

Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication



Heartfelt greetings to all on the sacred festival of Bhai Dooj. My wish is that this auspicious occasion brings happiness, peace, prosperity, harmony, and well-being into everyone's lives.

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Rajya Sabha Byelections

Congress, PDP Extend Support To National Conference



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Congress and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday extended their support to the NC, a day ahead of the byelections for the four Rajya Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Congress described the decision as a "principled step" to prevent the Bharatiya Janata Party from gaining ground.

Addressing a press briefing, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee President Tariq Hameed Karra said the decision was taken after detailed consultations with the party's central leadership and internal deliberations over the past two days.

"We have taken this stand after considering the sensitivities of our region and our identity as a secular, demo-

cratic force," Karra said. "We have chosen to set aside our differences with the National Conference to uphold the larger values we represent."

Karra said that while the Congress had earlier expressed displeasure over NC's approach to seat-sharing within the alliance, the party ultimately decided to "rise above political friction" and prioritise the broader national challenge of countering the BJP.

"Rajya Sabha elections this time have posed a moral test. We want the NC to stay united against any external pressure, and we extend our support for that cause," he said.

Stating that the Congress's fight was not limited to Jammu and Kashmir, Karra said the decision reflected the party's national commitment to defending India's secular ethos. **●P-06**

9-Day Autumn Session Of J&K Assembly Commences With Obituary References

OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: The nine-day autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly commenced on Thursday with obituary references for seven departed souls, including the former Governor of the erstwhile J&K State, Satya Pal Malik, and six legislators, ministers, who passed away since the last session, held in Jammu.

The proceedings began with the Speaker of the House, Abdul Rahim Rather, remembering all seven deceased and paid homage to them, highlighting their contributions.

The departed, who were remembered, included former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, former minister, Gulchain Singh Charak, former MLA Dina Nath Bhagat, former MLC, Ghulam Nabi Shaheen,



former MLC, Ramesh Arora, former MLC, Sardar Mohammad Akhlaq Khan and former legislator Mohammad Sultan Pandithpuri.

During the obituary reference, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; Leader of Opposi-

tion, Sunil Kumar Sharma; Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Minister Javed Ahmed Rana and the MLAs including Dr Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Rafiq

Ahmad Naik, Dr Rameshwar Singh, Mubarak Gul, Salman Ali Sagar, M.Y Tarigami, Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh, Pawan Gupta, Sajad Gani Lone, Aijaz Jan, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi, Nizamuddin Bhat, Vikram Randhawa, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Choudhary Mohammad Akram, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, Iftikhar Ahmed and Narinder Singh paid tributes to the departed souls.

The session comprises six sittings, including the obituary references held today.

The Assembly proceedings are expected to be stormy, with the opposition expected to target the government over governance failures, unfulfilled promises made in the NC's election manifesto, demands for statehood, and reservation-related concerns—(KNO)

CM Pays Tribute To Former Governor, Departed Members On First Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday paid homage to former Governor, legislators and ministers during obituary references held on the opening day of the Autumn Session of the

Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the departed leaders had all contributed in their own ways toward the welfare of the people. "None of us is perfect; mistakes are **●P-06**

Assembly Pays Glowing Tributes To Former Guv, Legislators

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Autumn Session of Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir which commenced Thursday paid glowing tributes to former Governor Satya Pal Malik, former minister and

other legislators who passed away since the last session.

Addressing the House, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather paid homage to former Governor Satya Pal Malik, former minister, Gulchain Singh Charak, former MLA Dina Nath Bhagat, **●P-06**

PSA Against MLA Doda Unwarranted: CM Omar



OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: Stating that the National Conference (NC) will bag all the four seats in the Rajya Sabha elections, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that he didn't think that imposing Public Safety Act (PSA) against MLA Doda was necessary.

"Majority of the members in the Assembly are concerned over the detention of MLA Doda under PSA. I

believe that he has not done anything that would make it necessary to impose the PSA on him," Omar, said while replying to a query on the issue of MLA Doda surfacing in the Assembly on the first day of nine-day autumn session.

He said that the assembly commenced with obituary references today in which the people who were earlier part of the House and also had connections **●P-06**

BJP's Chugh Says Statehood For J&K Soon As Promised By PM, HM

Accuses CM Abdullah Of Unfulfilled Promises, Betraying People Of Budgam

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh on Thursday said that statehood for Jammu and Kashmir would be restored soon, reiterating that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah already announced this in Parliament and during their visits to the region.

Speaking to the media after addressing the BJP Budgam Assembly Constituency Convention at Alamdaar Colony, Mirgund, Chugh, said the decision on statehood has already been made by the Prime Minister in Parliament. "The Home Minister has also confirmed this. The process is underway, and it will happen soon," he said.

Chugh accused Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of betraying



the people of Budgam and failing to deliver on promises made in his manifesto despite being in office for over a year. "Omar Abdullah betrayed Budgam. Not a single commitment from his manifesto has been fulfilled. The public is ready to respond to that betrayal by voting for Aga Syed Mohsin in the Budgam by-elections," he said.

The BJP leader dismissed Abdullah's claims that the Lieutenant Governor's administration was hindering governance. "Except for the police, all ministries are under your control. Your ministers are enjoying red-beacon cars and government bungalows meant for public service, not luxury," he said. "Even senior National Conference leaders have acknowledged the government's failure to keep its promises."

Chugh accused the NC government of neglecting important areas like tourism. "Not a single new tourism project has been started. It's PM Modi and the BJP who are working hard to make Jammu and Kashmir an international tourism hub," he said.

The rally, part of the BJP's ongoing campaign in Budgam, was attended by **●P-06**

CS Calls For Early Screening, Treatment To Make J&K TB-free

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and assess the measures undertaken by the Health & Medical Education Department to achieve the vision of a Tuberculosis-free Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME), Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah; Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Bas-eer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary; Managing Director, JKMSCL; Principals of Government Medical Colleges (GMCs); Directors of Health Services, Jammu and Kashmir; HoD, Chest Medicine, GMC

Srinagar; and senior faculty members from various medical institutions across the UT. Deputy Commissioners joined the deliberations through video conferencing.

While reviewing the current scenario, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for early identification and comprehensive management of TB patients to ensure their complete recovery. He directed health professionals to undertake end-to-end monitoring of patients, encouraging them to personally adopt a few cases each, extend individualized medical support, and maintain regular contact with patients to track their progress.

Underscoring the importance of vigorous contact tracing, Dulloo **●P-06**



‘Operation Sindoor’ Shows India Ready To Strike Hard: Rajnath Singh

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Describing 'Operation Sindoor' as India's message to the world that it is always ready to respond to every challenge, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday lauded the Indian Navy for its combat readiness.

Addressing top naval commanders in the national capital, the Defence Minister, said, "The world witnessed the Indian Navy's strength during Operation Sindoor as its deterrent posture forced Pakistan to remain in the harbour or near its coast."

He said that 'Operation Sindoor' has sent a clear message to the world that "India is capable" of giving a befitting reply to the enemy and would respond to every challenge.

Singh commended the Navy for creating a "deterrent posture" during the operation.



"It forced Pakistan to remain in the harbour or near its coast," he added.

The Defence Minister described the Indian Navy's presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as a matter of "comfort for the friendly nations" and "discomfort for those who seek to destabilise the region".

Singh said the Indian Navy, through its multi-dimensional

capabilities, has played a leadership role in the region.

"In the last six months, our ships, submarines and Naval aircraft have been deployed at an unprecedented scale. In addition, our Navy has provided safe passage to approximately 335 merchant vessels, equalling approximately 1.2 million metric tons of cargo and a trade value of USD 5.6 billion," he said. **●P-06**

Unfortunate NC MLAs Politicising Obituaries: Sunil Sharma

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Thursday criticized National Conference MLAs for remarks made against deceased members during obituary references, a day before the Rajya Sabha elections. He noted that the MLAs had visited the homes of voters with the Quran, Islam's holy book, while taking an oath to vote in the upcoming elections.

Sharma said he was disappointed by the actions of some NC legislators. According to him, the MLAs were venting their frustration against people who are no longer alive. "I am a little disappointed that some MLAs of the National Conference have spoken against the people who are no more in this world," he said. He added that there is a proper time to speak about members who have passed away, and that obituary references should not be politicized. Sharma also said that the



NC's actions reflected a focus on political matters rather than observing established norms in the House. "Unfortunately, the National Conference is suffering from a mental illness. They are saddened by the fact that their homes are being demolished. The National Conference is saddening them. All the MLAs have come to their homes with the Quran. They have taken an oath to vote tomorrow. They are venting their anger here against the people who are no more in this world. **●P-06**

Toxic Autumn Tradition Burning Of Leaves, Branches Choke Kashmir's Air



JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: As autumn draws to a close in Kashmir, a familiar haze begins to settle over the valley, not from mist or fog, but from the widespread burning of fallen leaves and tree branches.

The practice, deeply rooted in local tradition, is meant to produce charcoal for Kangris (traditional firepots) to keep homes warm during the freezing winter months. But environmentalists and health experts warn that this seasonal ritual is causing severe damage to both public health and the environment.

Every year, as the pruning season begins in apple-growing districts like Pulwama, Shopian, Baramulla, Kulgam, and Anantnag, smoke rises from orchards and roadsides alike. The burning of heaps of leaves and twigs fills the air with thick smog, reducing visibility and worsening air quality. "The smoke from burning leaves contains fine particles and harmful gases that can easily reach deep into the lungs," said Dr Umar Mushtaq a scientist at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST). Dr Umar said, **●P-06**

DC Srinagar reviews progress on ABHA ID Enrolment, PMJAY-Sehat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR:- The Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Thursday chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the progress of health initiatives in the district, including the enrolment of Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs and the coverage under the PMJAY-Sehat (Golden Card) scheme.

The meeting also assessed the ongoing Tuberculosis (TB) control measures and related health interventions.

At the outset, the DC emphasized the importance of achieving universal coverage under the ABHA ID initiative to ensure seamless access to digital health services. He directed the Officers to intensify awareness campaigns and expedite the registration process across all Medical Zones/Blocks in the district so that citizens are benefited from the government initiatives.

On the occasion, the DC



also reviewed the progress of the Ayushman Bharat—Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), under which Golden Cards are issued to eligible beneficiaries.

The DC called for coordinated efforts to saturate the process so that all eligible families can avail benefits of cashless healthcare services at empanelled hospitals.

During the meeting,

the Deputy Commissioner also took stock of the performance of Srinagar District under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). He commended the Health Department and associated teams for their accelerated efforts and improved performance in efforts towards TB elimination.

The DC emphasized the need to sustain the current

momentum and further strengthen grassroots-level initiatives to achieve the goal of a TB-free district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; Medical Superintends of SKIMS, JLN, SMHS, CD Hospital, District Tuberculosis Officer, and all Zonal Medical Officers.

DLSA Sgr holds Legal Awareness Programme at Central Jail



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, under the aegis of the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority, organized an awareness programme at Central Jail, Srinagar, with the objective of spreading awareness among inmates regarding their legal rights and available legal remedies.

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

The programme focused on educating the inmates about the process of filing Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) before the Supreme Court of India and the assistance available through Legal

Aid Defence Counsels.

Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel delivered an insightful session on the filing procedure of SLPs and apprised the inmates of their legal rights as undertrial prisoners.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels spoke about ensuring access to justice at every crucial stage, including pre-arrest, arrest, and remand and emphasized the importance of timely legal representation to safeguard constitutional rights. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) related to premature release, parole, and furlough of prisoners was also highlighted.

The awareness programme served as an important step towards promoting legal literacy, access to justice, and rehabilitation through informed awareness among the Jail inmates.

Special Lok Adalat on Cheque Bounce Cases Organized at Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, organized a Special Lok Adalat on Cheque Bounce Cases Thursday at the District Court Complex, Budgam, as well as at the Taluka Courts of District Budgam.

The Special Lok Adalat was held under the Chairmanship of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Budgam, O.P. Bhagat and under the supervision of Civil Judge (Senior Division)/Secretary DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak



In this Special Lok Adalat, each Court had identified cases beforehand, which were thereafter placed before Seven Benches constituted by DLSA Budgam for settlement.

During the Special Lok Adalat, a total of 48 Cheque Bounce Cases were taken up for amicable settlement, out of which 7 cases were settled with a settlement amount of Rs 26, 23,000.

Bye-Elections to 27-AC Budgam

First Randomisation of Polling Staff Held at Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The first randomisation of polling staff designated for deployment across 173 polling stations for the Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam was Thursday held at Budgam.

The randomisation was carried out by the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiud-Din Bhat, in accordance with the guidelines stipulated by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Through this process, software-generated deployment of 1020 employees, including a 50% reserve, was completed to ensure transparency, fairness, and impartiality in the deployment of polling staff.

Returning Officer (RO) 27-AC Budgam, Deputy



District Election Officer (Dy. DEO), Nodal Officer ETBPS, and other officers were present during the randomisation process.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO Budgam emphasised that the District Administration is fully committed to conducting free, fair, inclusive, and peaceful elections in the constituency.

He further directed all concerned officers to ensure that every arrangement from training of polling staff to logistics and communication facilities is completed well in advance as per the ECI mandate.

The DEO also reiterated that transparency and accountability shall remain the guiding principles throughout all stages of the electoral process for bye-Election to 27-AC Budgam.

Dir Agri kick-starts onion seedling sale at Kitchen Garden Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah Thursday kick started sale of onion seedling at Kitchen Garden Lalmandi, Srinagar.

During interaction with the farmers and kitchen garden lovers Director Agriculture said that Department is vigorously enduring to attract more and more farmers and kitchen garden lovers towards the vegetable sector.

He further said that department is producing seedlings of different vegetable crops in hi-tech poly houses under controlled conditions in all the districts of Kashmir division and the seedlings would be distributed among the farming community of the region in a phased manner so that the produce reaches market in a way where it could fetch the farmer maximum possible returns.

He expressed satisfaction and said that Department has already met with the target of providing seedlings of different vegetable crops to the farming community of the region.

Highlighting the ongoing Rabi season activities, the Director said the department is working to bring maximum area under cultivation of different crops, while also linking agricultural produce with the market chain through a well-devised strategy to safeguard farmers' interests.

"The Department is committed to producing and providing quality vegetable seedlings, as quality planting material plays a pivotal role in the overall success of agricultural enterprises," he added.

On the occasion, Joint Director agriculture extension kashmir, seed production officer kashmir and some senior officers of the department were also present.

Social Welfare Department Srinagar organizes Exposure visit for CCI Students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Srinagar Thursday organized an Exposure Visit for students of Child Care Institutions (Palash/Pareesha) Shalimar to the SPS Museum and SPS Library, Lal Mandi Srinagar under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

The visit was aimed at providing opportunities for observation, discussion, and knowledge exchange among the students.

During the visit, stu-

tures, coins, animal skins, heritage crafts, weapons, and papier-mache art, gaining valuable insights into the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

Later, the students visited the SPS Library, where they explored various books and resources while learning about modern library systems, information management, and potential career opportunities in library sciences. The visit aimed to encourage lifelong learning and academic curiosity, highlighting the importance of libraries as free and open sources of information and knowledge.



dents first visited the SPS Museum, where they learned about history, science, art, and culture through firsthand observation of artifacts and exhibits. They explored sections showcasing ancient sculp-

The students were accompanied by staff members from SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar, along with educators and caretakers from Palash and Pareesha.

SKUAST-K takes Modern wheat Technology to Tribal farmers of Gurez

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In a remarkable stride towards agricultural empowerment of tribal communities, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) conducted a two-day mega outreach programme, under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) – AICRP on Seeds (Crops), NSP Srinagar Centre, in collaboration with KVK/MAR&ES Gurez.

The initiative marked the formal introduction of SKUAST-K's most novel wheat variety 'Shalimar Wheat-3' (SW-3) to the tribal farmers of Gurez valley, ensuring that the benefits of latest agri-technology reached even the last villages along the LoC, including Chorwan,

Gujraan, Abdulaan and Chakwali.

A record 70 quintals of SW-3 seed, coupled with the scientific package of practices, were distributed among 700 tribal farmers, covering over 70 hectares (1400 kanals) of land across the valley. The event drew wide appreciation for bringing cutting-edge research directly to the doorstep of the most remote farming communities.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Investigator NSP (Seeds), SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Gowhar Ali, highlighted that Shalimar Wheat-3 represents the university's latest innovation, a biofortified, disease-resistant, and high-yielding variety capable of producing up to 38 quintals per hectare, significantly enhancing nutritional and



economic security.

The key contributor to the development of SW-3, Dr. Shabir Hussain Wani, emphasized that adoption of the technology on scientific lines would boost productivity and minimize dependency on external seed sources in Gurez.

Speaking on the occasion, Head KVK/MAR&ES Gurez, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, reiterated SKUAST-K's commitment to preserving traditional crops while introducing University Released Varieties (URVs) to improve livelihood opportunities under natural and organic farming systems. He added that the impact assessment and monitoring of the technology adoption will continue to ensure long-term benefits for the tribal farming community.

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Chief Secretary reviews implementation of Mission YUVA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress and implementation of Mission YUVA, taking a detailed appraisal of achievements made so far and charting the future course of action with concerned departments and stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretaries of Higher Education, Planning, and Agriculture Production Departments; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretaries of Employment and Rural Development Departments; Director Employment; Director, Handicrafts (Kashmir), besides other senior officers.

Vice-Chancellors of Universities, Managing Director, J&K Bank, and Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

While reviewing the progress under Mission YUVA, the Chief Secretary directed the Employment Department and J&K Bank to adopt proactive measures to meet the targets set for the current financial year. He emphasized that loans

worth ₹1,000 crore must be disbursed to facilitate grounding of projects worth ₹2,000 crore, thereby enabling aspiring entrepreneurs to establish viable business ventures.

He underscored the need for enhancing the capacity of beneficiaries to transform their ventures into successful enterprises and called for convergence of all employment generation initiatives such as Lakhpati Didis under JKRLM, PMEGP, HADP, JKCIIP, and PMFME with Mission YUVA to maximize their collective impact.

Highlighting the significance of grassroots-level support systems, Dulloo directed that the Single Block Development Units (SBDUs), Block Handholding Desks (BHDs), and YUVA Doots under the Mission be optimally utilized to facilitate on-ground execution and synergy with other government schemes.

He further instructed banks to depute their representatives to the BHDs at block level to streamline the process of approvals and ensure timely sanction and disbursement of loans. Deputy Commissioners were asked to closely monitor the establishment of enterprises by beneficiaries and expedite



processes from District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) approvals to bank sanctions and loan disbursements. The Chief Secretary also urged districts to complete the recruitment of required manpower for smooth functioning of Mission YUVA structures.

To ensure wider outreach, the Chief Secretary called for involving legislators, public figures, and local influencers in awareness campaigns. He advised strategizing engagement with focus groups such

as Lakhpati Didis, PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries, PMKVY trainees, and artisans from the handicraft sector, encouraging their participation under Mission YUVA.

Administrative Secretaries and Vice-Chancellors shared their insights and suggestions during the meeting, highlighting best practices from other regions and recommending measures for capacity enhancement and time-bound implementation of the Mission.

Commissioner Secretary,

Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, presented a detailed overview of Mission YUVA's achievements and objectives. He informed that the Department aims to create successful entrepreneurs in every panchayat, building local role models to inspire others.

He highlighted that the fourth phase of the Udyam Jagriti campaign is currently underway, focusing on students from Degree Colleges, Polytechnics, and ITIs; women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs);

and beneficiaries with sanctioned loans. So far, 16,000 college students out of about 50,000 and 45,000 women SHG members out of 7 lakh have been reached under this phase. The Department is also contemplating capacity-building sessions for legislators to familiarize them with employment and livelihood schemes for better outreach at the constituency level.

The meeting was informed that 1,23,350 registrations have been made on the Mission YUVA

portal, with 53,138 applications received—of which 50,544 pertain to nano-enterprises, 1,975 to new MSMEs, and 551 from existing units. Out of these, 27,369 applications have been approved by DLICs, 7,462 bank sanctions have been issued, and 4,673 disbursements completed, with subsidies granted in 281 cases. The average project cost is around 6.44 lakh, and 262 crore has been disbursed till date.

The Chief Secretary was also apprised about the buyer-seller app developed under the Mission to facilitate market linkages for registered enterprises and about initiatives to promote incubation and innovation-driven entrepreneurship in the Union Territory.

Reiterating the government's commitment to fostering youth entrepreneurship, Dulloo emphasized that Mission YUVA represents a transformative step towards empowering youth, enabling self-reliance, and creating a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir. He called upon all departments and banks to ensure seamless coordination, timely support, and measurable outcomes for the Mission's success.

Div Com Inspects Operational Readiness of 60 MLD STP Noorbagh

Project covering 15000 Households in Srinagar, to be commissioned on Oct 31: Anshul Garg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Thursday conducted an on-site inspection of the 60 Million Litres Daily (MLD) Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) at Noorbagh, Srinagar, to assess its operational readiness ahead of its commissioning scheduled for October 31.

The inspection was carried out after completion of a project of the Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme for Greater Srinagar, initiated under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) at a cost of Rs 143 Cr which was later revised to Rs 157 Cr.

During the visit, Div Com highlighted the critical importance of the project in strengthening urban sanitation infrastructure and improving environmental and health standards in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, Garg informed that the project was executed by the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) under the supervision of the Housing and Urban Development Department.

"We have commenced the trial run of the 60 MLD STP after NBCC and UEED geared up their resources to



complete this long-pending project", Div Com said and added that once commissioned it will immediately benefit around 15,000 households in Srinagar city.

Acknowledging the city's expanding population since the project's inception, Garg announced that the administration is already planning the second phase of the project of 70 MLD

capacity to cater increasing requirements in proportion to growth of the city.

He also directed the Superintending Engineer, UEED, to initiate the process for acquiring a dedicated power supply line to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the plant and also get the DPR finalised for the utility shifting, tertiary treatment,

automated quality monitoring and other infrastructural requirements within 1 week for consideration of the Administrative Department.

During his interaction with local residents, the Div Com listened to their grievances regarding sewerage and stormwater issues and assured them that their concerns would be resolved at the earliest.

Addressing media queries about the power scenario in the valley, Garg said that power supply remains a top priority for the administration. "Regular reviews are being conducted at both the UT and Divisional levels to ensure regular power supply", he said.

"Currently the concerned department is conducting pruning of trees, maintenance works, and augmentation of buffer stock of transformers to ensure overall preparation for winter", he said. The power scenario this winter is expected to be better than in previous years," he added.

The Div Com was accompanied by the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, and officers from the Revenue Department and UEED during the visit.

Div Com reviews Arrangements for 2nd Edition of Kashmir Marathon

Directs beautification of route with potted plants, seamless facilities for participants

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Thursday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the 2nd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled to be held on November 2.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Director Tourism, Vice Chairman LCMA, ADC Srinagar, SSP Traffic, Director Health, and officers from departments including Information, KPDCCL, R&B, PHE, Youth Services & Sports, and other concerned agencies.

During the meeting, Div Com emphasized ensuring comprehensive arrangements at the flag-off cum finishing spot, including electricity, sanitation, first-aid, and toilet facilities.

He directed the Director Tourism to share the detailed Marathon route plan with all concerned departments for effective coordination of responsibilities and arrangements.



The Director Tourism and SSP Traffic were instructed to arrange an adequate number of barricades for smooth traffic management on the event day.

To strengthen emergency response, the Div Com directed the Health Department to deploy a water ambulance in Dal Lake and instructed the SDRF to keep their boats ready to assist the Tourism Department in case of exigencies. He also directed the Health Department to establish a field hospital at Polo View for post-Marathon recovery of participants and to set up seventeen aid stations along the

route, adequately staffed to assist runners.

Commissioner SMC was directed to beautify the Marathon route with potted flower plants in collaboration with SKUAST-K, and to ensure sanitation along the entire stretch as well as dog-catching measures for the safety of participants.

The R&B Department was instructed to ensure a pothole-free track, while arrangements for bottled drinking water and refreshments were also reviewed.

The Div Com stressed the importance of training and sensitizing volunteers regarding their roles and

responsibilities during the event.

The meeting also discussed organizing a joint medal ceremony for the Full Marathon (seven hours) and Half Marathon (three hours) at SKICC.

It also discussed arrangements for three-day exhibition showcasing local products by departments including Handicrafts & Handloom, Horticulture, and Agriculture.

To ensure real-time coordination among departments, the Div Com directed the establishment of a Command & Control Centre for the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

Omar Abdullah's Govt Has Forgotten Its Promises: Tarun Chugh



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday said that the Omar Abdullah-led government in Jammu and Kashmir has failed to fulfill the promises it made to the people and has diverted from its development agenda.

Chugh said that the people had given the National Conference a mandate to work for growth and welfare but instead the government had turned its focus toward privileges and power. He said ministers are seen moving in official vehicles and enjoying facilities while public expectations remain unaddressed.

Chugh said that the purpose of governance is to deliver basic services, create jobs, and build infrastructure, not to create comfort zones for leaders. He said that the current government has shown little progress in sectors such as tourism and public development.

He also questioned Omar Abdullah's record in tourism, saying that no new projects have been started under his tenure. According to Chugh, the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir continues to face difficulties and the government has failed to introduce any new initiatives to attract international visitors.

Chugh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP are working to make Jammu and Kashmir an international tourist hub through a structured plan and that the progress is visible on the ground. He said that BJP's efforts are focused on ensuring employment and stability for the people.

He said that even senior leaders within the National Conference have begun to express disappointment over the government's performance. Chugh said that twenty percent of the government's tenure has already passed and urged Omar Abdullah to start working on real development rather than repeating promises.(KNS)

Congress supporting us in Rajya Sabha Polls: Farooq Abdullah

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: JKNC chief Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said that the Congress party is supporting the National Conference in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections.

"Congress is with us and they are supporting us in Rajya Sabha Polls," Abdullah told reporters.

Commenting on the

recent remarks by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on halal certification labels, Abdullah said India believes in unity in diversity and that the country's strength lies in preserving this diversity. He added that no one remains in power indefinitely and that a time will come when those in office will be removed.(KNS)

Anti-Corruption Court Convicts Former JE in Forgery, Corruption case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday said that the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Pulwama, Noor Mohammad Mir, has pronounced judgment in case FIR No. 24/2000 of P/S Vigilance Organization Kashmir (now ACB) registered under Sections 420, 467, 471 RPC read with Section 5(2) of the JK Prevention of Corruption Act Svt. 2006, convicting the accused Sonaullah Wani, then Junior Engineer, Rural Development Department."

According to the ACB statement, the investigation revealed that the accused had forged his Matriculation

Certificate and Service Book, fraudulently altering his date of birth from 08.06.1940 to 08.06.1945. "By doing so, he managed to overstay in government service for 21 months beyond his actual retirement age, thereby drawing undue salary to the tune of Rs 2,62,760, causing equivalent loss to the State exchequer," the statement said.

The ACB further stated, "Expert examination conducted by the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Srinagar confirmed the forgery of signatures and seals, while verification from the JK Board of School Education established the accused's actual date of birth."

After a full-fledged trial, the Court held that the prosecution had proved the case beyond any reasonable doubt through "convincing documentary, expert, and oral evidence." Consequently, the accused was sentenced to seven years of simple imprisonment, fined Rs 3,52,760, and ordered to be lodged at Central Jail Srinagar.

Elections Observers inspect polling stations in Nagrota Constituency



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Election Observers for Bye- Election to AC-77 Nagrota Thursday visited a number of polling stations to assess the arrangements made for the convenience of the Voters.

The team consisting of General Observer Kunal Silku; Police Observer Avinash Kumar and Expenditure Observer Ashish Yadav inspected polling stations at Nagrota, Panjgrain, Khanpur and Rathoredhok.

During the visit, the

Observers interacted with the locals and issued on-the-spot instructions to the concerned ARO, police and other officials to ensure foolproof arrangements at all polling stations, including adequate lighting and drinking water facilities.

The team emphasised generating awareness among the voters regarding the polling process, functioning of grievance redressal mechanism and the importance of maximum voter participation in a well-organised and peaceful atmosphere.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of **Iftikhar Ahmad Kak**, Son of Late Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Kak, Resident of Rainawari, Kalwal Mohalla, who passed away on **23rd October 2025**. Mourning will be observed for three days only. Ijtimai Fateh Khawani will be held on **Saturday, 25th October 2025 at 10:30 AM** at the ancestral graveyard, Kaka Mohalla, near Nowhatta Police Station, Srinagar. May Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannah and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

BEREAVED FAMILY



Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Restore Food Safety Standards On Streets

Notwithstanding the campaign against the sale of unhygienic non-vegetarian products, a semblance of sanity has fortunately been restored. The authorities deserve credit for initiating checks and awareness drives to safeguard public health. However, much still remains to be done on the ground.

A sizeable number of roadside carts, particularly during the evenings, continue to sell barbequed items in open and unhygienic conditions. These stalls, though popular among both locals and tourists, often operate without basic cleanliness or proper licensing. The smoky aroma might attract the hungry, but beneath it could lurk serious health risks, from undercooked meat to contamination caused by poor storage and handling.

It is high time that the concerned departments conduct thorough examinations and regular inspections of these vendors. Hygiene standards must be enforced stringently to ensure that the public is not exposed to unsafe food. Moreover, the street food culture, which forms an integral part of the region's charm, should be regulated rather than discouraged, with training, certification, and designated zones for vendors.

Tourists and locals deserve to enjoy the delights of street food without fearing for their health. The government must act decisively to make sure that taste does not come at the cost of safety.

Truth Beyond Festivals

Air Pollution In Indian Cities Is A Year-Round Crisis



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Air pollution in Indian cities today is not just an environmental problem but a profound threat to health, economy, and social stability. Every year, as winter approaches or the festival of Diwali approaches, discussions about air pollution suddenly intensify across the country. Images of haze and smog fill news channels, newspapers, and social media. For a few weeks, people wear masks, governments make emergency plans, and then the issue is gradually forgotten. This tendency—to treat pollution as a seasonal problem that lasts only a few days—is actually the biggest mistake. Because air pollution in India is not a temporary or limited problem for festivals but a multi-source, multi-sectoral challenge that persists throughout the year.

Air quality remains poor throughout the year in most Indian cities. According to the World Air Quality Report 2024, nine of the ten most polluted cities in the world are in India, including Delhi, Ghaziabad, Bhiwadi, Faridabad, and Ludhiana. Delhi's average PM 2.5 level was found to be eighteen times higher than the World Health Organization's limit. Attributing this solely to firecrackers during Diwali hides the true extent of the problem. The main causes of pollution are active year-round—vehicular exhaust, industrial emissions, construction dust, burning of garbage and stubble, particulate matter from thermal power plants, and the use of domestic fuels.

Considering the problem merely seasonal also leads to reactive policies. Governments only act when pollution reaches its peak. Schools are closed for a few days, odd-even schemes for vehicles are implemented, firecrackers are banned, or construction activities are temporarily halted. These measures provide temporary relief but do not address the root causes. As soon as the weather changes, all policies become ineffective. This approach is meant to postpone the problem, not solve it.

The effects of air pollution aren't limited to just a few weeks. It impacts our bodies year-round. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.7 million people in India die prematurely each year due to air pollution. A study by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences found that cases of asthma, allergies, and lung diseases among children in Delhi increased by 10



to 15 percent throughout the year. This proves that the effects of pollution are not seasonal, but permanent.

It also severely impacts the economy. A 2023 World Bank report indicates that India loses more than a tenth of its gross domestic product each year due to air pollution. Lost working days, increased health expenditures, reduced productivity, and increased medical burden all impact the country's economic progress.

When it comes to sources of air pollution, the transportation sector is the biggest culprit. India has millions of vehicles on the roads, most of which run on petrol or diesel. Old trucks and buses emit significant amounts of smoke. The number of small vehicles is so high that their emissions are continuously increasing the amount of nitrogen oxides and fine particles in the air. The industrial sector also contributes significantly to pollution. Many small and medium-sized industries still do not use clean fuels. Old boilers and coal-fired plants emit sulfur dioxide and metallic particles.

Dust from construction activities also contributes to widespread pollution. Exposed soil on roads, open piles of construction materials, and the transportation of sand and cement in uncovered trucks release particles into the air. Similarly, stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana annually poisons the air in cities across North India. Research suggests that stubble burning increases pollution levels in Delhi and surrounding areas by 30 to 40 percent.

Burning household fuels such as wood, coal, or dung cakes also significantly increases pollution levels, especially among poor households. Coal-fired power plants still provide about 60 percent of the country's energy, and many of these older plants operate without pollution control equipment.

Controlling all these sources requires a long-term approach to policy and governance. Lack of coordination between the central, state, and municipal bodies remains a major obstacle. Many cities lack air quality monitoring stations, preventing the availability of realistic

data. Public awareness is also extremely low. Citizens associate pollution only with bad air days, rather than considering it a daily responsibility. Unless society recognizes that clean air is a shared responsibility, the full impact of any policy will remain elusive.

India launched the National Clean Air Programme in 2019, aiming to reduce pollution levels in major cities by 40 percent by 2026. This is a commendable initiative, but it must be implemented with rigorous monitoring and local enforcement, not just a budgetary announcement. Each city's geographical and industrial situation is different, so city-specific action plans are needed rather than a blanket policy.

The transportation sector must rapidly transition to clean energy. The proliferation of CNG, electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel, and public transport is essential. Following the implementation of the electric vehicle policy in Delhi, the share of EVs in new vehicles has reached 17 percent. This demonstrates that citizens embrace change if policies are clear and incentivized.

To prevent stubble burning in agriculture, it is essential to provide technical and financial support to farmers. Organic technologies like the Pusa Decomposer and Happy Seeder machines are yielding positive results, but they need to be widely promoted and the subsidy system strengthened. Concrete steps must be taken to encourage crop diversification and replace rice with crops that require less water and less residue.

Continuous emission monitoring systems should be mandated in the industrial sector. It is essential to install desulfurization units in coal-fired plants, and promote the use of cleaner fuels such as LNG or PNG. It is also important to rapidly transition to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, so that by 2030, India can obtain half its energy from clean sources.

Incorporating green infrastructure into urban planning is also crucial. Cities should adopt green belts, rooftop

plantings, open spaces conservation, and modern street cleaning systems. Measures such as covering and sprinkling water at construction sites should be implemented regularly.

Administrative reforms are also necessary. The Air Quality Management Commission should be given greater powers to ensure effective coordination and enforcement across states. Clean air campaigns in schools, residential associations, and local groups are useful for citizen participation. Measures such as car-free days, public transport weeks, and waste segregation can increase civic awareness.

From a technical perspective, we must move towards data-driven policymaking. Real-time monitoring, satellite-based tracking, and the use of artificial intelligence can identify and predict pollution sources. This will allow for action before a crisis occurs.

India should learn from other countries around the world. Beijing, China, reduced pollution levels by 35 percent between 2013 and 2020 by reducing its dependence on coal, relocating industries out of cities, and making public transportation cheaper. Los Angeles, USA, overcame a smog crisis in the 1970s and cleaned its air through strict emission standards and technological innovation. These examples clearly demonstrate that improvement is possible if the government demonstrates strong will, the public cooperates, and industries adopt technology.

Air pollution must be viewed not just as an environmental but also as a public health crisis. In India, polluted air reduces life expectancy by an average of five years. The health system must also be prepared to address this issue. Respiratory disease care units should be established in primary health centres, and the importance of clean air should be included in health education.

Future policy must involve equal roles for government, citizens, and industry. Governments must implement strict regulations and transparent monitoring, citizens must change their daily behaviour, and industries must be encouraged to adopt clean technologies.

The time has come for India to move beyond treating air pollution as a temporary crisis and place it at the center of its long-term development policy. Clean air is not a luxury but a fundamental human right. This right cannot be secured by restrictions imposed during festivals or by a few days of vigilance. It requires sustained year-round efforts, a scientific approach, policy firmness, and social cooperation. Only when both government and society collectively resolve that clean air is a shared duty for all will India be able to make its cities truly breathable.

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A Letter To My Mother That She Will Never Read

SHAHRUKH BIN PARVAIZ

Friday, 22nd August 2025, 7:05 AM. Dear Maa, it was that morning when you broke me. It was the time my world went still. I remember your hand holding mine, your eyes closing slowly, your breath lightening. You gave me one last look, and I didn't know how to let go. I couldn't move, couldn't speak. I was weeping within, in quiet, as if my very soul had been broken. Nobody could hear that sort of cry. Maa, Only Allah knows the way it was like watching you leave.

Since then, I've been living, but differently. Everything appears fine on the surface; people speak, life goes on, and time doesn't stop, but within me, everything stands still in that instant when your fingers escaped my hands. I still have the heat of your hand. I still see your face when I shut my eyes.

You weren't just my mother, Maa. You were my peace, my best friend, my home. Each day with you felt safe. Each word you uttered had kindness in it. You never spoke loudly; even when you were upset, it was gentle. I remember the day that I played outside without informing you. You waited, apprehensive, and when I returned, you gently tapped me on the hand, not with anger, but love. And then, like nothing happened, you smiled and handed me a hundred rupees, saying, "Go, but don't leave without telling me again." That's who

you were: strict for only a moment but gentle forever.

You were like a fairy, Maa. Your eyes were filled with light, your voice was as soft as early prayer, and your face... I still cannot put it into words. Your beauty was from within. When you smiled, everything around you seemed brighter. When you prayed, it seemed even the walls of our home were blessed.

I miss you every moment, Maa. With every breath, I recall you. Every night I go to bed, I cry silently because I still hope to hear your calling my name from another room. I still believe you will enter and say, "Where are you going?" But then silence responds to me. That silence is worse than anything.

You see, everyone keeps telling me to move on: "It's fate," "She's in a better place." I know they mean it well, but they don't see. How do I move on from my heart, Maa? How do I move on from the one who brought me to life? You weren't merely someone I lost; you were everything I ever had. You were the one who prayed for me even before I knew I needed prayers. You were the one who slept less when I was ill, who forgave me even when I didn't say sorry.

I sit sometimes in your room, just to be near you. Your smell still remains a combination of your fragrance and something which you had alone. I am holding your shawl, and for a moment, I am with you. Then I wake up, and the void comes again. I remember the way you used



to prepare not food, but love. You'd be hours in the kitchen, singing softly, tired at times but never ever complaining. You'd always set aside the best for me, even if you went without. That's the kind of love only mothers can offer, unspoken sacrifices no one notices.

Maa, recall those nights when we stayed up late, you speaking of life and me feigning ignorance but actually learning from you. You showed me kindness without ever telling me to do it. You showed me patience by just being patient. You taught me that strength does not necessarily show itself in shouting; sometimes it is in holding back, in forgiving, in still loving even when the world is difficult.

I see you in everything nice I do. When I assist someone, I can hear your voice saying, "Always be kind." When I pray, I recall how you used to stand before the prayer mat, serene and attentive, murmuring duas for all, particularly for me. I know you still pray for

me, wherever you may be. Perhaps that is the reason why, despite pain, I still manage to stand.

They say that mothers never really die, that they live on through their children. I think that now. You live on in my words, in my tears, in all the good things I try to do. You live in my heartbeats, Maa. You're the fire that still burns inside me.

But there are some days that are too heavy. Some nights I collapse, muttering your name repeatedly, hoping somehow you can still hear me. I wish I could say to you how much I miss you, how much I am lost without you. At times, I dream of you, standing there, smiling, saying you are fine. I wake up with tears and peace simultaneously. Maybe that's your way of coming back to see me.

Maa, you were loving to all—the neighbours, the strangers, even those who hurt you. You never held grudges against anyone. You always used to say, "Forgive, beta; it gives peace." I try to do that, but it's difficult. The world is colder now. People

pass and come, but nobody provides the kind of love you provided.

Life without you is incomplete. Wherever I am, whoever I meet, there is a portion of me with you, the little boy who ran to your arms after school, who cried only when you were not present, who thought your lap could mend everything.

I struggle to stay strong, Maa. I struggle to smile, to move on, to live the way you would have wanted me to. But sometimes, the pain is just too much. I sob not because you're no longer here, but because I was blessed to have someone like you and that love was snatched away too early.

I pray for you every day. I ask Allah to illuminate your grave, to envelop you in mercy, to take Jannah as your eternal abode. I see you there, at peace, smiling, with angels all around. The idea sustains me.

I know we will see each other again, Maa. Perhaps not soon, but someday Insha'Allah in a place where there are no goodbyes, no suffering, no sorrow. Until that time comes, I will keep you alive in my prayers, my words, and my heart.

You were, and will always remain, my everything, my heart, my home, my reason to be good. I love you beyond time, beyond this world. You'll never be forgotten, Maa.

I love you forever. We will meet again in Jannah, my love.

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Ambedkar Or B.N. Rao? The True Story Of The Constitution



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

One of the most significant events in India's history was November 26, 1949, when the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India. This document is not merely a legal framework, but a living philosophy, a symbol of liberty, equality, and justice. But over time, questions have arisen as to who was the true architect of this Constitution? Was it solely the work of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, or did a silent but decisive figure like B.N. Rao play a greater role in it?

The story of Constitution-making doesn't begin with 1947. Its roots go much deeper, from the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 to the Government of India Act of 1935. These reforms first gave birth to the concept of federal government in India. It was during this period that a name emerges, Sir Binod Behari Narayan Rao, later known as B.N. Rao. Serving in high judicial and constitutional positions in the British administration, he developed a profound understanding of the Indian administrative structure.

By the time the Second Round Table Conference was held in the 1930s, the direction of self-government in India had become clear. After 1932, B.N. Rau was formally involved in the preliminary preparations for the Constitution. The Constitution Drafting Office was established under his leadership in Delhi. In 1944, he was appointed "Constitutional Adviser" and in 1946, "Principal Constitutional



Adviser." His task was to compile all the constitutional drafts, British laws, reports of provincial legislatures, and suggestions from Indian leaders and prepare a basic draft.

By the time the Constituent Assembly was formally announced on July 14, 1946, Rao had already collected numerous drafts and legal suggestions for the Constitution in his office. Consequently, he prepared the "First Draft" of the Constitution and submitted it to the Constituent Assembly on October 30, 1947. This draft later became the basis of the Indian Constitution.

Meanwhile, political events were rapidly changing. In 1946, elections were held for the Constituent Assembly. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, by then known as a renowned jurist and champion of Dalit rights, lost the election from Maharashtra. However, at the urging of Lord Wavell and later Mountbatten, Nehru and the Congress leadership recognized the need for a scholar like Ambedkar to be in the Constituent Assembly. Consequently, the Muslim League of Bengal allocated him a seat from its quota,

enabling him to enter the Constituent Assembly in July 1947.

On August 29, 1947, the Constituent Assembly formed a "Drafting Committee," with Ambedkar as its chairman. This committee's task was to review and finalize the draft prepared by B.N. Rao. Rao remained associated with the committee as an official advisor. This is where Ambedkar's role becomes crucial.

Dr. Ambedkar's greatest contribution was that he did not allow Rao's draft to remain a mere legal document—he imbued it with the spirit of social justice and human rights. The fundamental rights of the Constitution, from Articles 12 to 35, are a result of that vision. Provisions such as equality, liberty, the right against exploitation, religious freedom, and constitutional remedies are rooted in Ambedkar's social vision.

Although many fundamental ideas and institutional structures, such as the Supreme Court, High Courts, the federal structure, and the Directive Principles of State Policy, had already been discussed in the Constituent Assembly, Ambedkar adapted them to

the practical and Indian social structure. This is why the Constitution is called a "living document."

The roles of B.N. Rao and Ambedkar were complementary. Rao's approach was legal and structural, while Ambedkar's was social and reformist. Rao laid the foundation for the Constitution, while Ambedkar gave it its soul. This balance is what makes the Indian Constitution unique.

It is also true that the Objectives Resolution of the Constitution (later known as the Preamble) had already been passed by the Constituent Assembly in January 1947. It already contained the spirit of declaring India a "sovereign, democratic republic." Similarly, discussions on fundamental rights had begun in June 1947. But the credit for giving practical shape to these principles goes to the Drafting Committee, headed by Ambedkar.

When the Constitution came into effect after independence, the world saw how a diverse, multilingual, and multi-religious nation could remain united within a constitutional framework. This achievement wasn't the

work of a single individual—it was the work of all 299 members who deliberated in the Constituent Assembly for 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days. But it's also true that without B.N. Rao, that basic structure would not have existed, and without Ambedkar, that structure would have been soulless.

It often happens in history that political symbols overshadow intellectual contributions. Ambedkar was a people's leader, so naturally his name became more famous. Rao's contribution was silent, but deeply decisive. It's like an architect planning a building and someone else bringing it to life and decorating it. If either one is removed, the work remains incomplete.

The time has come for Indian society to view the story of the creation of its Constitution not merely through the lens of personality cult, but as an institutional and intellectual process. The Constitution is not the product of any one individual, but of India's collective consciousness—the consciousness that, after slavery, dreamed of democracy and transformed it into reality.

If we are citizens of independent India today, enjoying the rights of equality and freedom, we must pay tribute to all those who made this journey possible. B.N. Rao's profound legal knowledge, Dr. Ambedkar's social vision, Jawaharlal Nehru's political foresight, Sardar Patel's organizational ability—these are the roots of the mighty tree we call the Indian Constitution.

Therefore, the debate about "who is the real architect" is a narrow perspective. The correct question should be, "Who contributed what to our constitutional process?" History does justice when it looks at the whole truth, not just famous figures. Both B.N. Rao and Dr. Ambedkar are indispensable chapters in that history—one drafted the Constitution, the other gave it soul.

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United Nations Day

From The Ashes Of War To The Dream Of Peace



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Every year on October 24, the world observes United Nations Day, a moment to celebrate the founding of an institution born from the ashes of war and built upon the hope of lasting peace. The day serves as both a commemoration and a call to action, a reminder that while progress has been made, the pursuit of global harmony remains an ongoing mission.

Meaning and Purpose

United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945, the foundational treaty that gave birth to the United Nations (UN). This day symbolizes humanity's collective aspiration to prevent future wars, protect human rights, promote social progress, and achieve international cooperation.

It is more than a ceremonial occasion—it is a reaffirmation of shared values: peace, equality, justice, and human dignity. The UN stands as a global forum where nations, regardless of size or power, have a voice in shaping a better world.

Historical Background: The Birth of a Global Institution

The creation of the United Nations was a direct response to the devastation of the Second World War, which claimed over 60 million lives and shattered the moral and political order of the time.

In 1942, the term "United Nations" was first used in the Declaration by the United Nations, when 26 countries pledged to fight against the Axis powers.

After the war, world leaders recog-

nized the urgent need for a permanent international body to prevent future conflicts. On October 24, 1945, after the ratification of the Charter by the majority of signatories—including the five permanent members of the Security Council—the United Nations officially came into existence.

Since then, October 24 has been observed annually as United Nations Day, reminding humanity of its common destiny.

Duties and Responsibilities of the United Nations

The United Nations shoulders an immense range of global duties through its six principal organs—most notably the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, and International Court of Justice.

Its main responsibilities include:

- Maintaining international peace and security through diplomacy, peacekeeping, and conflict resolution.
- Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).
- Supporting sustainable development through initiatives like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Providing humanitarian aid during crises such as wars, natural disasters, and pandemics.
- Fostering international law and cooperation on global issues like climate change, disarmament, and health.

Effectiveness: Then, Now, and Ahead

In the early decades, the UN played a crucial role in decolonization, helping more than 80 nations achieve independence. Its peacekeeping missions helped defuse tensions in regions like the Middle East, Africa, and South-east Asia.

Today, its effectiveness remains mixed. The UN continues to serve as the world's most legitimate multilateral platform, addressing global challenges—from poverty to pandemics. Yet, it often struggles with bureau-



cracy, political polarization, and the veto power wielded by the five permanent members (P5) of the Security Council—USA, UK, France, Russia, and China—which sometimes paralyzes decision-making.

In the future, the UN is expected to adapt to emerging realities—digital governance, climate migration, AI ethics, and equitable global trade—while striving to remain a credible voice of moral and cooperative leadership.

Achievements

Over the decades, the United Nations has made remarkable contributions to global peace and human progress:

- Peacekeeping Operations: More than 70 peacekeeping missions have been deployed since 1948, often preventing conflicts from escalating.
- Human Rights: The establishment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Human Rights Council gave institutional voice to dignity and justice.

- Health and Welfare: The World Health Organization (WHO) eradicated smallpox and continues to lead global health responses.

- Education and Culture: Through UNESCO, the UN preserves world heritage and promotes literacy and cultural understanding.

- Sustainable Development Goals (2015–2030): A blueprint to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.
- Humanitarian Aid: Agencies like UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP continue to save millions of lives annually.

Failures and Challenges

Despite its noble mission, the UN has faced criticism and setbacks:

- Inaction in Conflicts: The inability to prevent genocides in Rwanda (1994) and Bosnia (1995), and current struggles in Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan, expose the UN's limitations.
- Inequality of Power: The veto system often undermines demo-

cratic decision-making.

- Bureaucratic Inefficiency: Overlapping agencies and slow processes weaken timely responses.
- Dependence on Funding: Financial constraints, often tied to political conditions, limit its autonomy.

These failures remind the global community that the UN is only as strong as the unity and sincerity of its member nations.

Promises and the Way Forward

The UN's promise lies in its continued ability to bring nations together in dialogue rather than conflict. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development embodies this commitment—addressing poverty, climate change, education, gender equality, and peace.

Moving forward, the world needs a reformed, more inclusive United Nations—one that represents the aspirations of developing nations and harnesses modern technology to ensure transparency and accountability.

Is Everything Right There?

Not yet—but the United Nations remains humanity's greatest hope for collective progress.

It may not be perfect, but it stands as a living symbol of our desire to cooperate rather than compete, to build rather than destroy.

On this United Nations Day, let us celebrate not only what has been achieved but also renew our commitment to the vision that inspired its creation—

a world united in peace, equality, and shared humanity.

Let us be global citizens — who not only seek success but also spread goodness.

Let us build bridges, not walls; bring solutions, not blame; and choose peace over pride.

Because ultimately, the United Nations is not just in New York.

It is within us — in our values, our empathy, and our shared humanity.

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'Pay Or I'll Defame You'

Man Held In Baramulla For Social Media Extortion

GMK NEWS NETWORK

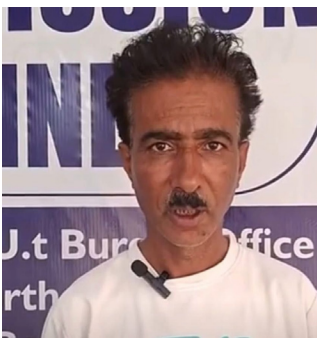
BARAMULLA: In a crack-down on social media-enabled crime, Baramulla Police Thursday arrested an individual who allegedly posed as a journalist to extort money from Municipal Council employees and other residents, threatening to publish defamatory content unless his demands were met.

Police in a statement

issued said, that, Baramulla Police have arrested Riyaz Ahmad Mugloo for his involvement in multiple cases of extortion, black-mail, and criminal intimidation, wherein he allegedly misused the title of a journalist to threaten and extort money from individuals and public officials through social media for unlawful financial gain.

"A complaint was received from employees of the

Municipal Council Baramulla alleging that the accused had extorted money from them and was demanding additional payment under the threat of publishing defamatory content," police said, adding that acting promptly, FIR No. 186/2025 under Sections 308(2), 351, and 356(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered at Police Station Baramulla, and investigation was initiated.



During the course of inves-

tigation, video evidence showing the accused accepting bribe money was seized by the investigating team. Digital devices and other incriminating materials have also been seized and are being examined to determine the extent and nature of the accused's online activities and possible involvement in other similar cases, police said.

It is pertinent to mention that a similar complaint had been received earlier at

Police Station Baramulla, wherein a citizen was allegedly threatened by the same individual with uploading videos of his construction work on social media to malign his image. On this complaint, a previous FIR was registered and is already under active investigation.

Following repeated allegations and verification of his activities, the media organization with which he was associated had already terminated

his services a few days ago. "Both cases are being investigated thoroughly to establish the full extent of the accused's criminal conduct and to identify any possible accomplices," police said, Baramulla Police reiterates its firm commitment to take strong action against elements involved in extortion, intimidation, and black-mail, and to ensure the protection of citizens from such illegal activities.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Congress, PDP

“Our strength may not be in numbers, but it lies in standing for what is right. We are guided by moral uprightness, not expediency,” he said.

Karra said that all six Congress legislators participated in the discussions and unanimously backed the move. “A formal whip has been issued to our MLAs to vote for the National Conference candidates in the Rajya Sabha elections,” he said.

He also praised NC candidate Shammi Oberoi for his positive role in maintaining dialogue between the two parties. “Mr. Shammi Oberoi’s approach helped turn negotiations into mutual understanding and differences into dialogue,” Karra said, adding that two formal communications addressed to NC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah would soon be made public.

Karra said the decision should be viewed as part of a larger political effort to safeguard Jammu and Kashmir’s plural character. “We ignored the past treatment from our ally for the greater cause of unity and the collective good of the people,” he said.

With Congress’s six votes secured, the NC-led alliance now appears poised to comfortably win three of the four Upper House seats when the voting takes place on Friday—(KNO)

CM Pays Tribute To

inevitable, whether made knowingly or unknowingly,” he observed.

The Chief Minister also suggested that the Assembly adopt a concise format for obituary references, similar to that of the Parliament. “We are politicians, and politics often finds its way into our speeches. It would be more appropriate to pay respects briefly without lengthy addresses,” he said.

Welcoming the suggestion, Speaker Abdul Raheem Rather said it would be duly considered. “As we remember them today, one day we too will be remembered. Let us learn from their lives and service,” the CM remarked.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah noted that all the leaders being remembered had dedicated themselves to public service, whether through elected office or party association. Referring to former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, he said Malik had a long public career, serving as an MLA, minister and Governor in various states.

Paying tribute to G. M. Shaheen, the Chief Minister described him as a courageous leader who continued to serve the people with determination even after surviving a major landmine blast.

The Chief Minister also expressed concern over the negligence of the concerned district administration for failing to inform the Assembly Secretariat about the demise of former Legislator Mohammad Sultan Pandithpori.

“You have already taken note of the lapse, and I am sure the Chief Secretary must have also acted on it. An explanation must be sought from the concerned officers,” he said.

Assembly Pays Glowing

former MLC, Ghulam Nabi Shaheen, former MLC, Ramesh Arora, former MLC, Sardar Mohammad Akhlaq Khan and former legislator Mohammad Sultan Pandithpori.

He reflected on the lives of the former Governor, former minister and other legislators of the House, noting that they had made significant contributions to the nation’s development, including that of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaker also urged legislators to make the best use of most of the limited time available so that the proceedings prove meaningful and beneficial to the people of Jammu and Kashmir

During the obituary reference, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; Leader of Opposition, Sunil Kumar Sharma; Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, MLA’s Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal,Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Dr Rameshwar singh, Mubarak Gul, Salman Ali Sagar, M.Y Tarigami, Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh, Pawan Gupta, Sajad Gani Lone, Aijaz Jan, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi, Nizamuddin Bhat, Vikram Randhawa, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Choudhary Moham-

mad Akram, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, Iftikhar Ahmed and Narinder Singh also paid tributes to the departed souls.

Legislators across party lines lauded the contributions of their former colleagues, recalling their dedication to public service and commitment to the welfare of the people.

The Speaker and members of the house also held two minute silence in their remembrance.

Regarding the proposed suggestion by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to follow parliamentary convention of House observing two minute silence in honour of departed souls during obituary references instead of long speeches, the Speaker said that the suggestion will be thought and looked into as the argument carries significant weight.

Session Too Short

He further stated that the opposition is prepared to raise public issues effectively during the limited session. “We are ready for it,” Sharma added.

On Rajya Sabha polls, he said that the BJP is fully confident that it will win—(KNO)

PSA Against MLA

with J&K like Satya Pal Malik. “The real proceedings of the House will start from Monday,” he said—(KNO)

BJP’s Chugh Says

senior party leaders including J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, Vice-President Dr Shehnaz Ganai, State Secretary Mudasir Wani, Prabhari Budgam Sheikh Bashir, District President Ghazi Rahulla, and senior leaders Dr Ali Mohd Mir, Ashraf Azad, Sameer Shah, Imtiaz Ahmed, and Er. Aziz Hussain.

Chugh urged the people to support BJP candidate Aga Syed Mohsin. He said, “This election is not just about one seat; it’s about ending dynastic misuse and giving Budgam a leader who stands with the people. The BJP is committed to transparent governance, real development, and dignity for every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir.”

Sat Sharma, while addressing the rally, said the BJP has made significant progress in Jammu and Kashmir through consistent effort and the trust of the people. “The acceptance of BJP has grown across regions because the party represents every section and community. Today, people look to BJP with hope because it stands for everyone,” he said.

He added, "The Congress and its allies exploited the nation for years, while the Modi government has built a corruption-free system that serves the poor and marginalised."

Ashok Koul said the BJP’s growing strength in Kashmir reflects the people’s faith in Prime Minister Modi’s vision. “The enthusiasm among the workers and people shows that J&K is ready for change. We are moving towards a new era of peace, progress, and empowerment,” he said.

Regarding the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, Chugh said the BJP is contesting on its own strength and expects to perform well—(KNO)

CS Calls For Early

called for strengthening the network of ASHA workers to facilitate home visits and ensure ‘at-home’ care and counseling, thereby improving adherence to treatment and recovery outcomes.

The Chief Secretary held an extensive interaction with Deputy Commissioners to review the availability, utilization, and functionality of diagnostic equipment, screening mechanisms, and treatment facilities across all districts. He urged the district administrations to optimise resources, ensure uninterrupted supply of medicines, and strengthen coordination between district health teams and field functionaries for timely service delivery.

He also called for annual analysis of TB-related deaths to determine underlying causes and implement corrective measures to prevent avoidable fatalities. He directed the Health Department to ensure integration of patient records

with the Sehat App and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) portal for seamless record management and monitoring.

The Chief Secretary further reviewed the action taken on directions issued in earlier meetings, emphasizing their strict and time-bound implementation to secure better outcomes under the Abhiyan.

Providing updates, Secretary H&ME, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, informed that significant progress has been achieved in strengthening TB surveillance, infrastructure, and early diagnostic systems. He stated that J&K has achieved 100% notification of TB cases, with 11,499 cases reported, while 92% of the vulnerable population has been screened placing the Union Territory among the best-performing regions in the country.

He added that all District TB Centres (DTCs) are adequately equipped to meet screening and treatment targets, and efforts are underway to ensure patient adoption by doctors and regular home visits by ASHA workers for sustained patient engagement.

Mission Director, NHM, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, informed that 22.09 lakh individuals from the vulnerable population have been screened for TB so far, with a presumptive testing ratio of 4,636 per lakh population in J&K. A total of 5.59 lakh people have been tested.

He further apprised that community support worth 3.5 crore has been extended to benefit 6,982 patients, while 7,891 patients are currently under treatment. Of these, 6,618 have been linked to Nikshay Mitras for additional nutritional and emotional support, with the total number of registered Mitras reaching 6,728 across J&K.

Reiterating the UT Administration’s commitment to eradicate TB, the Chief Secretary underscored that coordinated inter-departmental efforts, community participation, and optimal use of available resources are key to achieving the objectives of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

He emphasized that through sustained awareness, technological integration, and compassionate outreach by medical professionals, Jammu and Kashmir can emerge as a model TB-free region in the country.

‘Operation Sindoor’

This, he said, is proof that India has now become a trusted and capable partner in the global maritime economy.

Singh lauded the Indian Navy for enhancing its capabilities through indigenous equipment and emerging as the flag bearer of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

"In the last 10 years, nearly 67 per cent of the Navy's capital acquisition contracts have been with Indian industries. This proves that we are no longer dependent solely on imports," he said.

Singh said the Indian Navy is working on 194 innovation and indigenisation projects.

"Today, our Navy has become a pioneer in the country's self-reliance, innovation, and industrial development," he said—(KNO)

Unfortunate NC MLAs

There is a time, a day when you have to say good things about that member when there are obituary references. You are politicizing this day as well. It is unfortunate,” he said.

The remarks come just hours ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections, where political parties are mobilizing support among MLAs. (KNS).

Burning Of Leaves,

“This can trigger respiratory problems, especially among children, the elderly, and those already suffering from asthma or heart diseases.”

Besides irritating the eyes and throat, leaf smoke contains carbon monoxide and Benzo(a)pyrene, a compound linked to lung cancer, he said, adding that carbon monoxide reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood, making it particularly dangerous for vulnerable groups.

Dr Umar said the practice is not only harmful but also illegal. “Burning leaves in the open is against environmental regulations and Supreme Court guidelines,” he said. “People should instead compost the leaves or use urea sprays to accel-

erate decomposition and produce organic fertilizer.”

Despite these warnings, many residents say they are forced to continue burning leaves due to a lack of viable alternatives.

“We have no other option,” said Waqar Ahmed, an orchardist from Pulwama. “We need charcoal for our Kangris, and with frequent power cuts in winter, this is the only way to stay warm.”

Echoing similar concerns, Muhammad Abdullah, a resident of Pulwama, said that electricity remains unreliable during the harsh winter months. “Each year we face long power outages. Without Kangris, survival becomes difficult.”

Environmentalists say the combined smoke from thousands of small fires across the valley leads to a toxic blanket of pollution during the transition from autumn to winter.

“Open burning releases particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and greenhouse gases, all of which contribute to poor air quality and climate change,” said Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, an environmentalist. “Because of Kashmir’s topography, these pollutants often get trapped in the atmosphere due to temperature inversion, forming smog that lingers for days.”

Such fires, Dr Ahmad said, also harm soil health, destroying beneficial microorganisms and reducing fertility.

Experts and agricultural scientists have proposed several eco-friendly solutions. They suggested promoting sheep grazing in orchards, saying, “Sheep eat the fallen leaves and their droppings enrich the soil naturally. This reduces waste and adds nutrients back to the earth.”

They urged farmers to adopt composting, turning leaf litter into valuable organic manure instead of letting it go up in smoke.

Doctors across the valley have reported a spike in respiratory ailments during this period. Health officials said that children and elderly citizens are the most affected. “Every autumn and early winter, we see an increase in cases of breathing difficulties, coughing, and chest infections — much of which can be linked to the smoke from leaf burning,” they said.

Shabid Ahmed, a biology scholar at the University of Kashmir, believes awareness is the key. “Most people simply don’t know how harmful this practice is. The government must launch campaigns to educate farmers and provide support for eco-friendly disposal methods,” he said.

Experts agree that without stricter enforcement and public awareness, Kashmir’s picturesque autumn will continue to end in smoke — literally — posing a silent but deadly threat to the valley’s environment and people—(KNO)

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Russia calls US sanctions against oil companies 'counterproductive'

IAN S

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Ministry on Thursday called the US sanctions against two Russian oil companies "counterproductive" and stressed that Moscow would not face any issue due to the sanctions as it has "strong immunity" to Western sanctions.

Commenting on US Treasury Department's sanctions against Lukoil and Rosneft, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, "We consider this step to be exclusively counterproductive," Russia's leading Tass news agency reported.

Zakharova's statement comes after US President Donald Trump has imposed new sanctions on Russia,

targeting its two largest oil companies, in his latest bid to end the conflict in Ukraine. The US Treasury Department targeted Russian companies -- Rosneft and Lukoil, and their subsidiaries, warning that a future action could not be ruled out.

On dialogue with the US, Zakharova stated that Russia sees "no significant obstacles" in continuing the process initiated by Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump to agree on the political framework for a settlement in Ukraine and "to fill it with concrete results." She said that Russian Foreign Ministry is "open to continuing contacts" with the US State Department, Tass reported.



Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that purpose of these contacts is "to specify the parameters of the Russia-US dialogue on various aspects of bilateral relations and further joint steps in the Ukrainian settlement process."

While meeting NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte at the White House on Wednesday, Trump said he hoped that the "war will be settled."

"These are tremendous sanctions. These are very big against their two big oil companies. And we hope that they won't be on for long. We hope that the war will be settled," he added.

Trump also noted his previous conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin had

not led to any breakthroughs.

"Every time I speak with Vladimir, I have good conversations, and then they don't go anywhere. They just don't go anywhere. He's fighting a war. He's in a war. It's two very competent sides, and that's the way war is. You never know with war, but I would say that it's time to make a deal," he emphasised.

Trump, on Tuesday, cancelled his proposed meeting with Putin in Budapest in Hungary, saying he doesn't "want to have a wasted meeting".

"We cancelled the meeting with President Putin. It just didn't feel right to me. It didn't feel like we were going to get to the place we have to get. So, I cancelled it, but we'll do it in the future," he noted.

Mahabharata brought to life through music and dance in South Korea's Miryang

IAN S

SEOUL: Heralding a new chapter of friendship and cultural exchange between India and South Korea, the inland city of Miryang located in the northeastern Gyeongsangnam-do Province, hosted a memorable performance of India's iconic classical dance form Kathakali, on Thursday.

"For the first time, Miryang welcomed the timeless beauty of Kathakali at Yoga Culture Town on October 23. A vibrant spectacle of storytelling, rhythm, and expression — Kathakali, one of India's most iconic classical dance forms, brought the ancient epic of Mahabharata to life through music and dance," The Embassy of India in South Korea posted on X.

The Embassy extended its sincere appreciation to Miryang City and Yoga Culture Town for hosting the landmark performance.

Last week, the Indian Embassy hosted the inaugural event of the 11th edition of the annual Sarang Festival - The Festival of India in the Republic of Korea which featured a captivating Kathakali performance, renowned for



its elaborate costumes, vibrant makeup and expressive gestures.

Ambassador-designate Gourangalal Das felicitated the Kathakali troupe, which kept the audience spellbound with an hour-long repertoire entailing Duryodhanavadham from Mahabharata. Deputy Chief of Mission, Nishi Kant Singh and Mayor of Seodaemun-gu, Lee Sung-heon delivered brief welcome remarks. Kathakali troupe is led by renowned artist Sreenathan Sreenatha Mandiram.

The Sarang festival introduces facets of rich, diverse Indian culture,

including classical dance performances, music, films, art exhibitions, culinary experiences, etc. The event witnessed participation of around 400 guests, including friends of India in Korea, drawn from different spheres, diplomatic corps, media, cultural figures, etc.

On Wednesday, the Kathakali troupe held a performance at Busan Citizens Hall.

"The splendour of Kathakali met the vitality of Chhau dance at Busan Citizens Hall on October 22. Through every gesture and beat, the spirit of India met the warmth

of Korea — a celebration of friendship woven in art and movement. Heartfelt thanks to Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS) for joining hands with the Embassy of India to bring this unforgettable evening of cultural harmony to life," the Embassy posted on X.

During the Sarang Festival, audiences were seen grooving to the rhythms of India with captivating Kathakali performance and display of Indian musical instruments.

The festival was organised in Nami Island, one of South Korea's foremost tourist destinations.

EAM Jaishankar to represent PM Modi at East Asia Summit, announces MEA

IAN S

NEW DELHI/KUALA LUMPUR: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar will represent Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 20th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on October 27, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Thursday.

Prime Minister Modi will virtually attend the 22nd Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)- India Summit on October 26 at the invitation of Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ASEAN leaders will jointly review the progress in ASEAN-India relations and discuss initiatives for strengthening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Strengthening the relationship with ASEAN is a key pillar of our Act East Policy and our Indo-Pacific vision," read a statement issued by the MEA.

The East Asia Summit will provide an opportunity to deliberate on the



challenges to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and also exchange views on regional and international developments.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi stated that he is looking forward to virtually attending the 47th ASEAN-India Summit in Kuala Lumpur. He also congratulated Malaysia for assuming the chairmanship of the group.

PM Modi called his Malaysian counterpart, Anwar Ibrahim, on Thursday and confirmed that he will attend the summit virtually amid the Diwali festivities in India.

The 47th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits are scheduled to take place from October 26 to 28 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Had a warm conversation with my dear friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia. Congratulated him on Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship and conveyed best wishes for the success of upcoming Summits."

"Look forward to joining the ASEAN-India Summit virtually, and to further deepening of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," he added.

During the conversation, both leaders discussed deepening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation across various sectors.

Sharing details of the exchange, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said in a social media post, "Last night I received a phone call from my friend, former Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi, to discuss efforts to take the Malaysia-India relation-

ship to a more strategic and comprehensive level."

He emphasised the importance of the India-Malaysia partnership, adding, "India remains an important partner of Malaysia in the field of trade and investment, besides cooperation in the sectors of technology, education and security."

Anwar further announced that due to Diwali celebrations in India, Prime Minister Modi will participate in the ASEAN Summit virtually. "I respect that decision and extend my Deepavali greetings to him and the entire people of India," he said.

He reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to strengthening ties with India and enhancing ASEAN-India cooperation "towards a more peaceful and prosperous region."

As Malaysia prepares to host the landmark 47th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, the country is set to become the diplomatic capital of Southeast Asia for the duration of the event.

Indian Railways sets up multi-level war rooms to manage passenger rush: Ashwini Vaishnaw



IAN S

NEW DELHI: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday informed that Indian Railways has established special "war rooms" at the divisional, zonal, and board levels to manage heavy passenger congestion during the festive season effectively.

The Minister said that real-time decisions are being made through these war rooms to ensure smooth passenger movement. So far, 10,700 trains have been operated through IRCTC, while nearly 3,000 additional trains have been kept in reserve to address sudden spikes in passenger demand.

Explaining the system's

effectiveness, Vaishnaw cited recent examples where congestion was swiftly resolved.

On October 18, Udhna railway station in Surat witnessed a heavy passenger load, which was immediately eased after additional trains were deployed from nearby stations.

A similar situation in Ambala was managed by increasing the number of trains in and around Jalandhar.

The minister further informed that the number of destinations in Bihar has been expanded to 18 this year, compared to seven last year, to accommodate the rising travel demand ahead of the festive season.

A central command

war room has also been set up at Rail Bhavan in New Delhi to oversee and coordinate the overall network. This facility enables real-time monitoring of congestion, passenger grievances, and on-ground incidents.

According to Vaishnaw, over 80 war rooms are now operational across the Indian Railways system, making it a robust mechanism to ensure timely interventions and improved passenger experience.

Earlier, in an official statement, the Indian Railways said that it plans to run 1,500 special trains during the next five days with an average of 300 specials per day to cater to the surge in passengers ahead of Chhath festivities.

These special trains will be operated in addition to the regular train services that are already running to these destinations.

"As travel surges for the Chhath festival ahead, Indian Railways is going the extra mile to ensure that all travellers reach their destination safely and comfortably," the statement said.

This year, Indian Railways increased the number of special trains it ran during the Diwali season. According to the statement, in addition to regular trains, 4,493 special train trips—an average of 213 trips per day—were run over the past 21 days, assisting passengers in getting home safely for the Diwali celebrations.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, IRRIGATION CONSTRUCTION DIVISION PAMPORE

Fresh e -NIT No.10 of 2025-26

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) are invited by e-tendering mode on item rate basis from established and accredited companies / suppliers / firms for the following work, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

S.No.	Name of the work	Amount	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document	Class of Tender	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Tender Receiving Authority
1.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Non- contact type Radar water level sensor with Data logger and allied accessories including fabrication /construction of steel Tower and its foundation on River Jhelum at Baramullah	13.50 lacs	27000	1000	"C", "D"	90 Days	MH 4702	Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore

Position of Funds: Budgetary Provision for the year 2025-26
Major Head of Account: MH4702 (Code: IRRSS2021100114)
Position of AAA: Accorded

The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz: Cover 1st (Technical Cover) -Tender fee and Earnest Money details, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender.
Cover 2nd (Financial Cover) - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

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 website schedule of dates given hereunder:www.jktenders.gov.in

1.	Publishing date of NIT	23-10-2025 (6:00 PM)
2.	Bid Document Downloading Start Date	23-10-2025 (6:00 PM)
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	23-10-2025 (6:00 PM)
4.	Pre-bid meeting	30-10-2025 (11:00 AM)
5.	Last Date & Time for Uploading (Submission) of Bids	10-11-2025 (6:00 PM)
6.	Bid Validity Period	90 Day
7.	Deadline for submission of hard copies	15-11-2025 (4:00 PM)
8.	Submission of Additional Performance security.	The successful bidder has to provide 5% of advertised cost as performance security within 07 days after opening of financial bid which shall be released only after the completion of DLP period
9.	Date of opening of 1st cover	11-11-2025 (11:00 AM)

1. Bid documents can be downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from the date of document download start date.
2. The Bids shall be uploaded on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from the date of bid submission date to bid closing date.
3. The original copy of EMD, DD, and other documents as specified in tender document must reach the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore through registered/speed post/by hand prior to one day of opening of the 1st cover of the tender up to 1400 Hrs. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in delivery of the documents.
4. The complete bidding process will be online through <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
5. The Cover-I shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore (Tender Inviting Authority).
6. The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore, date of which shall be communicated separately.
a. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

No. PICD/2522-39
Dated:- 23-10-2025
DIPK-7442-25
DT: 23/10/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Construction Division
Pampore

