on other international and regional issues," read a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). statement.

The two sides welcomed the progress achieved since June 2025, including the return of High Commissioners to each other's capitals. For the meeting, MEA Secretary (East) P Kumaran led the Indian side while the Canadian side was led by Deputy Foreign Minister David Morrison.

The MEA statement added: "In line with the understanding reached between the two Prime Ministers to restore stability in the relationship



and pursue a constructive and balanced partnership, the two sides agreed to initiate necessary steps to reactivate bilateral dialogue mechanisms across diverse domains, including trade, defence, energy, civil nuclear, security and law enforcement, critical minerals, space, science and technology, and agriculture."

Canada's Deputy Foreign Minister David Morrison also met Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. On Thursday, the National Security Advisors of both countries held talks on Thursday as part of the regular bilateral security consultations between Ottawa and New Delhi.

While addressing a weekly media briefing on Friday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "The NSA of Canada held talks with our National Security Advisor, I think it happened yesterday, 18th, this is part of the regular bilateral security consultations that happen between the two countries. It was also an opportunity and an occasion for them to follow up on the discussions that happened between Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Carney in Kananaskis on the sidelines of G7 in Alberta, Canada."

It was on the sidelines of the G7 Summit that PM Modi and Carney held a meeting aimed at reviving the strained ties between both nations. The June 18 discussions were described

as "very positive and constructive" by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. As an initial move, both leaders had agreed to restore High Commissioners to each other's capitals at the earliest opportunity.

Further, the two nations resolved to revive senior and working-level mechanisms on various fronts. They also agreed to resume senior and working-level mechanisms and discussions in a host of areas related to trade, people-to-people contact and connectivity, all of them intended to bring greater momentum to the relationship.

Last month, India had announced that Dinesh K Patnaik, who earlier served as India's Ambassador to Spain, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner to Canada.

The appointment came more than 10 months after New Delhi had withdrawn its previous High Commissioner to Ottawa over the then Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's continued "hostility" towards India.

Citing the atmosphere of extremism and violence that had prevailed during Trudeau's tenure, India had withdrawn High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma, one of the country's senior most serving diplomats, in October 2014.

The ties between India and Canada had soured after Trudeau alleged in the Canadian Parliament that he had "credible allegations" of India's hand in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION SRINAGAR



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e-NIT No:09 of 2025-26_Dated:18/09/2025

For and on behalf of Government of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on percentage basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors for the below mentioned work, to be received by the Executive Engineer Irrigation Flood Control Division Srinagar.

Name of Work: Stage Contract for the balance year 2025-26 (Flood Sector) for the emergent works under the jurisdiction of Irrigation & Flood Control Sub-Division Sonwar.

- Administrative Approval accorded by Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Sgr/Gbl vide No: 30 of 2025-26, Dated:10/06/2025 under Major Head 2711-Maintenance & Repairs.
- Authorization given by S.E Hydraulic Circle Sgr/Gbl vide No: SE/SGR/DB/4136-37 Dated:15/09/2025
- Technical Sanction: Under-process.
- Ceiling Amount: ₹4.00 Lacs (including Departmental Supply).
- Earnest Money: ₹8000/=
- Tender Document Fee: ₹200/=
- Contractor Eligibility: DEE Class
- Position of Funds: Budgetary provision under Maintenance & Repairs for the FY: 2025-26.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18/09/2025
3.	Bid submission Start Date	19/09/2025 from 18:50 Hrs.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	29/09/2025 up to 16:00 Hrs.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	30/09/2025 at 1200 Hrs.

Note: The Department shall not be responsible for any delay in the online submission of bids due to any reason whatsoever. Prospective bidders are advised to thoroughly read and understand the instructions provided in Annexure A as well as the General Conditions of Contract detailed in Annexure B prior to submitting their bids. Submission of the tender shall be deemed as confirmation that the bidder has read, understood, and accepted all terms and conditions stipulated therein.

Annexure A To IFCD Srinagar e-NIT No: 9 of 2025-26: Instructions to Bidders.

- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopies of the requisite documents; any short fall if found in the soft copy, the tender shall be liable for rejection.
- In accordance with the with the Circular issued by the Finance Department, J&K Government vide No:OM No.A/24(2017)-651 Dt:07/06/2018, the condition of furnishing of hard-copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. Hard-copies shall be only obtained from the bidder declared as L1. The L1 has to provide 3% of Advertised Cost as Performance Security in the form of CDR/FDR/BG from any Scheduled Bank within 5 days after opening of Financial Bids and the validity of same should be 30 days beyond Defective Liability Period.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0702 -Rev. Misc) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control Division Srinagar failing which the tender will be rejected outright. The issuing date of CDR/FDR uploaded must be between issuing date to Bid Submission end date of NIT. CDR/FDR (Earnest money/Bid security) and relevant uploaded documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
- Every bidder must upload a soft copy of the undertaking on a notarized Affidavit, proforma of which is listed at Annexure D
- Unbalanced Bid: In case the bid is found to be unbalanced, the successful bidder (L1) shall have to deposit an Additional Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG from any scheduled bank, in accordance with the Govt. of J&K-Finance Department Circular No:FD-Code/441/2021-02-158, Dated: 08/08/2025, as tabulated below:

S.No	Percentage below the Advt. Amount	Additional Performance Security to be submitted.
1	Up to 10% below	Nil.
2	11% to 20% below	Bid starting 11% below the Adv.Cost, 0.1% of the Adv.Cost for every additional percent of bid price below upto the maximum of 1%.
3	More than 20% below	One percent incremented by 0.2% of the Adv. Cost for every %age of bid price below 20%.

- Note:** The Additional Performance Security shall be treated as a part of Performance Security.
- Nothing shall be paid on account of Dewatering/Diversion or Construction of Ring Bund. The contractor shall quote the rates accordingly.
 - The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
 - Bidders are advised to download Bid Submission Manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
 - Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on www.jktenders.gov e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. The BOQ downloaded should be inclusive of all taxes.
 - Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found fake/ not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/ bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of one year besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.
 - The bidders must upload clearly visible soft-copies of documents as detailed in the following checklist. The documents which are not clearly visible will be treated as cancelled.

No.IFCDs/CS/
Dated: /09/2025.

DIPK-6415-25
DT: 19/09/2025

(Er. Shuja Showkat Hussain)
Executive Engineer

JKEDI organizes Startup Idea Challenge Boot Camps at Srinagar, Katra, Kathua and Banihal; innovative ideas shortlisted

GMK NEW NETWORK

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) continued its mission of fostering innovation and empowering youth through entrepreneurship by organizing J&K Startup Idea Challenge – Boot Camps at the Government Sri Pratap College, M.A Road, Srinagar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University - Technology Business Incubator Centre (SMVDU-TBIC), Katra, Government Degree College for Women, Kathua and Govt. Degree College Banihal. The events, held under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and faculty members.

At Srinagar, the boot camp was held at the Government Sri Pratap College, M.A Road, Srinagar. The camp was inaugurated by Professor Bashir Ahmad, Principal of the College who underscored the need of organizing such initiatives more frequently to build and nurture a vibrant startup ecosystem in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir.

Twenty two participants presented their ideas before the jury comprising of faculty of the college, Lead Bank Manager from J&K Bank and officers/officials of JKEDI. Sh. Ahsan Qadir, District Nodal Officer(DNO), JKEDI Srinagar deliberated on the details of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 while Dr. Sameer Jan Baht, Incharge, CEER, JKEDI presented the keynote address.

At Katra, the boot camp under the J&K Startup Idea Challenge was held at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University - Technology Business Incubator Centre (SMVDU-TBIC), Katra to boost the startup ecosystem of the Union Territory in line with the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

Chand Kishor Sharma, Joint Director, JKEDI, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his address, he highlighted the various interventions and workshops being implemented by JKEDI under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 and urged students to think innovatively and work towards building sustainable entrepreneurial ventures while

Dr. Kumud Ranjan Jha, Vice-



Chairperson, TBIC, graced the event as Guest of Honor and encouraged the participants to nurture their ideas into impactful startups. Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO, TBIC, was also present at the event who appreciated the JKEDI's role in building startup ecosystem. Smt Divya, Manager TBIC was also present at the event.

Abhilash Kumar Braroo, District Nodal Officer (DNO), JKEDI Reasi, delivered the keynote address, outlining the agenda of the session and setting the tone for discussions on innovation, entrepreneurship, and opportunities available under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 while Zahid Ali Dar, Project Manager, JKEDI, spoke on the importance of the J&K Startup Idea Challenge workshop emphasizing the opportunities available for budding entrepreneurs.

The Bootcamp witnessed enthusiastic participation, with 110 students attending the session. A total of fourteen students pitched their ideas, out of which twelve were shortlisted for the next round of the Start-up Idea Challenge.

At Kathua, the Boot Camp, held at Government Degree

College for Women, Kathua was graced by Chand Kishor Sharma, Joint Director, as the Chief Guest in presence of Dr. Savi Behl, Principal, Govt. Degree College for Women, Kathua.

He emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in youth empowerment. Dheeraj Handoo, District Nodal Officer (DNO) JKEDI Kathua, presented details of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, and guided students on startup idea pitching. A motivational address was delivered by Arun Singh, Founder & CEO of Techez Workstation and Softsolutions Private Limited. A total of 04 participants pitched their ideas before a distinguished jury comprising JKEDI officials, and faculty members of the college, out of which eleven ideas were shortlisted for the next stages.

At Banihal, the boot camp was held at Govt. Degree College Banihal. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Mohammad Shafiq Katoch, Principal of the college, who emphasized the importance of nurturing a vibrant start-up ecosystem in J&K. Experts from JKEDI and

JK Bank, actively guided participants. A highlight was the pitching session, where eight innovative business ideas were presented, reflecting creativity and problem-solving zeal across technology and sustainable models.

Tasneef Rasool Parray, District Nodal Officer(DNO), JKEDI, Ramban engaged the students on the pretext of the incentives of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 while Mohsin Abrar (In charge Recovery and Repayment, JKEDI) laid the outline of the stages of J&K Startup Idea Challenge.

These boot camps served as vibrant platforms for idea exchange, motivation, and entrepreneurial learning. The dignitaries and jury members across districts lauded JKEDI's sustained efforts to nurture entrepreneurship and innovation at the grassroots level. By providing mentorship, exposure, and support, JKEDI is reinforcing its mission to strengthen the startup ecosystem and empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Week-long Aapda Sakhi training prog. begins at SDRF 1st Bn Hqrs Srinagar

GMK NEW NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To empower women at the grassroots level in disaster preparedness and response, a week-long Aapda Sakhi Training programme commenced today at the Headquarters of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) 1st Battalion, Srinagar.

Aapda Sakhi Training program was attended by Ramesh Kumar Angral, Director, Homeguards Kashmir; Imtiyaz Hussain Mir, Director Civil Defence & SDRF Kashmir; Masroor Ahmad Mir, Commandant, SDRF 1st Battalion and other senior civil and Police officers.

Aapda Sakhi Training program witnessed active participation of senior officers/officials and 78 women trainees drawn from various districts of Kashmir province viz. 20 Aapda Sakhi from Social Welfare, 20 Aapda Sakhi from Rural Development, and 20 from Health & Medical Education department, besides 18 from Civil Defense, wardens/volunteers are also taking part in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Homeguards emphasized the importance of integrating women into the disaster management framework. He stated, "Women are the backbone of our community, and their involvement as Aapda Sakhis will significantly enhance grassroot preparedness and resilience during any emergency."

Addressing the officers, officials and Aapda Sakhi trainees, Director Civil Defence & SDRF Kashmir highlighted the critical

role of Aapda Sakhis as community first responders and advocates for resilience in disaster-prone regions. He reiterated SDRF's commitment to community outreach and capacity building.

Earlier during the inaugural session, dignitaries highlighted the critical role of Aapda Sakhis as community first responders and advocates for resilience in disaster-prone regions. They commended the enthusiasm of the trainees who had come from different corners of the Kashmir valley to participate in this specialized program.

Aapda Sakhis, under the broader ambit of community-based disaster risk reduction, are to be trained and empowered to respond effectively to emergencies such as earthquakes, floods, fires, and other natural or human-induced disasters.

The week-long training program will cover essential modules including basics of disaster preparedness, first aid and emergency response, fire safety and rescue operations, Risk communication and community mobilization, and Mock drills and hands-on exercises.

The program is being conducted under the guidance of SDRF trainers and disaster management experts, ensuring a blend of theory and practical learning for the participants.

This inaugural event marked a significant step forward in building a resilient community through women-led disaster preparedness efforts across Jammu & Kashmir.

Rising Stars take the mat: Under-14 Girls Kabaddi Tournament begins in Rajouri



GMK NEW NETWORK

RAJOURI: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Rajouri proudly launched the Inter-District Divisional Level Under-14 Girls Kabaddi Tournament—an inspiring celebration of young athletic talent, teamwork and empowerment. With nine districts participating, the event stands as a testament to the growing strength of girls in competitive sports and the district's commitment to nurturing future champions.

Teams from across the region arrived yesterday, bringing with them enthusiasm, discipline and a shared spirit of unity. The opening ceremony, held today, was a vibrant display of community pride and sporting excellence. District Development Commissioner Abhishek Sharma presided

ed as Chief Guest and officially declared the tournament open.

In his address, he emphasized the transformative role of sports in shaping confident, resilient young women and encouraged all participants to compete with integrity and passion.

Station House Officer Abid Bukhari attended as Guest of Honour and delivered a motivating message that resonated deeply with the athletes. His presence underscored the importance of inclusive sports platforms and the value of perseverance, discipline and mutual respect.

The tournament is being conducted under the expert supervision of Mohd Qasim, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, whose strategic leadership and dedication have ensured smooth execution. Operational

coordination and on-ground support are being ably managed by Zonal Physical Education Officer, Baljarallan Wali Mohd.

Day one of the tournament witnessed spirited performances and thrilling contests. Poonch registered two impressive victories, defeating Jammu and Reasi. Host district Rajouri secured a win against Ramban, while Doda outplayed Kathua. Udhampur also emerged victorious against Samba. These early results reflect the high level of preparation and passion among the participating girls, many of whom are competing at this level for the first time.

Live fixtures, match updates and standings will be shared regularly through official communication channels, ensuring transparency and engagement for all stakeholders.

Asia Cup: Samson's fifty, Arshdeep's 100th wicket help India to 21-run win over Oman

FIANS

ABU DHABI: A gritty half-century from Sanju Samson (56 off 45) and a historic milestone for Arshdeep Singh, who became the first Indian men's cricketer to claim 100 T20I wickets, headlined India's 21-run victory over Oman at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Thursday night, keeping their unbeaten run intact in the Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025.

After posting 188/8 — their third-highest total against an Associate nation in T20Is — India faced a stiff challenge as Oman fought hard with the bat. Skipper Jatinder Singh (32 off 33) and Aamir Kaleem gave them a solid start, adding 44 runs in the Power-play and taking the score to 56 before Kuldeep Yadav broke the stand in the ninth over.

Kaleem then stitched together a 93-run stand with Hammad Mirza, frustrating the Indian attack. Kaleem brought up his fifty off 38 balls and eventually fell for 64 off 46 in the 18th over while trying to accelerate the scoring.

Mirza too played a counterattacking hand, bringing up his fifty in just 30 balls before perishing to Hardik Pandya in the penultimate over. Despite a flurry of boundaries from Jiten Ramanandi in the final over, Oman closed short at 167/4, handing India a 21-run win.

India's bowlers had to work hard on a flat deck, with Hardik finishing on 1-26, Kuldeep picking 1-23 in his three overs, and Harshit Rana returning 1-25 with good pace. The defining moment came in the final over when Arshdeep Singh, entrusted with closing out the game, not only sealed victory but also claimed his 100th T20I wicket — moving clear at the top of India's all-time wicket-takers' list.

Earlier, Samson anchored India's innings after an explosive start by Abhishek Sharma, who smashed 38 off just 15 balls in the Power-play. India had been jolted early when vice-captain Shubman Gill was bowled by Faisal Shah for 5 in the second over, but Abhishek's fireworks kept the momentum going until Ramanandi provided the breakthrough. A surprise promotion for Hardik Pandya ended in heartbreak as he was run out for just one after a straight drive from Samson deflected off Ramanandi's fingertips.

Samson found support from Axar Patel, who counterattacked with a rapid 26 off 13, the pair adding 45 runs off 23 deliveries. But wickets fell quickly thereafter, with Shivam Dube gone for 5 and India reduced to 130/5 in the 14th over. Tilak Varma, unusually pushed down to number seven, contributed a valuable 29 off 18 as Samson steadied the innings.

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR
— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —
DIL KE EHSAAAS

