

Good Morning Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication



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NC CWC Focuses On Party Strengthening, Budgam Setback

Party May Act Against MP Ruhullah, Expected To Pass Key Resolutions



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: On the first day of the National Conference's two-day Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting, the issue of strengthening the party organisation dominated the discussions, even as other issues such as the electoral setback in Budgam and the rebellion by Member of Parliament (MP) Aga Ruhullah Mehdi also figured in deliberations.

Sources said that the meeting was chaired by NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah and attended by

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, all cabinet ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and senior leaders of the party.

During the meeting, Dr. Farooq Abdullah stressed the need to strengthen the party at all levels. "We should work for strengthening NC at every level -from the grass-roots, to the districts, and up to the party headquarters," Dr. Farooq was quoted by an NC legislator as saying during the meeting.

The NC president told party leaders •P-06

MP Ruhullah Not Invited To CWC Meeting

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister's Advisor and senior National Conference (NC) leader, Nasir Aslam Wani on Thursday said that Member Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi was 'not invited' to the ongoing Central Working Com-

mittee (CWC) meeting of the party in Srinagar.

Talking to reporters after the day one of the meeting, Wani, said the two-day working committee session was still underway, with deliberations continuing on several key issues and resolutions •P-06

...Mercury Falls

Kashmir Parts Record Coldest Nov Temp Since 2007; Mercury Falls



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Kashmir witnessed a severe drop in night temperatures on Thursday, with Srinagar, Qazigund and Kupwara registering their coldest November minimum temperatures in more than a decade, signalling an early peak of winter conditions in

the Valley.

Meteorological data shared by weather expert Faizan Arif shows that several stations recorded their lowest November night temperatures since 2007 and 2009, accompanied by widespread sub-zero readings across the region.

According to •P-06

After 'Op Sindoor' World Recognized India's Capability To Act Against Terror: Prez Murmu

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Stating that the 'Operation Sindoor' demonstrated India's military strength as well as its moral clarity in acting firmly against terror, President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said that world has recognized India's capability to respond decisively while upholding its commitment to security and stability.

Addressing at the inaugural session of the third edition of the Indian Army's seminar, 'Chanakya Defence Dialogue-2025,' here, President Murmu, said, "The success of Operation Sindoor represented a defining moment in India's counter-terror and deterrence strategy. It demonstrated the nation's military strength as well as its moral clarity in acting firmly yet responsibly to maintain peace."

"The world has recognized India's capability to respond decisively while upholding its commitment to security and stability," she added.

Praising the Indian armed forces for their exemplified professionalism and dedication in safeguarding the country's sovereignty, the President said,



"Across conventional, counter-insurgency, and humanitarian operations, the forces have shown remarkable adaptability and resolve. Beyond operational roles, the armed forces also contribute to national development by improving border infrastructure, enhancing connectivity, promoting tourism, and supporting education initiatives in frontier areas."

The President said that rapid technological advance-

ments, competing power centres, and shifting alliances are rewriting international relations. Emerging domains such as cyber, space, information, and cognitive warfare are increasingly blurring the lines between peace and conflict.

She highlighted that India's approach, guided by the civilizational principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, shows that strategic autonomy can coexist with global responsibility,

with the country prepared to defend its citizens while pursuing peaceful relations.

President Murmu welcomed the Indian Army's ongoing reforms under its 'Decade of Transformation,' aimed at modernizing structures, doctrines, and capabilities to remain future-ready across all operational domains.

She said these reforms would strengthen India's defence self-reliance •P-06

ACROSS CONVENTIONAL, COUNTER-INSURGENCY, AND HUMANITARIAN operations, the forces have shown remarkable adaptability and resolve. Beyond operational roles, the armed forces also contribute to national development by improving border infrastructure, enhancing connectivity, promoting tourism, and supporting education initiatives in frontier areas."

J&K Police Search Homes Of Jamaat Members, Masjids, Madrassas

Officials Say Electronic Devices, Documents Seized To 'Curb Radicalisation'

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Police on Thursday conducted a series of coordinated searches across the Valley at multiple residential and commercial premises linked to individuals and institutions allegedly associated with Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), as part of an ongoing security exercise to maintain public order.

Officials informed that the searches formed part of a continuing effort to identify and prevent activities considered detrimental to the region's security and stability.

In Srinagar, searches were conducted at the residences and business establishments of Umar Sultan Guru, son of Mohammad Farooq Guru, resident of Al Noor Colony Chantpora, linked to Tour and Travel "Syndicate"; Mohd Abdullah



Wani, son of Late Mohd Akber Wani, resident of Wadwan Budgam and presently living at Mandir Bagh Baghat Srinagar; Gh. Mohd Bhat, son of Ab. Jabbar Bhat of Bemina; Haji Mohammad Ramzan Lone, son of Late Ali Mohammad Lone of Soura Sheikh Mohalla and associated with Ramzana Memorial Educational Institute; Shahid Zahgeer, son of Abdul Salam

of Buchpora Soura and associated with Ramzana Memorial School; Mohd Ramzan Naik alias Faheem, son of Ghulam Qadir Naik of Barhar Lalbazar; Bashir Ahmad Lone, son of Ab. Samad Lone of Syedpora Harwan; Peer Gias Ud Din of Nowgam, linked to Falah Research Ramzan Centre; and Manzoor Ahmad of Nowgam Chank.

In addition to •P-06

CS Advocates Robust Lifelong Skilling Ecosystem For J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday convened a high-level meeting of concerned officers and academicians to deliberate upon the proposed action plan of the Skill Development Department (SDD) for initiating a comprehensive mega skilling programme for the population of Jammu & Kashmir in the productive age group of 18-39 years.

The meeting, held to chart out a structured roadmap for transforming J&K into a skilled and employment-ready workforce hub, was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Vice Chancellor, BGSBU; Sec-

retary, Skill Development; Secretary, School Education; Managing Director, Skill Development Mission; Director, SDD; senior faculty members and Deans from universities, IIT Jammu, and other eminent academic and technical institutions, besides senior officers of the administration.

Speaking in the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of creating a robust and sustainable platform for skilling the youth of J&K, describing skilling as a continuous and evolving process that cannot be achieved in a short span of time.

He maintained that establishing a strong foundational ecosystem would provide the necessary momentum and allow gradual •P-06



PM Modi's 5S Approach Will Guide India Towards Viksit Bharat: Army Chief

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 5Ss approach — 'Samman, Samvad, Sayog, Samridhi, and Suraksha', as a roadmap to guide India through the 'Amrit Kal' towards a Viksit Bharat.

Addressing the inaugural session of the third edition of Chanakya Defence Dialogue, a key conclave hosted by the Army here, General Dwivedi, said, "The world has moved from the Cold War's bipolarity through a brief unipolar moment into an uncertain and fractured order."

He underlined that the long piece is declining and comprehensive conflicts are on the rise.

The Army Chief outlined a "set of springboards" that



would drive the years of transformation ahead for the force, so as to remain decisive and future-ready in this rapidly-evolving global landscape.

"We are living in an increasingly multipolar world, where major powers are continuously jostling and competing. The world has moved from the Cold War's bipolarity through a brief unipolar moment, into an

uncertain and fractured order. The long piece is declining, and comprehensive conflicts are on the rise," Gen Dwivedi said.

He underlined that with over 50 ongoing conflicts world over, to say "we live in turbulent times, may actually be an understatement".

So, if the globe is swivelling towards national security, deterrence and war-fight-

ing, it inevitably "raises a fundamental question for us — how must the Indian military transform to remain decisive and ready in this rapidly-evolving global landscape," the Army chief said.

"The starting point to this question lies in the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 5Ss approach — 'Samman, Samvad, Sayog, Samridhi, and Suraksha', meaning respect, dialogue, cooperation, prosperity and security, the general officer said.

It guides how the whole-of-nation ecosystem must deliberate, coordinate and act through the 'Amrit Kal' towards a Viksit Bharat," he said.

He said the theme of Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2025 is "Reform to Transform: Sashakt and Aur Surakshit Bharat". •P-06

NC Risks Losing Public Trust For Ignoring Core Agendas:ruhullah

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: National Conference (NC) Member of Parliament (MP), Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Thursday said he has neither distanced himself from the party nor planned to form a new one. He, however, criticised the NC for failing to advance key agendas, including Article 370, the Waqf Bill, and reservations.

"The party should not adopt the language of the BJP," Ruhullah said while speaking to reporters during his visit to central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, where he interacted with locals to discuss their issues.

Mehdi reiterated his disagreement with the NC on the reservation issue and promises made during the 2024 Assembly elections. "We made promises to the people that we will fight for the return of protections linked to Article 370. We received votes on that. We •P-06

J&K Bank Board Clears Rs 1250 Crore Capital Raise To Bolster Growth



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Thursday announced that the Board-of-Directors, in a meeting held on 26th November 2025, has approved raising capital aggregating up to Rs 1250 Crore to strengthen the Bank's balance sheet and support its future growth plans.

In a regulatory filing, the Bank said that the capital raise comprises Rs 750 Crore of Equity Share Capital through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) in one or more tranches and Rs 500 Crore through issuance of Non-Convertible, Redeemable, Unsecured, BASEL III-compliant Tier 2 bonds in

the nature of debentures on a private placement basis, subject to applicable regulatory approvals.

Commenting on the Board's decision, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "The approval to raise fresh capital underscores the Board's confidence in the Bank's trajectory and strengthens our ability to pursue calibrated growth. The infusion will further enhance our capital adequacy, support business expansion across key sectors, enhance our ability to absorb risk thereby reinforcing our long-term commitment to improved asset quality, profitability, and shareholder value." •P-06

...Red Fort **Blast**
Accused Jasir Bilal Sent To 7-Day NIA Custody



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Thursday sent Jasir Bilal Wani, a key accused in the Red Fort blast case, to the National Investigating Agency's custody for seven days.

WANI WAS produced by the agency as the 10-day custody granted by the Principal Sessions and District Judge,

Wani was produced by the agency as the 10-day custody granted by the Principal Sessions and District Judge, Anju Bajaj Chandna, on November 18 was set to end today.

A resident of Qazigund in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag, Wani was arrested in Srinagar by the NIA on November 17 for allegedly providing technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying •P-06

JKTPO successfully concludes IITF-2025, receives exceptional response

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir Pavilion at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 concluded on a highly successful note, registering on-the-spot sales amounting approximately Rs. 13.50 crore and generating 6000+ business leads for the participating exhibitors.

These results underscore the strong market response to Jammu and Kashmir's diverse product range, including world-renowned handicrafts, handlooms, agricultural and horticultural products, as well as the growing confidence of buyers and trade visitors in the quality, authenticity and competitiveness of products from the region.

Resounding the success of previous editions, this year's Pavilion was strengthened with enhanced branding and extensive publicity of J&K's unique, ODOF and GI-certified products, with promotional displays placed not only across the venue but also at prominent external locations, significantly amplifying the visibility and drawing an even larger and more diverse crowd throughout the fair. This heightened attention transformed the Pavilion into a vibrant hub of culture, creativity and commerce, consistently attracting the domestic and international visitors. The steady engagement facili-



tated meaningful business interactions for artisans, women entrepreneurs, startups, FPOs, SHGs and cooperative societies. The substantial sales turnover and sizeable pipeline of business leads generated are expected to convert into repeat orders, long-term buyer, seller relationships and expanded market access, ultimately contributing to income generation, employment creation, and inclusive economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior officials lauded the coordinated efforts of participating departments, corporations and partner agencies in curating a vibrant and business-oriented showcase that effectively blended culture with commerce.

The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) reaffirmed its commitment towards extending sustained handholding

support to exhibitors for follow-up on leads, participation in future trade fairs and integration with broader export promotion and market linkage initiatives. This will further consolidate Jammu and Kashmir's position as a reliable sourcing destination for high-quality products.

The strong sales and lead generation at the Jammu and Kashmir Pavilion have also validated the strategic approach of onboarding a diverse mix of exhibitors, including artisans, women-led enterprises, startup ventures, FPOs, SHGs and cooperative societies, who together presented a comprehensive basket of products to the buyers from across India and abroad. The encouraging response from the retail visitors, bulk buyers, e-commerce platforms and institutional purchasers is expected to translate into repeat orders, new

market tie-ups and wider brand recall for Jammu and Kashmir's authentic handicrafts, handlooms, agro and food products in the months ahead.

Looking ahead to IITF 2026, JKTPO plans to further scale up participation from Jammu and Kashmir by onboarding a larger and more diversified pool of exhibitors, deepening sectoral representation and introducing new product lines aligned with emerging market trends. Efforts will focus on enhanced buyer outreach, more structured B2B meetings, digital and e-commerce integration, and stronger branding of Jammu and Kashmir's unique value propositions, ensuring that the Pavilion not only sustains but surpasses the current year's performance while creating wider and more durable market opportunities for stakeholders from the Union Territory.

Shailendra Kumar chairs Pre-Budget review meeting for Agri, Horti

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, Thursday chaired a Pre-Budget meeting to review and discuss the Revised Estimates (RE) 2025-26 and Budget Estimates (BE) 2026-27 for the Agriculture and Horticulture sectors of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting focused on a detailed review of expenditure and proposed allocations under CAPEX, HADP, SASCI, CSS and NABARD. Present in the meeting were Secretary in APD, Director Finance APD., Director (Planning) APD, Managing Director JKA-GROS; Secretary Kisan Advisory Board; Director Agriculture, Director Horticulture, Director CAD Jammu; Director Sericulture; representatives of SKUAST-J & SKUAST-K; Joint Directors of Agriculture and allied sectors; Deputy Director Agriculture (Planning); Chief Agriculture and Horticulture Officers of Jammu Division, scientists and senior officers of the department while officers from the Kashmir Division participated virtually.

During the meeting, the ACS emphasized that special attention is being given to ensure expendi-



ture under HADP, CSS and CAPEX aligns with long-term infrastructure development goals of the agriculture and horticulture sectors. He conducted an extensive review of CSS components under Krishonnati Yojana, highlighting flagship schemes including PMKSY, PDMC, SMAM, RAD, RKVY, PKVY, ATMA, NFSM, and others aimed at promoting rural prosperity and farm sustainability.

He issued clear instructions to all the departments under the APD to integrate awareness on stray animal management during every extension activity, noting that this is also in compliance with directions of the Supreme Court. He stressed that

stray animals must not be seen within office premises and directed that Nodal Officers be appointed in each department to monitor and manage stray animal-related responsibilities.

Reviewing the PDMC component, he stressed strengthening of the micro-irrigation initiatives. He directed the officers to enhance farmer awareness regarding micro-irrigation facilities and associated subsidies. He added that the greatest benefits must reach the farmers who have adequate water availability for irrigation expansion.

He further instructed that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) be circulated to all departments,

ensuring that no work is executed outside approved project guidelines. He directed all the departments to submit Utilization Certificates (UCs) and ensure financial achievements are reported within one month.

ACS also reviewed the progress on JKCIP, discussed existing bottlenecks and directed that year-wise targets be communicated to all Chief Officers for effective and timely implementation.

The meeting concluded with a call for coordinated efforts across all wings of the Agriculture Production Department to ensure efficient budgeting, timely project execution and strengthened farmer-centric service delivery.

DC Budgam inspects Newly Established Drug De-addiction Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat Thursday conducted a detailed visit to the newly established Drug De-addiction Centre in Budgam to assess the facilities, infrastructure, and overall preparedness of the institution.

During the inspection, the DC was briefed about the ongoing arrangements, availability of medical care, and initiatives being taken to establish a safe and supportive environment for individuals undergoing treatment for substance dependence. A thorough review of infrastructure, patient wards, counselling rooms, and medical support systems was carried out.

While interacting with the concerned officers and staff, it was emphasised by the DC that trained and professional personnel are essential for effectively managing patients battling addiction. It was stressed that the staff must be properly skilled, sensitised, and equipped to handle patients with compassion, patience, and discipline.

The DC instructed the concerned authorities to ensure the availability of all basic amenities, essential medicines, clinical support, and a hygienic atmosphere within the centre. It was directed that the centre function proactively so that every patient receives uninterrupted care, counselling, and medical attention.

Highlighting the importance of holistic treatment, the DC also called for the provision of adequate recreational, motivational, and therapeutic facilities for patients undergoing rehabilitation.

It was conveyed to the DC that such facilities significantly aid psychological recovery and help create a positive mindset for long-term healing.

The DC noted that the newly established Drug De-addiction Centre is poised to become an important pillar in the district's efforts to combat substance abuse. He further added that the administration remains committed to strengthening de-addiction, counselling, and rehabilitation mechanisms to safeguard youth and promote a healthy, drug-free society.

Brig Pankaj Chib Assumes Charge as Dir SWD, Secy, Rajya Sainik Board

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Sainik Welfare Department J&K Thursday announced Brig Pankaj Chib, SM, VSM, Retd as new Director, Sainik Welfare Department, J&K, and Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board J&K on 27 November 2025. A highly distinguished Army veteran, Brig Pankaj Chib, SM, VSM, Retd brings with him over 35 years of exemplary service to the nation.

A graduate of the National Defence Academy (NDA) and the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Brig Pankaj Chib, SM, VSM, Retd has held numerous operational assignments during his career and has been honoured with the Sena Medal and the Vishisht Seva Medal for his outstanding contributions. His career profile includes the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), the Higher Command Course, and programmes at LBSNAA and IIM Indore. He holds a Master's in Defence & Strategic Studies and an M.Phil. in Defence & Man-



agement Studies, and has also trained foreign army personnel.

He is widely admired for advocating veterans' welfare and has been contributing to the resolution of a long-standing welfare matter impacting more than 500 members of the armed forces community in J&K. His steady involvement in the issue reflects his commitment to fairness, transparency and the well-being of serving personnel, veterans and Veer Naris.

His efforts have given renewed visibility and momentum to a case that had remained unresolved for years.

DC Sgr visits Degree College Eidgah to review progress of Infra upgradation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Thursday visited Hamidi Kashmiri Memorial Government Degree College at Eidgah to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure upgradation works being executed under various developmental initiatives.

During the visit, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Principal GDC Eidgah, Prof



Deeba Sarmad, Executive Engineer Water Works Divisions, Aijaz Ahmad Executive Engineer R&B Core, Arif Rehman Hazari, Tehsildar Eidgah, Mohamad Iqbal Zargar and other Officers and Engineers accompanied the Deputy

Commissioner.

On the occasion, the DC inspected the works executed under phase first on the Rs 13 crore project for the construction of Academic-cum-Administrative Block of the College.

He assessed the quality

and pace of execution and emphasized the importance of making the new facilities functional at the earliest for the benefit of students and staff.

The DC also reviewed the preparations for the second phase of infrastructure development, which includes the construction of a boundary wall, landscaping, development of the approach road and other allied works. He directed the executing agency to initiate these works immediately, ensuring timely completion in line with the approved plan.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

NIT No: 59/6468-77/RnB/ SPN / e-Tendering/2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Item rate/Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Adv Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)	AAA No. Date	TS No. Date
1	Upgradation of Tehsildar Office Shopian.	3054 Administrative Charges	4.745	9490/-	DEE	20 days	200/-	DCS/ACTT/25-26/25-32 Dated:-03-11-2025	80/TS/RnB/ Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025.
2	C/o tile lane from house of Gulzar Ah Shiekh to Ho Ghulam Nabi Zazroo at Gada Mohalla Hergam Shopian	Constituency Development Scheme	1.977	3954/-	DEE	15 days	200/-	168-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-25-11-2025.	80/TS/RnB/ Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025
3	C/O P Bund from house of Mohammad Shafi Dalal to House of Bilal Ahmad Dar at Batapora Shopian.	Constituency Development Scheme	0.97	1940/-	DEE	15 days	200/-	168-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-25-11-2025.	80/TS/RnB/ Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025
4	C/o P Bund at different spots at Saffiya Masjid Guglaroo Road (KM-II) Phase I	Constituency Development Scheme	9.846	19692/-	DEE/CEE	30 days	600/-	168-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-25-11-2025.	80/TS/RnB/ Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025
5	Ornamental Grill work for graveyard opposite Jamia Masjid at Gagren	Constituency Development Scheme	6.55	13100/-	DEE/CEE	20 days	300/-	168-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-25-11-2025.	80/TS/RnB/ Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025
6	C/o tile lane from house of Gulzar Ah Shiekh to Ho Fayaz Ahmad Shiekh at Gada Mohalla Hergam Shopian	Constituency Development Scheme	1.387	2774/-	DEE	15 days	200	168-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-25-11-2025.	80/TS/RnB/ Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025

Position of funds:- Committed
Project Authority:- District Development Commissioner Shopian.

1.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-11-2025	
2	Document downloading Start Date.	28-11-2025	From 10:00 A.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	05-12-2025	upto 2:00 P.M
4	Bid submission Start Date.	28-11-2025	From 10:00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	05-12-2025	upto 2:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06-12-2025	at 10:00 A.M

2.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-Challan/treasury challan /Demand Draft deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian.

Note:-

The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/ FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Bid cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period.

3.

The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

4.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5.

The earnest money shall be forfeited If:-

a)

Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b)

Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c)

Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

NOTE:-

The Payment shall be made strictly as per the available allocation by the AAA authority.

No: NIT/6468-77

Dt: 27-11-2025

Sd/-

Camp Clerk

Sd/-

A.A.O

Sd/-

Technical Officer

DIPK-8484-25

DT: 27/11/2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Shopian

CMYK

‘Punjab Extortion’ Issue

After mutton dealers’ warning, J&K Govt steps in

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: Days after the Kashmir Wholesale Mutton Dealers Association warned of a “fresh price hike” over alleged extortion and harassment at Punjab checkpoints, the Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday assured swift action with a joint high-level committee scheduled to take up the matter with Punjab authorities after the December 2.

Mehraj-ud-Din Ganai, General Secretary of the Association, said that the delegation recently met senior, NC leaders and government officials who assured them of “immediate intervention.”

“They assured us that a high-level committee will be formed and on December 2 (Tuesday), a delegation including Nasir Aslam Wani, the concerned Minister, Satish Sharma and an MLA, along with mem-



bers of the mutton dealers’ association, will proceed towards Punjab to hold talks with the Government there to resolve the issue,” Mehraj said.

He said, they are hopeful the delegation will meet Punjab Government officials and the issue will be resolved.

Notably, the development comes after weeks

of tension, with dealers alleging “extortion” of Rs 10,000–15,000 per truck at Shambhu and Madhopur checkpoints. The association had earlier set November 27 as the deadline for government intervention, warning that mutton prices could soar to Rs 800 per kg if the issue persisted.

Earlier this year, similar harassment led to the

suspension of livestock imports and the death of over 50 sheep due to delays and heat stress.

With the government now stepping in, the dealers have expressed “cautious optimism” but also warned that unless ground-level extortion stops, they will be forced to pass on the losses to consumers—(KNO)

Twin glory for Kashmir, 2 master craftsmen win National Award

Manzoor A. Khan, Khawaja Nazir Ali honoured in carpet weaving

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR : Adding yet another badge of honour on its already coveted robe, 02 master craftsmen have brought glory to Kashmir by winning the prestigious National Award in the handicrafts category, recently announced by the Union Ministry of Textiles.

Manzoor Ahmad Khan, from Rainawari and Khawaja Nazir Ali, from Alam-giri Bazar, Srinagar, shall be conferred with the National Award by the Hon’ble President of India for excellence in the field of hand-knotted carpet weaving and sozni embroidery at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on December 09, next month.

In a press release issued here today, a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, thanked the Ministry of Textiles for bestowing the honour and congratulated the two master craftsmen for bringing laurels to Kashmir Handicrafts,



which are famous for its intricate designs and vibrant colours all over the world. “We are elated on their recognition for their immense contribution in taking crafts like sozni and carpet weaving to the next level,” he added.

Quoting Field Officer, in the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Sheikh Rafiq, the spokesman stated that the awards come with a citation and a cash prize of ₹2.00 lakh

cheque. “Apart from the winners, two more craftsmen, Mashkoora Hameed from Budgam in sozni embroidery and Mir Arshad Hussain from Srinagar, in papier mache, have won special mention and have been invited to the function at Vigyan Bhawan,” he added.

Manzoor Ahmad Khan, a renowned weaver of hand-knotted carpet, was recently conferred first prize in UT Awards for the year 2024, at SKICC on Tuesday. “He also participated in the first edi-

tion of Know Your Artisan at Jhelum Riverfront and will also be actively engaged in Guru-Shishya Hastashilp Prashikshan Programme for Kupwara by Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Srinagar,” he added.

Khawaja Nazir Ali has also distinguished himself in the field of sozni embroidery in recognition of which he has been honoured with the prestigious National Award.

Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, also showered praise on the awardees and added that this recognition will provide traction to the famed handicrafts and handlooms of Kashmir and help in targeting newer niche markets, especially in South East Asia.

The Department shall shortly organize a function to felicitate the awardees and also those who have special mention by the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles.

ACB files DA case against Director State Motor Garages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a major Disproportionate Assets (DA) case against Malik Tahir Gani, Director State Motor Garages, following a secret verification that reportedly uncovered massive properties, bank holdings, and commercial assets allegedly far exceeding his known sources of income.

In a statement issued, the official said that based on a specific input, a secret verification was conducted by Anti-Corruption Bureau into the allegations of possession of huge disproportionate assets by Malik Tahir Gani, S/O Abdul Gani Malik, R/O H. No. 185-A, Sanat Nagar, Srinagar A/P Q. No.55-C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu presently posted as Director, State Motor Garages, J&K.

The verification revealed that the suspect while posted in different places/departments like ARTO Anantnag, Pulwama and Director State Motor Garages J&K has raised huge assets in the shape of plots, houses, shops, shopping complexes, bank accounts etc in his name

as well as in the name of his family members/ relatives which were found highly disproportionate to his known sources of income.

On the basis of the verification conducted, a prima facie case of criminal misconduct was found made out against the accused Malik Tahir Gani, Director State Motor Garages, J&K under offences punishable U/S 13(1)(b) r/w section 13 (2) of PC Act 1988. Accordingly, a formal case FIR No. 11/2025 was registered at P/S ACB Central for investigation.

During the course of investigation, search warrants were obtained for conducting searches from the Hon’ble court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu. Thereafter, searches were conducted by the ACB teams at 04 different locations which include his residential houses at Sanat Nagar Srinagar, residential house at Hyderpora Srinagar, residential quarter at 55-C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu and official premises at New Plot, Jammu. During the course of search incriminating material was recovered and seized as evidence in the instant case.

Further investigation of the case is going on, statement added.

Rana reviews implementation roadmap of newly launched projects in Mendhar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: A day after unveiling and laying foundation stones for developmental projects worth ₹ 80 crore in Mankote Block, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday convened a comprehensive review meeting at Mendhar to assess the implementation roadmap for the same.

The Minister also assessed progress on several ongoing works across the division.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, PWD, PMGSY, REW and PDD, Deputy Chief Education Officer and the Block Development Officers of Mendhar, Balakote and Mankote who briefed the Minister on the status of various projects initiated under their respective departments.

The Minister empha-



sized that it is imperative that all the departments work in close coordination to ensure time-bound, transparent and quality-oriented execution of the sanctioned works. He underscored that projects related to road connectivity, drinking water supply, education infrastructure, public utilities and sports facilities carry immense importance for the socio-economic advancement of the people living in the remote and border belts of Mendhar subdivision. Any delays, he said, would directly impact public welfare.

Rana directed the officers to promptly identify and address bottlenecks,

streamline tendering and administrative processes and maintain regular field supervision so that works progress efficiently on the ground. He also called for periodic joint reviews between the departments to tackle interlinked issues, especially those concerning land clearance, electricity shifting, water pipelines and road alignments.

To ensure accountability, the Minister instructed the officers to establish a strengthened monitoring mechanism involving weekly progress reports, on-site inspections and adherence to technical standards. He reiterated the government’s commitment towards maintaining the highest levels of

transparency and quality in public works.

Rana reaffirmed that the developmental roadmap rolled out for Mendhar is part of a broader vision of the government led by Omar Abdullah, aimed at transforming the underserved and geographically challenging regions into vibrant and self-sustaining zones of growth. He added that the projects inaugurated and launched earlier represent only the first phase and further interventions would follow in a systematic manner to ensure that each village receives equitable attention in terms of infrastructure, services and opportunities.

PM, HM, NSA to participate in DGP, IGP Conference in Raipur

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Ministers of State (Home Affairs), DGPs of States/UTs and heads of central police organisations will participate in the 60th edition of the All India Conference of DGPs and IGPs at Chhattisgarh’s Raipur on Saturday.

According to the details available, the 3-day conference, scheduled from November 28 to 30, aims to review the progress achieved in addressing key policing challenges so far and to outline a forward-looking roadmap for building a ‘Surakshit Bharat’ in alignment with the national vision of ‘Viksit Bharat.’

An official said that to bring in fresh and innovative ideas to the table, Heads of the Home Department of States/UTs and some selected cutting-edge level Police Officers in the ranks of DIG and SP will also participate in the confer-

ence physically this year.

Pertinently, since 2014, the format of the conference has undergone continuous upgradation under the Prime Minister’s guidance, including hosting it at diverse locations across the country.

The conference has been held in Guwahati (Assam), Rann of Kachchh (Gujarat), Hyderabad (Telangana), Tekanpur (Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh), Statue of Unity (Kevadiya, Gujarat), Pune (Maharashtra), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), New Delhi, Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

The conference being held under the overarching theme ‘Viksit Bharat: Security Dimensions’, will host detailed deliberations on key security issues such as left-wing extremism, counter-terrorism, disaster management, women’s safety, and use of forensic science and artificial intelligence in policing, the official said.

He said the Prime Minister will also confer the President’s Police Medals for Distinguished Service—(KNO)

DSEK’s enrollment drives ring hollow as Tral schools grapple with poor infra, staff shortage

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: As the school education department is conducting enrollment drives in Kashmir to attract more and more students towards government schools, several institutions in Tral subdivision of south Kashmir’s Pulwama district are grappling with staff shortage and poor infrastructure.

As per the details obtained, many government schools in Tral continue to reel under severe infrastructure deficiencies and acute staff shortages, leaving hundreds of students, mostly from economically weaker families, struggling for basic educational facilities.

Aggrieved parents and locals have urged the Education Minister to personally intervene and address what they describe as “years of neglect”.

They said that despite multiple requests to authorities, several schools in Tral are functioning under extremely difficult conditions, with children studying in tin sheds, overcrowded classrooms, and buildings lack-

ing even basic amenities.

At Middle School Tral-e-Bala, more than 70 students are forced to attend classes in tin sheds, exposed to extreme heat in summer and freezing temperatures in winter. “It becomes unbearable for our children during harsh summers and even worse in the cold months,” said Abdul Rashid, a concerned parent. “If the government can provide other facilities across the district, why can’t they give our kids proper classrooms?”

Teachers also expressed helplessness, saying that teaching in such conditions directly affects learning outcomes.

The situation is similar at Government Middle School Langzund Branpathri, where around 70 students from nine different classes are taught by only five teachers in just four rooms. “How can nine classes run in four rooms? Students end up disturbing each other because different subjects are taught in the same space,” said Shabir Ahmad, a local. “Our children deserve better than this.”

At Government Middle

School Gurtoo, 140 students are cramped into only three functional rooms. Parents said the shortage of both classrooms and staff has severely impacted the quality of education. “Our kids are bright, but how can they learn properly when they are squeezed into overcrowded rooms?” said Rafiqia Begum, a mother of two. “The government should at least provide additional classrooms and appoint teachers where needed.”

Schools in Satoora and Zarihad also face similar issues. GMS Satoora has around 150 students but is functioning with just six rooms. Locals said the infrastructure has not been upgraded for years. “It’s the same story every year. Promises are made, but nothing changes,” said Manzoor Ahmad, a resident of Satoora. “We urge the department to take our children’s future seriously.”

The most alarming condition has been reported from Gojer Basti Showjan Panzoo, where the school, functioning from nursery to class 8th in four rooms, has no toilet facility whatsoever. “This is the only

government school in the area without a toilet,” said Ghulam Nabi, a local elder. “Girls especially suffer the most. How can a school run without something as basic as a wash-room?”

Parents warn that the absence of a toilet not only affects hygiene but also discourages students, especially girls, from attending regularly.

Parents across these villages have appealed for immediate intervention by the Education Minister to ensure proper infrastructure, adequate staffing, and basic amenities. “We are not demanding anything extraordinary—just the fundamentals of a dignified education system,” said Mohammad Yousuf, a parent. “We are poor people. The government schools are our only hope.”

Locals said that unless urgent action is taken, the educational future of hundreds of children in Tral will continue to hang in the balance. They questioned the government’s enrollment drives: “On what basis can they lure students when there is poor infrastructure and staff shortages?”—(KNO)

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

UNIFIED SNOW CONTROL ROOM H.M.T, SRINAGAR

INFORMATION FOR GENERAL PUBLIC OF UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DURING SNOWFALL

It is for the information of general public that Unified Control Room for Snow Clearance has been established by Government at ICCC HMT Srinagar under the guidance of Hon'ble Minister for R&B (Deputy Chief Minister J&K UT). **The contact no. of snow clearance control room is 0194-2740003.** Since the winter has set in and seasonal snow fall is expected, in order keep the roads clear and safe for movement of vehicles, certain instructions need to be followed by the general Public which are as:-

- Heavy snowfall can cause disruptions, so be patient and flexible and adjust your plans accordingly.
- Unless absolutely necessary, avoid travelling, stay indoors, avoid driving in heavy snow, as it can be hazardous. Avoid Road side Parking. Avoid dumping construction material on road side so as to ensure hassle free snow clearance operation.
- The owners of the road side buildings are requested to install snow breakers on their roof tops, so as to avoid the sudden slipping of snow accumulated from roof tops which can be detrimental to both men and machinery.
- Keep phone numbers of emergency services that of Snow clearance control Room, Police, Fire brigade, Hospitals, local snow clearance control rooms, readily available.
- Check road conditions and plan your route accordingly. Drive slow and carefully keeping an eye on road condition. Use snow chains, winter tyres and others safety equipment as necessary. **For any complain regarding snow clearance in UT you can call at Unified Control Room on 0194-2740003.**
- Keep an eye on weather forecasts and update from the Local authorities for information of road closures, power outages, and other important announcements.
- In case of moderate to heavy snow fall, follow instructions and advisories issued by local authorities such as evacuation orders or road closures.
- In order to keep your roads cleared from snow within shortest possible time, please cooperate with the agencies involved, such Mechanical Engineering, R&B department, NHAI, NHIDCL, SMC, ULB,BRO etc. in snow clearance operations to give smooth pass to Machinery deployed for the purpose.

Sufficient Snow clearance machinery is available with every department assigned the Job of snow clearance in each District, So be patient and enjoy the winter 2025-26.

In this Winter 2025-26 Stay safe, stay warm and stay informed !

NO: USCR/2025-26/116-119
Dated: 26-11-2025

DIPK-8469-25
DT: 27/11/2025

Regards.
(Er. Mir Irfan Muzaffar)
Head Unified Control Room

CMYK

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

A Long Road To Butcher's Shop

The assurance from the J&K Govt to form a high-level committee to address the grievances of mutton dealers is a classic case of a crisis averted, but a problem far from solved. The govt agreed in principle to establish a high power committee (HPC) to review complaints from the region's mutton dealer community and to apply pressure on mutton dealers to solve the systemic extortion occurring at Shambhu, Madhopur and other Punjab border crossings.

A recent barrage of complaints from KMA regarding the systematic extortion of mutton dealers by agents of the Punjab government has prompted increased urgency from KMA to alert the Jammu & Kashmir government to the urgent need for intervention. KMA provided updates to the Jammu & Kashmir government that included copies of letters sent by KMA (to Punjab authorities) requesting a prompt investigation into the reports of mutton dealers being extorted for Rs. 10K-15K per truck of livestock (as per verified reports). More importantly, KMA's letter identified two recent events in which KMA lost more than 50 sheep (due to transport delays) attributed to continued harassment of KMA members by Punjab agents and their associates.

KMA continues to work with the Jammu & Kashmir government and the Jammu & Kashmir Manufacturers Association (J&K MMA) to ensure that the established HMP will not only resolve the current issues, but also create a comprehensive solution moving forward that will permanently resolve the underlying problems impacting KMA dealers (Kashmir wholesale mutton dealers).

A collaborative delegation consisting of senior politicians and government officials to work with the authorities of Punjab is an encouraging step forward and reflects a recognition of the cross nature of the issue as well as the requirement that political and administrative will exist towards addressing it. Further, the "cautious optimism" exhibited by the dealers is justified because they have been acknowledged, and they now have influential parties involved. At the same time, the dealers are warning that if "ground-level extortion" does not cease, they will be compelled to transfer these losses to consumers, thus reminding us of who wields ultimate authority over the situation.

For every illegal rupee taken from a checkpoint in Punjab, another will be charged to a family in the Valley, specifically Srinagar, Baramulla or Anantnag. The issue is not only about commerce; it encompasses issues of the welfare of the public as well as economic rights.

As such, the J&K government should be proactive in its approach to this matter. The meeting that is due to be held on December 2 should result in adequate actions being put in place and go further than simply gaining the safe return of a few trucks. We need to ensure the establishment of monitoring mechanisms to allow the guarantees established in those meetings to manifest as changes on the highways.

Residents of Jammu and Kashmir face many challenges with a volatile economy and cannot be held hostage to the greed of highway robbers. It is the responsibility of the government of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that there are no illegal tolls for consumers on their journey from farming to consumption. The success of the committee will not be determined by the promises it makes but by the price of meat in the marketplace. Let us hope this committee returns with something other than promises for the benefit of the average consumer.

Drugs And Terror: Modi's Global Alarm At G-20 Summit



LALIT GARGG

The inaugural session of this year's G-20 Summit focused on a deeply serious issue, one that exposes the rapidly changing nature of emerging global threats. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated unequivocally that drug trafficking is as dangerous to global peace, security, and human existence as terrorism itself. His warning is not mere diplomatic rhetoric; it is an accurate assessment of harsh and growing global realities. It is now beyond dispute that the trafficking of narcotic substances has become the largest source of financial fuel for terrorism. This multi-billion-dollar illegal trade is not only empowering the world of organized crime, it is shattering national security, destabilizing societies, and destroying the future of youth.

In his address, Modi made it clear that major world powers must unite and launch a decisive war against drug mafias and their terror-linked financial networks. The rapid global spread of new, highly addictive synthetic drugs has intensified this concern. Fentanyl, for instance, has created a devastating public-health crisis in the United States, where countless people die every day because of it. This is not the problem of a single country, it is a global threat hanging over all of humanity. To believe that such drugs will remain confined to specific regions would be a grave mistake; organized trafficking networks can push them into any corner of the world. This is why Modi warned that unless decisive action is taken now, this tragedy could soon engulf many other nations as well.

Drug mafias are not merely criminal syndicates; they are a global menace hollowing out the very foundations of human society. This illicit trade defies borders, laws, and moral values. It is destroying the future of young generations and weakening countries internally, socially, economically, and politically. The danger is no longer limited to law-and-order; it has become a question of the survival of human civilization itself. Across the world, narcotics have evolved into a vast, organized network involving cartels, mafia syndicates, arms traffickers, terrorist groups, and corrupt systems. This network is so powerful that in several countries it behaves like a parallel authority. In Afghanistan, Mexico, Colombia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia, and parts



of Europe and Asia, drug cartels have openly challenged governance structures. In many places, governments either become helpless or are compelled to enter into compromises. Modi emphasized that the world must unite to control this growing threat.

It is the responsibility of G-20 nations to curb illegal drug production, distribution, online dark-net trading, cryptocurrency-based payments, and cross-border trafficking, not only through stronger enforcement but through a shared global strategy. Modi proposed several key measures: strict control over illicit financial flows, collective efforts to prevent the misuse of AI, enhanced data-sharing, stronger technological cooperation, and a new global policy framework against digital and cyber-enabled crime. The misuse of AI today is far beyond misinformation or cyber scams; drug traffickers are using it for online sales, fake identities, encrypted channels, and secret communication networks. This can only be stopped through collective global action.

This year's G-20 Summit is considered successful despite the absence of the United States. Its success is reflected not in attendance numbers but in the depth of discussions, the seriousness of issues, and the concrete nature of the decisions. Greater coordination among major nations and clarity on global challenges were major achievements. Amid shifting geopolitical realities, ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, economic uncertainties, and the aspirations of the Global South, the summit remained calm, constructive, and solution-oriented. This signals a shift in global priorities, from competition toward cooperation. Threats like

drug trafficking and terrorism do not remain confined within borders; therefore, their solutions must also transcend borders.

Modi's suggestions carry special significance because India has long suffered from cross-border terrorism and has often been used as a major transit point for international drug trafficking networks. India's experience, its use of technology, legislative measures, and diplomatic coordination, offers important lessons for the world. India's efforts show that combating drug networks requires a three-front approach: strict border vigilance, strengthened AI- and social-media-based monitoring systems, and widespread awareness and de-addiction campaigns for youth. Laws alone are not enough; psychological and social awareness are equally essential.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's active, influential, and central role at the G-20 Summit once again established him as one of the world's strongest, most decisive, and most trustworthy leaders. Despite the absence of the United States, Modi's calm, visionary, and diplomatic leadership filled the potential vacuum. His clarity and practical solutions on issues such as drug trafficking, terrorism, AI misuse, global economy, the Global South, and human welfare reassured the world that India is not just a rising power, it is a stable and positive guide to the future. His presence underscored that at a time when many countries are struggling with internal turmoil and policy uncertainty, India offers reliable, stable, and far-sighted leadership. Modi's rising global stature elevates India's prestige and provides the world with a model of leadership that can advance development, peace,

security, and global cooperation, precisely what the world needs today.

Modi also urged the world to adopt India's philosophy of "Integral Humanism" (ekam Manavvad) as a guiding principle for future global development. He proposed deeper cooperation in traditional knowledge, healthcare, critical minerals, satellite data access, capacity building in Africa, and joint action against drug-terror networks. He also appreciated South Africa's presidency, which made significant progress in areas such as skill-based migration, tourism, food security, artificial intelligence, digital economy, innovation, and women's empowerment. Modi noted that many historic decisions taken at the New Delhi G-20 Summit are already progressing toward implementation.

The message of the G-20 Summit is clear: the world is recognizing new threats and preparing for collective action. Breaking the nexus between terrorism and drug trafficking is essential for global peace. If we want societies that are secure, economically, socially, and in terms of public health, controlling drugs is mandatory. Rising global insecurity cannot be fought merely with weapons but with awareness, discipline, education, and compassion. Until we consider drugs a collective global battle, security will remain nothing but an illusion. Uniting societies against addiction is the need of the hour, for this is not just a fight against crime but a commitment to safeguard coming generations and ensure a healthier, safer future.

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Power To Balance: Why India's Best Are Choosing Differently



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

In India, the administrative service has long been considered one of the highest symbols of power, prestige, and nation-building. Even today, the name "Indian Administrative Service" conjures up a collective image of respect, authority, and success. Ironically, the families that have witnessed this prestige up close, especially the children of IAS officers, are the ones who rarely pursue the same profession. This question isn't merely a social curiosity; it's a profound reflection of the harsh realities of administrative life, the changing times, and the attitudes of the new generation.

First, the children of Indian Administrative Service officers witness the true rigors of a service that the outside world sees daily, often only disguised as prestige. Uncertain and rapid transfers, political pressure, the endless burden of public expectations, lack of leave, and constant struggle—all of these have

a direct impact on family life. The new generation, for whom mental freedom and work-life balance are of utmost importance, is not attracted to a service where personal time and private life are virtually eliminated.

Another important aspect is financial security. Indian Administrative Service officers are able to provide their children with a high-quality education, an excellent environment, and extensive opportunities. Consequently, the struggle to secure government service for their children seems more like an additional burden than a necessity. The difficult, uncertain, and time-consuming examination of the Union Public Service Commission seems more like a challenging journey than a necessary option. Therefore, their paths increasingly turn toward the private sector, technology, research, legal science, or entrepreneurship—where incomes are higher, freedom is greater, and challenges like relocation or political pressure are less.

The third truth is that the administrative limitations within the Indian Administrative Service—the handling of files, constrained decisions, the pressure of a corrupt system—are all experienced firsthand by the children of these families. When they see their parents sometimes unable to make deci-



sions according to their wishes, it creates a less effective perception of the "power" of the administrative service within them. However, respectable society may consider it, the true picture within families is often dismal.

The fourth aspect is the value system of the new generation. Today's young generation is more attracted to global opportunities, creative freedom, digital-based careers, and a new entrepreneurial culture than the stability of government positions. They are willing to take risks, but do not want to remain in a rigid system. In a service like the Indian Administrative Service, where rules are rigid, procedures are elaborate, and a significant amount of energy is spent maintaining the system, they do not see the full extent of their potential.

It's also noteworthy that many Indian Administrative Service officers themselves don't encourage their children to join the service. After years of exhaustion, struggle, and immense pressure, they envision a more balanced, independent, and relatively peaceful life for their children. This is a natural psychological tendency of parents, and it profoundly influences their children's career choices.

This entire scenario points to a profound social change. The time when the Indian Administrative Service was considered the most prestigious career choice is coming to an end. Today, many prestigious and effective careers are available that offer independence, creativity, respect, and income—all in abundance. This changed landscape has somewhat dimin-

ished the appeal of the Indian Administrative Service, especially among families who have experienced the harsh fatigue behind its glamour.

Yet, it remains true that this trend never diminishes the importance of the administrative service. The Indian Administrative Service is the administrative backbone of the country, and the young people who join it play a vital role in shaping the nation. The only difference is that now this service is chosen by those who truly desire it—not by those who enter under social pressure or compulsion.

Ultimately, the children of Indian Administrative Service officers not joining the service is not a sign of failure, but rather a reflection of the nuanced mindset of a changing India—an India where choices are greater, expectations are newer, and careers mean not just prestige but also quality of life. This change is positive, as it shows that the new generation dreams of a world where careers are determined not by power, but by balance, freedom, and personal fulfillment.

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

Guru Tegh Bahadur

The Fearless Saint Who Became Shield Of India

A Story Of Courage, Compassion, And The Freedom To Believe



AMANJEET SINGH

In an age marked by turbulent politics and religious intolerance, one man stood up not to defend his own faith, but to save the freedom of those who believed differently for was Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji a spiritual visionary, a fearless warrior, and one of history's most extraordinary defenders of human rights. His sacrifice in 1675 remains unparalleled, the martyrdom of a Guru Tegh Bahadur sahib ji for the protection of humanity.

Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji, The Fearless Saint Who Became the Shield of India, timeless story of courage, compassion, and the freedom to believe. Today, as humanity continues to confront questions of freedom, identity, and justice, his life shines like a moral lighthouse steadfast, compassionate, and eternally relevant.

The Childhood Forged in Courage
Born on 1 April 1621 in Amritsar, Guru Tegh Bahadur was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, the Sixth Guru known for embodying the doctrine of Miri-Piri the balance of temporal authority and spiritualt sovereignty. In this environment of deep faith and resilience, the young Tegh Bahadur was shaped not only by meditation and humility, but also by rigorous martial training.

At just 13, after displaying exceptional courage in the Battle of Kartarpur, he received the name "Tegh Bahadur", meaning Master of the Sword. Yet, beneath the warrior exterior rested a contemplative soul one drawn to solitude, reflection, and the pursuit of higher truth.

The Quiet Mystic Who Became the Ninth Guru



In 1664, following the departure of Guru Har Krishan Sahib Ji 8th Sikh Guru , Tegh Bahadur was anointed the Ninth Guru of the Sikhs. His personality was unique gentle yet unshakable, introspective yet courageous, deeply spiritual yet strongly grounded in social justice.

His teachings, preserved in Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji through 115 sacred compositions, reflect themes of:

- "Freedom from fear
- Service to humanity"
- "Humility and self-awareness"
- "The impermanence of worldly attachments"

Gurbani verses, especially Salok Mahalla 9 remain some of the most profound reflections on the nature of life, mortality, and spiritual liberation.

Travels That Transformed Lives
Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's journeys took him across the plains of Punjab to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal, and Assam. Everywhere he went, he

touched lives by promoting harmony, equality, and faith in one Creator. He provided not only spiritual guidance but also social support establishing wells, community centers, and places of prayer. To the marginalized and silenced, he became a voice to the oppressed, he became a pillar of courage. In 1665, Guru ji laid the foundation of Chakk Nanaki, later renamed Anandpur Sahib, a spiritual nucleus that would play a monumental role in Sikh history.

The Defining Moment: A Plea from Kashmir

The epoch-making chapter of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji,s life unfolded in 1675. At that time, the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had intensified religious persecution, especially targeting Kashmiri Pandits with forced conversions. Threatened and Harassed, a group of Kashmiri pandits Led by Kirpa Ram ji approached Guru Tegh Bahadur, seeking protection. The

Guru Tegh Bahadur sahib,s nine-year-old son, Gobind Rai (the future Guru Gobind Singh), posed a question that changed the course of history:

- "Father, who is great enough to defend the helpless and challenge tyranny?"
- Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji,s answer came with serene clarity:
- "None but the one who is willing to sacrifice his own life."

What followed was not merely a political act of defiancevit was a universal statement on freedom of conscience, centuries ahead of modern human rights law.

The Martyrdom That Shook an Empire

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji traveled to Delhi fully aware of his fate. Arrested and tortured, he witnessed the brutal execution of his companions Bhai Mati Das ji , Bhai Dayala ji , and Bhai Sati Das ji who embraced martyrdom with unflinching faith.

On 11 November 1675, attend Chandni Chowk, Guru Tegh Bahadur was publicly executed for refusing to abandon his principles. With calm dignity, he offered his head but never bowed.

His martyrdom earned him the timeless title

Never before in recorded history had a spiritual leader embraced death to defend the religious freedom of another community. His sacrifice stands as a monumental act of inter-faith solidarity, moral strength, and love for humanity.

A Legacy Carved Into the Soul of the Nation

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji,s legacy lived on through his son, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, and ultimately through the creation of the Khalsa a community dedicated to righteousness and justice.

Today, the sacred sites of:

- Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib (where he was martyred)
- Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib (where he was cremated)

In a world where conversations about religious freedom, minority rights, and social justice dominate global discourse, Guru Tegh Bahadur's ideals shine brighter than ever.

He teaches us that:

- Courage is not loud it is steady.
- Faith is not rigid it is compassionate.
- Leadership is not dominance it is sacrifice.

He reminds us that the true measure of humanity lies in our willingness to defend the dignity of others.

Conclusion: A Light That Cannot Be Dimmed

More than three questions of freedom, identity, and justice, his life shines like a moral lighthouse steadfast, compassionate, and

eternally relevant. Never before in recorded history had a spiritual leader embraced death to defend the religious freedom of another community. His sacrifice stands as a monumental act of interfaith solidarity, moral strength, and love for humanity.

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Abhi Na Jao Chhod Ke: Farewell To An Era, Immortality Of A Hero



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

Hindi cinema has given birth to many stars in its long journey, but there are some whose brilliance never dims with time, but lives on, bringing a new sparkle to the eyes of every generation. Dharmendra was one of those rare stars who was not just an actor but also became a part of the emotional fabric of Indian society. His passing has left a void that is difficult to express in words. He was not just a screen image; he was a human being whose warmth and humility connected audiences to him like a member of their own families.

Dharmendra's story is no less than a film script. This journey, which began in Nasrali, a small village in Punjab, is a living example of struggle, hard work, and the power of dreams. When a boy born into a humble farming family reaches the glitz and glamour of the film world, one often loses his true identity, but Dharmendra wasn't like that. He never abandoned his roots. That same simplicity, that same Indianness, that same sense of belonging was evident in his every smile. That's why he became not just a "star," but a "hero of hearts."

When he burst onto the silver screen in the 1960s, audiences could not have imagined that this young man would become one of the most beloved faces in Hindi cinema for decades to come. While his beginnings were slow, the innocence in his eyes and the deep confidence hidden in his personality quickly struck a chord with the masses. His early films demonstrated his distinctive qualities: simplicity of dialogue, spontaneous expression of emotions, and a sincere approach to his characters.

Over time, Dharmendra demonstrated that he wasn't just a romantic hero, but an actor who could fit into



every genre. He lived every shade of acting—the tenderness of romance, the ease of comedy, the intensity of action, and the depth of emotional scenes. His romantic portrayal in "Anupama" and "Anpadh" captivated audiences, while his action-packed performances in "Mera Gaon Mera Desh" and "Sholay" earned him the title of "He-Man." This title wasn't a fashion statement, but a testament to his inherently strong personality.

Veeru from "Sholay" is a character in Indian cinema history that needs no introduction. Veeru's fun, friendship, carefree attitude, and depth of heart made this character immortal. Dharmendra didn't just play a role, he lived it. That's why Veeru still brings smiles to audiences' faces. But Dharmendra's magic wasn't limited to Veeru. His serious-minded comedy in "Chupke

Chupke" proves that comedy doesn't always come from over-the-top action or exaggeration; it can also be born from grace and timely dialogue. Dharmendra was a living example of this.

The foundation of his acting was always truth. He didn't act; he expressed truth. This truth sometimes manifested as the tenderness of love, sometimes as the bitterness of conflict. In today's age, when acting is increasingly dependent on technique and superficial embellishment, Dharmendra reminds us that the heart is at the heart. It is this quality that liberated his films from the constraints of time.

Dharmendra had another great quality—his down-to-earth nature. He never tried to prove himself great or big. Even after hundreds of successful films, millions of fans, and decades of popularity, he spoke like a simple vil-

lager. His humility wasn't the result of any artificial modesty; it was part of his nature. This is why he remained an object of equal respect both within and outside the industry.

Dharmendra never abandoned his values, both in his personal and political life. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 2004 and served the public in his own way. Although he was not deeply involved in politics, it was clear that he understood his role as a responsible citizen of society. His character was as straightforward and direct as his acting.

The simplicity of his lifestyle also always impressed people. His farmhouse, far from the hustle and bustle of Mumbai, working the land, watering the fields, spending time with animals—all these brought peace to his soul. This portrays an actor who,

beyond the glittering screen, felt completely at home in the lap of nature. This is a quality rarely seen in any actor.

His contributions are not limited to his time. Today's generation finds the same freshness, the same human sensitivity, and the same communicative power in Dharmendra's films that audiences felt 40-50 years ago. It is the lot of very few artists to have the power of their films transcend generations. Dharmendra didn't take this legacy with him; he left it to society.

When we think of him today, that easy smile on his face immediately comes to mind. It's as if he were still preparing for a scene, or saying in an interview with his famous humility, "Hey, I'm not a great actor, I just try my best." This very attitude made him great.

Dharmendra's passing is not just the departure of an artist for Indian cinema; it marks the end of an era. An era when simplicity, emotion, and humanity were the backbone of acting. An era when cinema wasn't just entertainment, but a mirror of society, family, and relationships. Dharmendra was the brightest ray of light in that mirror.

But like every great artist, Dharmendra has proven that even if the body is gone, the art never is. His voice, his laughter, the sparkle in his eyes, the scenes from his films—all of these will live on somewhere within us. That's not just because he acted in over 300 films, but because he made a place in people's hearts. This is the true power of cinema—when the audience begins to see the actor not just as an actor, but as part of the family.

Today, when we remember this line in tribute—"Abhi na jao chhod ke..."—it's not just a line from a song. It feels like the call of an era. But great artists never truly go away. Dharmendra is gone, too. He's in our songs, in our dialogues, in our films, and above all, in our hearts.

A hundred salutes to that 'He-Man' of Indian cinema, whose simplicity taught us to be human and whose smile made generations realize the beauty of life.

Author is a TV panelist. He can be mailed at satywanverma333@gmail.com

Chief Secy reviews Food Safety performance across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to comprehensively review the performance of the Food Safety Organization and deliberate upon future strategies aimed at curbing the supply of adulterated food items and ensuring safe, hygienic and quality food for consumers across all districts of the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Secretary, Health; Secretary, Law; Commissioners, JMC and SMC; Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration; DG, Budget and other senior officers concerned.

The Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of continuous monitoring and stringent enforcement of the legal framework to protect public health. He stressed that food safety is a non-negotiable aspect of public welfare, as food is consumed daily and has a direct and lasting impact on the health of citizens.

He called for a robust, technology-driven and proactive enforcement mechanism to eliminate adulteration and ensure compliance with prescribed quality standards.

The meeting assessed the department's overall activities carried out under the mandates of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), highlighting

significant progress in surveillance, inspections and legal action against violators.

Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration, SmethaSethi informed the meeting that the department has substantially intensified its surveillance operations. Against an annual target of 7,080 samples, the department has already lifted 10,620 surveillance samples, achieving over 150% of the target, reflecting a strong commitment toward consumer safety.

In terms of enforcement, Food Safety Officers conducted 1,423 Risk-Based Inspections and 13,944 Routine Inspections across the Union Territory. To ensure infrastructure and hygiene compliance, 943 Improvement Notices were

issued to Food Business Operators (FBOs) under Section 32 of the FSS Act, surpassing the target of 625 notices.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that strict legal action is being taken against violators. Under the civil adjudication process (Section 30), a total of 718 prosecutions have been launched, of which 671 cases have already been decided, resulting in penalties amounting to Rs 84.33 lakhs. Additionally, 21 criminal cases pertaining to unsafe food have been filed, with convictions secured in 10 cases involving fines and imprisonment.

The meeting also reviewed the outcomes of special enforcement drives conducted during November. A dedicated drive on

Ghee led to the seizure of 80.78 kg of stock. Of the 41 samples tested, 12 failed to meet quality standards. Consequently, Prohibition Orders have been issued against the manufacturers of the failed products and the information has been shared with FSSAI and concerned States including Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat for action at the source.

Similarly, a drive on Poly Pack Milk saw 95 samples tested, out of which only 2 failed, indicating high compliance levels. Meanwhile, 32 samples of Packaged Drinking Water were collected and their test reports are awaited.

The meeting further reviewed the department's roadmap for strengthening the

food safety ecosystem in the UT. Key strategic decisions included upgrading laboratory infrastructure to enhance testing capabilities. The FSSAI-NABL integrated assessment for the State Food Testing Laboratory (SFTL), Jammu is scheduled within one month, while the upgradation of laboratories in Jammu and Srinagar for advanced antibiotic and microbiological testing is targeted for completion within three months.

Regarding expansion of infrastructure, proposals have been submitted for establishing two additional state-of-the-art food testing laboratories and procuring 10 more 'Food Safety on Wheels' mobile vans to enhance outreach and surveillance in remote and rural areas.

To enhance consumer awareness and promote responsible food practices, the department will roll out "Eat Right Initiatives" and structured training programmes for street food vendors across all districts within the next quarter.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned officers to maintain strict vigil on the market, especially with regard to high-risk commodities, and expedite rationalisation and strengthening of enforcement staff to bridge manpower gaps. He emphasized that sustained vigilance, strong enforcement and public participation are essential to ensuring a safe and healthy food ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

NC CWC Focuses On

that strengthening the organisation would also strengthen the government. "A strong party means a strong government," he told the participants. He further directed the leadership to take all necessary measures and reforms to strengthen the organisation.

Chief Minister and NC vice president Omar Abdullah opened the floor for discussion, urging legislators to express their views and suggestions freely. Omar also intervened intermittently, explaining the challenges faced by the government in governance due to the dual power structure in the Union Territory.

The issue of the electoral debacle in Budgam as well as the rebellion of Aga Ruhullah also came up for discussion.

Some leaders maintained that the party should not tolerate indiscipline at any cost and that nobody is above the organisation. "The party should take a decision on him," one MLA told the meeting.

The legislators reiterated the need to empower them and expand the cabinet to improve the government's outreach. "We should fill the vacant cabinet slots to increase the government's visibility," one MLA suggested.

Sources said that the National Conference (NC) could pass some resolutions on statehood, Article 370, and the harassment of Kashmiris in other states on the second day of the session tomorrow.

"The party is also expected to take some action against MP Ruhullah Mehdi tomorrow," they said—(KNO)

MP Ruhullah Not

expected to be framed after discussions conclude.

"It is too early to say anything right now. The working committee session is still going on for two days and discussions are in progress. We have a large number of members and so far, around 19-20 members have spoken," Wani said adding the session will continue tomorrow as well, after which resolutions will be framed," he said.

Asked whether Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi was invited to the meeting, Wani replied briefly, "No, he was not invited."

MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar said the meeting will strengthen both the party as well as government. "The Chief Minister sought firsthand feedback from MLAs and assured that all the issues would be addressed. The idea is to ensure better coordination between the party and the people so that people at the grassroots level ultimately are benefited. This meeting will strengthen both the party and governance structure," he said—(KNO)

After 'Op Sindoor'

and mission readiness.

The President also noted the Army's investment in youth and human capital through education, sports, and the expansion of the NCC, as well as the increasing participation of women officers and soldiers. According to her, these initiatives foster inclusion and inspire more young women to join the armed forces or pursue professional careers.

President Murmu said that the discussions at Chanakya Defence Dialogue-2025 would provide valuable insights to policymakers. She expressed confidence that the armed forces would continue striving for excellence, moving ahead with determination to achieve the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047—(KNO)

Accused Jasir Bilal

\ drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the November 10 blast.

Kashmir Parts Record

the figures, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of -4.4°C, marking its coldest November night since 2007, when -4.8°C was recorded on November 28. The lowest ever November minimum in Srinagar remains -7.8°C, registered on November 29, 1934.

Qazigund also recorded its coldest November temperature since 2007, touching -4.0°C. The town last saw a similar minimum of -5.5°C on November 28, 2007. Its lowest-ever November reading stands at -8.2°C, recorded on November 24, 1962.

Kupwara dipped to -4.4°C, the lowest November minimum in the district since 2009, when -4.6°C was recorded on November 19. The all-time lowest November temperature for Kupwara remains -5.5°C, measured on November 29, 2007.

The cold wave extended across South and North Kashmir, with most stations witnessing sharp falls in night temperatures.

Pahalgam recorded -5.0°C, Pampore -5.5°C, Budgam -4.6°C, Bandipora -4.5°C, Awantipora -4.0°C, while Anantnag and Pulwama registered -5.7°C and -5.8°C respectively. Shopian remained the coldest in the Valley at -6.5°C. Gulmarg settled at -1.0°C, and Zojila Pass reported the lowest overall reading at -16.0°C.

In the Jammu region, night temperatures also declined but largely stayed above freezing. Jammu recorded 8.7°C, Katra 8.5°C, Batote 4.0°C, Bhaderwah 0.4°C, Rajouri 2.0°C, and Udhampur 4.6°C. Jammu Airport registered 10.1°C, the highest minimum across both regions.

In Ladakh, the cold spell was more intense, with Leh recording -8.6°C, Kargil -9.5°C, and Nubra -7.7°C.

Faizan forecast mostly dry weather across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh over the next 10 days.

He said that a weak Western Disturbance around 30 November may bring isolated snowfall over the upper reaches, followed by another weak system expected from December 5—(KNO)

J&K Police Search

residences and private establishments, searches were also carried out at institutions said to be associated with JeI ideology. These included Jamiat-ul-Banaat, Kashmir University, located at Umer Colony Lal Bazar; Rahat Manzil (JK Yateem Khana) at Bagh-i-Nand Singh Chattabal; Chinar Publication Trust at Maisuma; and Al-Kousar Book Shop, also in Maisuma, the officials said.

Srinagar Police said the searches were conducted strictly in accordance with legal procedures and in the presence of independent witnesses as mandated. Incriminating materials relevant to the ongoing investigation were seized from several locations and will undergo further examination.

Officials said the exercise is part of sustained efforts to prevent unlawful activities and ensure a secure atmosphere for the residents of Srinagar. Police added that further investigation is underway, and legal action will follow based on the findings.

Authorities urged the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and report any information or activity that could threaten public order.

In Awantipora, police conducted searches at multiple residential premises belonging to JeI members. Incriminating material and digital devices were recovered, and several individuals were questioned and bound under the law.

In Handwara, acting on credible intelligence, police carried out a raid at Jamia Islamia Institute, Waripora. Electronic devices seized from the institute are being examined to verify their usage and probe suspected links with the banned organisation.

In Anantnag, police teams searched multiple houses and premises associated with JeI-linked individuals as part of efforts to dismantle suspected support structures. The operation continued through the day, with searches forming part of preventive action against revival attempts of the organisation.

In Budgam, raids were conducted in Chadoora, Soibugh and Beerwah, targeting residences and institutes allegedly linked to JeI. Documents and electronic devices were seized for further examination. Police teams conducting the searches included lady personnel and local witnesses.

In Kulgam, police launched coordinated searches across the district, recovering electronic gadgets, literature and documents suspected to be relevant to ongoing investigations. All material has been taken into custody for scrutiny, police said.

In Pulwama, early-morning searches were conducted at multiple locations linked with JeI members. No incriminating material was recovered during the operation, which was conducted in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and other witnesses.

In Shopian, police carried out wide-scale raids targeting individuals with past or present affiliations to JeI. Electronic gadgets, documents and other materials suspected of supporting clandestine activities were seized and sent for forensic and technical examination.

Police said the operations are part of sustained preventive action across Jammu and Kashmir to counter attempts to revive networks of the proscribed organisation and to curb radicalization—(KNO)

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Police said the operations are part of sustained preventive action across Jammu and Kashmir to counter attempts to revive networks of the proscribed organisation and to curb radicalization—(KNO)

Cs Advocates Robust

expansion and strengthening of skilling initiatives in future.

He emphasized the urgent need for a well-defined and targeted action plan to skill lakhs of

individuals in the 18-39 age group, enabling them to enhance their employability and secure sustainable livelihoods.

Drawing parallels with sectors such as medicine and engineering, he highlighted how the creation of dedicated regulatory frameworks like NMC and AICTE, along with premier institutions such as AIIMS, IITs and NITs, led to the systematic development of trained manpower and attracted private sector participation.

The Chief Secretary called for emulating a similar model in the skill development sector, stressing its alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He underlined the necessity of defining clear roles for schools, colleges, universities, institutions of excellence like IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, and technical institutions such as ITIs and Polytechnics.

He further stressed that the success of this model should be measured through tangible outcomes, with strong linkage to employment whether through self-employment or private sector placements.

Participants from academic institutions and stakeholder departments shared valuable insights and assured their full cooperation by contributing resources, expertise and manpower to ensure the effective implementation and success of the proposed action plan in accordance with its core objectives.

Secretary, Skill Development Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, elaborated on the roadmap, stating that the proposed framework envisions skilling as a lifelong process beginning right from school education. He outlined a structured approach whereby students from Classes 6th to 9th would be imparted foundational vocational skills, followed by elective courses in Artificial Intelligence and Entrepreneurship from Classes 9th to 12th. This initiative aims to equip every learner with essential competencies required to thrive in the rapidly evolving global economy.

He further explained that at the collegiate level, a 'Career Launchpad' model would be introduced, offering minor skilling courses in digital and technology skills, business, finance, entrepreneurship, green energy, creative and design fields, complemented by soft skills, workplace readiness and structured placement support.

Director, Skill Development, Shahzad Alam, informed that technical institutions would be transformed into industry-ready skilling hubs in collaboration with MSMEs. This would involve curriculum revision, capacity building of trainers and infrastructure upgradation, with Polytechnics being strengthened and eventually developed into a dedicated Skill University for J&K.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of integrating short-term skilling programmes, mid-career upgradation courses and competitive examination packages to institutionalize lifelong learning as a social and economic norm. This would encourage individuals to continuously invest in enhancing their professional competencies throughout their careers.

Among the key ecosystem enablers discussed were effective placement coordination mechanisms, skill financing solutions, introduction of 'Skill Passports' reflecting individual skill scores, and establishment of a comprehensive institutional framework for continuous monitoring and evaluation of skilling initiatives across J&K.

PM Modi's 5S Approach

Gen Dwivedi recalled the 'Decade of Transformation' vision earlier announced by the Army for the period 2023-2032, and outlined a three-phase plan to make it a future-ready force.

The phase one, 'hop', set the agenda for the journey of the force by 2032.

Phase two, for 2037 vision, is a five-year consolidated period, drawing on the gains from phase one, and phase three, 'jump', with a 2047 vision, to graduate to the next level of "integrated future-ready force design", Gen Dwivedi said.

This trajectory has been further strengthened by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh earlier designating 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms' and it proved its merit in Operation Sindoor, where years of reforms and readiness, translated into "decisive outcomes".

"So, as we carry this sovereign strategic success forward for future operations, and the larger aspirations of a Sashakt, Surakhshit and Viksit Bharat, the real question before us is what must propel our next leap," the Army Chief said.

He outlined a set of springboards that will drive the years of transformation ahead.

The first one is 'atmanirbharta', the self-reliance and empowerment through indigenisation.

The second one is accelerated innovation,

he said, adding, "we must now move on from experimentation to enterprise-scale impact at a much faster pace in AI, cyber, quantum, autonomous systems, space and advanced materials."

The other two springboards are adaptation and military-civil fusion.

Gen Dwivedi said he was confident that this conclave will deliver "actionable items".

Senior officials of the Indian armed forces, and defence and strategic affairs experts from India and abroad, have gathered in Delhi for this two-day conclave hosted at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi Cantonment—(KNO)

NC Risks Losing

cannot switch to a different language after getting that mandate," he said. "I have neither distanced myself from any party nor planned to form any new party. My disagreements with the National Conference are because we have to work on the political agendas for which we sought votes."

The MP Srinagar added, "We cannot speak the language of the BJP. More than a year has passed, but we have not worked on our agenda, have not worked in the name of Article 370, have not worked on the Waqf Bill, have not worked on the issue of reservations."

About the NC's Working Committee meeting, Ruhullah said he was unaware of it. "I don't know which meeting is going on. I'm a permanent member of the Working Committee. This is the first time since 2002 that I have not been invited," he said.

Replying to a query on reports of him flouting a political party, the senior NC leader said he has not distanced himself to build a separate political platform. "I have not kept a distance from any party, nor have I spoken to anyone to form another party," he said.

On the reservation issue, Ruhullah said students are losing opportunities due to delays. "More than a year has passed. If this matter remains unresolved after a month, I will again sit with the students until the issue is settled," he said.

He further said that the failure of mainstream parties to honour public trust would damage the entire political system. "If the party does not follow its own manifesto, it will lose people's trust, and losing trust is the biggest loss," he said.

Mehdi said his political stance is driven by principles and not positions of power, a day after Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary advised him to raise his voice in Parliament and stop seeking the limelight.

Ruhullah said that people who lack discipline, principle, honesty, and loyalty in their politics are not even worthy of a response. "The Deputy CM left the PDP, and yet he advises me about principles and party. My fight is for principles, not for the chair. I have not changed the party and principles for the chair," he said.

He added, "Two years ago, the Deputy CM was not in the National Conference, and sometimes aligned with the BJP, sometimes with the PDP. Wherever he gets the chair and opportunity, he goes there. Such people have no principles, no values, and no direction in their lives. My politics and my efforts are based on principles and values. That is why, if I have expressed disagreement with the party, it is based on principles, and not for the chair."

The Member Parliament also demanded immediate compensation and a government job for the family of Bilal Ahmad Songoo, the sole breadwinner of his household, who was killed in the recent Delhi blast. He called the incident "a murder of humanity", saying that people from different religions, including Kashmiri Muslims, lost their lives and that no tragedy should be communalised.

Ruhullah said he has written to the Union Home Minister seeking compensation and jobs for victims' families in recent incidents and will continue to pursue the matter. He also criticised recent demolition drives, claiming that even those who committed no violations were targeted.

Referring to it as a "bulldozer model", the MP urged the administration to stop such actions and protect the rights and property of the people—(KNO)

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J&K Bank Board Clears

He further added, "The leadership remains focused on building a strong, resilient and future-ready Bank by strengthening its ability to grow sustainably while meeting future business and regulatory requirements."

India-Australia relations 'never been better': Australian envoy lauds PM Modi's leadership

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Australian High Commissioner to India, Philip Green, said on Friday, that the ties between India and Australia have "never been better" and lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for taking the "dramatic steps forward."

Terming India and Australia as close friends, the Australian diplomat said that the two nations are now working on a shared vision of Indian Ocean and stable, prosperous and free Indo-Pacific. Speaking to IANS, Green stated that India's economy is growing fast and that is of special interest to Australia.

"Our bilateral relations have never been better. Under the period of the Modi government, there's been really dramatic steps forward. So, I like to think of it this way: there are three underlying drivers of our bilateral relationship. We have strategic alignment now. Australia and India have always been friends, but this is now different when we're working on a shared vision of what we want our Indian Ocean, our Indo-Pacific to be like, stable, prosperous and free," Green told IANS.

"We have very strong high levels of economic complementarity. India's



economy is growing fast and that's of interest to every country in the world, but it's of special interest to Australia because we produce the sort of things that India needs for the next phase of its economic growth, whether that's energy, minerals or metals, or skills and training. We don't compete much with India. And then the third thing that is really driving our relations is the so-called human bridge. Now a million people of Indian origin who make Australia home, and that's adding a very strong personal dimension to our relations," he added.

The Australian envoy called India a "leading power" in the world and said that PM Modi has underlined and accentuated it. He called the G20

Summit held in New Delhi in 2023 a powerful demonstration of India's arrival as a global player.

"Look, India is a leading power in the world and that has been very much underlined and accentuated by Prime Minister Modi. I arrived here two years ago in the middle of the G20 Summit and all I can tell you is that that was a powerful demonstration of India's arrival as a global player. Not only was there a G20 which was full of new outcomes in all sorts of important fields like tech and culture and science. But, your country was the country that was able to bring all the big states of the world together in a single document that even dealt with the most complex geo-strategic issues, including the invasion of

Ukraine by Russia. So, that's just one example, but when I see Prime Minister Modi going to Australia, speaking to the large diaspora community in Australia, promoting India, giving everybody a sense of India's great future in the world, I think it's really been quite a remarkable transformation."

PM Modi and Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese recently met on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in South Africa's Johannesburg where both leaders expressed satisfaction at the deepening and diversification of cooperation between India and Australia in the last five years following elevation of the relationship to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2020.

When asked whether India has emerged as a world power under PM Modi's leadership, the Australian Ambassador responded, "Definitely. Look, most populous country on earth, now the fastest growing large economy in the world, a country that is engaging on some of the world's toughest issues and making headway. A country that for Australia is an indispensable partner in the Indo-Pacific. These are ways in which India is making its presence felt in a very positive way in global affairs."

Regrettable statement: Ramaphosa on Trump vowing not to invite South Africa to 2026 G20 Summit

IAN S

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa on Thursday termed US President Donald Trump's statement of not inviting the African nation to attend the next year's Group of 20 (G20) Summit in Miami as "regrettable".

President Cyril Ramaphosa said that South Africa is a member of the G20 "in its own name and right" and its G20 membership is at the behest of all other members.

"President Cyril Ramaphosa has noted the regrettable statement by President Donald Trump on South Africa's participation in the 2026 G20 meetings. The G20 South Africa 2025 Leaders' Summit was hailed by all members who attended as one of the most successful summits. The summit produced a declaration that affirmed the indisputable strength and value of multilateralism in response to the most pressing challenges facing the world," read a statement issued by Ramaphosa's office.

"As the United States was not present at the summit, instruments of the G20 Presidency were duly handover to a US Embassy official at the Headquarters of South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation. As a founding member, South Africa has always valued the spirit of consensus, collaboration and partnership that defines the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation. In keeping with this approach, the United States was expected to participate in all meetings of the G20 during South Africa's Presidency and elected not to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg out of its own volition," it



added.

The South African President made it clear that the country will continue to participate as a full, active and constructive member of the G20 and called on members of the G20 to reaffirm its continued operation in the spirit of multilateralism, based on consensus, with all members participating on an equal footing in all of its structures.

"South Africa is a member of the G20 in its own name and right. It's G20 membership is at the behest of all other members. South Africa is a sovereign constitutional democratic country and does not appreciate insults from another country about its worth in participating in global platforms. South Africa will never insult another country or its standing in the community of nations," the statement mentioned.

"It is regrettable that despite the efforts and numerous attempts by President Ramaphosa and his administration to reset the diplomatic relationship with the US President Trump continues to apply punitive measures against South Africa based on misinformation and distortions about our country,"

it mentioned further.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he will not invite South Africa to attend next year's G20 Summit in Miami, Florida, and will halt all US aid to the country.

"At my direction, South Africa will not be receiving an invitation to the 2026 G20, which will be hosted in the Great City of Miami, Florida next year," Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social. He added that the United States would "stop all payments and subsidies to them, effective immediately."

Trump has repeatedly claimed that white people in South Africa are being killed and their farms are being seized at random -- allegations the South African government has repeatedly rejected.

Trump also criticised South Africa for refusing to hand over the G20 presidency to a senior US diplomat at the summit's closing ceremony over the weekend. South Africa earlier said it was an insult for President Cyril Ramaphosa to hand over to a junior US official.

Tensions between Washington and Pretoria have escalated since Trump returned to office in late

January. In February, Trump signed an executive order to freeze US aid to South Africa, accusing the Expropriation Act -- a land reform law signed by Ramaphosa in January -- of "discriminating" against the country's white population, Xinhua news agency reported.

In response, the South African government pushed back against the White House's accusations, saying the aid freeze "lacks factual accuracy and fails to recognize South Africa's profound and painful history of colonialism and apartheid."

In February, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on X that he would boycott the G20 summit in Johannesburg.

In March, Washington expelled then South African Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, further straining the bilateral relations. The expulsion followed an earlier address by the ambassador, in which he criticized Trump.

In May, Trump confronted visiting South African President Ramaphosa at the White House with conspiracy theories on "white genocide" in South Africa, which Ramaphosa firmly denied.

At the time, Ramaphosa, who had arrived in Washington to improve trade terms and ease bilateral tensions, rejected Trump's assertions during their meeting. The South African president refuted the notion that white South Africans are fleeing the country due to racist policies, noting that the majority of crime victims in his country are Black.

Earlier this month, Trump announced that no US officials would attend the G20 Summit.

Judiciary has no 'magic wand' to fix Delhi-NCR's pollution problem: CJI Kant

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday remarked that the judiciary cannot be expected to deliver miraculous solutions to Delhi-NCR's hazardous air quality.

After senior advocate Aparajita Singh, the amicus curiae assisting the top court, mentioned the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) concerning air-pollution control in the national Capital, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant remarked: "What magic wand can a judicial forum exercise? I know this is hazardous for Delhi-NCR. Tell me, what can we direct so that there is clean air immediately?"

Even as the CJI cautioned against the belief that the top court's directions alone could "clean the air immediately", he agreed to list the long-pending MC Mehta matter on December 1.

Acknowledging the amicus' submission about an "alarming situation" in Delhi-NCR, CJI Kant said the factors behind Delhi's poor air quality were several in number.

"We all know the problem. We need to identify all the reasons. There is no one single reason; it would be a mistake to think so," the CJI remarked, adding that "only domain experts and scientists" could offer a comprehensive assessment of the sources of pollution and region-specific solutions.

CJI Kant also flagged the pattern of the issue of severe pollution levels being revived only during peak winter months. "This matter is listed in a ceremonial way during the Diwali season. After winters, it disappears. Let us have regular monitoring," the CJI said, assuring that the apex court would now take up the matter "on a continuous basis".

"List this on Monday (December 1), and let us see what we can do," he added.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court had urged the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to consider postponing school sports events scheduled for November–December, observing that "children are most vulnerable".

India's exports to the US have increased: Commerce Secretary

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Thursday that India's exports to the United States have increased.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce held a meeting during which the Commerce Secretary was summoned for a detailed review of India-US trade relations in the backdrop of rising tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

Committee members sought multiple clarifications from the ministry—particularly on the depreciation of the Indian rupee against the US dollar and the impact of higher tariffs on Indian farmers. Members also pressed the ministry to explain the support measures being planned for industries that have been severely affected by the tariff hikes.

According to sources, after addressing the panel's questions, the Commerce Secretary requested ten days to prepare detailed

responses on these issues. The ministry is expected to submit a comprehensive written reply within this period.

Sources added that the next meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce will take place on December 16. Officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, the MSME Ministry, and the Ministry of Textiles will also be invited for discussions on India-US trade relations. The Commerce Secretary's submissions will form part of these deliberations.

Representatives from major industry bodies, including FICCI, ASSOCHAM, and other trade associations, will also participate in the December 16 meeting.

The Commerce Secretary said earlier this month that India and the US are "nearing closure" in their talks for signing the first tranche of the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

Agrawal told journalists that the two countries have been holding regular virtual rounds of talks on the BTA. Although no formal deadlines can be set on the issue, the first stage of the trade talks is progressing swiftly, he added.

US President Donald Trump sent positive signals on strengthening U.S.-India relations this month, raising fresh hopes that a bilateral trade agreement between the world's two largest democracies could be signed soon.

Trump told reporters at the White House that his talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were "going great" and that a visit to Delhi could take place next year.

Earlier, Trump said that he plans to "lower tariffs" imposed on India "at some point", indicating that a breakthrough in the trade talks could come soon.

"I think we're pretty close to doing a deal (with India) that's good for everybody," Trump said, in answer to a question from the media, at the ceremony for swearing in Sergio Gor as the new US Ambassador to India.

Social media content guidelines in final stage: Centre tells SC

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is in the final stages of preparing a regulatory framework to address explicit and harmful content on social media platforms.

Seeking an additional four weeks, the Union government apprised a Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi that the proposed guidelines would soon be placed in the public domain to invite suggestions from citizens, experts, and other stakeholders.

The CJI Kant-led Bench was hearing a clutch of petitions filed by YouTubers Ranveer Allahbadia, Ashish Chanchalani, and others facing several FIRs over allegedly obscene and

offensive remarks made during the controversial show "India's Got Latent".

During the hearing, the Apex Court stressed that existing provisions may require amendments to ensure meaningful checks on online content.

At this, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the second-highest law officer of the Centre, said: "I have spoken to the concerned Minister. Before dealing with obscenity, we must first deal with wrongful acts. Anyone can create a YouTube channel, say anything under the garb of free speech, and the law is helpless. That cannot continue."

The Supreme Court suggested the Centre consider the feasibility of establishing an autonomous regulatory body to monitor online content.

"If everything is allowed

to be spoken or shown without accountability, what will be the consequence?" the CJI Kant-led Bench remarked.

Further, it referred to the intrusive nature of online platforms and said: "Obscenity can appear in books or paintings, and those can be restricted. But when you switch on your phone, and something appears that you do not want to see – and it is forcibly pushed at you - what is the remedy?"

The Supreme Court also took strong exception to derogatory or insensitive depictions of disabled persons, urging the government to consider a stringent penal mechanism, akin to the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, to deter insults and mockery aimed at persons with disabilities.

"We were told that

highly sensitive issues are being mocked. Why shouldn't there be a strict law to protect disabled individuals from such humiliation?" the CJI Kant-led Bench asked.

The latest developments came against the backdrop of earlier hearings, where the Supreme Court reprimanded several stand-up comedians, including Samay Raina, Vipul Goyal, Balraj Paramjeet Singh Ghai, Sonali Thakkar, and Nishant Tanwar, for making insensitive jokes about an infant suffering from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).

In August this year, the Apex Court had directed Raina and four others to issue public apologies on social media after taking note of their offensive remarks about a two-month-old baby needing a Rs 16 crore life-saving injection.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION SUMBAL

IRRIGATION COLONY SUMBAL SONAWARI - 193501



Extension Notice-I

Reference: - This office e-Tender Notice No.. :-07 of 2025-26
Dt. 12.11.2025 issued vide No. IFCDs/2830-50
Dt.12/11/2025

Due to poor response of bidders, the date for submission/opening of bids of eNIT No.07 of 2025-26 are rescheduled as below:-

1. Last date of receipt of bids: 01/12/2025 (04:00 P.M)
instead of 26/11/2025(04:00PM)

2. Date of Opening of bids : 02/12/2025 (12.00 P.M)
instead of 27/11/2025 (11:30PM)

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS LAID DOWN IN THE ENIT NOTICE, SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

No.IFCDs/CC/3133-35

Dated :- 26/11/2025

DIPK-8474-25
DT: 27/11/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
I&FC Division Sumbal

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OFFICER ANANTNAG

Subject: Invitation of short-term quotation.

For and on behalf of Chief animal husbandry officer Anantnag Short Term Quotation are invited from registered dealers for below mentioned items. The quotation should reach this office within 5 days from the date of issuance of this quotation.

S.NO	ITEM	PACK SIZE	QUANTITY
1	CEFOTOXIME SD040 1*100	1 x 100	01
2	CEFTRIAXONE SD65 1*100	1 x 100	01
3	CEFTRIAXONE SALBACTUM SD26	1 x 100	01
4	CEFOPERASONE SD072	1 x 100	01
5	DE BEAKER MACHINE SEI	small	02
6	DRESSING PAD	10 x 20	400
7	SILK THREAD	veterinary	300
8	INJ IVERMECTIN (PARID)	10 ml	400
9	STOMACH TUBE	Large	30
10	ANTISEPTIC SAVLON	500 ml	100
11	SURGICAL BLADE	11no	300
12	VEIN GART FOR RUMENTONMY	Small	4
13	INJ MEXLOXICAM PERACETOMOL	30 ml	650
14	INJ XYLAXINE	30 ml	30

1. The rates should be quoted at Chief Animal Husbandry Office, Anantnag.

2. The rates should be inclusive of GST.

3. Authorized drug licenses are eligible only.

4. The tender will be opened on next day of the Quotation ends at 11 A.M.

No:- CAHO/Ang/Sk/2025-26/190

Dated:- 24/11/2025

DIPK-8442-25
DT: 27/11/2025

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer
Anantnag

JKAACL Honours Legacy of Literary Stalwart Shams-ud-Din Shamim

JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with the Daily Ghadyaal, organised a one-day literary seminar Thursday to commemorate the contributions of the renowned fiction writer, playwright, and journalist, Shams-ud-Din Shamim.

The event, held at the Shehanshah Palace auditorium, brought together prominent literary figures, scholars, and media personalities to pay rich tributes to Shamim's multifaceted legacy.

The inaugural session was presided over by Prof. Farooq Fayaz, with Shabir Mujahid as the Chief Guest and noted playwright Wahshi Saeed as the Guest of Honour. Ideel Saleem, Additional Secretary of JKAACL, was also present on the podium.

In his welcome address, Ideel Saleem highlighted Shamim's significant contributions to Kashmiri fiction and cultural journalism, lauding his "fearless voice and commitment to society's collective conscience."

Delivering the keynote address, scholar Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq described Shamim's fiction as an "archive of lived experiences," deeply rooted in realism. He emphasized that Shamim's work por-



trayed Kashmiri society caught in political anxieties, social transitions, and moral dilemmas, and called him "a foundation on which the contemporary Kashmiri narrative must continue to build."

The Chief Guest, Shabir Mujahid, and Guest of Honour, Wahshi Saeed, remembered Shamim as a multi-dimensional literary figure with rare clarity and profound human depth.

In his presidential address, Prof. Farooq Fayaz stated that Shamim "resisted silence" and narrated the unspeakable. He stressed that celebrating his writings is not merely a literary act but a cultural responsibility, and urged institutions

to ensure the research and publication of Shamim's unpublished works.

The first technical session of the seminar, presided over by Prof. Gulshan Majeed, saw scholars including Prof. Rattan Lal Talashi, Prof. Mehfooza Jan, Rahim Rehbar, and others present research papers. The presentations explored various themes in Shamim's work, such as sociological realism, marginal voices, structural precision in drama, and his journalistic integrity.

Throughout the day, esteemed personalities including Nasir Mirza, Dildar Ashraf Shah, and Farooq Wani shared personal anecdotes, recalling

Shamim's ethical discipline, wit, and his role as a mentor to young writers.

The vote of thanks for the inaugural session was presented by Arshid Rasool, Chief Editor of Daily Ghadyaal, who appreciated JKAACL for honouring an "uncompromising literary voice." The concluding vote of thanks was delivered by Jawaid Iqbal, Editor (Kashmiri) at JKAACL, who expressed gratitude to all participants and stated that Shamim's legacy is "a living dialogue that must continue."

Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather, Assistant Editor (Kashmiri) at JKAACL, conducted the proceedings of both sessions.

Pant pens apology after 0-2 whitewash: 'Sorry we couldn't live up to expectations'

IANIS

NEW DELHI: India's wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant admitted that the team 'did not play good cricket' in the recently concluded two-game Test series against South Africa and apologised to the fans for not being able to "live up to their expectations".

India suffered a 0-2 whitewash at home as the Proteas dominated the proceedings throughout the two Tests in Kolkata and Guwahati.

After the reigning World Test champions, South Africa, clinched their first Test win in India since 2010 in the Kolkata Test, the visitors sealed their historic series victory by handing India its heaviest defeat with a 408-run win in the second Test. This was the Proteas' second Test series win in India after their 2-0 sweep in February-March 2000 under Hansie Cronje.

Since their defeat on Wednesday, the head coach



and players have been under intense scrutiny. Amid ongoing criticism from fans and pundits, Pant posted a picture on Instagram and apologised to everyone who had placed their hopes in the team's victory and assured them that they will work hard to make a strong comeback as a team and as individuals.

"There is no shying away from the fact that we didn't play good enough cricket over the last two weeks. As a

team & individuals. Thank you for your unwavering support and love! Jai Hind," Pant wrote.

Pant was named captain of the side in the second Test after regular skipper Shubman Gill was ruled out owing to his neck injury. While some of his captaincy calls were lauded, he was at the receiving end after the team's loss, with many being critical of his individual performance with the bat.

Taking the blame and expressing regret over losing the series, Pant, speaking during the presentation ceremony after the game in Guwahati's Barsapara Cricket Stadium, said, "It's a little disappointing. As a team we need to get better. Credit to the opposition — they dominated the series. We needed to be clear with our mindset. Cricket demands capitalising as a team, and we didn't do that. That cost us the whole series."

DC Kulgam Reviews RDD sector; Stresses Timely Completion of Works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR) at the Mini Secretariat to assess the functioning, progress, and implementation status of various schemes across the district.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed review of progress under major programmes and schemes including District Capex, CDF, MGNREGA, PMAY-G, SBM, RGSa, and other initiatives.

The chair was informed that under MGNREGA, 22,683,032 person-days

have been generated so far.

He instructed concerned officers to complete the eKYC of workers and improve coverage under social security schemes.

Reviewing the progress under PMAY-G, the DC was apprised that out of 5,867 sanctioned units, 5,515 units have been completed.

While reviewing the District Capex budget, the DC instructed officers to ensure timely completion of all works and expedite pending estimates.

He also reviewed progress in solid waste management, including door-to-door waste collection.

Underscoring the importance of field monitoring, the DC stressed maximum onsite inspections to ensure quality standards.

Artisans Registration Camp for SHG members conducted at Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), in convergence with the Handicrafts Department Pulwama, successfully conducted an Artisans Registration Camp for the Women Self Help Group (SHG) members at Wasimarg, Pulwama.

The camp was organised with the objective of formalizing artisan identities, enabling access to government schemes, skill development opportunities, and market linkages for rural women artisans engaged in traditional crafts.

The programme was held in the presence of Assistant Handicrafts Training Officer (AHTO) Pulwama, and District Programme Manager

(Livelihoods) JKRLM Pulwama and other employees from Handicraft department.

All officers interacted with the SHG members and highlighted the importance of artisan registration in strengthening livelihood opportunities under the Mission.

Speaking on the occasion, AHTO appreciated the craftsmanship of the SHG women and assured continuous support from the Handicrafts Department for training, certifications, and promotional platforms.

District Programme Manager (Livelihoods) JKRLM, emphasized that such camps bring government services to the doorsteps of rural women, ensuring their inclusion, empowerment, and recognition as skilled artisans.

.....BUILT BUT LOCKED

Shopian residents decry delay in commissioning slaughterhouse

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SHOPIAN: Residents of Shopian town have voiced strong resentment over the failure of authorities to commission the long-awaited slaughterhouse, despite its construction being completed months ago.

Locals said that the delay has caused inconvenience, health concerns, and raised questions about administrative inefficiency.

According to residents, the slaughterhouse project, taken up by the Municipal Council Shopian, was completed well within the stipulated timeframe — yet

it remains non-functional, forcing butchers to continue slaughtering animals in open or makeshift spaces.

Abdul Majid, a local from Jamia Market, expressed frustration over the unexplained delay. "We were told the slaughterhouse would start functioning immediately after completion. Months have passed, but the building is lying locked. If everything is ready, what is stopping the authorities from commissioning it?" he said.

Residents said the non-commissioning has not only defeated the very purpose of the project but also

affected hygiene standards in the town.

Shabir Ahmad, who runs a shop near the main market, said the delay has created more problems than solutions. "Animals are still being slaughtered in the open. Waste is dumped wherever possible. The whole point of constructing a modern slaughterhouse was to maintain hygiene, but nothing has changed on the ground," he said.

Locals argue that the absence of a functional, regulated facility poses risks to public health, especially with rising concerns

about sanitation in urban areas.

Several residents also questioned the lack of communication from the concerned departments.

Abdul Hamid, a local, said: "We appreciate that the structure was completed quickly, but what is the use if it is not commissioned? Authorities must come forward and explain what is causing the delay."

The residents urged the district administration and the Municipal Council to remove all hurdles, whether administrative, technical, or manpower-related, at the earliest—(KNO)

DC Srinagar Inspects Progress of Work on Construction of Tehsil Office Eidgah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Thursday inspected the progress of ongoing construction works for the new building for Tehsil Office Eidgah, aimed at modernizing and augmenting the revenue setup to enhance public



service delivery.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Payaz Ahmad Dar, Tehsildar Eidgah, Mohammad Iqbal Zargar, Executive Engineer R&B (Core), Arif Rehman Hazari, Executive Engineer Water Works Division, Aijaz Ahmad, besides other officers and engineers of the concerned departments.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the quality and pace of work on the upcoming office complex. The new Revenue Office building is being constructed by

the R&B Department.

The Officers apprised the DC that the new Tehsil Office will include a Tehsildar Room, Tehsildar Court Room, Waiting Hall, Naib Tehsildar Room, Staff Room, Meeting Hall, Computer Room, Establishment Room, and a modernized Record Room. It was further reported that

DG YSS Mourns Demise of I. D. Soni

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The J&K Chapter of the Bharat Bharat Scouts and Guides Mourn the Demise of Veteran Leader I.D. Soni the former State Commissioner of the Bharat Scouts and Guides for J&K and former Deputy Director School Education Department.

Soni, revered as a fatherly figure in the organization, passed away after a life dedicated to the service and mentorship of the youth. He is remembered for having fulfilled his mission through noble deeds, spreading the fragrance of love, and sharing a lifetime of invaluable experience with society and his loved ones.

The Director General of the Department of Youth Services and Sports Ms Anuradha Gupta, in a heartfelt condolence message, expressed deep sorrow on behalf of the entire Scouts and Guides family in the Union Territory.

"With a heavy heart, we bid farewell to our guiding light, Sh. I.D. Soni. He was not just a leader but a fatherly figure who shaped countless young minds with his wisdom, compassion, and unwavering dedication. His life was a testament to the principles



of the Scouts and Guides movement," the DG stated.

"On this solemn occasion, I, along with all members of my Bharat Scouts and Guides family, express our deepest condolences and profound sorrow. We pray to the almighty to grant strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss," the message read.

Paying rich tributes to the departed soul, the Director General said that Sh. Soni's legacy of selfless service and his contributions to character-building among the youth of J&K will continue to inspire generations to come.

The Scouts & Guides family prays to the Almighty to bestow peace upon the noble soul.

"We pray for the departed soul to find eternal peace in its heavenly abode. Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti," the condolence message concluded.

MOVIES Schedule

Friday, 28th November

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