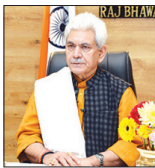


Good Morning Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



For Viksit Bharat and rapid growth we must maintain ecological integrity and economic integrity. Securing the biodiversity should become the national mission, and let us work together for protection, restoration and regeneration of natural resources.

Srinagar • Sunday 28, September 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 224 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Autumn Session Of Assembly To Begin On Oct 23

LG Summons House; Session To Have 5-6 Sittings



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly will commence on October 23, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha summoning the House to convene on that day.

According to the summons issued by the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has summoned the Assembly to meet in Srinagar on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

The LG has exercised his authority under Section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, to summon the Assembly.

A tentative calendar for the autumn session will be

issued on Monday or Tuesday, following consultations between Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah regarding its framing.

Sources said that the session is expected to include five to six sittings. "There will be no business conducted in the House on October 24, as MLAs will vote to elect Rajya Sabha members," the sources added.

The Cabinet had initially resolved to recommend that the Lieutenant Governor summon the Assembly on October 13. However, the date was revised after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather raised concerns with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, citing that the time allotted was inadequate for the proper examination. **● P-06**

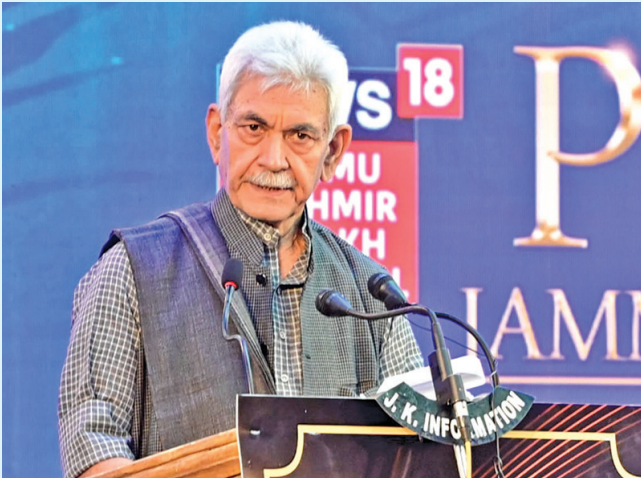
Security Forces Given Free Hand To Crush Terror Ecosystem: LG Sinha

Graced Award Ceremony, 'Pride Of J&K', Organised By Network 18 Group

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha declared Saturday said that the "ecosystem of separatist elements is now breathing its last," granting security forces a "free hand" to "decisively crush" terrorists and their sympathizers.

"The ecosystem of separatist elements is now breathing its last. Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and all security agencies have been given free hand to decisively crush the terrorists and their sympathisers," the Lieutenant Governor said while speaking at the award ceremony, 'Pride of J&K', Organised by Network 18 Group at Srinagar. The award honored stalwarts and



champions of Jammu Kashmir who shaped the region's development and always stood

as pillars of hope in times of disaster.

"For Viksit Bharat and

rapid growth we must maintain ecological integrity and economic integrity," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said today. Securing the biodiversity should become the national mission and all sections of society must work together for protection, restoration and regeneration of natural resources.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the Army, NDRF, SDRF, J&K Police personnel, NGOs and Civil Administration officials for their exceptional and selfless service during the recent natural catastrophe in J&K UT.

These heroes offered hope and aid in the face of destruction and Network 18's 'Pride of J&K' Award. **● P-06**

LG Thanks Centre For Sanctioning 5,000 Houses For Flood-Hit Families

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan for sanctioning the construc-

tion of 5,061 houses which were damaged due to the recent natural calamities across rural areas of J&K.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri @Narendramodi Ji & Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development, Shri @ChouhanShivraj Ji for sanctioning the **● P-06**

Vision Of A Sustainable Growth Will Shape Zuture Of Tribal Community: LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: "Vision of a sustainable growth and inclusive prosperity will shape a brighter future of tribal community in Jammu Kashmir Union Territory," the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said earlier Saturday. He said bringing Pahari tribal community

to mainstream is commitment of the Centre and their empowerment will build a resilient and prosperous Union Territory. The Lieutenant Governor was addressing a gathering of Pahari Tribal Community at Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor began his address by recalling historic **● P-06**

'Revival Of Over 400 Heritage, Religious Sites On Cards'

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir Saturday said that the government is committed to the preservation and revival of the Union Territory's heritage and religious sites, stating that over 400 projects will be taken up in the upcoming third phase of restoration.

Director Archaeology & Museums, K.K. Sidha said that under the government's heritage revival scheme,

several prominent monuments and shrines are being restored. "The revival is not just about repairing structures but about preserving the cultural and religious sentiments associated with them," he said.

Sidha said that the foundation of three major religious projects was laid today, including the historic Mar-tand Temple at Mattan. "The Baba Naseeb-ud-Din Gazi shrine revival is a **● P-06**



Dy CM Vows To Empower Youth With Jobs, Business Opportunities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a landmark initiative to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, a Mega Job Fair was organized Saturday under the Mission YUVA at the Convention Centre, Jammu by Employment Department J&K.

The event was inaugurated by the Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary which witnessed enthusiastic participation from all stakeholders including job seekers, employers, government officials, and academic institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister encouraged the youth to fully utilize the opportunities offered under Mission YUVA. "This is not merely a scheme, it is a transformative movement aimed at building a self-reliant and empowered generation," he remarked. **● P-06**



He reiterated that the government under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah is committed to open new avenues for the unemployed educated youths and enhanced job opportunities for them.

Surinder Choudhary maintained that this Mega Job Fair under Mission YUVA stands as a milestone in the government's

continued efforts to equip the youth of Jammu & Kashmir with the tools, resources, and opportunities necessary to succeed in a rapidly evolving socio-economic landscape.

Deputy Chief Minister said that Mission YUVA is a flagship and first-of-its-kind initiative of the J&K government, envisioned to holistically **● P-06**

BSF Closely Monitors LoC With Advanced Tools: IG Yadav

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF) Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav, on Saturday said security forces along the Line of Control (LoC) are maintaining a high level of readiness to prevent any infiltration attempts by terrorists.

Speaking at the BSF headquarters in Humhama here during the unveiling of a T-shirt for the upcoming Wular Half Marathon 2.0 on October 12, 2025, Yadav, said the BSF has made its highest

efforts to secure the border areas.

"The BSF is working closely with the Indian Army to monitor the LoC effectively and has successfully stopped two infiltration attempts so far this year," he said, adding that the use of advanced surveillance tools and equipment has strengthened the security presence along the border.

According to Yadav, infiltration attempts tend to rise in the period leading up to winter when harsh weather conditions make crossing more difficult. **● P-06**

Traders Welcome Reopening Of 12 Tourist Spots

Urge Govt To Revive All Destinations In J&K, Thank LG For Timely Step

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: The trade bodies in Kashmir on Saturday welcomed the Jammu & Kashmir administration's decision of reopening 12 more tourist destinations from Monday (29th September), terming it a positive move for the Valley's struggling tourism sector.

However, the trade bodies including the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) appealed for the immediate reopening of all destinations to prevent further economic losses.

The decision, was taken during a high-level review meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.



Seven destinations in Kashmir Division — including Aru Valley, Rafting Point Yanner, Akkad Park, Padshahi Park, and Kaman Post — and five in Jammu Division — including Dagan Top (Ramban), Dhaggar (Kathua) and Shiv Cave in Salal (Reasi) — will reopen for visitors.

KCCI President said the reopening was a "timely step" to revive business sentiment. "We are grateful to the Lieutenant Governor for considering the concerns of the business community and taking measures to support the tourism ecosystem," he said.

CCIK President **● P-06**

Curfew Relaxed In Leh, Situation Peaceful: Officials



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

LEH: Curbs imposed in Leh have been eased in phases on Saturday as the shops reopened in the markets for the limited hours, giving an indication of returning to normalcy.

While many shops remain closed and schools continue to be shut, a controlled routine has started returning as authorities ease restrictions in phases.

Days after violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status rocked Ladakh, killing four and injuring over more than 60, the district is still under restrictions, but with a slight relaxation today.

Curfew remained in place and gatherings of more than five people are still **● P-06**

BAAGHI 4 (A)
HINDI - 02:00 PM

CHAINSAW MAN - THE MOVIE: REZE ARC (A)
JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 04:40 PM
HINDI - 11:00 AM

JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)
HINDI - 10:45 AM, 05:20 PM
HINDI ATMOS - 12:00 PM, 03:20 PM, 06:45 PM

ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
01:20 PM, 06:55 PM

INOX
SRINAGAR

TICKETS AT:
www.bookmyshow.com
www.inoxmovies.com
Paytm, Innox App

CALL 95416 13868
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS

MOVIES

Schedule

SUNDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER

BOOK YOUR
TICKETS NOW

MLA Bandipora Inaugurates Udhyam Yuva Fest Under Mission YUVA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bandipora, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, on Saturday inaugurated the Udhyam Yuva Fest at Government Polytechnic College Bandipora.

The event was organized by the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC) Bandipora in collaboration with the college under Mission YUVA and as part of Sewa Pakhwada 2025.

The fest witnessed participation from students besides faculty and officers from DECC Bandipora. Competitions in Painting, Essay Writing, Speech, and Quiz were held, providing a platform for students to display their creativity, knowledge and communication skills.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandipora congratulated the winners and lauded the efforts of the organizers. He encouraged students to actively pursue skill development, entrepreneurship and career planning for a brighter future.

A felicitation ceremony was



also held on the occasion, wherein winners were awarded prizes and certificates by MLA Bandipora, Assistant Director Employment Bandipora, and the Principal of Government Polytechnic College.

The fest also featured awareness and guidance sessions. Resource persons including Career Counseling Officer, Employment Department delivered lectures on entrepreneurship, career opportunities, Mission YUVA programmes and employment initiatives. A Resume

and Start-Up Clinic was also conducted to equip students with practical skills.

The event was attended by the DDC Vice Chairperson Bandipora Kousar Shafeeq, Principal Government Polytechnic College Bandipora, Assistant Director Employment Bandipora, and other dignitaries.

The two-day fest concluded on a positive note, reinforcing the importance of youth empowerment and participatory initiatives under Mission YUVA.

DLSA Srinagar observes ‘World Tourism Day’

Holds awareness programme on drug abuse, POCSO Act

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme to sensitize students on critical legal and social issues, with a particular focus on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, menace of drug abuse, and the observance of World Tourism Day, at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Telbal, Srinagar.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and conducted under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The event brought together students, teachers, and resource persons for an engaging and informative session.

Addressing the gathering, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, delivered an insightful lecture highlighting the importance of World Tourism Day and the growing threat posed by drug abuse in society. She underscored the need for youth to become ambassadors of responsible tourism while also remaining vigilant against substance abuse, which severely impacts communities and future generations.

In continuation, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Srinagar, spoke on the provisions and significance of the POCSO Act. She explained how the Act serves as a robust legal framework to safeguard children from sexual offences and emphasized the responsibility of society at large to ensure the protection and well-being of minors.

The programme concluded with an interactive session, where students actively participated and expressed their views.

Sewa Parv Day-11: DC Pulwama Attends Udyam YUVA Fest

Urges Youth To Become Job Providers Instead Of Job Seekers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Saturday attended the Udyam YUVA fest at Pulwama, organised by the Employment department in collaboration with ITI Pulwama.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of ITI students enrolled in different courses, as well as alumni who have successfully completed skill-based training programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that entrepreneurship is a gateway for youth to transform their energy and ideas into productive ventures. He encouraged young people to become job providers instead of job seekers and stressed that new ideas and skills will shape the future of Pulwama and help the whole society progress.

Dr. Qayoom further informed the gathering that Mission YUVA is designed to transform local youth into successful entrepreneurs by providing not only financial assistance but also continuous mentoring and handholding support. He highlighted that a door-to-door comprehensive survey has



already been conducted across Pulwama to identify potential entrepreneurs and enterprises and for further handholding different committees such as YUVA Doots at Panchayat Level, Business Help Desks (BHDs) at block level and Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) at district level have already been constituted.

He further directed officials to develop curated and skill-oriented courses regarding Mission YUVA initiative, so that the training is directly linked with emerging livelihood opportunities and market demand.

On the occasion, ITI alumni also shared their entrepreneurship journeys, motivating current students to pursue inno-

vation, self-reliance, and enterprise building. A Mission YUVA Facilitation Zone was also set up at the venue to provide participants awareness about the scheme, handholding support for applications, and on-the-spot grievance redressal.

The two-day fest featured a range of activities. On the first day, competitions such as quiz, essay writing, speech, and painting were organised on themes including entrepreneurship, financial literacy, Mission YUVA, and the future of youth-led enterprises.

Earlier, Superintendent ITI Pulwama, in his address, informed the gathering about the wide range of courses offered by the institute in various

trades. He further mentioned that two special batches under Mission YUVA have already been completed and the process for launching additional batches is underway.

Later, Dr. Qayoom distributed certificates and cash prizes among the winners of the competitions, appreciating their talent and creativity.

Meanwhile, as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv activities across the district, plantation drives, cleanliness drives, and awareness camps continued with active community participation. Special assemblies were also organised in schools, where students took a pledge to develop Green School Campuses by protecting the environment and adopting eco-friendly habits.

In addition, under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, free medical camps were organised at PHCs, CHCs, and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. These camps provided free screening for anaemia, tuberculosis, sickle cell disease, blood pressure, and other lifestyle-related illnesses, along with awareness sessions on maternal and child health, nutrition, and menstrual hygiene.

Udhyam Yuva Fest Concludes At Govt. Polytechnic College Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The two-day Udhyam Yuva Fest organized by Government Polytechnic College Kupwara, in collaboration with the District Employment Office Kupwara under the banner of Sewa Pakhwada from 26th to 27th September, 2025 concluded Saturday.

The event witnessed overwhelming enthusiasm and active participation from students, supported by the faculty Govt. Polytechnic Kupwara and officers/officials of District Employment and Counselling Centre Kupwara.

On 26th September, four competitions viz. Painting, Essay Writing, Speech, and Quiz were conducted, providing a vibrant platform for students to exhibit their creativity, knowledge, critical thinking, and communication skills. The respective evaluation committees assessed the performances on the same day.

The felicitation ceremony was held today, where winners securing the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions in each category were honored with prizes and certificates of participation. The awards were distributed by the Superintendent

ITI Kupwara, Assistant Labour Commissioner/AD Employment Kupwara, and the Principal of Government Polytechnic College Kupwara.

The second day of the fest also featured awareness and guidance sessions. An entrepreneurship awareness session was followed by an insightful lecture by Arshad Qadir on employment opportunities and scholarships offered by the Labour Department.

Career Counselling Officer, Employment department, enlightened students about sector-specific career pathways and provided

personalized counselling. Official from the Employment department Kupwara further highlighted Mission YUVA programs and other employment-related initiatives.

A resume and start-up clinic was also organised to engage students in practical learning on resume building, start-up ideation, and career readiness.

Udhyam Yuva Fest concluded on a highly positive note, reinforcing the significance of skill development, entrepreneurship, and informed career planning, in alignment with the vision of Sewa Pakhwada.

Cycling Race Organised Under Swachh Utsav At Harwan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In connection with Swachh Utsav, a cycling race was organised today by the Rural Development Department, Block

Harwan at Harwan.

BDO Harwan, along with DDC members of Harwan area and representatives of the Phaag Development Forum attended the event.

In a spirited competition, Fariq Rafiq, Gowhar Ahmad, and Daanish Majid secured the first, second, and third positions respectively.

On the occasion, it was

emphasised upon all participants to contribute towards keeping the environment free from pollution and to remain conscious of their duties as responsible citizens.

Cultural Programme On Social Issues Held Under Sewa Parv At Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Information Centre Budgam, in collaboration with the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information & Public Relations J&K, and the Chief Education Officer Budgam Saturday organized a cultural programme under the ongoing Sewa Parv theme.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of school children from various institutions across the district, alongside artists from the Cultural Unit Kashmir.

Through a series of thought-provoking performances including skits, songs, and cultural items, the participants highlighted various pressing social issues such as the menace of drug abuse, dowry system, importance of girl education, cleanliness under Swachhta Abhiyan, and several other themes of social importance.

Speaking on the occasion, District Information Officer Budgam, Erum Aziz Khan, underlined the significance of Sewa Parv and the need for every citizen to play a constructive role in society. She said that Sewa Parv is not just a campaign but a collective responsibility, where people must selflessly come forward and contribute towards the betterment of the community.

She stressed that activities focusing on awareness, cleanliness, education, and social harmony uplift society at large.

Agri. Deptt Bandipora Organises Kissan Mela/ Exhibition Under MIDH

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare department Bandipora on Saturday organised a Kissan Mela-cum-Exhibition under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) at Auditorium Hall, Kalsoosa Bandipora.

The event witnessed overwhelming participation from farmers, scientists, and officers of the agriculture and allied sectors.

The programme was presided over by the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bandipora constituency, Nizam Uddin Bhat as the chief guest, while the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal

Chib attended as the guest of honour. Chief Agriculture Officer, Javeed Samoon, District Agriculture Officer, and other senior officers of the department were also present on the occasion.

On the occasion, both the MLA and the DC inspected various stalls set up by different departments and appreciated the innovations and services being showcased.

MLA Bandipora and DC also handed-over keys of farm machinery and equipment to beneficiaries under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM).

The mela provided a vibrant platform where progressive farmers shared their

journeys of success, narrating how they adopted scientific farming practices to improve their livelihoods. Scientists and experts also interacted with the participants and threw light on innovative farming techniques, modern tools, and methods that can further boost production and sustainability in the district.

MLA Bandipora in his address said that farmers are the lifeline of the nation and the basic building blocks of the economy. He lauded the efforts of the farming community for their crucial role in strengthening society and appreciated the work of the Agriculture department and district administration in uplifting the sector at the grass-

roots level.

He expressed hope that Bandipora will emerge as a flourishing hub of agriculture and allied sectors, thereby enhancing the economy and improving the lives of people.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the district has vast potential in the agriculture sector and called upon the youth to take inspiration from progressive farmers who act as role models for the farming community. She stressed the need for adopting scientific practices to achieve better productivity and income.

The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, during which progressive farmers were honoured for their outstanding contributions in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.

'Foreign Connections'

DGP Ladakh Links Sonam Wangchuk To September 24 Violence

AGENCIES

LEH: Ladakh Director General of Police (DGP) S.D. Singh Jamwal Saturday levelled serious allegations against environmental activist Sonam Wangchuk, accusing him of instigating violence in Leh on September 24 that claimed four lives. Speaking at a press conference, the police chief alleged that Wangchuk's past activities and associations have raised questions over his credibility.

Jamwal said police had recently arrested a Pakistan-based person of Indian origin who was allegedly in contact with Wangchuk. He pointed out that the activist had attended a Dawn Media event in Pakistan and also travelled to Bangladesh. "There is a big question mark on him. He has a history of drawing parallels with movements like the Arab Spring, Nepal, and Bangladesh. The investigation into



his funding and possible FCRA violations is ongoing," the DGP said.

He further claimed that Wangchuk's speeches provoked the unrest in Leh, where demonstrations turned violent last week. "Some so-called environmental activists delivered provocative speeches and hijacked platforms

meant for dialogue. The prime name here is Sonam Wangchuk, who has earlier also attempted to derail talks with the Centre," Jamwal alleged.

The DGP added that during the continuing probe, two more people have been detained to ascertain whether they were part of a larger design. He noted

that the presence of Nepalese workers in Ladakh also necessitated scrutiny.

Turning to the events of September 24, Jamwal described the situation as unprecedented for Ladakh. "Four lives were lost and several paramilitary personnel and civilians sustained injuries. The violence caused significant damage and undermined the efforts that were underway for dialogue between the Centre and the local bodies, Apex Body Leh and Kargil Democratic Alliance," he said.

He stressed that since the formation of the Union Territory, political demands for Sixth Schedule safeguards and statehood had been under consideration, but the violence attempted to sabotage the ongoing process. "The law will take its course. We will not allow vested interests to hijack the aspirations of Ladakh's people," the police chief added. [KNT]

NGT Orders Fresh Action, Environmental Compensation In Doodh Ganga Pollution

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that action for imposing Environmental Compensation on Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Municipal Council Chadoora, and Municipal Council Budgam will be taken within six weeks. Ground reports indicate that large-scale pollution continues to affect the Doodh Ganga stream in Chadoora and Srinagar, as well as Mamath Kul in Budgam.

The NGT has also sought detailed information from the Commissioner Secretary, Environment & Forest Department, J&K, regarding the setting up of Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) along Doodh Ganga, with a clear timeline for completion.

Petitioner Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat told the tribunal that illegal mining over the past three to four

years has weakened the embankments of Doodh Ganga, causing soil erosion, landslides, and breaches in three irrigation channels—Kralpur Kul, Doyan Dhar, and Masar Kul—affecting over 5,000 kanals of agricultural land.

The case was listed before the Principal Bench of Justice Prakash Srivastava, Chairman of NGT, and Dr. Senthil Veil, Expert Member, in New Delhi. Dr. Bhat was represented by environmental lawyers Rahul Chowdhary and Kaustav Dhar, while the J&K government was represented by Advocates Gautam Singh and Suman Arora (CPCB).

The NGT bench expressed dissatisfaction with the government's response regarding STP construction from Barzulla to Chadoora, observing that no clear timeline had been provided and that the status of STPs in Budgam (Mamath Kul) remained undisclosed. The tribunal directed the Secretary, Environment, to file a fresh

affidavit specifying the outer time-limit for STP construction, commissioning, and 100% household connectivity.

The JKPCC also confirmed that municipal councils—SMC, MC Chadoora, and MC Budgam—had violated the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Action for imposing environmental compensation will be taken, with a report due within six weeks.

The government has been granted six weeks to respond to allegations regarding illegal mining, landslides, and damage to Doodh Ganga embankments and irrigation channels during recent floods.

Previously, substantial environmental compensation has been imposed in the case: SMC paid Rs 1 crore in 2022 and Rs 42 crore last year, while MC Chadoora and Budgam paid Rs 1 crore each in 2022. The Mining Department, Budgam, also contributed Rs 1 crore.(KNS).

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Flood Mitigation Plan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg Saturday convened a meeting of officers to review flood mitigation plan and river management.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Fazlul Haseeb; VC LCMA, Chief Engineer I&FC besides other officers of ERA, JTFRR, SDA, UEED & other concerned departments.

At the outset, I&FC officers gave a detailed presentation regarding Topography & Flood issues in Kashmir, Highest Yearly Gauge Recording at Sangam (1955 TO 2025), September 2014 Flood & Rainfall Analysis,

Flood Management Plan of Jhelum Basin, Prioritization for Execution of Comprehensive Flood Management Plan Works after September 2014 Floods, CWC Recommendations on the CWPRS and EPTISA Model Findings.

The meeting held threaded discussion on the diversion channel from Jhelum near Sangam to Wular Lake, raising flood walls at selected locations in Srinagar, re-sectioning of Flood Spill Channel, choked portion of Jhelum in Srinagar, Sediment Control basin(s) on identified Jhelum tributaries, Flood zoning and land use regulations besides erosion and sediment control measures on land.

Javid Dar Inaugurates Cricket Tournament In Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, and Election departments, Javid Ahmad Dar today inaugurated the Inter-School/Inter-Zonal District Level Under-19 Cricket Tournament (Boys) at Shawkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, here.

The tournament was declared open by the Minister in presence of Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport Department, Satish Sharma; MLA, Wagoora-Kreeri, Advocate Irfan Hafeez Lone and MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Javid Dar underlined the importance of sports in developing physical fitness, discipline, team spirit and leadership among the youth. He reiterated the

government's commitment to strengthen the sports ecosystem at the grassroots level and provide ample opportunities for young players to excel.

Speaking on the occasion, Sports Minister Satish Sharma highlighted the department's initiatives to promote sports culture across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that regular tournaments in various disciplines are being organized to encourage mass participation of students, adding that such events help nurture young talent and contribute to building a healthier and more vibrant future generation.

On the occasion, the Ministers also distributed sports kits and equipment among students from 18 zones of the district and felicitated students who performed in the cultural programme.

During the inaugural ceremony, students presented colourful cultural performances showcasing the vibrancy and talent of Baramulla's youth.

CS Reviews Developmental Scenario In Anantnag Calls For Effective Implementation Of Self-Employment Initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo visited Anantnag Saturday and chaired a comprehensive meeting with the concerned officers at Dak Bangalow Khanabal to review the overall developmental scenario of the district along with the implementation of various government schemes and welfare initiatives.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, SP Hamid, Principal, GMC Anantnag; ADCs; DPO; GM, DIC; ACR; ACD; SDMs, and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner presented an overview of the overall developmental landscape and welfare schemes besides the progress on deliverables and key initiatives like Mission Yuva, NMBA, TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, HADP, PMSGMBY, and JK Samad-

han, among others, of the district. He briefed the chair about the status of beneficiary schemes in different departments, along with the progress of ongoing infrastructural projects in Health, Education, RDD, R&B, PHE, Power, and other key sectors.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary instructed the officers to ensure effective implementation and saturation of various Central and UT-sponsored schemes, especially in Health, Education, Social Welfare, Horticulture, and Agriculture, adding that their time-bound execution is vital for extending essential benefits to the people. He noted that schemes and programmes such as PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, PM Vishwakarma, Mission Yuva, and HADP are beneficial, and that the concerned departments should strive to extend their benefits to the citizens.

While reviewing the health and education sectors, the Chief Secretary remarked that appreciable progress has been made in building infrastructure; however, the quality of education and health care must be prioritised to achieve further improvement in these key sectors.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned officers to ensure effective implementation of self-employment schemes, adding that banks should ease the credit lending process in order to generate meaningful livelihoods for youth.

Recognising the potential of the district in agriculture and allied sectors, the Chief Secretary stressed that the concerned departments shall ensure enhanced productivity and the establishment of profitable and sustainable units across the district to generate sustainable livelihood for the youth here.

3Rd Edition CRPF Women's High Altitude Bike Expedition Concludes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The 3rd edition of the Women High Altitude Bike Expedition was ceremoniously flagged in at GC CRPF Humhama Saturday, in the presence of Pawan Kumar Sharma, IG Srinagar Sector.

This seven-day expedition was flagged off by DG CRPF on 23rd September 2025 from the iconic clock tower at Lal Chowk, Srinagar. Covering a challenging route originally planned at 1,400 kilometers from Srinagar to Pangong Tso and back, the team braved steep climbs and rugged terrain, epitomizing dedication and resilience. Led by the indomitable "Yashasvini" women bikers of CRPF, the contingent carried both the National Flag and the CRPF flag atop Royal Enfield 350 CC motorcycles. Their journey conveyed the inspiring message, "Desh Ke Hum Hain Rakshak," symbolizing the Force's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the nation.

On the occasion, Shri Pawan Kumar Sharma, IG, lauded the courage and determination displayed by the Yashasvini team. He praised the bikers for their outstanding grit, teamwork, and ability to overcome formidable chal-



lenges, stating that their achievement serves as an example of empowerment and inspiration for others across the country.

Organized by Srinagar Sector CRPF, the Yashasvini High Altitude Bike Expedition 2025 showcased the exceptional skills and spirit of CRPF's women daredevils as they navigated some of the world's most demanding landscapes. Owing to recent developments in Leh, the expedition covered

620 kilometers and returned from Fotu La, Kargil. The flag-in ceremony was graced by senior CRPF dignitaries, including Sh P R Jambholkar, DIG (Administration), Sh Vivek Bhandral, DIG GC Srinagar, Sh D K Singh, DIG Operations, Sh H S Kales, DIG (P&A), Sh Sudhir Kumar, DIG Srinagar North, Dr. Amit Butola, DIG Medical and other senior officers of CRPF who commended the bikers for their exemplary courage and teamwork.

Sakeena Itoo Chairs Mega Public Darbar In Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday held a mega Public Darbar-cum-Grievance Redressal camp at Chawalgam here to provide a direct platform for locals to voice their concerns, seek redressal of grievances and put forth developmental demands before the government.

ACR Kulgam, SDM DH Pora, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Sheep Husbandry officer, DFO, Executive Engineers of PHE, I&FC, PWD, PDD and PMGSY and other officers of district administration were present during the camp.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from cross-section of people of Kulgam district including local citizens community elders, social activists and youth. They raised varied issues related to healthcare, education, road connectivity, water supply, power infrastructure, and employment avenues before the Minister.

While listening patiently to the delegations, the Health Minister reiterated the government's commitment to responsive, transparent and accountable governance system. She assured the public delegations and citizens that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority and

time bound manner. She also instructed the concerned officers present to take time-bound and immediate action on some grievances projected by the people.

Minister Sakeena assured the public delegations and citizens that no voice will go unheard, and no genuine grievance will remain unaddressed.

Highlighting the government's focus on people-centric policies, the Minister underlined that public darbars bridge the gap between administration and citizens by taking governance to the doorsteps of people. She further emphasized that health and allied sectors remain top priority, noting that substantial investments are being made to upgrade health infrastructure, improve diagnostics, and strengthen primary healthcare delivery in rural and far-flung areas of Kulgam district.

During the camp, the Minister also reviewed the status of ongoing development projects in the district and took feedback from the public regarding the quality of service delivery. She directed officials to enhance monitoring mechanisms to ensure speedy completion of works and equitable distribution of benefits under various welfare schemes.

The Minister appreciated the active participation of the people and assured that such grievance redressal camps would be held regularly to foster stronger government-public engagement.

...Seva Parv-2025

DC Srinagar Presides Over Mega Awareness Camp At Harwan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025 celebrations, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Saturday presided over mega awareness cum public grievance redressal camp at Harwan, aimed at bringing governance to the grassroots and empowering citizens through on-the-spot redressal and awareness.

The mega awareness cum grievance redressal camp

was attended by a large number of people from Harwan, Dara, Fakir Gujri, Darbagh, Mulfaq, Khimber, Syedpora, Shalimar and other adjoining areas.

Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tehsildar North, BDO Harwan, BMO Hazratbal, and officers from Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development, J&K Bank and other Sectoral/Zonal officers of the district

were also present on the occasion.

During the camp, DDC members, public delegations and scores of individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC along with other local development concerns.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, DC assured the people of Harwan block that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be

addressed on priority.

DC added that issues relating to the provision of a degree college, hospital, horticulture mandi, and jurisdictional matters will be taken up with higher authorities. He also issued directions to concerned officers of line departments for timely resolution of public issues.

Addressing the gathering, DC urged the local youth to avail benefits from government schemes in Agriculture, Horticulture, and other

self-employment initiatives under Mission YUVA and HADP to secure dignified livelihoods for themselves and their families

During the camp, DC handed-over sanction letters under different schemes to the beneficiaries for the establishment of income-generating units, thereby promoting self-employment and financial independence among the local population.

Earlier, DC inspected various stalls set up by depart-

ments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Industries, Animal Husbandry, Health, Social Welfare, Employment, and Banks as part of Sewa Parv-2025, aimed to showcase Government flagship schemes and enable on-the-spot beneficiary registrations.

DC also encouraged the participating students of a painting competition organized by School Education Department and felicitated the participants of a Cycling

event held under Swachhta Hi Seva Hai, part of the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025 activities.

Furthermore, DC led the participants in reciting the Swachhta Pledge, aligning with the broader objectives of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the spirit of the Sewa Parv, which promotes volunteerism and community engagement. He emphasized the importance of individual accountability in maintaining cleanliness and conserving the environment.

■ Fraying Fabric Of Valley

Human In Face, Yet Utterly Unaware Of Humanity Within



PEER MOHAMMAD AMIR QURESHI

The social fabric of Kashmir is fraying with each passing dawn, unraveling thread by thread. Almost every day, one opens the pages of news or tunes into the broadcast only to be greeted with tales of horror someone raped, a woman slain by her in-laws, a sister turning executioner, a friend transforming into a foe.

There was a time, not so long ago, when a single killing, be it hundreds of miles away in some distant corner of India—would shake this valley to its very core. From Sopore to Shopian, cries of “Neabri che Na Ek Nafraan Moarmut Nafar” would echo: one human has slain another. The news carried the weight of thunder, striking at the collective conscience. It sent shivers down spines, as if the very soul of humanity had been pierced.

The “Peer Vaer,” this valley of saints, would then fall into a solemn silence, a collective introspection. People would whisper, “Azi che Asmaan Wazul” the skies have turned red. Red not with the hues of sunset, but with the blood of a life extinguished too soon.

Tragically, that which once horrified us when it occurred a thousand kilometers away, now unfolds in our very courtyards. The valley that once trembled at the thought of a single death has now grown numb to a plague of murders within its own embrace. In 2025, crimes in Kashmir have surged with an unsettling rhythm—rapes, murders, betrayals—stretching from Budgam to Ganderbal. Even Ganderbal, once hailed as one of the most peaceful districts of the Valley, now finds its serenity shattered under the shadows of bloodshed.

A recent survey by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reveals a troubling surge in crimes across Jammu and Kashmir, painting a grim picture of the valley’s social fabric. The data highlights that incidents of violence, ranging from rapes and murders to thefts and other heinous acts, have steadily increased in recent years. Districts once considered peaceful, such as Ganderbal and Budgam, have also found themselves shadowed by crime, marking a shift in the valley’s image as the “Peer Vaer,” the land of saints. Reports suggest that crimes involving family disputes, betrayal by friends, and even petty altercations escalating into brutal murders have shocked the conscience of society, with many questioning the erosion of human values. The NCRB statistics underline that these rising trends are not isolated events but part of a broader wave of criminality that has unsettled communities across Kashmir, igniting widespread concern over the rapid moral decline and deteriorating safety within the region.

The Saffron Tragedy: A Betrayal of Trust

In July 2025, the tranquil area of Saffron in Ganderbal was shaken by the brutal murder of a 28-year-old woman, a mother of two. Initially reported as a dental emergency, investigations revealed a horrifying truth. The woman’s brother-in-law, Sajad Ahmad, lured her under the pretext of seeking medical help, only to assault and murder her in an isolated field. The community’s response was swift; massive protests erupted, with locals demanding justice and a transparent investigation. The Senior Superintendent of Police assured the public of a thorough probe, leading to the arrest of the accused within a day. This incident underscored a grim reality: when even the sanctity of the home is violated, where can one seek refuge?

The Ganderbal Sister Murder: A Heart-Wrenching Tale of Fratricide

In a case that shocked even veteran investigators, police in Ganderbal arrested a 17-year-old girl for murdering her 14-year-old sister in August 2025. The younger sister, a Class-7 student, was found dead near Batsar-Sehpura road on August 17, 2025.

Initially, the elder sister fabricated a story of kidnapping, claiming that unknown individuals had abducted them both and that she had managed to escape. However, detailed investiga-



tion by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) revealed the horrific truth. SSP Khalil Poswal explained that the sisters had gone to their field to recover their mother’s lost watch when an altercation erupted.

In a fit of rage, the elder sister struck her younger sibling with an iron rod. When the younger girl lost consciousness, the elder sister struck again, causing fatal head injuries. CCTV footage and forensic evidence, including bloodstained clothes recovered from a relative’s house and hair strands of the accused found in the deceased’s hands, confirmed the elder sister’s role. The valley gasped in disbelief: how could such a bond, stitched by womb and lineage, be turned into a weapon of death?

Kangan Tragedy: Friend Turned Into A Foe

And as if that wound wasn’t deep enough, just days ago in Kangan, Ganderbal, a friend took the life of his friend. Friendship the most sacred covenant of loyalty, often celebrated as a bond where one soul would willingly sacrifice for another reduced to ashes in Kangan, Ganderbal, where 22-year-old Ajaz Ahmed Rather was murdered by his own friends in September 2025. What initially appeared

community’s anguish, “In my 12-years of journalism, never did I put my camera aside, but today I couldn’t hold back. As Aijaz’s body was carried into the tent, the cries of women, their chest-beating, their pain, it shattered me. I wept with them. Social activist Raja Parvaiz hugged me as he too cried, and beside me a police Cop’s eyes were filled with tears. Some stories are too heavy for the lens, they pierce straight into the heart.”

In such moments, I am reminded of Khalil-ur-Rehman Qamar’s piercing verse: “Apne dushman ko abhi shak ki nigahon se na dekh, Tera qatil tera yaar bhi hosakta hai.” (Do not look at your enemy with suspicious eyes, For even your friend may turn out to be your murderer.)

And this very couplet of poetry, unfortunately, became chillingly true in the Kangan murder case. The entire valley mourned in disbelief how could one trust anyone when even a friend, the one soul meant to stand by you, becomes a killer? Friendship is supposed to be the sanctuary of trust, the bond of loyalty, the very essence of companionship but here, it was shattered beyond repair. The valley’s collective heart broke that day. The horror of betrayal, the violence that erupted from

years. He or she is no longer human; he or she is a demon, cloaked in human attire, walking unnoticed among us.

It is in moments like these that Mehjoor’s verse comes alive with bitter resonance: “Shakli chus insaan magar insaniyat Nish bekhabar”. (“Human in face, yet utterly unaware of humanity within”)

This haunting truth, reflected in poetry, mirrors the chilling reality of these crimes. When those capable of such evil roam freely or receive inadequate punishment, society itself trembles at the fragility of trust, the fragility of life, and the erosion of moral conscience.

Underlying Factors Contributing to Crime

Research identifies multiple factors contributing to this alarming trend:

Drug Abuse has emerged as a major catalyst for criminal activities. Studies suggest that the valley has approximately 67,000 drug addicts, with 85% using heroin daily. The easy availability of drugs has created a vicious cycle of addiction and crime.

Unemployment remains critically high, with Jammu and Kashmir registering 17.1% unemployment, ranking fourth highest in India according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian

far beyond the immediate victims. Media ethics became a significant concern in the Saffron case, where digital platforms violated privacy laws by exposing the victim’s personal details on social media. Syed Nazakat Khaleefa, President of Media Council Ganderbal, emphasized: “People often express sympathy by sharing images of the victim, without realizing that they may actually be contributing to the crime itself”.

The cases also highlight the psychological trauma experienced by first responders and community members. Police officers, journalists, and social activists found themselves emotionally overwhelmed by the brutality of these crimes, reflecting the broader impact on Kashmir’s collective psyche.

Inadequate Justice and Societal Response

A critical question emerges regarding whether perpetrators receive adequate punishment. The concern is particularly acute when dealing with juvenile offenders. NCRB data shows juveniles in conflict with the law in Jammu and Kashmir increased from 171 in 2020 to 361 in 2022, contrary to the declining national trend. The paradox of Individuals capable of taking human life being treated as juveniles raises profound questions about justice and deterrence.

A Society at a Crossroads

Kashmir stands at a critical juncture where the choice between moral renewal and continued decay will define its future. The valley that once embodied “Kashmiriyat” a unique blend of tolerance, compassion, and spiritual wisdom—must rediscover these values to heal its fractured social fabric.

The three tragic cases chronicled here represent not just individual crimes but symptoms of a deeper malaise affecting Kashmiri society. The betrayal of trust, the breakdown of family bonds, and the erosion of friendship all point to a community struggling with rapid social change, economic pressure, and the loss of traditional moral anchors.

Yet, within this darkness lies the possibility of renewal. The swift police action in solving these cases demonstrates institutional capability. The community outrage and demand for justice shows that moral consciousness, while wounded, remains alive. The media’s self-reflection on ethical responsibilities suggests potential for positive change.

Kashmir’s journey from being a land where distant violence caused collective mourning to one where local brutality risks becoming normalized is a story of profound social



to be a drowning accident was revealed to be a premeditated murder following a heated argument during a cricket game.

Two acquaintances, Niyazul Haq and Moieen, strangled Ajaz with a wire they had purchased an act captured on CCTV footage. After ensuring he was dead, they dumped his body into a power canal to make it appear as an accidental drowning.

A local journalist, who visited the grieving family, captured the com-

trust, left a scar deeper than the crime itself—a silent question hanging over everyone: if not a friend, then whom can one truly trust?

The question that lingers painfully is this: are these perpetrators receiving the punishment they truly deserve? In my perception, a person capable of taking another life cannot be seen as merely a juvenile. Such an individual, regardless of age, possesses a darkness far beyond human comprehension—a maturity of malice that belies their

Economy (CMIE). This economic distress has pushed many youth toward drugs and criminal activities.

Poverty and Social Inequality have intensified as people lose their livelihoods, creating desperation that sometimes manifests in criminal behavior. The combination of economic stress and social instability has created an environment where traditional moral constraints weaken.

The Human Face of Tragedy

The impact of these crimes extends

transformation. Whether this transformation continues toward further moral decay or pivots toward healing and renewal depends on the collective will of Kashmiri society to reclaim its ethical foundations and rebuild the bonds of trust that once made it truly “Jannat-e-Benazir” (paradise on earth).

The author is Pursuing M.Sc in Zoology. He can be mailed at ehsaamy133@gmail.com

Awareness Camp Conducted by J&K SC, ST & BC Development Corporation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Jammu & Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes Development Corporation Wednesday conducted an Awareness Camp at Thane, Ganderbal. The programme was organized and sponsored by the National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC).

The camp aimed to educate local residents about the various welfare and development schemes run by the Corporation for the benefit of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Safaikaram-



charies, Differently abled and National Minorities.

The programme was attended by officials of the Corporation, including District

Manager, Mr. Shabir Ahmed Bhatt; Field Supervisor, Mr. Shabir Ahmed War; Recovery Assistant, Mr. Zahoor Ahmed Rather; and Mr. Nisar Ahmed

Khatana assisting in recovery. The Sarpanch of Thane was also present, along with participants from the surrounding localities.

The attendees were informed about the schemes and initiatives undertaken by the Corporation to uplift and support marginalized communities.

The Corporation expressed its commitment to continue such awareness programmes in the future to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are well informed about the assistance available to them. Application forms were also given out among the interested people wishing to avail the loan facility.

Employment Deptt Organizes Flag Rally At Pokhribal Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In pursuance with the observation of 'Sewa Parv - 2025,' Employment deptt Kashmir today organized a Flag Rally (Water Sports) event with the objective of promoting the spirit of service, physical fitness, raising environmental awareness and community participation at Boat Club Pokhribal, Kathi Darwaza, Srinagar.

More than 250 participants from across all the districts of Kashmir Valley took part in a range of exciting water based activities including Kayaking, Canoeing, Ergometer Race,



Paddle boating etc. and witnessed an active involvement from students, local residents, sports enthusiasts.

The event is organized to create awareness about Mission YUVA which is a flagship initiative aimed to transform Jammu & Kashmir

into a thriving hub for entrepreneurship and employment by fostering an entrepreneurial mindset and empowering individuals to drive economic growth and self-reliance in J&K, unlocking its inherent potential for transition towards sustainable economy, livelihood and empowered youth.

Mission YUVA ensures financial aid, skill-building, and market linkages for entrepreneurs while simplifying access to government schemes.

The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates and prizes to the winners and participants

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Autumn Session

of questions, private member bills, and resolutions.

After the LG summoned the House, the Assembly Secretariat, in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly, directed all members to attend the session on the appointed date, time, and venue.

Meanwhile, the Legislative Assembly Secretariat today announced that each MLA may submit up to 10 questions, two resolutions, and one bill for the session.

As per the bulletin issued by the Secretariat, each MLA is permitted to submit 10 questions-five starred and five unstarred-along with two resolutions and one bill.

The deadlines for submission are October 4 for questions and bills, and October 7 for resolutions.

The upcoming autumn session is expected to be stormy, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the largest opposition party, led by Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, preparing to corner the government over a range of issues including floods, unemployment, and the alleged failure to deliver on electoral promises.

Meanwhile, smaller Kashmir-based opposition parties, which have a limited presence in the House, may challenge the government on issues such as statehood and reservation.

The ruling National Conference (NC)-led alliance, currently in a combative mode-with Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary and Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo actively countering opposition parties-is expected to launch a strong counter attack, particularly targeting the Kashmir-based smaller parties for their past actions. (KNO)

Security Forces

recognised their selfless act in rescue and relief and their conspicuous courage under extremely dangerous circumstances, the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the Network 18's initiative will motivate citizens to actively engage in community development.

The Lieutenant Governor said the Government of India, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is firmly committed to speedily revive Jammu and Kashmir's development momentum and resuming normal life.

He called upon the citizens to support the police force and army personnel in the fight against terrorism and separatism.

Shri Brajesh Kumar Singh, Group Editor-Convergence, Network 18 Group, editors and members of Network 18 Group; senior officials of Army, Civil and Police administration, representatives of various NGOs and prominent citizens from different walks of life attended the felicitation ceremony.

LG Thanks Centre

construction of 5,061 houses which were damaged due to the recent natural calamities across rural areas of J&K.

This approval under special project of PMAY-G will bring back safety and stability in the lives of thousands of households. A new home will enable the families to regain the economic stability significantly improving the family's well-being."

Vision Of A Sustainable

decision by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to ensure Scheduled Tribe Status to Pahari Ethnic Groups. The Lieutenant Governor said that empowerment of tribal communities is the top priority of the central government.

"There is need for continuous efforts to ensure the development of the community who were provided Scheduled Tribe status by the Parliament last year as their prosperity is fundamentally linked to our inclusive growth goal," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Responding to the demands put-forth by the representatives of the Pahari community, the Lieutenant Governor said it will be ensured that Pahari Ethnic Groups enjoy their rights as per the act passed by the Parliament.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the tribal communities and all the sections of society to

stand united against terrorism and actively counter extremist propaganda to safeguard peace and stability.

Some divisive elements are trying to peddle fake narrative like terror outfit TRF. It poses a serious threat and people must counter it, the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion the Lieutenant Governor also paid tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

Shri Muzaffar Hussain Baig, former Deputy Chief Minister; Shri Zafar Iqbal Manhas, former MLC and Chairman, Pahari Welfare Society; Shri Raja Aijaz Ali, Chairman, Pahari Culture and Welfare Forum, various Pahari leaders, prominent personalities and a large number of members from the Pahari tribal community and people from all walks of life were present.

Over 8,300 Animal

end of March 2026. In the current period, there have been 3,799 dog bite cases, 4,394 cat bite cases, and 153 cases involving other animals.

Reviewing yearly data, the official said that from April 2015 to March 2016, there were 7,061 bite cases; from April 2016 to March 2017, 5,832 cases; April 2017 to March 2018 saw 6,802 cases; April 2018 to March 2019 recorded 6,397 cases; April 2019 to March 2020 had 6,139 cases; April 2020 to March 2021 saw 4,808 cases; April 2021 to March 2022 had 5,469 cases; April 2022 to March 2023 recorded 6,875 cases; April 2023 to March 2024 saw 8,652 cases; and from April 2024 to March 2025, the number reached 12,437.

Overall, around 80,000 animal bite cases have been registered at the ARC since April 2015.

Officials said cat bites are increasing exponentially as more people keep cats as pets, whereas most dog bites are from stray animals.

Medical experts warn that dog bites remain a public health concern in Kashmir, with many victims developing rabies - a fatal viral disease responsible for approximately 59,000 human deaths globally each year, predominantly in Africa and Asia. The primary prevention method is timely vaccination after an animal bite.

However, the health system in Kashmir does not routinely capture detailed data on the characteristics and burden of dog bites.

Notably, September 28 marks World Rabies Day, dedicated to raising awareness about rabies prevention and celebrating progress against this deadly disease. It also commemorates the death of Louis Pasteur, the French microbiologist who developed the first rabies vaccine.

Today, effective vaccines for both animals and humans are critical tools in eliminating rabies-related deaths. Public awareness remains a key factor in community engagement and successful rabies prevention efforts—(KNO)

'Revival Of Over 400

project of around Rs 4 crore, while the Lokbhawan shrine restoration is pegged at Rs 4.45 crore. Work at the Martand Sun Temple will also commence shortly," he said.

He said facilities like universal accessibility, ramps and washrooms for specially-abled persons are being added in line with Supreme Court guidelines. "We are also installing solar energy facilities in shrines to make them sustainable," he added.

The Director underlined that after years of neglect, a systematic focus is being placed on heritage. "The third phase, which is about to be approved, includes 350 to 400 sites across J&K that will be restored and revived. This is a historic step," Sidha said.

He further said that the department has three wings—archival, archaeological and museums—and nearly 70 per cent of archival records have been digitized.

"For the first time in the history of this department and UT, excavation will also begin at Baramulla, where an ancient Buddhist site has been identified, in collaboration with the University of Kashmir," he said.

On Museums, Sidha said the long-shut SPS Museum, which had remained non-functional since 2007, is being revived under a project of Rs 19.5 crore. He added that rare manuscripts, including the oldest Girgit manuscript, are being preserved.

Highlighting the government's approach, the Director said that many sites in J&K showcase unique interfaith heritage. "You

can see temples, Mosques and Gurdwaras in the same premises. Our revival plan will not only restore monuments but also strengthen ancestral harmony," he said—(KNO)

Dy CM Vows To

empower the youths by providing a robust ecosystem for employment, entrepreneurship, and skill development.

He added that it offers strong institutional support and financial assistance under credit-linked schemes to support new and existing enterprises, capacity building for entrepreneurial and employability skills, career counseling, guidance, market linkage, etc.

The Job Fair attracted an overwhelming response with over 2,200 job seekers in attendance and more than 55 prominent companies participating, collectively offering 1,500+ vacancies across various sectors such as IT, manufacturing, finance, retail, and healthcare. The fair served as a dynamic platform for employment generation, bridging the gap between skilled youth and potential employers.

A major highlight of the event was the inauguration of the three major Platforms on Mission YUVA app and Portal by the Deputy Chief Minister viz Online Job Matching Platform, enabling the job search and recruitment process through real-time interaction between employers and job seekers, Enterprise Mentorship Initiative providing mentorship to budding entrepreneurs and ONDC- based E-commerce platform enabling enterprises to showcase and sell their goods online across wider markets.

Nearly 83 Employers, 17 job posts and 631 applications submitted on Online Job Matching Platform and about 228 Enterprises applied for mentorship under Enterprise Mentorship Initiative till date.

The event also marked a significant step toward entrepreneurship promotion in the region, with sanction letters handed over to 55 young entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA's credit-linked schemes. These beneficiaries will be establishing ventures under the Nano Enterprises and Business Acceleration of Existing Enterprises categories, transforming their ideas into sustainable businesses with financial and institutional support.

The occasion also saw the culmination of the YUVA UDHYAM FEST, a celebration of youth potential through various competitions such as speech, essay writing, painting, and quiz. Twenty-four outstanding youth were felicitated by the Deputy Chief Minister with cash prizes and certificates in recognition of their talent and creativity. A total of 264 students were declared winners in the FEST throughout the UT.

At the outset, Shahzad Alam, Director Employment and Managing Director of Mission YUVA, in his welcome address, provided an insightful overview of the various components and the vision behind the initiative. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Paramjeet Singh Joint Director Employment, Jammu.

BSF Closely Monitors

He said terrorists try to cross the border before snowfall blocks the mountain passes, which usually happens by November. "With two months remaining before winter fully sets in, security agencies are anticipating possible attempts and have prepared accordingly," he added.

The IG further outlined the challenges associated with the upcoming winter months, highlighting the continued presence of terrorist training camps across the border. These camps, located opposite sectors such as Bandipora, Kupwara, and Baramulla, are under close observation, he said.

Yadav said the forces are monitoring these activities carefully to prevent any disturbances to peace in the area.

Regarding changes in infiltration tactics, the IGP BSF said terrorists are now minimising their communication to evade detection. This, he said, has made intelligence gathering more complex. "However, agencies are carefully analysing every piece of information, which assists in tracking terrorists and uncovering their hideouts," he added.

The IG said BSF has implemented a layered security approach that includes tools such as thermal imaging, ground sensors, night patrols, and coordinated operations with the Army. This cooperation among different forces

has enhanced their ability to respond swiftly and effectively to any infiltration bids, he said.

Meanwhile, the BSF, in a statement, said the Kashmir Frontier will host the "Save Wular Run with Borderman" marathon on October 12, 2025, as part of its environmental preservation initiative.

The event aims to promote environmental awareness, strengthen ties with the local community, and encourage youth to focus on constructive activities.

The T-shirt for the marathon was unveiled at the Hangul Officer's Institute, BSF Frontier HQ Humhama, in the presence of senior officials, including IG Ashok Yadav, IG Shashank Anand, IG Solomon Minz, and ADG Satish S Khandare.

The marathon will feature 5 km, 10 km, and 21.1 km races, open to all participants, with free registration already underway. Around 3,000 runners from across the country, especially the Kashmir Valley, are expected to take part.

The BSF added that the event will help identify local talent and sponsor them under the Khelo India scheme for further training and participation in national and international competitions—(KNO)

Curfew Relaxed

banned under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), though essential movement is now being permitted. The security forces continue to maintain a close watch across the region.

He added that earlier he had not earned a single rupee during the shutdown week, but now hopes sales will gradually pick up.

Schools continued to remain closed while the vehicular movement was also thin on the roads.

Earlier, an order issued by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Leh, stated that shops selling groceries and vegetables are now allowed to open under a fixed schedule: from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in Leh town and 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM in peripheral areas like Choglamsar, Phyang and Spituk.

The order mentions: "In view of the prevailing situation and to ensure access to essential goods and services, a meeting was convened under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate, Leh. After deliberation, the following decisions were taken to open only the shops of grocery items and vegetables as per the following schedule..."

The directive also states that traffic police and magistrates will monitor the movement of vehicles to ensure smooth implementation.

Meanwhile, traders from outside Ladakh who have close ties with the region also look forward to a full revival. Farooq Khan, a trader from Baramulla, said the reopening of some activity is encouraging.

"We used to bring goods here every month. The past days were tough with business completely halted. But now that transport may soon resume, we hope trade gets back on track. More than business, we just pray for everyone's safety," he said—(KNO)

Traders Welcome

Tariq Gani also welcomed the announcement, calling it a much-needed measure. "It is a positive step, but the government must also ensure that other destinations are cleared and reopened at the earliest. The entire tourism chain depends on the full revival of these spots," he told KNO.

The trade bodies said that the continued closure of other sites, shut since April 22 after the Pahalgam attack, should also be lifted. "Hotels, houseboats, guest houses and transporters are reporting negligible occupancy and earnings. Traders, artisans, ponywalas, shikarawalas and guides are equally affected. The losses are mounting by the day," the Chamber noted.

Traders linked with handicrafts and travel also pressed for a broader revival package. "We need marketing campaigns and special incentives for businesses linked to tourism. Without comprehensive support, the sector will take much longer to recover," a Srinagar-based trader told KNO.

The Chambers also reiterated their commitment to work with the government and stakeholders. "Tourism remains a key pillar of J&K's economy and a lifeline for thousands. We will continue to extend full cooperation to strengthen it further," they said—(KNO)

Asia Cup: Greats tell Pakistan bowlers how to get Abhishek Sharma out early in final



IAN S

MUMBAI: Former Pakistan greats Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram on Saturday lent their advice to bowlers of the current team on how to get out early, dashing Indian opener Abhishek Sharma in Sunday's final of the Men's T20 Asia Cup in Dubai. The 25-year-old left-handed batter is in devastating form and has so far compiled the highest aggregate of 309 runs in six innings with a whopping strike rate of 204.63.

It's clear that the Pakistani think tank has targeted Abhishek as the danger man and wants to get him back into the dugout as early as possible on Sunday.

Abhishek smashed a 39-ball 74 against Pakistan in the Super 4s clash and a fiery 31 in their first encounter in the league stage. Abhishek has been especially brutal against Pakistan's spearhead, Shaheen Shah Afridi. He hit 22

runs off Shaheen with two sixes and as many boundaries. In the second match, Sharma took nine off six balls with a six.

Waqar Younis, remembered for his toe-crusher yorkers, told Telecom Asia Sport that Abhishek is a real talent and advised the Pakistan bowlers to exploit the pressure on the batter to get him early.

"Abhishek is a real talent and can take the game away in the first few overs, but everyone has a weakness, and although he is in a good knick, there always comes a bad day, maybe it's on Sunday."

"There will be pressure on Abhishek in the final, so if Pakistani bowlers bowl with clarity and plan, they can get him out early," Waqar told www.telecomasia.net on Saturday.

According to a report, Waqar's partner, Wasim Akram, said Shaheen Afridi needs to bowl length deliveries to Abhishek to trouble him. "In both the matches, Shaheen bowled

Nair didn't perform well in so many games, was very lucky to make a comeback, says Mishra

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Amidst the backdrop of a high-voltage Asia Cup final, the focus of onlookers will immediately shift to the two-match Test series against the West Indies, starting on October 2 in Ahmedabad.

A major talking point has been the exclusion of Karun Nair, once a triple-centurion in Tests and got a second chance to don the whites in the drawn 2-2 series in England. But Nair, 33, scored 205 runs in eight innings in England with a best score of 57 in the final game at The Oval, was left out for the West Indies series, with left-handed batter Devdutt Padikkal coming into the team.

Amit Mishra, the former India leg-spinner, was unequivocal in his assessment of Nair's omission and Padikkal's inclusion, with B Sai Sudharsan also

retaining his place in the team. "He (Nair) was given a chance. I will say that he was very lucky to make a comeback in the Indian team at the age of 32, 33 or 34. It was an opportunity for him to do well. He played so many matches, but did not perform well."

"It happens that after a while, you have to look at the youngsters who are performing well. You have to give them a chance and Sai Sudharsan is one of the



JR WORLD CUP SHOOTING

India shines in air pistol mixed team as Italy dominates skeet events

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India pulled off a 1-2 in the 10m air pistol mixed team junior event, as Italy celebrated a golden double in the skeet competitions, as competition Day 3 of the ISSF Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun New Delhi concluded here at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range with the hosts still on top of the medal tally.

Kapil and Rashmika Sahgal put down compatriots Jonathan Gavin Antony and Vanshika Chaudhary 16-10 in the 10m air pistol mixed team gold medal clash to give India their third gold of the competition. Later, Italians Marco Coco and Arianna Nember claimed top honours in the junior men's and women's skeet finals, respectively.

India presently has three gold, five silver, and three bronze medals to show for their efforts.

On Saturday morning, both the Indian teams had dominated the qualification, with Rashmika-Kapil topping at 582-15x and Vanshika-Gavin following at 578-20x. Also in the mixed team pistol, Spain's Ines Castro Ortega and Lucas Sanchez Tome secured bronze with a narrow 16-14 win over Iran's Parimah

Amiri and Mohammadreza Ahmadi in mixed air.

Italy's charge in skeet competitions was led by Marco Coco, who carried his qualification form (122) into the junior men's final, shooting 56 hits from 60 targets to win gold. Finland's Lassi Akseli Matias Kauppinen claimed silver with 53 hits, while Cyprus's Andreas Pontikis took bronze with 43.

India's Harmehar Singh Lally (35 hits) and Atul Singh Rajawat (25 hits) were eliminated in fourth and fifth place, respectively, while the Netherlands' Ryan Kooijman finished sixth with 14.

The women's skeet final saw World Championship silver medalist Arianna

Nember of Italy produce a stellar display, hitting 53 targets to secure gold. India's Olympian Raiza Dhillon pushed her close with 51 for silver, while reigning Asian champion Mansi Raghuvanshi added bronze with 41, having earlier topped qualification with 117.

USA's 14-year-old Chloe Chaleunsinh finished fourth with 32, Individual Neutral Athlete Kseniia Shuliak was fifth with 22, and India's Agrima Kanwar completed the final line-up with 13.

Other Indians in action:

- Skeet Junior Men Qualification
- Jyotiraditya Singh Sisodiya – 116 (13th)
- Yashvardhan Singh Rajawat – 113 (18th)

Ishaan Singh Libra – 109 (26th)

- Skeet Junior Women Qualification
- Yashasvi Rathore – 107 (9th)
- Shivani Raikwar – 105 (12th)
- Fixtures: Competition Day 4

On Sunday, September 28, two finals are scheduled in the 50m rifle 3 positions event. The women's final will take place at 12:00 PM IST, followed by the men's final at 2:00 PM IST, with qualifications starting at 9:30 AM.

Pistol shooters will also be in action on Sunday morning with Stage 1 qualification of the junior men's 25m rapid fire pistol beginning at 9:15 AM.

This is our chance to create history, says India captain Harmanpreet ahead of Women's ODI WC

IAN S

NEW DELHI: On the brink of a career-defining month in her career as she prepares to lead India in a home ICC Women's ODI World Cup campaign, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said this is the side's chance to create history by guiding the team to its first-ever championship win in senior women's cricket.

India will be eager to make amends after a disappointing 2022 campaign in New Zealand, where they failed to progress beyond the group stage. India opens the competition against co-hosts Sri Lanka on September 30 in Guwahati.

"I have often been asked what this World Cup means to me and the Indian cricket team. My answer to that question is straightforward: it's a chance to create history. It's a home World Cup for all of us, and we want to make it special for all our supporters who have stood behind the team throughout our journey."

"While it is an absolute honour to be leading the Indian side, that too in a home World Cup, the team and I are motivated to make the tournament memorable as we aspire to win the Trophy," wrote Harmanpreet in her column for ICC on Saturday.

India enter the tournament with a sense of readiness and balance rarely seen in their past campaigns. Having won 10 of their 14 ODIs this year, the side carries strong momentum into the tournament.

"The journey in the buildup to this World Cup has been enriching as it has given us a chance to learn, unlearn, and relearn in our quest to get better as a team. It has not only brought the team even closer but has also reignited the fire within us to get our hands on an ICC Trophy."

"While the team's wait

for the elusive ICC Trophy is still on, this Indian team has been on the rise for a while, and this time around, we want to take those big strides and break the barrier by winning the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup."

"The competition, like it always has been, is stiff, but the team has complete belief in its skills, preparations, and tenacity to overcome any challenge that comes its way. The recent results, playing at home and away, have been encouraging for the team as well, and we are keen to build on that momentum come the World Cup."

"Our preparations have been on track with our preparation camps in Vizag and before that at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (COE) in

Bengaluru. The camps have been extremely helpful as they have helped us fine-tune our game right before the World Cup," she elaborated.

India have twice come agonisingly close to lifting the trophy - first in 2005 in South Africa and again in 2017 in England. However, as the 2025 edition is set to unfold on home soil, Harmanpreet and her team are determined to take one step further and finally write history.

"There is a healthy mix of youth and experience in our World Cup squad across all the departments. There is plenty of batting talent around the group with Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Pratika Rawal, Richa Ghosh, and Uma Chetry in the mix."

"The bowling unit is equally impressive, with Renuka Singh Thakur and Arundhati Reddy accompanying the young and promising Kranti Gaud, N. Sree Charani, and Radha Yadav. Add to this, the three all-rounders in the form of Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, and Amanjot Kaur, who can turn the tide of the game in India's favour."