

# Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication

Rajnath Singh @rainnathsingh



Within ten years, our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has lifted 250 million people of this country out of poverty, and no such miraculous feat has ever been accomplished in any country in the world to date.

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ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

## CM Omar Reviews CDF Scheme, Announces Key Revisions



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday announced a series of significant reforms in the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme aimed at making it more flexible, transparent and responsive to local development needs in the constituencies.

Speaking during the Zero Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister said the government has intended to align the CDF guidelines with the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) to ensure uniformity and enable MLAs

to undertake a wider range of developmental works in their constituencies.

"The alignment with MPLADS will allow our Hon'ble Members to execute projects that bring tangible benefits to the people—just as MPs are able to do under their scheme," the Chief Minister said.

Under the revised guidelines, several key reforms have been introduced. The ceiling of ₹50 lakh earlier imposed on power development works has been withdrawn, allowing MLAs to recommend projects in this sector without any upper limit. Similarly, the ₹10 lakh cap on installation of solar energy light systems has been removed. ●P-06

## HM launches attack on Congress, says it protected Art-370 for 7-decades

Says PM Modi led regime removed provision, crushed terrorism in J&K

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Congress party accusing it of "protecting" Article 370 for seven decades in Jammu and Kashmir and allowing terrorism to flourish, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed the provision and crushed terrorism.

Speaking at election rallies in Darbhanga and Samastipur, Shah, accused the grand old party of sheltering the constitutional provision and linked its removal to a shift in the government's response to terrorism. "Earlier terrorists used to bleed India and go unpunished. Now, under Prime Minister Modi India enters into terrorists' homes and eliminates them," he added.

Shah said, "PM Modi initiated the tradition of giving a strong and befitting response to terrorism."

Shah said the govern-



ment had mounted several responses to cross-border threats, naming surgical strikes, air strikes and Operation Sindoor. "Earlier, terrorists would attack India and escape. Today, under PM Modi's rule, India conducts surgical strikes, air strikes, and Operation Sindoor to eliminate threats inside Pakistan," he said.

On the issue of the Popular Front of India, Shah said the previous government had not acted and that the PM Modi led government has taken measures. "The Popular Front of India (PFI) was formed here, but the then

Congress government had not banned it. PM Modi led regime banned the PFI in a single night. Police conducted raids at more than 100 locations, and put the entire PFI network behind bars," he said.

Shah said, "I promise that as long as there is even one BJP MP, we will not let a single PFI member out of jail."

Addressing voters in Begusarai, Shah raised the issue of illegal migration and said his party would act if elected. "Should Bangladeshi infiltrators be included in the Bihar price payer list?" he asked, and urged ●P-06

## 40 bunkers completed in Uri Border villages: Govt



REHAN QAYOOM

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has informed the Legislative Assembly that 40 individual bunkers have been completed so far in the border villages of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, while 162 more are expected to be completed within the next four weeks.

According to a reply to a starred question tabled by MLA Dr. Sajjad Shafi, the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, said that the construction of bunkers is primarily the prerogative of the Home Department. It says, however, out of 202 sanctioned individual ●P-06

## BJP Files MCC Violation Complaint Against CM Omar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has lodged a formal complaint with the Election Commission of India (ECI) against Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, accusing him of violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by announcing the establishment of temporary classes of a "National Law University" at Ompura in central Kashmir's Budgam district during the ongoing Assembly session.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Election Commissioner at Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi, the BJP candidate from Budgam alleged that the Chief Minister made a public announcement from the floor of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly regarding the setting up of temporary classes of the proposed law university at Ompura.

The complaint states that this announcement, made during the election period, ●P-06

## Over 15.5 lac fruit plants imported to JK in 2 years

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Minister for Agriculture Production Department Javid Ahmad Dar Wednesday said that a total of 15,51,863 fruit plants were imported by the empanelled agencies to Jammu and Kashmir during last two years.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Shabir Ahmad Kullay in the Legislative Assembly today.

He said that the majority of imports comprise apple varieties such as gala, red delicious, and their improved strains, besides apple plants, limited quantities of walnut plants, and cherry apple root-stock have also been imported.

The Minister said that the Leaf Minor pest has shown a surge in past two to three years due to recent climatic changes, besides there has been a notable resurgence and increased severity of aphid infestation in various parts of Kashmir valley.

He informed that the Department of Horticulture,

in collaboration with SKUAST, Kashmir, undertakes regular field surveillance, pest monitoring, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) intervention to effectively control and contain such incidences.

Javid Dar said that, besides, regular awareness and capacity-building programmes are also being conducted to sustain such community-based interventions.

He said that pests like leaf minor have a potential for a rapid horizontal spread and warrants integrated pest management approach with strategic incorporation of insecticide and bio control agents, including cultural practices with community participation.

Minister said that the community based IPM approach in the hot spots strategy is in place, including blanket cover in contiguous areas. Advisories in this regard are being provided by the Department of Horticulture in collaboration with SKUAST-K.

The Minister said that the incidence of pest ●P-06

## National Law University to start functioning in Kashmir by April: CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the National Law University (NLU) will start functioning in the valley from April next year.

The chief minister made these remarks while speaking on a private member resolution moved by Congress MLA from Bandipora, Nizam-Ud-Din Bhat.

The resolution was passed through a voice vote in the House.

The resolution adopted on Wednesday stated, "This House unanimously resolves to impress upon Government to initiate process of establishing the Jammu and Kashmir National Law University at Srinagar, without any further delay, as the funds earmarked for the first phase have already been provided."



Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah while speaking in favour of the resolution said, "there is nothing in the resolution we see the need to oppose".

Earlier, speaking in defence of the resolution, Bhat urged upon the government to pass the resolution as there is an urgent need for establishment of National Law University. He said that the proposed university would provide

a broader platform and greater opportunities to law aspirants.

Among those who spoke on the resolution were MLAs R S Pathania, Mir Saifullah, Sajad Shaheen, Narinder Singh Raina, Nazir Ahmad Khan, Shamim Firdous, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Altaf Ahmad Wani and Ajaz Ahmed Jan.

Several MLAs supported the resolution moved by Bhat urging that ●P-06

## CS reviews progress on BISAG-N Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of a series of technology-driven projects being implemented by various departments of the Jammu and Kashmir Government in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N).

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Principal Secretary, Home; Additional Director General of Police, CID; Commissioner Secretaries of Social Welfare and Industries & Commerce; Spl DG, BISAG-N; Secretary, Education; Secretary, Information Technology; Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha; Director, Employment; CEO, JaKeGA; SIO, NIC, and other senior officers.

The Chief Secretary commended the Department of Information Technology and



BISAG-N for the successful rollout of several citizen-centric and administrative digital platforms under the Digital J&K initiative.

He observed that projects being implemented in sectors such as Education, Agriculture, and Revenue are pivotal in ushering modern reforms and directed their timely completion to ensure that the envisaged outcomes are achieved within set timelines.

Highlighting the transformative potential of technology, Dulloo emphasized that leveraging AI and audio-visual content for personalized and localized learning would significantly enhance pupil learning outcomes. ●P-06

## Over 17.22 lakh kanals of land encroached in J&K: Govt



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that a total of over 17.22 lakh kanals and 15 marlas of land are under encroachment across the Union Territory, while 14.27 lakh kanals and 7.5 marlas have so far been retrieved.

In a written reply to a starred question tabled by MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania, the Revenue Department, said the encroachments include State, forest, custodian and JDA land.

According to the official reply, the encroached State/Kahcharai land is 17,22,249 kanals and

15 marlas. Out of this, 14,27,841 kanals and 7.5 marlas have been retrieved, while 2,99,407 kanals are yet to be retrieved. About forest land, 19,501.87 hectares are under encroachment as of 30 September 2025, according to the reply.

The department said that removal of ●P-06

## 40,000 houses sanctioned under PMAY-U across J&K: Govt



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that nearly 40,000 houses has been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) scheme across the Union Territory, of which 29,767 units have been completed, while 1,843 remain non-starters.

The Housing and Urban Development Department detailed the district-wise progress and fund utilisation under both PMAY (Urban) phases, before the Legislative Assembly. This was in response to a question by MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz.

About the construction status, the reply states that out of the 39,153 sanctioned houses, 13,995 are at roof level, 3,405 at lintel and

1,843 are yet to start construction.

Budgam leads the UT with 4,805 sanctioned houses, followed by Jammu (3,558), Kathua (2,456) and Pulwama (1,157). Districts with fewer houses include Kishtwar (554) and Shopian (477).

About the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme, the reply mentions: "Under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS), a total of 3,432 beneficiaries have been given subsidies worth rupees 70.82 crore." The highest disbursement was recorded in Poonch (Rs 18.08 crore), followed by Kupwara (Rs 12.75 crore) and Bandipora (Rs 12.25 crore).

About PMAY-U 2.0 sanctions, the reply states that under the second phase (PMAY-U 2.0), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has sanctioned 1,250 dwelling units, including 206 in Kupwara, 231 in Kishtwar and 119 in Anantnag.

Additionally, 1,272 flats have been approved ●P-06

## 2.81 Lakh Consumers Availed Power Amnesty Scheme in J&K: Govt



AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said that more than 2.8 lakh domestic power consumers across the Union Territory have benefited from the first electricity Amnesty Scheme, which offered a waiver on interest and surcharge accumulated up to March 31, 2022.

Responding to a question raised by legislator Tariq Hameed Karra, the Power Development Department (PDD) informed that the scheme had brought considerable financial relief to households, though there is currently no proposal to extend a similar amnesty to industrial ●P-06

**Central Bureau of Investigation, Government of India, Anti-Corruption Branch, Srinagar.**  
Near Guest House No. 6, Near MJA Model, MA Road, Srinagar-190001  
Phone/fax - 0194-2455514, email - hobacsgr@cbi.gov.in

**MESSAGE;**

DO NOT PAY BRIBE TO ANYONE, IF ANY OFFICER OR OFFICIAL OF ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICE DEMANDS BRIBE OR IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE CORRUPTION OR IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CORRUPTION, PLEASE MAKE A COMPLAINT TO DIG, ANTI-CORRUPTION BRANCH, CBI SRINAGAR NEAR MLA HOSTEL SRINAGAR PHONE NO'S (LAND LINE) 0194-2455514 AND (MOBILE NO.) 9419900977. YOU CAN ALSO SEND YOUR COMPLAINT ON EMAIL ID:- HOBACSGR@CBI.GOV.IN SAY NO TO CORRUPTION. BE A LEADER TO ERADICATE THE MENACE OF CORRUPTION. ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST. OF INFORMATION,

Sincerely,  
**(Raman Kumar Meena) IPS**  
DIG & Head of the branch,  
CBI ACB Srinagar

DIT-KM-10-25-25  
DT: 29/10/2025

# RDD&PR organises 3-Day Training on OSR to Empower Panchayats

Training is key to building Atma-Nirbhar Panchayats in J&K: Sham Lal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR), Jammu & Kashmir, successfully conducted a 3-day training cum workshop focused on Own Source Revenue (OSR).

The program was designed to equip Panchayat Account Assistants of the department and other functionaries with the essential knowledge and skills to unlock the financial potential of Halqa Panchayats.

The workshop delved deep into the critical importance of OSR, framing it as the lifeblood for ensuring the autonomy, sustainable development, and effective service delivery of Panchayats. A core component of the training was a detailed exposition of the legal framework provided by the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.

Director Panchayati Raj, J&K, Sham Lal, emphasized the transformative objective of the initiative. "This training is a cornerstone of our mission to build financially self-



reliant and Atma-Nirbhar Panchayats," he stated.

He said by empowering our grassroots functionaries with the knowledge to augment and strategically utilize their own revenue, we are fundamentally strengthening the third tier of governance and accelerating local development tailored to community needs.

Thematic experts from the State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC), District Panchayat Resource Centres (DPRC),

records, and the preparation of a separate, Gram Sabha-approved annual budget for OSR funds.

The curriculum also covered the stringent guidelines for incurring expenditure from OSR, emphasizing financial prudence, transparency, and the prohibition of using these funds for private assets or donations.

To inspire innovative thinking, the workshop showcased best practices and successful case studies from other Indian states, such as the remarkable OSR generation model of Mukundapur Patna Gram Panchayat in Odisha.

These examples highlighted diverse revenue streams, from waste-to-wealth initiatives and ecotourism to leasing Panchayat assets and imposing user charges for local services.

The training adopted a highly interactive methodology, moving beyond traditional lectures. It incorporated brainstorming sessions, sub-group discussions, guided reading, and group activities to foster a collaborative and practical learning environment.

## JKTPO organizes Export Awareness cum E-Commerce workshop at Pulwama



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) organized Export Awareness cum E-Commerce onboarding drive organized in collaboration with the District Administration Pulwama, ODOF Team, DPIIT, ECGE, APEDA and GeM.

The objective of the workshop was to empower local producers, MSMEs, artisans and SHGs, entrepreneurs by providing them with vital knowledge about export schemes and benefits of digital commerce.

At the outset of the programme, General Manager JKTPO, Shahid Mirza emphasized the pivotal role of JKTPO in organizing the district-level workshop aimed at promoting ODOF sellers and their facilitation on e-commerce platforms.

Pertinent to mention here, that Pulwama district, is renowned worldwide for its high-quality Kashmiri saffron, walnuts, honey, and handicrafts, which have been identified under the One District One Product (ODOP) and District as Export Hub (DEH) initiatives for focused export promotion.

The event aimed to connect local producers and artisans with national and international markets through digital platforms and targeted capacity-building sessions, fostering greater visibility and market access for Pulwama's signature products.

Expert agencies shared valuable knowledge on export schemes and procedures for exporting the products, documentation required therein, and global market opportunities.

Further, more than 100 MSMEs, farmers and entrepreneurs attended the workshop, witnessed enthusiastic participation and actively engaged in discussions and showed a keen interest for onboarding their products on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) platform.

This initiative is part of JKTPO's ongoing efforts to promote exports from all districts of Jammu & Kashmir under the District as Export Hub Scheme and the ODOF initiative.

Expert-led sessions covered a wide range of topics including the benefits of exports, branding local products for international markets, export financing options and credit risk insurance schemes to safeguard exporters.

## Anti-Corruption Bureau organizes Vigilance Awareness Program in Handwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Wednesday organized a special programme at the Environmental Hall, Handwara, as part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week being observed across the country.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers, officials, and members of the general public,



who collectively took the Integrity Pledge to uphold transparency and honesty in all spheres of life.

Addressing the gathering, ACD Kupwara, Arshad Qadir Bhat highlighted the importance of transparency, honesty, and ethical conduct in public service.

During the session, ACB officers elaborated on the ethics of public duties and the importance of performing responsibilities strictly in accordance with

established guidelines. They cautioned that any deviation or negligence in official duties may also amount to a form of corruption. The officers further stressed that incidents of corruption should be promptly reported to the ACB with genuine and verifiable information, while warning that action will be taken against those providing false or misleading complaints.

Speakers reiterated

that the fight against corruption is a collective responsibility and can only succeed when citizens and officials work hand in hand with integrity and accountability.

BDO Headquarters Kupwara, while speaking on the occasion, appreciated the efforts of the ACB and all stakeholders for spreading awareness and reaffirming commitment towards a corruption-free society.

extension, and innovation. He described Prof. Ahmad as a personality of humility, integrity, and deep religious values, whose vision and leadership remain an inspiration for the entire academic community in the University.

The participants collectively prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and for strengthening and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

## SKUAST-Kashmir condoles demise of its Founder Vice Chancellor

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) held a condolence meeting to express profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Prof. Allaiddin Ahmad, the Founder Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was presided over by Vice Chancellor,

of Prof. Ahmad. He conveyed that the thoughts and prayers of the entire SKUAST-K fraternity are with the bereaved family during this difficult time.

He highlighted the invaluable contributions of Prof. Ahmad in laying the foundation on which the university continues to grow in research,



extension, and innovation. He described Prof. Ahmad as a personality of humility, integrity, and deep religious values, whose vision and leadership remain an inspiration for the entire academic community in the University.

The participants collectively prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and for strengthening and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

## Mock Drill on EVMs conducted for POs ahead of Bye-Elections in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** In line with the directions of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the District Election Office Budgam Wednesday conducted an extensive Mock Drill on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for Presiding Officers (POs) as part of their ongoing training sessions ahead of the Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam.

The hands-on exercise was aimed at ensuring complete familiarity of Presiding Officers with the functioning, handling, and troubleshooting of EVMs and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) units before the poll day.

During the session, each Presiding Officer conducted an individual mock poll exercise by casting 100 votes and matching the VVPAT slips to verify accuracy and transparency of the voting process.



Certificates in the prescribed format were collected from all participating Presiding Officers upon successful completion of the mock drill. Furthermore, testimonials

of at least 50 Presiding Officers will be compiled and uploaded on the official website of the District Election Officer, Budgam, reflecting the district's commitment to conducting

free, fair, and transparent elections in line with ECI's mandate.

The mock drill was conducted under the supervision of Assistant Trainings Nodal Officer, Zahoor Ahmad, along with the team of Master Trainers and officials from the District Election Office Budgam.

It was informed that the EVMs used during the exercise were those already earmarked for training purposes and were green-tagged, signifying that they are exclusively meant for training and demonstration and not for actual polling.

The initiative underscores the District Election office's focus on ensuring that every polling official is well-trained, confident, and technically adept in managing EVMs and VVPATs for a seamless and transparent electoral process in Budgam.

## DC Kupwara inspects Transit Accommodations, Water Supply Schemes in Handwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse Wednesday took an extensive tour of Handwara sub division to assess the progress of various ongoing developmental projects in the area.

He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javaid Naseem Masoodi, Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic, Tehsildar Handwara, Executive Engineer R&B and other concerned officers.

During the tour, the DC visited Transit Migrant

accommodation at Nutnussa and took stock of the pace of work on different blocks of buildings. He was informed that out of 12 blocks approved, 9 blocks have been completed and work is undergoing on other 3 blocks which shall be completed by December 2025.

He also inspected Transit Accommodation Kulangam in which 15 out of 18 blocks have been completed.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner stressed upon the concerned officers to speed up the construction work and ensure completion of the projects within the stipulated time frame without compromising the quality.

Later, the DC inspected the Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Awathkul-Nutnussa work, which on commissioning will provide clean drinking water to around 600 households of Nutnussa-A and Nutnussa-B panchayats.

During the tour to Handwara, the DC paid a visit to high density Apple Nursery chogul, where he reviewed the ongoing activities of the department.



these key water supply projects so that the people get timely facilitated. He also inspected WSS Athrutoo which stands functional.

Additionally, the DC inspected the ongoing WSS project under AMRUT 2.0 for Handwara Town.

During the tour to Handwara, the DC paid a visit to high density Apple Nursery chogul, where he reviewed the ongoing activities of the department.

## District Admin Shopian holds Block Diwas at Imam Sahib



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** As part of the ongoing public outreach/grievance redressal programme under the Weekly Block Diwas initiative, the District Administration Shopian Wednesday organised Block Diwas at Block Headquarters Imam Sahib.

The event was presided over by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of senior citizens, youth and a large number of locals who raised various demands and grievances of public importance which includes, construction/repairs of lanes and drains, providing of portable water facility, installation of Transformers and Solar lights in uncovered areas, road connectivity, especially Hendow High School road, Aadhkhar Wasuwal link road, Tuldren DK pora road, desilting of Gund Nallah, etc.

During the proceedings, the ADDC listened to several public issues projected by the locals and directions were passed on the spot to the concerned departments for immediate action on various demands/grievances related to improvement of basic amenities, upgradation of roads, augmentation of drinking water supply, and strengthening of health and education infrastructure.

Speaking on occasion, the ADDC reiterated the commitment of the district administration towards ensuring time-bound redressal of public grievances and equitable development of all areas of the district.

The ADDC also urged the officers to maintain close coordination with the public to ensure effective implementation of all developmental projects and welfare schemes.

Officers from various departments including Revenue, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Health, R&B, Jal Shakti, KPDC, Poshan Abhiyaan and other line departments attended the event and briefed the public about different welfare and development schemes being implemented in their areas.

SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; CPO, Mukhtar Ahmad Dar; Tehsildar Imam sahib, LDM, BDO, ExEn R&B, Zainapora, AEEs, and other officers and officials participated in the block diwas programme.

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in  
NO: T-1/EEA/5877-82 | Dated: 28/10/2025

#### EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject: - 1. Repair and Renovation of AEE Residential Quarter pampore.  
2. UDDDC2526100009-(Repairment of Drain from House of Ajaz Ahmad Sofi to House of Mohammad Shafi Khan at Tanchibagh Pampore near Darul-Uloom Lane No 2).  
3. Providing Consultancy and other allied services with all working drawings (Digital Layout Plan, /BOQ,Structural , Architectural Design, ) incld. technical vetting of drawings from DIQC/NIT/IIT and Conducting of all required soil investigations for Construction of Truss and Hall of Eight class room Science Laboratory Block at GDC Pampore.

Reference: - 1. This office e-NIT NO. 57/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/4237-47 Dated 15-09-2025  
2. This office e-NIT NO. 66/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/4686-96 Dated 25-09-2025  
3. This office e-NIT NO. Fresh-74/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/4935-45 Dated 30/09/2025

The critical dates for the above noted NITs are hereby extended as under:

| 1 | Bid Submission End Date                           | 03-11-2025 upto 4.00P.M   |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| 2 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 04-11-2025 upto 12.00 P.M |

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/-  
Technical officer  
DIPK-7596-25  
DT: 29/10/2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division  
Awantipora

# Legislators raise several public issues during Zero Hour in J&K Assembly

Speaker urges members to maintain decorum and mutual respect during proceedings

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**  
**SRINAGAR:** The Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Wednesday urged legislators to exercise restraint and use measured language while participating in debates to uphold the sanctity of the House. He observed that members, as representatives of the people, must show mutual respect and maintain the decorum of the Assembly.  
 During the Zero Hour, several legislators raised pressing public issues, concerning their respective constituencies.  
 Shagun Parihar, MLA Kishtwar, highlighted that certain remote areas like Chatter to Oli continue to lack road access, forcing residents to carry patients in palkis. She also sought expeditious completion of ongoing road projects in her constituency.  
 Iftikhar Ahmad, MLA Rajouri, called for immediate disbursement of flood relief and reconstruction of damaged

infrastructure, besides urging for the timely conduct of DPCs in the Education Department for Jammu division.  
 Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, MLA Kulgam, emphasized that every citizen has the right to express concerns freely. He demanded that detainees and youth from J&K lodged in prisons outside the Union Territory be shifted back on humanitarian grounds to facilitate easier access for their families.  
 Surjit Singh Slathia, MLA Samba, demanded an inquiry into the alleged irregularities in allotment of land in Sainik Colony and sought return of money to ex-servicemen and their families who are yet to receive plots.  
 Mubarak Gul, MLA Eidgah, called for the introduction of regional languages up to the university level and establishment of hostels for Kashmiri students in Jammu.  
 Ali Mohammad Sagar, MLA Khanayar, reiterated the importance of strengthening demo-



cratic values, reminding members that they hold a sacred responsibility as policymakers and law-makers elected by the people.  
 Randhir Singh, MLA Kalakote-Sunderbani, flagged inadequate funding for PHE projects, shortage of doctors, and lack of SRTC bus services in his constituency.  
 Chaudhary Mohammad Akram, MLA Surankote, sought early completion of the Bufliaz-Surankote road and compensation for land donors whose pay-

ments remain pending.  
 Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, MLA Gulmarg, expressed concern over the growing menace of food adulteration in the Valley and urged the government to take strict measures against violators.

Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Chadoora, demanded rectification of land records to ensure actual owners are correctly reflected in revenue documents.  
 Sunil Bhardwaj, MLA Ramnagar, raised the issue of rehabilitation of flood-affected families, seeking allotment of an additional 5 marlas for cattle sheds. He also demanded the installation of mobile towers in Dudu-Basantgarh and appointment of permanent faculty at the Jammu University campus in Ramnagar.  
 Sajad Gani Lone, MLA Handwara, supported the demand for shifting J&K detainees from outside jails to the Union Territory.  
 Saifullah Mir, MLA Trehgam, voiced concern over the sale of frozen and rotten meat in the Valley and demanded a probe into the negligence of enforcement officers.  
 Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, MLA Suchetgarh, called for upgrading the Higher Secondary School at Deblehar into a Degree College and construct-

ing a sports stadium in his constituency.  
 Dr. Bharat Bhushan, MLA Kathua, sought restoration of flood-damaged roads and pipelines, along with provision of potable drinking water through tankers in affected areas.  
 Tanveer Sadiq, MLA Zadibal, demanded release of government advertisements to the local newspapers.  
 Salman Sagar, MLA Hazratbal, demanded augmentation of drinking water supply in his constituency where several areas face scarcity.  
 Javid Riyaz Bedar, MLA Pattan, pointed out delays in completion of ongoing PHE projects due to shortage of funds.  
 Shakti Raj Parihar, MLA Doda West, and Altaf Ahmad Wani, MLA Pahalgam, also highlighted issues related to damaged road infrastructure, rehabilitation of affected populations, and difficulties faced by locals in obtaining forest clearances for construction purposes.

## CM Omar releases 'Durr-e-Naayaab', Sakina Itoo's tribute to her father



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**  
**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday released 'Durr-e-Naayaab', a biography of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo, authored by his daughter and Minister in the Chief Minister's Council of Ministers, Sakina Itoo.  
 The book chronicles the life and contributions of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo, former Minister and Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly — who was assassinated on March 18, 1994, in Jammu.  
 Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah paid rich tributes to the late leader, describing him as "a brave, capable, honest and hardworking person who sacrificed his life for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."  
 "I had met Late Itoo Sahib, though I never had the opportunity to work with him," the Chief Minister said. "His personal-

ity, his way of working and his relationship with the people are evident from the love and respect seen in this hall today."  
 The Chief Minister recalled how Late Itoo remained steadfast to his principles and his party despite the turbulent times of militancy. "Many of our colleagues had to move to Jammu during those years, but even there, Itoo Sahib never sat idle. Being a lawyer, he used his legal knowledge to help those who were in distress. He continued serving the people till his last breath," Omar Abdullah said.  
 Paying heartfelt tribute, the Chief Minister said that while Wali Mohammad Itoo left an indelible mark through his selfless work, he also "did the community another great favour by giving us a brave daughter."  
 "A brave father gave a brave daughter to this community. If Itoo Sahib were alive today, he would

be proud of Sakina ji. In Noorabad, Kulgam, and across Jammu and Kashmir, her service and commitment stand as a living tribute to her father's ideals," he said.  
 Lauding Minister Sakina Itoo's literary accomplishment, Omar Abdullah said, "I always knew Sakina Ji as a capable MLA and an able minister, but today I discovered another dimension to her — that of a writer. Through this book, she has ensured that future generations know about the life and mission of a leader who dedicated himself to his people and his land."  
 The Chief Minister congratulated Minister Sakina Itoo and also on behalf of former Chief Minister and National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah, appreciating her effort to preserve the legacy of her father for posterity.  
 During the event, Speaker J&K Legislative Assem-

bly Abdul Rahim Rather, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, former Minister and MLA Khanayar Ali Mohammad Sagar, former Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly and MLA Eidgah Mubarak Gul, MLA Kulgam M. Yousuf Tarigami and former legislator Rattan Lal Gupta also spoke about the life, legacy and deep connection of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo with the common people.  
 The function was attended by Minister Javid Dar, Satish Sharma, newly elected Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament G.S. Oberoi, several MLAs, and a large number of people from Kulgam, Noorabad, D.H. Pora and adjoining areas, reflecting the enduring affection and respect for the martyred leader.  
 On the occasion, a short film was also played, depicting life of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo.

## 81 Gardens, Parks functional in Bahu Constituency: Govt

Around Rs. 265 lakhs allotted in last two years for their maintenance

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma Wednesday informed the house that 81 Gardens & Parks are functional in Bahu Constituency of Jammu.  
 The Minister said this while replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by Legislator, Ch. Vikram Randhawa on parks and gardens.  
 The Minister informed that out of 81 Gardens & Parks, functional in Bahu Constituency, 49 were transferred to Urban Local Bodies in line with the mandate of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act.  
 He further said that presently, 11 Gardens & Parks, falling under Bahu Constituency are being maintained by the Floriculture Department, for which an amount of Rs. 264.98 lakhs was allotted in last two years for their maintenance.  
 Legislators, Satish Kumar Sharma and Narinder Singh raised supplementary questions on the subject.  
 Department to modern-



ize existing Irrigation-cum-De-watering Schemes: Jal Shakti Minister  
 Says network of 112 canals, benefiting nearly 20,625 households in Sonawari Constituency  
 Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmad Rana today said that the government intends to augment and modernize the existing Irrigation-cum-De-watering Schemes in Jammu and Kashmir.  
 The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by legislator, Hilal Akbar Lone in the Legislative Assembly.  
 The Minister said that

the Department under augmenting and modernizing the existing Irrigation-cum-De-watering Schemes, four (04) schemes have already been completed under AIBP and District Capex in Sonawari Constituency.  
 Rana said that there is a network of 112 canals, comprising of approximately 245 km of main canals and 90 km of distributaries with a command area of about 21,416 acres, benefiting nearly 20,625 households in the Sonawari Constituency.  
 He further said that twenty-one works also have been executed during the last five years under PRI, DDC, and

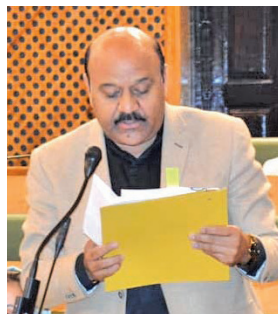
Capex grants for strengthening the existing irrigation infrastructure in the IFC Division Sumbal.  
 In addition to this, eight DPRs under NABARD and Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) Schemes have been prepared and are presently under examination for the modernization and augmentation of various Lift Irrigation and De-watering Schemes in the Sonawari Constituency.  
 He said that these projects aim to promote Agricultural Development and ensure the smooth provision of irrigation facilities to the beneficiaries.  
 However, the project "Construction of LIS Odina" — has been proposed for funding under RIDF-XXI (NABARD). The scheme is proposed to be executed in two stages, wherein water will be lifted from River Jhelum and discharged into Nallah Amir Khan. "This Nallah, which traverses several villages and supports multiple irrigation schemes, will ensure wider benefits to the farming community" the Minister added.

### Question Hour in LA

## Restoration works on Pahalgam-Aru road to be completed by Dec end: Dy CM

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary Wednesday said that the restoration work on Pahalgam-Aru road, at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.40 lakhs is in progress and will be completed by end of December 2025.  
 The Deputy CM said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Altaf Ahmad Wani in Legislative Assembly today.  
 He informed the house that the culvert on Pahalgam-Aru road was damaged due to flash floods on 26th August 2025 and the connectivity was promptly restored within two days by constructing a temporary diversion.  
 The Deputy CM further informed the house that around 60 different kinds of works have been



undertaken by the department for restoration of infrastructure damaged due to recent floods and landslides across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. He also informed the house that around 200 works under PMGSY have been undertaken for permanent restoration in Jammu division.  
 Criteria for relaxing criteria for establishing Anganwadi centres to be taken with Union Govern-

ment: Sakeena Itoo  
 Minister for Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo today said that the Government will take up the matter of relaxing criteria for establishing Anganwadi centres in far-flung areas with Union Government so that the necessary benefits also reach the vulnerable populations.  
 The Minister said this while replying to question raised by Legislator, Reyaz Ahmad Khan in Legislative Assembly today.  
 The Minister informed the house that the criteria for establishing new Anganwadi Centre is regulated by Union Ministry of Women and Child Welfare and for 400-800 souls-1 AWC, 800-1600 = 2 AWCs, 1600-2400 = 3 AWCs and thereafter a multiple of 800 is adopted.  
 She also informed the house that currently there

is no such proposal for establishment/opening of additional Anganwadi Centres in far flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir. She added that the matter with regard to opening of Anganwari centers in left out and far flung areas, that fulfill the criteria, shall be taken up with the GOI, Ministry of Women and Child Welfare.  
 Further, the Minister informed that all necessary steps/measures are being taken to ensure that the benefits of the schemes offered under Poshan 2.0 are reached to the target beneficiaries in all the areas including rural and inaccessible areas. She added that field functionaries have been asked to identify the vulnerable sections of the society so as to ensure inclusion of the left out targeted population.

## 18 projects approved to augment water scenario in Srinagar: Min Itoo

Says proactive steps being taken to improve pipeline network

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Government Wednesday said that 18 projects under AMRUT 2.0, including four in Shalteng constituency have been approved to augment the water scenario in Srinagar city.  
 It was informed by the Minister for Social Welfare,

Sakeena Itoo on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah in reply to a question raised by legislator Tariq Hameed Kara in the Legislative Assembly.  
 The Minister said that various measures are being taken to improve water supply scenario in Srinagar which include

construction of overhead tanks at multiple spots and augmentation by way of laying of new network of pipelines and extension of existing pipeline system.  
 He said in addition to this various steps are also being taken to improve efficiency of water treatment plants.

The Minister said that the old and damaged pipelines are regularly being replaced as and when required and the Department is taking proactive steps to improve the pipeline network across city.  
 Supplementary was raised by the Legislator Mubarak Gul.

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
 CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

**Subject:- Safe and smooth operation of school buses.**  
**CIRCULAR NO. 11 -JK(EDU) OF 2025**  
**DATED: 24 .10.2025**

It has been observed that incidents of road accidents involving school buses have occurred at some places in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, thereby raising serious concerns regarding the safety of students. To allay such concerns, and to ensure the safety of the students, the following instructions are hereby issued for strict compliance: -

- All Heads of Institutions, both Government and Private, shall ensure that every school bus engaged for transportation of students is fully compliant with the rules prescribed by the Transport Department.
- It shall further be ensured that one attendant is deployed in each school bus, in addition to the driver, to take proper care of students during boarding, travel, and de-boarding, and to handle any emergency situation that may arise. Every school bus shall be equipped with a first aid box, fire extinguisher, and emergency contact details.
- The drivers shall strictly adhere to the prescribed speed limits and operate the buses only on approved routes. Any instance of rash or negligent driving shall invite strict disciplinary and legal action. Heads of Institutions shall personally verify compliance and maintain records relating to drivers, attendants, vehicle fitness, and insurance particulars.

The Chief Education Officers shall ensure proper monitoring of these instructions. In case of any default, strict legal action shall be initiated against the violators.

No. Edu-Ptsh/62/2025-01(7694791) **DIPK-7602-25**  
 Dated 24.10.2025 **DT: 29 /10/2025**

Deputy Secretary to the Government  
 School Education Department

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

## A Blow To The Soul Of Kashmir's Linguistic Identity

**T**he remarks and decision of Hon'ble Speaker Ab. Rahim Rather in the Legislative Assembly—citing the non-availability of a translator as a reason to deny a member the right to speak in Kashmiri—are deeply disturbing and unacceptable in a place that takes pride in its linguistic and cultural heritage. This is the second time such an excuse has been made, and it reflects not just an administrative lapse, but a worrying disregard for the linguistic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

For a Speaker who himself has long been associated with the promotion of the Kashmiri language and literature, this stance comes as a rude shock. It undermines decades of efforts by writers, poets, and cultural activists who have fought to keep the Kashmiri language alive in the face of neglect and apathy. Denying Kashmiri a voice in the very temple of democracy—the Assembly—amounts to silencing the collective soul of the Valley.

The Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari Hajin, Kashmir's oldest literary organization, has rightly expressed anguish over this matter. Their concern is shared by countless lovers of Kashmiri language who view this as more than just a procedural lapse—it is symbolic of how far we have drifted from our roots.

The demand is simple and legitimate: appoint a translator without delay and allow members to speak in their mother tongue. Anything less would be an affront to the cultural dignity of the Kashmiri people and a violation of the spirit of inclusivity that the Assembly is meant to uphold.

It is now upon the Kashmiri-speaking legislators—cutting across party lines—to rise above political divides and ensure that the language of Lalla Ded, Habba Khatoon, and Mahjoor is given its rightful space in the legislature. Kashmiri deserves not mere tokenism but institutional respect.

The time has come to match words with action. The preservation of a language begins where it is spoken freely—especially in the house that represents the people.

# Vocational Education: A Pathway To Self-Reliance



HAROON RASHID BHAT

**E**ducation is not merely about acquiring degrees or theoretical knowledge; it is the foundation of human development that shapes intellect, morality, and economic self-reliance. While academic education sharpens our reasoning and ethical understanding, vocational education provides the practical skills necessary for employability and entrepreneurship. This form of education, traditionally known as Vocational Education (VE), and now also referred to as Vocational Education and Training (VET) or Career and Technical Education (CTE), prepares learners for occupations that require specialized practical knowledge and technical ability.

The importance of vocational education was recognized decades ago by the Kothari Commission (1964-66) which recommended linking education with the nation's economic needs. The Commission emphasized the "vocalionalisation of education" to produce a skilled workforce. However, limited financial resources and lack of infrastructural support delayed its implementation. In the 21st century, with rapid technological progress and a changing job market, the significance of skill-oriented education has become even more pronounced. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has brought vocational education into the mainstream of India's educational framework. It envisions that every learner should acquire at least one vocational skill before completing school.

The policy integrates academic and skill-based learning, offering students flexibility through multiple entry and exit options. A certificate is awarded after one year, a diploma after two years, and a degree after three years in vocational or professional courses. This progressive model encourages lifelong learning and recognizes the value of hands-on experience. To implement this



What is the importance of

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION?

vision, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) under the Ministry of Education has launched the Vocationalisation of School Education scheme as part of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, aligned with the objectives of the Skill India Mission. This initiative aims to integrate vocational education with general academics at the secondary and senior secondary levels.

It seeks to enhance employability and entrepreneurial skills, expose students to real work environments, and help them make informed career choices based on their interests and aptitude. Under this scheme, vocational courses compliant with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) are offered to students from Classes IX to XII. At the secondary level (Classes IX-X), vocational modules are introduced as additional subjects, while at the senior secondary level (Classes XI-XII), these courses become elective subjects. The curriculum includes both technical and employability skills such as communication, self-management, ICT, entrepreneurship, and environmental awareness. These skills are designed to develop well-rounded, confident, and job-ready individuals. Several reforms have been introduced under the revamped Samagra Shiksha scheme to strengthen vocational education. Its coverage has been expanded to include government-aided schools in addition to government institutions.

A Hub and Spoke Model allows students from nearby schools to use the training facilities of hub schools. Moreover, exposure to pre-vocational education at the upper primary level and the introduction of internships

and "bagless days" provide students with early exposure to the world of work. Despite these promising initiatives, the implementation of vocational education faces several challenges. The lack of trained instructors, inadequate infrastructure, and the societal perception that vocational streams are inferior to academic ones remain significant hurdles. The NEP 2020 seeks to overcome these challenges by addressing both demand and supply aspects. It calls for a proper skills gap analysis and mapping of local opportunities, ensuring that vocational courses correspond with the employment potential of specific regions. It also emphasizes the credit-based National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) introduced in 2013, aligning India's vocational standards with those of the International Labor Organization (ILO). The NEP 2020 also promotes collaboration between industries, NGOs, and civil society organizations to strengthen vocational training delivery. Importantly, it seeks to restore the dignity of labour, highlighting the importance of artisanship, craftsmanship, and technical vocations. This change in mindset is essential to eliminate the traditional social hierarchy that undervalues manual work.

The policy's broader vision focuses on providing \*holistic, multidisciplinary, and outcome-based education that nurtures 21st-century capacities such as critical thinking, creativity, and innovation. School internships, teacher training programmes, and the establishment of the National Council for Vocational Education and Training

(NCIVE) are important steps in achieving this vision. Moreover, the policy promotes technological innovation and student entrepreneurship, ensuring that learners not only find jobs but also create them. The UNESCO State of Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), titled Vocational Education First, offers valuable guidance for strengthening this sector.

It recommends placing learners and their aspirations at the center of vocational education, creating a supportive ecosystem for teachers and trainers, and expanding opportunities for up skilling, re-skilling, and lifelong learning. It also advocates inclusive access for women, differently abled persons, and marginalized communities while promoting digitalization and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). In essence, vocational education is not merely an academic alternative; it is a necessity for sustainable national growth. It transforms education from being purely knowledge-driven to being skill-oriented, linking learning with livelihoods. By empowering youth with employable skills, vocational education reduces dependency, fosters entrepreneurship, and strengthens the nation's economy. If implemented in its true spirit, the NEP 2020 vision of integrating skill development with general education will produce a generation of confident, skilled, and self-reliant citizens.

*The author is a teacher by Profession. He can be mailed at minamharoon123@gmail.com*

## Early Detection: Preventing Paralysis After Stroke



DR VIPUL GUPTA

**S**troke continues to be one of the leading causes of death and long-term disability in India. Despite growing awareness, thousands of people every year lose their lives or suffer from paralysis because medical help is not sought in time. The theme for World Stroke Day 2025, "Bringing stroke advocacy and awareness together to drive action on stroke," with the campaign "Every Minute Counts," serves as a powerful reminder that timely recognition and treatment of stroke can make the difference between complete recovery and lifelong disability.

A stroke occurs when the blood flow to a part of the brain is suddenly blocked, usually due to a clot (called an ischemic stroke), or when a blood vessel bursts, causing bleeding in the brain (called a haemorrhagic stroke). When this happens, brain cells begin to die within minutes, leading to loss of movement, speech, or vision depending on the area affected. The good news is that strokes are treatable and, more importantly, preventable—if detected early and managed quickly.

The easiest way to remember stroke symptoms is by using the acronym FAST:

• **F** – Face drooping: Ask the



person to smile. Is one side drooping?

• **A** – Arm weakness: Can the person raise both arms? Does one drift down?  
• **S** – Speech difficulty: Is the speech slurred or strange?  
• **T** – Time to call for help: If you notice any of these signs, call emergency services immediately.

These warning signs should never be ignored, even if they last for only a few minutes. Many patients experience what is called a "mini-stroke" or transient ischemic attack (TIA), which is a short episode caused by temporary blockage of blood flow. It is a major warning that a full-blown stroke could follow soon.

In recent years, there have been significant advances in the treatment of stroke. Earlier, the only effective treatment for an ischemic stroke was an injection of a clot-dissolving medicine called tPA (tissue

plasminogen activator), which must be given within 4.5 hours of symptom onset. However, now we also have a game-changing procedure called mechanical thrombectomy, which can remove the clot directly from the brain's artery using a special device inserted through a tiny catheter from the leg or wrist.

Every person's stroke recovery is different. Depending on your condition, your treatment team may include:

- Doctor trained in brain conditions, known as a neurologist.
- Rehabilitation doctor, known as a physiatrist.
- Rehabilitation nurse.
- Dietitian.
- Physical therapist.
- Occupational therapist.
- Recreational therapist.
- Speech pathologist.
- Social worker or case manager.
- Psychologist or psychia-

trist.

• **Chaplain.**

Mechanical thrombectomy has revolutionized stroke care by extending the treatment window up to 24 hours in selected cases and dramatically improving outcomes. Patients who might otherwise have been left paralyzed or speechless can now walk and talk again, often within days of the procedure. These interventions are available at advanced neurointervention centers like ours, where a 24x7 stroke team of neurologists, interventional neuroradiologists, and critical care experts ensure rapid and coordinated care.

Stroke stands as a significant global burden, impacting millions of lives annually and presenting a substantial challenge to healthcare systems worldwide. Statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO) reveal that stroke is a leading cause of mortality and

disability globally. Annually, approximately 13.7 million new cases of stroke are reported, making it a prevalent health issue across continents and demographics (1). The latest findings from the 2019 Global Burden of Disease (GBD) report revealed that stroke continues to hold its position as the second leading cause of mortality and the third leading cause of mortality and disability combined, measured in terms of disability-adjusted life-years lost (DALYs) worldwide.

While timely treatment is vital, prevention remains the best strategy. Controlling blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol; quitting smoking; maintaining a healthy diet; exercising regularly; and managing stress are proven ways to lower the risk of stroke.

Every minute counts when it comes to saving the brain. The faster a patient reaches a stroke-ready hospital, the higher the chance of recovery without permanent disability. As the 2025 World Stroke Day theme reminds us, raising awareness and advocating for better stroke care systems are collective responsibilities. Recognizing the signs, acting fast, and ensuring access to advanced treatments like mechanical thrombectomy can truly change lives.

Stroke is a medical emergency—but with awareness, timely action, and modern treatment, it is a battle that we can win.

*Author is Director - Neurointerventional Surgery, Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital, Mumbai*

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

■ One Programme, One Strategy

# Why Person-Centred Care Is Future Of Health



SHOBHA SHUKLA

The irony of current times is that despite the writing on the wall, "health is a fundamental human right," the ground reality cannot be farther from the truth. Over 70% people die of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) - a significant number of them are preventable. An infectious disease like TB, which is preventable and curable, continues to be the deadliest infectious disease worldwide - especially in the Global South. When HIV combination prevention should be a reality, along with treatment as prevention, over 630,000 people died of AIDS-related illnesses in 2024 - and 1.3 million were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2024 (hardly any change when compared with 2023 data). If every life matters, then why is A for accountability, missing from global health?

After funding cuts by the US earlier in 2025 and other nations, the situation has become grimmer. "Global health suffers from sudden funding cuts, compromised logistic supply, and massive reduction of the number of healthcare givers. The current time necessitates establishing the principle of achieving much more with much less by rapid enhancement of the quality of the services and healthcare," said Dr. Sugata Mukhopadhyay, a noted global health thought leader who has worked on improving person-centred healthcare with governments as well as other stakeholders in several countries of the Global South, notably India and Mozambique, as well as Indonesia, Nepal, and Thailand. He also consults for a range of organisations, including Humana People to People India (HPPPI), which has demonstrated groundbreaking results in reaching the unreached high-risk people with best of public TB services and social support.

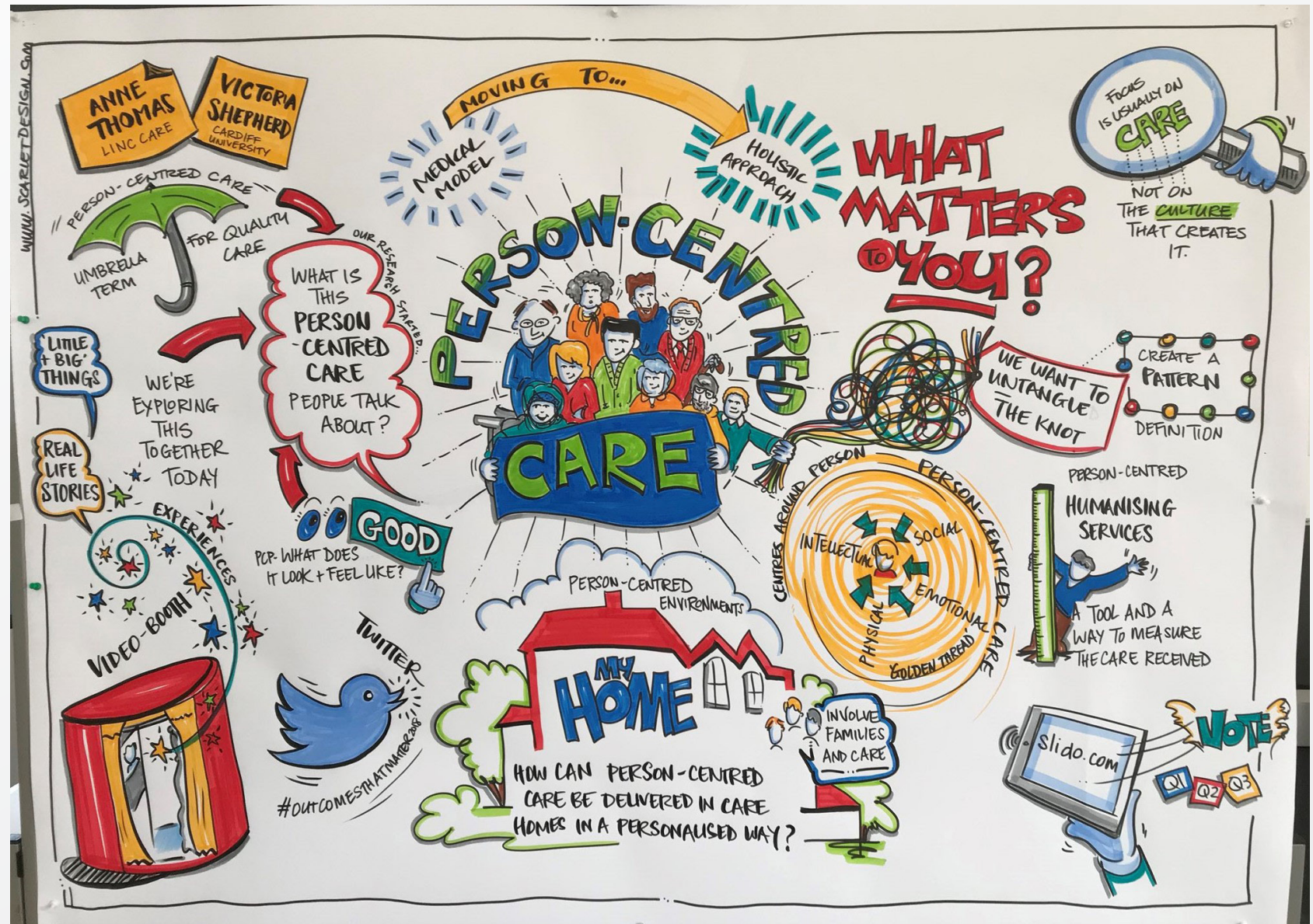
**Let us first serve those who are farthest behind**

Mahatma Gandhi's talisman is perhaps the best guiding light to reform the public health and social justice system: "I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test- 'Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away," said Gandhi ji.

Our health system must meet the needs of the poorest of the poor and weakest of the weak. And the same quality of service which goes to this person should be a benchmark for everyone else.

**Person-centred care helps us reach those currently unreached with equity and rights**

"Stronger engagement of the affected, infected and vulnerable community members in the decision-making process and promoting cost-effective



interventions which have both scalability and impact, are critical priorities," said Dr Sugata. He was speaking in an affiliated event of the world's largest HIV science conference (13th International AIDS Society - IAS - Conference on HIV Science or IAS 2025), and right after 10th Asia Pacific AIDS and Co-infections Conference (APACC 2025) concluded in Japan.

"Person-centred care is focused and organised around the health needs and expectations of people and communities - rather than just on the diseases. In a people-centred care, everyone is as important as anyone else. There is no hierarchy. Everyone - from patients to healthcare providers to families, social workers and community members - involved co-contribute to a coordinated effort in the delivery of healthcare and services," he said.

"Person-centric healthcare aims to replace unidirectional clinical approach with a health system and community partnership approach where the people, families and communities are no more regarded merely as the beneficiaries of the healthcare services but are equally engaged in the crucial decision-making processes regarding policies, overall disease management and continuum of care," said Dr Sugata Mukhopadhyay.

**Patient-centred care versus person-centred care**

"We also use a terminology like 'patient-centred healthcare' which is focused on the individuals seeking healthcare as patients. However, person-centred healthcare should be much beyond the patient-centred care. Patients should not be reduced to or defined by their 'diseases' or 'illnesses' and 'conditions.' They are persons

with individual preferences, needs and abilities who are full partners in their healthcare. They are people - not cases or merely a number - to count and analyse," rightly said Dr Sugata.

**Differentiated service delivery model**

"We also use a terminology like 'differentiated service delivery models' which are already in place in HIV programmes, and are also being initiated in TB. This model focusses on more customised treatment and care according to the specific health and non-health needs of the people as an integral part of client-centred approach to reflect the preferences, expectations and needs of the people while reducing unnecessary burden on the health system. The idea is not only to treat the health conditions but also help the clients to overcome their health-related dysfunction and disabilities that can enhance their cure and sustain good health thereafter," he added.

Should not we utilise person-centred healthcare to equally address the emotional and economic stability of the affected and infected people?

We must address stigma (as well as intersectional stigma), discrimination, violation of rights, gender equity, reduction of out-of-pocket expenditure, organise livelihood opportunities and social protection to maximise impact of the treatment outcomes in TB and HIV," said Dr Sugata Mukhopadhyay. "For example, the expected outcomes of a person-centred TB care is the successful completion of both curative and preventive treatment. Expected outcomes of a person-centred HIV care would be sustained viral suppression which can finally reduce new TB and HIV cases and premature mortality - and ensure

that undetectable equals untransmittable or #UequalsU is a reality for all with HIV."

**"It takes a village to raise a child"**

Dr Sugata commends the important and critical roles played by a number of stakeholders to reap benefits of person-centred care, such as those played by civil society and community-based partners, people who have survived TB and risen to champion the cause, people living with HIV, among others. "They are playing a critical role to achieve these goals. There should be sustained advocacy to mobilise the Ministry of Health of high-burden nations to adopt patient-friendly policies for integrated and holistic care and that should be a priority in the context of Global South."

**Dr Sugata's Triple Mantra**

"Instead of merely increasing collaboration between TB and HIV interventions, can we think about a merged and unified TB-HIV elimination programme rather than separated TB and HIV control programmes, because that is what the people need: one programme, one strategy, one implementation at the same healthcare settings by the same service providers," said Dr Mukhopadhyay. "Incidentally, it is the same group of poor and vulnerable people of HIV programmes who are also in the need of TB care and vice versa. So when clients are the same, why not the programmes?"

"Enhance the treatment of contacts of TB and HIV index-cases," he added. Index-case is the first identified case in a group of related cases of a particular infectious disease like TB or HIV. "We have to understand that a TB patient or a person living with HIV is part of a group of potential-affected

and -infected people whom we call 'close contacts.' The index cases of TB and HIV should be treated in tandem with all their possible contacts with the help of an appropriate curative and preventive treatment package and should be monitored together to ensure completion of the curative and preventive treatment. People should be empowered to demand screening and treatment of their partners as part of the person-centred care."

"More capacities for person-centred care for TB and HIV have to be built at the national (or sub-national) level. And there should be appropriate guidance and cross learning materials for strengthening person-centred care, both for providers and people (like operational manuals, lesson learnt documents, patient information materials, patient charters, stigma assessment tools, etc). Equally, we should encourage community members for self- and community-monitoring for the progresses of the health condition status of services and they should be also encouraged to utilise available digital applications for such monitoring," said Dr Mukhopadhyay.

Governments must ensure that people come before profit when it comes to accelerating progress towards promises enshrined in the domestic goals as well as in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs. Person-centred care is a critical cog-in-the-wheel to deliver on SDG-3, SDG-5 as well as other SDGs.

*Shobha Shukla was the Lead Discussant for SDG-3 at United Nations HLPF 2025. She can be mailed at bobbyramakant@gmail.com*



**Actress Isha Sharma Signed for Upcoming Bollywood Film 'Krishika'**



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmiri film director Tariq Bhat has officially announced that actress Isha Sharma, known for her lead role in the television serial Pashmina and several popular music videos, will play the lead role in his upcoming Bollywood film Krishika. The film Krishika focuses on the struggles and lives of Indian farmers. It

is produced by Sona Manwani, written by Anand Manwani, and directed by Tariq Bhat. According to their media advisor, the shooting of the film will commence in November 2025 in Indore and Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, with the remaining schedule planned in Jammu and Kashmir in 2026. The film is expected to hit theatres across India in 2026.

**Signboards in Urdu not removed in Civil Secretariat: Govt**

**REHAN QAYOUM**

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government said that signboards in Urdu have not been removed from the Civil Secretariat buildings in Jammu and Srinagar, asserting that trilingual nameplates in Urdu, English and Hindi are currently displayed across all official chambers.

"It is not a fact that signboards in Urdu have been removed from the entrance gates of the chambers in the Civil Secretariat. Trilingual signboards have been installed across all chambers," the government stated.

Responding to another query on whether the government proposes to reinstall Urdu boards to honour the official language of Jammu and Kashmir, the reply reads that there is no need for reinstallation. "Since Urdu continues to be displayed on the existing trilingual signboards along with English and Hindi, the question of reinstallation does not arise," the department added—(KNO)

**CS reviews different welfare measures taken for the migrant populations of J&K**

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today reviewed the progress of key milestones for welfare of the migrant population of J&K in a high-level meeting of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) here.

The meeting besides ACS, PWD and Principal Secretary DMRR&R was attended by Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Secretary, IT; Secretary, Law; Development Commissioner (Works); Relief Commissioner; CEO, ERA and other concerned officers.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP-2015) and measures for improving service delivery to Kashmiri Migrants, Jammu Migrants, and other Displaced Persons (DPs).

The Chief Secretary reviewed the physical and financial progress of Transit Accommodations under construction across the Kashmir Valley. Expressing concern over earlier delays, he directed the Department to ensure strict adherence to revised



timelines for all ongoing projects.

Against the target of 688 flats for the July-September 2025 quarter, 248 units have been completed. The meeting noted that 881 PM Package employees have been handed possession so far, with additional allotments to be made upon completion of critical allied infrastructure such as boundary walls, internal roads, security pickets, and basic amenities.

To optimize utilization, the Department is examining revised allotment criteria to ensure effective use of around 1,600 un-allocated flats at select transit sites. New projects are also being initiated, including a proposed migrant housing cluster at Village Dhar Dharchoon, Jammu, where feasibility studies are underway.

A major infrastructure milestone in the shape of

construction of the Community Hall at Mini Township Jagti, Jammu is progressing steadily and is expected to be completed by March 31, 2026.

The meeting finalized measures to enhance the welfare ecosystem for registered migrants. This includes integration of approximately 48,000 migrant ration cards with the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database through the SMART PDS Portal, operational since August 22, 2025. Over 4,500 cards have already been integrated, with special camps being organized to expedite the process.

For comprehensive enrollment under Ayushman Bharat Sehat Scheme, the Relief Organization has launched a Pan-India outreach initiative. A successful camp held in the Delhi NCR region (October

12-19) registered more than 400 new families, while further camps are planned in Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, and Chandigarh beginning October 24, 2025.

A Technical Appraisal Committee under the General Administration Department (GAD) has been constituted to vet the DPR for a new Integrated Online Services Portal. The platform will digitize migrant and DP records while offering end-to-end online services through the Relief Organisation.

Further, a feedback mechanism has been added to the RRCM Portal for migrants to record remarks on property grievance reports submitted by District Magistrates. The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, will conduct random verification of at least 50 grievances per district per month to ensure authenticity.

**Over 11,600 kg rotten meat seized, destroyed across J&K since July: Minister**

**WARIS FAYAZ**

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said that around 11,602 kilograms of suspected rotten and adulterated meat has been seized and destroyed since July 31, 2025, across several districts of the Union Territory.

In a written reply, health minister, said that to curb the import and sale of substandard, rotten, or illegal meat consignments, the department listed several measures.

"It has conducted 1,430 inspections of food business operators dealing with meat and meat products since July 2025. Public notices were also issued to those handling frozen raw meat in August 2025, warning them to follow food

safety norms," the minister said.

She further said that the department has also issued prohibition order, restricting manufacture, storage, transportation and sale of frozen or chilled meat not conforming to FSSAI standards.

"Special inspection and sampling drives have been launched across the Union Territory to ensure compliance. 102 improvement notices were issued, and 14 licenses of defaulting operators were suspended for violating the Food Safety and Standards Act," she said.

The minister said that the department is also running public awareness campaigns to promote the sale and consumption of hygienic and wholesome meat in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

**AAY beneficiaries getting addl 10 kg of free ration since April 2025: Govt**

**RAJA SYED RATHER**

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that it is providing an additional 10 kg of free ration per beneficiary to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households in the region since April 2025, while the proposal for providing 12 LPG cylinders to these families is still under consideration.

As per official documents, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), stated that the additional ration is being distributed in light of

Government Order No. 25-JK (FCS&CA) of 2025 dated April 2, 2025, with an aim to augment the monthly food requirements of AAY households having a family size of four or more members.

The department clarified that the distribution ensures the quantity "does not exceed 10 kg per beneficiary" under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

However, the provision of 12 LPG cylinders to AAY families "is a policy matter and is currently under consideration with the Government," the department added.

**FROM THE FRONT PAGE**

**CM Omar Reviews**

In the Public Health Engineering (PHE) sector, the purchase of mobile water tankers and provision of individual household connections have been made permissible. The new provisions also allow purchase of school vans and buses (both four and three wheelers), and under the health sector, MLAs can now recommend procurement of wheelchairs, tricycles, electric scooters and similar assistive devices.

Recognizing the hardship faced by families affected by natural calamities, the Chief Minister announced a one-time relaxation permitting utilization of up to ₹50 lakh from CDF for the construction and repair of houses for calamity-affected families during the current and next financial year (2025-26 and 2026-27).

In another major reform, the earlier clause requiring MLAs to utilize at least 80% of funds in a financial year—failing which next year's release was withheld—has been deleted to enhance operational flexibility.

The Chief Minister said the revised guidelines will align the CDF Scheme more closely with the MPLAD funds model while retaining certain permissible activities unique to the CDF that cater to local exigencies and social welfare.

He said that activities such as construction of temporary shelter sheds for people affected by natural calamities like earthquakes, floods, and droughts will continue to be permissible under the CDF. Similarly, financial assistance to old age homes, orphanages, and shelters for purchasing essential items like bedding, utensils, books, and uniforms—subject to a ceiling of ₹3 lakh—will also remain part of the scheme.

The Chief Minister added that youth clubs and sports organizations will be eligible for grants up to ₹3 lakh for purchasing sports equipment through government-recognized agencies.

He further said that MLAs from non-affected areas can recommend works or contribute funds up to ₹10 lakh in areas hit by natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, or droughts, either through the concerned Deputy Commissioners or to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund with specific stipulations for use in the affected regions.

The revised guidelines will also allow channeling up to ₹20 lakh under the CDF for the upgradation of houses belonging to tribal and BPL families. This assistance will be provided on a rolling basis, aligned with the provisions of PMAY, and governed by stringent verification and scrutiny norms to ensure transparency and accountability.

"These changes are intended to make the CDF scheme more inclusive, responsive and development-oriented, ensuring that our MLAs are empowered to directly address the needs of their people," Omar Abdullah added.

**HM launches attack**

voters to support BJP candidates to enable "the work of selecting and removing every infiltrator."

Shah also listed actions he associated with his party's agenda, including the abrogation of Article 370, the construction of the Ram Temple, and launch of schemes for the poor. "This work done by the Modi government is the identity of the BJP," he said. He asked

the crowd, "Is Kashmir part of India or not? And should Article 370 have been revoked or not?"—(KNO)

**40 bunkers completed**

bunkers or overhead protection trenches for border villages of Uri, 40 have been completed.

The department said that there is currently no proposal under consideration for the construction of additional bunkers in uncovered villages of the constituency.

It added that a four-week timeline has been fixed for the completion of the remaining 162 bunkers. The cost per bunker has been calculated at Rs 0.55 lakh, with Rs 0.51 lakh funded under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and rupees 0.04 lakh provided under MGNREGA for the labour component.

The reply further mentioned that the work is being carried out in convergence mode between SDRF and MGNREGA schemes—(KNO)

**BJP Files MCC**

was "clearly intended to influence the electorate of Budgam by projecting imminent developmental benefits in the constituency."

The BJP has cited four main grounds for the complaint: Violation of the Model Code of Conduct: The party said the MCC explicitly prohibits announcements or promises of new projects or benefits during the election period, terming Omar Abdullah's statement as "an inducement with clear electoral intent."

Undue Influence under Section 123(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951: The complaint argues that the statement amounts to a promise of benefit to electors, constituting a "corrupt practice" under the law.

Misuse of Official Platform: The announcement, according to the BJP, was made from within the Assembly, lending it an official tone and thereby compromising the neutrality of the electoral process.

Immediate Electoral Impact: The party claimed that the statement is rapidly circulating across media and social networks, potentially influencing voters and disturbing the level playing field in Budgam.

The BJP has urged the Election Commission to initiate an immediate inquiry into the matter and take appropriate action against the Chief Minister for the alleged violation of electoral norms.

**Over 15.5 lac**

outbreaks, such as leaf minor, necessitates coordinated interventions but large scale blanket spraying of insecticides through drones is not recommended by the research institutions due to environmental concerns and issues like fragmented land holdings, harm to non-target organisms, non-availability of ultra-low-volume formulation for the said pests. Horticulture Departments intend to follow advisories issued by SKUAS-K CITH and ICAR in the matter

Javid Dar said that the Department of Horticulture is taking concerted steps to strengthen the local nursery sector and promote the production of quality indig-

enous planting material under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP—Project 21) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP). The financial/subsidy support is being provided for the establishment of Mother Orchards, Rootstock Banks, and Plant Propagation Units across the districts to boost local plant nursery growers

He further informed that the Department of Horticulture has fixed district-wise targets for the promotion and supply of high-density planting material under various schemes, including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Revised Modified High-Density Plantation Scheme (RMHDPS), and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP). An area of 5500 Ha has been proposed to cover under High Density plantation in JKUT in 10 years, subject to availability of resources.

**National Law University**

the university be set up in Srinagar suggesting that Srinagar's central location and accessibility make it the most appropriate place for the university, ensuring greater benefit to students from all parts of the region.

MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone had earlier moved an amendment proposing that the university be established in his constituency. However, later he withdrew his proposal.

**CS reviews progress**

He further noted that timely forecasts, advisories, and capacity-building measures for farmers would contribute to improved productivity and higher income levels.

On the modernization of land records, he remarked that digitization of revenue records forms the cornerstone of broader reforms aimed at creating a transparent and efficient governance system across the UT.

Special DG, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur assured the Chief Secretary of complete technical and operational support in the development of all IT modules and applications. He called for enhanced synergy and regular coordination between the implementing departments and BISAG-N to expedite progress and remove bottlenecks in minimal time.

Secretary, Information Technology, Piyush Singla, briefed the meeting on the major achievements and progress made under various projects designed to enhance transparency, efficiency, and revenue realization.

Among the key initiatives reviewed were Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS). It was divulged that the Phase-I of the satellite imagery-based system has been successfully implemented to detect and prevent illegal mining activities. Over 114 automated triggers have been shared with field officers and district administrations for prompt verification through a dedicated mobile application, the meeting was apprised.

With respect to the J&K Tourism App with AI Chatbot. It was added that this mobile and web-based application was launched on September 16, 2025 and it provides comprehensive information on destinations, itineraries, and travel assistance. Powered by BISAG-N's AI resources, the Chatbot enhances visitor

experience and has already crossed 1,000 downloads.

About the AI-Based GST Fraud Detection module the meeting was informed that the High-priority analytical reports have been developed for the Finance Department, identifying potential tax evasion patterns such as GSTR mismatches, sequential invoicing, and discrepancies between invoice values and e-waybill generation.

A mobile application developed by BISAG-N facilitated a comprehensive survey of houseless and landless urban households. As of October 10, 2025, a total of 3.35 lakh households have been successfully surveyed across J&K completing the exercise in a minimum possible timeframe.

Moreover regarding the PM-Gati Shakti Integrations it was given out that dedicated mobile applications for Jal Shakti, PWD (R&B), and Industries & Commerce Departments are in final phases of completion, enabling efficient asset mapping of roads, bridges, water assets, and industrial estates with a Maker-Checker-Approver workflow.

Additionally a unified digital platform for the Power Department aims to provide real-time visibility across Generation, Transmission, and Distribution. Wireframes and dashboards for JKSPDC and DISCOMS (KPDCL & JPDCL) have been finalized, along with the API integration structure to make the functioning more efficient and transparent here.

It was further divulged that the Mission YUVA dashboard has been integrated with an ONDC-compliant seller app platform to promote youth entrepreneurship through a digital marketplace, with seller onboarding already in progress.

On the issue of digitalization of Education Department the meeting was apprised that multiple platforms are under development, including an Education Management Information System (EMIS) for teacher transfer, school inspection, and staff attendance; a Litigation Management System for case tracking; and a Student Attendance Mobile App to enhance accountability.

A centralized digital system is being developed to streamline the processing and approval of Recruitment Rules (RRs). The Departmental and Administrative Head Dashboard for monitoring proposals are already live with few additions to be done for its early completion.

Towards the modernization of Revenue Department it was revealed that the work is underway to upgrade the Revenue Department's systems, including database migration, Jamabandi visualization, and a Maker-Checker-Approver workflow. The Mutation module is also being enhanced for improved service delivery.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment to leveraging advanced digital tools and AI-based solutions for improved public service delivery.

He underlined that sustained collaboration between the IT Department and BISAG-N is vital to realizing the government's vision of an end to end digitization ensuring transparency, and accountability across J&K.

**Over 17.22 lakh**

encroachments is an ongoing process undertaken by the concerned field functionaries and that notices have been issued to

encroachers under provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

"Eviction drives are being conducted by the Forest Department, while proceedings against habitual land grabbers are being initiated with the help of police and civil administration," the reply stated.

As per the Forest Department's report, 242 encroachments were removed and 55 hectares of forest land were retrieved this year.

The reply further revealed that in the Rajouri district, four illegal mutations on state land were reported and cancelled, with the land escheated to the State. Two revenue officials — Mohd Aijaz (Patwari) and Farooq Ahmad (Patwari) — were penalised with the stoppage of two annual increments and the deduction of one month's salary—(KNO)

**40,000 houses sanctioned**

under the Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) vertical—60 EWS flats at Bhalwal, Jammu and 304 at Chakhar Sundli, and Udhampur, where verification of beneficiaries is underway.

On financial assistance, it states: "Under PMAY-U 1.0, the government has disbursed rupees 518.29 crore in financial aid, benefiting 35,923 beneficiaries so far." However, 3,230 beneficiaries are yet to receive their entitled assistance. Kathua district alone has received rupees 40.13 crore, followed by Jammu (Rs 36.74 crore) and Budgam (Rs 22.51 crore).

The reply added that funds for PMAY-U 2.0 have not yet been released by the Ministry and the first instalment will be disbursed only after construction begins—(KNO)

**2.81 Lakh Consumers**

consumers for clearing their electricity dues.

According to official figures, 1,64,729 consumers under the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and 1,17,237 consumers under the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) availed the benefits during the first phase. The department realized a total revenue of ?

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322 crore, including ?164 crore from JPDCL and ?158 crore from KPDCL.

Providing an update on the ongoing second phase of the Amnesty Scheme, launched on August 4, 2025, and open until March 31, 2026, officials said that 18,854 consumers have so far registered under the initiative — including 547 in Jammu and 18,307 in Kashmir.

The department clarified that the relief applies only to the interest and surcharge portions of the pending bills, while the principal amount remains payable by the consumers.

Officials also underlined that amnesty and power disconnections are handled separately. Disconnections occur only in cases of substantial arrears, and power supply is restored immediately after consumers make partial payments. "Any remaining dues are adjusted in subsequent billing cycles," the department noted. (KNS)

# 'Ask Modi ji to dance for votes, he will do it': Rahul Gandhi in Bihar

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** In a fiery address in Muzaffarpur, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, accusing them of betraying the youth and turning governance into political theatre.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said PM Modi's politics was driven by "drama and deception," citing the PM's recent symbolic "Yamuna bath" during Chhath Puja.

"There was no Yamuna ji there—just a pond filled with clean water for Modi ji. Clean water was brought through pipes for his photo-op while the real India bathes in polluted water," LoP Rahul Gandhi said.

"If you ask Modi ji to dance for your vote, he will do it. Try it—say, 'Modi ji, don't give speeches, just dance, and we'll vote for you.' He will dance," he said.

LoP Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP of opposing social justice and evading the caste census. "I asked the Prime Minister



in Parliament to conduct a caste census. He didn't utter a single word," he said.

"Wherever you look—in education, health, bureaucracy, or the judiciary—the BJP is against social justice. But caste census will happen, whether they like it or not."

Turning to Bihar's development, LoP Rahul Gandhi said the state's youth have been denied opportunities for decades under Nitish Kumar's rule.

"For 20 years, Nitish Kumar has run the government, but what has he done for education, health,

or jobs?" he asked, calling the JD(U)-BJP alliance a "remote-controlled government" run by Delhi.

He lamented Bihar's economic decline, attacking PM Modi's economic policies. "Look at your shirt, your phone—it says 'Made in China'. Modi destroyed small Indian businesses with demonetisation and GST. We want to see 'Made in Bihar'—phones, cameras, clothes, all made here to employ Bihar's youth," he declared.

Highlighting Bihar's historical glory, LoP Rahul Gandhi said his alliance

would revive education and restore Bihar's intellectual legacy.

"Nalanda University once connected India to the world. We will make Bihar an international education hub again," he said, promising the country's best university in Bihar within five years.

He further urged voters to back the Mahagathbandhan. "This is our guarantee—every caste, every religion, every community will have a voice in government. Bihar will no longer just build India's cities; it will build its own future."

# 'Bahari & Bohiragata': The changing political narrative

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav frequently raises the "Bahari" issue, which has a similarity with the "Bohiragata" rhetoric of his national ally Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee, where both the words translated into English mean "outsider".

Though emanating from different states, political cultures, and histories, both usages share tactical similarities, divergent intentions, and comparable risks for democratic debate and social cohesion.

For both leaders, any entity not endorsed by them and having the potential to upset their appeal in the respective playing fields is an outsider.

Tejashwi's reiterating the "Bahari versus bahari" slogan has been linked to his efforts to counter the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) narrative in Bihar. Particularly, when national leaders campaign in the state and their critics attempt to resurrect memories of past misgovernance with "jungle raj" associated with his party's legacy.

He has publicly positioned himself as a proud local confronting what he casts as an external political force trying to dominate Bihar's affairs.



For Mamata, there was a time when even Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was in the "outsider" category, when she had termed him as a seasonal bird flying into her state only to seek votes. The same classification she continues to spell for BJP leaders as well.

Meanwhile, her critics accuse her of covering the fact that the Trinamool itself has three Members of Parliament who can be equally considered as being from outside West Bengal.

However, according to the Representation of the People Act, 1951, any elector for a Parliamentary constituency in India is qualified to be chosen to represent any state or Union territory, or a specific seat, with certain exceptions for places like Assam, Lakshadweep, and Sikkim.

For state legislatures, the rules specify persons eligi-

ble for election as those who are electors in the state, with some added specifications for certain parts of the country. Thus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi represent constituencies other than their respective "home states".

The rhetoric is therefore aimed specifically at building a political narrative and guiding public perception. Mamata's "outsider" classification against central BJP leaders is also criticised by the BJP's state unit as her reaction to policies such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens.

The BJP, which has emerged as West Bengal's principal Opposition party, allege that moves initiated against real outsiders are being targeted by the Chief Minister since these may affect her vote banks.

But the Trinamool leadership frames such moves as threats to the state's cultural and political autonomy. This has also been the position of other political parties in the state opposed to the BJP.

Meanwhile, Tejashwi's rhetoric may have evolved from his resistance to the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar. Though yet to raise specific issues after the completion of the process, he has continued to reiterate the "Bahari" narrative.

With SIR being rolled out in West Bengal, and the state going to elections next year, chances are for a raised "Bohiragata" rhetoric. The leaders that Tejashwi and Mamata are referring to in their rhetoric are part of a party that is leading the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre, chosen by a majority mandate from the country's electors.

And, in Bihar and West Bengal, the NDA in the former state received about 45.5 per cent of the vote share, and the BJP in the latter got 38.7 per cent in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Some analysts dub the regional rhetoric as an attempt to shift focus from performance records to existential stakes, creating a mobilisational advantage during heated campaign periods.

# 'Dancing runs in Gandhi family': Giriraj Singh slams Rahul over his remarks against PM Modi

IAN S

**PATNA:** After Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an election rally in Muzaffarpur on Wednesday, Union Textile Minister hit back, saying he is insulting Sanatan Dharma and the faith of Hindus.

"Rahul Gandhi himself doesn't know whether he is a Parsi, Christian, or Hindu. Dancing runs in his family. His comments on Chhath and the Prime Minister are an insult to Sanatan Dharma and Hindus. The people of Bihar will give him a befitting reply," Giriraj Singh said.

Singh further warned that any attempt to mock religious beliefs would be met with strong public resistance.

"We will not tolerate the insult to Chhath and Sanatan Dharma. The people



the name of Chhath Puja, a revered festival of faith in Bihar.

"During Chhath, people were bathing in the polluted Yamuna, while Narendra Modi was bathing in a special swimming pool. He has nothing to do with Chhath or Bihar—he only cares about votes," he said.

LoP Rahul Gandhi further alleged that the BJP and the Nitish Kumar-led government had deceived the poor and backward people of Bihar.

"The double-engine government in Bihar must be overthrown. They have conspired to defraud the poor, the farmers, and the backward classes," he said.

The rally in Muzaffarpur saw large participation from Congress and RJD supporters as LoP Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav continued their joint campaign against the NDA ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections.

# India and Russia reaffirm commitment to elevate defence cooperation

IAN S



**NEW DELHI/MOSCOW:** India and Russia held the fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Military Cooperation of Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation in New Delhi on Wednesday, with the discussions focusing on strengthening the ongoing defence engagements between two nations and new initiatives under the ambit of the existing bilateral cooperation mechanism.

The meeting held at the capital's Manekshaw Centre was co-chaired by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit and Head of the Russian delegation, Deputy Chief of Main Operations, Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Russia Lt. General Dylevsky Igor Nikolayevich.

The fifth meeting of the Working Group reviewed current defence cooperation plans and explored new avenues for collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to elevating the India-Russia Defence Cooperation, paving the way for focused engagements, enhanced training exchanges and new initiatives under the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

The Working Group Meeting is a forum created to progress defence cooperation between India and Russia through regular interaction between Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff and Main Directorate of International Military Cooperation of Russia's Ministry of Defence.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with the Russian President Vladimir Putin as the two leaders reviewed the progress in the bilateral agenda, and reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia.

During the telephonic conversation, PM Modi congratulated Putin on his 73rd birthday and conveyed best wishes for his good health and success in all his endeavours. PM Modi conveyed that he is looking forward to welcoming President Putin to India, in December for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit.

PM Modi had travelled to Russia to attend 22nd India-Russia Summit held in Moscow on July 8-9, 2024. Following the Summit, a Joint Statement titled "India-Russia: Enduring and Expanding Partnership" was released.

In September, both leaders had met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin. During their meeting, they had reaffirmed their support to further strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between both countries and also discussed regional and global issues, including the latest developments concerning Ukraine.

# Tejashwi Yadav's job promise misleading: Rajnath Singh

IAN S



**PATNA:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav, accusing them of misleading the people of Bihar with false promises.

Addressing a massive election rally on the premises of Ramsharan Lakshminarayan College in Nimeethi, under the Baheri block of Hayaghat Assembly constituency of Darbhanga district, Singh campaigned in support of BJP candidate Ramchandra Prasad.

Taking a jibe at Tejashwi Yadav's promise of providing a job to every household, Singh said, "Where will the money come from? Don't do politics by lying. It will cost Rs 12 lakh crore, while Bihar's total budget is only Rs 3.17 lakh crore. You have your whole life to do politics, but don't throw dust in the eyes of the public."

He further said, "It is impossible to provide jobs to 2 crore 80 lakh people. They want to gain power by deceiving the people.

Our government may not be able to give a job to every household, but it will surely connect every home with work and employment opportunities."

The Defence Minister also attacked Lalu Prasad Yadav's past tenure, alleging that Bihar had suffered from "jungle raj" during his rule.

Rajnath Singh also spoke about national security, reiterating India's firm stand against terrorism.

"After the Pulwama and Pahalgam terrorist attacks, our country gave a befitting reply to the enemies. Our army eliminated countless terrorists, but not a single innocent Pakistani life was taken. Our government follows the politics of justice and humanity—no casteism," he said.

Highlighting the achievements of the NDA government, Singh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar have together placed Bihar on the path of development.

# Delegation of Indian MPs participates in Asian Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Moscow

IAN S

**MOSCOW:** A three-member delegation of Indian MPs - including Rajkumar Chahar, C N Manjunath and V Sivadasan - attended the meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in Moscow on Wednesday.

In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in Russia stated, "An Indian delegation, including Honourable Members of Parliament Shri Rajkumar Chahar and Dr CN Manjunath from the Lok Sabha and Dr V Sivadasan from the Rajya Sabha participated in the meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held today in Moscow."

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was born in 2006 at the Seventh Session of the Association of Asian Parliamentary for Peace (AAPP) which was set up in 1999. The APA Charter



and Tehran Declaration lay out a vision and framework of cooperation among Asian countries, towards an Asian Integration.

APA provides a forum to parliamentarians for exchanging views, ideas and experiences for creating common strategies for promotion of peace in Asia and the world, fostering cooperation and coordination among parliamentarians in Asia for promotion of peace and respect for human rights and humanitarian principles and providing a forum for parliamentarians and civil society organisations for promotion of peace.

The APA lists its aims as promoting freedom, social

justice, peace, security and friendship to meet the objectives of the Assembly; sharing access to up-to-date knowledge in various areas and promoting such knowledge among the members in order to promote the progress and equality of its members; exploiting cooperatively vast human and natural resources and securing the interests of all members and recognizing their permanent authority on their natural resources; providing welfare facilities for the health and nutrition of its members' population; and contributing to integration among the Asian nations in order to utilize the potentialities of the region.

# Agreement to build new cross-border power lines significant milestone in Nepal-India electricity trade

IAN S

**KATHMANDU:** Two government-owned entities of Nepal and India on Wednesday signed a Joint Venture (JV) and Shareholders' Agreement for the construction of two high-capacity cross-border transmission lines, marking another step forward in joint power infrastructure development.

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and the Power Grid Corporation of

India Limited (PGCIL) signed the agreements in New Delhi to construct 400 kV cross-border transmission lines connecting Inaruwa (Nepal)-Purnia (India) and Lamki (Dododhara, Nepal)-Bareilly (India). Nepal's Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation said in a statement on Wednesday.

As both countries have been making efforts to strengthen energy cooperation in recent years, the lack of adequate high-

capacity cross-border transmission infrastructure has remained a major bottleneck. To address this issue, Nepal and India have agreed to develop several new high-capacity transmission lines, and these two projects are part of that broader plan.

Subash Kumar Mishra, Deputy Executive Director of the NEA, and Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Chief Operating Officer (International Business) at PGCIL, signed the agreement.

# انتقال پر ملال

یہ خبر انتہاء رنج اور دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ غلام محمد ڈار ولد مرحوم محمد جمال ڈار ساکنہ ہاکہ بازار حول سرینگر اس دار فانی سے 29-10-25 کو رحلت کر گئے ہیں مرحوم کی اجزاء فاتحہ خوانی مورخہ 31 اکتوبر 2025 بروز جمعہ المبارک کو بعد دوپہر 2:30 بجے آبائی مقبرہ پر انجام پریوگی۔

سوگواران  
ظہور احمد ڈار 8899567199  
ناصر احمد خان 6005805208

# Sakeena Itoo addresses Conference on '21st Century Skills in Education' at GCOE

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday emphasized on the urgent need of aligning education system with the rapid technological transformations shaping the society.

The Minister made these remarks while delivering the inaugural address at the Two Days National Conference on 'Integrating AI and 21st Century Skills in Education' at Government College of Education (GCOE/IASE) here today.

The Conference is being organised by Innovation and Action Research Cell/ IQAC of the GCOE/IASE in collaboration with School Education Department, Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantamanu; Vice Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin; Head, ICT and Project Management, NIEPA, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, Prof. K. Srinivas; Director General School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Director Colleges, Dr. Sheikh Aijaz; Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges and Prin-



icipal, GCOE/IASE, Dr. Seema Naz; faculty members of college, researchers and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

In her inaugural address, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the urgent need to align the education system with the rapid technological transformation shaping the world. She highlighted that Artificial Intelligence is not just a subject of study, but a vital tool to enhance creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving among learners.

"Education today must prepare our students not only for the jobs of the future but also for the challenges of the present. Integrating AI and 21st-century skills will empow-

er our youth to innovate responsibly and contribute meaningfully to a knowledge-driven economy", she stated.

She also lauded the institution's efforts in organizing such a forward-looking conference.

The Minister also released the "IASE Mentorbot", an AI-based educational chatbot on the occasion, designed to support learners and teachers.

While delivering keynote address, Prof. K. Srinivas emphasized the transformative role of AI in modern education systems and the necessity for educators to embrace digital innovation.

Additional Chief Secretary in his address, emphasized on policy-level perspectives and adminis-

trative efforts to integrate AI into educational planning while as VC, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin appreciated the initiative and encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration to meet NEP-2020 goals.

Director General, School Education Kashmir underlined the department's commitment to enhancing digital competency among teachers and students alike while as Director Colleges in his address highlighted the growing significance of AI-driven pedagogies in Higher Education.

In her welcome address, Principal GCOE, Dr. Seema Naz highlighted the importance of integrating artificial intelligence and 21st-century skills in education to make learning more dynamic and future-ready.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Minister also inspected stalls at AI/Robotics Exhibition, exploring innovative AI-based educational tools and projects displayed by students and researchers.

Earlier, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated newly constructed Science Laboratory Block of Government College of Education, Srinagar.

# CS assesses preparations for 150 years of 'Vande Mataram' commemoration across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the Culture Department for the commemoration of 150 Years of National Pride - Vande Mataram, the National Song of India, being celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir as part of the nationwide campaign led by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Secretary, Education Department, and other senior officers.

All Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of organizing the celebration in a befitting manner to reflect the national spirit and cultural pride associated with Vande Mataram. He directed all departments to ensure meticulous preparations for the smooth conduct of the first phase of celebrations commencing on 7th November 2025, and to lay equal emphasis on subsequent phases extending through 2026.

The Chief Secretary underlined the need for large-scale public participation, especially from students and youth, to instill a deep sense of patriotism and national pride. He also instructed departments to undertake wide-ranging



awareness campaigns to ensure mass participation and to designate nodal officers for effective coordination, implementation, and timely uploading of reports, photographs, and videos on the national portal.

Presenting the national framework, Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, informed the meeting that the commemoration marks 150 years since the composition of Vande Mataram by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on 7th November 1875, later published in his celebrated novel Anandamath in 1882.

He added that the nationwide programme will be inaugurated at Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi, on 7th November 2025, featuring simultaneous mass singing of Vande Mataram across all States and Union Territories, along with the release of a commemorative stamp, coin, and a film on Vande Mataram.

A detailed action plan was presented for Jammu and Kashmir, outlining a series of activities and events to be held across all districts, tehsils, educational institutions, and public spaces. It was divulged that large-scale celebrations will com-

mence on 7th November 2025, covering schools, colleges, and public institutions throughout the UT.

District and tehsil-level programmes will be conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioners, while year-long activities will be organized in collaboration with Central Government departments.

Moreover the meeting was apprised that the Department of Culture will serve as the nodal department, with the Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) acting as the J&K Nodal Officer. Additional Deputy Commissioners will function as District Nodal Officers, Directors of Colleges and School Education (Jammu/Kashmir) as Education Nodal Officers, and the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) will handle publicity and media outreach.

Elaborating further it was given out that the celebrations will unfold in four distinct phases over one year. Phase I from 7th to 14th November 2025; Phase II from 19th to 26th January 2026 (around Republic Day); Phase III from 7th to 15th August 2026 (along with Har Ghar Tiranga); and Phase IV from 1st to

7th November 2026, marking the closing week.

The opening phase, was said to feature a grand celebration at the Convention Centre, Jammu, on 7th November 2025, organized by the Department of Culture. District and tehsil-level events will include mass singing, special assemblies, exhibitions, essay and quiz competitions, debates, and cultural programmes in schools, colleges, and public venues. Police and CAPF bands were also said to perform patriotic music and Vande Mataram renditions at public places. Screenings, concerts, and cultural evenings showcasing patriotic themes will also be held, while all nodal officers will document and upload photographs and videos of activities on the official campaign portal.

The campaign is going to continue through 2026 with a vibrant series of cultural and public initiatives. These include incorporating Vande Mataram themes in Republic Day and Independence Day events, organizing torch relays and youth marathons across districts, and conducting plantation drives titled Salute to Mother Earth.

Extensive publicity campaigns will be carried out too through print, electronic, and social media, complemented by cultural evenings, exhibitions, and murals celebrating national unity. Additionally, "Vande Mataram Audio Booths" will be established under PPP mode to enable citizens to record and upload their renditions of Vande Mataram to the campaign portal all over the country.

# Satish Sharma lays foundation stone for key Dev projects in Tangmarg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**TANGMARG:** Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Transport, Information Technology, and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, Wednesday laid foundation stone for several key development projects during his visit to Tangmarg.

At Kunzer Cricket Ground, the Minister inaugurated new construction works aimed at expanding sports infrastructure in the region. He also laid foundation stones for various developmental initiatives in Sarai and adjoining areas of Tangmarg.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Gulmarg, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, along with senior officers of district administration and concerned departments.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that the government,



under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is fully committed to strengthen sports infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. "Our youth possess immense talent. It is our responsibility to provide them with modern sports facilities so that they can hone their skills and bring laurels to the Jammu and Kashmir," he stated.

He further announced that an indoor sports stadium will soon be established in Tangmarg and

upgradation of existing grounds and sports amenities will be taken up in a phased manner.

Highlighting the government's broader developmental agenda, the Minister said, "all ongoing projects will be completed within the stipulated time to ensure maximum benefit to the public." He also revealed that smart bus services will be introduced soon to enhance connectivity and transport facilities, particularly in remote and hilly areas.

# Halqa e Adab racked with pain on the statement of Speaker LA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**HAIJIN:** Halqa e Adab Sonawari Hajin, the oldest literary organization of Kashmir is deeply disturbed by the comments of Hon. Speaker Ab. Rahim Rather in Assembly Wednesday.

For the second time, the Speaker has cited non-availability of a translator as a pretext to deny a member the right to express themselves in their mother tongue. This decision is not only a setback to the linguistic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir but also a blow to the promotion and preservation of the Kashmiri language.

HAS requests Hon. Speaker J&K Assembly who himself is a lover of Kashmiri language and is regarded high in the literary circles for his contribution in promotion of Kashmiri language, to appoint a translator as early as possible.

We hope that all Kashmiri speaking legislators of J&K will take this matter seriously and will ensure due rights of Kashmiri language in J&K Assembly.

# Artisan Shows create buzz, capture attention of local populace, tourists

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Riding high on the success of the first two editions of 'Know Your Artisan' series held at Jhelum Riverfront and Ghanta Ghar, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, is organizing the third leg of its 'Soulful Kashmir' campaign at the historic Polo View Market, here on Thursday.

In a press release issued today, a spokesperson of the Department stated as many as 12 stalls will be on display, showcasing unique handcrafted creations from Kashmir, alongside the One



District One Product (ODOP) items. "The campaign is providing a great opportunity to the general public to directly connect with the master artisans, while also to the craftsmen to engage in direct marketing of their products," he said.

To enrich the experience, the Department is also setting up a 'Try Corner', offering visitors firsthand opportunity to explore their hands at pottery, papier-mâché, and needlework. "In addition, live music performances will also be organized to create a heritage-inspired craft ambience at the venue," he stated.

The Department has urged the general public, tourists and buyers to visit Polo View edition of 'Know Your Artisan' in large numbers and extend their support to the craft maestros by participating in the 'Vocal for Local' initiative.

# ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS Dy CM introduces Bill on employment, service condition of workers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Wednesday introduced a Bill regarding employment and service condition of workers in the Legislative Assembly.

"I rise to introduce a Bill to amend and consolidate laws relating to regulation of employment and other conditions of service of workers in shops and establishments (L.A. Bill No.6 of 2025). The Bill has already been published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette," Deputy Chief Minister said.

# Saffron 'golden heritage of Kashmir's agriculture', Government committed to extend full support to growers: Javid Dar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Shri Javid Ahmed Dar, today chaired a high-level meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review and deliberate upon issues confronting saffron cultivation in Kashmir valley.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar; Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah; Chief Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir; Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir; Chief Warden, Wildlife Department, Kashmir; Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Horticulture (P&M), Director Research SKUAST-K, Chief Agriculture Officer Pulwama, and



representatives of the Saffron Growers Association. Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Basharat Qayoom, also attended the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on key issues including mitigation strategies to tackle climate-induced stresses, measures for assured irrigation facilities, availability of quality saffron corms, and management of wild animal attacks affecting

saffron fields.

Speaking during the meeting, Javid Dar reaffirmed the Government's commitment to safeguard and promote Kashmir's world-famous saffron crop. He termed saffron as 'golden heritage of Kashmir's agriculture' and assured that full support will be extended to growers for improving productivity, quality, and market linkage.

"Our saffron is not just a crop but a global brand of Kashmir's identity. The Government is committed

to its protection, promotion, and prosperity," the Minister stated.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure that every saffron farmer is well informed about various departmental schemes and programmes, and field-level officers proactively assist growers in availing the benefits of these initiatives.

Additional Chief Secretary, Shailendra Kumar, during the meeting, emphasized on the need to enhance both area and quality of saffron cultivation, adding that the government is providing substantial subsidies under irrigation and related schemes to support saffron growers.

During the meeting, the Minister was informed about ongoing measures to curb illegal soil extraction from saffron fields and prevent conversion of fertile saffron land for non-agricultural purposes.

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> October

NOW SHOWING

JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)  
HINDI - 02:40 PM

THAMMA (UA16+)  
HINDI - 11:30 AM, 05:30 PM, 06:40 PM

KANTARA A LEGEND: CHAPTER 1 (UA16+)  
HINDI - 05:00 PM

EK DEEWANE KI DEEWANIYAT (A)  
HINDI - 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 02:00 PM, 06:00 PM

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