

Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication

Amit Shah
@AmitShah



In BJP governments, policing with data, drones, and digital tools is becoming a strong symbol of public service. Today, at the Haryana Police's passing out parade ceremony in Panchkula, I interacted with 5,061 police personnel who have completed their training and are about to commence their service.

Srinagar • Thursday 25, December 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 296 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

1. ESSENTIAL LIGHTING

- LOW BEAMS ONLY
- USE FOG LIGHTS

2. SPEED & SPACE

- 8-10 SECONDS GAP
- BRAKE EARLY & GENTLY

3. NAVIGATING THE ROAD

- FOLLOW "FOG LINE"
- NO CRUISE CONTROL

In case of any Emergency Call: 112, 0194-2502254, 9797041155.

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

@informationprjk

Information & PR, J&K

@diprjk

@dipr_jk

48% Srinagar Households Enjoy 24*7 Electricity: CM On RDSS Trial



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday said that nearly 48 percent households in Srinagar enjoy uninterrupted electricity supply following a successful Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) trial with zero power cuts.

Office of the Chief Minister, in a post on X, congratulated KPDCL on making another 83 areas in Srinagar 24-hour power zones following a successful RDSS trial with zero power cuts.

"With this, 108 areas in Srinagar now enjoy round-

the-clock, uninterrupted electricity supply, benefiting 1.25 lakh households, nearly 48% of the city. Similar upgrades are underway in other districts to ensure 24*7 power supply," he said.

Pertinently, last year, CM Omar had informed that his government was trying their best to provide better facilities to the people and the complaints would pour in with regard to the pesky power cuts as it is the outcome of overloading.

However, he had informed that the 24*7 electricity would be possible only when the 100 per cent

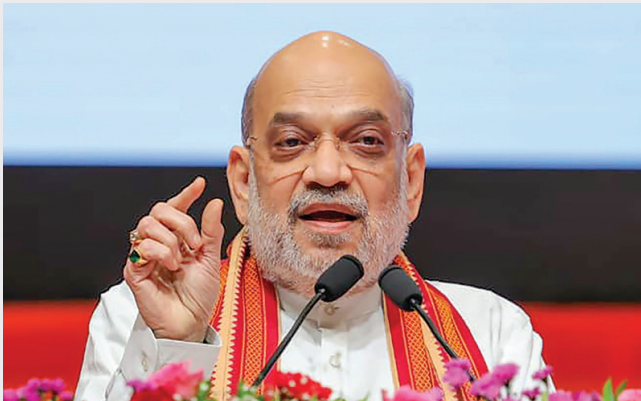
PM Modi Led Regime Brought Lasting Peace To J&K: Amit Shah

Says Sustained Efforts Transformed Internal Security Scenario Across The Country

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Asserting that PM Modi led government has brought lasting peace to Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that that decisive policies and sustained efforts over the past decade have transformed internal security scenario across the country.

Addressing the Passing Out Parade (POP) of the Recruit Basic Course (RBC) Batch-93 at Panchkula (Haryana), Shah, said, "A few years ago, there were three big challenges in the country in the matter of law and order—left-wing extremism, terrorism



in Jammu and Kashmir, and armed groups in the northeast. But after 10 years from the formation of the Modi government, there is peace in these

three areas, and the country is safe on these three fronts."

Shah said PM Modi led government stands like a rock with the states in their

fight against drug and human trafficking, cybercrime, and organised crime.

Addressing the recruits, he said, "Your leadership is ready for it, and you will have to strengthen the hands of your leadership."

"We stand like a rock with the states," he said, referring to the Union government.

He said that the role of forensic science under the new criminal laws has been decided.

"In crimes in which punishment is more than seven years, a visit by forensic experts to the scene of the crime has been made compulsory, and the main objective of this is to ensure

IN CRIMES IN WHICH PUNISHMENT IS MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS, A VISIT BY forensic experts to the scene of the crime has been made compulsory, and the main objective of this is to ensure punishment for the guilty," he said.

LG Greet People On Christmas Eve



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the joyous occasion of Christmas, I convey my warm greetings to the people. I hope that this occasion of festivity ushers in love and harmony amongst the people.

The festival, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, serves as a reminder to embrace Lord Christ's teachings of love, compassion, and forgiveness in our daily lives. This auspicious occasion inspires us to

Security Forces Recover 10 Balloons Carrying Pakistani Flag In Kashmir

IANIS

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Wednesday recovered ten balloons carrying a Pakistani flag in Jammu and Kashmir's north Kashmir area close to the Line of Control (LoC), promoting extra vigil and surveillance in these areas.

Officials said the Pakistani flag attached to around ten balloons was sighted landing near Sarna Top in the Khadinayara area of J&K's Baramulla district.

"The object was noticed by a patrolling party of the Army's 46 Rashtriya Rifles during routine area domination. The balloons and the flag were immediately seized and taken into custody for



further examination," the officials said.

In a second incident, a balloon bearing the inscription of Pakistan International Airlines was found atop a tree in an orchard at Naugam in the Handwara area of Kupwara district, also located close to the LoC.

The balloon was spotted by locals, who informed the security forces. Army personnel subsequently reached the spot and retrieved the object, officials added.

CAG Flags Major Lapses In Implementation Of Rural Power Scheme In J&K, Ladakh

"62% Works Left Incomplete", Ministry Cites Unexpected Events, Tendering Issues, Hostile Terrain

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A performance audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has exposed major lapses in the implementation of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) in Jammu & Kashmir, including Ladakh.

The audit report tabled in the Parliament on December 18, reveals that Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh failed to complete 62.62% of its sanctioned work before the scheme's closure in March 2022.

Audit also observed that 20 States/UTs could not execute the quantum of work ranging between 3.31 per cent and 62.62 per cent till the closure of the



scheme. Particularly, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Tripura could not complete 62.62 per cent and 20.72 per cent of their respective sanctioned project costs.

In its response to audit observations, the Union Ministry of Power stated that delay in J&K

was due to unexpected events.

"In respect of Jammu & Kashmir, it was stated that delays happened due to unexpected events i.e., issues in tendering, hostile terrain," the report said.

The Centre had launched the scheme-'Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana'

Traffic Moves Slowly On Jmu-Sgr Highway, Other Roads Remain Closed



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Traffic moved slowly on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Wednesday due to single-lane traffic and the breakdown of two heavy motor vehicles (HMs).

An official while sharing the details said, "Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) and passenger vehicles have been advised to travel on NH-44 during the day and avoid

night journeys, particularly between Nashri Tunnel and Navguy Tunnel, where HMV movement may cause delays."

He urged the drivers to maintain strict lane discipline and warned that overtaking or wrong-lane driving can lead to congestion.

The official said, "Subject to fair weather and road conditions, LMVs, passenger vehicles, private cars, and HMs (good

Year-End 2025

Srinagar Airport Handles 35.26 Lakh Passengers, 21,576 Flights Despite Challenges

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Reflecting both strength and bounce-back ability, Srinagar International Airport handled 35.26 lakh passengers and 21,576 flight movements between January and December 21, 2025, officials said here.

The year was marked by tourism peaks, weather challenges, and temporary route suspensions following the Pahalgam attack.

Official data, accessed, reveals a clear month-wise pattern: steady growth till April, a sharp decline in May and June,



followed by a gradual recovery towards year-end.

Month-wise Air Traffic Summary (2025): January: 1,966 total flight movements, 175,352 arrival passengers and 171,688 departure passengers, total 347,040 passengers, making it a steady

winter operation.

February: 1,894 movements, 173,180 departures, 161,084 arrivals, total 334,264 passengers, making a stable flow.

March: 2,220 movements, 200,546 arrivals, 181,013 departures, total 381,559

Minimum Temperature Slips Below Zero In Gulmarg, Pahalgam

IANIS

SRINAGAR: The night temperature remained above the freezing point in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city on Wednesday, as it dropped notches below the zero degrees Celsius in Gulmarg and Pahalgam hill stations.

The Meteorological (MeT) Department said the minimum temperature was 3 degrees Celsius in Srinagar, while it was minus 4.2 and minus 2.2 degrees in Gulmarg and Pahalgam, respectively.

Jammu city had 8.2 degrees Celsius, Katra town 9.4, Batote 4.2, Banihal 6.4 and Bhaderwah 0.6 degrees as the minimum temperature.

The MeT department has forecast dry weather till December 31 across the union territory, saying that the minimum temperature is likely to drop due to a clear night sky.

The 40-day-long

J&K Bank Wins 'Best MSME Bank' At MSME Banking Excellence Awards 2025

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Bank has won the prestigious 'Best MSME Bank - Winner' award at the MSME Banking Excellence Awards 2025, while also securing the Runner-Up position in the 'CSR Initiative & Business Responsibility' category. The MSME Banking Excellence Awards recognise banks for exemplary performance and best practices in promoting MSMEs, corporate social responsibility and sustainable business models.

Notably, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal presented the awards at a high-profile ceremony



held in New Delhi. On behalf of the Bank the awards were received by Chief General Manager (Business Development) Sunit Kumar and GM/Divisional Head (ROI) Khurshed Muzaffar.

Expressing delight over the recognition, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "We are deeply honoured to receive national recognition for our work in the MSME

sector as well as for our CSR initiatives. I sincerely thank the organisers and the distinguished jury for this recognition. And I place my appreciation on record for our MSME team and CSR functionaries, whose dedicated efforts and efficient on-ground engagements have been instrumental in achieving these milestones."

Calling MSMEs

DC Srinagar reviews implementation of PM Surya Muft Bijli Yojana in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To assess the progress achieved in installation of Solar Rooftops under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana across the district, the Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also the Chairman Monitoring and Management Committee of the scheme, today chaired a review meeting at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineers of KPDCL, Lead District Manager (Banks), the meeting was attended by KPDCL Engineers and empanelled scheme vendors who presented team wise appraisal of the ongoing installation works and the current status of implementation under the centrally sponsored scheme.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed assessment of division-wise and team-wise performance, focusing on targets achieved,



applications received, and installations completed across all four Electric Divisions of Srinagar.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the concerned and stakeholders to reach all the eligible households in a time bound manner so that consumers can avail the benefits of the scheme. He directed all stakehold-

ers to ensure greater public awareness, faster banking facilitation and timely installation of solar rooftops so that benefits reach the beneficiaries without delay.

During the meeting, the DC appreciated the efforts of teams performing well in the implementation of the scheme and took

cognizance of poor performers, directing them to improve their pace and efficiency to meet the prescribed targets.

Earlier, the DC was informed that more than 3,000 solar rooftops have been installed in the district so far under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

DC Budgam inspects progress of restoration, repair work on Panzan Bridge

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-din Bhat, Wednesday inspected the Panzan Bridge on the Budgam Chadoora road and reviewed the progress of restoration works being executed under the UT Capex Budget at an estimated cost of Rs. 71.25 lakh.

During the inspection, it was informed that the embankment of the Panzan Bridge had sustained damage due to recent flood incidents. The DC was assured by the Executive Engineer, PMGSY, that the restoration work has been taken up on priority and is expected to be completed within a period of 20 days, ensuring early restoration of safe and uninterrupted connectivity.

The DC stressed that quality, durability, and safety parameters must be strictly adhered to, and that no compromise shall be tolerated in execution standards.

He further emphasized that frequent field inspections and technical supervision are being ensured to monitor progress and



maintain accountability of the executing agencies.

The DC underscored that restoration of public infrastructure remains a top priority of the district administration, particularly in flood-prone areas, and that all available resources are being mobilized for timely rehabilitation and strengthening of damaged assets.

Subsequently, the DC reviewed the execution of multiple post-flood restoration and flood mitigation works being carried out in the Chadoora area including restoration of drop walls at Karambuland Bridge and Main Bridge Chadoora, flood damage restoration of KLR Road

from Km 4th to Km 6th, construction of a crate wall at Quangipora Bridge, and restoration of the link road/approach towards the New Bus Adda, Chadoora.

The DC said that these interventions are aimed at enhancing flood resilience, protecting vital road infrastructure, and minimizing the impact of future flood events.

He issued the directions to ensure inter-departmental coordination, timely release of funds, and completion of works well within sanctioned timelines.

During the visit, the DC also reviewed the proposed alignment of the road connecting the New Bus Adda

with the Dawlatpora Road. The proposed alignment was examined on site, and it was observed that the project would play a crucial role in decongesting traffic, providing alternate connectivity, and improving overall urban mobility in the Chadoora town area.

The DC emphasised that necessary procedural and technical formalities be expedited for early execution of the project.

Later, the DC also interacted with the Driver's Association of Chadoora, during which concerns related to transport facilities, parking space, and operational challenges were raised.

The DC assured that the construction of a new conveyance complex is being actively pursued and will be taken up to address the genuine demands of the transport fraternity and to ensure organized and efficient transport operations.

The DC reiterated that the district administration is firmly committed to people-centric governance, speedy restoration of flood-damaged infrastructure, and implementation of long-term mitigation and development measures.

SWD Srinagar Holds sensitization Program with SHGs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SQD), SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women-Mission Shakti Srinagar organized Sensitization Programme with the members of Self Help groups associated with NRLM at Government Degree college for Women Nawakadal under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP).

The programme focused on key issues such as prevention of gender-based discrimination, importance of girl child education, PC&PNDT Act, prohibition of child Marriage and legal provisions for the protection of women and children.

Participants were sensitized about the objectives of the BBBP scheme and the collective role of society in ensuring a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for girls.

Resource Person, SANKALP-HEW Mission Shakti, Srinagar while addressing the gathering, emphasized that educating and empowering the girl child is fundamental to social and economic development. The speaker highlighted that changing mindsets at the grass-

roots level is essential for achieving the goals of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

Later, Spokespersons from the Government Degree college, spoke about the importance of collective responsibility in protecting the rights of girls and ensuring equal opportunities for them. The speakers also highlighted various government initiatives and legal safeguards available for the welfare, education, and safety of women and children.

The programme witnessed active participation from Self Help Group members from NRLM. Informative sessions, interactive discussions, and awareness talks were conducted to reinforce the message of "Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child."

The event concluded with a pledge by participants to support gender equality and work collectively towards the empowerment and well-being of girls in society.

Such sensitization programmes will continue to be organized under the BBBP scheme to strengthen community engagement and promote positive social change.

DC G'bal reviews arrangements for Republic Day-2026 celebrations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive meeting to review and finalize arrangements for the forthcoming Republic Day-2026 celebrations in the district.

The DC conducted a detailed review of all key preparations to ensure a successful and well-coordinated event. The arrangements discussed included preparedness of the main venue, podium and stage setup, security and traffic management, seating and transportation facilities, barricading, uninterrupted power supply, stationing of water tanker and ROs, parking, deployment of ambulance and medical staff, deployment of fire tenders, public address system, sanitation, refreshments, and decoration of prominent buildings.

It was informed that the main function will be held at Qamaria Stadium, Ganderbal, where the National Flag will be unfurled by the chief guest.

The programme will feature a ceremonial march past by contingents of the District Police, CRPF, Armed Police, IRP, PTS Manigam, Forest Protection Force, along with students from various educational institutions.

The DC also emphasised proper arrangements be made for a vibrant cultural performances on the occasion of Republic Day.

He stressed the need to ensure fool-proof and meticulous arrangements for the befitting celebration of the nation event.

The DC also directed that flag unfurling ceremonies be carried out across all government offices in the district prior to the main function to mark the occasion. He further emphasized the importance of the National Flag unfurling and instructed officers to ensure strict adherence to the Flag Code

and the National Anthem protocol.

The meeting stressed cleanliness, proper illumination of Mini-Secretariat and other government offices. Special emphasis was laid on public convenience, smooth crowd management, and emergency preparedness.

Departments were assigned specific responsibilities, and monitoring committees were constituted to oversee execution on the ground and ensure timely completion of all arrangements.

Additionally, the DC directed to ensure that Republic Day celebrations at subdivision and tehsil levels are organized smoothly.

Meanwhile, the Mechanical Engineering Department, Municipal Council Ganderbal and other agencies were directed to ensure snow clearance beforehand at main and other function venues in case of snowfall for hassle free celebrations.

DLIC Budgam approves 475 Cases under Mission YUVA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA was Wednesday chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting focused on accelerating youth entrepreneurship and reviewing the progress of cases submitted under the mission.

During the meeting, 475 cases, duly verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs), were placed before the committee for consideration. After thorough evaluation, all 475 cases were approved for financial assistance, capacity building, and handholding support under Mission YUVA.

With today's 475 approvals, the total number of 2412 cases cleared by the DLIC in Budgam has reached, marking a significant milestone in the district's youth empowerment efforts.

The approved cases include entrepreneurial ventures, ranging from traditional crafts such as shawl embroidery, sozni, aari work, tailoring and cutting units, carpentry and joinery workshops, as well as modern and service-oriented businesses including load carriers, dairy units, repair shops, stationery/printing units,

food businesses, retail stores, packaging units, and other micro-enterprise activities. The diversity of ventures reflects the administration's commitment to strengthening both heritage-based skills and emerging livelihood avenues for youth.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that Mission YUVA is a transformative initiative aimed at empowering young men and women by enabling them to become self-reliant entrepreneurs. He emphasised that the goal is not only to provide financial support but to create a sustainable ecosystem where youth have access to training, market linkages, guidance, and long-term mentorship.

He said that the district administration is committed towards ensuring that every aspiring youth receives timely support. "Mission YUVA is our investment in the potential, resilience, and creativity of Budgam's youth. Every project approved today represents a new livelihood opportunity, a family strengthened, and a step towards a more self-reliant district," he noted.

The DC directed all concerned departments, banks and implementing agencies to ensure time-bound sanctioning, hassle-free disbursement, and continuous mentoring

of the approved cases. He instructed that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) must be completed without delay and emphasised that no application should remain pending unnecessarily at any level. Accountability, transparency, and efficiency must be maintained throughout the process, he added.

He further said that the success of Mission YUVA will be determined by how many of these ventures become viable and sustainable in the long run. He stressed the need for regular monitoring, skill development programmes, and facilitating market access so that young entrepreneurs can scale their businesses effectively.

The DC further said that Mission YUVA holds special significance for underprivileged and marginalised youth, who will be given priority support to improve their socio-economic conditions. He affirmed that Budgam is emerging as a hub of youth-led enterprises where traditional craftsmanship blends with modern entrepreneurship.

The meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, budgam, ACR budgam, CPO Budgam, Deputy Director Employment, LDM Budgam, District Nodal Officer, representatives from JKEDI, and other concerned officers.

Intensify active case finding, timely referral of TB patients: DC Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (Chairman, District Red Cross Society) Anantnag, SF Hamid, reviewed the implementation, progress, and challenges of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in the district during a meeting with the concerned officers Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by the CMO, DTO, BMOs, and other officials of the Health Department.

During the meeting, the District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) briefed the chair about the achievements of the district under TBMB, including the screening of the vulnerable population and the treatment of TB patients, through a detailed presentation.

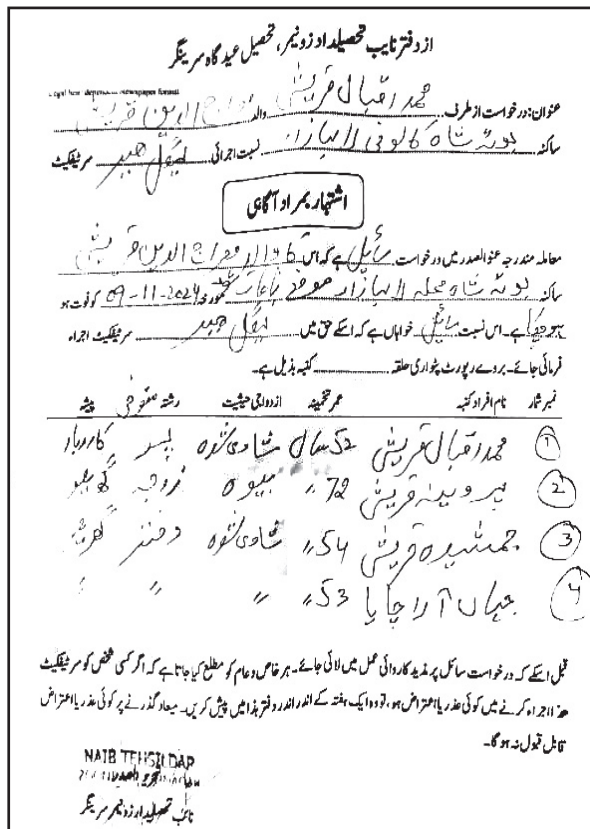
While crediting the "Detect-Treat-Prevent-Build" (DTPB) strategy for officially achieving TB-free status for the district, the DC cautioned that the challenge is to prevent any

resurgence.

Lauding the success of the Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative, the DC urged citizens to register as volunteers to ensure full coverage of the remaining patients.

On the occasion, the health authorities were directed to conduct door-to-door screenings, especially in vulnerable clusters, using handheld X-ray machines and NAAT-based testing, besides ensuring active case finding (ACF) through ASHA workers and Mid-Level Health Providers (MLHPs) for timely referral to District Tuberculosis Centres (DTCs) and early treatment initiation under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Calling TB elimination a social task in addition to a medical one, the DC emphasized to make the TBMB Abhiyan a "Jan Andolan" (people's movement) and create mass awareness for removing the stigma associated with the disease.



GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 1ST

Subject: Construction of 01 No. 250 mm Nominal Dia Casing Gravel Packed Production Tube Well for WSS Venkara Under U.T Capex District Baramulla.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 68/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp/15988-16005, dated: 11-12-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_298147_1.

Due to "No Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 22-12-2025 Up-to 03:00 PM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	04-01-2026 Up-to 3:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	05-01-2026 01.00 PM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide bove referred endstt: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./16362-75

Sd/= Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Dated: 22-12-2025
DIPK-9310-25
DT: 24/12/2025

Sakeena Itoo reviews action plan for achieving CM's Vision 2030 goal in Health sector

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In line with the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah's Vision 2030 for health sector, aligned with J&K Vision Document @2047, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday chaired a detailed review meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the Health Department's action plan for achieving this goal, primarily aimed at strengthening the public healthcare system across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; MD NHM, Baseer ul Haq Chaudhary; CEO State Health Agency, Ananth Dwivedi; Managing Director, JKMSCL, Tariq Hussain Ganai; Commissioner Food and Drug Administration, Smita Sethi; Director SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganie; Director Finance Health, Director Planning Health, Director Health Services Kashmir/Jammu, Director Coordination, New GMCs, Director Family Welfare and Immunization, Principals of all Medical Colleges and other concerned officers, either in person or through video conferencing.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena held detailed assessment of key priority areas like



upgradation of healthcare infrastructure, strengthening primary and secondary healthcare services, human resource optimization, adoption of modern medical technologies, and improved availability of essential medicines and diagnostics. She also laid special emphasis on ensuring last-mile delivery of health services, particularly in rural and far-flung areas.

The Minister emphasized upon the officers that the action plan for achieving the Vision 2030 must be meticulously designed to translate the Chief Minister's vision of accessible, affordable and quality healthcare for all into tangible outcomes on the ground. "Time-bound implementation of ongoing initiatives, efficient resource utilization and people-centric approach in healthcare delivery is vital for achieving

the objectives of Vision 2030", Minister Sakeena stated.

Minister Sakeena stressed on the importance of inter-departmental coordination and continuous monitoring to achieve the targets set under Vision 2030. She directed officials to adopt innovative solutions, leverage digital health initiatives, and enhance accountability mechanisms to improve patient outcomes.

While reviewing the overall functioning of health sector across J&K, the Minister emphasized on the procurement of quality equipments for the health facilities which meet the dire needs of general public. She also called upon officers to maintain transparency in tender procedures as well as timely deployment of procured machines and equipments in hospitals.

She further directed the offi-

cers for immediate deployment of newly procured Ambulance fleet in hospitals, highlighting that the Ambulances are basic need for improving health care services.

To plug the gaps of manpower, doctors and paramedical staff, in rural and far-flung areas, the Minister called upon the department to frame an incentive scheme, so that doctors and other staff posted in rural and far-flung areas get additional benefits while they are serving in these areas. She also called upon the Secretary Health to rationalize the NHM doctors and other staff, and post them at places facing staff crunches. She also asked the Secretary to cancel attachments of all NHM doctors and post them at their respective place of postings.

The Minister also asked the CEO State Health Agency

to strengthen the Anti Fraud Unit of the organisation so that the frauds involved in Sehat Scheme are timely tapped and due action is taken against the violators. She asked the CEO to break nexus between doctors and private hospitals involved in deceiving of patients under Sehat Scheme.

While reviewing the functioning of Food and Drug Administration, the Minister called upon the Commissioner for constant surveillance of food and eatery products being brought in to Jammu and Kashmir. She underscored that the market checking squads need to be strengthened at block, tehsil and district levels to maintain the food standards across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister also asked the Commissioner to actively pursue the cases against the violators and take due action as per law against them.

Reiterating the Omar Abdullah led Government's commitment to accessible, affordable health care services, the Minister said that the Health Department remains focused on building a resilient, inclusive and responsive healthcare system that meets the evolving needs of the population and upholds the promise of universal health coverage.

During the meeting, Director

Holds virtual Public Darbar with South Kashmir residents

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday held a virtual public darbar with residents of several areas of South Kashmir districts, reaffirming the Omar Abdullah led Government's commitment to responsive and people-centric governance.

During the interactive session, the Minister patiently listened to public grievances and developmental concerns raised by participants from various districts of South Kashmir. The participants raised issues related to healthcare facilities, power, drinking water, ration and other basic civic amenities.

While interacting with the participants, the Minister emphasized on the importance of public outreach, highlighting that these public darbars have emerged as an effective tool to bridge the gap between the Government and the people, ensuring transparency, accessibility and swift service delivery, especially in far-flung areas.

During the Darbar, the Minister issued on the spot directions to concerned officers for time-bound

redressal of genuine issues. She asked the officers to address grievances in time bound manner, particularly regarding Power and PHE sectors during winters.

The Minister directed the officers of PDD to provide electricity as per the established schedule and also rectify the defects in transformers timely. She also asked the officers to utilise the buffer stock at times when the repairing time of transformers takes more than a day.

On the sidelines of the public darbar, the Minister also e-inaugurated several public welfare projects of significant public importance, aimed at strengthening essential services and improving the quality of life for the local population, reflecting the government's focus on inclusive and sustainable development.

The Minister reiterated that public welfare and grassroots development remain top priorities of the Omar Abdullah led Government and assured the people that their concerns would continue to be addressed with sincerity and accountability.

Planning Health gave a detailed presentation on the action plan

for achieving objectives of Vision 2030.

Watershed Mahostav 2025

Watershed development key to rural upliftment, Agri growth: Javid Dar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Wednesday said that watershed development plays a vital role in uplifting the rural areas, enhancing water security and strengthening the agricultural sector.

He said this while addressing at the Watershed Mahostav 2025 celebration organised by the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), J&K, under the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj at Panchayat Bhawan, Railway Road, Jammu.

The Minister emphasized the importance of public participation (Jan Bhagidari) in watershed management, revitalization of the existing watershed assets and transformation of rural areas through sustainable practices. He appreciated the efforts of the department and the Government of India sponsored schemes aimed at conserving the groundwater resources for present and future generations.

The Minister stressed the need for transparency and accountability at the grassroots level during project execution to ensure effective service delivery to the people.

Highlighting global



warming as one of the biggest challenges facing the world today, he said that every living being is affected by this growing threat. He added that the Government of India and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have taken several initiatives to protect the environment.

Javid Ahmad Dar directed the officers to give special focus to rain-fed areas of Jammu and Kashmir divisions. He pointed out that the Kandi areas of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts possess significant potential and therefore a maximum number of IWMP projects should be implemented in these regions.

He also appealed to Watershed Committees and their Chairpersons to ensure genuine and need-based works so that the intended beneficiaries fully reap the benefits of these projects.

The Minister underlined that watershed development is crucial for uplifting the rural areas and strengthen-

ing the agricultural sector.

On the occasion, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, stated that the primary objective of the Watershed Programme is conservation of natural resources and such conservation can only be achieved when ownership of these resources is entrusted to the people.

He said that it is encouraging that more than 6,000 people participated in the recently conducted Watershed Yatra. He said that significant work has been carried out under the Watershed Programme across Jammu and Kashmir, and on the basis of outstanding performance, the districts have been honoured with awards.

During the event, three districts Budgam, Rajouri and Poonch were awarded Rs 20 lakh each for outstanding performance under watershed initiatives.

Besides, documentary clips showcasing the achievements of each winning district were also screened on the occasion.

Deputy CM calls for pro-public decisions on Gair Mumkin Khads issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Sub-Committee constituted to examine the issues related to Gair Mumkin Khads in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, was attended by Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs Departments, Javed Ahmad Rana and Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural

Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, as members of the Sub-Committee.

Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, briefed the Sub-Committee on the current status of Gair Mumkin Khads and the challenges associated with their identification, protection and management.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for taking pro-public

and pragmatic decisions to ensure amicable redress of genuine issues faced by the people. He stressed that the policy interventions must strike a balance between the environmental protection and safeguarding the livelihoods and property rights of citizens.

The Sub-Committee discussed in detail the existing status of Gair Mumkin Khads, Daryas and Nallahs, along with related concerns with the objective of providing relief to the general public wherever required.

The Deputy Chief Minister called for sensitization of all stakeholders and directed for proper scientific mapping of Gair Mumkin Khads, Nallahs and adjacent non-cultivable waste lands.

The meeting also discussed climatic challenges and measures being taken to mitigate climatic impact on the environment, human life and properties.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked for comprehensive mapping of flood-prone areas to strengthen the disaster preparedness

and mitigate risks. He further instructed the concerned departments to take stringent action against the illegal encroachments and ensure retrieval of encroached land across Jammu and Kashmir in a time-bound manner.

The members of the Sub-Committee put forth their valuable suggestions and highlighted various public concerns requiring urgent attention.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Special Secretary, Jal Shakti and other concerned officers.

CM Omar extends Christmas greetings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday extended warm greetings to the people celebrating Christmas in Jammu and Kashmir and across the world.

Describing Christmas as a festival symbolising peace, love and compassion, the Chief Minister said that the teachings of Jesus Christ continue to inspire humanity to uphold the values of kindness, forgiveness and harmony.

"Christmas is not merely a celebration; it is a reaffirmation of our shared values of harmony and mutual respect, where people from all communities come together in a spirit of unity," he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted the rich secular ethos and age-old tradition of brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir, and urged people to mark the occasion by extending support to the less privileged so that everyone can partake in the joy of the festival.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah wished peace, prosperity and happiness to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and prayed for a future marked by greater harmony and goodwill.

Div Com for In-Situ De-Addiction Mechanism in Educational Institutions

Stresses on concerted efforts for elimination of drug menace

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, chaired a meeting on Wednesday to review and strengthen measures aimed at curbing the growing menace of substance abuse in the Valley.

Emphasizing the need for coordinated and sustained efforts by all concerned departments, the Div Com directed educational institutions, including schools and colleges, to establish in-situ de-addiction mechanisms within their respective campuses.

He instructed that each educational institution shall nominate one male and one female nodal officer responsible for implementation of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities, student counselling, identification of vulnerable individuals, and continuous monitoring and tracking of affected students.



Wakf authorities were directed to organize orientation programmes for religious leaders to effectively utilize their influence in society for generating awareness regarding the harmful effects of substance abuse and promoting social responsibility.

With regard to coaching institutions and student accommodations, IMHANS was directed to develop a structured monitoring framework to keep effective oversight on coaching hubs.

Director Health Services was instructed to prepare a comprehensive training calendar for

training of trainers, with the objective of creating a robust pool of trained resource persons for educational institutions.

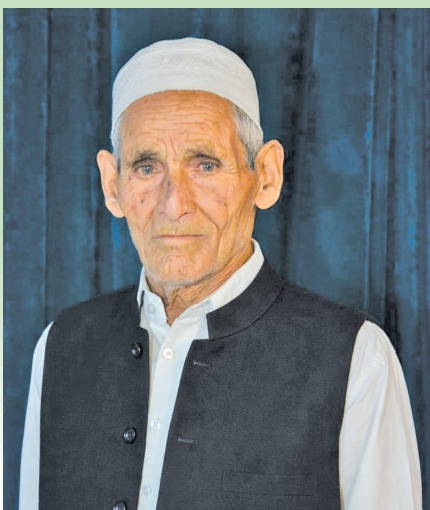
Further, Director Colleges and Director Schools were directed to compile and submit a list of staff members to be trained and assigned the responsibility of identification, counselling, and monitoring of students vulnerable to substance abuse.

The Div Com emphasized the conduct of regular awareness sessions, maintenance of performance reports, and documentation and dissemination of success stories.

Condolence

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the passing away of **Haji Abdul Aziz Shah of Botakadal, Srinagar.** His congregational Fatiha will be observed on **Friday 26th December** at his ancestral graveyard **Madeen Sahib at 2.30pm.**

Bereaved Family



Website- www.fundsorg.jk.gov
email- dfo-sgr@jk.gov.in
(P):- 0194-2312114



Government of Jammu and Kashmir

DISTRICT FUND OFFICE FINANCE COMPLEX HAFT CHINAR SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.

CIRCULAR

Subject: -Updation Of Personal Bio Data In GP Fund Records in respect of subscribers.

It is imperative to ensure the accuracy and correctness of the General Provident Fund Annual Account Statements to be issued to the subscribers for the Financial Year 2025-26. To achieve this objective and reconcile personal details pertaining to G.P.Fund accounts, it has been decided to conduct a reconciliation exercise.

In this regard, all Drawing and Disbursing Officers operating under the jurisdiction of District Fund Office, Srinagar, are hereby requested to depute their concerned Dealing Assistants assigned for G.P.Fund matters to this office for the purpose of updation of personal Biodata.

The reconciliation exercise will involve the verification of relevant records to ensure that all personal details are correctly updated against their respective G.P.Fund accounts numbers. The nominated official should be equipped with the necessary documents and information.

DIPK-9323-25
DT: 24/12/2025

Chief Accounts Officer,
District Fund Officer,
Srinagar.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Healthcare Vision 2030: The Art Of Only Reviewing

Once again, the Civil Secretariat echoed with big words, bold visions and impeccably chaired review meetings. Vision 2030 was invoked with reverence, J&K Vision @2047 was name-dropped for good measure, and every conceivable health official—from secretaries to directors, CEOs to MDs—assembled to review, assess and emphasise.

What emerged, however, was a familiar prescription: diagnose everything, prescribe nothing urgent, and discharge accountability indefinitely.

Upgradation of infrastructure, strengthening primary care, last-mile delivery, digital health, transparency, accountability—nothing was left unsaid. Except perhaps the small matter of why patients are still being referred endlessly, why diagnostic machines remain wrapped in plastic months after procurement, and why ambulances—described as a “basic need”—require repeated reminders to be deployed.

The Minister’s concern over transparency in tenders and timely installation of equipment was reassuring, though one wonders why transparency must be re-emphasised every year if it already exists. Either transparency is fragile, or reminders have replaced reforms.

Special focus was laid on rural and far-flung areas—areas that curiously remain far-flung from policy outcomes despite being close to every vision document since the last two decades. “Last-mile delivery” continues to be a poetic phrase, because on the ground, the last mile still walks, waits, or borrows transport.

Digital health initiatives were also highlighted, which is promising—provided electricity, internet connectivity, trained manpower and functional hardware eventually join the vision. Technology, after all, does not heal patients; functioning systems do.

And then there is the ambulance fleet—newly procured, much celebrated, yet awaiting “immediate deployment.” In Jammu and Kashmir, even urgency seems to require a committee.

Vision 2030 promises accessible, affordable and quality healthcare for all. The intent may be sincere, the meetings exhaustive, and the presentations polished. But until review meetings start producing visible relief in hospital corridors rather than well-worded minutes, Vision 2030 risks becoming just another landmark document—admired from a distance, but never truly reached.

In healthcare, unlike meetings, delays are not harmless. Patients don’t survive on visions. They survive on services.

Good Morning Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher
Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors
Mir Suhail
Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor
Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:
Harbans Nagokay

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:
goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:
B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001

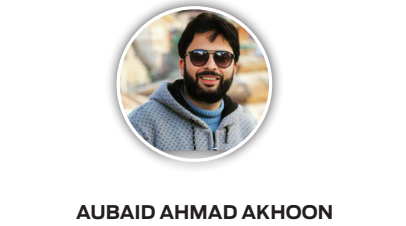
Printed at:
Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer
Aijaz Ahmad Dar

EDIT

Tending The Cold: Nurturing Gardens Through Kashmir's Winter



AUBAID AHMAD AKHOON

The winter of Kashmir is not merely an onset of a season change but an understated transition of rhythm and responsibility. When Chilai Kalan descends upon the valley, life paces itself outward but deepens in introspection. Preparations begin within households, and the kitchen adjusts. And then, of course, the kitchen garden, which is easily neglected, becomes an area that needs both foresight and attention. A land of snowy bliss and destruction warrants both.

Preserving a kitchen garden with flowers during winter requires serious preparation and sensitive care, but most of all, it needs an understanding of precisely how such plants react to cold. Winter is the time of year that slows down the rate of plant growth and tends to damage plants due to icy temperatures, freezing winds, morning frost, and shortened days. Proper application of appropriate techniques can keep your kitchen garden and flowers in healthy condition up to next spring.

First, one has to know the effects of winter on plants: scanty sunlight restricts photosynthesis, cold soil diminishes the activity of roots, and frost may destroy tender leaves and buds. The knowledge of the above facts helps in taking necessary precautions beforehand. Selection of cold-resistant plants is an important thing for winter gardening. Vegetables that grow well in low temperatures are spinach, methi, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, beetroots, green peas, and lettuce. Flowers that bloom well in winters include marigold, petunia, pansy, calendula, chrysanthemum, and dahlia.

If you already have tender plants like tomato, chilli, basil, hibiscus, jasmine and bougainvillea, they need protection. One of the easiest ways is to shift potted plants to sheltered locations - sunny



windows, verandahs, enclosed balconies or corners protected from strong winds. Keeping pots near walls helps because the walls absorb heat during the day and slowly release it at night. When bringing plants indoors is not possible, group a number of pots together to create a relatively warmer microclimate.

One of the best methods for winter care is mulching. Mulch is defined as a layer of material spread upon the soil for protection of roots from cold. Straw, dry leaves, grass clippings, coconut husk, wood shavings, and compost work well. A thick layer spread around each plant covers the whole surface of the soil. Mulching keeps the soil warm, checks evaporation, discourages weed growth, and shields the roots from freezing—hence giving your plants a very good chance of surviving winter.

Watering also requires special attention in winter. As the rates of evaporation are low, the soil remains wet for longer, and hence plants require less water. Overwatering causes root rot in cold and wet soil. Always check the topsoil with your fingers and water only when it feels dry. Water early in the morning so the plants have their whole day to absorb moisture before night temperatures fall. Never water late in the evening, as cold and wet soil invites fungal infections. Frost protection is another very important part of

winter care. It generally forms when the nighttime temperature has gotten very low, and with that low temperature, it forms ice crystals on leaves which can damage or kill tender plants.

Protect the plants with cloth, jute sacks, cotton sheets, or frost cloth every night and uncover them in the morning to allow sunlight and air circulation during the day. Plastic must not be put directly onto leaves, because it will trap moisture and increase deterioration in the worst way. You can also build a temporary greenhouse or tunnel by using transparent plastic sheets in the very cold areas. Fertilization during winters should be minimal. As the plants grow very slowly during cold weather, they don't require being heavy-fed. Mild organic fertilizers of compost, vermicompost, or liquid manure at a dilution can be used once every three to four weeks. Strong chemical fertilizers scorch the inactive winter roots. Light pruning is also quite useful. Remove the dried leaves, faded flowers, and weak stems so that the plant may concentrate its energy on keeping healthy.

This improves aeration and sunlight penetration, which in turn reduces pest and fungal problems. Indoor herbs like mint, coriander, oregano, or thyme need special care during winter. Place indoor herbs at spots receiving plenty of sunlight and rotate every once in a while

for symmetrical growth. Keep them away from heaters and radiators; this is because dry, hot air may damage the foliage. Provide good air circulation but do not expose the plants to cold drafts from windows and doors. Plant cold-tolerant flowering varieties to keep your garden colorful through winter.

This season, winter-flowering plants like marigold, pansy, and calendula will bloom with colors, attracting important pollinators. Flowers are best planted in well-draining soil combined with organic compost. Another thing to watch out for this winter is pests. The common ones include whiteflies and aphids. Occasionally check the underside of leaves and spray neem oil or light soapy water whenever needed. Lastly, well in advance of the coming winter, prepare your garden for the season. Clean fallen leaves, remove debris, loosen the soil, and apply compost before extreme cold comes.

Properly cared for-like judicious watering, mulching against possible frost, and sun management-your kitchen garden and flowers will survive the winter and thrive. Though winter gardening is very different in many ways, the reward from fresh vegetables and pretty blooms makes every effort well worth it.

Author can be mailed at akhoon.aubaid@gmail.com

India’s AYUSH Model For The World

LALIT GARGG

Today’s world is passing through deep and multidimensional health crises. On one hand, life-style-related diseases, mental stress, depression, anxiety, and imbalance are increasing at an alarming pace; on the other, infectious diseases, pandemics, and environmental disruptions continue to challenge human life relentlessly. In this scenario, it is becoming increasingly evident that global health problems cannot be comprehensively resolved through modern allopathic medicine alone. This is precisely why the attention of the global community is once again turning toward India’s traditional systems of medicine. Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, and allied practices, collectively known as AYUSH. These systems emphasize holistic health, natural healing, and the harmony of body and mind, with Ayurveda standing out as one of the most ancient and systematically developed medical traditions, renowned for its philosophical depth and diverse therapeutic methods.

The foundation of these traditional systems is not merely the treatment of disease, but the realization of complete well-being through the integration of body, mind, and soul. Ayurveda focuses on maintaining the balance of the three doshas, Vata, Pitta, and Kapha, and employs diet, lifestyle regulation, herbal medicines, and purification therapies such as Panchakarma. Classical Ayurveda is organized into eight branches: Kayachikitsa (internal medicine), Shalya (surgery), Kaumarbhritya (pediatrics), Bhutavidya (mental health and psychology), Agad Tantra (toxicology), Rasayana (geriatrics and rejuvenation), Vajikarana (reproductive health), and Shalakya (diseases of the eyes,

ears, nose, and throat).

Like Ayurveda, Yoga is also a traditional health system that emphasizes the integration of mind and body through physical postures (asanas), breathing techniques (pranayama), meditation, and ethical disciplines. Naturopathy promotes the body’s innate self-healing capacity through natural elements such as earth, water, sunlight, and a disciplined diet. Unani medicine, which came to India from Greece, is based on the balance of four humors, blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile, and recognizes the influence of the environment on human health. Siddha medicine, primarily practiced in South India, emphasizes herbal and mineral formulations along with yoga and meditation. Sowa-Rigpa, often called Tibetan medicine, is practiced in Himalayan regions such as Ladakh and Sikkim and represents a rich mountain-based medical tradition. The Government of India, through the Ministry of AYUSH and the National AYUSH Mission, is actively promoting the development, research, and integration of these systems into mainstream healthcare. Rooted in ancient Indian wisdom, these medical traditions are now establishing a significant presence on the global health platform.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has played a decisive role in giving India’s traditional medicine global recognition. He has presented it not merely as a cultural heritage, but as an effective, accessible, and sustainable healthcare system for the future. Under his leadership, the establishment of the Ministry of AYUSH, the launch of the International Day of Yoga, partnerships with the World Health Organization on traditional medicine, and the organization of global conferences are concrete steps in this direction. The recent second Global Summit on Traditional Medicine held in New Delhi stands as evidence that India



is no longer just a participant in this field, but is emerging as a global guide.

The increase in the export of AYUSH and herbal products during the Prime Minister’s visit to Oman, from USD 61.1 million to USD 65.1 million—is not merely an economic statistic; it reflects growing global trust. Many countries are beginning to realize that India’s traditional medical systems are not only affordable and accessible, but also capable of delivering long-term health benefits. This becomes especially significant when nearly one-fourth of the world’s population remains deprived of basic healthcare facilities due to economic constraints. In such circumstances, traditional medicine emerges as a practical and humane alternative.

According to the World Health Organization, even today between 40 and 90 percent of the population in nearly 170 countries uses some form of traditional medicine. This figure dispels the notion that traditional medicine is confined only to developing nations. In fact, interest in yoga, Ayurvedic therapies, herbal medicines, and naturopathy is steadily increasing in developed countries as well. One major reason is the side effects of modern medicine, excessive dependence on pharmaceuticals, and the high cost of advanced treatments. While allopathic medicine has

achieved remarkable success in emergency care and surgery, it is also associated with drug-related side effects, antibiotic resistance, and long-term complications. In contrast, Indian traditional medicine seeks to address disease at its roots. Ayurveda emphasizes individual constitution, balance of doshas, and lifestyle correction. Yoga is not merely physical exercise, but a path to mental peace, concentration, and inner harmony. These systems do not aim to suppress disease, but to awaken the body’s natural healing power. This is why they are widely regarded as safer, less invasive, and more suitable for long-term health.

At the second Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, India effectively presented this vision to the world. Bilateral meetings with sixteen countries, including Brazil, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, made it clear that traditional medicine has now become a powerful instrument of diplomacy and global cooperation. On this occasion, Prime Minister Modi’s launch of the ‘AYUSH Mark’ was a historic initiative, aimed at establishing global quality standards for AYUSH products and services. This will not only strengthen consumer confidence but also enhance the international acceptance of Indian products.

However, it is equally true that the field of traditional

medicine faces certain challenges. Issues of quality control, standardization, scientific validation, and credibility have long been raised. Unsubstantiated claims and adulterated products sometimes undermine the credibility of the entire system. Yet, initiatives like the AYUSH Mark and the promotion of rigorous scientific research can effectively address these concerns. What is needed is a strong bridge between traditional knowledge and modern science, so that the best of both can be harmoniously integrated. At a time when a large segment of the global population, nearly 4.6 billion people, lacks adequate access to healthcare services, India’s traditional medical systems can emerge as a ray of hope. They not only aid in treatment but also play a vital role in prevention and health promotion. Through balanced nutrition, regular yoga practice, natural medicines, and mental discipline, many diseases can be controlled at an early stage.

In this context, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision can rightly be described as farsighted. He has viewed traditional medicine not as a relic of the past, but as a necessity of the future. His efforts to establish India’s medical heritage on global platforms signal that India’s role in shaping the world’s healthcare systems will become even stronger in the years to come. As the limitations of modern medicine become increasingly apparent and the world searches for a holistic, accessible, and humane health model, India’s traditional medicine is emerging as a powerful and viable option, not only for India, but for all of humanity. This is its greatest achievement and its most promising future.

The author can be mailed at lalitgarg11@gmail.com

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

■ AI In The Classroom

When Technology Teaches The Wrong Lesson



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Artificial intelligence is no longer a distant or experimental presence in education. It now sits quietly on teachers’ desks and laptops, helping prepare lesson plans, generate explanations, summarize complex topics, and design assessment questions. From school classrooms to university lecture halls, AI-powered tools are being adopted at an unprecedented pace. Yet as this quiet revolution unfolds, a critical question demands attention: What happens when AI-generated information is wrong and is taught to students as fact?

The appeal of AI in teaching is easy to understand. A teacher pressed for time can ask an AI system to explain a difficult mathematical concept, outline historical events, or generate examples tailored to student levels. Within seconds, polished content appears. However, speed and fluency often disguise a fundamental weakness of AI systems. They do not “know” in the human sense. They predict language based on patterns, and in doing so, they can confidently produce answers that are partially incorrect or entirely false.

Consider a simple example from mathematics. A teacher preparing a lecture on limits asks an AI tool for an intuitive explanation. The response sounds convincing but subtly misstates a key condition. Students, trusting the authority of their teacher, internalize the flawed explanation. The error may not surface immediately, but months later it appears during advanced coursework, causing confusion and gaps in understanding. At that point, the damage is harder to undo.

In history or social sciences, the risks can be even greater. AI systems may oversimplify complex events, misattribute causes, or reproduce biased narratives. A lesson on colonial history generated without careful



verification might omit crucial perspectives or distort timelines. When such material is presented in classrooms, misinformation gains legitimacy through institutional authority.

At the centre of this issue lies accountability. Despite the growing role of technology, responsibility for classroom knowledge has not shifted from humans to machines. Teachers remain the final gatekeepers of academic accuracy. If incorrect information reaches students, the source of the error may be technological, but the responsibility is professional.

This principle is not new. Teachers have always been expected to verify sources, whether they come from textbooks, reference books, or online materials. AI does not change this obligation. Using unverified AI content is no different from teaching from an outdated book or an unreliable website. The medium may be new, but the duty of care remains the same.

The consequences of passing on incorrect knowledge extend beyond

individual lessons. In subjects like mathematics and science, conceptual errors can persist for years, undermining future learning. In professional courses, misinformation may affect practical competence. Perhaps most damaging is the erosion of trust. Students place confidence in their teachers not just as facilitators, but as reliable sources of knowledge. When that trust is broken, even unintentionally, it weakens the educational relationship.

There is also a subtler risk. Over-reliance on AI can dull critical thinking. If teachers accept AI-generated content without scrutiny, students may learn to do the same. Education then shifts from inquiry to consumption, where information is accepted because it sounds correct rather than because it has been examined.

Yet rejecting AI altogether is neither realistic nor desirable. When used responsibly, AI can be a powerful educational aid. It can help teachers generate multiple explanations for diverse

learners, create practice problems, or translate material into accessible language. For students, it can serve as a supplementary tool for revision and exploration. The problem lies not in use, but in uncritical use.

Many educational institutions are now recognizing the need for structured guidelines. One essential safeguard is verification. AI-generated content should be treated as a draft, not a final authority. Cross-checking with standard textbooks, peer-reviewed materials, or trusted academic sources must become routine practice. This is particularly crucial in disciplines where precision matters.

Training is another critical component. Teachers need basic AI literacy, not just in operating tools, but in understanding their limitations. Concepts such as “hallucination,” bias, and probabilistic output should be part of professional development programs. Without this understanding, even well-intentioned educators may place undue trust in AI-generated

material.

Transparency can also play a constructive role. When teachers openly acknowledge the use of AI as a support tool, they model ethical and responsible practice. A simple statement such as, “This explanation was AI-assisted and then verified,” reinforces the idea that AI is a helper, not an unquestionable authority. It also encourages students to adopt a critical stance toward all sources of information.

Errors, when they occur, need not be disasters. In fact, they can become valuable teaching moments. Prompt acknowledgment and correction demonstrate intellectual honesty and reinforce academic integrity. A teacher who openly corrects an AI-related mistake sends a powerful message: learning is an evolving process, and accuracy matters more than ego.

Institutions, too, have a role to play. Schools and universities must establish clear policies outlining acceptable uses of AI, verification requirements, and accountability mechanisms. Leaving AI adoption entirely to individual discretion creates uneven practices and increases the likelihood of misuse. Thoughtful policy can provide both flexibility and safeguards.

Ultimately, the debate around AI in education is not about technology replacing teachers. It is about whether technology will amplify good teaching practices or magnify their absence. AI can enhance clarity, efficiency, and access, but it can also amplify error at scale if used without judgment.

Education has always rested on human responsibility. Long before AI, teachers made choices about what to include, what to emphasize, and what to question. Those choices shaped minds and futures. No algorithm can replace that moral and professional obligation.

As classrooms adapt to this new technological reality, the central question is no longer whether AI will be used. It already is. The real question is whether educators and institutions will insist on wisdom, verification, and accountability alongside innovation. The answer will determine whether AI becomes a meaningful ally in education or a quiet source of confusion masquerading as knowledge.

Author is a Faculty of Mathematics, Department of General Education HUC, Ajman. He can be mailed at reyaz56@gmail.com

Snowfall As Stimulus

The Economic Revival Of Kashmir's Winter Tourism



AMANJEET SINGH

The recent snowfall that has transformed the Kashmir Valley into a bright white landscape was not just a climatic occurrence; it also provided hope to those living in the valley and reminds us all how important nature is to our lives. After the recent snowfall covered everything from the mountains and forests to the shikaras, it has rekindled the spirit of a region that has depended so heavily upon tourism as part of its way of life. This snowfall will allow for a successful winter season by healing many of the wounds that were left behind by a difficult summer of not knowing what the future held.

Within the community, the anticipation and worries build up prior to winter; however, a poor snow season is not just something that is disappointing aesthetically, but is an economic jolt and opportunity for everyone within the community. The current images of the white-topped roofs of Srinagar, the white slopes of Gulmarg, and the still, snowy surface of Dal Lake tell a visual story that introduces us to a “beautiful” future.

There is an immediate effect on the destinations. Gulmarg, as the premier destination in the Indian winter sports realm, has come to life. No longer is there a sense of foreboding because ski slopes are silent and lifeless. Instead, the sounds of skiers carving their way through new snow, children laughing, families tobogganing, and the gentle drone of the Gulmarg gondola transporting visitors to stunning panoramas are now present. This is not simply a matter of leisure, but rather it supports the local economy. Hoteliers, who were previously looking at blank ledgers for business, are now experiencing a flurry of reserva-



tions. Tour operators, who previously had little to no calls coming in, are now being bombarded with inquiries. The missing link in all this—the ski instructors, rental equipment, and resort workforce—are now in full swing with lots of work to do, thanks to the good fortune of sufficient snowfall to guarantee their seasonal income.

Looking at this snowfall only through the view of the skiing elite at Gulmarg is a narrow view which misses out on how many lives it is impacting. The true measure of what this winter has to offer is an economic blessing throughout Kashmir. Tourism throughout Kashmir also provides jobs to many people regardless of their social status or financial position. The prosperous effects of tourism benefit everyone from the five-star hotel to the person who runs the low-end service. The pony wallah or horse guide that takes a tourist through the snowy fields of Pahalgam, the artisan that sells his pashmina and walnut items in downtown Srinagar, to the driver of the Sumo jeep that takes people down the icy roads to Sonamarg, to

the street vendor selling hot kahwa to the tourists. Snow is currency for all of them. Every time a tourist arrives, a small economic event takes place, helping to sustain families and preserving trades of long ago. In this way, the snowfall is a kind of social security that comes from above.

Along with the economic impact, this winter season will provide psychological relief for the tavern owners in Kashmir. For quite some time now, they have been grappling with political uncertainty and the aftereffects caused by the pandemic. Given the magnitude of the tourism industry in Kashmir, it is important for tourism operators to have a fresh start - a reason to feel good about their place in the tourism market. The snowfalls provide that opportunity, and are the starting point of a new story. They evoke feelings of positivity regarding Kashmir, and start the changing of the conversation away from the political instability and fear towards the tourism potential that Kashmir has always possessed. All of a sudden, the images of a winter paradise can be dis-

seminated across all of India and attract many new tourists who have long wanted to visit Kashmir but were afraid to do so. It has returned confidence in the market and will ultimately be as beneficial as a monetary return would be. There are many stakeholders from house boat owners working on the Jhelum River to travel companies in Mumbai who will benefit. They will feel that they are welcome in the tourism market, and that Kashmir is in its prime, and is ready to offer all its visitors its historic hospitality despite the cold winter weather.

During this winter of revitalization, there will also be an opportunity for thoughtful consideration. Heavy reliance on Mother Nature in the form of snowfall serves as an example of a significant weakness. Climate change is likely to threaten that balance on the long term. While we celebrate today, there is a need to develop sustainable tourism. Sustainable tourism planning will provide the necessary framework in order to diversify the reasons that tourists come to visit Kashmir every year

by showcasing its gorgeous autumns, amazing springs, and adventure tourist activities, thereby creating an economic base that is not entirely dependent on the whims of one season.

The influx of visitors can serve both as a challenge and an opportunity. As a challenge in terms of providing adequate infrastructure, quality of hospitality standards, and social and environmental (ecological) consideration. As an opportunity to create a sustainable and considered approach to tourism development by developing mechanisms to manage the waste produced by tourists without detracting from the beauty of the location and the benefits of tourism accruing equally to all members of the local population. We must strive to develop a tourism model that is regenerative rather than simply exploitative.

Higher-than-normal optimism exists in the Valley of Kashmir as heavy snowfall is forecasted for later days. Snowfall represents a powerful force of nature and a glimpse of the region's greatest asset - its unique natural resources that cannot be replicated. The heavy snowfall has covered the Valley of Kashmir with a thick layer of white snow and given it a new shape and purpose. Each snowflake represents a potential income opportunity for the local people; each snowflake represents the strength of their resiliency, and each snowflake represents an invitation to the outside world. While the people of Kashmir prepare their homes, businesses and themselves to receive visitors during the winter season, they are collectively hoping that this winter creates a new beginning and serves as a turning point towards the continued prosperity of the beauty of Kashmir as its identity and stability for peace and prosperity. We hear the message of the Valley loud and clear; Kashmir is not merely surviving; it is about to enter into a period of thriving, one snowflake at a time.

Author is a journalist. He can be mailed at 1988amanjeetsingh@gmail.com

AR Cooperative Societies Reviews Functioning Of Cooperative Banks In Udhampur

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Under the “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” initiative and as part of the International Year of Cooperatives, a detailed field visit was undertaken by Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Jammu Division, Bal Krishan in district Udhampur.

The visit aimed at strengthening cooperative institutions at the grass-roots level and reviewing the implementation of key Cooperative sector initiatives.

En-route, the Officer inaugurated a fertilizer retail shop at Krimachi, enhancing access to essential agricultural inputs for local farmers through the cooperative framework.

Later, the Additional Registrar inspected the functioning of major cooperative banks including Devika Urban Cooperative Bank and Jammu Central Cooperative Bank.

The inspections focused on operational efficiency, adherence to cooperative principles, transparency and quality of services.

Emphasis was laid on



strengthening the governance mechanism, improving financial discipline and ensuring effective credit delivery to members, particularly those engaged in agriculture and allied activities.

The Additional Registrar also held detailed deliberations with proposed benefi-

ciaries of the Cash Credit Limit Scheme and the Cooperative Infrastructure Development Fund Scheme and reviewed the proposals. Beneficiaries including secretaries of the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) were sensitised about eligibility criteria and the statutory provisions.

DC Bandipora Reviews Republic Day Arrangements

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Wednesday chaired a meeting of concerned officers at the Conference Hall to review arrangements for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed preparations for the main function at S.K. Stadium, Bandipora, besides celebrations at Sub-Divisions Gurez and Sumbal and other designated locations. She was informed that preparations were well advanced, while emphasizing that there is always scope for improvement to make the celebrations more interesting and inspirational.

The Deputy Commissioner directed departments to ensure seamless arrangements for flag hoisting, Shahnai Vadan, march-past by contingents, cultural programmes, seating and dice arrangements, keeping in view the seating capacity and prevailing weather conditions.

She stressed theme-based cultural performances involving educational institutions, NSS volunteers, Scouts & Guides, musicians and local artists, with a District-level Committee tasked to scrutinize and finalise all cultural items.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed R&B and Municipal authorities to ensure proper illumination of government build-



ings, bridges and roundabouts, with financial institutions assisting in roundabout decorations.

Emphasis was laid on transport arrangements for school children, adequate medical and fire services, drinking water availability, heating arrangements, and minimizing waste generation.

The Deputy Commissioner

also encouraged involvement of scheme beneficiaries for supplying refreshments and other items for government functions and proposed Bravery Awards for civilians on the occasion.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora; Commanding Officers of 14 RR, 13 RR, 27 RR and

CRPF; Commandant 3rd Battalion CRPF; Commandant HQ 62 Battalion BSF; Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora; Programme Officer ICDS; Chief Planning Officer; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sumbal; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat besides other concerned district and sectoral officers.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

48% Srinagar Households metering is done.

Furthermore, the CM as reported by KNO had also stated that adequate arrangements were put in place for better facilities to the people during winters.

Omar added that the tourist rush is expected to increase once the snowfall occurs, adding that the efforts are on to make J&K a round-the-year tourist destination—(KNO)

the implementation of DDUJGY, in its 23rd meeting held on December 21, 2021, instructed state distribution companies (DISCOMs) to take up only those works that could be completed by December 31, 2021.

It was also conveyed that works executed beyond December 31, 2021 shall not be funded under the scheme—(KNO)

Traffic Moves Slowly

carrier) will be allowed to move in both directions on NH-44 on Thursday.”

Meanwhile, Traffic Control Units (TCUs) in Jammu and Srinagar have been asked to coordinate with TCU Ramban regarding road conditions and Security forces convoys have been advised to move on the NH-44 only after confirmation of road status.

According to the officials the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag NH-244 remains closed due to snow accumulation while vehicles on the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari (SSG) Road, will be allowed to move in a regulated manner after getting a green signal from BRO. “LMVs and HMTVs (up to six tyres) with anti-skid chains will be permitted from Minamarg towards Srinagar between 8 AM and 11:30 AM, and from Sonamarg towards Kargil between 1 PM and 4 PM,” the official said, adding, “Similarly, on Mughal Road, LMVs and private cars with anti-skid chains will be allowed from Behramgala towards Shopian and Herpora-Shopian towards Poonch between 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM, subject to fair weather and road clearance from GREF. Vehicles will not be allowed after the cutoff timings. Security forces convoys will coordinate their movement to avoid disrupting civil traffic.”

Commuters have been urged to confirm road conditions before travel from the following Traffic Control Units: Jammu (0191-2459048, 0191-2740550, 9419147732, 103), Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091, 103), Ramban (9419993745, 1800-180-7043), Udhampur (8491928625), PCR Kishtwar (9906154100), and PCR Kargil (9541902330, 9541902331)—(KNO)

Srinagar Airport

passengers, making an early spring rise. April: 2,872 movements, 224,056 arrivals, 245,846 departures, total 469,902 passengers, making it the peak tourism month.

May: 1,160 movements, 88,131 arrivals, 77,732 departures, total 165,863 passengers. The post-Pahalgam dip begins.

June – 1,492 movements, 129,896 arrivals, 111,410 departures, total 241,305 passengers, the month of which continued the slowdown.

July – 1,992 movements, 152,281 arrivals, 149,103 departures, total 301,384 passengers. Gradual recovery signs show up.

August: 1,776 movements, 127,310 arrivals, 134,252 departures, total 261,562 passengers. Operations stabilize.

September: 1,646 movements, 138,941 arrivals, 137,004 departures, total 275,945 passengers. Consistent traffic.

October: 1,818 movements, 141,067 arrivals, 148,244 departures, total 289,311 passengers. Steady pre-winter flow.

November: 1,698 movements, 135,584 arrivals, 147,979 departures, total 283,563 passengers. Near-normal traffic.

December 01-21: 1,042 movements, 86,982 arrivals, 87,724 departures, total 174,706 passengers. Reduced winter operations.

Before and After Pahalgam: A Shift in Air Traffic:

Data shows that until the attack in May,

Srinagar Airport maintained full connectivity, including routes to Dehradun and Lucknow. Post-attack, these sectors were temporarily suspended, causing a notable decline in passenger footfall.

In April, the airport handled nearly 4.7 lakh passengers, the year's highest. However, by May, the count dropped by over 64 per cent, to 1.65 lakh, showing the immediate operational impact.

By July, traffic rebounded past 3 lakh, indicating a quick recovery through resumed tourism and steady domestic travel across routes like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Amritsar.

“Operations remained largely stable through the year except for a temporary lull after the Pahalgam incident,” an airport official told KNO, adding that airlines, CISF and ATC teams ensured smooth functioning despite the high-altitude weather and operational stress.

Performance overview

From January to December 21, the airport recorded 10,784 arrivals and 10,792 departures, reflecting balanced operations. Passenger arrivals stood at 17,73,325 lakh, while departures reached 17,15,079 lakh. Overall, the airport handled 35.26 lakh passengers in 2025.

Officials further said that ongoing modernisation, including terminal upgrades and digital systems, will enhance capacity in 2026.

Srinagar Airport continues to serve as a vital link for tourism, pilgrimage and trade, anchoring Kashmir's aviation network despite periodic turbulence—(KNO)

Minimum Temperature

period of harsh winter cold called the ‘Chillai Kalan’ started on December 21 on a positive note as all the higher reaches of the Valley received the much-awaited snowfall while rain lashed the plains.

This wet spell broke the 3-month-long dry spell that had given rise to problems in the Valley, as most people complained of bad cold, flu and chest-related ailments.

Rain and snow have also raised the hope of hoteliers, tour and travel operators and others directly or indirectly connected with the tourism industry.

These people now look forward to the arrival of tourists on Christmas and New Year's Eve at Gulmarg and other hill stations.

Skiers are also expected to arrive in Gulmarg as the resort is known as the ‘Skier's Paradise’ because of its majestic ski slopes.

Hundreds of thousands of migratory birds that spend their winter months in the relatively warmer environments of the Valley have started moving out of the bird reserves to feed in the open fields and marshy lands after the recent rainfall.

The beeline of these avian visitors on the morning and evening sky presents a spectacle of colour and cackle that has been part of the local tradition for hundreds of years.

These avian visitors are one of the most dependable indicators of the environment and ecology in the Valley. Their health and well-being assure locals that all is not lost on the environmental front, and if proper care and caution are exercised, the people can still preserve and sustain the glory of Kashmir as the paradise on earth.

J&K Bank Wins ‘Best

a focus area for J&K Bank, MD & CEO further said, “In line with the national development objectives and regulatory expectations, MSME financing has been

our strategic priority. As of now, we are exclusively implementing the UT Government's flagship Mission YUVA program, which aims at creating 1.37 lakh enterprises in next 5 years resulting in employment opportunities for 4.25 lakh youth.”

“The Bank remains committed to support entrepreneurs through tailored financial solutions, simplified processes, digital interventions and continuous handholding, especially in our core geography, while steadily expanding its MSME portfolio across the country”, he added.

On CSR, MD & CEO noted that the Bank's initiatives are closely aligned with national development priorities, focusing on education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, skill development and livelihood generation, thereby ensuring that the Bank's growth also translates into meaningful social impact for the people it serves.

Pertinently, former Supreme Court Judge Justice Deepak Verma chaired the jury for the awards organised by the Chamber of Indian Micro Small and Medium Enterprises with the evaluation carried out by its knowledge partner CareEdge Ratings.

RAHI
ADVERTISERS



+91-7006034174

SARAI DANGERPORA,
SUMBAL. 193501

No mining, no dilution: Central govt throws full shield over Aravallis

IAN S

NEW DELHI: In a decisive move to curb illegal mining and strengthen ecological protection, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has directed state governments to impose a “complete ban on the grant of any new mining leases in the Aravallis”, covering the entire mountain range from Delhi to Gujarat.

The Ministry said the prohibition will apply uniformly across the entire Aravalli landscape, underscoring that the objective is to “preserve the integrity of the range as a continuous geological ridge” extending from Gujarat to the National Capital Region and to bring an end to all unregulated mining activities.

Further tightening the conservation framework, the MoEF&CC has instructed the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) to identify additional areas and zones across the entire Aravalli range where mining must be prohibited, over and above the areas already restricted by the Centre.

The identification will be carried out based on



ecological, geological and landscape-level considerations, the Ministry said.

ICFRE has also been tasked with preparing a comprehensive, science-based Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) for the entire Aravalli region.

According to the Ministry, the plan will be placed “in the public domain for wide stakeholder consultation” and will assess cumulative environmental impacts, ecological carrying capacity, conservation-critical and ecologically sensitive areas, while also outlining measures for restoration and rehabilitation.

Officials said this exer-

cise will “further enlarge the coverage of areas protected and prohibited from mining in the entire Aravallis”, taking into account local topography, ecology and biodiversity.

For mines that are already operational, the Centre has directed State Governments to ensure “strict compliance with all environmental safeguards and in conformity with the Supreme Court’s order.”

The Ministry added that ongoing mining activities will be regulated stringently, with additional restrictions to ensure environmental protection and adherence to sustainable mining practices.

Reaffirming its long-term commitment, the government of India stated that it remains “fully committed towards the protection of the Aravalli ecosystem,” recognising the range’s critical role in preventing desertification, conserving biodiversity, recharging aquifers and providing essential environmental services to the region.

The move is being seen as one of the strongest policy interventions in recent years aimed at preserving the Aravallis, one of the oldest and most ecologically sensitive mountain systems in the country.

HM Amit Shah lauds Haryana CM for farmer-friendly policies



IAN S

PANCHKULA: Lauding Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for farmer-friendly policies, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday announced major initiatives for the state and virtually inaugurated projects, including a milk chilling centre at Salempur in Bhiwani district, the HAFED flour mill at Jatwana in Rewari district and the IYC portal developed by the Ministry of Cooperation.

Speaking as the chief guest at the mega cooperative conference amidst the presence of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini here, Home Minister Shah distributed RuPay Platinum debit cards to five beneficiaries of Haryana State Cooperative Banks and handed over registration certificates to the presidents of two newly established M-PACS set up by KRIBHCO in Haryana.

He also released an annual publication based on IYC-related events prepared by KRIBHCO. Before this, a corporate film of KRIBHCO was screened.

Home Minister Shah lauded CM Saini for his decisive leadership and farmer-friendly policies, calling him a transformative force in the state’s governance.

He highlighted how the Chief Minister’s initiatives have not only empowered farmers but also set Haryana as a national model for transparent, efficient, and visionary administration.

He also praised CM Saini’s courage and determination, noting that he has accomplished what very few governments dare attempt.

“When the proposal to procure 24 crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP) was announced in the election manifesto, I had personally confirmed it over a late-night phone call from Nayab Singh Saini and with full confidence, he assured me that I should announce it; the responsibility of procurement is mine,” said the Home Minister as he praised that Haryana is the first state to ensure MSP procurement for all 24 crops.

The Home Minister further emphasised that Haryana is not only procuring crops but also paying farmers within 48 hours of procurement, marking a new administrative revolution.

The Chief Minister also ensured the highest prices for sugarcane farmers in the country, creating positive pressure on governments nationwide to follow suit, said the Home Minister.

He also highlighted Haryana’s water management and irrigation initiatives.

Under the “Per Drop -- More Crop” scheme, the state provides 85 per cent subsidies, extends irrigation to historically neglected areas, and has constructed 2,088 Amrit Sarovars, reflecting visionary planning and long-term thinking, he said.

The Home Minister further saith that although Haryana is a small state, it has consistently contributed to agriculture, dairy production, sports, and national security.

The Home Minister stressed that while Haryana plays a major role in industry, GST, and income tax contributions, the true measure of any government is the well-being of its farmers.

RBI gives banks more time to roll out quicker cheque clearance in phase 2

IAN S

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Wednesday that it has postponed the implementation of Phase 2 of the faster cheque clearance framework by banks, which was scheduled to begin from January 3, 2026.

“Implementation of phase 2 is being postponed until further notice, to allow more time to banks to streamline their processes,” according to the RBI statement.

Phase 1 of the system, which was implemented earlier this year, will continue to operate as usual.

The RBI further stated that the timing of the presentation session for cheques has also been modified. The cheque presentation time will now range from 9 am to 3 pm, while banks will be able to confirm or reject cheques between 9 am and 7 pm.

Under the proposed Phase 2 guidelines, banks are required to clear or reject any cheque deposited over the counter within just three hours.

This is expected to be a major relief for customers, making payments faster and more efficient once the process starts.

RBI introduced continuous clearance under the Cheque Truncation System (CTS) to make cheque clearing faster and smoother by moving away from the traditional batch system. Under CTS, cheques are cleared using digital images and electronic data, removing the need to physically move cheques between banks.

From October 4, 2025, Phase 1 introduced a single, continuous presentation window during the day. Banks scan cheques and send their images and MICR data to the clearing house as they receive them, instead of waiting for fixed clearing batches.

After the drawee bank receives the image of the cheque, it reviews the details and sends its approval or rejection electronically. If no response is sent by the end of the confirmation window, the cheque is treated as approved and settled.

Centre 'squeezing' Kerala of its finances, alleges CM Vijayan

IAN S

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has accused the central government of deliberately restricting the state’s financial autonomy and undermining its development initiatives.

Vijayan was speaking to reporters here on Wednesday. He pointed out that Kerala’s efforts for capital expenditure have faced sustained obstruction over the past five years, with the most significant measure being the retrospective reduction of the state’s borrowing limit from 2021-22 onwards by treating KIFB (Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board) loans as part of the state’s debt.

The CM said that while

the Reserve Bank of India had distinguished between guarantees and loans as far back as 1999, the Centre’s approach to Kerala’s borrowing limit was contrary to this principle. “Counting KIFB guarantees as state debt is a flawed approach and a continuation of the policy that now results in a significant cut to our borrowing capacity,” he said.

Vijayan noted that despite repeated representations, including a detailed memorandum submitted to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on October 9, many of the state’s legitimate requests remain pending. “The Centre talks about development on one hand, but attempts are made to financially weaken states like Kerala on the other,” he said.

Thackeray cousins bury the hatchet after 20 years to reunite before Maha civic polls

IAN S

MUMBAI: The Thackeray cousins, Uddhav and Raj Thackeray, have formally reunited for the 2026 Mumbai civic polls after two decades of rivalry, marking a major realignment of Marathi politics, where they aim to consolidate against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Mahayuti (Grand Alliance).

The Thackeray cousins held a joint press conference on Wednesday, to announce an electoral alliance between Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena-UBT and the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) for the upcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and other civic polls.

The two were first seen together in July 2025, when they shared the stage at a rally opposing “imposition of Hindi”.

On Wednesday, the Thackeray cousins arrived together at the press conference after paying tributes to Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray at Chhatrapati Shivaji Park -- a symbolic gesture of reconciliation and shared lineage.

The two leaders were accompanied by their families while offering respects at the Smriti Sthal memorial in Shivaji Park.

Before they announced their alliance, the Thackeray cousins said they



would work together for the “Marathi manooos”.

The public image of the Thackeray cousins travelling and speaking together underlined the political significance of the move and its timing ahead of the January 15 civic elections.

The alliance drew immediate reactions across the political spectrum.

Those associated with Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena criticised the tie-up as an “ideological betrayal” of Balasaheb Thackeray’s legacy.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis brushed off the reunion of the two Thackeray cousins on Wednesday, claiming it will not have any impact on Maharashtra civic polls.

“A hype is being built up like it’s the coming together of Russia and Ukraine; as if it’s Zelensky and Putin talking to each other,” he quipped when reporters asked for his opinion.

“They have come together only for selfish interests; the people of Maharash-

tra will show them their place,” Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde told the media.

Some local leaders and workers also expressed unease about seat distribution and grassroots coordination.

BJP’s Mumbai unit has also attacked the Thackeray cousins, sharing an old video where Raj Thackeray is criticising the Shiv Sena in 2005 after his exit.

Meanwhile, there are certain claims that a majority of the 84 former Corporators of the undivided Shiv Sena have joined the Eknath Shinde-led faction.

The Thackeray cousins are likely to face operational challenges, like integrating party cadres, reconciling local rivalries, and converting a high-profile national narrative into disciplined, ward-level campaigning to translate the alliance into electoral gains.

If effectively managed, the reunion could reshape Mumbai’s civic arithmetic by consolidating Marathi voters and reducing vote-splitting that previously

benefited the BJP and its allies.

The Thackeray union may change equations in some pockets, where in 67 of the 227 BMC wards in the city, the MNS polled more votes than the winning margin.

The alliance also signals a broader recalibration of regional politics in Maharashtra ahead of future state and national contests, potentially opening space for negotiations with other regional players.

However, success depends on clear seat-sharing agreements between themselves and other opposition parties like the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar, among others.

Early reports indicate seat-sharing discussions are underway, with Shiv Sena-UBT likely to contest nearly 145-150 seats in Mumbai and the MNS around 65-70.

Talks are also said to be underway with other regional players in Maharashtra.

The Shiv Sena was founded by Balasaheb Thackeray in 1966 as a Marathi-centric, regional force.

His nephew, Raj Thackeray, broke away in 2006 to form the MNS following ideological and leadership disputes.

This created two rival Sena lineages that competed for the identical voter base for nearly 20 years.

Criminals on the run, remaining will be driven out in three months: Bihar Dy CM

IAN S

PATNA: After assuming charge of the Home Ministry in the Nitish Kumar government, Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has been in continuous action mode and has repeatedly asserted that strict action will be taken against criminals in Bihar.

On Wednesday, Samrat Choudhary made a strong claim on the law-and-order

situation, stating that most criminals have already fled the state, and the remaining ones will be driven out within the next three months.

Samrat Choudhary made these remarks while attending the seventh death anniversary program of former Union Minister Jai Narayan Nishad, where he also launched a sharp attack on RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav.

“The work of some

criminals is still going on secretly, but now my only job is to fix the crime situation in Bihar. I am here to clean up the mess and run a cleanliness drive. Some criminals have already fled, and I will definitely drive out those who remain within the next three months,” the Deputy Chief Minister said.

He emphasised that every section of society in Bihar wants good governance,

adding that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has always prioritised good governance, and the present government is committed to strengthening law and order.

Taking a dig at Lalu Prasad Yadav, Samrat Choudhary referred to the free electricity scheme, stating that before the formation of the NDA government, they had promised 125 units of free electricity to the people of Bihar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

FRESH E-Auction Notice No 149 of 2025-26 dated 23.12.2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (UT), it is hereby notified for the information of the General Public that e-Auction Notice/ sale of Auction of old Principal office quarter and old Chowkidar quarter Building at GDC Sopore. through e-Auction on the basis of “As it is where it is” is hereby made as given below:-

S. No	Name of Work	Minimum reserve Bid (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of Bid document (In Rupees)	E/ Money (in Rupees)	Time for completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid
1	Auction of old Principal office quarter and old Chowkidar quarter Building at GDC Sopore.	10.567	600.00	21200/-	90 days	09-01-2026

1.

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Auction Notice	23.12.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 23.12.2025 TO 08.01.2026 4:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start date	23.12.2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	08.01.2026 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	09.01.2026 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

1:

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the Auction Notice Number in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore .

1.

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.

2.

The Bids uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on date mentioned above, in the office of the Bid Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

a.

The original instruments in respect of EMD etc. must be uploaded by the bidders. However, the bidder who is declared H-1 after opening of bids shall submit hard copies of original instruments in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore within 03 days. CDR means ‘Call Deposit Receipt’ and FDR means ‘Fixed Deposit Receipt’ issued by any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank pledged to the bid Receiving Authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

3.

Bids will be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore by the committee comprising of following members under the chairmanship of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Sopore: -

a)

Prop: Zahoor Ahmad Shah Convener College Development committee GDC Sopore.

b)

Asstt. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

c)

Asstt. Executive Engineer R&B Sub- Division Zaingeer.

d)

Technical officer to Xen RNB Sopore

e)

Technical officer to Xen RNB Sopore

f)

Drawing Branch R&B Division Sopore

In case of some un-foreseen circumstances, holiday or otherwise, the date of opening of the bids as specified shall be the next working day, or else notified separately.

4.

a) The bidders shall be required to submit a sum as Earnest Money Deposit specified in the bid document for due performance of contract. The bid for work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 07 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder withdraws his/her bid before the said period or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid, the Earnest Money shall be liable to be forfeited.

(b)

If the bid is accepted, the Earnest Money will be retained as part of security for due fulfillment of the contract.

(c)

Bids uploaded without details of Earnest Money Deposit of requisite amount shall be rejected.

(d)

In case it is found that the bidder(s) has/have furnished misleading/wrong or fraudulent information/documents, the Earnest Money Deposit of the bidder(s) will be forfeited.

Sd/-No: 9416-23

Dated: 23.12.2025

DIPK-9296-25

DT: 24/12/2025

Member Secretary
(Auction Committee
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Sopore







England search for Christmas miracle, Australia eye next step to 5-0

AGENCIES

While some might say the point has already been reached at 3-0 down, there is a sense this tour could descend into chaos for England with the Ashes gone. The build-up to the Boxing Day Test has become dominated by continued fall-out from their mid-series trip to Noosa, firstly with director of cricket Rob Key saying claims of too much drinking would be investigated and then, a few hours later, video emerging of Ben Duckett late at night.

Captain Ben Stokes looked emotional when speaking to the media on Christmas Eve, saying that he will do everything in his power to protect his players. He insisted there was still the belief that they could take something from this tour, but stopped short of echoing Zak Crawley's comments that 3-2 wouldn't be such a bad scoreline.

If England can play as they did for the latter half of the Adelaide Test they may stand a chance against an Australia side that won't be at full strength, although that was also the case in the first two Tests and still, to a lesser extent, last week given Josh Hazlewood hasn't featured at all. Having not really answered a question about where this Australia side compares to others he's faced when asked after Adelaide, ahead of the fourth Test, Stokes said: "I hope it doesn't get lost, but this Australian team is very, very good."

Pat Cummins declared it "job done" after Adelaide with the Ashes retained, but while the major prize is secured, their drive is now for a whitewash and important World Test Championship points. In 2021-22 they were denied the 5-0 when



England survived nine down at the SCG while in 2017-18 it was Alastair Cook's double ton on a featherbed MCG surface that forced the stalemate. This team is looking to emulate 2006-07 and 2013-14 in sending England home with absolutely nothing.

However, for Cummins himself, it is mission accomplished: he won't feature in the remainder of the series with the decision made that there is no value in risking long-term damage to his back, after a remarkable comeback to bowl brilliantly in Adelaide after five months with no cricket.

As in Brisbane, Australia will be without three of the big four but this time Nathan Lyon has been sidelined by injury rather than selection. Although Lyon will do all he can to return, it is a glimpse into the future for Australia especially if Todd Murphy gets the nod rather than an all-pace attack on a well-grassed surface. With Jhye Richardson also part of the squad for the first time in a year, there is a sense of the next generation getting closer to their moment.

In terms of Australia's

Test side post-Ashes, the most intriguing decision will be around Usman Khawaja who scored 82 and 40 in Adelaide after a last-minute recall to replace the ill Steven Smith. The outcome could determine whether Khawaja's career now plays out on his terms. Australia will make more changes than England, but their adaptability and pragmatism has been a hallmark of this series.

Largely by accident, Australia have stumbled across a new opening pair. Jake Weatherald and Travis Head have had two significant impacts together in the second innings in Perth and first in Brisbane. Weatherald played superbly at the Gabba for his tone-setting 72, but away from that the returns have been a little lean although he would have saved himself with the DRS in the second innings in Adelaide. The selectors will be desperate to stop the revolving door but Weatherald probably needs one more substantial score in this series to avoid months of speculation before Australia play Tests again in August.

Is Jacob Bethell, who

has yet to score a first-class century, really the next big thing in English batting? After pre-series talk that he may challenge Ollie Pope for the No. 3 spot the change has come with the Ashes gone after Pope's increasingly underwhelming series to continue a year of diminishing returns. Bethell averages 28.27 in 26 first-class with his high score of 96 coming in a Test against New Zealand. He scored half-centuries in all three second innings of that series in 2024. His left-arm spin will provide another option for Ben Stokes alongside Will Jacks.

There are various combinations Australia could try. The first decision is whether to replace Nathan Lyon like-for-like with Todd Murphy or go with an all-pace attack that would open the door for Jhye Richardson. They also need to replace Pat Cummins which could earn Michael Neser a first red-ball Test or Brendan Doggett another opportunity. It appears unlikely Richardson would be considered as one of three frontline quicks at this stage of his comeback.

Pant, Bumrah apologised after saying something in their language about me, says Bavuma

IAN S

NEW DELHI: South Africa captain Temba Bavuma has revealed that India duo of Rishabh Pant and Jasprit Bumrah apologised to him after making remarks in their own language during the first Test at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

Bavuma, who captained South Africa to 2-0 Test series win over India, noted that while such words are not easily forgotten, he harbours no ill will. A stump mic incident during day one's play caught Bumrah and Pant referring to Bavuma as 'bauna' while appealing for an lbw off him in the 14th over.

The term is generally used for people suffering from dwarfism, but can be deemed offensive when directed at individuals of short stature. "A series against India is always going to be intense, and when it's heated, it makes it even more of a spectacle and motivates the players further."

"As long as the respect is still intact between players, it's all good with whatever happens on the field. I know from my side there



was an incident where they said something in their language about me. At the end of the day two senior players, Rishabh Pant and Jasprit Bumrah, came and apologised.

"When the apology was made, I was in the dark about what it was about, I hadn't heard it at the time and I needed to check in with our media manager about it. What happens on the field, stays on the field but you don't forget what is said. You use it as fuel and motivation, but there are no grudges per se." Bavuma was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo on Wednesday.

He also acknowledged that head coach Shukri

Conrad could have used a better word instead of 'grovel' during the second Test in Guwahati. "Shukri also took some heat for his 'grovel' remark. I was put under pressure by the media on that side, asking me to clarify the comments that were made."

"I thought Shukri was the man best positioned to give context to it all. The first time I heard about it, it had that unsavoury taste to it, but I think it just reminded me how tough and competitive the Test series was and what it meant to certain individuals within the group. Shukri spoke after the ODI series and put that issue to

bed. In hindsight, he said he could have chosen a better word and I agree with him," added Bavuma.

Before Bavuma & Co, South Africa last won a Test series in India under Hansie Cronje's leadership in 2000. Bavuma explained how he and Conrad made plans for months to ensure South Africa, the current World Test Championship holders, emerged victorious on their Test trip to India after previous failures in 2015 and 2019.

"In terms of coach Shukri getting the best out of us as players, that groundwork has been in play since we started. Shuks instils confidence in the players and makes them believe that they are the best. The premise is that if we play at our best, no one can stand near us."

"We have always wanted to prepare ourselves for these types of encounters. Between the two of us, there were months on end speaking about India. What type of team and players did we want? And what did we need to do to be successful? It wasn't a case of getting to India and saying, 'Okay, how are we going to do things?'"

Rohit, Kohli smash centuries on Vijay Hazare Trophy return

IAN S

NEW DELHI: While the first half of the opening day of the Vijay Hazare Trophy was all about record-breaking centuries, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli stole the limelight in the second half with their respective hundreds on their return to the premier one-day domestic tournament.

Rohit scored a century for Mumbai off just 62 balls against Sikkim, and Kohli followed soon, hitting an 83-ball ton against Andhra Pradesh, as both players dominated their opponents.

Rohit made a sensational comeback to domestic



cricket, scoring a century in what was his first Vijay Hazare Trophy match in seven years for Mumbai on Wednesday.

Chasing Sikkim's 236

runs in Jaipur, Rohit began confidently, hitting a series of sixes and fours that made the target seem easy to reach. Approaching 14,000 runs in the 50-over format, this century marked the former India skipper's 37th in List A cricket, adding to his tally of 33 international centuries for India.

Following Rohit's impressive 155 for Mumbai, Kohli marked his return to the Vijay Hazare Trophy after 15 years with a typical century during a 299-run chase against Andhra at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Kohli confidently led the chase, showcasing his usual flair, and scored a

dazzling hundred. This marked his 58th List A century and his third century in four innings since the South Africa series earlier this month.

With his first run of the innings, Kohli joined an elite club as the ninth player ever to reach 16,000 List A runs, with more than 14,000 coming while playing for India since his debut in 2008.

During the game, Kohli also etched his name in cricketing folklore by completing 16000 List A runs.

Kohli's 16,000-run feat makes him only the second Indian player, after legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar, to reach this figure in List A cricket.

'Quite hard to get a gauge on him yet..., ' Ponting assesses Green's international career



IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former captain Ricky Ponting has offered his assessment of Cameron Green's young international career, calling the all-rounder one of Australia's most intriguing long-term prospects, even as his Test returns continue to invite scrutiny.

Green has had a below-par Ashes series, with Australia already having secured the series after the first three Tests. In three matches, he scored 76 runs and took only two wickets, though he had limited game time with the ball.

Ponting acknowledged that, despite Green's growing experience, his overall impact in Test cricket remains difficult to quantify.

"It's actually quite hard to get a gauge on him yet as an international player. He averages under 30 in Australia now. His career averages just over 30," Ponting

said on The ICC Review.

"He's made two Test match hundreds in 30-odd Test matches. He's had back surgery, and his bowling pace is probably not quite what it was 12 months ago," he said.

Green has played 35 Tests since his debut against India in Adelaide five years ago, with the right-handed batter chipping in with 1641 runs at an average close to 33, while also grabbing 37 wickets.

"But there is a very complete package there if it all comes together. And we've seen him play some pretty remarkable innings."

"He made an incredible 100 in New Zealand last year. He's got 100 in India as well, albeit on a very, very flat pitch," Ponting added.

Green made his maiden Test century in Ahmedabad, scoring 114 after coming in in a tricky situation against India, while his best effort came a year

later in March 2024, when he smashed an unbeaten 174* in Wellington to guide the Aussies to a big 172-run win.

Beyond some individual performances, Ponting highlighted the value Green brings to the Australian dressing room, while identifying consistency of method as the key challenge ahead.

"Talking to the players, talking to the coaching staff, they absolutely love what he brings to the group," Ponting noted.

"The biggest challenge he has is, he's just got to find out the right way and right style for him to play, work out what's going to work for him, and then commit to that and stick to it for a long period of time."

Ponting suggested that Green's tendency to constantly search for solutions can sometimes complicate the process and that offering straightforward advice would be preferable.

INOX
CINEMA
SRINAGAR

MOVIES

Watch List

Thursday, 25th December

JIO STUDIOS PRESENTS
A DEEZ STUDIOS PRODUCTION

AN ADITYA DHAR FILM
WRITTEN, DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY ADITYA DHAR
PRODUCED BY JYOTI DESHPANDE
PRODUCED BY LOKESH DHAR

DHURANDHAR (A)

HINDI - 10:40 AM, 01:40 PM, 03:00 PM, 06:30 PM

PRODUCTIONS & NAMAH PICTURES PRESENTS

TU MERI MAIN TERA MAIN TERA TU MERI
(U/A 16+) HINDI - 10:45 AM, 12:05 PM, 07:00 PM

WIPUL PHASES PRODUCTION
917008580498

AVATAR : FIRE AND ASH (UA 16+)
3D ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
05:40 PM - 3D HINDI - 02:40 PM

CALL 95416 13868
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS

TICKETS AT:

www.bookmyshow.com | www.inoxmovies.com
Paytm, Inox App, or directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

●●●●●

CMYK

●●●●●