

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication



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CM Omar Reviews Health Sector Reforms In J&K

Directs Health Deptt To Address Gaps In Manpower



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday chaired a meeting to review the health sector reforms and the roadmap for further strengthening healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta and Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education, M. Raju.

Director SKIMS, Principals of all Government Medical Colleges of J&K; Principal SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Mission Director National Health Mission J&K; Managing Director J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited; Commissioner Food & Drug Administration and

other concerned officers also attended the meeting. Officers stationed outside Srinagar participated through video conferencing.

Detailed presentations were made by the respective heads of the Advisory Committee on various aspects of the health sector, including healthcare infrastructure, medical education, specialized healthcare services, digital health, public health and human resource requirements.

The meeting reviewed the progress made in strengthening healthcare infrastructure and services across J&K and took stock of the requirements and priorities for further improvement in the sector.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister appreciated the Health Department for the steps taken over the last nearly two years to address man power shortages as well as infrastructure and equipment deficiencies. ●P-06

■ 'Terror Recruitment Down In J&K'

J&K Security Situation Firmly Under Control: Defence Ministry

'Violence On Decline, Zero Stone-Pelting Incidents, Overall Scenario Peaceful'

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: The annual report of Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26 has stated that the overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir remains firmly under control with significant decline in violence, scaled-down protests and zero incidents of stone pelting.

The report accessed, said the Indian Army's efforts, coupled with the participation of people in government and Army-run initiatives, have contributed to the improvement in the overall security situation in the Union Territory.

It said the situation within J&K and along the Line of Control (LoC) has changed significantly during Operation Sindoor. However, following Director Generals of Military Operations (DGsMO)-level talks held on May 10 and 12, 2025, the situation stabilised to a large extent, though "unpredictability continues".

The report said there has also been a rise in tourism in J&K, with 23 million tourists visiting



the Union Territory and 4.13 lakh pilgrims undertaking the Shri Amarnath Yatra in 2025.

Despite the terror attack in Pahalgam, tourists continued to show faith in the security forces and were returning to Jammu and Kashmir for tourism, it said.

According to the report, six infiltration attempts by terrorists were made along the LoC in 2025, during which 12 Pakistani

terrorists were neutralised.

It said the frequency of infiltration attempts along the LoC had declined compared with previous years.

However, the Army assessed that infiltration attempts were becoming more focused towards the International Border (IB) sector, including for the smuggling of narcotics and war-like stores.

The report said local youth

had largely abandoned the path of violence and were benefiting from various government schemes and policies.

"Only one local youth joined the terrorist ranks" during the year, it said, adding that the development "discredits Pakistan's narrative of home-grown terrorism".

The Union Territory continued to witness a high tempo of counter-terrorism ●P-06

TOURISTS VISITING KASHMIR DESPITE PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK; ONLY ONE LOCAL youth joined terrorist ranks last year, people rejecting violence; Indian Army maintaining robust deployments across LAC

Rain, Thundershowers Likely Across J&K: MeT



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness brief spells of rain and thundershowers at scattered to many places during the early morning and afternoon hours from September 15 to 17, the Meteorological Department said on Monday.

The MeT department said the Union Territory is expected to remain generally dry between September 18 and 25, with the possibility of brief spells of rain at isolated places.

It also issued an advisory for thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds at a few places from September 14 to 17.

According to the daily weather parameters issued by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 30.4 degrees Celsius on Monday, 2.6 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature stood at 13.5 degrees Celsius, which was normal.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 33.5 degrees Celsius, 0.8 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature was 23.3 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal.

Among other ●P-06

Opposition To Corner Govt In 10-Day J&K Assembly Session



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The 10-day autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, beginning here on September 21, is expected to be stormy as opposition parties plan to corner the Omar Abdullah government over issues like job outsourcing, rising unemployment, and the ruling party's failure to fulfil electoral promises.

The BJP, the main opposition party in the J-K Legislative Assembly, said the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government has failed on all fronts.

"We will raise the issues

about the public in the Assembly. There is an outsourcing scam, corruption is continuing unabated, and the Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies' polls are being delayed unnecessarily," BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur told PTI.

Thakur said his party MLAs will remind the government of its unfulfilled promises made during the 2024 assembly elections. "People were promised 200 units of free electricity. Development works have come to a standstill after the elections," Thakur said.

PDP MLA from Pulwama Waheed Para said his party will focus on unemployment, outsourcing, ●P-06

BRICS Summit Reflected India's Strong Convening Power Amid Global Divisions: Jaishankar

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday hailed the successful conclusion of the BRICS India Summit 2026, saying the gathering demonstrated the "strong convening power" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's India and showed that consensus could be forged even in a deeply polarised world.

Addressing the media, Jaishankar said 32 delegations participated in the summit, including representatives of 11 member states, 10 partner countries, four regional organisations and seven international organisations.

He said most participating countries were represented at the highest level, highlighting the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, South African President Cyril



Ramaphosa, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

"The first point to note is really the strong convening power of Modi's India, that most of them were represented at the

head of state or head of government level," Jaishankar said.

He also underlined the participation of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the heads of other international organisations, saying the summit provided an opportunity for leaders to engage in "very open and comfortable conversations".

Jaishankar said the summit was held against the backdrop of a "very polarised world", marked by major conflicts and deep divisions, but India succeeded in facilitating consensus on some of the most difficult issues.

"What we did was, even in the midst of this polarisation, we actually forged a consensus," he said, referring particularly to the West Asia conflict.

He said BRICS leaders agreed on the need for peace, security, stability and long-term understanding, while emphasising the smooth flow of global trade, supply chains and ●P-06

'El Nino Likely To Make J&K Winter Milder, Drier'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director of Meteorological Department Srinagar Dr Mukhtar Ahmad on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience a relatively mild and dry winter this year under the influence of El Nino, though one or two major spells of snow-fall during the peak winter months cannot be ruled out.

Addressing concerns over social media reports claiming that winter may not occur in India this year, Ahmad, said, "Such claims were unscientific. The winter is a natural seasonal phenomenon that will occur, although its intensity may vary."

"Winter will definitely come. Sometimes winters are severe and sometimes mild. What we have been seeing for the last few years is a relatively mild winter," he added.

Ahmad said the World Meteorological Organisation

(WMO) indications suggest that the latter part of 2026 and the beginning of 2027, particularly the peak winter period, could be somewhat warmer and drier because of the El Nino effect.

He, however, cautioned against making a definitive forecast this far in advance,

DUE TO RISING temperatures, the snow melts quickly. So timely snowfall is very important for the Himalayan region,

saying weather conditions are dynamic and can change significantly with even small shifts in atmospheric patterns.

"If there are one or two good spells during peak winter, especially if the moisture supply is good or a major Western ●P-06

■ Improved Demand

After Setbacks, Kashmir Apple Growers See Fresh Hope

Demand Brings Relief To Growers After Tough 2025 Season

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Better demand for Kashmir apples in major markets across the country has brought smiles back to the faces of fruit growers, with quality produce fetching significantly better returns than last year and raising hopes of recovering at least part of the losses suffered during the previous season.

Apple harvesting has picked up in low-lying areas of Kashmir, while harvesting in higher belts is yet to begin. At present, Kulu and early Delicious varieties are being harvested, while harvesting of traditional Delicious varieties is expected to begin in around 15 days.

Growers and traders said the market response so far has



been encouraging, particularly for premium-quality fruit. Premium apples are currently fetching around Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 per box, while good-quality boxes are being sold for around Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500.

The prevailing rates are a major improvement over last year, when even quality produce was fetching only around Rs 300 to Rs 700 per box amid

weak demand and difficulties in transporting fruit to outside markets.

Mohammad Yousuf, a grower from Chitragam in Shopian, said that the improvement in demand has come as a major relief for orchardists.

"Last year, growers suffered huge losses. The highway remained a major con-

cern and demand was also weak, because of which even good-quality apples did not fetch satisfactory prices. This year, the demand is encouraging and the rates for quality fruit are much better," he said.

Yousuf said growers were now hopeful that the improved market conditions would help them compensate for at least some of the losses incurred during the previous season.

"Apple cultivation involves huge expenditure on labour, fertilisers, pesticides and other inputs. When the crop does not fetch a proper price, the entire family suffers. The rates we are getting this year have given growers some confidence," he added.

Abbas Ahmad, a grower from Dachnipora, Anantnag, said demand from ●P-06

■ Autumn Session

Speaker Calls All-Party Meeting On Thursday

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a move to ensure the smooth conduct of proceedings during the upcoming 10-day autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather has convened an all-party meeting on Thursday.

The Assembly Secretariat has written to party leaders and members of the Business Advisory Committee to attend the meeting at 2:00 PM in the Assembly complex.

According to a letter accessed, the Speaker has invited Sunil Kumar Sharma (Leader of Opposition, BJP), Ali Muhammad Sagar (NC), Mubarak Gul (NC), Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami (CPI-M), Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Congress), Sajad Gani Lone (PC), Mir Muhammad Fayaz (PDP) and Choudhary Muhammad Akram (Independent).

The meeting comes days ahead of the autumn ●P-06

J&K's Domestic Power Demand Likely To Surge 11% By FY32

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir power sector is facing a massive transformation as the domestic power demand is projected to surge by 11 percent by the fiscal 2031-2032.

The figures said that the power demand of the domestic consumers may surge from 5352 Million Units (MUs) to over 15,000 MUs—swallowing nearly two-thirds of the territory's total energy consumption.

According to the official documents available, authorities have forecasted that in the overall power sector, the domestic power consumption in the year 2021-22 was 5352 MUs that may surge to 15,066 MUs by the year 2031-32.

It also said that authori-

ties from Jammu and Kashmir targets to reduce its Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses from 46.9 percent to 16.4 percent by 2031-32.

The documents further projected that the peak power demand across Jammu and Kashmir may jump by 54 percent to 4,633 MWs in 2031-32 from 3,000 MWs in 2021-22.

As already reported, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require nearly an additional 450 Megawatts (MWs) of power during the peak hours in the coming three years.

The official documents in this regard had said that in the ongoing fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir may have a peak demand of 3813 MWs.

It also said that in the coming fiscal ●P-06

DC Srinagar reviews progress of ongoing, proposed Disaster mitigation projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also the Chairman of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Monday chaired a meeting here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to reviews progress of ongoing and proposed disaster mitigation projects and measures aimed at strengthening the district's emergency response mechanism.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer PHE Hydraulic, Er. Ambreen Anjum, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM West, Zuber Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineer I&FC, Shuja Ahmad, Executive Engineer, LCMA, all Tehsildars and other concerned.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of key interven-



tions proposed under the Disaster Mitigation Plan, including installation of Automatic Water Level Recorders (AWLRs) at identified locations, strengthening of vulnerable stretches along Dachigam Nallah, Tailbal Nallah and River Jhelum, equalization of bunds and slopes along the Jhelum, earthquake assessment of critical infrastructure and responsive mitigation measures for flash floods, landslides and earthquakes in vulnerable higher reaches of Srinagar district.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned departments to identify and incorporate all measures requiring immediate intervention and strengthen preparedness to effectively tackle any eventuality arising from landslides, cloudbursts and flood-like situations. He emphasized the need for a prompt, coordinated

and effective response mechanism across the district involving all concerned Departments.

The DC further stressed the need to reinforce disaster mitigation measures along Dachigam Nallah, Gandbal, Doodganga Nallah and other vulnerable locations across the District. He directed the concerned Departments to undertake priority based assessments of these areas and implement necessary mitigation projects to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience against natural disasters.

The meeting also reviewed the preparedness and action plans of various Departments for responding to natural disasters and emergencies, with emphasis on minimizing response time, ensuring effective inter-departmental coordination and safeguarding lives and property.

Mandeep Kaur Launches Swachhata Internship Programme for Schools

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department, J&K, Mandeep Kaur, IAS, Monday launched the Swachhata Internship Programme for Schools across Kashmir Division, aimed at involving students directly in cleanliness, waste segregation and scientific waste management.

The programme was launched at Amar Singh College, Srinagar, in the presence of Shri.Ram Niwas Sharma, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, J&K, who attended as the Guest of Honour, and Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, J&K.

The initiative has been launched by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education Kashmir,



with support from Swaaha Resource Management Pvt. Ltd.

The programme will engage students in practical activities related to source segregation, recycling, composting, resource recovery, sanitation and community participation. Students will also be encouraged to undertake awareness activities in their schools and neighbourhoods and promote responsible waste-management practices among their families and communities.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Mandeep Kaur said that cleanliness could not be left to municipal agencies alone and that people, particularly young students, had to be made active partners in the effort.

"Cleanliness cannot remain the responsibility of municipal agencies alone. It has to become a shared civic responsibility, and schools have an important role in shaping that culture among the next generation," she said. She emphasized the need

to go beyond awareness programmes and focus on bringing about sustained behavioural change in the way people handle waste and maintain cleanliness in their surroundings.

The programme will also provide students with opportunities to develop their communication, leadership and public-speaking skills while undertaking activities related to waste management and cleanliness. The students will serve as Swachhata Ambassadors, carrying the message from their schools to their homes and local communities.

The dignitaries were welcomed by Fazlul Haseeb, IAS, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation. Senior officers of SMC, Heads of Institutions, teachers, students from participating schools and other stakeholders attended the launch programme.

A Waste-to-Art Exhibition was also organised on

the occasion, showcasing sculptures and other artworks made from discarded materials by participants from different parts of the Valley.

The exhibition highlighted the possibilities of reusing waste materials and transforming discarded items into useful and creative products. It also promoted the message of reuse, recycling and resource recovery among students and visitors.

The initiative is part of the ongoing efforts under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 to increase citizen participation in scientific solid waste management and make Swachhata a regular part of everyday life.

By involving students directly, the programme aims to encourage them to practise cleanliness themselves and inspire others to do the same, thereby taking the message of Swachhata from schools to homes and communities across Kashmir.

'No recourse left'

Kreeri NHM staff warn of full-scale indefinite strike

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: Routine public healthcare delivery across rural Baramulla remained paralyzed for the sixth consecutive day on Monday, as National Health Mission (NHM) employees of Medical Block Kreeri intensified their demonstration against administrative apathy, unanimously warning of a transition toward an indefinite strike if their legitimate grievances continue to be neglected.

The demonstration, organized on the premises of the PHC Sharakwara, saw doctors, paramedics, lab technicians, and auxiliary nursing personnel staging a peaceful sit-in. The employees, who recently resolved to extend their ongoing pendown agitation by an additional 72 hours, expressed deep frustration over what they described as the government's deliberate indifference to issues that have plagued the contractual workforce for well over a decade.

The prolonged work stoppage has severely curtailed out-patient department (OPD) functioning, immunization drives, antenatal care programs, and emergency outreach services across Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and other health sub centers throughout the block. Rural patients, many of whom depend entirely on state-run primary healthcare facilities for subsidized treatment, have been left in severe distress or forced to seek costly alternatives in the private sector.

Addressing the media during the demonstration, Dr. Ufaq reiterated that the



patience of the workforce had reached its breaking point due to years of unfulfilled administrative assurances.

"If our genuine, long-pending demands are not fulfilled immediately, we will have no recourse left but to suspend all categories of work and launch a full-scale, indefinite strike across the region," Dr. Ufaq affirmed. "Our unity is our greatest power, and no amount of institutional delay will weaken our resolve to secure our fundamental rights."

The human cost of the prevailing employment framework was articulated by Masrat, a senior frontline healthcare worker present at the protest, who detailed the relentless financial strain confronting contractual staff amid persistent inflationary pressures.

"We are suffering acutely on a day-to-day basis and are finding it nearly impossible to meet basic household expenses and educate our children," Masrat said. "We have devoted prime years of our youth to sustaining the rural public health apparatus under harsh conditions, yet we are denied equitable pay structures and basic financial stability. The

administration must recognize our survival depends on this resolution."

Condemning the prolonged administrative silence, the official spokesperson for the striking personnel, Gh Nabi, held the authorities squarely accountable for the unfolding crisis and the inevitable hardship imposed on vulnerable patient populations.

"We will fight resolutely for our legitimate demands until the end," Nabi remarked. "The government cannot expect healthcare professionals to deliver round-the-clock service while turning a blind eye to fundamental labor justice. The administration must step forward, engage in constructive dialogue, and fulfill our demands without testing the resilience of this workforce any longer."

The protesting employees have resolved to continue the demonstration at Medical Block Kreeri, maintaining that normal medical duties will resume only after the Health and Medical Education Department issues concrete, written guarantees regarding pay revision, enhanced social security benefits, and Golden handshake.

VC JKLCMA inspects Ashai Bagh area, directs strengthening of cleaning measures

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Vice Chairman (VC), J&K Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Monday visited the Ashai Bagh area to review the ongoing cleaning and maintenance works being carried out in and around the lake.

The Vice Chairman was accompanied by the SE, Collector, XEN LD-I, AEES, JEs and other Revenue and Engineering officials of JKLCMA.

During the inspection, the Vice Chairman reviewed the cleanliness of the area and took stock of the ongoing works related to lake cleaning, conservation and maintenance. He appreciated the improvement in the cleanliness and overall appearance of the area following the cleaning activities undertaken



by the Authority.

The officers briefed him about the ongoing works and the measures being implemented for effective conservation and management of the lake.

He also directed the concerned officers and field staff to continue the ongoing cleaning activities and ensure proper upkeep of the lake and its adjoining areas. He stressed the need for regular field supervision and timely execution of the works.

The Vice Chairman called for sustained efforts to maintain cleanliness and improve the overall condition of the lake and its surroundings.

He further emphasized that close monitoring and coordinated efforts by the field staff are essential for strengthening the conservation and management of the lake.

SKUAST-K, Mission Poshan sign MoU to boost Nutrition through Poshan Vatika

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) and Mission Directorate Poshan, Jammu and Kashmir, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture and establish sustainable Poshan Vatika at Anganwadi Centres across the Union Territory, supporting the implementation of Mission Poshan 2.0, aimed at improving nutritional outcomes among children aged 0-6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who said the collaboration will leverage SKUAST-K's expertise in agriculture, horticulture and nutrition with the government's extensive nutrition outreach network to provide technical guidance and capacity building on nutrition-sensitive agri-



culture.

The event was attended by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension; Prof. Irfan Bisati, Directorate of Research; Prof. Masarat Shafi, Head, Community Science; Prof. Ishfaq Abidi, Head, Vegetable Sciences; Dr. Sajad Bhat, Head, Food Science and Technology; and Dr. Iffat Ganai, Community Science, along with various officers of the University.

Officials from Mission Poshan/ICDS present on the occasion included Sajad Hussain, Mission Director, Poshan/ICDS; Bureeda Majeed, District Programme Officer, Poshan/ICDS, Srinagar; Sobia

Fatma, CDPO, Srinagar; and Aqeel Ahmed, CDPO, Batwara.

Speaking on the occasion, Sajad Hussain, Mission Director, Poshan/ICDS, said, "SKUAST-K's expertise will provide valuable technical support for establishing and sustaining Poshan Vatika at Anganwadi Centres, while helping promote access to fresh and nutritious local produce for children.

"We are hopeful that this collaboration will strengthen efforts to address malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies among children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers," the Mission Director said.

DC Srinagar visits Ganpatyar Temple; participates in Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Monday visited Ganpatyar Temple in the Habbakadal area of the City and participated in the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, which were marked by deep devotion, spiritual fervour and enthusiasm.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the arrangements put in place for devotees and the smooth conduct of the celebrations. He interacted with the devotees and extended his warm greetings and best wishes to them on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi.

The DC paid obeisance



at the revered temple and extended his warm greetings to devotees on the religious occasion. He interacted with members of the temple Management Committee, devotees and Officers and reviewed the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the celebrations.

The event was organized in a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere with the active participation of devotees, volunteers and

members of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

The DC appreciated the coordinated efforts of all Departments, Police and organisers for ensuring the successful conduct of the celebrations. The members of organising committee also expressed its sincere appreciation to the District Administration Srinagar for making comprehensive arrangements for the occasion.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Monday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Amargah Bandipora line will be observed due to which power supply to Watlab, Warpora, Hatlangoo, Dangerpora, Qunsoo, Dooru, Mundji, Shiva, Tujjar, Shrine, Arampora, Adipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 15 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV LJHP Uri line will be observed due to which power supply to Salamatbad, NHPC, MES Uri, TFC Uri, Ghar-kote, Bandi, Mohura, Rampur, Bijhama, Dhani, Bagna, Kamalkote, Paranjilam and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 21, 23, 26, 28 & 30 September and 03 October 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Bemina-Fateh Kadal line and 33 kV Bemina-Barbarashah line will be observed due to which power supply to K.K. Mohalla, Nowpora, Bohrikadal, BB Shah, Babademb, Bishembarnagar, Gousia Hospital, Naisarak, Barbarashah, Exchange, Basantbagh, Car Parking, Maisuma and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 19 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Wanoph Ashajipora line will be observed due to which power supply to Ashajipora, Dialgam, Rohu, Malaknag, Reshibazar, Janglat Mandi, Shripora, Nowgam and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 15 & 17 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Budgam line will be observed due to which power supply to Budgam, Sabdan, Nasrullahpora, Jawalabpora Town Ompora, SIDCO Housing Colony, Railway Station, Budgam, NIFT and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 17 September 2026.

ITI Shopian organizes NAPS Mela at GDC Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Shopian, in collaboration with the District Administration Shopian organized a District Level National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) Mela at Government Degree College (GDC), Shopian Monday.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

While speaking on the occasion, the ADC stressed upon maximum awareness about NAPS and called for maximum registrations of youth and establishments under the NAPS portal within stipulated time to bridge the gap between Industry and Education. He urged local industrial units and commercial establishments to actively enroll maximum local youth under NAPS, aiming to build a self-reliant and skilled workforce in Shopian.

An awareness session was conducted by Assistant Advisor Apprenticeship, ITI Shopian, Suhail Ahmed who through a detailed presentation, explained the salient features, objectives, financial benefits and registration process of NAPS. He highlighted how the scheme provides stipend support, practical training and enhanced employability to youth.

The mela witnessed overwhelming participation of more than 1000 students, ITI trainees and representatives of over 50 reputed Industrial Establishments.

A major highlight of the mela was on-spot registration of 1000 candidates, 50 establishments and issuance of 15 new contracts on the NAPS portal.

The Mela was attended by Principal, GDC, Tariq Ahmed, GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik, CEO, Bashir Ahmed Shah, Superintendent ITI Shopian, Fida Hussain, Principal, Government Polytechnic College Shopian, Manzoor Ahmed, LDM, Farooq Ahmed, CHQ, Muneer Ahmed and other concerned.

ADC Kulgam chairs review meeting on NAPS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A meeting regarding the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was held Monday at Kulgam under the chairmanship of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri.

The meeting focused on increasing apprenticeship opportunities for local youth, registration of eligible establishments, mobilisation of candidates and greater participation of government departments, educational institutions and local industries under NAPS.

The ADC directed all concerned departments to identify suitable apprenticeship opportunities, encourage eligible establishments to register on the apprenticeship portal and ensure effective coordination for timely implementation of the scheme.

The officers were also directed to undertake awareness and mobilisation activities and submit regular progress regarding establishment registrations and apprentice engagements. The meeting emphasized NAPS as an important initiative for enhancing the skills, employability and livelihood opportunities of local youth.

The meeting was attended by the CEO Kulgam, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, Lead District Manager, Iftekhar Ahmad Padder, SE R&B Javid Ahmad, Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti, Irrigation and KPDC, Principal Government Polytechnic, AD Handicrafts & Handloom, Superintendent ITI Kulgam, District Officer KVIB and DPM NRLM.

CM meets Legislators, other deputations at Civil Secretariat



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday met a number of legislators, delegations and individuals at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed issues of public importance.

The Chief Minister met MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone along with

a delegation. The delegation raised various developmental issues and public welfare concerns pertaining to the constituency.

MLA Khansahib Saif-ud-Din Bhat also called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of several constituency-specific issues.

The Chief Minister

also met Director, ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Srinagar, M.K. Verma, and Deputy Director, National Horticulture Board, Ashok Kumar. The delegation discussed various matters concerning the functioning and development of the Centre with the Chief Minister.

Min Rana lays foundation stone for macadamization of Chajjala to Ramkund road

GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Monday laid the foundation stone for macadamization of road from Chajjala to Ramkund, Mendhar.

The project will be executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department under Cities & Towns Programme at an estimated cost of Rs. 40.00 Lacs.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the Government is committed to provide better road connectivity to the people of remote and far-flung



areas. He said that macadamization of this road will provide much needed relief to the locals by improving connectivity and boosting economic activities in the area.

He directed the executing agency to complete

the work within stipulated time frame with quality as per prescribed standards.

Among others, senior officers of PWD (R&B), district administration and large number of locals were present on the occasion.

EOW chargesheets fake job fraudster, 15 cases registered across Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K on Monday chargesheeted a man accused of duping people on the pretext of securing government jobs through fake appointment orders.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said that the EOW Kashmir has filed a chargesheet before the Court of Forest Magistrate, Srinagar, in case FIR No. 12/2026 under Sections 420, 468 and 471 of the IPC against Abdul Majeed Mir, son of Abdul Rahim Mir, a resident of Lishtiyal, Kalaraos, Kupwara, for cheating and forgery.

He said the case was registered on the basis of a written complaint alleging that the accused had dishonestly taken lakhs of rupees on the pretext of securing a government job for the complainant's son. The accused provided an appointment order purportedly issued by the Airports Authority of India, which was later found to be fake and forged.

"During investigation, the allegations were substantiated and the chargesheet was accordingly presented before the competent court for judicial determination," the spokesperson said.

He said the accused, against whom 15 criminal

cases have been registered across the Kashmir Valley, was arrested on July 18, 2026, and is presently lodged in Central Jail, Srinagar. He allegedly impersonated highly influential persons and bureaucrats with the intention of deceiving and cheating innocent people.

"The general public is advised to remain vigilant against economic fraudsters and report any such incidents directly to SSP EOW Srinagar (Crime Branch J&K) Abdul Waheed Shah. If you have been a victim of economic fraud, you may also send your complaint to the official email: sspeow-kmr@jkpolice.gov.in," he said.

J&K records near-normal seasonal rainfall despite Jul surplus, Aug deficit: MeT

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded near-normal precipitation during the current season despite significant month-to-month variations, with July witnessing 35 per cent excess rainfall and August recording around 25 per cent deficit, the Meteorological Department said.

Director, Meteorological Department, Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that the overall precipitation scenario in Jammu and Kashmir remained almost near-normal despite contrasting rainfall patterns in the two months. "July was good in terms of rainfall. In J&K, there was 35 per cent excess rainfall," Ahmad said.

He said August, how-



ever, recorded around 25 per cent rainfall deficit, with some spells during the month but no consistent or widespread rainfall activity. "There were some spells in August, but these were not consistent or widespread. No such activity happened," he added.

The MeT Director said despite the deficit recorded in August, the overall seasonal precipitation situa-

tion in Jammu and Kashmir remained near normal. The variations in monthly rainfall come amid changing weather patterns being observed across the Union Territory in recent years.

Ahmad said the precipitation pattern could continue to fluctuate, with weather activity remaining dependent on atmospheric conditions—(KNO)

Achan cleanup begins as Srinagar tackles waste-processing challenge: H&UDD Secy

Says solution found to 'unmanageable' problem, hopes city enters top-three cleanest in 2 years

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Cleaning of 'Achan', the municipal solid waste landfill in Srinagar, started after a solution was found to the city's major waste-processing challenge, Commissioner and Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, said on Monday.

She expressed hope that the development would help Srinagar secure a place among the top three cleanest cities in the country within the next two years.

Speaking with reporters during an awareness programme on cleanliness, Kaur, said waste collection in Srinagar was taking place effectively, but waste processing had become an "unmanageable" problem for the authorities, making it necessary to find a solution.

"If you compare Sri-

nagar, waste collection is happening, but processing was one problem which had become unmanageable for us. It was necessary to find a solution to it. Thankfully, the solution has now been found and the cleaning of Achan has started," she said.

"I hope that in two years, Srinagar will at least come in the top three," she added.

Kaur stressed the need for citizens to adopt proper waste-management practices, including home composting, and take responsibility for keeping their homes and surroundings clean. "We can talk as much as we want about cleanliness, but nothing will change until we start from our own homes," she said.

She said the government could spend thousands of crores on infrastructure, vehicles and waste-processing facilities, but such investments would not yield the desired results



unless people changed their habits and maintained cleanliness around their homes.

"Even if we spend thousands of crores of rupees on constructing buildings, purchasing vehicles and creating processing facilities, nothing will change until we change the environment around our homes and keep our surroundings clean," she said.

Referring to Srinagar's

sanitation workforce, Kaur said the Municipal Corporation had around 3,000 to 4,000 sanitation workers, while the city's population was approximately 16 to 17 lakh. "Can such a small number of workers force everyone to maintain cleanliness? They cannot," she said, urging citizens not to depend solely on municipal workers for sanitation.

She also called for col-

lective efforts to reduce plastic use and promote home composting, besides creating "Swachhata warriors" in schools and homes to combat garbage and pollution.

"Tourists should not say that Jammu and Kashmir is very beautiful but dirty," she said, stressing that cleanliness was essential to complement the region's natural beauty.

Kaur said the Swachhata Internship Programme had been launched as a pilot project in Jammu to take the message of cleanliness to schoolchildren and encourage them to motivate their parents to maintain cleanliness beyond their homes.

She said greater public participation, along with improved waste processing, would be crucial to improving Srinagar's cleanliness and helping the city achieve the desired ranking—(KNO)

Div Com chairs meeting to address water issues of Railway authorities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In pursuance to directions of Chief Secretary J&K, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Monday chaired a meeting to address the potable water supply issues at Budgam and Nowgam Railway Stations.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Chief Engineer PHE, Superintending Engineers PHE, and senior officers from the Railways.

During the meeting, Railway authorities apprised the chair that water being lifted from the nearby source does not meet potable standards and requested a clean drinking water supply for staff usage and for filling trains.

Taking cognizance of the issue, the Divisional



Commissioner directed the concerned PHE officers to tap water from an alternative source identified by field officers, located 2.5 km upstream.

He directed the Superintending Engineer, PHE Circle Budgam, to work out the capital expenditure for laying the new supply pipeline and to float tenders within ten days, in consultation with Railway authorities.

Regarding water supply to Nowgam Railway Station, the Divisional Commissioner directed SE

PHE Budgam to expedite the completion of the lift water supply scheme.

On a separate issue regarding macadamization of the access road to Parrypora Colony near the Railway line, the Divisional Commissioner instructed ADC Budgam to conduct a joint site visit along with Revenue officials, Railway officers and representatives of the colony to ascertain land ownership of the road stretch and take appropriate action for providing road access to the residents.

Day 6: NHM employees extend agitation by another 72 hours

Protesters seek pay parity, job security, social security benefits



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: National Health Mission (NHM) employees across Jammu and Kashmir continued their strike for the sixth consecutive day on Monday and announced a further 72-hour extension of the agitation from September 15.

The Jammu & Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA), in a formal communication to the authorities, said the extension had been necessitated by the continued pendency of their long-standing demands and the absence of any concrete, time-bound resolution.

Pertinently, the employees are demanding pay parity with NHM workers in other states, a comprehensive policy for job security and regularisation, besides social security benefits including EPF, ESI,

insurance coverage and post-retirement support.

The continued strike has affected functioning of various NHM-supported health services, while the absence of employees has also placed additional pressure on the regular healthcare workforce at several health institutions.

"We have been serving the health system for years, but our service conditions and future remain uncertain. We need a concrete policy and a time-bound resolution rather than repeated assurances," a protesting employee said.

Another employee said their demands were aimed at securing basic employment and social protection. "We are not against patient care and have kept our protest peaceful. But our genuine concerns also need to be addressed. We want the government to come forward with a clear roadmap," the employee

said.

A female employee said NHM workers had continued to serve despite prolonged uncertainty.

"We are ready for dialogue, but there has to be a concrete response from the government. Thousands of employees are waiting for clarity regarding their future," she said.

The association expressed willingness to engage in dialogue with the government and urged the authorities to initiate meaningful and time-bound measures to resolve the grievances.

With the strike now extended by another 72 hours from September 15, employees have urged the government to intervene at the earliest and take concrete steps towards addressing their demands and restoring normal functioning of NHM-linked health services across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

Two killed, seven injured as Matador overturns near Reasi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Reasi: Two people were killed and seven others injured after a passenger Matador overturned near the Bakkal Tunnel area of Reasi district on Monday, officials said.

An official said that the Matador, bearing registration number JK14B-2973, was travelling from Bakkal towards Reasi when it overturned on the road near the tunnel.

He said two persons died in the accident, while seven others sustained injuries and their identities are being ascertained. "Police and rescue teams have reached the spot and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital for treatment," the official said.

Meanwhile, police have initiated necessary proceedings—(KNO)

CM Omar condoles loss of lives in Reasi road accident

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep grief over the loss of lives in a tragic road accident in Reasi district, in which two persons were killed and five others injured.

The Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and directed the authorities to ensure the best possible medical care to those injured.

The accident occurred when a passenger minibus met with an accident on the Reasi-Bakal road near the Batalgala Tunnel on Monday.

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ACB traps two JKWDC field supervisors for taking bribe

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday said they have trapped and arrested two field supervisors of the Jammu & Kashmir Women's Development Corporation (JKWDC) for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe for facilitating the release of a sanctioned Rs 3 lakh loan under the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) Scheme.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the Anti-Corruption Bureau received a written complaint alleging that Owais Ahamd Khan, a Field Supervisor of the Jammu & Kashmir Women's Development Corporation (JKWDC) had demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for facilitating the release/disbursement of a sanctioned loan amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh under the WEP (Women Entrepreneurship Platform) Scheme.

He said as the complainant was unwilling to pay the bribe, thus approached the ACB and lodged a written complaint. Upon receipt of the complaint, the allegations were verified and the verification prima facie established the demand of illegal gratification.

Accordingly, Case FIR No. 15/2026 under Section 7, Section 7A of the Pre-

vention of Corruption Act, 1988 & Section 61(2) BNS, was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar, and investigation was taken up.

The spokesperson said a trap team was constituted to lay a trap. During the trap proceedings, the accused public servant, namely Owais Ahamd Khan, Field Supervisor, JKWDC, was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting illegal gratification from the complainant in lieu of facilitating the release/disbursement of the sanctioned loan amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh.

He said during the course of the trap proceedings, another public servant, namely Meiraj-ud-din Sheikh, Field Supervisor, was also arrested on spot for his alleged involvement in the commission of the offence. The exact role and involvement of the said accused is being ascertained during investigation.

The spokesperson said the tainted bribe money was recovered from the possession of the accused in the presence of independent witnesses. Both accused persons were subjected to medico-legal formalities and have been lodged in Police Station Shaheed Gunj, Srinagar, for safe custody. Further investigation in the case is in progress.

■ Saint Of The Valley

The Life And Legacy Of Swami Nand Lal Ji

From A Banking Family In Zaina Kadal To A Hilltop Ashram In Tikker, The Story Of A 20Th-Century Kashmiri Mystic Whose Disciples Still Recount His Miracles Today



RAHUL TRAKROO

Swami Nand Lal Ji was born in 1902 at Gurgari Mohalla, Zaina Kadal, Srinagar, to Pandit Sahaj Koul and Smt. Radha Mali. His birth fell during a particularly harsh Kashmiri winter, and family tradition holds that it coincided with the festival of Tilla Ashtami, when Pandit households along the Vitasta lit ceremonial fires to mark the occasion.

The Koul family- known locally as the "Kothdars" - were prosperous and well regarded. Nand Lal Ji's forefathers had served as bankers to Maharaja Pratap Singh, and the household was known for its devotion to Goddess Sharika Devi of Hari Parbat. In every season, family members, men and women alike, would undertake the Parikrama to the shrine.

Tragedy struck early: his mother died while he was still young, leaving behind two sons and a daughter. It was his stepmother, however, who became his first spiritual guide - her simple, disciplined way of life is said to have quietly shaped the boy who would later renounce the world altogether.

Nand Lal Ji's granduncle, Ram Koul, had earlier built a temple and dharamshala near the Maha Lakshmi shrine at Hari Parvat - structures that reportedly still stand today, testament to the family's long-standing piety.

A Restless, Commanding Youth

As a boy, Nand Lal Ji was energetic and somewhat imperious, the kind of temperament often seen in the sons of well-off families. At school he studied up to the eighth class, and among his juniors were his cousin, the late Pandit Naranjan Nath Koul, and Pandit Sham Lal Sapru - known affectionately as "Boetho Ji" - both of whom he tended to dominate as boys. In time, both would become his devoted followers once he had transformed into a realized yogi.

After a brief, roughly eighteen-month attempt at business, Nand Lal Ji left home at age of fourteen in pursuit of Sadhana. Once he walked out of his father's house, he never returned to worldly life - and for nearly twenty years afterward, he was largely untraceable, a wandering ascetic somewhere in the hills and forests of the region.

Initiation Under Swami Lal Ji of Banaras

Nand Lal Ji took the vow of brahmacharya and was formally initiated into sainthood by Swami Lal Ji of Banaras, himself a great yogi. So struck was the guru by his disciple's spiritual attainments that he is said to have once offered Nand Lal Ji his own aasana - an honour the disciple, mindful of the proper guru-shishya relationship, declined to accept.

Swami Lal Ji reportedly remarked that Nand Lal Ji had accomplished, in a remarkably short span, a level of kriya yoga that had taken him personally years of practice to master. He is remembered to have said, in Kashmiri, that true greatness belonged only to one who could match Nand Lal Ji's will and discipline - a measure of how far the young ascetic had progressed.

Sadhana at Bomai and the Ashram at Sharada

Much of Nand Lal Ji's deep spiritual practice was carried out at Bomai Sadhamaleun near Sopore. He lived close to nature throughout his life - in his food, dress, and daily habits - and remained a strict vegetarian. He had a particular fondness for Sufiana music, and accomplished musicians of the tradition would travel to sit before him and perform.

After completing his Sadhana, Swami Ji settled at Sharada, in the Tangdhar area, establishing a small ashram at the historic Sharada temple - still known locally, largely among the Gujar community of the

area, as the Sharda Mai temple. His following there drew heavily from traders of Tikker village in present-day Kupwara.

Displacement in 1947 and a New Ashram at Tikker

When Pakistani raiders occupied the Sharada area in 1947, Swami Ji relocated with his followers to Tikker village in 1948, where he established a new ashram atop a hill. Interestingly, a Namberdar named Zaman Lone of Sharda gave his horse to Swami Ji to help him cross the LoC and reach Tikker. Among the few precious belongings he brought with him from Sharda was a silver Mukut from Sharda Peeth. The same silver Mukut was installed by Swami Nand Lal Ji at the Sharda Mandir in Tikker when the temple was reconstructed in 1949. Due to unavoidable circumstances in the 1990s, the Mukut was kept in the safe custody of devotees.

An episode from this period of upheaval is remembered vividly by his devotees: a Sikh man fleeing armed raiders took refuge in Swami Ji's ashram at Sharada. When the raiders demanded he come down to be shot for being a "Kafir," Swami Ji calmly told him not to fear and to go down as instructed. As the story goes, the gunmen's weapons repeatedly failed to fire; astonished, they eventually fell at Swami Ji's feet, begged forgiveness, and left the Sikh man unharmed - though they urged Swami Ji himself to leave the area, warning him of the violence that would follow into the Valley.

During the construction of the new ashram at Tikker, workers digging the foundation reportedly encountered snakes and other creatures that departed without causing harm, after Swami Ji had reassured his devotees beforehand not to be afraid. A few feet underground, the

Swami Ji is also remembered for a prophecy made in early 1967 warning that Kashmiri Pandits faced difficult times ahead - a warning his followers later connected to the community's upheavals later that decade.

diggers uncovered a fire tongs, a kangri, a chillum, scattered rice, a dhooni with ash, and a saligram along with fresh flowers - items his followers took as a sign that Swami Ji had performed Sadhana at that very spot in a previous life. Turning to one bewildered devotee, Pandit Niranjan Nath, Swami Ji is said to have remarked, in Kashmiri, that there was no way to describe how much was hidden in that place. He instructed the workers to set the recovered articles - the chillum, kangri, tongs, and saligram - aside and proceed with laying the plinth.

The ashram commanded a sweeping view stretching as far as Sopore

and Handwara. Swami Ji later established a second ashram at Hushoora, near Budgam, again showing what devotees describe as an unusually keen eye for site and setting.

Tales of Healing and Revival

Many miracles are attributed to Swami Ji by those who knew him, though his followers acknowledge that not all such accounts can, or should, be told. Among those still recounted:

At Sopore around 1960-61, a temple priest ran to Swami Ji in distress, saying his wife had died. Swami Ji sent him to fetch a tumbler of water from the Vitasta and told him to sprinkle it on her face. She is said to have revived within minutes and outlived her husband.

On another occasion, a devotee who had passed away suddenly stirred back to life as his body was being ritually bathed, startling those present. He asked only for clothing, saying he would explain what had

happened - though because his revival had not been sanctioned by Swami Ji, he permanently lost the power of speech even as he lived on for many years. This is said to have occurred after Swami Ji had already attained Nirvana.

An Open Kitchen and Quiet Miracles at Tikker

Those close to Swami Ji recall an ashram where food was never denied to anyone - the langar ran daily, free of charge, feeding fifteen to twenty people or more at both morning and evening meals, and Swami Ji himself never accepted money from visitors or sought attention from important people.

One devotee, Jai Kishan, is remembered to have silently wondered about the identity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Maheshwar. One evening, three elderly Pandits in traditional dress appeared to be conversing with Swami Ji over tea; when Jai Kishan was asked to walk them partway down the hill, they vanished the moment he looked away.



happened - though because his revival had not been sanctioned by Swami Ji, he permanently lost the power of speech even as he lived on for many years. This is said to have occurred after Swami Ji had already attained Nirvana.

A teenage boy in Jawahar Nagar, who privately doubted that a photograph of Lord Shiva on his wall held any real significance, later experienced a night of overwhelming light in his room, in which Lord Shiva himself reportedly appeared, seated and smiling. The next morning, Swami Ji, aware of the boy's earlier doubt, asked him whether he still questioned the photograph's meaning - leaving the boy to beg forgiveness at his feet.

A government employee facing certain conviction for misconduct came to Swami Ji in desperation the night before his court judgment. Swami Ji drew on his chillum, producing a burst of flame, and told him to set his worries aside. The court building and its records were destroyed by fire before the verdict could be delivered.

Perhaps the most elaborate account concerns a retired police officer from Kupwara who was rushed to SMHS Hospital in Srinagar and pronounced dead one night, to his wife's anguish - only to show signs of life again as his body was being moved, terrifying those present. He later described being led by two figures through a vision of his own life, shown a hilltop with a lush garden on one side and a dark forest on the other, and being pushed toward the

Swami Ji later told him this had been the answer to his unspoken question - the three visitors, he said, had been the Trikotri itself.

In another account, Jai Kishan was unexpectedly transferred from Civil Aviation to the security detail of the Prime Minister's office not long after Swami Ji had asked him, in passing, whether he would like to see the world - a posting that eventually took him abroad in the Prime Minister's entourage.

A young airman from Hoshura who wished to volunteer for a peace-keeping post in Congo was told by Swami Ji, "Congo alone? Why not a world tour?" He was later inadvertently carried aboard a cargo flight to Washington, spent time under Indian Embassy care in the United States, and was eventually routed home via Brazil - before returning to India to serve, more prosaically, as a postmaster.

A Secular and Compassionate Outlook

Swami Ji's following was never confined to one community. At Bomai, a Muslim resident named Mohammed Gosain is said to have once seen him in a vision resembling Lord Shiva astride Nandi, and became a devoted follower from that day. Another Muslim devotee, troubled that his cow had stopped giving milk, was told simply to place a pot before the animal and ask her, in Swami Ji's name, to give milk - which she did at once.

Swami Ji is also remembered for a prophecy made in early 1967 warning that Kashmiri Pandits faced difficult times ahead - a warning his followers

later connected to the community's upheavals later that decade.

A Personal Testimony

One devotee, recalling his own school days in 1965, described being caught apparently cheating during a Matriculation physics examination - only to find, when the invigilator opened his answer book, that the concealed material had simply vanished, sparing him from punishment. Visiting Swami Ji's ashram afterward, he was startled to be asked directly what had become of the book he had hidden during the exam - proof, in the devotee's telling, that Swami Ji's awareness and protection extended far beyond his physical presence, and continued for his followers even after his passing.

Nirvana and Succession

Swami Nand Lal Ji attained Nirvana in January 1966, on the day of Gauri Tritiya, at the Malviya Nagar residence of his disciple Pandit Prem Nath Sadhu in New Delhi.

He left behind a wide circle of disciples and named three successors: Shri Vibhishan Ji, who continues at an ashram in Bordin; Swami Kral Bab Ji, who established an ashram at Gaddi, Udhampur, before his own passing some years ago; and Swami Mast Ram Ji, who has carried his guru's name and teaching to ashrams in Jammu, Karala (Delhi), and Haridwar - the last able to host up to 2,000 pilgrims at a time, free of charge.

Among his earliest and most senior disciples were two men initiated in his own lifetime: Swami Sedhmol, born Vedh Lal, and Swami Sham Lal Sapru, "Boetho Ji" - both of whom, like their guru, are remembered for quiet spiritual power exercised without any desire for recognition, and for their lasting contribution to the Kashmiri Pandit community.

A Living Tradition: Smriti Yatra & Sharda Ashtami Mahotsav 2026

Six decades after his Nirvana, Swami Nand Lal Ji's memory continues to draw pilgrims back to the hills he once walked. The Mata Kheer Bhawani Asthapan Committee, Tikker, Kupwara, is organising the Swami Nand Lal Ji Smriti Yatra & Sharda Ashtami Mahotsav 2026, a spiritual and cultural yatra from 14th to 19th September, held in remembrance of the saint's lifelong dedication to Kashmir's spiritual and cultural revival.

The yatra will begin at Tikker on 14th September and proceed to Hushroo in Budgam, before moving on to Bomai (Sopore), Chandigam (Lolab), Kariham, and the Gaurishankar Mandir at Gotingoo, with devotees returning to Tikker thereafter. From there, the pilgrimage continues toward Jumagund and the banks of the Krishan Ganga, taking in Pushkar Naag, Kindreshwar Dham, Rudrawan (Ladewan), and Mokhta Sar, culminating in puja at the Krishan Ganga. The route then turns to Ramchandrun (Sita Sarayain) and Meeyal for further puja, Guru Vandana, and the offering of prasad.

Devotees are scheduled to return to Tikker on 18th September to begin preparations for the Sharda Ashtami celebrations, which will include a Maha Aarti, Sharda Abhishek, Vedic chanting, a talk on the life of Swami Nand Lal Ji, and the formal conclusion of the yatra (Yatra Sampan).

After decades, the same sacred Mukut is now set to be reinstalled at the Sharda Mandir in Tikker on the 19th September. The organisers have extended an open invitation to devotees and well-wishers of the land to join the pilgrimage - to walk together, remember together, and help preserve the spiritual heritage that Swami Nand Lal Ji devoted his life to nurturing.

Rahul Trakroo is a technology professional from Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir, with a keen interest in youth engagement, education, and the region's rich cultural heritage. He actively works with youth-led initiatives that promote civic participation and peacebuilding. Alongside his professional work, Rahul enjoys researching and writing on contemporary issues, culture, history, and the evolving social landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, bringing together perspectives from the past and present.

CM Omar Reviews

“I appreciate all the steps that the Health Department has taken over the last almost two years, both in terms of addressing infrastructure and equipment deficiencies,” he said.

Chief Minister advised the department to focus on filling up critical gaps in the system as per the expected budgetary allocations and the report of the Advisory Committee would serve as the road map in this direction. CM said that the elaborate and extensive reforms plan would require huge funding and the report on the reforms to be undertaken suggest what should our healthcare system look like in an ideal situation but the financial resources required may not be available in one go. CM underlined the need to prioritize and plan which components need more immediate attention besides improving the basic facilities of primary & secondary health-care system.

The Chief Minister, who is also holding the Finance portfolio, assured the Health Department of continued support for further strengthening the sector.

“As I am currently looking after the Finance Department as well, I reassure the department and particularly the Minister concerned that whatever we can do from the Finance Department to continue this improvement in the Health Department, we will do,” he said.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning and requirements of Government Medical Colleges, SKIMS and other tertiary and district-level healthcare institutions, with particular focus on improving patient care, infrastructure, equipment, medical education and specialized services.

The discussions covered a wide range of areas, including cancer care, medical education and seat capacity, digital health services, oral healthcare, food safety, mental health and drug de-addiction, liver transplant services, nutritional support and geriatric care.

J&K Security

operations in its hinterland, according to the report.

A total of 19 terrorists were neutralised in such operations in 2025, including eight Pakistani terrorists, accounting for about 40 per cent of the total.

The report said the figures indicated the role of Pakistan in what it described as a proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir.

The report also recorded a sharp increase in ceasefire violations along the LoC in 2025.

While two ceasefire violations were recorded along the LoC in 2024, the number rose to 163 in 2025.

Of these, 124 violations took place during Operation Sindoor, the report said.

On the situation along the Northern Front, the Ministry of Defence said 2025 witnessed a significant reduction in the deployment of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) forces opposite the Northern Borders.

It said 10 combined-arms brigade-sized PLA forces remained deployed in areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and in traditional training areas.

The Indian Army's deployment across all sectors along the LAC remained "robust, well-poised and prepared" to deal with any emerging contingency, the report said—(KNO)

Rain, Thundershowers

stations, Qazigund recorded a maximum of 26.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 11.6 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 23.9 degrees Celsius and 8.9 degrees Celsius respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 30.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 11.9 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded 28.6 degrees Celsius and 11.8 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 21.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 8.7 degrees Celsius, making it among the cooler locations in the Valley.

In Jammu division, Katra recorded a maximum temperature of 31.7 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 20.9 degrees Celsius, while Banihal recorded 29.5 degrees Celsius and 13.6 degrees Celsius respectively.

The weather department advised farmers to continue harvesting apple and paddy crops along with other agricultural operations, while taking precautions in view of the possibility of thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds.

The MeT department said the forecast could change depending on evolving weather conditions—(KNO)

Opposition To Corner

the lopsided reservation policy, and regularising daily wagers in government service. “The Session’s duration is short, and we will try to raise the maximum number of public issues, especially the electoral promises made by the National Conference on both the governance and political fronts,” Para said.

National Conference spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said his party will present its progress report to the people. “The issues of the people are of paramount importance to us. The government is doing its best to fulfil its electoral promises. We do not claim that we have done everything, but we certainly are on the way to fulfil them,” Dar said.

He said he expects the opposition party to play a responsible role in the Legislative Assembly and not create a sensation.

“Parliamentary democracy envisages that the opposition asks questions about public issues and the government is answerable. We will do our part with sincerity,” he said. According to the provisional calendar issued by Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather, the Session will begin with obituary references on September 21, followed by government business the next day.

The House will discuss private members’ bills on September 24, followed by private members’ resolutions the next day. On September 28, the House will again discuss private members’ bills, followed by government business on September 29 and 30.

BRICS Summit

energy, as well as the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure.

The External Affairs Minister said the summit’s agenda remained focused on the economy, development and technology, with a strong emphasis on standing up for the Global South.

“The agenda was focused on the economy, on development, on technology, for the Global South, standing up for the Global South. That was a very strong message which came out,” he said.

Jaishankar said the two key sessions of the summit, focused on reform and resilience, were “uniting themes” that helped countries come together despite their differences.

The EAM also highlighted the consensus achieved on terrorism, saying BRICS made clear that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations was unacceptable.

He pointed to the New Delhi Declaration’s strong condemnation of the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack and its call for “zero tolerance” towards terrorism and rejection of double standards in countering the menace.

“BRICS was very clear that any act of terrorism is criminal, and they, in fact, explicitly recognised the unacceptability of the Pahalgam attack of 22 April 2025,” Jaishankar said.

He said the declaration condemned terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, and called for accountability for those involved in terrorist activities and their supporters.

Concluding his remarks, Jaishankar said the summit reflected Prime Minister Modi’s message of dialogue, diplomacy and development.

“Many people said it won’t happen. It did happen. It did happen. It happened in New Delhi, and it happened under Prime Minister Modi’s leadership,” he said.

'El Nino Likely

Disturbance occurs, it can be helpful,” Ahmad said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir had experienced a similar pattern in recent years, with prolonged dry periods followed by one or two snowfall spells that were generally weaker than expected.

The MeT director said frequent but feeble Western Disturbances (WDs) were currently affecting the region, generally arriving every third or fourth day but producing little significant weather activity.

“These are mostly feeble Western Disturbances. In the mountainous areas of North Kashmir, we may see some light snow or cloudiness, but there has been no major weather activity,” he said.

Ahmad said a strong Western Disturbance, particularly during the beginning or peak of winter, would be important for the region.

He also linked the changing snowfall pattern to climate change and

rising temperatures, saying warmer conditions were altering the form and timing of precipitation in the Himalayan region.

Over the past four to five years, he said, Kashmir has not consistently received snowfall during the peak winter period, resulting in shorter-lasting snow cover and longer dry spells.

“Timely snowfall, especially in hilly states like Jammu and Kashmir and other Himalayan regions such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, is as important as rainfall during summer,” Ahmad said.

He explained that snowfall during the peak winter months has a longer-lasting impact because lower temperatures allow snow to remain on the ground and contribute to glacier recharge. Snowfall occurring later in February or March can also be beneficial, but warmer temperatures can cause it to melt more rapidly.

“Due to rising temperatures, the snow melts quickly. So timely snowfall is very important for the Himalayan region,” he said.

On the precipitation situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Ahmad said the overall seasonal scenario was currently near normal despite significant variations between individual months.

He said July recorded 35 per cent excess rainfall, although the early monsoon period also caused considerable losses. August, however, recorded around 25 per cent rainfall deficit, with some spells occurring during the month but without consistent or widespread activity.

“Overall, the precipitation scenario for the season is almost near normal,” he said.

Ahmad also dismissed claims that February or winter itself would somehow be absent this year, saying such conclusions could not be drawn from seasonal forecasts.

He advised people to remain positive, saying snowfall and rain were still expected even though the overall winter could be milder than normal.

“Let us see what happens. It is very difficult to say from now. These things are very dynamic. There will be snow, God willing, and there will be rain,” he said— (KNO)

After Setbacks,

markets outside Jammu and Kashmir had improved and growers were benefiting from better returns.

"Markets like Delhi, Jaipur and Bengaluru are showing good demand for Kashmir apples. If this demand continues and transportation remains smooth, this can be a much better season for growers," he said.

Meanwhile, the improved market conditions have also prompted some growers in lower belts to harvest apples prematurely in an attempt to take advantage of the current demand.

Fruit traders have cautioned growers against such practices, saying apples picked before attaining proper maturity and colour often fail to command premium prices.

"Demand is certainly good, but growers should not misunderstand the situation. The market is demanding quality apples, not immature fruit. If apples are harvested prematurely, their size, colour, taste and keeping quality can suffer, and ultimately the grower may get a lower rate," said Mohammad Ashraf Mir, a trader from Fruit Mandi Pulwama.

Lateef Ahmad, another trader from Fruit Mandi Jablipora, said growers could benefit more by allowing the fruit to mature properly instead of rushing it to the market.

"Even if demand falls slightly later, good-quality apples will continue to find buyers. Quality produce always has an advantage in the market. Premature harvesting may give an immediate opportunity, but it can affect the final return," he said.

Growers said transportation has so far remained relatively smooth on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44), which is another positive development compared to the difficulties faced during the previous season.

"Last year, highway disruptions added to our problems when the crop was ready for market. This year, transportation is going well so far. We hope there are no major disruptions during the peak harvesting period," Yousuf said.

As harvesting gradually moves from the lower belts towards the higher reaches, growers are hoping that the present demand remains stable through the season. With traditional Delicious varieties expected to enter the market in the coming weeks, growers said sustained demand, fair prices and uninter-

rupted transportation would be crucial to making the season financially rewarding.

It is pertinent to mention here that more than half of the population in Kashmir are directly or indirectly dependent on the fruit industry—(KNO)

Speaker Calls

session, commencing on September 21. The session is expected to be stormy, with the principal opposition BJP and smaller Kashmir-based parties like PDP, PC and AIP preparing to corner the government on a range of governance and administrative issues.

The BJP has already begun its preparations, with Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma scheduled to chair a meeting of party legislators at the party headquarters in Jammu tomorrow.

As per the calendar issued by the Assembly Secretariat, four days have been scheduled for Government business and three for Private Member Bills and Resolutions. While two days have been earmarked for Private Member Bills, all eyes are expected to be on Government Bills, given that Private Member Bills seldom pass. Private Member Bills almost never succeed in the Lok Sabha or the J&K Assembly due to procedural hurdles.

The Government is expected to introduce four bills during the session—(KNO)

J&K's Domestic

2027-28, the region is likely to require additional 151 MWs of power during the peak time with a total demand projection of 3964 MWs.

Furthermore, the projections said that in the year 2028-29, Jammu and Kashmir may require additional 300 MWs of power during the peak hours in comparison to the projected demand of the ongoing fiscal.

The official figures also said that in the year 2029-30, Jammu and Kashmir will likely have a peak demand of 4262 MWs that amounts to 449 MWs of additional energy demand to the projection made for the year 2026-27.

Pertinently, this news agency earlier reported that in the past 12 years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a surge in power demand by more than 24 per cent.

The Government of India (GoI) had said that from the fiscal 2014-15 to 2025-26, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a surge in demand of 3,971 MU.

The official figures further reveal that the annual energy demand in J&K rose from 16,214 Million Units (MU) in 2014-15 to 20,185 MU in 2025-26.

It also said that the peak power demand at 20,374 MU was recorded in 2024-25—(KNO)

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Rs 337 lakh boost for Mankote heritage sites

Javed Rana announces development of Ramkund Temple, Lower Devta, Chotey Shah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

MANKOTE: In a major push to promote heritage and religious tourism in the Pir Panjal region, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Monday announced development of key heritage and religious sites in Mankote, while addressing a gathering in the area.

Highlighting the importance of preserving the region's rich cultural and religious heritage, the Minister informed that an amount of ₹173 lakh has been earmarked for development of the historic Ramkund Temple, a prominent heritage and religious site in the area. Similarly, ₹78 lakh have been provided for development of Lower Devta while ₹86



lakh have been earmarked for development of Chotey Shah.

"These places hold immense religious, cultural and heritage significance and attract a large number of pilgrims and visitors," said the Minister. He added that their systematic development will help preserve the region's invaluable heritage while promoting religious and heritage tourism in Mankote and adjoining areas. He said improved infrastructure and better

facilities for pilgrims and visitors will enhance the tourism potential of the region and generate opportunities for local employment and economic activities.

The Minister said the government is committed to promote tourism by developing religious, cultural and heritage destinations across the region. He added that development of Ramkund Temple, Lower Devta and Chotey Shah will help place these sites on the tourism map and

encourage more visitors to explore the area's rich heritage and natural beauty.

During his address, the public of various development projects, works and schemes presently under execution in the area. He also highlighted the new schemes and projects approved or proposed for execution during the current financial year 2026-27. He said sustained efforts are being made to ensure comprehensive and bal-

anced development of the region, with special focus on strengthening basic infrastructure, improving public amenities and creating new opportunities for the local population.

Later, the Minister convened a meeting with officers of the concerned departments to review the pace of ongoing works in the area.

During the meeting, he directed the officers to accord utmost priority to public welfare and ensure that all development projects under execution are taken to their logical conclusion within the stipulated timeframe, without compromising on quality of work.

The Minister said that efforts would continue to bring development to every village and every section of the society.

Dy CM visits Machail, reviews development works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Monday on the first day of his 2-day visit to Kishtwar district, visited Tehsil Machail, Sub Division Paddar and reviewed the ongoing development works there.

During his visit, he paid obeisance at the Shri Machail Mata Ji Temple and laid the foundation stone for construction of a PWD guest house near Shri



Machail Mata Ji Bhawan. The guest house is estimated to be constructed at a cost of Rs 3.75 crore.

The facility is aimed at

strengthening the accommodation infrastructure at Machail and supporting the requirements associated with the area.

Labroo reviews infrastructure upgradation Plan for Bakshi Stadium

GMK NERWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday chaired a meeting of concerned Officers at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the proposed plan and measures for comprehensive infrastructure upgradation of Bakshi Stadium.

The proposed upgradation is aimed at improving the stadium's infrastructure and facilities, enhancing seating capacity and providing roofing for public stands, besides improving accessibility and the drainage system to host sporting events and other major activities throughout the year in Srinagar.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the proposed infrastructure interventions at Bakshi Stadium, with particular focus on enhancement of the seating capacity of the Central Pavilion, expansion and improvement of the North and South Pavilions, roofing of public stands and upgradation of

the entrance to the main ground.

The meeting also discussed various allied works required to strengthen the overall infrastructure of the stadium and improve facilities for players, spectators and officials.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned Officers to work out the requirements in detail and prepare a comprehensive Detailed Project Report (DPR) incorporating all proposed infrastructure works, along with other allied interventions required for the overall improvement and modernization of the Stadium.

The DC emphasized that the proposed upgradation should be planned with a long-term perspective, keeping in view the growing requirements for hosting major sporting events, tournaments and other public activities. He called for a thorough assessment of the existing infrastructure, identification of gaps and incorporation of durable, functional and sustainable solutions in the proposed DPR.

He further directed the concerned Departments to

ensure that all proposed interventions are technically sound, properly assessed and planned in a coordinated manner, while keeping in view the need to minimize disruption to ongoing sporting activities at the stadium.

The DC further directed that augmentation and improvement of the existing drainage network be accorded due priority in the DPR to effectively address the issue of waterlogging, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. He stressed that the drainage interventions should be planned comprehensively to ensure proper water disposal and better usability of the stadium premises throughout the year.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer, R&B South, Tatheer Manzoor, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Executive Engineer, R&B, Khalid Mehmood, Executive Engineer, J&K Sports Council and other concerned Officers.

Nine-year-old recovered from Nalla in Bandipora

MLA Bandipora calls recovery 'a big relief', expresses solidarity with bereaved family

SAJID RAINA

BANDIPORA: The body of a nine-year-old boy, who had drowned in Madhumati Nalla near District Police Lines (DPL) in Bandipora, was recovered on Monday after a five-day search operation, officials said.

An official said that the body was recovered following sustained joint search efforts by teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, civil administration and local volunteers.

The boy had drowned on September 10 and remained untraced since

then. He said the body was retrieved after five days and would be handed over to the family after completion of legal formalities. The deceased was identified as Momin Ahmad (9), a resident of Ganie Mohalla in the Kuloosa area of Bandipora.

Meanwhile, Bandipora MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, in a post on X, wrote, "A big relief. Momin's body is retrieved from Madhumati. We are obliged to all who put in effort and stood in solidarity with the bereaved family. Their grief, sorrow and pain is shared. RIP." —(KNO)

DC G'bal chairs DLRC-DCC Meeting for Quarter Ending

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Monday chaired a meeting of the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Level Consultative Committee (DCC) to review the performance of banks and line departments for the quarter ending June 2026 and assess the progress under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP).

At the outset, the Lead District Manager, Ganderbal, presented a comprehensive review of the bank-wise performance, covering deposits, advances and Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR). It was informed that the overall CDR of banks in the district stood at 94.29 percent.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the banks to further enhance credit flow to the agriculture sector and ensure adequate financial support to farmers and other beneficiaries. He directed the banking institutions to improve their credit dispensation mechanism and facilitate timely disposal of cases.

The DC also directed banks and line departments to expedite disposal of pending cases under various Government schemes, including KCC, PMFME, PM Surya Ghar and Mission YUVA, besides other flagship schemes, so that eligible beneficiaries are able to avail the intended benefits without delay.

Emphasising the importance of outreach and awareness, the Deputy Commissioner directed that information regarding various Government



schemes and credit linked programmes be integrated into regular departmental activities, with active participation of concerned officers to ensure wider coverage and effective implementation.

The performance under various Social Security Schemes (SSS), including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), was also reviewed. The DC directed banks and line departments to work in close coordination to ensure 100 percent coverage of all eligible beneficiaries under these welfare schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed officers of all concerned line departments to personally monitor the progress of flagship schemes, identify bottlenecks and make dedicated efforts for resolution of pending cases to ensure their timely disposal.

The DC called for sustained coordination between banks and line departments to improve credit delivery, financial inclusion and implemen-

tation of Government sponsored schemes in the district. He emphasised that coordinated efforts should be made to ensure that the benefits of various schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and transparent manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, General Manager DIC Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer, Ganderbal, Lead District Officer RBL, Chief Agriculture Officer Ganderbal, Chief Horticulture Officer Ganderbal, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Ganderbal, Assistant Director Employment Ganderbal, Assistant Director Fisheries Ganderbal, Assistant Director Handicraft/Handloom Ganderbal, Area Marketing Officer Horticulture (P&M) Ganderbal, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Ganderbal, District Officer KVIB Ganderbal, Cluster Head J&K Bank Ganderbal, Director JKRB Ganderbal, Lead District Manager Ganderbal, and representatives/Branch Heads of SBI, JKSCB, HDFC Bank, J&K Grameen Bank, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank, besides other concerned officers.

ADDC Bandipora reviews implementation of NAPS-PRAGATI

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir, Monday chaired a meeting to review and accelerate the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)-PRAGATI in the district.

The meeting was attended by various departments and agencies, including the Head of Project, NHPC (KGHEP), Project Director NHAI, Chief Education Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Assistant Labour Commissioner, State Taxes Officer, Executive Engineers, all Block Development Officers of the District, Municipal Council, Cooperative Department, J&K Bank and other concerned officers. Officers from Gurez and Sumbal participated

through the Video Conference. During the meeting, the ADC stressed the importance of maximum registration of establishments on the NAPS portal to ensure greater participation of government departments, institutions and other eligible establishments in apprenticeship opportunities for local youth.

A department-wise target of establishments has been fixed for registration on the NAPS portal, with specific targets assigned to different departments and field formations.

The ADC directed all concerned officers to work in a coordinated and mission-oriented manner and achieve their assigned targets within the stipulated timeline, emphasizing that registration should be taken up on a priority basis.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR GANDERBAL

Subject:-

Construction and upgradation of existing 2 land to 4 land dual carriageway NH standard from Pandach to Manigam section of NH1 as per part of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-II A under NH (O) in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ref:

Mintues of Meeting issued by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal vide No. DCG/LAS/2026/RR/Phase IIA/2327-33 dated 25-08-2026

AUCTION NOTICE

Apropos to the above captioned subject and reference. The auction proceedings of below mentioned 58 No. of Chinar tree(s)/branch(s) for construction/upgradation of existing 2 land to 4 land dual/carriage way NH Pandach to Manigam (RR Phase-II) is fixed as under:

S.No.	Title	Date of Auction	Location
1	Chinar trees mentioned as priority -1 on the enclosed list of Chinar trees	18-09-2026	On spot
2	Chinar trees mentioned as priority -2 & 3 on the enclosed list of Chinar trees	19-09-2026	On spot

As such, the following officers/committee members along with the undersigned are requested to personally participate in the auction proceedings on above mentioned date.

1. Divisional Forest Officer, Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal

2. Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Ganderbal

3. District Treasury Officer, Ganderbal

4. Chinar Development Officer , Ganderbal

No:-TG/MM/CT-NH1/2026/ 549-60

Dated:-02.09.2026

DIPK-5672-26

DT: 14/09/2026

Tehsildar Ganderbal

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR GANDERBAL

Subject:-

Construction and upgradation of existing 2 land to 4 land dual carriageway NH standard from Pandach to Manigam section of NH1 as per part of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-II A under NH (O) in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ref:

Mintues of Meeting issued by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal vide No. DCG/LAS/2026/RR/Phase IIA/2327-33 dated 25-08-2026

AUCTION NOTICE

Apropos to the above captioned subject and reference. The auction proceedings of below mentioned 06 No. of Chinar tree(s)/branch(s) for construction/upgradation of existing 2 land to 4 land dual/carriage way NH Pandach to Manigam (RR Phase-II) is fixed on 17-09-2026 on spot.

S.No. as per List provided	Location	Chinage	Khasra No.	Recommendation
15	Beehama	2+470	415 min	Uproot.
16	Beehama	2+540	476 min	Uproot
17	Beehama	2+550	476 min	Uproot
19	Beehama	2+800	415 min	Branch Cutting
26	Ganderbal Arampora	4+180	628 min	Branch Cutting
29	Ganderbal Arampora	4+650	581 min	Branch Cutting 03 No.

As such, the following officers/committee members are requested to personally participate in the auction proceedings on above mentioned date.

1. Divisional Forest Officer, Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal

2. Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Ganderbal

3. District Treasury Officer, Ganderbal

4. Tehsildar Ganderbal

5. Chinar Development Officer , Ganderbal

No:-TG/MM/CT-NH1/2026/ 549-60

Dated:-02.09.2026

DIPK-5671-26

DT: 14/09/2026

Tehsildar Ganderbal

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Satish Sharma launches Hyderabad Hawks Jersey

Reaffirms commitment to Para Sports promotion in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Jammu & Kashmir, Satish Sharma, Monday reaffirmed the government's commitment towards the promotion of para sports and empowerment of differently-abled sportspersons, stating that every athlete deserves equal opportunities to excel and bring laurels to the nation.

The Minister made these remarks while interacting with a delegation of the JK Divyang Welfare Association (JKDWA), which called on him at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

During the meeting, Satish Sharma formally launched the jersey of Hyderabad Hawks, a franchise participating in the upcoming Radiant World Para Cricket League, scheduled to be held from October 6 to 11, 2026, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.



Nissar Hussain Shah and association member Manmohan Singh.

Congratulating Sayed Shah Aziz on his remarkable achievements, the Minister described him as a role model for the aspiring athletes and a source of pride for Jammu & Kashmir. He said that Aziz's journey from Poonch to leading the Indian Differently-Abled Cricket Team

reflects the extraordinary determination, talent and resilience of the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Extending his best wishes to Hyderabad Hawks for the forthcoming tournament, Satish Sharma expressed confidence that the team would perform exceptionally well and continue to inspire countless sportspersons across the country.

The Minister also held detailed discussions with the delegation regarding the development of disability sports in Jammu & Kashmir.

Various issues related to the promotion of para cricket and para sports, including infrastructure, training facilities, sporting opportunities, recognition and institutional support for differently-abled athletes,

were deliberated upon.

Satish Sharma emphasized that the government is committed to create an inclusive sports ecosystem where athletes with disabilities receive the support and facilities necessary to realise their full potential. He said that sports serve as a powerful medium of empowerment, confidence-building and social inclusion. He reiterated that the aspirations of differently-abled athletes would be given due attention.

The Minister said that the achievements of para athletes from Jammu & Kashmir have demonstrated that physical limitations can never become barriers to excellence when determination and dedication are coupled with opportunity and support. He stressed the need to further strengthen the initiatives aimed at encouraging greater participation of differently-abled youth in sports activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The JK Divyang Welfare Association appreciated the Minister's keen interest in the development of para sports and thanked him for his encouragement and support.

District Jammu wins Divisional-Level Boys U-19 Kabaddi Championship; Ramban emerges Runner-Up



GMK SPORTS DESK

DODA: District Jammu emerged victorious in the Inter-District Divisional-Level Boys Under-19 Kabaddi Tournament, defeating District Ramban in a closely contested final held here at the Indoor Stadium.

The three-day tournament, held from September 12 to 14, 2026, was organised by the District Youth Services & Sports Department, with participation of teams from across districts of Jammu Division. The tournament was conducted in accordance with the Activity Calendar issued by the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, J&K and as per the assignment entrusted by the Joint Director, Jammu.

The final witnessed an intense contest between Jammu and Ramban, with District Jammu securing victory by a narrow margin of two points. District Ramban put up a determined performance and

finished as the runners-up.

The tournament provided young players an opportunity to compete at the divisional level and demonstrate their skills, competitive spirit, discipline and sportsmanship. The encounters throughout the championship also reflected the growing interest in Kabaddi among young sportspersons of the region.

The concluding ceremony was attended by Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Manish Kumar as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the participating teams on their performances and appreciated the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Doda, for providing young players with opportunities to compete at the divisional level and showcase their sporting talent.

The successful conduct of the championship was facilitated by a dedicated team of technical officials,

referees and departmental staff. The technical panel was headed by Ashok Kumar, Convener and comprised Imran Mughal, Koshal Sharma, Muzamil Hussain, Parmod Thakur, Satya Devi, Mohd. Saleem, Bashir Ahmed, Sandeep Kumar, Shafiqullah, Suraj Parkash, Vijay Kumar, Vinod Bandral, Ajay Sharma, Archana Devi, Bandana Devi, Shallu Devi, Bandu Devi, Veena Devi, Ishtiaq Hussain, Khalid Hussain, Naveed-ul-Rehman, Mohd. Yousuf and Mohd. Iqbal.

The YSS Doda congratulated Team Jammu on winning the championship and appreciated Team Ramban for its spirited performance. The efforts of all participating teams, coaches, physical education staff, technical officials, referees and organising personnel were also acknowledged for ensuring the smooth and fair conduct of the tournament.

Sr Men Inter-Department National Hockey: Railway Sports Promotion Board clinch title

IANIS

HYDERABAD: Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) lifted the title after a commanding 4-1 win in the final over All India Police Sports Control Board as the 6th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship 2026 concluded in Hyderabad on Monday.

Petroleum Sports Promotion Board secured third place with a lone-goal win over Comptroller & Auditor General of India in the third-place playoff.

In the final, RSPB were in inspired form, running out 4-1 winners against All India Police Sports Control Board. Amandeep Lakra (41', 42') struck twice, with Deep Atul (20') and Rohit (36') also finding the net as Railway Sports Promotion Board sealed the championship in style. Shubham (36') scored the lone reply for All India Police Sports Control Board, who will have to settle for the runners-up spot.

Earlier in the day, Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) edged Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) 1-0 to claim third place, with Affan Yousuf's (53') strike proving the difference between the two sides.



When the final whistle was blown, Railway Sports Promotion Board brought the curtain down on the 6th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship 2026 as deserving champions, capping off a tournament that produced high-scoring contests and dramatic finishes throughout.

Railway Sports Promotion Board and All India Police Sports Control Board booked their places in Monday's final with hard-fought wins in their respective semifinal matches on Sunday.

In semifinal 1, Railway Sports Promotion Board edged past Petroleum Sports Promotion Board

2-1. Amandeep Lakra (9', 27') struck twice to see his side through, while Gurjot Singh's (45') reply was not enough for PSPB.

Semifinal 2 was settled by a single goal, with All India Police Sports Control Board getting the better of Comptroller & Auditor General of India 1-0. Haris Mohammad's (25') strike proved decisive as AIPSCB held firm to book their spot in the final.

Final Standings: Champions: Railway Sports Promotion Board Runners-up: All India Police Sports Control Board

3rd Place: Petroleum Sports Promotion Board 4th Place: Comptroller & Auditor General of India

Discussed about the Asia Cup trophy, decided not to take it from Naqvi, says Shukla

IANIS

NEW DELHI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Vice-President Rajeev Shukla said the decision not to accept the Women's Asia Cup from Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President Mohsin Naqvi following their tournament victory in Dubai was something they decided after thorough discussion.

At the Dubai International Stadium, India defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs on Sunday to secure their record eighth Women's Asia Cup title. But Harmanpreet Kaur's squad declined to collect the trophy from Naqvi, who also serves as Pakistan's



interior minister and head of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The stance mirrored the decision taken by the Indian men's team after their 2025 Asia Cup victory over Pakistan. Following a 50-minute delay, Naqvi

distributed runners-up medals to Sri Lanka before the presentation ceremony concluded abruptly.

"We discussed the trophy issue and decided not to take it from him. He didn't object to it, and we told our team. They gave whatever they

had and left. There was no quarrel, no fight, no clash, and what (Devajit) Saikia ji said is right. When you sit in a match, everyone sits and meets there. It doesn't mean that you have to criticise them hugely. When you sit in a match, everyone sits there and meets all people from various countries," Shukla told reporters after returning from Dubai.

The incident happened in the light of ongoing geopolitical tensions between the two countries, with the Indian men's side still yet to collect their 2025 Asia Cup trophy. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia and Shukla were seen conversing cordially with Naqvi in the Royal Box

during the match, as the visuals drew wide social media attention.

With the squad preparing to depart for the Asian Games in Aichi Prefecture, Japan, Shukla expressed confidence that the team would maintain their winning momentum on the international stage.

"We had won the Asian Games. We have now won the Asia Cup. Our women have once again made us feel honoured. We will continue to win. Our team is going to Japan tomorrow, and we will win there as well. We have a lot of hope. We have a lot of enthusiasm in our women's team, and they will give a very good performance," he added.

Kuldeep Yadav vows to return to County Championship after picking 10-fer for Yorkshire

IANIS

LEEDS: India's left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has promised to return to the County Championship after picking a career-best 10-wicket match haul to spin Yorkshire to an innings-and-106-run victory over Essex at Headingley.

Kuldeep took 4-70 in the first innings before returning figures of 6-50 in the second innings and grabbed his first ten-wicket performance in first-class cricket, which in turn secured Yorkshire's Division One status inside three days.

Kuldeep, who joined Yorkshire on a short-term contract in July, earned the County Championship Player of the Round award for his match figures of 10-120. "When I was about to get the sixth one,

I thought, 'Give me one more, let me complete the ten-wicket haul!' It's not the home conditions that I grew up playing in, but this is the ultimate home now, so playing here and getting a ten-fer, it's been so good," he said in a statement on Monday.

Kuldeep dismantled the Essex middle order across both innings on a surface that offered assistance to spin, and adjusted his line and pace to exploit footmarks outside the stumps. "It looked like a good wicket to bat on. In the first innings, there was not much turn. It wasn't a rank turner; Headingley is not known for that, so I was just trying to make the batters make mistakes.

"Then in the second innings I was trying to use the footmarks to bring the ball from outside to the stumps. That was the plan,

and using more angles to make the batters uncomfortable."

Yorkshire head coach Anthony McGrath praised Kuldeep's control and tactical adaptability following the victory. "You could see how much he spins it and his control of spin was just sensational. If you looked at how he put his overs together – over the wicket, round the wicket... he was setting the batters up."

Kuldeep's initial stint was disrupted by his presence in India's squad for the 1-0 Test series win in Sri Lanka before he featured in Yorkshire's defeat to Surrey at The Oval. However, his performance against Essex underlined his match-winning capabilities in red-ball cricket as Yorkshire prepare for their next fixture against Somerset.

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