

Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication



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Humble tribute to the great unifier of India, Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Ji, on his Punyatithi. His ideals of unity, integrity and nation-building continue to guide us to build a stronger & self-reliant India.

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Pulse **Polio** Campaign

"Do **Blood** Zindagi Ki"

"Stop polio at the doorstep - immunize every child."

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DIPK-9021/25 dated: 15-12-2025

Pahalgam Attack Case

NIA Names 3 Dead Terrorists, Pak Handler As Accused

AHMAD TAIMUR

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency on Monday filed the chargesheet in the Pahalgam terror attack that had left 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead on April 22 this year, naming six persons, including three dead terrorists and a Pakistan-based handler as accused in the case.

The anti-terror agency filed the chargesheet in the terror attack case after 7-and-a-half months in a special designated court in Jammu.

According to details available, the NIA has named the banned terror outfit Lashkar-e-Toiba and its proxy offshoot - The Resistance Front (TRF) in the chargesheet. It has also named three Pakistani terrorists, who were involved in the attack and later killed in operation Mahadev in Srinagar, in the chargesheet. The terrorists include, Sulaiman Shah, Hamza Afghani and Jibrin. Two over ground workers (OGWs), who had provided logistics support, shelter and food day before the attack to the terrorists, have also been named in the chargesheet. They include Bashir Ahmad Jothar and Parvez Ahmad. The NIA also produced blood samples and hair strands of the deceased as evidence in the special court while submitting the chargesheet.

At least 26 civilians were killed and many others were injured after terrorists attacked a group of tourists in the Baisaran. **• P-06**

J&K Govt Sacks 103 Firemen Over 2020 Recruitment Fraud

ACB Confirms Large-Scale Tampering In OMR Sheets, Illegal Manipulation Of Merit List

IAN S

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has terminated the services of 103 firemen in the Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Department after an inquiry and an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) investigation found large-scale irregularities in the 2020 recruitment process.

An order issued by Chandraker Bharti, Jammu and Kashmir Home Department Secretary has said: "Whereas, the government constituted an Inquiry Committee vide Government Order of 2022 dated December 12, 2022, to examine allegations of irregularities in the recruitment process of Firemen/Fireman drivers conducted in 2020 by the Fire and Emergency Services Department."

"And Whereas, the Committee, after detailed examination, recommended a criminal investigation by the J&K ACB into allegations of paper leakage, manipulation of results, and other issues," the order said.



"And whereas, pursuant to these findings, the J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau registered an FIR on January 2, 2025, and submitted a preliminary verification report vide letter numbers ACB-FIR dated January 9, 2025, followed by letters vide number ACB-

FIR dated November 21, 2025, and number ACB-FIR dated November 28, 2025, establishing large-scale tampering in OMR sheets, fabricated scanned images of answer sheets, and illegal manipulation of merit lists, conclusively confirming manipulation of results in favour of 106 candidates who were awarded marks far in excess of what they actually secured, tampered digital evidence."

"Whereas, it has been established beyond doubt that the appointments of these 106 candidates were obtained fraudulently, through criminal means and result-manipulation, rendering their appointments void from the beginning."

"And whereas, the protections available to civil servants under **• P-06**

...Udhampur Encounter Terrorist Killed, Cop Injured



UMAISAR GULL

UDHAMPUR: An unidentified terrorist was reportedly killed and a policeman sustained injuries in an ongoing encounter between terrorists and security forces in Udhampur district on Monday.

Official sources said that the gunfight erupted after joint teams of the Army, police and paramilitary forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Soan-Martha area of Majalta tehsil.

"As the security forces intensified the search operation, the hiding terrorists opened fire, which was retaliated to, triggering the encounter," an official said. "The initial reports suggest **• P-06**

CM Lays Foundation Stones Of ₹37.92 Crore Projects In Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday e-inaugurated and in virtual mode laid foundation stone of several key developmental projects worth 37.92 crore in Srinagar district, aimed at strengthening urban infrastructure, improving civic amenities and enhancing the quality of life of the people.

The e-inauguration and e-foundation ceremony was held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference

Centre (SKICC). Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Javed Rana, Javid Dar and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chairperson District Development Council Srinagar Malik Aftab, and Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, including Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mubarak Gul, Shameem Firdous, Salman Sagar, Tanvir Sadiq, Ahsan Ahmad and Mushtaq Ahmad Guru, were present **• P-06**

LS Approves Supplementary Demands For Grants For 2025-26

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Lok Sabha on Monday approved the supplementary demands for grants for the financial year 2025-26, seeking an additional Rs 41455 crore, of which Rs 2504 crore has been earmarked for the Union Territory of Ladakh to be transferred to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on account of the apportionment of liabilities between the two Union Territories.

As per the supplementary demands for grants, Rs 2504.46 crore has been allocated to Ladakh to meet additional expenditure for transfer to the UT of Jammu & Kashmir on account of apportionment of liabilities between the two UTs. According to the apportion-



ment of liabilities worked out between J&K and Ladakh UTs, two percent of the total liabilities of the erstwhile state of J&K-Rs 2504.46 crore were transferred to the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Post the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, a three-member committee headed by former Defence Secretary

Sanjay Mitra and comprising retired IAS officer Arun Goyal and retired Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer Giriraj Prasad Gupta, was constituted by the Government of India to work out the distribution of assets and liabilities between the two UTs.

The committee apportioned the assets and liabilities **• P-06**

CS Calls For Mission-Mode Implementation Of DPIIT Set DBR

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday held a review to access the implementation of the newly rolled-out District Business Reforms Action Plan (D-BRAP) under the Ease of Doing Business initiative of the Government of India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The review meeting, coordinated by the Industries & Commerce Department, was attended by Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments, along with Deputy Commissioners of all districts through either in person or through video

conferencing. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive appraisal of department-wise services and reform parameters mandated under D-BRAP. He emphasized the need for the Industries & Commerce Department, as the nodal agency, to develop a common real-time dashboard providing a consolidated view of the status of all services across departments and districts. He further directed that all such services be mandatorily integrated with the Single Window System to ensure ease of access and transparency for users.

The Chief **• P-06**

Centre Pushes Green, Eco-Tourism In J&K

RAJA SYED RATHER

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Tourism has implemented a series of targeted initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir to advance green and eco-tourism. These efforts form a key component of the Ministry's nationwide strategy to foster sustainable and responsible tourism practices across India.

Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat informed the Lok Sabha that the ministry has formulated a National Strategy for Development of Ecotourism, which has been circulated to all States and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir for adoption and implementation at the local level.

The Minister also said that eco-friendly practices have been made mandatory under the Guidelines for Star Classification of Hotels. These include installation of sewage treatment plants, **• P-06**

Kashmir's Winter Tourism Awaits Snowfall For Hotel Bookings

Lack Of Snowfall Has Kept Tourist Arrivals Low, But Industry Stakeholders Hopeful

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: With the Valley yet to witness its first major snowfall, Kashmir's winter tourism is off to a slow start as hotel bookings across popular destinations remain below expectations.

Stakeholders, however, remain hopeful that the moment snow blankets the mountains and plains, the sector will see an immediate revival.

Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Hoteliers Club, Mushtaq Chaya, said that hotel occupancy across major resorts is currently low.

"Whether it's Gulmarg, Pahalgam or Sonmarg, the bookings are minimal. Once



it snows, we are sure the numbers will rise sharply," he said, adding that winter tourism in Kashmir is directly linked to snowfall.

Chaya said they are hopeful of a good winter season, but only for snowfall. "Snow is

the biggest attraction in Kashmir's winter calendar. One good spell of snowfall changes everything," he added.

Echoing similar views, Rouf Trambo, President of the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK), told

KNO that while travel agents are getting queries, most tourists are holding back on confirmations. "Every second call we receive is about snowfall. Tourists are keen but waiting for snow before they finalise their plans," he said.

Trambo said the number will be known after snowfall, adding that this winter's expectations are good.

Sajad, a hotelier from Gulmarg, said that inquiries for Christmas and New Year are increasing, but confirmed bookings are still moderate. "Visitors are hopeful about snowfall, and so are we. Once snow arrives, Gulmarg will witness a rush," he said.

Tourism players said the coming days will **• P-06**

'34% Power Deficit' Looms In J&K, Ladakh Amid Cold Wave



RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Amid persistent cold temperatures, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to witness a power deficit of more than 34 percent in the month of December.

The officials said that in the anticipated power supply position in the northern region for December-2025, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to have a power shortage of 34.2 percent.

The official figures reveal that there is an availability

of just 2460 Megawatts (MWs) against a requirement of 3737 MWs in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. It also reveals that there is a shortage of 1277 MWs.

Another official document accessed read, "With the increase in winter, demand of J&K control area is on a higher side and it is hovering around 3200MW."

It also said that the heating load is also picking up during early morning and night hours. "The demand may further increase **• P-06**

CM Omar reviews progress of development works in District Srinagar

Flags Achan land-fill site and traffic congestion as grave challenges

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday chaired a high-level review meeting at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) to assess the overall developmental scenario of Srinagar district and obtain first-hand feedback on public issues from elected representatives.

The meeting undertook a detailed review of sector-wise and Assembly Constituency-wise implementation of government flagship schemes and key development projects being executed under various budgetary components.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Chowdhury, Ministers Javaid Ahmad Rana, Javaid Dar and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chairperson District Development Council Srinagar Malik Aftab, and Members of the Legislative Assembly from Srinagar district attended the meeting.

MLAs including Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mubarak Gul, Shameem Firdous, Salman Sagar, Tanvir Sadiq, Ahsan Ahmad

Pardesi and Mushtaq Ahmad Guru raised issues related to development and civic amenities in their respective constituencies.

Among senior officials present were Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Faz Lul Haseeb, Director FCS&CA Dr Owais Ahmad, along with Heads of Departments and senior sectoral and district officers.

The Chief Minister assured that concerns raised by the elected representatives would be addressed on priority to ensure responsive and people-centric governance.

The Chief Minister laid special emphasis on the need for a permanent and sustainable solution to the environmental and public health issues arising from the Achan dumping site. He directed the concerned departments to adopt scientific and environmentally sound waste management practices and stressed that the issue must be resolved in a time-bound



manner.

Reviewing the traffic situation in Srinagar, the Chief Minister called for long-term and integrated measures to ease congestion. He directed officers to identify and remove critical bottlenecks at major roads and junctions, improve road alignment where land has already been acquired under widening

projects, and strengthen coordination among executing agencies to ensure smooth vehicular movement.

Expressing concern over the growing issue of stray dogs, the Chief Minister stressed the adoption of a humane, scientific and legally compliant approach to address the dog menace,

emphasising enhanced coordination between municipal authorities and other concerned stakeholders.

The Chief Minister also underscored the importance of active involvement of elected representatives in the planning and execution of development initiatives, stating that their participation is vital for ensur-

ing grassroots feedback, transparency and effective implementation of public welfare programmes.

He directed all departments to maintain close inter-departmental coordination, adhere to prescribed timelines, and ensure that development works translate into tangible benefits for the people of Srinagar.

During the review, the Chief Minister assessed departmental performance in implementing flagship schemes and executing key development projects under District CAPEX and CDF allocations. He emphasised the need to accelerate project execution and ensure timely utilisation of funds, while maintaining close coordination with MLAs to ensure visible outcomes on the ground.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo briefed the Chief Minister through a detailed presentation on the district's developmental scenario, ongoing initiatives and implementation of public-centric government schemes. The Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, also presented an overview of key civic initiatives.

The Chief Minister was further apprised of winter preparedness measures put in place by the district administration and Srinagar Municipal Corporation to ensure uninterrupted essential services and public convenience during snowfall and other weather-related challenges.

CS reviews district preparedness for weeklong 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' Campaign



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a run-up to the nationwide 'Sushasan Saptah - Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' campaign to be observed from December 19 to 25, 2025, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Monday reviewed the preparedness of districts in a meeting attended by Administrative Secretaries and all Deputy Commissioners.

The meeting focused on ensuring coordinated planning, effective public outreach and successful implementation of the campaign across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of sustained public engagement, effective grievance redressal with greater transparency and accountability, and called upon all departments and district administrations to work in close coordination to ensure that the 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' campaign delivers tangible benefits to the people and reinforces the commitment to citizen-centric governance here.

The Administrative Secretaries also offered their suggestions and strategic inputs to strengthen the

coordination, improve monitoring mechanisms and ensure that the objectives of the programme are achieved across all districts.

The Commissioner Secretary, GAD, M.Raju while throwing light on the programme highlighted that 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' campaign is being organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India to promote good governance by resolving public grievances and improving service delivery at the grassroots level.

As part of the initiative, he added, that the District Collectors will organise special camps at tehsil headquarters, panchayats and other local-level institutions for on-the-spot redressal of public grievances and disposal of service delivery applications. The campaign also focuses on increasing the number of services delivered through online platforms and ensuring timely resolution of grievances registered through special camps, CPGRAMS and State portals.

It was revealed that the initial preparatory phase

is to be followed by the implementation phase from December 19 to 25, 2025, during which daily progress will be uploaded on the dedicated portal, capturing data on grievances resolved through special camps, CPGRAMS and State portals, services added for online delivery, disposal of service delivery applications, documentation and dissemination of good governance practices, success stories of grievance resolution and details of outreach and dissemination activities.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioners shared detailed inputs regarding the special camps, grievance redressal drives, service delivery initiatives and awareness programmes proposed to be organised in their districts during the campaign period.

As part of the campaign, district-level dissemination workshops will be organised on December 23, 2025, focusing on good governance practices and initiatives undertaken during the last five years in key sectors such as public service delivery, health, education, grievance redressal and public works.

CM unveils official logo of Jammu Marathon, to be held on March 29

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday expressed hope that the maiden edition of the Jammu Marathon, scheduled to be held on March 29, 2026, will emerge as one of the iconic events on the Indian running calendar. He was speaking at the official launch of the Jammu Marathon at a ceremony held at Hari Niwas Palace here.

The launch event was attended by Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma, MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi, former minister Ajjath Singh, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, international fitness icon, model and actor Milind Soman, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta, and other senior officers and stakeholders.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister unveiled the official logo, medal and merchandise of the Jammu Marathon. He also launched the marathon's official website, opened registrations, and released the teaser video for the event.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said he firmly believes that



the Jammu Marathon will carve out a distinct place for itself among major running events in the country, owing to its unique route that showcases the city's rich cultural and heritage landmarks. He noted that the marathon route will pass through several iconic locations, including the Raghunath Temple, historic places and Mubarak Mandi, offering participants a rare blend of fitness, heritage and scenic beauty.

Sharing his personal journey into long-distance running, the Chief Minister recounted how he began running almost

accidentally and gradually developed a deep passion for marathons. He said that from modest runs of five to eight kilometres, he unexpectedly found himself completing much longer distances, which eventually inspired him to participate in major marathons across the country.

The Chief Minister said that he plans to participate in the Jammu Half Marathon on March 29 and encouraged citizens to begin their preparation well in advance. "From today itself, those who intend to run in Jammu must start preparing, because this is an iconic

event," he remarked.

He also announced that, keeping in view feedback received from local runners after previous marathon events, the prize structure has been suitably modified to ensure greater participation and recognition of runners from Jammu and Kashmir. Besides the half marathon, 10K and 5K categories have also been included to encourage participation from people of all ages and fitness levels. "Now there is no excuse. One doesn't have to run 21 kilometres—there are 10K and 5K options as well, and everyone can earn a medal," he said.

Calling upon citizens to embrace fitness as a way of life, the Chief Minister urged people to "take out their running shoes, remove the rust, clean them and get ready," adding that events like the Jammu Marathon promote healthier lifestyles and community participation.

Speaking on the occasion, Milind Soman described the Jammu Marathon as an amazing initiative, stating that Jammu and Kashmir will not be left behind in the fitness movement. Praising the Chief Minister's commitment to fitness, Milind Soman, who is also promotional ambassador for Jammu Marathon, said that the region does not need any other inspiration when it has a leader like Omar Abdullah who leads from the front. He urged people of all age groups to participate in the marathon and begin their fitness journey through running, assuring that he would be present with the runners on March 29, 2026.

The Jammu Marathon is being positioned as a major sporting and tourism event, aimed at promoting fitness, showcasing Jammu's heritage, and placing the city firmly on the national marathon map.

Sham Lal Sharma chairs PAC meeting

Examines CAG's Audit Paras of H&UDD



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Monday held a meeting under the Chairmanship of MLA, Sham Lal Sharma, to examine various Audit Para's pertaining to Housing and Urban Development Department.

The Committee also reviewed the steps and action taken on CAG's Audit Paras 8.5 (2000-01), 5.1 to 5.8 and 6.3 (2020-21) which have already been discussed by the Committee in its previous meeting held at Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

Accountant General J&K, Tsewang Tharchin, briefed the Committee about the queries and present status of various audit paras pertaining to H&UD Department.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Devansh Yadav, besides Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit attended the meeting.

During the meeting,

detailed discussions were held on the CAG's Audit Paras 3.3 and 4.2.3 (2006-07) and 3.12 (2014-15) pertaining to Housing and Urban Development Department.

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Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Devansh Yadav, besides Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit attended the meeting.

During the meeting,

H&UDD.

The Chairman highlighted the main objectives and working of the Committee and directed the senior officers of H&UDD to clear all hurdles for improving work culture and accountability. He also asked for fixing responsibility to ensure visible and effective development is extended to the people living in urban areas.

The Chairman directed the concerned officers to submit a comprehensive detailed report regarding Audit Para 6.3 (2020-21) with in ten days so that the final decision could be taken in this regard.

The members of the Committee gave their valuable suggestions to make the Committee more fruitful and result oriented. They also highlighted various issues pointed out in the CAG's audit paras.

BGSBU celebrates 22nd Foundation Day

Shantmanu lauds admin for steering BGSBU towards excellence

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day with great enthusiasm and fervour at the University campus.

The event was graced by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantmanu, as the Chief Guest.

Shantmanu, congratulated the University on completing 22 years of its establishment and lauded the consistent efforts of the University administration in steering BGSBU towards excellence despite various challenges. He appreciated the innovative initiatives undertaken by the University and assured full support from the administration for its continued growth and development.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, congratulated the entire University fraternity and appreciated the dedicated efforts of the

faculty and staff towards the holistic development of the institution. He reaffirmed the University's commitment to work with renewed vigour to transform BGSBU into a centre of academic and research excellence.

Registrar, BGSBU, Abhishek Sharma, highlighted the significant achievements of the University recorded during the past year. These included a steady rise in admissions, securing grants under Capex, establishment of smart classrooms and various infrastructure development initiatives. He also highlighted the ongoing renovation of hostels and other developmental works taken up by the University.

On the academic front, the Registrar informed that the University has successfully implemented NEP-2020 and organized a Central Induction Programme for the newly admitted students to ensure a smooth academic transition.

Good Morning

Kashmir

D-BRAP: From Policy Intent To District-Level Impact

The Chief Secretary's recent review of the implementation of the District Business Reforms Action Plan (D-BRAP) under the Ease of Doing Business initiative is a timely reminder that reforms do not succeed on paper alone. Their real test lies in execution—especially at the district level, where entrepreneurs and small businesses encounter the State most directly.

D-BRAP represents a significant shift in India's reform architecture by moving the focus from State capitals to districts. By doing so, it acknowledges a simple truth: investors and local entrepreneurs judge governance not by policy announcements, but by how quickly and transparently they receive approvals, services, and clearances at the ground level.

The Chief Secretary's emphasis on a common, real-time dashboard is particularly crucial. Fragmented systems across departments often result in delays, opacity, and blame-shifting. A consolidated digital dashboard, backed by mandatory integration with the Single Window System, can bring much-needed transparency and accountability. When services are visible, timelines are tracked, and responsibility is clearly fixed, efficiency tends to follow.

Equally important is the directive to notify all pending services under the Public Services Guarantee Act with defined timelines and online delivery mandates. This is not a mere procedural requirement; it is a governance reform that empowers citizens and businesses alike. Time-bound service delivery, backed by law and technology, can significantly reduce discretion and rent-seeking—two long-standing barriers to ease of doing business.

The suggestion to replicate the digital DPR model of Mission YUVA also reflects a pragmatic approach to reform. Rather than reinventing the wheel, leveraging an already functional digital ecosystem can accelerate implementation and minimize teething troubles. Successful governance models deserve to be scaled across departments.

However, the success of D-BRAP will ultimately depend on the capacity of institutions at the district level. Strengthening District Industries Centres is therefore not optional but essential. Without trained manpower, digital literacy, and adequate infrastructure at DICs, even the best-designed reforms risk remaining aspirational.

The call for a clear roadmap for industrial parks at the district level adds an economic dimension to the reform agenda. Ease of doing business must translate into ease of producing, expanding, and employing locally. District-level industrial ecosystems can play a transformative role in balanced regional growth if planned and executed with clarity.

Finally, addressing operational issues in the Jan Sugam portal is a necessary corrective. Digital platforms that are poorly visible or user-unfriendly can become barriers rather than facilitators. Technology must simplify governance, not complicate it.

D-BRAP offers Jammu and Kashmir an opportunity to institutionalize transparent, time-bound, and business-friendly governance at the grassroots. The intent at the top is clear. The challenge now is disciplined execution, inter-departmental coordination, and sustained monitoring—so that reforms are felt not just in review meetings, but in the daily experiences of entrepreneurs across districts.

Memories

A Father's Journey With His Children



SYED MAJID GILANI

Reflecting on my life's journey, an overwhelming sense of gratitude and love fills my heart, especially when I think of the day my first child, Arshad, was born. December 15, 2011, is forever etched in my memory, marking the moment he arrived at Modern Hospital, Raj Bagh. The quiet calm of winter seems to linger even now, and memories of laughter, tiny cries, and tears rise like a tide, filling my heart to overflowing.

Under the tender care of Prof. Dr. Bilquees Jameela, who watched over his mother with great dedication, Arshad grew within her—a living symbol of life's most precious gift. Then, under the skilled guidance of Prof. Dr. Tasneem Gowhar, he took his first breath, and in that single moment, our hearts were irrevocably stolen.

One of my very first acts of fatherhood was to recite the Azaan in his ears immediately after his birth. It was more than a religious duty; it was a sacred and deeply intimate moment—a divine welcome to the world for my firstborn. I named him Arshad, meaning "the guided one," with the hope that Allah's light would always lead his path. Holding him close, a wave of emotions—love, awe, and responsibility—washed over me, forming an unbreakable bond. On his second day, Dr. Nisar Ahmad, a skilled surgeon, performed his circumcision, a deeply meaningful religious act that I was blessed to witness.

I can still vividly recall Mohammad Shafi, our trusted family hairdresser, visiting our home, Gilan House, to perform Arshad's first head shave. That tender and sacred ritual remains forever etched in my memory. Soon after, a large studio portrait prepared by Mimic Colour Lab was proudly displayed in our lobby. The moment became even more special when my late grandfather, Abaji, personally signed it and beautifully calligraphed Arshad's name and birth date on the back. The pride and love I felt then remain as vivid today as they were at that time.

The day his mother and I bought Arshad his first tricycle from Kawoosa Sons in Nowhatta is still vividly remembered. That bright blue tricycle became his instant favourite. His Daadi would lovingly watch over him as he pedalled along the pathway and lawn, ensuring that every turn was safe.

Among my most treasured memories



is the day we took him to the Hazratbal Shrine, where Nimaz-e-Shukrana was offered to Allah in gratitude for the gift of life. Later, he was enrolled at Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, marking the blessed beginning of his academic journey. His first day of school was a milestone for our entire family. The sound of the school van arriving at the main gate became a daily ritual of anticipation and joy. Standing there with his mother, Daadi, and my late grandfather Abaji created moments that remain deeply engraved in my heart.

Visits to the revered Khanquah Moulla Shrine and our ancestral graveyard within its premises are memories I cherish dearly. Hearing Arshad's innocent voice recite Surah Fatiha for his ancestors filled my heart with pride and a quiet, gentle joy. It felt as though those resting there smiled upon hearing his pure recitation.

On April 30, 2014, our family was blessed once again with the arrival of Sarah, whose birth illuminated our lives with renewed joy and love. She was born in the same Modern Hospital where Arshad had arrived.

At that precious moment, I kissed her forehead, whispered the gentle words of the Azaan into her ears, and named her Sarah—meaning "purity and brightness." Nothing mattered more to me than the health and well-being of my wife and our newborn daughter. The sound of Sarah's first cry filled the room, bringing waves of joy and relief.

It was a moment of pure bliss and deep gratitude—a reminder of the precious gift of life. The kindness of Prof. Dr. Tasneem Gowhar, who performed the cesarean, is remembered with heartfelt appreciation, along with the personal care of Mr. Jan Sahib, the respected owner of Modern Hospital.

On the day Sarah was born, Srinagar was under strict curfew. Had it not been for my position as a Sub-Inspector in

the Vigilance & Inspections Wing at the time, managing the situation might have been impossible—Alhamdulillah. Nimaz-e-Shukrana was offered at Khanquah Moulla Shrine in gratitude for her safe arrival. Sarah's first head shave, performed by Mohammad Shafi, remains a tender and spiritually significant memory, forever etched in my heart.

On October 23, 2019, Murshad completed our family. Born at Modern Hospital under the expert care of Prof. Dr. Tasneem Gowhar, he stole our hearts instantly. His arrival brought another moment of calm joy and fulfilment. As with Arshad and Sarah, I whispered the Azaan into his ears and named him Murshad—"the already guided," praying that Allah's guidance would always accompany him. On his second day, Dr. Nisar Ahmad, Surgeon, performed his circumcision with care. Holding him in my arms, I felt a profound connection that words cannot fully express.

Hugs, kisses, and whispered words of love were shared endlessly with Murshad. Every smile, every tiny step, and every laugh filled my heart with immeasurable joy.

During the global lockdown of 2020, traditional barber visits were not possible. I purchased a trimmer from Citizen Electronics, Lalbazar, and performed Murshad's first head shave myself at home, taking every precaution. The joy on Arshad's and Sarah's faces turned that simple act into a memory that will be cherished forever.

The quarantine period remains etched in my memory with striking clarity. Confined to a small room on the ground floor, even the briefest glimpse through narrow doorframe gaps became a source of comfort and quiet hope. Those fleeting moments carried reassurance, and every memory of that time is cherished deeply as a reminder of patience, resilience, and faith.

Securing their school admissions, arranging a tuition madam, and inviting a Moulvi Sahib for Quranic lessons ensured that the children had a strong foundation. Murshad was gently encouraged to join through play-based learning, preparing him for his own journey.

Morning walks, cycling trips, picnics, and family outings created moments of pure happiness. The laughter shared while passing through Chandni Chowk, Gumat Bazar, and Jewel Chowk remains unforgettable—carefree and innocent moments that continue to live vividly within me.

I often share my stories, hoping my children will find guidance, strength, and inspiration within them. Though hardships did arise, they only deepened our bond and strengthened our connection. Visits to sacred and spiritually significant places—Dargah Hazrat Nizam-ud-Din Auliya, Charar-e-Sharief, Hazratbal Shrine, Khanquah Moulla, Dastgeer Sahib, and Tujjar Sharief—laid a profound spiritual foundation that I trust will continue to guide them throughout their lives.

Traditions passed down through generations have remained my compass. The teachings of my late great-grandfather, Moulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani—a revered saint and Islamic scholar—have always inspired me. His wisdom, humility, and devotion form the foundation upon which I have tried to build my children's lives. I pray they carry this noble legacy forward with dignity and faith.

The laughter and love of my children have always been my greatest strength. By Allah's grace, they never faced any serious illness—only the occasional childhood cough, cold, or stomach upset. Their health was cared for with utmost attention, and I remain deeply grateful to Prof. Dr. Wajid Ali for his reassuring dedication. I also acknowledge the caring team at Tawheed Medical Hall, Alamgari Bazar, whose gentle handling made even vaccinations a "cry-free" experience.

I place complete faith in Allah's mercy, trusting wholeheartedly that truth always finds its way. My aim has never been limited to being just a father; I have always strived to be a friend—one who encourages, believes, listens, and walks beside his children at every step.

My life is devoted to my children. I promise to remain their rock, their guiding light, and their safest haven. With love, tears, and unending longing, my heart beats solely for Arshad, Sarah, and Murshad. My life's purpose is simple yet profound: to see them remain forever connected to their roots, their heritage, and the values that define who they are.

Syed Majid Gilani is a government officer and a reflective writer-storyteller. He can be contacted at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

Honoring Valor: India's Triumph On Vijay Diwas

VINOD DIXIT

December 16, 2025, is the 54th anniversary of Vijay Diwas, marking India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War. This day commemorates the surrender of Pakistani forces in Dhaka, leading to Bangladesh's liberation. It's a significant national event honoring the bravery and sacrifices of Indian Armed Forces. The day marks the anniversary of military victory of Indian forces over Pakistan in Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. India's strategic military intervention, led by Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, resulted in the capture of over 90,000 Pakistani soldiers and ended atrocities committed against Bengalis.

This triumph is a symbol of India's military prowess and humanitarian values. In India, Vijay Diwas honors the bravery of soldiers who sacrificed their lives, with ceremonies at war memorials, tributes to veterans, and patriotic events. Bangladesh celebrates it as Victory Day, a national holiday, acknowledging India's support in gaining independence. The 54th anniversary reaffirms India's commitment to sovereignty, peace, and regional stability. Let us salute the heroes of 1971 whose valor etched a pivotal chapter in history.

We won because we had the willpower and faith, which led us to victory. India will never forget the fearlessness with which our courageous soldiers gave a befitting and unforgettable reply to the intruders. The Indo-Pakistani war of 1971 which began on December 3



lasted for 13 days and officially ended on December 16, after which Pakistan surrendered to India. Kudos to all Indians and Bangladeshis on this day and salute all the martyrs of 1971 and all other wars from both sides. The Indian Army changed the course of history with its undeterred courage, dedication and professionalism, bringing glory and honour to the Nation. It was the first major victory for a young Indian democracy and helped strengthen the confidence of the leadership and population. The Indian Army quickly responded to the Pakistan

Army's movements in the west and captured around 15,010 kilometres of Pakistan territory.

It was on this day in 1971, that a declaration of ceasefire was brought into force ending the Indo-Pak War and resulting in the birth of the sovereign country of Bangladesh. In this war Indian Army fought as the alliance of Bangladesh's military Mukti Bahini. As the result of this war, East Pakistan emerged as an independent nation with the name Bangladesh. The end of the war also resulted in the unilateral surrender of the Paki-

stan Army and the subsequent formation of the independent nation of Bangladesh. This historic victory signifies a unique and unparalleled feat wherein our forces fought selflessly for a just and noble cause: the liberation of the people of erstwhile East Pakistan and the creation of an independent Bangladesh.

There are several reasons for bringing back the victory in the '71 war into public discourse. It is not only because it was a victory and our armed forces need to be celebrated. Let us not forget the lesson that a nation that ignores its army

cannot afford peace.

We respect our soldiers. It is essential that we salute our heroes. We feel secure in our homes because of our armed forces and this is an occasion to remember their courage and sacrifice. Today, if our country is safe and independent, it is because of their efforts. Let us pay tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation. We should never forget the sacrifices they made for us.

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Disability Within Prison Walls: Dignity, Rights And Responsibility



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

In any democratic society, the prison system is not merely a symbol of crime and punishment, but also a testament to the state's sensitivity, humane vision, and constitutional commitment. The Indian Constitution recognizes the dignity of the individual as a supreme value, and this dignity does not end upon becoming a criminal or a prisoner. Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court's recent directives, which emphasize support for prisoners with disabilities in prisons, audits of facilities, and effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, expose a serious but long-neglected reality of the Indian prison system. These directives highlight the fact that persons with disabilities in prison are not only deprived of liberty but often deprived of their basic human rights.

Indian prisons have historically been based on "normal" physical and mental standards, with disability viewed as an exception or an administrative inconvenience. As a result, the needs of prisoners with physical, sensory, intellectual, or psychosocial disabilities have not found adequate accommodation within prison governance structures. The lack of identification and registration of disability at admission, the lack of needs assessments, and the absence of a separate policy render these prisoners invisible. This invisibility further translates into neglect, unequal treatment, and sometimes inhumane conditions.

The Supreme Court's directives are a significant intervention to change this situation. The Court clarified that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, applies equally to prisons, and that "reasonable accommodation" and "accessibility" are not



mere acts of mercy or privilege, but rather legal rights. Furthermore, by mandating regular audits of disability-related facilities in prison premises, equal access to healthcare, and the provision of legal aid, the Court has laid the foundation for administrative accountability. This approach calls for viewing prisons not merely as disciplinary institutions but as rights-based reform homes.

The reality is that prisoners with disabilities in Indian prisons face challenges on multiple levels. The first and most fundamental problem is accessibility. Most prison premises lack ramps, railings, accessible toilets, level floors, tactile paths, or clear signage. Stairs make even everyday activities impossible for wheelchair-using prisoners, while uneven floors and a lack of directional signs increase the risk of accidents for visually impaired prisoners. This situation is a direct violation of the constitutional principle of equal access.

Additionally, medical neglect emerges as a serious problem. The lack of regular health checkups, access to specialist doctors, and timely provi-

sion of assistive devices exacerbates disability. In many cases, the lack of hearing aids, wheelchairs, canes, or other assistive devices leaves prisoners completely dependent on others. Delayed treatment not only worsens the disability but also adversely impacts mental health.

Communication barriers further exacerbate this problem. The lack of sign language interpreters for hearing-impaired prisoners, the lack of Braille or audio materials for the visually impaired, and the lack of plain language information for prisoners with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities—all result in their near-isolation from prison rules, disciplinary proceedings, legal processes, and grievance redressal mechanisms. This situation undermines the right to equal access to justice.

The social status of prisoners with disabilities makes them even more vulnerable. In overcrowded prisons, they are more vulnerable to ridicule, neglect, or violence. Prisoners with psychosocial disabilities often face unjustified solitary confinement or harsh disciplinary measures, even

though their condition demands specialized care and treatment. Thus, the prison environment becomes more of a source of suffering than punishment for them.

From a constitutional perspective, this situation is a matter of serious concern. Article 14 guarantees the right to equality, Article 21 guarantees a life with dignity, and Article 39A makes it the state's duty to ensure equal access to justice. All of these rights are equally effective within prison walls. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, establishes "reasonable accommodation" and "accessibility" as legal rights, while the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides a clear framework for the protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities in custody. Ignoring these standards undermines both India's constitutional and international commitments.

Against this backdrop, comprehensive and structural reforms are needed to make Indian prisons disability-inclusive. Adapting infrastructure to principles of universal design

is essential, including ramps, accessible toilets, railings, tactile flooring, and clear signage. This improvement can be achieved through retrofitting existing prisons in a phased manner. Additionally, mandatory disability screening, needs assessment, and digital registration systems should be developed at the time of admission to ensure that no prisoner's needs are overlooked.

A holistic approach to healthcare is needed. Regular medical checkups, mental health services, availability of assistive devices, and regular specialist visits should be ensured. Telemedicine can be an effective solution in remote prisons. Prisoners with disabilities should be prioritized for communication and legal access, including sign language interpreters, Braille and audio materials, simple language manuals, and digital facilities such as e-visits and e-courts.

Human resource development is equally important. Mandatory disability-sensitivity training, behavioral guidelines, and accountability mechanisms should be developed for prison personnel. This training should not be merely formal but should promote sensitivity and empathy in practice. Furthermore, where possible, alternative punishments, medical release, or correctional measures for prisoners with disabilities should be seriously considered.

Ultimately, disability-inclusive prisons are not merely a question of administrative reform, but a testament to human dignity, constitutional morality, and just governance. The Supreme Court's recent directives offer an opportunity in this direction—an opportunity to redefine the Indian prison system from a punishment-centric approach to a rights-based and reform-oriented institution. If these directives are implemented faithfully, prisons will not only be places of law enforcement but also truly embody the constitutional ideal that every person—whether free or in custody—is entitled to dignity and justice.

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Discussing Social Media Restrictions In The Digital Age

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

In the digital age, the lives of children and adolescents are no longer limited to the physical world. Social media, online platforms, and virtual communities have become a crucial part of their learning, expression, identity, and social connections. At this time, the question of how to ensure the safety of children on these platforms naturally arises. Australia's recent proposal to completely ban social media for children under the age of sixteen stems from this concern. However, this move has also faced criticism as an overly simplistic, technology-based solution to a complex psychosocial problem, a move that has been termed "technological solutionism."

Technological solutionism implies the assumption that social, cultural, and psychological problems can be solved solely through technological rules, restrictions, or tools. This approach appears particularly limited in the context of children, as children's mental health, self-esteem, social comparison, online harassment, loneliness, and behavioral changes are not resolved simply by blocking access to a platform. These problems are deeply intertwined with family, school, peer groups, social environments, and broader cultural trends. Australia's proposal appears focused on outright prohibition rather than addressing these complex causes.

According to Australia's proposed law, social media use would be restricted for children under the age of sixteen and mandatory age verification would be implemented. While this measure appears to be drastic and decisive for the safety of children, its practical implications are questionable. Age verification could require the collection of extensive personal information, posing a threat to the privacy of children and



their parents. Furthermore, technological measures can be easily circumvented through virtual private networks, fake identities, or new, less regulated platforms. This not only undermines the effectiveness of the law but could also expose children to more risky digital spaces.

Another serious aspect of a complete ban is that it could deprive children of the positive opportunities that social media offers. Today, many children access educational content, participate in creative activities, learn about social issues, and connect with mental health support groups through these platforms. For children, especially those in rural, disadvantaged, or socially marginalized communities, digital platforms are often their only means of expression and collaboration. A complete ban could further deepen social inequalities. This approach also suggests that the root of the problem lies with children or technology, when

in reality, the problem lies with the social framework within which children are digitally socialized.

India has adopted a different and relatively balanced approach in this regard. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, proposes a rights-based and data-centric approach to protecting children, rather than outright prohibition. The Act recognizes that isolating children from the digital world is neither possible nor desirable. Instead, it is essential to hold digital platforms accountable and protect children's rights. The law mandates verified parental consent for the processing of children's personal data, strengthening the role of the family.

An important aspect of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act is that it explicitly prohibits behavioral tracking, personality-based categorization, and targeted advertising of children. This seeks to protect children from exploitation as consum-

Australia proposes a complete ban on social media for children under sixteen. Privacy threats, practical failures, and neglect of underlying psychosocial factors. Rights-based protections through the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. Parental consent, child monitoring, and restrictions on targeted advertising. Balance the law, digital literacy, family engagement, and platform accountability.

ers. Furthermore, the Act provides children with rights such as access to, correction of, deletion of data, and filing of complaints. This approach is an important step towards viewing children as citizens with rights, rather than merely objects of pro-

tection.

Additionally, India has established an independent Data Protection Board, which can impose penalties for violations. This ensures accountability for platforms and data processing entities, without requiring children to be excluded from digital platforms. This model also demonstrates that legislation, along with social awareness, digital literacy, online safety education in schools, and the expansion of mental health services, are essential. Ensuring child safety cannot be achieved through legislation alone; it requires a holistic societal effort.

Comparing the approaches of Australia and India reveals that while on the one hand there is a policy based on control and prohibition, on the other, there is a framework based on balance, participation, and empowerment. Australia's proposal offers the appearance of a quick solution, but in the long run, it may face practical, constitutional, and social challenges. In contrast, India's model is slow and complex, but it better harmonizes children's autonomy, privacy, and development.

Ultimately, children's online safety isn't just about what to keep them away from, but also how to empower them. Child safety in the digital age doesn't mean isolating children from technology, but rather empowering them to be safe, aware, and responsible with technology. Simple technological solutions cannot replace complex human challenges. In this context, India's digital personal data protection framework indicates that building a safe and inclusive digital future for children is possible only through balanced regulation, parental engagement, platform accountability, and social support.

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J&K Bank Holds Customer Meet At Dharamshala

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DHARAMSHALA : J&K Bank Monday held a Customer Meet at its Dharamshala Branch in Himachal Pradesh, which was chaired by the Bank’s Executive Director Sudhir Gupta. The meeting was held in the presence of GM & Divisional Head Jammu, Ashok Gupta, Zonal Head (Kathua) Suresh Kumar

Chowdhary and other senior officers of the Bank. The meeting witnessed participation from a cross-section of the Bank’s valuable customers from the area and provided a meaningful platform for direct interaction between customers and the Bank’s senior leadership. Addressing the gathering, Executive Director Sudhir

Gupta said, “Direct interaction with our customers gives us valuable insights into their expectations and experiences. The feedback and suggestions shared during such meets are extremely important for us and will be carefully assessed to further improve our products, processes and overall service delivery.” “Customer service remains

the cornerstone of the Bank’s growth. I have advised the staff to make all possible efforts to meet customer expectations by ensuring efficiency, transparency and a consistently courteous approach at every point of engagement”, he added. The Executive Director gave a patient hearing to the concerns and suggestions raised by the participating customers

and assured them that their feedback would be taken into account for further strengthening the Bank’s offerings and customer-centric initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta said, “Customer trust and long-term relationships are at the core of Bank’s business philosophy. The inputs received during

today’s interaction will help us further enhance our engagement and deliver solutions that are aligned with the evolving needs of our customers.” The meet witnessed active participation from customers, who appreciated the Bank’s leadership for personally listening to and valuing their feedback. They also assured the Branch of their continued

cooperation and support, terming the interaction as a positive step towards building a strong and mutually beneficial relationship. While presenting a vote of thanks, Zonal Head (Kathua) expressed gratitude to the customers for their valuable inputs and thanked the senior leadership for their guidance and presence.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

NIA Names 3 Dead

Valley of Pahalgam on April 22 this year. This was one of the deadliest terror attacks in the country in recent history. To avenge the attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 and 8 to destroy terror camps deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, killing dozens of terrorists. Meanwhile, in a statement, the NIA said that the chargesheet details Pakistan’s conspiracy, roles of the accused, and supporting evidence in the case. The NIA has charged the banned LeT/TRF as a legal entity for its role in planning, facilitating, and executing the attack. “The attack involved religion-based targeted killings by the Pak-sponsored terrorists”. Pakistani handler terrorist Sajid Jatt is also named as an accused in the 1,597-page chargesheet. “LeT/TRF, as well as the four terrorists, have been charged under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, the Arms Act, 1959, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967,” reads the statement. In its chargesheet, the NIA has also invoked the penal section against the accused for waging war against India. “The NIA, through a meticulous scientific probe spanning the past almost 8 months, had traced the conspiracy in the case to Pakistan, which has been unabatedly sponsoring terrorism against India,” it said. The two accused persons - Parvaiz Ahmad and Bashir Ahmad Jothar - chargesheeted in the case were arrested by the NIA on June 22 this year for harbouring terrorists. “During interrogation, the two men had disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists involved in the attack, and had also confirmed that they were Pakistani nationals affiliated to proscribed LeT terror outfit. Further investigation in the case is continuing,” it said—(KNO)

J&K Govt Sacks

Article 311(2) do not apply in cases where the appointment itself is illegal and where the foundation of employment is vitiated by fraud,” the order added. “The Division Bench of High Court of J&K and Ladakh vide its judgement dated July 18, 2023, passed in writ petition (civil) titled Mohammad Yousuf Allie Vs High Court of J&K and Ors., while upholding the termination of services of petitioner without enquiry has held that entry into the service of petitioner itself was by fraudulent means and therefore depriving him of an opportunity of a departmental enquiry is not in violation of Article 311 of the Constitution as has been held by the Supreme Court in similar circumstances in Vishwanatha Pillai V/S State of Kerala and Ors AIR 2004.” “Similarly, the Supreme Court, in Punjab Urban Planning and Development Authority vs. Karamjit Singh (Civil Appeal No. 3925/2019), has held that where the appointment is illegal or void from inception, principles of natural justice, including a departmental inquiry, do not apply, as the individual never legally acquired the status of a government employee,” the order said. “And whereas, since these 106 individuals secured appointment through fraudulent means prior to entering service, they do not enjoy the protections contemplated under Article 311 which provides the provision of an opportunity to be heard.” “And whereas, out of the 106 identified illegal appointees, the appointment of three candidates has been cancelled by the Fire and Emergency Services Department Director, for not fulfilling the requisite formalities required for appointment in government service,” the order added. “And whereas, on the basis of the findings of the Inquiry Committee, the preliminary verification report and investigation status report submitted by ACB, the documentary evidence showing manipulation of OMR sheets and merit lists, the admission of several candidates regarding payment of illegal consideration and the Supreme Court’s established directions on illegal/void appointments.” The order also said that the competent authority is fully satisfied that “The appointments of these 103 individuals were not made on merit and were secured through fraudulent manipulation.” “Their continuation amounts to a perpetuation of illegality, undermining public trust and the sanctity of recruitment processes.” “In view of the facts and circumstances explained herein above, it is hereby ordered that the appointments of the 103 candidates as Fireman in the Fire and Emergency Services Department, whose names and particulars are annexed as Annexure-A, are declared illegal, void ab initio, and are

hereby terminated with immediate effect.” “These individuals shall accordingly cease to be borne on the establishment of the Fire and Emergency Services Department with effect the date of issuance of this order,” the order said. There were widespread protests by candidates who had appeared for this selection alleging that there had been bungling in the selection process.

Terrorist Killed,

that a terrorist has been killed and a policeman injured. Details are awaited.” Reinforcements have been rushed to the spot and all escape routes have been sealed to prevent the terrorists from fleeing. The IGP Jammu Zone posted on X: “On a precise input from JKP, contact was established with terrorists at Village Soan, Majalta, Udhampur. A joint team of SOG along with the Army and CRPF is on the job.” “A very small SOG team engaged the terrorists. Combing of the forest has been impeded due to darkness and treacherous terrain,” it said—(KNO)

CM Lays Foundation

on the occasion. Among senior officials present were Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, along with Heads of Departments and other concerned officers. The Chief Minister e-inaugurated the remodelling and repair work of the Wool Mandi at Nowshera in Srinagar, completed at a cost of 1 crore. He laid the e-foundation stone for the construction of a new building for the upgradation of the Surgery, Medicine and Radiology Departments at Government Medical College Srinagar, at an estimated cost of 18.70 crore. He also laid foundation stones for the upgradation of Abhedananda Home at Solina at a cost of 9.90 crore, and for the construction of a Fleece Testing Laboratory at Zakura costing 2.13 crore. Similarly, the Chief Minister laid the e-foundation stone for construction of a 1×15-metre span plate girder RCC decked bridge over Maloori Nallah on the Gandtal-Ganimohar road at a cost of 1.53 crore. He also laid the foundation stone for a 4.66 crore project involving construction of a 1×20-metre span plate girder RCC decked bridge over Maloori Nallah at Sarabagh, along with the road stretch from Sarabagh to Dara Health Centre. During the event, the Chief Minister handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under Mission YUVA and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) from Srinagar district, reaffirming the government’s commitment to employment generation and livelihood enhancement. Chief Minister took review of development projects under execution in Srinagar district under CSS, capex, SASCI and CDF. He insisted on optimal utilisation of funds and meeting the timelines. CM listened to various issues posed by MLAs of Srinagar district and expressed concern over environmental issues due to Achan landfill site and stressed on decongestion of traffic in the city. He directed the concerned departments, divisional and district administration to find a longterm solutions to these pressing issues. CM also underlined the need to address the issue of deteriorating air quality in Srinagar and to take measures to control air pollution apart from the dry climate aggravating the issue.

Ls Approves

as per Section 84 and Section 85 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. The Union Finance Ministry also allocated Rs 148.64 crore to enhance budget allocation for two Hill Councils in the UT and Rs 20.14 crore as additional expenditure also for it transfer to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir towards the construction of the High Court complex at Jammu. The Ministry has further kept a budgetary provision of Rs 12.04 crore for Ladakh UT to meet additional expenditure for disaster management and Rs 3 crore for power purchase and procurement of diesel for power generation in far-flung areas. For Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry has allocated additional Rs 340.15 crore for meeting additional expenditure towards equity contribution for the 624 MW Kiru project and the Jehlum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP).

Of this, Rs 154.81 crore is earmarked as equity contribution for the Kiru project and Rs 185.34 crore for JTFRP-an externally aided project—(KNO)

CS Calls For

Secretary called upon all concerned departments to notify pending services under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) with clearly defined timelines and ensure that these services are delivered through online mandates, as envisaged under the D-BRAP framework. He advised departments to draw upon the successful model of Mission YUVA for the integration of digital Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), noting that an effective digital system is already operational under the mission. Stressing the importance of grassroots-level implementation, the Chief Secretary directed the strengthening and capacity building of District Industries Centres (DICs) to enable effective, timely, and outcome-oriented implementation of the reforms. He also called for the preparation of a roadmap for the establishment of industrial parks as a key objective under D-BRAP to promote district-level industrial growth. Additionally, he asked the departments to address issues related to the Jan Sugam portal to enhance its accessibility, visibility, and operational efficiency. Addressing the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, (Financial Commissioner Revenue), Shaleen Kabra, apprised the participants of the implementation status of land-related reforms under the action plan. He elaborated on the functioning of online services such as demarcation of land, change of land use (CLU), and property registration, stating that these services have been operational for some time, with the remaining components expected to be completed shortly. Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Shailendra Kumar, underscored the importance of onboarding all districts onto a single standardized dashboard to ensure uniformity in service delivery parameters. He emphasized the need for a mission-mode approach, particularly in view of the DPIIT assessment scheduled for April 2026. Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti, highlighted the pivotal role of District Industries Centres as nodal agencies for the implementation of D-BRAP at the district level. He called for re-energizing and strengthening DICs to achieve the objectives of the reform plan in letter and spirit. Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh, presented the overall framework of the D-BRAP and informed that 46 services have been identified by DPIIT for digitization. These services are to be notified under the PSGA, delivered through online mandates, and monitored via a real-time dashboard by the respective government authorities. The Director, Industries, Jammu, Arun Manhas, briefed the meeting on the department-wise categorization of services, detailing the responsibilities of departments and districts in ensuring their smooth implementation. He also presented the current online status of each service along with their PSGA notification status. He informed that a real-time monitoring dashboard, as per DPIIT guidelines, is to be developed showcasing the significant components for both e-services and inspection dashboards. Regarding the bucket of services coming under the ambit of D-BRAP it was revealed that the same encompasses a wide range of citizen-centric and business-related services, including land demarcation and boundary verification, change in land use, property registration, mutation of property records, digitization of land records, approvals and registrations for setting up play schools and private educational institutions. It also mandates online issuance of Mandi licenses (APMC), establishment of health clinics, diagnostic testing licenses, permits for goods and passenger transport vehicles, new electricity connections, building plan approvals, permissions for demolition and reconstruction, certificates of vending for street vendors, parking licenses, NoCs for hotels, restaurants and entertainment establishments, water supply connections, shop and establishment registrations, among others. The action plan also aims at creating an enabling ecosystem for district-level investments through strengthened District Industries Centres and the development of industrial parks to attract sector-specific investments and foster sustainable economic growth across the UT.

Centre Pushes Green,

rainwater harvesting, scientific waste management, pollution control measures and use of non-CFC equipment. He added that the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and the ‘Travel for Life’ programme are also being promoted to encourage tourism stakeholders and visitors in J&K to adopt sustainable tourism practices. On tourist safety, the Minister informed that Jammu and Kashmir is among the Union Territories where dedicated tourist police have been deployed to strengthen on-ground safety mechanisms for visitors. He said the Ministry has been consistently engaging with State and UT administrations to ensure safety and security of tourists. The Centre has also urged States and UTs to utilise the Nirbhaya Fund for projects aimed at enhancing safety of women tourists at key destinations—(KNO)

Kashmir’s Winter T

be decisive for the season’s outlook. Weather experts have predicted the possibility of light to moderate snowfall in the higher reaches in the coming week, raising hopes among the tourism fraternity—(KNO)

‘34% Power Deficit’

in the coming days.” “It has been observed that the 400kV as well as 220kV Bus voltages at various stations in Kashmir valley are remaining critically low also reaching 347kV and 178kV—well below the Indian Electricity Grid Code (IEGC) band i.e. 380kV and 198kV respectively due to low hydro generation and heavy MVAR drawl from the ISTS nodes,” it reads. Pertinently, KNO in November reported that authorities have projected that Jammu and Kashmir will likely have an extra power demand by 49.42 percent by the year 2034-35. The official had clarified that the peak demand will be more than the average growth saying that the region may likely witness an increase in power demand by 6 percent each year from 2025-26 to 2034-2035. Stating the year wise growth rate in power demand, authorities have said that in the year Jammu and Kashmir will likely have a five percent extra demand in the year 2025-26 followed by four percent in the year 2026-27, four percent in 2027-28, three percent in 2028-29—(KNO)

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How Ladakh is Transforming Waste Management in Extreme Terrain

Solar Powered Cleanup: Leh's Solution to Waste



The project follows a circular economy model, converting waste into useful products such as compost and pavement tiles, which are reintegrated into the local economy. By improving collection efficiency and processing capabilities, the initiative has significantly reduced waste overflow in public areas, enhancing sanitation and public health.



Ladakh's Leh has long been struggling with solid waste management due to booming tourism and rapid urban growth. Each year, as waste piling up and water sources are depleting, the ecologically fragile town, has been forced to rethink how to tackle it sustainably through solar-powered waste processing, ground-water protection and landfill remediation. The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) launched a solar-powered solid waste management initiative in year 2020. The plant, with a processing capacity of 30 tonnes per day, leverages solar energy to reduce reliance on conventional power, lower operational costs, and ensure uninterrupted operations in this remote region. Aiming for 100 percent source segregation and a 90 percent material recovery rate, the initiative ensures that the majority of collected waste is either recycled or composted, preventing it from reaching landfills and mitigating environmental pollution. The project follows a circular economy model, converting waste into useful prod-

ucts such as compost and pavement tiles, which are reintegrated into the local economy. By improving collection efficiency and processing capabilities, the initiative has significantly reduced waste overflow in public areas, enhancing sanitation and public health. Revenue generated from selling recyclables and compost supports the plant's operations, making it financially sustainable. With its focus on recycling, reuse, and value addition, Leh's model demonstrates how solar powered, community-driven waste management can be replicated in other hilly and tourist regions. The project not only minimizes landfill accumulation but also lowers carbon emissions, supports long-term environmental sustainability, and ensures that waste management keeps pace with growing urban and tourist pressures, providing a cleaner and healthier environment for residents and visitors alike.

(Courtesy: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs / PIB Srinagar)



The project not only minimizes landfill accumulation but also lowers carbon emissions, supports long-term environmental sustainability, and ensures that waste management keeps pace with growing urban and tourist pressures, providing a cleaner and healthier environment for residents and visitors alike.

CS for massive mobilisation under PM-SYM, Kisan Maandhan Yojanas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday reviewed the implementation and progress of various public welfare and financial inclusion schemes across Jammu and Kashmir, including the newly rolled-out Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana, aimed at providing assured social security to unorganised workers and marginal farmers.

The review meeting, coordinated by the Finance Department, was attended by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary Labour & Employment; Secretary, Education; Director, Land Records; General Manager, CSC-SPV; and Deputy Commissioners of all districts through video conferencing.

While reviewing the modalities for registration under PM-SYM, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioners to constitute Tehsil- and Block-level committees to generate widespread awareness and ensure maximum enrolment of eligible beneficiaries. He also emphasised the need for capacity-building and training of field-level officers to sensitise them about the operational framework of the scheme.

The Chief Secretary instructed the Labour & Employment Department to launch a vigorous Infor-



mation, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign, in coordination with CSC-SPV and the Information Department, to reach eligible beneficiaries across all districts. Noting that over 34 lakh workers are registered on the e-Shram portal in the UT, he observed that at least 10 lakh workers should be covered under PM-SYM to secure their livelihood during old age through assured pension benefits.

He also urged the Deputy Commissioners to leverage the PM-Kisan database to enrol eligible farmers under PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY), observing that a majority of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir are marginal landholders and fall well within the eligibility criteria prescribed under the scheme.

The Chief Secretary reviewed district-wise performance under other key financial inclusion schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY),

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and related initiatives. He urged the Deputy Commissioners to work towards saturation of these schemes, describing them as highly beneficial for the socio-economic security of the population. He also took note of the incremental progress achieved by districts during the recent campaign period.

Earlier, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, while outlining the features and achievements of these schemes, informed the meeting that sustained and targeted campaigns undertaken by the Finance Department in collaboration with banks and district administrations had resulted in a significant increase in enrolments during the current financial year.

He revealed that PMJJBY recorded an increase of 1,69,713 new accounts, while 34,780 APY accounts, 71,415 PMJDY accounts, and 4,57,522

PMSBY accounts were added during the same period.

Regarding the implementation of PM-SYM, the Principal Secretary called upon the Deputy Commissioners to ensure large-scale mobilisation and awareness at the grassroots level. He also advised them to organise orientation camps for CSC volunteers to facilitate maximum enrolments.

He informed that workers aged 18 to 40 years engaged in the unorganised sectors including building and construction workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, and those associated with handloom, leather, brick kilns, rag picking and similar occupations are eligible for enrolment under PM-SYM.

Similarly, marginal farmers in the same age group owning less than two hectares of land are eligible under the PM-KMY. It was revealed that over 9 lakh farmers are currently receiving the benefits under the PM-Kisan scheme who are the poten-

tial beneficiaries for this scheme too.

It was apprised that beneficiaries are required to contribute an amount ranging from ₹55 to ₹200 per month, depending on their age, with an equal matching contribution from the Government of India, ensuring an assured monthly pension of ₹3,000 after attaining the age of 60 years.

The Principal Secretary further directed the Deputy Commissioners to set weekly enrolment targets for each Common Service Centre (CSC) based on the availability of eligible beneficiaries in their areas and ensure strict adherence to these targets.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioners were also advised to replicate the e-Nigrani portal of Srinagar district for effective utilisation of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) of legislators.

The portal was said to provide end-to-end digitalisation of the workflow, including recommendation of works by legislators, grant of administrative approvals, preparation of estimates, and monitoring of works till their completion.

The meeting also deliberated on circle rates across districts, their comparison with other states, and the need for rationalisation of these rates to enhance revenue generation and plug leakages in the existing system across Jammu and Kashmir.

CS releases publications on climate change and floriculture in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Monday released three books authored by Prof. Manoj Nazir and Ms. Ridhima Koul.

Congratulating the authors, the Chief Secretary called these publications much-needed to draw attention towards biodiversity, floriculture and climate-related challenges in an ecologically fragile region like J&K where such issues have often remained underrepresented in mainstream discourse.

He remarked that the authors deserve appreciation for documenting and

highlighting these important yet neglected aspects through scientific and literary engagement.

The books released include *Alchemy of the Red Rose* by Prof. Manoj Nazir and Ridhima Koul, *The Impact of Climate Change on Flowering* by Prof. Manoj Nazir and Ridhima Koul, and *The Man Behind the Gladiolus Revolution in India* authored by Ridhima Koul and Dr. Jyotsana Maurya.

Prof. Manoj Nazir is a distinguished scientist in the field of floriculture, widely recognised for spearheading the *Gladiolus Revolution* in India. His contributions to plant biotechnology and

horticultural research have had a lasting impact on scientific advancement and flower cultivation practices in the country.

Ms. Ridhima Koul is a biotechnology researcher and author with significant research experience in floriculture and plant sciences. Her academic work and writings focus on strengthening the interface between scientific research and public understanding.

Dr. Jyotsana Maurya is a biotechnology scholar and author, known for her research on medicinal plants and floriculture, and has contributed extensively through scientific publications and books.

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Progress of Operationalisation of 60 MLD STP for Srinagar city

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today reviewed the operationalisation of 60 MLD STP for Srinagar city and the progress of tendering process for utilities shifting required to connect lane-level drainage with the sewerage system under the Greater Srinagar Sewerage Scheme (JnNURM).

The meeting was attended by the Chief Engineers of KPDCL, PWD; Superintending Engineers from PHE and UEED, Deputy Director Planning, and officers of NBCC.

During the review, the Divisional Commissioner

stressed the need to expedite and complete the tendering process for utilities shifting related to the construction of connecting drainage portions of the UEED network. SE UEED assured the Chair that the process of connecting Households with the trunk line to the STP shall be completed by 5th January for optimal utilisation of the installed capacity.

The Div Com directed the concerned departments to ensure timely power connection to the Sewerage Treatment Plant at Noorbagh and to complete the outfall line.

CORRECTION

I, Aadil Ahmad Parry S/O Mohmad Maqbool Parry, resident of Muqdam Mohalla Wailoo, Kralpora, Kunzer district Baramulla, want to correct name of my father on driving licence. Now, i want to correct his name as per Aadhar from Mohd Maqbool Parry to Mohamad Maqbool Parry. Anybody, (if) having any kind of objection in this regard, may file the same at the Office of Assistant Regional Office Sopore, within 7 days of period from the date of publication of this notice.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Muhammed Ashraf Khan
1944-2022

*Bichra kuch is ada se ke rut hi badal gayi
Ek shakhs sarey shaher ko veeran kar gaya*

We Miss You Abaji

*Children
Grand Children*