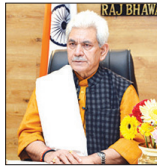


Good Morning

Kashmir


16th  
Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K  
@OfficeOfLGJandK



The land of Kachrial not only holds historical significance but it is also a holy land for the countrymen as every inch of this place gratefully remembers those brave soldiers who laid down their lives while guarding sovereignty and integrity of the nation in 1965 & 1971 wars.


Srinagar • Wednesday 17, December 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 289 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998



Let the victory over Polio continue with


## Two Drops of Life

India is polio free. But polio still exists in few countries and it may come back. Ensure your child's complete protection. Make sure polio vaccine is given every time so that India maintains its victory over polio.



Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

DIPK-9023/25   Dated:16/12/2025



**Polio Day**  
21 December 2025  
Sunday  
In all districts

Ensure every child under 5 years of age gets polio drops everytime

@diprjk @dipr\_jk @informationprjk Information & PR, J&K

# Floods Damage 0.78 Lakh Hectares Of Crop Area In J&K: GoI



**RAJA SYED RATHER**

**SRINAGAR:** Heavy rains and floods damaged crops over nearly 0.78 lakh hectares across Jammu and Kashmir during the current year, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in a written reply informed the Lok Sabha that

due to recent weather-related disasters, Jammu and Kashmir reported crop damage on 0.78 lakh hectare area.

The Ministry clarified that the primary responsibility of providing relief to affected farmers lies with the respective state or Union Territory governments in accordance with the National Policy on Disaster Management. Relief measures are **●P-06**

### Cold Wave Tightens Grip Across Kashmir

IMD Says Dry Weather Prevails Across Region

**SAJID RAINA**

**SRINAGAR:** Cold conditions intensified across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Tuesday as minimum temperatures dropped sharply at most places, plunging several areas of the Kashmir

Valley well below the freezing point compared to the previous day.

In the Kashmir region, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, a sharp fall from 1.9 degrees Celsius recorded a day earlier. **●P-06**

# Policeman Killed In Udhampur Encounter, Op On: IGP

YOGESH

**UDHAMPUR:** Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti on Tuesday said that a policeman was killed in the ongoing encounter with terrorists in Udhampur district, while terrorists have fled toward the dense forest after initial firefight.



accurate and an encounter broke out when a small team of the Special Operations Group (SOG) came under fire from terrorists."

He said that during the exchange of fire, a policeman Amjad Ali **●P-06**

Vijay Diwas

# Tricolour Symbol Of Our Freedom, Self-Respect, Sacrifices: LG Sinha

Unveils 108-Ft High Mast National Flag At Kachrial

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that the Tricolour symbolises India's freedom, self-respect, and the people's sacrifices and martyrdom.

"May our beloved and victorious Tricolour fly high in the World. Our tricolour is a symbol of our freedom, of our self-respect, and of sacrifices and martyrdom. Together, we should march to achieve the lofty vision of making India a Developed Nation," the Lieutenant Governor said after unveiling the 108-feet high mast National Flag here at Kachrial in Akhnoor on the occasion of Vijay Diwas.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the martyrs,



soldiers and officers, who made the country proud by their valour and sacrifice during 1971 war. He also felicitated the War Veterans and Veer Naris and saluted their courage and sacrifice for the nation.

"The land of Kachrial not only holds historical significance but it is also a holy land for the countrymen as

every inch of this place gratefully remembers those brave soldiers who laid down their lives while guarding sovereignty and integrity of the nation in 1965 and 1971 wars," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the General Officer Commanding, White Knight Corps (16 Corps), Lieutenant **●P-06**

- May our beloved and victorious Tricolour fly high in the world
- Pays homage to the martyrs, soldiers and officers, who made country proud by their sacrifice during 1971 war
- Land of Kachrial not only holds historical significance but it is also a holy land for the countrymen
- I must congratulate GoC 16 Corps, Lt. Gen PK Mishra of this very thoughtful gesture of installing 108 feet high mast national flag
- Together, we should march to achieve the lofty vision of making India a Developed Nation

# Soldier Dies In Explosion In Kupwara

IANIS



**SRINAGAR:** A soldier was killed in an explosion in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Tuesday.

Officials said that the soldier died on Monday in an explosion in Putaha Khan Gali of the Trehgam area of the district of the Line of Control (LoC).

The soldier has been identified as Havaladar Zubair Ahmad of J&amp;K Light Infantry (JAKLI).

"The injured soldier was rushed to a military hospital in the Drugmulla area of Baramulla district, but doctors said he was dead on arrival," officials said.

The officials said that the explosion occurred during road construction in the area, and the soldier was accidentally critically injured in this blast. **●P-06**

...12 Suspects **Detained**

# CIK Busts Terror-Linked Social Activism Network In Kashmir

IANIS

**SRINAGAR:** The Counter-Intelligence wing of the J&K Police on Tuesday was carrying out raids at multiple locations across Kashmir in connection with a terror-related case and online glorification of terrorism.

Officials said that the Counter-Intelligence Kashmir launched simultaneous raids at multiple locations across the Kashmir Valley as part of an ongoing investigation into a terror-related case involving online glorification of terrorism and recruitment activities.

Raids are being carried out at 12 locations across seven districts, including Pulwama, Budgam, Kulgam, Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag and Kupwara.



"The searches are being conducted after obtaining proper search warrants in connection with FIR No. 03/2023, registered under Sections 153-A and 505 of the IPC, and Sections 13 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act at Police Station Counter-Intelligence Kashmir. The case pertains to terror-related crimes, particu-

larly the online glorification and propagation of terrorist ideology with the intent to radicalise and recruit individuals into terrorist ranks," officials said.

More details were awaited.

The J&K Police and the security forces are carrying out aggressive anti-terrorist operations against terrorists, their overground **●P-06**

# CS Reviews Mining Reforms, Technology-Driven Enforcement In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a review meeting of the Mining Department to assess the progress of mining sector reforms, revenue realisation measures, technological interventions and enforcement mechanisms aimed at curbing illegal mining across J&K.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the department's performance in implementing policy reforms, auctioning of mineral blocks and strengthening monitoring systems, while underscoring the need for transparency, sustainability and maximisation of revenue from mineral

resources.

The Chief Secretary, on the occasion, commended the role of BISAG-N in creating a robust and efficient mining surveillance system equipped with modern technological features.

He took a live demonstration of the vehicle tracking system, public grievance redressal platform and ATMC cameras installed at key exit points, and expressed satisfaction over the system's potential to significantly deter illegal mining and unauthorised transportation of minerals.

Emphasising the importance of scientific assessment of mineral resources, the Chief Secretary directed the department to undertake G3-stage **●P-06**



# India Fences Over 93% Pak Border: MHA

SAJID RAINA

**NEW DELHI:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday said that India has physically fenced more than 93% of its international border with Pakistan.

In a written reply to a query by two Trinamool Congress MPs, Jagdish Chandra Barma Basunia and Sharmila Sarkar, regarding the unfenced portions of India's international borders, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, informed the Lok Sabha that fencing has been completed along 2,135.136 kilometres, accounting for 93.25 per cent of the total 2,289.66-kilometre India-Pakistan border.

The remaining 154.524 kilometres, or 6.75 per cent, is yet to be fenced, the reply added.

It stated that border fencing remains a key component of India's strategy to **●P-06**

# Kashmir Rivers, Springs Dry Up Amid Drought Like Situation

Experts Warn Situation May Worsen, Increase Forest Fire Risk

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Reduced snowfall and prolonged dry weather are having a severe impact on rivers, streams, and springs across Kashmir, marking a sharp contrast to December months in the past, when the region usually remained clad with thick snow blanket.

According to the details available, level of river Jhelum, considered to be Kashmir's lifeline, has fallen to 0.65 meters at key points such as Sangam and Pampore. Its lowest level this season.

Several tributaries have dried up, while many natural springs in Pulwama, Shopian, and Bandipora have reduced



flow, affecting drinking water in these areas, said an official.

He said that monitoring wells show groundwater levels dropping between 0.5 and 3 meters, and wetlands are shrinking, impacting migratory birds.

"Every year, the situation worsens. Farmers are anxious

as irrigation water is limited, and household supplies are strained," said Bashir Ahmad, of Pulwama.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported a 17 per cent rainfall deficit across Jammu and Kashmir during the post-monsoon season from October 1 to

December 10, with Srinagar recording a 47 per cent shortfall.

Other districts such as Baramulla (-67 per cent), Bandipora (-65 per cent), Shopian (-78 per cent), and Kargil (-93 per cent) also recorded below-average precipitation, while some districts, including Samba and Jammu, received excess rainfall.

Officials said the current dry spell, with minimal Western Disturbances bringing precipitation, has directly caused the depletion of rivers and springs.

Forecasts indicate continued dry weather into late December, potentially worsening the situation **●P-06**

# Centre Releases Rs 235 Crore For Panchayati Raj Institutions: GoI To LS

RAJA SYED RATHER

**SRINAGAR:** The Centre on Tuesday said that it has released Rs 235 crore during the past five years to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a written reply to a query, Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, informed Lok Sabha that under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) Jammu and Kashmir received ₹25 crore in 2020-21, ₹40 crore in 2021-22, ₹40 crore in 2022-23, and ₹65 crore each in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Capacity building, training of elected representatives and officials, and strength-



ening basic Panchayat infrastructure— are some of the areas where funds were used, the reply stated.

It said that under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, more than 7.25 lakh participants from J&K were trained between 2022-23 and 2025-26 with an aim to improve governance, planning, and service delivery at the grassroots level.

Also, for uplifting the Panchayat infrastructure **●P-06**



# Br MSME DFO Srinagar holds stakeholder meeting at Sonamarg

Discusses feasibility of establishing Laundry CFC under MSE-CDP

## GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, Br MSME DFO Srinagar held a stakeholder meeting at Sonamarg with the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority, and local hoteliers to examine the feasibility of establishing a Laundry Common Facility Centre (CFC) under the MSE-Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP).

During the meeting, Assistant Director, MSME, Saheel Aqab explained in detail the guidelines of the MSE-CDP Scheme and highlighted that financial assistance up to 95% is available from the Government for eligible projects, enabling MSMEs and service enterprises to avail substantial support for common facilitation



centre.

The hoteliers and their managerial representatives welcomed the initiative and expressed keen interest in the proposed

Laundry CFC. They suggested that another meeting be convened to rope in more hoteliers and to discuss the proposal in greater detail so as to ensure

wider participation and consensus.

The CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority, Bilal Mukhtar, welcomed the initiative of the Ministry of MSME and stated that if the hoteliers come forward collectively, the proposed facility would prove to be extremely beneficial for the hospitality sector in Sonamarg.

On the occasion, certificates were also distributed among the participants who had attended the one-week Management Development Programme on Customer Handling and Effective Communication conducted in the month of October.

The President, Beopar Mandal, stated that the programme had been extremely successful and that a visible improvement has been observed in the operations of hotels, cafes, and restaurants.

# House Committee inspects Water Supply Schemes in Kupwara

## GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** The House Committee constituted by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly for inspection of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes, headed by Chairman Hasnain Masoodi, Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of district Kupwara to review the implementation and progress of various Water Supply Schemes.

During the visit, the Committee inspected several JJM projects at different locations across the district. The inspection team included members of the Committee, MLA Tral Rafiq Ahmad Naikoo and MLA Pattan Reyaz Ahmad Bedar besides Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Khurshid Ahmad Shah; Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Kupwara; Superintending Engineer (Mechanical); Assistant Director, Assembly Secretariat; Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

The Chairman first inspected the Water Supply Scheme Gulgam Tangwari, which has been completed at a cost of Rs. 799.60 lakh. He was informed that the scheme has successfully



provided potable drinking water facilities to 671 households across three Panchayats, significantly improving water accessibility in the area.

The Committee also visited WSS Hatmulla-Bubernag, where it was appraised that the scheme has an approved cost of Rs. 521.12 lakh and has achieved 74 percent physical progress.

The Chairman stressed the need for expediting the remaining works to ensure timely completion.

Later, the Chairman inspected the Regional Water Supply Scheme Wayne, Kupwara, which is known for its big size having a capacity of 5 lakh

gallons. He also reviewed its operational efficiency and service coverage.

While visiting Lolab Sub-Division, the Committee inspected the Water Supply Scheme at remote village Dardpora, which has been completed and is catering to the drinking water needs of the local population.

The Chairman interacted with the field officers and emphasised the importance of ensuring sustained functionality of schemes in far-flung and difficult terrain areas.

The Committee on its day long tour to Kupwara district visited several other schemes including

Water Supply Scheme Nutnussa and WSS Watayen and inspected the functionality of these schemes.

During the tour, Hasnain Masoodi interacted with the local people and sought feedback about the water supply scenario.

The Chairman underscored that the objective of these inspections is to ensure transparency, quality execution and effective delivery of drinking water under the Jal Jeevan Mission. He directed the concerned departments to address bottlenecks promptly and maintain high standards so that the benefits of JJM reach every household.

# H&H Dept flags of artisans for participation in GI Mahotsav in Delhi



## GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a major boost to promotion of GI registered crafts, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, Tuesday flagged off a group of 06 artisans from Numaish Gah, here today, for participation in GI Mahotsav, scheduled to begin from December 18 till December 21, in Noida Haat, New Delhi.

The Mahotsav is designed to provide a robust national platform for GI artisans and sellers from across the country to exhibit their unique products, establish direct market linkages with buyers and celebrate country's diverse culture and craft traditions.

In a press statement issued today, a spokesman of the department stated that the artisans shall represent Kashmir in Wagguv, Namda, Walnut Wood Carving, Crewel, Chainstitch and Kashmir tweed GI registered crafts in the trade fair, organized by Ministry of MSME in

collaboration with PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Kashmir has 15 GI registered crafts, out of which 08 were registered by GI Registry Chennai in April this year which include the langushing crafts like Wagguv, Namda and Gabba.

The spokesman further stated that the artisans shall represent Kashmir's globally acclaimed handmade products, reflecting the region's exceptional craftsmanship, authenticity and centuries old cultural legacy. "Their participation is expected to create new market opportunities, promote GI awareness and strengthen the recognition of Kashmiri handicrafts at the National level," he added.

While flagging off the artisans, the Department reiterated its commitment to preserving, promoting and protecting Kashmir's traditional crafts and empowering artisans through exposure to national platforms, improved market access and institutional support.

# Dir Agri reviews expenditure under HADP, Capex and CSS in Srinagar

## GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, on Tuesday reviewed the expenditure and implementation status of key agriculture schemes, including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Capex and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), in Srinagar district.

During a review meeting held at the Agriculture Complex, Lalmandi, the Director sought detailed updates on financial and physical progress, applications received, sanctioned and implemented under various schemes.

He reviewed achieve-

ments recorded so far, progress under the Daksh Kisan programme, establishment of units on the ground and the pace of credit linkage. Officers were directed to expedite spending, avoid procedural delays and ensure timely utilization of funds to meet set targets.

The Director emphasized strengthening coordination among the Agriculture Department, farmers and financial institutions to ensure schemes deliver tangible benefits on the ground.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer, District Agriculture Officer, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officers and other departmental officials.

"Kahani Jeet Ki"

# DC B'pora holds interaction with Govt Scheme Beneficiaries

## GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Tuesday chaired the second monthly interaction under the 'Kahani Jeet Ki' initiative with beneficiaries of various government-sponsored schemes and livelihood programmes at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The interaction brought together beneficiaries from multiple departments, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Handloom, Handicrafts, District Industries Centre (DIC) and allied sectors, who shared their progress, experiences and challenges.

During the interaction, a beneficiary from the Sheep Husbandry Department informed the DC about receiving a 50-ewe unit under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) with a subsidy of ₹2.5 lakh, which has significantly improved her livelihood. Another beneficiary showcased a finely crafted Pashmina shawl and narrated how



financial assistance of ₹50,000 received through the Handicrafts Department enabled her to start Sozni work (Pashmina embroidery), generating a sustainable source of income. Other beneficiaries who received similar units also shared how these interventions have enhanced their earning capacity.

A progressive farmer from Watapora, Mohammad Azad Bhat, shared his success story of starting farming on three kanals of land and achieving an annual income of ₹5 lakh through seedling sales. With continued support from the Agriculture Department and SKUAST-K, he has established six

low-tech polyhouses and two mini hi-tech polyhouses. Now recognised as a "Champion Farmer" in Bandipora, he runs his own enterprise, "Bhat Vegetable Nursery," and has received several awards for his progressive work.

Speaking on the occasion, Javed Ahmad Bhat, a 32-year-old entrepreneur from Ajas, Bandipora, representing JCP Enterprises, manufacturers of hollow blocks and tiles, shared his entrepreneurial journey. He stated that starting with a ₹7-lakh loan from EDI Bandipora in 2014, his enterprise has grown into a successful unit with an annual turnover of ₹6-7 crore, providing employment to around 120 people.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that such monthly interactions would continue as a platform to review ground-level implementation of schemes, promote transparency, and strengthen inter-departmental convergence to further boost livelihood generation across the district. She appreciated the efforts of the beneficiaries and encouraged them to adopt innovative practices while motivating others in their communities to avail benefits under government schemes.

Other beneficiaries also shared their individual journeys, challenges and future expansion plans under various components of HADP and allied livelihood schemes, highlighting the role of training, subsidies and departmental support.

The interaction was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Bandipora, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Bandipora, Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora, representatives of concerned departments and a large number of beneficiaries.

# DC B'la reviews implementation of PM-SYM Scheme

## GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) scheme in the district, with a focus on expanding coverage among eligible unorganised sector workers.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized that PM-SYM scheme is Centrally Sponsored Scheme for unorganised sector labourers in the age group of 18 to 40 years who are not covered under any other pension scheme. Under the scheme, beneficiaries are entitled to a minimum assured pension of ₹3,000 per month on attaining the age of 60 years.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure saturation coverage of all eligible unorganised workers, including those registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) category.

It was appraised that around 7,530 workers fall under the BOCW category in the district and the DC instructed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to take proactive steps to enroll these workers under

the PM-SYM scheme by utilising the services of Common Service Centres (CSCs).

Emphasis was also laid on enrolling MNREGA workers, along with those associated with the handloom and handicrafts sectors. The DC stressed the need for focused outreach and awareness campaigns to ensure that all eligible workers from these sectors are brought under the ambit of the scheme.

The DC further directed the departments concerned to closely monitor the enrollment process, ensure proper documentation, and submit regular progress reports to the district administration.

Meanwhile, the DC reiterated that the PM-SYM scheme is a significant step towards providing social security and financial stability to unorganised sector workers in their old age.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi; ADC Sopore, S.A.Raina; SDM Uri, Shubhankar Pratyush, SDM Pattan, Gulzar Ahmad, CPO Baramulla, Nisar Ahmad, ACD Baramulla, Chaudhary Mudasar Hussain, and other officers and officials.

# Two-Day 68th RCM for Rabi 2025-26 SKUAST-K Concludes

## GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) concluded its two-day 68th Meeting of the Research Council (RCM) for Rabi 2025-2026 on Tuesday at the Shalimar Campus.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the chief guest at the event, delivered a comprehensive address centred on the strategic imperatives for the region's agricultural sector. He emphasised on the urgent need for a strategic and action-oriented approach to bolster the sustainability and resilience of agriculture due to mounting challenges posed by increasing climate variability and rising water scarcity in the region.

Prof Ganai appreciated the contributions of the



scientists in leading the University to the third-best State Agricultural University ranking. He further remarked that the institution has not grown in isolation, rather, its coordination and partnership with line departments and administration in the dynamic planning and execution of agricultural policy have played a pivotal role in its growth.

Director Research, Prof Haroon Rashid Naik, presented the university's research achievements and the action taken report on the agenda items of the previous RCM. He stressed on developing and deploying novel technologies and collaborative approaches to address wide ranging issues from food safety, pesticide misuse and climate change. Secretary, Science and

Technology Department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, who joined the meeting virtually, gave inputs on the strategic priorities for research in Jammu and Kashmir and highlighted the need for submission of project proposals addressing critical issues like, good safety monitoring systems, AI-Powered research data banks, and reduction in pesticide usage.

Various scientists from the university presented policy papers for deliberations. The key R&D policy initiatives included-SKUAST-K Data Research Bank, Herbal Technology, Residue and Quality analysis, Bio-inputs for regenerative agriculture, Micro-irrigation system, Reproductive Biotechnology, Protected cultivations, Fruit tree breeding for designer plants, and tissue culture to meet demands of planting material. Besides the heads of different Faculties, and Research Stations also presented their research achievements and future plans.

The RCM was dominated by discussions addressing the severe regional impacts of ongoing dry weather and climate change. Participants prioritized urgent research and policy changes, focusing on developing drought-resistant crops and imple-

menting advanced water conservation techniques to counter growing water scarcity and safeguard the long-term stability of agriculture.

The council also reviewed the progress of key government initiatives like HADP and JKICP. A critical segment of the session involved feedback from key stakeholders, including progressive farmers.

Heads of various Development Departments, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Sericulture gave their remarks, ensuring alignment with the university's research agenda and field-level implementation. Expert members from allied institutions and universities, also offered their insights.

On the occasion, nine publications authored by various university scientists were also released.



# CM pays tribute to Late Masud Choudhary on his 3rd death anniversary

Calls for dedicated research centre at GDCT for Tribal studies

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday attended the commemoration of the third death anniversary of Late Dr. Masud Ahmed Choudhary, former IPS officer, eminent educationist and founder of the Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT), at Jammu, and paid glowing tributes to his life and legacy.

Recalling Dr. Choudhary's distinguished service to the nation and society, the Chief Minister described him as a visionary public servant who embodied integrity, institution-building and selfless dedication.

He highlighted Dr. Choudhary's pivotal role as the founding Vice-Chancellor of Baba Gulshan Shah Badshah (BGSB) University, Rajouri, and his lifelong commitment to empowering the Gujar-Bakerwal community and other marginalized sections of Jammu and Kashmir.



He noted that through GDCT, Dr. Choudhary had laid a strong institutional foundation, establishing schools and nurturing spaces such as a reading room, library, museum and cultural centre. However, the Chief Minister emphasized that the true tribute to the late visionary would be to ensure that these institutions actively benefit the community for whom these facilities have been established.

Highlighting the growing challenges posed by climate change, especially to nomadic and semi-nomadic communities like the Gujar-Bakerwals,

the Chief Minister called for setting up a dedicated research centre under GDCT. He stressed the need for in-depth research on issues such as effects of climate change, migration patterns, livelihood vulnerabilities and long-term preservation of tribal culture & traditions..

"The government has schemes for all, but communities facing unique challenges need focused research and tailored solutions. Research papers prepared by knowledgeable people can guide policy and help us understand how best to safeguard their future," he said.

The Chief Minister also suggested undertaking research on the concept and functioning of tribal universities, to assess their impact elsewhere and to prepare a roadmap for making such institutions successful in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that tribal communities derive maximum benefit.

Acknowledging the presence of retired and serving officers, lawyers, scholars, teachers and intellectuals within the community, the Chief Minister urged the Trust to harness this collective wisdom to carry forward Dr. Choudhary's mission.

"The best tribute to Dr. Masud Ahmed Choudhary would be to fulfill, with our own hands, the purpose for which he established this institution—so that his community benefits and people's lives change," he said, while thanking the organizers for inviting him to the commemoration.

# CS reviews land, infrastructure issues of JNVs, KVs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the availability of land and infrastructure for Central Government educational institutions, including Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) and Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs), that are either non-functional or presently operating from temporary premises across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, School Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma; Commissioners of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan; Director School Education, Jammu

and Kashmir; Regional Officer, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Jammu, along with other senior officers of the department.

Deputy Commissioners from all districts participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

During the review, the Chief Secretary sought district-wise and school-wise details regarding the current infrastructural status of these institutions. He specifically enquired about the availability or identification of suitable land for the construction of permanent school buildings, as well as the arrangements made for their temporary functioning until permanent infrastructure is established.

Emphasising the importance of timely interven-

tion, he impressed upon the district administrations and concerned departments to ensure that all procedural formalities are completed expeditiously to facilitate smooth functioning of these institutions.

Secretary, School Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma, apprised the meeting of the present status of each JNV and KV and highlighted the specific requirements of land and buildings for their effective functioning.

He assured that the department would take all necessary steps to ensure early operationalisation of the non-functional schools from the forthcoming academic session, in coordination with the district administrations and central institutions.

The Deputy Commissioners, in turn, briefed the meeting about the land parcels and buildings identified in their respective districts for these schools. They informed that the process for transfer and allotment of land would be initiated shortly, following the assessment of feasibility and completion of requisite formalities in consultation with the authorities of JNVs and KVs.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening educational infrastructure across J&K and directed all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure that students are provided access to quality education through well-equipped and fully functional institutions at the earliest.

## Nizam-ud-Din Bhat chairs meeting of Committee on Privileges

Discusses protocols of Legislators



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** A meeting of the Committee on Privileges of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held Tuesday under the Chairmanship of MLA, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, at Assembly Complex, Jammu to deliberate on issues related to the constitutional privileges and entitlements of Legislators.

Legislators, Vikram Randhawa, Riyaz Ahmad Khan, Salman Sagar, Javid Iqbal, Dr Narinder Singh Raina and Dr Bharat Bhushan besides Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit were present in the meeting.

Threadbare discussions were held on various issues related to privileges and protocols in respect of members of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. Besides, present status of observations made by the Committee in its previous meetings was also deliberated upon.

Commissioner Secretary, GAD, M Raju; Secretary, H&P Department, Niraj Kumar and Secre-

tary, Law, Justice and PA, Achal Sethi were also present in the meeting.

The Committee was informed that the concerned departments have deliberated upon the observations made by the Committee in its previous meetings and a proposal in this regard has been prepared and forwarded to the CM for approval.

The Chairman directed the officers to share entire deliberations in respect of proposal forwarded to the Chief Minister with the Committee in its next meeting.

The members gave their valuable suggestions to make the Committee more vibrant and result oriented. They stressed on maintaining protocols to safeguard the dignity and effective functioning of elected representatives.

Earlier, the Committee observed two minute silence on the demise of mother of Secretary Law, Justice and PA, Achal Sethi.

Among others, senior officers of the concerned departments and Assembly Secretariat attended the meeting.

## J&K Bank conducts Workshop-cum-Capacity Building Programme for FPOs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In its continued efforts to strengthen institutional credit flow to the agriculture sector, J&K Bank Tuesday organised a Workshop-cum-Capacity Building Programme on Creating Credit Awareness for FPOs.

The Bank's General Manager (Government Business) Ashutosh Sareen chaired the session that was held in the presence of General Manager (Retail, Agriculture & MSME) Rakesh Magotra, DGM Aneet Kanwal Singh, representatives of the FPOs and other senior officers of the Bank.

The workshop aimed at sensitising FPOs about the banking system, availability of credit facilities, and structured financing options tailored for collective farming institutions.

Addressing the participants, General Manager Ashutosh Sareen emphasised the Bank's commitment to supporting FPOs as key drivers of agricultural transformation and rural prosperity.

He said, "At J&K Bank, we are deeply committed to strengthening the agricultural ecosystem by empowering Farmer Producer Organisations with seamless access to institutional credit. Through initiatives like our dedicated Loan



Scheme for FPOs and NAB-Sanrakshan credit guarantees, we are enabling high-tech farming, infrastructure development, and market linkages—paving the way for sustainable growth and prosperity for our farmers."

"FPOs play a pivotal role in aggregating farmers, improving bargaining power and enabling value addition", he added.

Further, he highlighted that access to timely and affordable credit is crucial for strengthening FPOs and enabling them to operate as sustainable and commercially viable entities.

Earlier, while congratulating the participants for taking the lead in carrying forward the FPO initiative, General Manager Rakesh Magotra said, "There may be challenges along the way, but the end results will be rewarding and beneficial for all stakeholders. This is a mission you have undertaken with a larger purpose. With nearly 95 per cent of farmers in the UT being small and marginal, FPOs have emerged as an effective platform to promote their welfare, particularly by enabling structured and sustainable credit linkages."

He also highlighted the range of agriculture-focused financial products and services offered by the Bank and encouraged FPOs to proactively engage with the Bank for meeting their working capital and long-term credit requirements. On behalf of the Bank, he assured the participants of full guidance from the Bank's specialised agriculture and MSME vertical.

During the workshop, a detailed presentation was made to familiarise participating FPOs with various credit facilities and Government-sponsored schemes relevant to their operations. Participants were also sensitised about loan facilities against Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs) to support post-harvest liquidity and price realisation.

The programme witnessed active participation from FPO representatives, who interacted with Bank officials and sought clarity on various credit-related aspects. The participant FPOs thanked the Bank for building their capacities through such detailed credit awareness programs.

## National Immunization Day

# Over 19.85 lakh children set to get Pulse Polio dose in J&K: Dr. Poonam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** A media sensitization meeting regarding the upcoming National Immunization Day (NID) 2025 – Pulse Polio Campaign was Tuesday held here at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar to mobilize media support and ensure widespread public awareness.

Director Family Welfare MCH & Immunization J&K, Dr. Poonam Sethi addressed the media in the presence of Dr. Narinder Bhutiyal, Medical Superintendent GHGN; Dr. Shahid Hussain, State Immunization Officer J&K; Dr. Azmat Khan, SMO WHO-NPSN Jammu; Rakesh Sharma, State Mass Media & Information Officer J&K and Parshotam Kumar, State Cold Chain Officer J&K.

Speaking to the media persons, Dr. Poonam Sethi informed that National Immunization Day (Pulse Polio Campaign) 2025 would be observed on December 21, 2025, followed by house-to-house activities on Dec 22 and Dec 23 to ensure that no child is missed. She shared key operational details, stating that a total of 19,85,736 children (0-5 years) are targeted across Jammu & Kashmir for immunization against Polio. "For successful implementation, 10,993



booths and 248 transit points have been established across the UT," she informed and added that 518 mobile teams have also been deployed to conduct the drive.

The Director appealed to the media fraternity to disseminate the message extensively so that every eligible child receives two drops of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and the goal of a polio-free J&K is sustained.

State Immunization Officer, Dr. Shahid Hussain elaborated on the availability of OPV and assured that cold chain systems are fully functional and strictly monitored to maintain vaccine potency throughout the campaign.

Dr. Azmat Khan, (WHO-NPSN Jammu) briefed media persons about micro-planning, monitoring and supervision mechanisms, highlighting the role of field

supervision to ensure quality implementation and zero missed children.

Rakesh Sharma, State Mass Media & Information Officer outlined the IEC/BCC activities planned by the department and acknowledged the proactive support of the Information Department in strengthening public outreach and awareness.

In her concluding remarks, Dr. Poonam Sethi appealed to parents and community members to enthusiastically participate in the campaign to ensure a healthy future for children and the Nation.

The Family Welfare MCH & Immunization Department reiterated its commitment to protecting every child from polio and sought continued cooperation from the media to make NID 2025 a resounding success.

# Heart attack cases spike in Kashmir during harsh winter; cardiologists issue advisory

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**SRINAGAR:** Cardiologists in Kashmir have expressed concern over a rise in heart attacks and strokes during the harsh winter months, warning that extreme cold significantly strains the cardiovascular system. They said the number of cardiac emergencies almost doubles in winter compared to warmer seasons.

Cardiologist Dr Mohammad Ashraf Khan said prolonged exposure to low temperatures leads to constriction of blood vessels—a condition known as vasoconstriction—which sharply increases the heart's workload.

"During winter in Kashmir, we observe more than a twofold rise in cases of heart attacks and strokes," he said. "Cold weather narrows blood vessels, causing blood pressure to rise. This forces the heart to pump harder, which can trigger life-threatening cardiac events, particularly in people with underlying heart

disease."

Dr Ashraf explained that cold conditions also increase blood viscosity, making it thicker and more prone to clot formation, thereby elevating the risk of heart attacks and strokes. "Patients with diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, and smokers are especially vulnerable. Winter further aggravates their health risks," he added.

Dr Khan further highlighted seasonal lifestyle changes that contribute to the problem. "During winter, people consume excessive tea, sugary drinks, and calorie-dense foods to stay warm. This often leads to poor sugar control and weight gain, both of which are major risk factors for heart disease," he said.

Another worrying trend, he noted, is the misinterpretation of early symptoms. "Initial signs of a heart attack are frequently mistaken for chest infections, acidity, or muscle pain. This delay in correct diagnosis and treatment can prove fatal," he



cautioned.

Dr Zahoor Bhat, another cardiologist, called for adopting preventive measures during the cold season. He advised people to keep themselves adequately warm by wearing layered clothing, including woollen caps, gloves, and scarves, and to ensure proper heating inside homes.

"Outdoor activity should be restricted during extreme cold spells," Dr Bhar said. "People should opt for light indoor exercises and strictly avoid sudden strenuous activities, which can abruptly overload the heart."

He emphasised the importance of maintaining a heart-healthy diet.

"Winter is not an excuse to abandon healthy eating. A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and lean proteins is crucial. Intake of salt, sugar, and saturated fats must be limited to control blood pressure and cholesterol," he advised.

Doctors stressed that hydration remains vital even in cold weather. They said people often drink less water in winter, leading to dehydration, which can thicken blood and increase clotting risk.

They urged the public to remain alert to warning signs of heart attacks—such as chest pain, shortness of breath, sweating, nausea, or pain radiating to the arms or jaw—and stroke symptoms, including facial drooping, arm weakness, difficulty speaking, or sudden loss of balance.

Timely medical intervention can save lives, the doctors emphasised, advising people not to ignore symptoms and to seek immediate care at the nearest health facility.

Doctors recommended wearing layered clothing and protecting the head, hands, and feet from cold exposure. They said regular check-ups are essential, especially for high-risk individuals.

Focus on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins; reduce salt, sugar, and fried foods, and engage in light exercises like stretching, yoga, or walking indoors, they said, advising against heavy physical work, particularly in extreme cold.

The health experts further advised people to avoid smoking and excessive tea or coffee, saying these increase cardiac risk. "Drink adequate water despite reduced thirst in winter and do not dismiss chest discomfort, breathlessness, or sudden weakness; seek medical help immediately," they said.

According to doctors, awareness, timely precautions, and early medical attention can significantly reduce winter-related cardiac deaths in the Valley—(KNO)







# Beyond Natural: The Case Against Homosexual Attraction

RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

'Homosexual' is a term used for a person who is attracted to his own sex physically and emotionally. The most well-known term used is "GAY". The words 'lesbian' and 'bisexual' aren't that much used or known. But they are there, and people with such sexual orientations exist. 'Lesbian' is a term used for a woman or a girl who's attracted to a woman, and 'bisexual' is one who is attracted to both men and women. Another word for 'bisexual' is 'ambisexual'. Well, before I go into what religions, psychology and other things say about homosexuality. It must be clear that the attraction between a male and female is all NATURAL. A male and female get attracted to each other in various ways, but the attraction that often is spoken about is physical or love. Well, if we speak about it in a scientific way, it's all the hormonal secretion that leads to attraction.

The hormone called testosterone works for men, and oestrogen for women. They play their roles in attraction. Well, if we speak about love, it is connected with several hormones that make us feel warm and fuzzy. Dopamine is the reward hormone that is released when we do something that makes us feel good, such as spending time with loved ones and having connections. Norepinephrine is also released during attraction, and the combination makes you feel giddy. Attraction is also associated with higher levels of serotonin, the happy hormone. And physical contact, hugging as well as sexual contact, has been shown to increase oxytocin, the love hormone. So it makes sense that spending more time with someone, enjoying their company, and touching the more would make you feel more attracted to them. So as I said, it's all about hormonal secretion, and it's all about that. And yes, no doubt the same happens with homosexual people, but it's "Irregular Secretion".

I have been calling this secretion "abnormal secretion" and will keep calling it so. It must be noted that the American Psychiatric Association " listed HOMOSEXUALITY in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders in 1952. The World Health Organization in 1977 had listed



HOMOSEXUALITY in CD-9. However, they later removed it. But the point is that still it's linked to mental disorder by my research. In the beginning of the 19th century, people began studying homosexuality scientifically. At this time, most theories regarded homosexuality as a disease, which had a great influence on how it was viewed culturally. There was a paradigm shift in the mid-20th century in psychiatric science in regard to theories of homosexuality. Psychiatrists began to believe homosexuality could be cured through therapy and freedom of self, and other theories about the genetic and hormonal origin of homosexuality were becoming accepted. There were variations of how homosexuality was viewed as pathological.

Some early psychiatrists, such as Sigmund Freud and Havelock Ellis, adopted more tolerant stances on homosexuality. Freud and Ellis believed that homosexuality was not normal but was "unavoidable" for some people. Alfred Kinsey's research and publications about homosexuality began the social and cultural shift away from viewing homosexuality as an abnormal condition. These shifting viewpoints in the psychological studies of homosexuality are evident in its placement in the first version of the

Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM) in 1952 and subsequent change in 1973, in which the diagnosis of ego-dystonic homosexuality replaced the DSM-II category of "sexual orientation disturbance". However, it was not until 1987 in DSM-III-R that it was entirely dropped as a mental disorder.

A 2016 survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights found that many medical professionals in countries such as Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia believed that homosexuality is a disease and that such misconceptions continue to exist in professional materials. This goes against Council of Europe Recommendation 2010(5), which recommends that homosexuality not be treated as a disease. Well, the recommendations were a recommendation with no proof that will make us believe that homosexuality must not be seen as a stable orientation. I remember reading a piece which clearly said that homosexuality has a higher risk of being psychologically affected.

And all homosexuality has a thing in common called "hormonal imbalance". Well, science and psychology are still in the "researching phase". The religions like Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism and Christianity

have clearly declared homosexuality a crime, and some a punishable crime! If we talk about Christianity, most of the sects don't recognise homosexuality and go so far as to call it sinful and immoral. Pope Francis, after his election in 2013, repeatedly spoke about accepting homosexuality and the need of allowing them into the church. So the need to allow them to church easily shows how sinful homosexuality is in the eyes of Christians. He also blessed a gay couple in July 2015, but the spokesperson, Ciro Benedettini, the Vatican spokesman, said in the statement after the Pope blessed a "Gay Couple" that this doesn't mean that we endorse this behaviour or go against the teachings of the Gospel.

The Gospel has clearly termed homosexuality a sin. Well, if we speak about Judaism, the book of Vayikra (Leviticus) is traditionally regarded as classifying sexual intercourse between males as a to'eivah (something abhorred or detested) that can be subject to capital punishment by the currently non-existent Sanhedrin under halakha (Jewish law). The Book of Leviticus refers to male homosexual sexual practices twice "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind; it is detestable." And if a man lie with mankind, as with wom-

ankind, both of them have committed a detestable act: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. Deuteronomy 23:17 tells followers, "None of the daughters of Israel shall be a kedeshah, nor shall any of the sons of Israel be a Kadesh."

This has been interpreted as prohibiting the "sons of Israel" from serving as homosexual temple prostitutes. The story of Ruth and Naomi in the Book of Ruth is also occasionally interpreted as the story of a lesbian couple, while the relationship between David and Jonathan in the Book of Samuel is sometimes interpreted as male homosexual love (see David and Jonathan). Prohibitions for gay men besides anal intercourse. The laws of negiah prohibit affectionate touch between an unmarried man and woman (except close relatives), because this touch is considered "approaching" a forbidden relationship. As gay male sex is included in the category of arayot along with other sexual prohibitions, the prohibition of negiah would seem to also apply between two gay men. Nevertheless, some sources raise the possibility that the law may be more lenient for two men than for a man and a woman.

The consensus seems to be that touch between gay men which involves sexual desire (including hugging and kissing) is rabbinically forbidden, while touch which does not involve sexual desire is permitted. While Hinduism has no different view on homosexuality. It also prohibits homosexuality by calling it a sin. And in some cases makes it a punishable offence. Now the question has to be asked of them: what do they want to show by celebrating Pride Month and coming out of nowhere and asking society to accept something that came out of somewhere and which still is a controversial thing to the whole world? Until there is some solid proof for homosexuality, it won't be accepted. But it must be made clear that they are humans as well and deserve to live and have respect. And above all have human rights. Love them and accept them as part of society but not homosexuality.

The author can be mailed at [raqif-makhdoomi818@gmail.com](mailto:raqif-makhdoomi818@gmail.com)

Forgotten Foundation

# Why We Must Celebrate Teaching As Premier Profession

ZAHOOR AHMAD LONE

It has become a common practice in public programmes to motivate the young generation by repeatedly projecting a few so-called "prestigious" professions, such as engineers, doctors, lawyers, IAS or JKAS officers. While these careers certainly deserve respect, the constant repetition of only these options presents a narrow definition of success. Unfortunately, the noble and foundational profession of teaching is often left unmentioned, as if it is less important, less respectable, or less successful. This silence speaks volumes and slowly shapes the mindset of young learners in an unhealthy way.

One major reason behind this trend is the growing societal belief that success is measured only by power, high salaries, social status, or administrative authority. In this race for material achievement, teaching is wrongly portrayed as an ordinary or fallback career. This flawed perception completely ignores the reality that every engineer, doctor, scientist, judge, or civil servant begins their journey under the guidance of a teacher. Teachers are the first mentors who identify talent, nurture potential, and ignite dreams. Without them, no profession can sustain itself.

Teachers are, in the truest sense, nation builders. They do not merely teach subjects; they shape personalities, instil moral values, promote discipline, and encourage critical and creative thinking. A teacher influences not just the academic growth of a child but also their social, emotional, and ethical development. The strength of a nation's future depends largely on the quality and commitment of its teachers. When public speakers fail to acknowledge teaching as a worthy career, it sends a subtle yet dangerous message to students—that teaching lacks prestige and ambition. This erodes the dignity of the profession and discourages talented and motivated youth from entering it.

Such neglect has long-term con-



sequences. When bright minds avoid teaching, the education system suffers, and the overall quality of learning declines. A society that does not honour its teachers cannot expect progress, innovation, or social harmony. Respect for teachers reflects a society's commitment to knowledge,

values, and human development.

Therefore, it is high time that speakers, educators, policymakers, and opinion makers consciously change this narrative. Teaching must be projected as a career of purpose, leadership, and lasting impact. Students should be inspired to under-

stand that choosing to be a teacher is not a sign of compromise but a mark of vision and responsibility.

If we genuinely aspire for a strong, enlightened, and progressive future generation, we must encourage young people to dream not only of becoming officers and professionals but also of

becoming dedicated, passionate teachers—the real architects of tomorrow's nation and the silent force behind every great achievement.

Author is a teacher and works in school education department. He can be mailed at [zahoorlone1979@gmail.com](mailto:zahoorlone1979@gmail.com)



EOW Files Chargesheet In Municipal Fraud Case In Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet before a special anti-corruption court in Srinagar in connection with an alleged municipal fraud case involving the illegal allotment of government property in Budgam district, the CBK said on Tuesday.

As per a statement issued, the chargesheet has been filed in FIR No. 03/2022 before the court of the Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, under Sections 420 (cheating), 468 (forgery) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Ranbir Penal Code, read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Three persons have been named as accused in the case, including the former president of the Municipal Committee Budgam, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar, and two private individuals—Ghulam Mohammad Mir and Abdul Majid Bhat—all residents of Budgam.

According to officials, the case originated from a complaint alleging large-scale embezzlement and illegal allotment of a Municipal Committee building. Investigation revealed that the then municipal president abused his official position to confer undue benefits on one of the accused by issuing a forged allotment order.

The probe found that the allotment order was falsely shown to have been issued on the basis of a Municipal Committee resolution and approval from the Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, which were later found to be non-existent.

It said the accused had entered into a criminal conspiracy and prepared forged documents, including fake allotment, partnership and dissolution deeds, without lawful authority.

During the investigation, all three accused were examined and admitted their roles, officials said, adding that sufficient oral and documentary evidence was collected to substantiate the charges.

Further proceedings in the case are pending before the court.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

Floods Damage 0.78

undertaken through the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), while in the case of calamities of a severe nature, additional assistance is provided from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), following established procedures.

“The financial assistance under SDRF and NDRF comes in the form of relief and not as compensation. The crop losses are also covered under crop insurance schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS), which provide risk coverage against non-preventable natural calamities,” it said.

The Government further explained that admissible insurance claims are settled directly into the accounts of insured farmers based on yield data provided by the UT administration, conforming to the operational guidelines of the schemes—(KNO)

Cold Wave Tightens

Qazigund settled at minus 2.2 degrees Celsius against 2.2 degrees Celsius on Monday, while Pahalgam recorded minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, down from 2.2 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara registered a minimum of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, compared to 1.6 degrees Celsius previously, while Kokernag dropped to minus 0.6 degrees Celsius from 2.4 degrees Celsius.

Pampore and Pulwama were among the coldest places in the Valley, each recording minus 4.0 degrees Celsius. Shopian recorded minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, Anantnag minus 3.3 degrees Celsius and Baramulla minus 2.9 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar Airport recorded a minimum of minus 2.0 degrees Celsius, down from 1.4 degrees Celsius a day earlier, while Awantipora recorded minus 2.6 degrees Celsius. Gulmarg, which had recorded 1.0 degrees Celsius on Monday, settled at 0.5 degrees Celsius. Zojila Pass recorded an extreme low of minus 17.0 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, temperatures also dipped, though remaining above freezing in most areas. Jammu city recorded a minimum of 8.4 degrees Celsius, down from 11.4 degrees Celsius the previous day.

Banihal recorded 1.7 degrees Celsius, while Baderwah dropped to 2.9 degrees Celsius. Rajouri recorded a minimum of 1.0 degrees Celsius, Udhampur 4.0 degrees Celsius and Ramban 4.6 degrees Celsius. Doda recorded 6.2 degrees Celsius.

Ladakh continued to experience severe cold, with Leh recording minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, compared to minus 1.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier. Kargil recorded minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, while Nubra Valley recorded minus 1.9 degrees Celsius.

Drass recorded minus 8.2 degrees Celsius, Padum minus 9.1 degrees Celsius and Nyoma recorded the lowest temperature in the region at minus 14.3 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, the IMD forecast said weather is likely to remain mainly dry over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours and the subsequent two days.

From December 18 to 20, isolated light snowfall is likely at higher reaches of north and central Kashmir, while plains are expected to remain largely dry.

It said the weather is likely to remain partly to generally cloudy on December 20 and 21, with the possibility of light snowfall over the higher reaches of Kashmir division and light rain over scattered plain areas of Jammu, mainly from the late night of December 20 to the afternoon of December 21.

The weather department has advised that shallow to moderate fog is likely to continue at many places in Kashmir division and at isolated places in Jammu division.

It also cautioned that light snowfall combined with sub-freezing temperatures over higher reaches may lead to slippery road conditions during the late night of December 20 and the morning hours of December 21, advising travellers and transporters to follow traffic and administrative advisories—(KNO)

meanwhile, the IMD forecast said weather is likely to remain mainly dry over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours and the subsequent two days.

From December 18 to 20, isolated light snowfall is likely at higher reaches of north and central Kashmir, while plains are expected to remain largely dry.

It said the weather is likely to remain partly to generally cloudy on December 20 and 21, with the possibility of light snowfall over the higher reaches of Kashmir division and light rain over scattered plain areas of Jammu, mainly from the late night of December 20 to the afternoon of December 21.

The weather department has advised that shallow to moderate fog is likely to continue at many places in Kashmir division and at isolated places in Jammu division.

It also cautioned that light snowfall combined with sub-freezing temperatures over higher reaches may lead to slippery road conditions during the late night of December 20 and the morning hours of December 21, advising travellers and transporters to follow traffic and administrative advisories—(KNO)

meanwhile, the IMD forecast said weather is likely to remain mainly dry over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours and the subsequent two days.

From December 18 to 20, isolated light snowfall is likely at higher reaches of north and central Kashmir, while plains are expected to remain largely dry.

It said the weather is likely to remain partly to generally cloudy on December 20 and 21, with the possibility of light snowfall over the higher reaches of Kashmir division and light rain over scattered plain areas of Jammu, mainly from the late night of December 20 to the afternoon of December 21.

The weather department has advised that shallow to moderate fog is likely to continue at many places in Kashmir division and at isolated places in Jammu division.

It also cautioned that light snowfall combined with sub-freezing temperatures over higher reaches may lead to slippery road conditions during the late night of December 20 and the morning hours of December 21, advising travellers and transporters to follow traffic and administrative advisories—(KNO)

Policeman Killed

Khan of Poonch, sustained critical injuries. "He was evacuated for medical treatment, but unfortunately succumbed to his injuries due to excessive blood loss," the IGP said.

He said that after the initial firefight, terrorists fled toward the dense forest. "The entire area stands cordoned off and a joint combing operation has been launched with the support of the Indian Army and CRPF," he said.

"The terrain is extremely difficult, with hilly features and thick forest cover. As per the original intelligence, three terrorists were hiding there, which was later confirmed during the encounter. The operation is on to track terrorists," he said.

Meanwhile, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, led the solemn wreath laying ceremony at the District Police Lines in Udhampur, to honour constable Amjad Ali Khan of the 22nd Battalion of the Indian Reserve Police (IRP) who died fighting terrorists in the operation.

Besides the DGP wreaths were laid by IGP (Jammu Zone) Bhim Sen Tuti, Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, along with senior police officers, CRPF personnel and district administration officials, who paid floral tributes to the fallen policeman.

A gun salute was given as a final farewell, following which the mortal remains were sent to his hometown in the Mendhar border area of Poonch district for burial, officials said—(KNO)

Tricolour Symbol

General PK Mishra of this very thoughtful gesture of installing the 108 feet high mast national flag. He also appreciated the Flag Foundation of India for its remarkable contribution in this historic initiative.

“May our beloved and victorious Tricolour fly high in the world. Our tricolour is a symbol of our freedom, of our self-respect, and of sacrifices and martyrdom. Together, we should march to achieve the lofty vision of making India a Developed Nation,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, ARI & Trainings; Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command; Lt Gen P K Mishra, GOC White Knight Corps (16 Corps) ; Maj Gen HS Brar GOC 10 RAPID; Brig. Dayanand Sharma, Commander Pallanwala Brigade, Maj. Gen. Ashim Kohli (Retd), Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Flag Foundation of India; senior officials; War Veterans, Veer naris and students were present.

Soldier Dies In

The soldiers sometimes step on preplanted landmines during patrolling near the LoC. In most such accidents, due to rain, snow and other weather conditions, these mines have been swept away from the area where they were planted. Such landmines are technically called ‘drift mines’.

As part of the robust anti-infiltration mechanism, area close to the border /LoC fencing is often mined to prevent incursion into this side of the line.

Jammu and Kashmir has a 740 km long LoC situated in Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts of the Valley, and Poonch, Rajouri and partly in Jammu district of Jammu division.

The Army guards the LoC in J&K, while the 240-km-long international border situated in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts is guarded by the Border Security Force (BSF).

The Army and the BSF guard against infiltration, exfiltration, cross-border smuggling and drone activities initiated from across the border.

The J&K Police and the security forces carry out anti-terrorist operations in the hinterland against terrorists, their overground workers (OGWs), sympathisers and drug smugglers.

Guarding the LoC is a Herculean task, especially during the winter months when heavy snowfall and avalanches hit the Army posts on the LoC, resulting in casualties. The temperature during both day and night remains below zero at the LoC, and logistics and supplies become a big challenge for the Army in the winter months

CIK Busts Terror-

workers (OGWs) and sympathisers. The revised strategy is aimed at dismantling the complete support system of terrorism rather than targeting the gun-wielding terrorists alone.

Drug smugglers, drug peddlers and those involved in hawala money rackets and other unlawful financial activities are also on the scanner of the security forces.

It is believed that funds generated through these unlawful activities are finally used to sustain terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Anti-terrorist operations are carried out in the hinterland by the J&K Police and the security forces.

The Army and the Border Security Force (BSF) deployed on the Line of Control (LoC) and the international border guard against infiltration, exfiltration, drug smuggling and drone activities initiated from across the border.

Recently, the Counter-Intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police (November 13) carried out raids at several locations in Kashmir in connection with the "white-collar terror module", and the terror blast near Red Fort in Delhi.

CS Reviews Mining

geological studies of major mineral blocks such as lignite, marble, graphite and granite through MECL, so as to establish clear estimates of mineral reserves and attract better investor response during future auctions.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the department to expedite the operationalisation of 110 non-operational minor mineral blocks across various districts to unlock their revenue potential and ensure availability of construction material for developmental works. He also directed the department to remain uncompromising in dealing with illegal mining and to create sufficient deterrence through strict enforcement and penal action.

About the mining reforms and major achievements made by the Department, the ACS Mining, Anil Kumar Singh informed that the e-auction of seven limestone blocks was formally launched by the Union Minister of Coal and Mines on November 24, 2025, marking a major step towards scientific and transparent exploitation of major minerals.

Under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) 2025-26, he added that the Department had secured a grant of 100 Cr after implementing key mining reforms, including adoption of a Minor Mineral Policy, allocation of all minor mineral blocks through auction mode, introduction of mine closure provisions with monitoring mechanisms, and initiation of survey, mapping and exploration of identified minor mineral blocks.

In addition, the department has operationalised a star rating system for minor mineral mines, established the State Mineral Exploration Trust, and notified District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) Rules in accordance with revised PMKKKY guidelines, thereby strengthening institutional frameworks for sustainable mining.

A major focus of the review was the Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS), developed for the first time by the department in collaboration with BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics). The system integrates GPS tracking, RFID, e-challan, weighbridge data and public grievance redressal mechanisms on a real-time digital dashboard to enhance transparency, accountability and compliance in mining operations.

The department reported that 114 system-generated triggers were verified on the ground, resulting in confirmation of 14 cases of illegal mining and imposition of penalties amounting to 90 lakhs.

Moreover it was given out that a pilot run of GPS-enabled mineral-carrying vehicles has been successfully conducted in District Samba, with plans to extend GPS, RFID and e-challan compliance to all mineral transportation across the UT by January 26, 2026 after carrying out an extensive IEC campaign.

The department is also setting up Quick Response Teams (QRTs) at the district level with modern gadgets and logistics to respond swiftly to illegal mining activities, supported through SASCI, DMFT and regular budgetary resources. PoS machines for on-the-spot digital challaning and compounding are being provided to enforcement agencies to ensure immediate action on violations.

For the financial year 2025-26, the department has set a revenue target of 300 Cr, including 200 Cr from minor minerals and 100 crore from RCC-related activities, while revenues from major minerals are projected in FY 2026-27 following completion of the limestone auction process.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for time-bound implementation of reforms, deeper use of technology, and close coordination among departments to ensure transparent, environmentally sustainable mining here.

He directed the department to adhere to set timelines, strengthen field-level monitoring and fully leverage digital systems to eliminate illegal mining and maximise public benefit from mineral resources of the UT.

India Fences

curb infiltration and enhance national security. Notably, in total, India has a land border of 15,106.7 km and a coastline of 7,516.6 km, sharing boundaries with seven neighbouring countries.

The government's efforts to fence the Pakistan border are part of broader measures to secure India's sensitive western frontier.

The government said fencing work along the remaining stretches is underway, with challenges in difficult terrains and strategically sensitive areas.

The completed fencing is expected to enhance surveillance, reduce cross-border smuggling, and prevent infiltration by hostile elements.

India has also made progress on other borders, including Bangladesh and Myanmar, though the focus on the Pakistan border underscores the government's emphasis on national security in the west.

The government has strengthened intelligence gathering, inter-agency coordination and border management over the past two years, leading to improved detection of infiltration attempts and neutralisation of terror networks, Nityanand Rai told the LS in an answer to another question.

He said capacities of central and state law enforcement agencies have been enhanced to mitigate terror risks.

He said closer coordination between central agencies and state police has enabled joint operations against terror modules involved in recruitment, financing and other activities.

Border guarding forces have been equipped with drones, thermal imagers, night-vision devices and radar systems under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System.

These measures, Rai said, have resulted in reduced infiltration attempts, increased drone interceptions and recovery of arms, ammunition and narcotics.

Pertinently, India-Pakistan border stretches across Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, and includes the Line of Control in J&K—(KNO)

Kashmir Rivers, Spring

unless significant rain or snow arrives.

Authorities warned that dry vegetation and prolonged moisture deficits are increasing the risk of forest fires in the Valley.

“The combination of low river levels and dry weather is alarming for both agriculture and water security,” said an official from the Department of Disaster Management, Srinagar.

Experts at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) stressed the need for urgent, science-driven interventions.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai said, “Rising climate variability and water scarcity are major threats to agriculture. We need drought-resilient crops and better water management strategies immediately.”

Scientists recommended research on regenerative agriculture, efficient water-use technologies, and climate adaptation to mitigate the impact of changing weather patterns.

Meanwhile, the air quality in J&K is currently rated as poor, with a live AQI of 129 according to the US standard. PM10 levels are recorded at 91 µg/m³ and PM2.5 at 65 µg/m³, indicating that pollution may pose health concerns for sensitive groups.

In a fresh podcast, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed concern over climate change, saying he finds it hard to understand those who do not believe it is real.

Recalling his childhood, he said that during trips to Sonamarg, large glaciers were visible, but today they have receded, and only small patches remain in the higher hills.

“Gulmarg used to witness snow ski courses shortly after winter vacations. It was impossible for the area to be snowless during Christmas. But now, even in December, there is no snow,” he said.

The Chief Minister also warned that while people often talk about pollution in Delhi, air quality in Kashmir is rapidly declining and approaching similar levels.

“We need to take concrete steps, not only by the government but also by the people. Everyone must make an effort to ensure a greener environment,” he said—(KNO)

Centre Releases Rs

in the Union Territory, approval has been granted for the construction of 1,000 Gram Panchayat Bhawans, besides the procurement of 1,318 computers to promote digital governance and transparency in rural local bodies, the reply stated.

It said the to bridge the digital divide, the Ministry is implementing initiatives such as eGramSwaraj, AuditOnline, and the People's Plan Campaign in Jammu and Kashmir, which will reinforce participatory planning, online monitoring, and accountability in Panchayat functioning—(KNO)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old Name) Nusrat Abbas Ansari to (new Name) Nusrat Abbas. In future, I will be known as (new name) Nusrat Abbas.

If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old Name) Syed Athar Murtaz to (new Name) Syed Ather Murtaza. In future, I will be known as (new name) Syed Ather Murtaza.

If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted.

RAHI

ADVERTISERS

CUSTOMER

TARGET

PLAN

CREATIVITY

Advertising

MARKETING

SALES

COMMUNICATION

CROSSMEDIA

1.

2.

3.

+91-7006034174

SARAI DANGERPORA,

SUMBAL. 193501







## J&K: Uncapped Auqib Nabi sold to Delhi Capitals for Rs 8.40 crore



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, DEC 16** () For the first time in J&K's cricket history, pacer Auqib Nabi, belonging to Baramulla district, created history on Tuesday when he was sold to Delhi Capitals for a whopping sum of Rs 8.40 crore.

The uncapped Indian seamer has been making waves with consistent performances across domestic tournaments, and the Capitals moved quickly to secure his services.

Nabi has been in remarkable form this season. In the T20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, he picked up 15 wickets in seven matches at an economy rate of 7.41.

In his most recent outing against Madhya Pradesh, he delivered a crucial all-round perfor-

mance, scoring 32 off 21 balls to help set a defendable total before returning to claim three vital wickets to seal the win for Jammu & Kashmir.

His domestic exploits go beyond T20s. Nabi had an exceptional start to the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy, finishing as the only seamer among the top-five wicket-takers in the first half of the season.

He claimed 29 wickets in nine innings, including three five-wicket hauls and a sensational 7 for 24 against Rajasthan, helping J&K secure a spot in the knockout stages.

This dominance followed his brilliant 2024-25 Ranji Trophy campaign, where he ended with 44 wickets at an average of 13.93. No other seamer in the country came close,

with the next best taking 35 wickets, while only Vidarbha all-rounder Harsh Dubey bettered Nabi's tally with 69 wickets.

Delhi Capitals, who earlier in the auction secured David Miller and Ben Duckett at their base prices of Rs 2 crore, will be hoping Nabi can replicate his domestic form at the highest level.

His aggressive pace, wicket-taking ability, and handy batting make him a compelling addition to the Capitals' lineup as they look to build a balanced and dynamic squad for IPL 2026.

There was widespread jubilation among cricket lovers in J&K, especially in Baramulla town, after news came about Auqib's being auctioned for an unbelievable amount for IPL 2026.

## IPL 2026 Auction: Never thought of trying to trade Washington Sundar, says Parthiv Patel

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Gujarat Titans (GT) assistant coach Parthiv Patel has insisted that off-spin bowling all-rounder Washington Sundar was never considered for a trade to another team ahead of IPL 2026. Patel also said Sundar's versatility made him integral to the side, noting that he could slot in anywhere in the batting order while offering balance with the ball.

Ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 retentions, reports came of Sundar being potentially traded to Chennai Super Kings (CSK) from GT, but it never materialised.

"In our thought process, we never thought of trying to trade Washington Sundar, or even if someone asked us, we didn't even think about it. So that was never a doubt at all. As far as Washington Sundar, how he has played really well for India in the past year, whether it was Test cricket or wherever he has got a chance, he's a versatile player.

"He can bat well at the top as well as at the bottom. So, depending on the season, we can use Washington Sundar anywhere," Patel told reporters in a virtual press conference after the auction ended in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

Sundar was bought by the Gujarat Titans for Rs 3.2 crore last year, and has been given limited opportunities in recent seasons under the 'Impact Player' rule. He featured in only six matches this year, though his knock of 49 against Sunrisers Hyderabad showed his superlative batting skills.

With his stocks seeing a surge following strong performances for India in all formats, GT will be banking on Sundar's versatility to address their number four slot issue to support a fantastic top three in captain Shubman Gill, B Sai Sudharsan, and



Jos Buttler, especially after having traded Sherfane Rutherford to the Mumbai Indians.

Patel also addressed the flexibility issue in the middle order, noting that team decisions would be guided by conditions to decide between Sundar, Glenn Phillips, and new buy Tom Banton. "So basically, when we pick a team, it's in our mind that whichever player comes in, he should fit in our team and be ready to play in the eleven.

"So obviously, the way the pitch conditions will be, the way we feel on the ground and in the nets, we will make a decision according to that. But whether it's Washington Sundar, Glenn Phillips, or Tom Banton, who we took in the auction, no player is out of consideration. But we have the luxury that we have such players who can play at any number anywhere," he added.

England wicketkeeper-batter Jamie Smith was a surprise unsold player at the auction, and Patel felt Banton, having more experience of playing T20s for England, drew them to acquiring him in the auction.

"No, it's not that we don't have any interest. Obviously, Tom Banton and Jamie Smith have almost the same kind of skill set. But Tom Banton has more experience. He has played in the IPL before. He is doing well in international cricket. So that's why

we had to choose one out of the two.

"But for that, we were very sure before in the way we were thinking, and that's why we took Tom Banton in the team. He brings a lot of value in terms of experience and batting at any number. Also, he is someone who can bat from the top till wherever we want.

"So obviously, we look at a batter who is versatile. On top of everything, he has the experience of playing international cricket and IPL cricket. So that's the reason why we thought that he could be a classic fit for our team," he elaborated.

On concerns around the form and rhythm of lower-order hitters Rahul Tewatia and Shahrukh Khan, Patel expressed confidence in their abilities when IPL 2026 begins. Tewatia has been out of action due to a shoulder injury needing surgery, while Shahrukh was sent back home after having a poor time for Tamil Nadu in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy league stage in Ahmedabad, GT's home venue in IPL.

"March is still three months away. We feel that Shah Rukh Khan and Rahul Tewatia are both very, very valuable players for us. Even last year, Tewatia won a couple of games. He won a couple of games - one against Mumbai and one against Delhi. He did that job, which we feel that he has the capability to do.

## Ali Sagar chairs meeting of Committee on Public Undertakings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** A meeting of Committee on Public Undertakings (PUC) of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Tuesday held under the Chairmanship of MLA, Ali Mohammad Sagar, at Assembly Complex here to discuss and examine the Audit Paras pertaining to PWD (JKPCC).

Legislators, Saifullah Mir, Baldev Raj Sharma, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Dr Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Showkat Hussain Ganie, Saif-ud-Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq besides Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit were also present in the meeting.

Threadbare discussions were held on various issues pointed out in CAG's audit



paras number 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3, pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC).

Accountant General J&K, Tsewang Tharchin, highlighted the issues of audit paras.

Additional Chief Secretary, PWD, Anil Kumar Singh, also briefed the Committee about steps

being taken to clear issues mentioned in the audit paras besides the present status of ongoing projects of the department.

Director, Finance (PWD) and MD, JKPCC briefed the present status of liabilities of JKPCC.

The members of Committee gave their valuable suggestions and raised their issues regarding

audit paras besides working of the department.

The Chairman exhorted upon the officers of PWD to take concrete measures for completion of all ongoing projects. He also stressed on the importance of audit and evaluation of PSU's to ensure transparency and accountability in their operations.

The Committee unani-

mously decided and proposed the concerned department to submit a written detailed report to clear liabilities of JKPCC and there after the audit paras number 7.1 and 7.2 will be dropped.

Senior officers of concerned departments and Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting.

'Extortion row'

## Kashmir livestock traders aghast over Punjab govt's silence

REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** Twelve days after the Jammu and Kashmir Government formally wrote to the Punjab Chief Minister seeking an end to alleged extortion and harassment of livestock transporters at Shambhu and Madhopur checkpoints, there has been no response from the Punjab administration, fuelling anger and frustration among Kashmir's mutton traders.

The communication, dated December 4, was sent by the office of the J&K Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport and allied departments, requesting "an urgent appointment" with the Punjab Chief Minister to resolve issues concerning the interstate movement of

livestock to J&K.

However, despite repeated follow-ups, Punjab has not even acknowledged the letter, insiders from the Mutton Dealers Association said.

"It's shocking that even after a formal letter from one government to another, there's total silence. The transporters are being bled dry at these checkpoints, and nobody in Punjab seems to care," said a senior mutton dealer.

The J&K Government had earlier flagged the issue after reports of "illegal payments and harassment" at Punjab's transit points surfaced, with dealers warning of a possible 'price hike' if the extortion continued unchecked.

"We are being pushed to the wall," said Mehraj Ud Din, General Secretary

of the Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association. "Our government did its job by taking up the issue officially on December 4. The question is, why is Punjab silent? Does this mean they endorse what's happening on the highways?"

Dealers have urged the Punjab government to immediately intervene and direct its enforcement agencies to stop illegal practices that obstruct livestock transport to J&K.

"If this continues, it will hit not just traders but consumers in the Valley. Prices will shoot up, and the blame will rest squarely on Punjab's inaction," Mehraj Ud Din said, adding, "As of now, we are waiting, but there should be a decision on this soon; otherwise, our stance may shift."—(KNO)

## Two residential houses damaged in Shaheed Gunj Fire

'Swift response prevents major tragedy; cause under investigation'

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** Two residential houses were damaged in a fire incident that broke out in Shaheed Gunj area of Srinagar on Tuesday evening, officials said.

The officials said that the timely intervention of the authorities prevented the flames from spreading further.

An official said that two adjoining three-storied residential houses were damaged in the blaze that broke today out late this afternoon.

He said that the fire incident was reported at around 4:38 PM and was doused by multiple fire tenders from Habba Kadal, Batamaloo, MR Gunj and Shaheed Pora stations. "The flames were brought under control by 5:16 PM—preventing the fire from spreading to nearby houses in the densely populated locality," he said.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses said thick plumes of smoke rose from the spot. They said that the firefighting operation was carried out efficiently despite the narrow lanes and closely packed structures.

Officials also confirmed that no injuries or loss of life occurred in the incident. "The damage remained confined to the affected houses. The cause of the fire is being investigated."—(KNO)

**INOX CINEMA**  
SRINAGAR

**KIS KISKO PYAAR KAROON 2 (U/A16+)**  
HINDI - 06:45 PM

**DHURANDHAR (A)**  
HINDI ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 02:25 PM  
HINDI ATMOS - 10:30 AM, 06:25 PM  
HINDI - 12:55 PM, 05:05 PM

**SHOLAY: THE FINAL CUT (U)**  
HINDI - 02:45 PM

**TERE ISHK MEIN (U/A 16+)**  
HINDI - 11:00 AM

**CALL 95416 13868**  
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS

TICKETS AT:  
[www.bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com) | [www.inoxmovies.com](http://www.inoxmovies.com)  
Paytm, Inox App, or directly from the booking counter at the cinema.