

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

GMK

Srinagar • Wednesday 16, September 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 221 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

No Fear Of MLAs
Switching Sides: CM



REHAN QAYOOM

Srinagar: "I have faith in my MLAs. I am not afraid that they will move," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Tuesday, asserting full confidence in his legislators while hitting back at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over its criticism of the seven-day Assembly session and taking a dig at his critics. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event at SKICC here, the Chief Minister, said he was not worried about his MLAs switching sides. On the BJP's criticism of the seven-day Assembly session, Omar questioned how the government could be accused of being "non-serious" when the House was functioning throughout the day. "What is non-serious about it? It's a seven-day session. It would have been non-serious if we had followed the path shown by the BJP, where they have held one- or two-day sessions in their

states," he said. Abdullah said the government was regularly present in the Assembly and participating in its proceedings. "We sit in the Assembly from morning and leave in the evening. There is no such day when we ourselves are not present in the Assembly," he said. Taking a swipe at the BJP, the Chief Minister said its members were "hardly seen in Parliament" and questioned their right to accuse the J&K government of being non-serious. "These people never come to Parliament. They are never seen in Parliament," he said. "Look at Parliament. Look at who sits for how long. Then you tell me who is taking it seriously and who is not." The CM further said he would not respond to every statement made by his political opponents. "I would respond selectively rather than engage in a daily war of words," he said. "Don't expect me to answer every statement. •P-06

■ 'Downtown, Srinagar Most Vulnerable'

Kashmir's Next Big Quake,
Are We Ready To Face It?

Studies Warn Of Active Faults, Seismic Gaps, Liquefaction-Prone Soils

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Two peer-reviewed studies published in 2026 have warned that Kashmir Valley faces a serious earthquake risk due to active faults, accumulated tectonic strain, liquefaction-prone soils and vulnerabilities in its built environment. According to a review published in the Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy in January, Kashmir Valley lies in a seismically active region formed by the ongoing collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates, with a network of active faults including the Himalayan Frontal Thrust, Main Boundary Thrust, Main Central Thrust, Main Mantle Thrust, Kishtwar Fault and the Balapur Fault beneath the valley. The review by Waseem Qader, Irfan Maqbool Bhat and Mehran Qurashi, notes that the region represents a seismic gap where strain can accumulate over long periods, raising concerns about



the potential for future high-magnitude earthquakes. The researchers examined historical earthquake records, seismological, geophysical, geological and geodetic data and said Kashmir has experienced several destructive earthquakes, including major events recorded in 1555, 1669, 1736, 1779, 1784, 1828 and 1885. The 1885 earthquake struck

the Baramulla area, while the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, measuring magnitude 7.6, caused more than 80,000 deaths, around 200,000 injuries and left about 3.5 million people homeless, according to the review. It also said around 19,000 children reportedly died, mostly because of building collapses. Statistical analysis cited in the review estimated recur-

rence intervals for larger earthquakes and said there was about a 40 per cent probability of an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 or greater occurring within 100 years. It placed the recurrence interval for an M7.6 event at around 200 years and for an M8 or greater event at around 380 years, while cautioning that a high-magnitude earthquake in the future cannot be •P-06

VALLEY LACKS DISASTER-PREPAREDNESS CULTURE, SAYS PROF ROMSSHOO; 98% of Srinagar's buildings have poor seismic resistance; researchers call for stronger building codes, retrofitting, early warnings

Speaker Rather Reviews
Preparations For Autumn Session

Calls For Meticulous Planning, Coordination

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Tuesday convened a meeting with the senior officers to review and finalise the arrangements for smooth conduct of the forthcoming Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly, scheduled to commence from September 21, 2026, in Srinagar.

Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit, Commissioner Secretary IT Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary GAD M. Raju, Commissioner Secretary Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Achal Sethi, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg along with senior officers from Security, Traffic, Information, Hospitality & Protocol, Estates, Health, AYUSH, SMC, Fire & Emergency Services and



other line departments were present in the meeting. During the meeting, the Speaker emphasised that successful conduct of the Legislative Session requires close coordination, advance planning and a high degree of administrative preparedness across all concerned departments. Describing the forthcoming Autumn Session as a short session carrying a major responsibility, the Speaker stressed •P-06

BJP Demands Month-Long
Assembly Session, Targets NC Govt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Tuesday criticised the National Conference-led government over the limited duration of the upcoming Assembly session, with Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma demanding that it be extended to at least 30 days. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, Sharma said the Assembly was the main platform for elected representatives to raise public concerns and accused the government of weakening legislative accountability. The Autumn Session is scheduled from September 21 to 30, with three non-sitting days, leaving only seven scheduled sittings. Sharma said the limited number of sittings was insufficient to discuss the issues facing people across Jammu and Kashmir. He said the BJP Legislature



Party had held public interactions across districts to gather grievances and would raise the issues of people during the upcoming Assembly session. Responding to the BJP's criticism, Omar questioned how the government could be accused of being "non-serious" over summoning of seven-day session. "What is non-serious about it? It is a seven-day session. It would have been non-serious •P-06

9 Drone Intrusions Reported
Along IB In 2025-26: MoD



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Annual report of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has revealed that at least nine incidents of drone intrusions were reported along the International Border (IB) in J&K in the year 2025-26. The report accessed, states that a total of 863 drone intrusions including nine incidents along IB in J&K and 854 incidents along IB in Punjab and Rajasthan were reported during this year. "Effective employment of own Spoofers and Jammers have significantly countered

the drone threat. During this period, 237 drones were brought down by own forces along IB Sector (5 drones with War like Stores, 72 drones with narcotics and 161 drones without any payload)," it reads. The MoD report further said that during the year, two AK-47 Rifles, 75 Pistols and 281.41 Kgs of contraband were also recovered near IB which have been delivered likely through drone assisted means. "These activities signify greater attempts by adversary to employ drones for various nefarious activities viz. reconnaissance •P-06

Centre Tells J&K Savings Cannot Be
Utilized For New, Unapproved Works

J&K Requested Use Of Savings For Bank Protection Works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has conveyed to the Jammu & Kashmir administration that any savings accrued under flood management projects must be strictly utilized for components already approved, and not used for new or unapproved works. According to the minutes of the meeting held on April 24, 2026, to review flood management projects of the J&K and Ladakh Union Territories, the J&K Government requested the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation



to allow the use of savings for bank protection works under certain components. "It was also brought out

that savings have arisen under certain components and that the Government of Jammu & Kashmir envisages

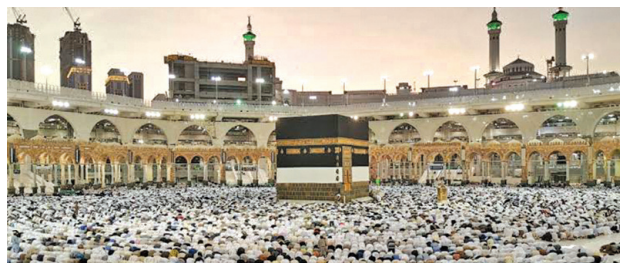
carrying out bank protection works from these savings," reads the record note. The record note further states that representatives of the Union Ministry clarified that any savings within a project can only be utilized for components already approved by the Ministry's Advisory Committee, and not for any new or unapproved works. The meeting was chaired by the Commissioner (Flood Management), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, and attended by representatives of the Central Water Commission, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh—(KNO)

■ Day 7
NHM Employees
Strike Continues

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: National Health Mission (NHM) employees across Jammu and Kashmir continued their strike for the seventh consecutive day on Tuesday, with the protesters reiterating their demands for pay parity, job security, regularisation and comprehensive social security benefits. The employees, on Monday evening announced the extension of their ongoing agitation by another 72 hours from Tuesday, saying that the decision was taken in view of the continued lack of a concrete and time-bound resolution to their long-pending demands. Notably, the Jammu & Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA) is spearheading the agitation and has urged the government to initiate meaningful dialogue with the employees and address their grievances through a clear and time-bound mechanism. •P-06

Saudi Arabia Activates Warning
Amid Houthi Attack Speculations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

RIYADH: Mecca was issued an emergency alert on Tuesday warning of a "potential danger," the first such alert in the holy city since Yemen's Houthi rebels began attacking Saudi Arabia in recent days. The alert was issued by the National Early Warning Platform for Emergencies, according to the Saudi Civil Defense, which did not specify what the danger was. Residents were urged to stay away from crowded and open areas and to seek shelter indoors immediately. The Civil Defense later

said the danger had passed, but called on residents to continue avoiding gatherings and to refrain from filming or taking photos. The emergency warnings came amid repeated Houthi attacks against the kingdom. On Monday, at least 13 civilians were injured in a series of missiles and drones fired by the Houthis toward the Saudi cities of Khamis Mushayt, Abha and Taif, according to Col. Turki al-Maliki, spokesperson for the Saudi-led military coalition. In a statement released Tuesday, Maliki condemned the Houthis' •P-06

Invasive ‘foreign’ weed spotted in Srinagar, SKUAST-K advises early caution

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) is advising farmers and agricultural stakeholders to remain vigilant against the re-emergence of the highly invasive ‘foreign’ weed *Parthenium hysterophorus* L., which was recently spotted by university scientists in an agricultural field in Srinagar.

The advisory calls on farmers and agricultural stakeholders across the Valley to prioritise early detection and caution of the species to prevent it from establishing a firm foothold in Kashmir’s agro-ecosystems.

Belonging to the *Asteraceae* family, *Parthenium hysterophorus* is an annual plant recognized globally as one of the most aggressive invasive weeds. Its notoriety stems from rapid growth rates, prolific seed production, fierce competitiveness, and potent allelopathic effects, releasing biochemical compounds that suppress and inhibit the growth of surrounding crops and native flora. Beyond stunting agricultural productivity, it poses severe risks to local biodiversity and broader ecosystem health.

Scientists from SKUAST-K Prof. Purshotam Singh (Agronomist), Prof. Amal Sexana (Agronomist), and Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth



(Director Extension, SKUAST-K & Agronomist) noted that the Srinagar detection serves as an early-warning signal rather than a reason for panic, underscoring the necessity for sustained field-level surveillance, particularly across agricultural landscapes and disturbed habitats.

The sighting carries added significance in light of recent research confirming that *P. hysterophorus* can successfully complete its entire life cycle within Kashmir’s temperate climate. Studies show the weed’s seeds can overwinter in the soil, germinate between late March and early May, and mature into flowering plants that set viable seeds well before the onset of severe autumn frosts.

University experts warned that ongoing seasonal warming could create even more hospi-

table conditions for the weed’s proliferation. The species spreads easily through contaminated soil, agricultural machinery, moving water, vehicular transit, and tainted seed or feed supplies.

While historical records confirm prior documentation of *Parthenium* in Jammu & Kashmir, the recent findings provide fresh, concrete evidence of its adaptation and reproductive success under local temperate conditions.

To counter the threat, SKUAST-K scientists advocated for a comprehensive, integrated weed-management strategy. They emphasised that coordinated surveillance, rapid identification, mechanical and targeted eradication, and sustained long-term monitoring will be essential to shield Kashmir’s farmlands from wide-scale invasion.

JKEEGA Chronicles Engineering Contribution to J&K, Launches Inaugural Magazine

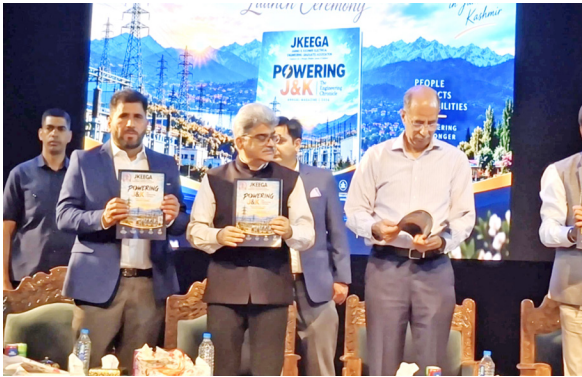
GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) on Monday marked a significant milestone by launching its first annual magazine, “Powering J&K – The Engineering Chronicle,” bringing the professional journey, experiences and contributions of the engineering fraternity into a dedicated publication.

The magazine was jointly launched by Chief Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Atal Dulloo, IAS, and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani at a function held at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar, IAS, besides senior officers and members of the engineering fraternity, were present on the occasion.

The inaugural publication seeks to document the contribution of engineers to Jammu and Kashmir’s developmental journey while providing a platform for professional exchange, technical knowledge and discussion on emerging challenges in the power and infrastructure sectors.



The first edition carries articles and perspectives from members of the engineering fraternity, covering areas including the power sector, infrastructure development, technological advancement, engineering practices and the changing responsibilities of engineers in public service.

Speaking at the launch, the dignitaries appreciated JKEEGA for bringing out the publication, describing it as a meaningful initiative to preserve and showcase the professional contribution of engineers to the Union Territory.

JKEEGA General Secretary Er. Pirzada Mohammad Hidayatullah said the magazine would serve as a platform for knowledge

sharing and professional dialogue, besides providing engineers an opportunity to document and share their experiences, ideas and technical perspectives.

He said the initiative reflected JKEEGA’s commitment to professional excellence, innovation and constructive engagement with issues concerning the engineering sector.

The publication, he said, would also help create a record of the role played by engineers in shaping and strengthening critical infrastructure and public services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The launch of “Powering J&K – The Engineering Chronicle” marks a new chapter in JKEEGA’s efforts to bring the

JKEEGA Celebrates 59th Engineers’ Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) on Monday celebrated the 59th Engineers’ Day at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, commemorating the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

Chief Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Atal Dulloo, IAS, attended the function as the Chief Guest, while Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar, IAS, was the Guest of Honour.

The programme was attended by senior government officers, serving and retired engineers and members of the engineering fraternity.

The speakers highlighted the crucial role of engineers in shaping Jammu and Kashmir’s development, particularly in strengthening infrastructure, the power sector, technological advancement and public service delivery.

The gathering paid rich tributes to Sir M. Visvesvaraya, remembering his pioneering contribution to engineering and nation-building. Homage was also paid to engineers and employees who lost their lives while discharging their professional duties.

Speaking on the occasion, JKEEGA General Secretary Er. Pirzada Mohammad Hidayatullah highlighted the association’s efforts towards promoting professional unity, engineering excellence and constructive dialogue within the engineering community.

He stressed the importance of continued professional engagement and collective efforts to address emerging challenges confronting the engineering sector.

The celebrations also featured audiovisual presentations showcasing the contribution of engineers and developments in the power sector, highlighting the role of technical professionals in strengthening vital infrastructure and public services.

engineering community together and create a lasting record of its contribu-

tion to the developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir.

Non-Teaching Employees Association Welcomes Appointment of New Director Colleges

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Non-Teaching Employees Association has welcomed the appointment of Prof. (Dr) Twinkle Suri as the new Director Colleges, Jammu and Kashmir, describing the move as a positive step towards strengthening the administration and functioning of colleges across the Union Territory.

The Association also welcomed the appointment under the leadership and guidance of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Higher Education Minister Sakeena Itoo and Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education, Ram Niwas Sharma (IAS).

A delegation of the Association visited the Directorate of Colleges and conveyed its greetings and best wishes to Prof. (Dr) Twinkle Suri on assuming the new responsibility.

The delegation was led by Association President Javed Ahmad Akhoun and included General Secretary Abdul Hameed



acumen would contribute towards greater efficiency, transparency and responsiveness in the functioning of the Directorate.

The members also highlighted the role of non-teaching employees in the higher education system, stating that they form an essential component of the institutional framework and contribute significantly to the smooth day-to-day functioning of colleges.

The Association expressed confidence that under the new leadership, the genuine and long-pending issues of non-teaching employees would receive due attention and sympathetic consideration.

“We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Prof. (Dr) Twinkle Suri on her appointment as Director Colleges,

of higher education,” the Association said.

The Association further urged that issues concerning service matters, career progression, promotions, staff welfare and other genuine demands of non-teaching employees be considered on priority.

The delegation wished Prof. Suri a successful and productive tenure and expressed confidence that her leadership would contribute towards strengthening the higher education sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Association reiterated its commitment to extending constructive cooperation to the Directorate of Colleges and working collectively for the welfare of non-teaching employees and the overall improvement of the higher education system.

DC Kupwara reviews Road Safety Measures

Calls for strict enforcement, improved Traffic Management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) at the Mini Meeting Hall of the DC Office to assess the implementation of road safety measures and review traffic management arrangements across the district.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on strengthening road safety mechanisms, improving traffic regulation and ensuring strict compliance with traffic rules to minimize road accidents and safeguard the lives of commuters, pedestrians and other road users.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all enforcement agencies to intensify field-level inspections and take firm action against traffic violations. Particular emphasis was laid on curbing underage and teenage driving, overloading, over-speeding and other unsafe driving practices. The Traffic Police were asked to conduct frequent surprise checks and strengthen enforcement at vulnerable locations, busy market areas and major traffic junctions.



The DC further directed the concerned agencies to ensure effective traffic regulation during peak hours and at locations witnessing frequent congestion.

Municipal Councils, in coordination with the Revenue Department and other concerned agencies, were instructed to undertake regular anti-encroachment drives to clear road corridors and public spaces obstructed by unauthorized structures or activities, thereby facilitating smoother movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Emphasizing the importance of preventive measures, the Deputy Commissioner called for an extensive road-safety awareness campaign across schools and colleges. He directed the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Traffic Police and Chief Education Officer to jointly organize awareness programmes focusing on students and youth, besides

sensitizing commercial drivers about responsible driving, traffic discipline and the consequences of violating road safety norms.

The meeting also reviewed the status of school bus safety audits and inspections of driving schools being conducted by the ARTO. The Committee discussed measures to ensure that school buses strictly adhere to prescribed safety standards and that driving schools maintain the required infrastructure, documentation and regulatory compliance.

Detailed attention was also given to road safety audits and the identification of vulnerable stretches, particularly along hilly roads and highways. The concerned executing agencies, including PWD, PMGSY and BEACON, were directed to conduct regular safety assessments and undertake necessary corrective measures on identified stretches.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC Tuesday informed that the Shutdown of 33 KV Sarnal-Akhura Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Anchidora, Chee, Prakashpora, Nambal, Akhura, Nanil and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 02 PM on 16 September 2026

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Mattan Pahalgam line will be observed due to which power supply to Hutmurrah, Salia, Silgam, Sallar, Kullar, Dehwatoo, Ladi, Aishmuqam, Pahal-

gam, Lodroo and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 02 PM on 16 & 21 September 2026.

Likewise, Shutdown of 132/33 kV Grid Station Kulgam will be observed due to which power supply to Ashmuji, Chambgund, Kilam, Devsar, Sopat, Akhal, Pombai, Yaripora, Parigam, Tarigam, Behibagh, Daderkoot, DH Pora, Ahmadabad, Aharbal, Bhatipora, Hospital, KB Pora, Khull, Gopalpora, Rambhama, Nillow, Arreh, Begam, Sephora, Kulgam town and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 17 September 2026.

District Level National Science Seminar-2026 held at DIET Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The District Level National Science Seminar-2026 was successfully conducted Tuesday, at the Auditorium Hall, DIET Shopian, on the theme “Indian Energy Basket-2047: Prospects and Challenges.”

The seminar was held under the guidance of Principal DIET Shopian, Neetu Gandootra, who formally inaugurated the programme and delivered the inaugural address.

13 students from four zones, selected through zonal-level competitions, participated in the three-stage competition comprising Written Aptitude Test, Seminar Presentation and Question-Answer Session, as per NSS-2026 guidelines.

The Jury Panel comprising Dr. Mohd Yousuf, Sr. Lecturer; Mohd. Amin

Lecturer; Shabnum Afzal Lecturer; DIET Shopian conducted a comprehensive assessment.

Hasem Wani of NIPS Zainpora and Noor-ul-Hooda of GHSS Zainapora were selected to represent District Shopian at the forthcoming Division-Level Competition.

The programme witnessed the participation of DIET faculty, ZNOs and Escort Teachers.

Mementos and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the selected students, while Certificates of Participation were awarded to all participants and Certificates of Appreciation to DNOs and ZNOs.

The programme concluded successfully with a powerful message that scientific curiosity today shapes a stronger and more sustainable India tomorrow.

GBHSS Dangerpora hosts Vibrant Food & Art Carnival

Students showcase Culinary Skills, Creativity and Cultural Heritage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Dangerpora today hosted a vibrant Food & Art Carnival, organised by the Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management, providing students an engaging platform to showcase their culinary skills, artistic talent, creativity, cultural heritage and innovative ideas.

The event was graced by Joint Director, School Education (North), Kashmir, Hakeem Tanveer Ahmad; Additional Deputy Com-

missioner, Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; and Zonal Education Officer, Dangerpora, Abdul Salam Dar, besides other dignitaries and guests.

During the visit, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sopore, interacted with students and visited various classes, encouraging them to remain focused, confident and committed towards their goals. The Joint Director, School Education (North), appreciated the creativity, talent and efforts displayed by the students, and emphasised the importance of such activities in their overall development.

DDC Budgam reviews progress under District Capex 2026-27

Directs speedy completion, 100% tendering, timely execution of approved works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of works approved under the District Capex 2026-27.

The DDC directed all concerned departments to expedite the completion of estimates, 100 percent tendering and ensuring that projects are taken up for execution at the earliest.

At the outset, the District Development Commissioner conducted a detailed department-wise review of the physical and financial progress of works including Rural Development Department (RDD), Public Works Department (PWD), Minor Irrigation, Youth Services and



Sports, Health, Jal Shakti, Ground Water, Power Development Department (PDD), JAKEDA and other departments.

The DDC directed the concerned officers to maintain close monitoring of ongoing works and ensure their timely and quality execution. He also stressed regular field inspections and effective supervision to identify and address any gaps or shortcomings promptly.

“Effective supervision will ensure that there are no gaps in execution and that any shortcomings are promptly addressed, while maintaining the required quality standards,” he asserted.

Stressing on timely

achievements of both physical and financial targets, the DDC further directed the officers to ensure proper coordination among departments, expedite pace work and adhere to prescribed timelines for completion of works.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Vivek Agarwal, Joint Director Planning, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD and other engineering wings, Block Development Officers, Assistant Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

Two-Day HRD Programme on Integrated Pest Management held at B'la

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: A two-day Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme on Integrated Pest Management was inaugurated Tuesday at Fruit Mandi Meeting Hall, Sopore.

The programme was organized by the Central Integrated Pest Management Centre, Srinagar, in collaboration with the State Horticulture Department, Kashmir.

Dr. Barkat Hussain, Chief Scientist, Entomology Division, SKUAST-K, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He addressed the concerns of pests and diseases of Apple, which is growing day by day, and made

farmers and pesticide dealers aware about different IPM methods to curb the problem.

Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Arya, Deputy Director (PP), delivered a detailed presentation on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the Safe and Judicious Use of Pesticides. He elaborated on the principles of IPM, focusing on need-based pesticide application, biological control measures, and resistance management to minimize environmental and health hazards. He also told about Natural enemies of Apple, Yellow Sticky & Pheromone traps as well to reduce level of infestation.

Abir Shankhari, Assis-

tant Plant Protection Officer (WS), also gave a brief demonstration and lecture about National Pest Surveillance System and informed how this application is highly beneficial for farmers nowadays. Kawal Nain Singh, Scientific Assistant, addressed different ill effects of pesticides on human body and mentioned all precautionary measures while spraying pesticides.

The technical session was held by Basharat Hussain Shah, Horticulture Development Officer, Sopore, who provided insights into the scope and importance of IPM techniques and highlighted the need of minimizing pesticide applications.

CM distributes appointment orders to 55 JKAS, Accounts Service officers

‘You have got chance which very few people get, use it to serve people’: CM tells appointees

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday distributed appointment orders to 55 newly selected candidates of the Combined Competitive Examination entering the Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service and Jammu & Kashmir Accounts ((Gazetted) Service at a function held at SKICC here.

The 55 newly appointed officers include 28 Junior Scale JKAS officers and 27 Accounts Officers of the J&K Accounts (Gazetted) Service.

Ministers Javid Ahmed Dar & Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, M. Raju, senior officers of the GAD, newly appointed officers and their parents were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister congratulated the newly selected officers and their parents and families,



acknowledging the effort, perseverance and sacrifices that went into their selection.

He told the officers that receiving their appointment orders was not the destination of their journey but a new beginning, and that they had covered only a small part of the larger journey ahead.

“Now you have to decide how you want people to remember you when you complete this journey. Only you can decide that,” the Chief Minister said, urging them to build their careers on the foundations of competence, honesty and hard work.

He said public servants are remembered not merely for the posi-

tions they hold but for the difference they make in the lives of people. He advised the officers to uphold integrity and ensure that their conduct in public service earns them respect.

The Chief Minister reminded the officers that behind every government file, application and complaint is the story of a person. While every grievance or complaint may not necessarily be justified, he said, there is a reason behind every grievance, and officers must have the sensitivity and willingness to understand people’s problems and work towards resolving them.

He urged the newly appointed officers to

look beyond promotions and postings and recognise the opportunity and responsibility that comes with being part of the civil services.

“Don’t keep postings and promotions in mind. Just think that you have got a chance which very few people get,” he said.

The Chief Minister also asked the officers to prepare themselves for challenges that Jammu and Kashmir may face in the coming decades, including improving education, making cities cleaner and more liveable, addressing climate change and responding to emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

He said that the nature of governance and the

challenges before society could change significantly over the next 10 to 20 years, and called upon the young officers to remain adaptable, innovative and committed to public service.

Omar Abdullah assured the officers that the Government would extend all possible support to help them discharge their responsibilities effectively and overcome difficulties in their professional journey.

“You will be in the service. You have to take advantage of that stability and assurance and think about how you would like to see Jammu and Kashmir at the end of your service,” he said.

The Chief Minister said he hoped the officers would live up to the expectations of their parents, families and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He wished the newly appointed officers success in their careers and urged them to always choose the right path, even when it was difficult.

“Make the right decision and serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir,” CM said.

Javid Dar assures prompt redress of issues of Fruit Mandi Associations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday interacted with the representatives of Fruit Mandi Associations from Kashmir Division at the Civil Secretariat here to discuss issues concerning the functioning of fruit mandis and strengthening of horticulture market infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by Director Horticulture Marketing and Planning, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar; Managing Director, JKHPMC, Mohammad Farooq Dar; Director Horticulture Kashmir, Vikas Anand; Presidents of Fruit Mandi Associations from Kashmir Division besides other senior officers.

During the interaction, the representatives apprised the Minister of various issues concerning the functioning of fruit mandis. They highlighted the need for strengthening the basic infrastructure and improving essential facilities for traders, fruit growers and labourers associated with the horticulture sector.

Javid Ahmad Dar assured the representatives



that their genuine concerns would be examined and resolved on priority basis. He directed the concerned officers to maintain close coordination with the mandi associations and take necessary measures for addressing their issues in a time-bound manner.

The Minister emphasized that the government is committed to create a conducive and efficient working environment in fruit mandis, which play a vital role in facilitating horticulture trade and supporting the livelihoods of thousands of growers, traders and workers.

Javid Dar stressed the need for strengthening the basic infrastructure and improving essential facilities in fruit mandis to facilitate smooth trade operations and ensure better

working conditions for all stakeholders. He called for coordinated efforts by the concerned departments to identify infrastructure gaps, address operational bottlenecks and ensure timely execution of necessary improvement works.

Highlighting the importance of the horticulture sector to Jammu and Kashmir’s economy, the Minister underscored the need for sustained efforts to strengthen market infrastructure, improve trade facilitation and safeguard the interests of fruit growers and other stakeholders.

He also emphasized the importance of regular interaction with the Fruit Mandi Associations to ensure that their concerns are promptly brought to the notice of the concerned authorities and resolved effectively.

Rana lays foundation stone for Rs 3.35 cr Helipad, waiting lounge in Mendhar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday laid the foundation stone for construction of a Helipad and Waiting Lounge at Qasab in Mendhar, Poonch district.

The project, approved by Omar Abdullah led government and taken up under the UT CAPEX, entails an estimated cost of Rs. 335.40 lakh and is aimed at strengthening connectivity and emergency response infrastructure in the remote border area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister described the project as a long-pending demand of the people of Mendhar and emphasized its importance for a geographically remote and strategically significant area. He said the initiative reflects the government’s focus on development of backward, border and remote rural pockets. The proposed facility would provide a vital alternative mode of connectivity and prove particularly beneficial



during medical emergencies, natural calamities and other situations requiring rapid movement of people and essential services, he added.

The Minister emphasized that improved connectivity is essential not only for facilitating access to healthcare and emergency services but also for promoting economic activity, tourism and the overall socio-economic development of the region. He added that sustained investment in infrastructure would help bridge developmental gaps and create better opportunities for the people living in these regions.

Highlighting the immense tourism potential of the area, the Minister

announced the development of a State-of-the-Art Tribal Tourism Village at Bhera Qasab. He said the proposed tourism village, to be developed near the helipad site, would serve as an important platform for showcasing the rich tribal heritage, culture, traditions, handicrafts, cuisine and lifestyle of the region.

The project is also envisaged to promote tourism and create sustainable livelihood and employment opportunities for the local population.

The foundation stone-laying ceremony was attended by thousands of local residents, besides senior officers of the district administration and the Public Works (Roads & Buildings) Department.

Surinder Choudhary announces small Industrial Estate in Chatroo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on the second day of his two-day visit to Kishtwar district, Tuesday visited the Tourist Reception Centre at Sub-Division Chatroo and held a public outreach programme to listen to the grievances and demands of the people and ensure their quality and timely disposal.

MLA Inderwal, Pyare Lal Sharma, was also present on the occasion.

During the event, the people raised various demands, including establishment of a Government ITI at Chatroo, upgradation of PHC Nali, provision of proper drainage along the NHIDCL Kishtwar-Sinthan road, establishment of a Government Women College for Block Mughal Maidan, resolution of unscheduled power cuts in Chatroo, upgradation of HS Chingam to HSS, establishment of a school

for Special Tribal Community students, setting up of a Gujar Bakarwal Hostel at Mughal Maidan, resolution of water scarcity issues and other demands concerning the area.



MLA Inderwal, raised the issue of road compensation and urged the Deputy Chief Minister to take up the matter with the higher authorities. He also raised issues related to several road projects, including Bunda to Mundil, Wanipora to Zaidhar, Markhal to Gagnar, Sheikhpura to Buttpora, Horna to Drubeer, Kakadwagan to Satarwagan, Moori Bunjwah Road and Sigdi to Hindgam.

Dy CM listened to all the grievances and assured every possible support for redress of the same.

On the occasion, Surinder Choudhary announced that a small Industrial

Estate would be established at Chatroo. He directed the concerned departments to identify suitable land and assess the feasibility of the project.

The Deputy Chief Minister urged the unemployed youth to avail benefits of the flagship Mission Yuva Scheme, which provides loan assistance without any mortgage or guarantee, enabling the individuals to start their own ventures.

CM inaugurates IEI guest house at Church Lane, Sonwar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday inaugurated the guest house of The Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI), ‘IEI GHAR’, at Church Lane, Sonwar, here on the occasion of the 59th Engineers’ Day.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi), Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Faz Lul Haseeb, Chairman, IEI J&K State Centre, Er. Ferdous Ahad Bhat, Honorary Secretary, IEI J&K State Centre, Irfan Ahmad Reshi, members of

the Executive Committee of IEI J&K State Centre and senior engineers were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister cut the ceremonial ribbon to formally inaugurate the facility and also took a tour of the guest house.

Appreciating the facility, the Chief Minister said that ‘IEI GHAR’ would provide a useful facility for members of the engineering community visiting Jammu and Kashmir from outside the region.

He said the initiative would further facilitate professional interaction and engagement among engineers visiting Jammu and Kashmir.

Rana lays foundation stones for Dev projects worth ₹64.44 cr in Mankote

GMK NEWS NETWORK

MANKOTE: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday laid the foundation stones for multiple major development projects worth ₹64.44 crore in Mankote area. These ambitious projects will give significant impetus to drinking water supply, road connectivity and healthcare infrastructure in the area.

During a public outreach programme at Dullian Sandote, the Minister laid the foundation stones for four Water Supply Schemes under UT CAPEX with a combined estimated cost of ₹8.60 crore. These included Water Supply Scheme Keri Kandi Kangra costing ₹2.25 crore, WSS Balakot Sandote costing ₹2.15 crore, WSS Prawa Dharati Panjani Phase-II costing ₹2.75 crore and WSS Kund Manjhari worth ₹1.455 crore.

The Minister also laid the foundation stones for

five PMGSY road projects involving an investment of around ₹55.09 crore. These included Kanti Gala to Dhratti Road costing ₹13.26 crore; Balakote Behrote to Dullian Sandote Road costing ₹5.92 crore; Sanghiote Road to Hattain Ferozalan Road costing ₹9.78 crore; Basooni Behruti Road to Behroti Lower costing ₹20.17 crore and Basooni Hansal to Khana Goda Gopal Road costing ₹5.96 crore.

The road projects are aimed at improving all-weather connectivity in the remote and hilly areas, facilitating the movement of people and goods and strengthening access to markets, healthcare, education and other essential services.

In the healthcare sector, Rana laid the foundation stone for construction of two 30-bedded wards at PHC Dhargloon, Tehsil Balakote, at an estimated cost of ₹74.95 lakh under the District CAPEX Budget (ABDP) 2025-26. The expansion will augment the bed capacity

of the health facility and improve access to medical services for residents of Balakote and adjoining areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana said that ensuring balanced and inclusive development of remote and border areas remains a key priority of the Government. Rana said drinking water security remains one of the foremost priorities of the Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. “Access to safe and adequate drinking water is a basic necessity, and these schemes will address the demands of people living in remote and hilly habitations,” he said.

Referring to the PMGSY projects, the Minister said that improved road connectivity is the backbone of development and would help open new avenues of economic activity while ensuring easier access to markets and essential services. He stressed the need for timely completion and quality execution of all the projects.

SRINAGAR: Minister for FS&CA, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Science and Technology Satish Sharma and Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Tuesday highlighted the importance of providing sustained platforms to young sporting talent and strengthening the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir while attending the opening day of the Greenlam Laminates BIG Premier League 2026 at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

The Minister and the Advisor interacted with participating teams and players and appreciated the organisers for bringing together emerging cricketers from across Jammu and Kashmir through the league.

Satish Sharma said that sporting events such as the BIG Premier League provide young people with an important platform to demonstrate their talent, discipline, determination and competitive spirit.



He said that the Government is committed to promoting sports at the grass-roots level and creating an enabling environment where talented youngsters can pursue their sporting aspirations and potentially make sports a career.

“Jammu and Kashmir has immense sporting talent, and our responsibility is to provide our youth with the right facilities, opportunities and platforms to realise their potential. Events like the BIG Premier League give young cricketers an opportunity to compete, gain

experience and showcase their abilities before a wider audience,” the Minister said.

Satish Sharma congratulated the organisers, participating teams, players and partners for the initiative and expressed hope that the league would inspire more youngsters to take up cricket and other sporting disciplines with dedication and professionalism.

He said that besides promoting competitive sport, such tournaments also contribute towards building discipline, teamwork, leadership qualities and

a positive outlook among young people.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani said that the Government attaches considerable importance to encouraging youth participation in sports and providing emerging talent with opportunities to compete at a higher level.

He appreciated the initiative for bringing together the sporting community and said that well-organised leagues provide young players with valuable exposure and experience while also creating greater public interest in sports.

“The talent among our youngsters is immense. What is required is a sustained ecosystem of competition, coaching, exposure and encouragement. Platforms like the BIG Premier League can play an important role in identifying and nurturing promising cricketers,” the Advisor said.

Nasir Aslam congratulated Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, 92.7 BIG FM, participating teams

and all partners for organising the tournament and wished the players and teams success for the competition.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Haseeb Ul Rehman, DIG Traffic Kashmir, representatives of participating teams, tournament partners and members of the organising team.

The opening match of the tournament saw Sultan Warriors Baramulla register a convincing seven-wicket victory over Valley Fresh Cold Chain.

Sultan Warriors Baramulla won the toss and elected to field first. Chasing the target set by Valley Fresh Cold Chain, Sultan Warriors completed the run chase comfortably to begin their tournament campaign on a winning note.

Lakhan Bharti was the star performer for Sultan Warriors, scoring an impressive 72 runs and also claiming a wicket. He was adjudged Player of the Match for his all-round contribution.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Kashmir Cannot Afford To Wake Up Too Late

The warning sounded by Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam should serve as a moment of collective introspection for Kashmir. His appeal to religious leadership and society to wake up to growing social and economic concerns comes at a time when families are confronting unemployment, financial insecurity, drug abuse and a visible erosion of social cohesion. His words, "If we won't wake up now, then only Allah knows what will happen to Kashmir," may sound stark, but the questions behind them deserve serious public discussion rather than political or religious dismissal. The suggestion to create microloan facilities for economically weaker people is particularly important. Poverty cannot always be addressed through charity, announcements or temporary assistance.

A person struggling to feed a family needs an opportunity to earn with dignity. Small, accessible and transparent credit facilities can help young people, women and needy families establish petty businesses, handicrafts, agriculture-related activities, services and other livelihood opportunities. But such schemes must not become another bureaucratic exercise. Kashmir has seen enough programmes announced with great enthusiasm and forgotten quietly after the publicity disappears. Microfinance must reach the genuinely needy, carry reasonable terms and be monitored transparently. Otherwise, a mechanism designed to liberate the poor can become another source of indebtedness.

The Grand Mufti's concern over drug abuse is equally serious. Kashmir's battle against narcotics cannot be fought by police action alone. Arrests, seizures and property attachments may be necessary against traffickers, but addiction is also a social and public-health challenge. Young people trapped in substance abuse need rehabilitation, counselling, family support and a realistic path back into education and employment. At the same time, any discussion about the involvement of Kashmiri girls and women in drug abuse or other alleged immoral activities must be handled with extraordinary responsibility. Society must protect vulnerable women rather than stigmatise them. Broad allegations can cause immense damage to families and individuals if they are not supported by facts. Moral panic is not a substitute for social reform.

The larger question is: where are the institutions that should have detected these problems before they reached alarming proportions? Religious organisations have a role, but so do schools, colleges, families, civil society, health institutions, law-enforcement agencies and the administration. The responsibility cannot be transferred to one section of society. The participation of Ulema from Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, Kargil and Doda in the MMU gathering is therefore significant. Kashmir's social challenges do not respect district boundaries, sectarian differences or geographical divisions. A coordinated response involving religious scholars, educators, doctors, counsellors, youth organisations and government institutions could prove far more effective than isolated sermons or occasional campaigns. The crisis also demands that society examine the conditions in which its young people are growing up.

When unemployment persists, productive opportunities remain limited, families struggle financially and young minds are increasingly exposed to harmful influences through digital platforms; merely telling them what not to do will not be enough. They need alternatives, education, employment, sports, skills, culture, counselling and a sense of purpose. Kashmir has historically possessed powerful community institutions and a strong tradition of social solidarity. The challenge now is to convert that social capital into practical action. The Grand Mufti has sounded the alarm. The question is whether Kashmir will listen before the problems become too deeply embedded to reverse. A society does not collapse suddenly. It begins to weaken when warning signs are repeatedly noticed, discussed and then forgotten. Kashmir cannot afford that luxury anymore.

Ladakh Has Won Ground, Now It Must Turn Progress Into Power



RISHI SURI

There are moments in political negotiations when continuing to protest is necessary. There are also moments when the wiser course is to recognise what has been achieved, secure it through law and institutions, and negotiate the remaining differences from a position of strength. Ladakh may have reached precisely such a moment. The September 9 meeting between representatives from Ladakh and the Union Home Ministry has produced sharply different reactions. Sonam Wangchuk and sections of the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance have expressed disappointment and warned that, without firm assurances, a fresh padyatra could begin on September 19, followed by a wider agitation.

Their impatience is understandable. Ladakh has waited years for a democratic structure suited to its unique geography, culture and strategic circumstances. But impatience should not obscure the progress already made. The Centre has discussed an elected Union Territory level body with legislative powers, including authority over critical subjects such as land, culture, language, forests and the environment. The proposal envisages direct elections rather than another nominated advisory mechanism.

Even more significant is movement towards a Ladakh specific constitutional safeguard under the proposed Article 371(K). Such a provision could protect Ladakh's land, culture, identity and



governance arrangements. This is not a minor concession. It addresses the heart of what Ladakhis have sought since the 2019 reorganisation: meaningful political representation alongside safeguards for their identity and resources.

Progress has already occurred elsewhere. Measures have provided 85 per cent reservation for locals, a 15 year residency criterion for domicile, 33 per cent reservation for women in the hill councils, and recognition of five official languages.

Representation matters too.

With the creation of Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass, Ladakh has expanded from two districts to seven. These districts now need democratic institutions that allow residents to participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their development.

The debate should therefore move beyond whether Ladakh has achieved anything. The real question is how quickly these gains can be converted into functioning democratic

institutions.

A prolonged confrontation will not primarily impose costs on Delhi. Those costs will be felt in Leh, Kargil, Nubra, Drass, Changthang, Sham and Zaskar. Political uncertainty can delay recruitment and development. Repeated shutdowns can hurt tourism, transport, small businesses and daily wage earners. Most importantly, renewed confrontation could push institutional reforms further into the future rather than bringing them closer. None of this means Ladakh's representatives should simply accept whatever is offered.

They should negotiate hard.

The legislative, financial and administrative powers of the proposed elected body must be clearly defined. There should be strong constitutional protection for land and employment, a transparent delimitation process, and fair representation for all seven districts.

And there must be a clear timeline.

But there is an important distinction

between negotiating for a stronger settlement and rejecting an emerging settlement simply because it does not immediately deliver every original demand. Politics is ultimately the art of converting public movements into durable institutions.

The solution is not another confrontation. It is a time bound draft

The Centre should place the architecture of the proposed arrangement before Ladakh's representatives, clearly setting out its legislative, financial and administrative powers and the scope of Article 371(K). Ladakhi leaders can then negotiate that document clause by clause.

That would move the debate from slogans to substance

Sonam Wangchuk and other civil society leaders have played an important role in keeping Ladakh's concerns in the national conversation. But no individual, organisation or government should become larger than the objective itself.

The objective is not perpetual agitation. It is the democratic empowerment of the people of Ladakh. If years of mobilisation have finally brought constitutional safeguards and elected governance within reach, leadership now has a responsibility to secure those gains, improve them where necessary and make them irreversible.

Ladakh does not have to choose between dignity and dialogue. It can have both. The next victory should not be measured by the size of another march. It should be measured by elected representatives taking their seats, constitutional protections entering the statute book, young Ladakhis getting jobs and the new districts acquiring functioning democratic institutions. The movement has created leverage. Now is the time to convert that leverage into law.

Rishi Suri is a senior editor covering international affairs at The Daily Milap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper.

No More Excuses

Reforming The First Point Of Revenue Contact

Government Servant Entrusted With The People's Most Valuable Records Must Answer Criticism With Honesty, Efficiency And Dedication



MOHD AMIN MIR

In every society, public perception matters. For the Patwari, it matters even more because the office he occupies is directly connected with the land, property and livelihood of ordinary people. A Patwari is often the first revenue functionary with whom a landholder comes into contact. Consequently, the conduct of a few individuals can influence the public perception of an entire institution.

Today, comments about the working culture of Patwaris are mixed. While many people acknowledge the hard work, difficult field conditions and increasing responsibilities being handled by revenue officials, there are also persistent negative comments about delays, lack of accessibility, alleged corruption and indifferent behaviour. These criticisms cannot simply be dismissed as the complaints of disgruntled individuals. They should become a matter of serious introspection for every Patwari.

The answer to negative public perception is not argument. The answer is better work. If people complain about delays, the Patwari should demonstrate timely disposal. If people complain about corruption, the Patwari should maintain a record of every transaction and ensure that no citizen is asked for anything beyond what is legally permissible. If people complain about unavailability, the Patwari should make his presence and working hours clear. If people complain about rude behaviour, the Patwari should remember that courtesy costs nothing but can restore enormous public confidence.

The Patwari's work is not merely an office routine. It has a direct bearing on ownership records, mutations, girdawari, khasra and khatauni entries, demarcation, land records and numerous matters that can affect the lives and property of citizens. Therefore, every Patwari must perform his duties strictly within the framework of the applicable Land Revenue laws, rules, standing instructions and orders of competent authorities.



A revenue record is not an ordinary piece of paper. Behind every entry may be a family's property, inheritance, livelihood or years of hard-earned savings. An incorrect entry, unnecessary delay or careless handling of a record can create disputes that may continue for years.

The Patwari must therefore develop a simple professional principle: Do what the law permits, record what has been done, and never do what the law does not permit.

Do not allow a few bad examples to define the whole cadre.

It would also be unfair to suggest that every Patwari is dishonest or inefficient. Many Patwaris work under difficult conditions, handle enormous records and spend long hours in the field as well as at their offices. Digitisation and new revenue-related assignments have further changed the nature and volume of their responsibilities.

Their genuine difficulties deserve recognition. But professional difficulties cannot become an excuse for misconduct. A government servant is ultimately accountable for the manner in which public duties are performed. If workload is excessive, the matter should be brought before the competent authorities through proper channels. If technical problems are affecting disposal of cases, they should be reported. If records are missing or old boundaries have become difficult to identify, the problem should be documented and placed before the higher revenue authorities. What cannot be justified

is allowing citizens to suffer silently because the system is difficult.

The public is watching

The Patwari should understand that the relationship between the revenue department and the public is changing. Digitisation, online land records and greater public awareness have made people more conscious of their rights and of the status of their land records. The citizen today wants transparency.

He wants to know why a mutation is pending, why a particular entry has been made, why demarcation cannot be completed, why a record requires correction and what legal procedure must be followed. The best Patwari is therefore not the one who merely knows the revenue terminology. The best Patwari is the one who can explain the lawful procedure to an ordinary citizen in simple language.

Every Patwari should also understand that honesty is not merely a moral virtue; it is professional protection. A Patwari who maintains proper records, follows the prescribed procedure, avoids private dealings, gives appropriate information to citizens and keeps a transparent record of his work has little to fear from scrutiny.

On the other hand, shortcuts, favouritism, unofficial demands and manipulation of records can eventually destroy both an individual's career and the reputation of the entire cadre.

The message should therefore be unequivocal: Do not wait for an investigation, complaint or

disciplinary action to teach you integrity. Make integrity the foundation of your daily work.

Turn criticism into an opportunity: Negative comments should not automatically be treated as an attack on the Patwari community. They can also be viewed as an opportunity for reform.

If ten citizens say that the Patwari office needs improvement, the appropriate response is to ask: What can we do better?

If people say that they cannot easily meet a Patwari, improve accessibility. If they complain about delays, improve monitoring.

If they complain about corruption, strengthen transparency.

If they complain about rude behaviour, improve public dealing.

If they complain about uncertainty regarding their land records, explain the position according to the record and the law.

This is how an institution earns respect.

The reputation of the cadre is in the hands of every Patwari

A Patwari cannot control every comment made about his profession. But he can control his own conduct. Every citizen who leaves a Patwari office satisfied becomes an informal ambassador of good administration. Every citizen who leaves humiliated, ignored or compelled to make repeated visits carries a negative impression to his family, neighbours and community. In this way, the reputation of the entire revenue field establishment is built, or damaged,

one citizen at a time.

The Patwari cadre therefore needs a collective commitment:

No corruption. No favouritism. No unnecessary delay. No manipulation of records. No disrespect to citizens.

Instead: Lawful action. Transparent procedure. Timely disposal. Proper record-keeping. Respectful public dealing.

Society remembers both good and bad service

The Patwari should never forget that the citizen may forget the name of an office order, but he will remember how he was treated. He may not understand every provision of the Land Revenue Act, but he expects the government servant sitting before him to understand it. He may not know the technicalities of a mutation or demarcation, but he expects a lawful and honest answer. That is the responsibility attached to the Patwari's chair.

Therefore, the time has come for every Patwari to look inward. Change the negative comments into positive comments, not through publicity, explanations or defensive statements, but through honest work. Work with dedication. Follow the law. Maintain transparency. Respect the public. Keep accurate records. Avoid every form of corruption and favouritism. Otherwise, society will not remain silent forever. The people may forgive an honest mistake, a genuine delay caused by circumstances, or an administrative difficulty. What they will not easily forgive is deliberate dishonesty, exploitation of their helplessness or misuse of public office.

The Patwari is not merely a keeper of land records. He is a face of the Revenue Administration at the grassroots.

That face must reflect honesty, competence, discipline and public service. The choice is ultimately with every Patwari: allow negative perceptions to grow, or work every day to replace them with trust and respect. The time to make that choice is now. Add a concrete reform roadmap. Reduce repeated moral appeals. Balance criticism with institutional context.

Mohd Amin Mir is a columnist and legal affairs writer who focuses on governance, land reforms, and institutional accountability in Jammu & Kashmir. He can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

Good Morning

Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors

Suhail Mir

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

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

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

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

No Fear Of MLAs

You said it today; now I will react to the next statement after a month. I will react to one of their statements every month. Not every day," he said.

Taking a dig at his critics, Omar said some commentators had turned against his government after failing to receive government jobs or accommodation. "I didn't give them a job in my government, and now they start writing. Here they are, commentators who don't get a government house, so they use social media against the government," he said.

"If I had given them a flat in Jawahar Nagar, would they have dared to write like this?" the CM asked, adding that he was not bothered by such "selfishness".

Earlier, addressing the appointment-order distribution function for newly selected officers, Abdullah said a new batch of JKAS and Accounts Gazetted Service officers had joined the J&K administration.

He said officers would spend the next 20–30 years of their careers in public service and expressed hope that this period would be used properly for serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The appointment, the Chief Minister said, marked a new beginning for the officers. He urged them to discharge their responsibilities with commitment and integrity—(KNO)

Kashmir's Next

ruled out.

A separate study published in February in Physics and Chemistry of the Earth also examined earthquake hazard in the Kashmir Valley and said the region's tectonic setting makes it vulnerable to major earthquakes.

The study by Ayaz Mohmood Dar used USGS earthquake records dating from 1900 as well as historical earthquake information. It identified around 1,000 earthquakes of magnitude above 3 since 1905, including around 150 events above magnitude 5, with clusters of seismic activity along the NNW and SSE extensions of the Kashmir basin.

The study also examined the Balapur Fault using total magnetic intensity surveys and identified magnetic minima and linear low-magnetic zones that the researcher associated with fault-related activity.

The researchers said the possibility of a large-magnitude earthquake could not be ruled out and that the valley's topography and tectonic setting could produce significant lateral loads on buildings during strong shaking.

Another major concern is the valley's ground conditions.

The review said thick Quaternary lacustrine and fluvio-deltaic sediments occur across parts of the Kashmir Valley and can increase the risk of liquefaction during strong earthquakes.

Srinagar, Baramulla and Kupwara have been identified in cited research as areas with high to very high liquefaction potential. The review noted that groundwater levels in the valley are relatively shallow, with saturated loose sediments capable of amplifying earthquake shaking and causing ground deformation and foundation failure.

The built environment adds another layer of risk. The review said much of the valley's urban construction consists of concrete buildings with shallow foundations, while inadequate foundation assessments and weak implementation of seismic design measures remain concerns.

Simulations cited in the review found significant lateral forces acting on typical three-storey institutional and commercial buildings, with lateral loads reaching up to 749 kN in one direction and combined base shears exceeding 11,000 kN in some simulations.

It also noted that traditional Kashmir construction systems such as Taq and Dhajji Dewari, which use timber-framed masonry and can perform better under lateral earthquake forces, have increasingly been abandoned.

Professor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology and an earth scientist, has warned that Jammu and Kashmir remains highly vulnerable to a major earthquake and has repeatedly called for greater public preparedness.

"We do not have a culture of disaster preparedness here. We talk very little about this, for whatever reasons. Our politicians, Imams and community leaders do not talk much about this," he said. "I think this is a very important issue for us, any disaster. We need to create disaster consciousness in our society," he said.

Prof Romshoo has argued that earthquake preparedness cannot remain limited to government agencies and technical institutions and that religious scholars, politicians and community leaders need to discuss disaster safety at the grassroots level.

The noted geologist has specifically called for Imams to use Friday sermons and mosques to educate people about earthquake preparedness and basic safety measures.

A peer-reviewed vulnerability assessment co-authored by Prof Romshoo found that around 98 per cent of Srinagar's buildings are masonry structures with extremely poor seismic resistance, according to the assessment cited in the material.

The assessment identified downtown Sri-

nagar as particularly vulnerable because of its dense construction, limited open spaces and narrow roads.

Prof Romshoo has also warned that schools and hospitals in the region are largely not earthquake-resistant. "Earthquakes cannot currently be predicted," he said. "Reducing casualties therefore depends on preparedness measures, including strict implementation of earthquake-resistant building codes, regular public drills and greater disaster awareness."

The Jammu and Kashmir government has also acknowledged the scale of the seismic risk. Earlier this year, it told the Legislative Assembly that the entire Union Territory had been placed in Seismic Zone VI, the highest risk category, under the newly notified IS 1893 (Part 1):2025. The revised classification treats all districts uniformly without internal gradation.

Structural audits are under way, with more than 11,600 school buildings assessed following the 2025 floods. The government has also constituted a committee for a comprehensive Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, while an earthquake early warning system remains at a nascent stage.

The studies and expert warnings point to a combination of factors rather than a single source of risk: active faults, a long history of earthquakes, accumulated tectonic strain, potentially liquefiable sediments, dense urbanisation and buildings that may not withstand strong lateral shaking.

Researchers have called for stronger seismic design and code enforcement, structural retrofitting, better hazard assessment, early-warning systems, public drills and greater community awareness to reduce the potential loss of life when a major earthquake occurs.

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Rain, Thundershowers

a maximum of 30 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 21.4 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 21.6 degrees Celsius and 11.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 24.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.5 degrees Celsius, Kupwara 27.5 degrees Celsius and 12 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag 24 degrees Celsius and 13.8 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded the lowest maximum temperature among the stations at 17.6 degrees Celsius, while its minimum temperature settled at 8.6 degrees Celsius.

Banihal recorded 25.3 degrees Celsius and 17.2 degrees Celsius; Batote, 26.7 degrees Celsius and 17.6 degrees Celsius; Katra, 26.6 degrees Celsius and 20.4 degrees Celsius; and Bhaderwah, 26.6 degrees Celsius and 16.2 degrees Celsius.

The weather department said the latest forecast indicated a return to predominantly dry conditions across J&K from September 18—(KNO)

Speaker Rather Reviews

that every aspect of the arrangements must be accorded due importance. He cautioned the officers against taking any matter lightly, observing that "small issues can create big problems" if not addressed in time.

The Speaker held detailed discussions on various arrangements and issued necessary directions to the concerned departments. Security arrangements figured prominently during the meeting.

He directed the concerned authorities to ensure comprehensive and foolproof security arrangements at the Assembly Secretariat and MLA Hostel, with emphasis on coordination among all security and administrative agencies.

On the legislative business, the Speaker directed the General Administration Department (GAD) to ensure that all concerned departments furnish replies to Assembly questions within the prescribed timelines. He instructed the departments to designate Nodal Officers for effective coordination with the Legislative Assembly Secretariat so that matters

relating the session are dealt with promptly and efficiently.

The Speaker also reviewed arrangements relating to transportation and parking, directing the concerned authorities to make adequate arrangements to facilitate Members of the Legislative Assembly and minimise inconvenience to the public. He directed that government bills be submitted to the Assembly Secretariat well in advance to facilitate their timely processing and proper scheduling during the Session.

The meeting was also informed about the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) on a hybrid model.

The Speaker directed the Information Technology Department to ensure reliable Wi-Fi and internet connectivity and all necessary technical support throughout the Session.

The Speaker stressed the need for effective traffic regulation and management around the Assembly premises and other identified areas so that the movement of the general public is not adversely affected during the Session.

Reviewing the essential civic and utility services, the Speaker directed the PHE and Power Development Department (PDD) to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply during the Session. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) was directed to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness in and around the Assembly premises and MLA hostel.

The Speaker directed the Health and AYUSH Departments to make adequate arrangements, including establishment of requisite medical and AYUSH stalls/facilities at the Assembly premises, for the convenience and well-being of Members, staff and visitors.

The Information Department was directed to make comprehensive arrangements for media and press coverage of the proceedings and to ensure proper coordination and regulation of media-related arrangements during the Session.

The Speaker called upon all concerned departments and officers to maintain close coordination with the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, adhere strictly to timelines and ensure that all requisite arrangements are put in place well before the commencement of the Session.

He reiterated that the objective is to ensure a smooth, orderly, productive and dignified conduct of the Legislative Session, in keeping with the institutional responsibilities of the Legislature and the expectations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP Demands

if we had followed the path shown by the BJP in their states, where they have held one- or two-day sessions," Omar said.

He said the ministers remained present in the J&K Assembly throughout the proceedings during the past sessions. "We sit in the Assembly from morning and leave in the evening," he said.

Omar also questioned the BJP to go through Parliament's functioning before questioning the J&K government. "These people never come to Parliament. They are never seen in Parliament," he said.

"Look at Parliament. Look at who sits for how long. Then you tell me who is taking it seriously and who is not," Omar added.

9 Drone Intrusions

and smuggling of arms, ammunition and narcotics along IB Sector especially in Punjab." the report reads—(KNO)

NHM Employees

The protesting employees are seeking pay parity with NHM employees working in other states, a comprehensive policy for job security and regularisation, and social security measures including Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' State Insurance (ESI), insurance coverage and post-retirement benefits.

The strike has entered its second week and has affected the functioning of several NHM-supported health programmes and services across the Union Territory. As NHM personnel continue to remain away from routine duties, the regular workforce at several health institutions is also facing additional pressure, particularly in areas where NHM employees form an important part of the service delivery system.

Employees said they have been performing duties for years across hospitals, health centres and field-level programmes, but continued to work without adequate employment security or social protection. "We have served the health department for years and have performed our duties in every situation, but our future is still uncertain. We are not asking for anything unreasonable. We want a proper policy that gives us job security and ensures that our years of service are recognised," a protesting employee said.

Another employee said the demand for pay parity had gained importance because NHM workers in several other states were receiving comparatively better remuneration and employment benefits.

"We are doing similar work and carrying similar responsibilities, but there is a considerable difference in our salaries and benefits. We want the government to look into this disparity

and ensure a fair and dignified wage structure for NHM employees in J&K," he said.

A female employee said job insecurity had remained a major concern among workers, particularly those who had spent several years working under NHM.

"Many employees have completed years of service, but there is still no certainty about what will happen to us in the future. We have families and responsibilities, and we need a policy that provides security instead of keeping us in uncertainty year after year," she said.

Another protesting employee said social security was equally important for workers who had devoted a significant portion of their careers to the health sector.

"We are demanding basic social security benefits such as EPF, ESI and insurance coverage. After serving for years, an employee should at least have some financial and social protection. These are genuine concerns and should not be left pending indefinitely," the employee said.

The employees maintained that their protest was peaceful and said they remained sensitive to the difficulties being faced by patients due to the ongoing agitation.

"We understand that healthcare is an essential service and that patients should not suffer. But our demands have remained pending for a long time. We are ready for dialogue at any time, provided the government comes forward with a concrete proposal and a time-bound roadmap," another employee said.

The association has also urged the authorities to intervene at the earliest, maintaining that prolonged uncertainty was affecting the morale of thousands of NHM workers across Jammu and Kashmir.

Employees said they were hopeful that the government would take the extension of the agitation seriously and initiate negotiations to resolve the matter.

With the strike now continuing for the seventh consecutive day, the employees said they would continue their peaceful agitation while awaiting concrete measures from the government on their demands.

They appealed to the administration to convene talks with their representatives and evolve a comprehensive solution that addresses pay disparity, employment security and social protection, paving the way for the restoration of normal NHM-linked healthcare services across J&K—(KNO)

Saudi Arabia Activates

"heinous and deliberate attacks" on civilians in Saudi Arabia. He said the coalition would respond "firmly to protect the sovereignty of the kingdom" and would take "all necessary operational measures to deter" the escalation.

Last week, the Houthis launched a barrage of missiles and drones at Saudi Arabia, targeting the southern cities of Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan and Najran. The attacks injured at least 73 people and led to the temporary suspension of operations at some energy facilities.

The Iranian-backed Houthis have accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out airstrikes and firing cruise missiles in Yemen, amid heavy fighting between Houthi fighters and Saudi-aligned government forces in southern and western Yemen.

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J&K's Shriya Gupta, Vishal Thapar to represent India at 20th Asian Games



GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: In a landmark moment for sports in Jammu & Kashmir, fencers Shriya Gupta and Vishal Thapar have been selected to represent India at the 20th Asian Games, to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in 2026.

The duo become the first Sabre fencers from J&K to earn selection to

the Asian Games. Shriya will compete in the Women's Sabre Individual and Team events, while Vishal will represent India in the Men's Sabre Team event.

Ahead of their departure, Tazayun Mukhtar Kawos, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, met with the two athletes to wish them well and see them off.

Speaking after the meeting, Tazayun said, "Meeting

Shriya and Vishal before they leave for Japan was a proud moment for all of us at the Sports Council. What they've achieved, becoming the first Sabre fencers from J&K to reach the Asian Games, is the result of years of discipline and hard work. The whole J&K is behind them, and we can't wait to see them compete on that stage and bring laurels to the country."

Laura Wolvaardt equals Smriti Mandhana's record for most international hundreds

NEW DELHI: South African skipper Laura Wolvaardt has put herself alongside Smriti Mandhana at the summit of the century chart of women's international cricket, producing a record-breaking 126 not out to power the Proteas women to an unsailable 3-0 series lead over Zimbabwe.

The Proteas skipper's extraordinary innings in the third T20I was her fourth hundred in the format and the 18th century of her international career, taking her level

with India's Mandhana for the most hundreds in women's cricket.

Wolvaardt needed only 62 deliveries to reach 126, striking at a remarkable 203.22. Her assault on the Zimbabwe bowling attack featured 16 fours and four sixes, while the unbeaten effort also rewrote the South African record books.

The 27-year-old surpassed her own previous T20I best of 115 not out, scored against Ireland in December last year. More significantly, she went past Shandre Fritz's unbeaten 116 against the Nether-

2nd T20I: 'We need to bring that intent', says Zadran as he admits to India challenge after series loss

IANIS

NEW DELHI: Afghanistan captain Ibrahim Zadran admitted his side failed to address the batting issues that hurt them in the opening T20I against India, with another Power-play collapse leaving the visitors unable to set a challenging target in the second game of the series at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday.

Afghanistan again struggled to establish momentum at the top of the innings, allowing India's bowlers to dictate terms during the first six overs. Zadran said the team had discussed the need for a more aggressive approach after the first match but was unable to translate those plans into action.

"Well, yeah, definitely we struggled again. We didn't get what we wanted, but as a group, we thought about it: how to improve, how to have that approach in international cricket, to carry on, especially



against the top teams. Yes, we didn't play well in the powerplay, I would say.

"So we didn't get the momentum there. They put pressure on us there. I'm

giving credit to the bowlers; we will think about it to improve in that area, and then I'm sure we will fight against the biggest team in international cricket," Zadran said after the game.

The Afghanistan skipper revealed that the dressing-room focus after the first game had been on taking their totals beyond the 150-160 range and towards the 200 mark. However, the visitors once again struggled to produce the attacking intent required in the opening phase.

"We thought about how to improve that 150-160 to 200 plus. So we need to bring that intent to the team. If you're going to get on 60 (in the powerplay) with the right intent, no problem. But we should go with the right intent to score, 200 plus. But yes, we didn't apply that."

Afghanistan's lack of recent T20I cricket has also made the challenge more difficult. Zadran pointed out that Tuesday's fixture

was only their second T20I of the year, leaving the team with limited opportunities to build rhythm and sharpen their approach against elite opposition.

"I'm pretty sure we will improve that area if you want to beat the biggest team on the international stage. But I would say this is the second game we have had this year. We didn't get a lot of games. So with that time, as I mentioned earlier, we will think about it."

Despite another difficult outing, Zadran remained confident Afghanistan can close the gap if they address their early-innings shortcomings. "As soon as we improve in that area, I'm pretty sure we will challenge the biggest team."

With India now holding a 2-0 lead in the three-match series, Afghanistan will have one final opportunity in the third T20I to produce the response their captain is seeking.

UEFA confirms Munich, Camp Nou as Champions League final venues for 2028, 2029



IANIS

NYON: UEFA has confirmed the venues for the 2028 and 2029 Champions League finals, with the Munich Football Arena and Barcelona's Camp Nou set to host the prestigious European club showpiece event.

The 2028 final will be played at the Munich Football Arena, while the 2029 edition will take place at Camp Nou in Barcelona, bringing the biggest match in European club football back to the iconic Catalan stadium.

Munich's stadium has considerable experience of hosting major Champions League occasions. It staged the final in 2012 and again in 2025, while the 2028 edition will give the venue another opportunity to welcome Europe's

top clubs.

For Barcelona, the 2029 final will mark the return of the Champions League showpiece to Camp Nou after three decades. The stadium last hosted the final in 1999, when Manchester United produced a dramatic late comeback to defeat Bayern Munich 2-1 and lift the European Cup.

The selection of Camp Nou comes as Barcelona continues the redevelopment of its historic home. The extensive renovation project began in 2023, and the stadium is still undergoing construction work.

Barcelona returned to Camp Nou last November after spending around two years away from the stadium during the redevelopment. The club expects the full project to be completed by the end of 2027 or in early 2028, meaning the venue should be ready well ahead of the 2029 Champions League final.

UEFA has also finalised the venues for the finals of its other major club competitions for 2028 and 2029.

The 2028 Women's Champions League final will be held at Parc Olympique Lyonnais in France, with Cardiff's National Stadium of Wales selected for the 2029 final.

The 2028 Europa League final will be staged at the National Arena in Bucharest, while Belgrade's National Stadium in Serbia will host the 2029 edition.

The Conference League finals will be played at Juventus Stadium in Turin in 2028 and Budapest's Puskas Arena in 2029.

Renato Gauchó, Philippe Coutinho return to Brazilian football in big moves

IANIS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Big transfer moves continued in Brazilian football with Renato Gauchó and Philippe Coutinho getting their opportunities in the top league.

While Renato Gauchó was appointed manager of Gremio, former Liverpool and Barcelona playmaker Philippe Coutinho joined Santos on a free transfer.

Gauchó has been appointed manager of Gremio for a fifth time, the Brazilian Serie A club said on Monday. The 64-year-old replaces Luis Castro, who was dismissed after a 2-1 home defeat to Vasco da Gama on Saturday, reports Xinhua. "Renato, the time has come to experience our glory together once again. Welcome home," the Porto Alegre club said on its official website.

Renato previously managed Gremio from 2010 to 2011, from 2013, from 2016 to 2021, and from 2022 to 2024. His honours at Gremio include winning the Copa Libertadores both as a player in 1983 and as manager in 2017.

Gremio is currently 16th in Brazil's 20-team Serie A standings, clear of the relegation zone on goal difference. The first match of Renato's new tenure will be an away clash with Botafogo on Wednesday.

Santos has completed the signing of former Liverpool and Barcelona playmaker Philippe Coutinho on a free transfer, the Brazilian club said on Monday. The 34-year-old, who completed a medical at the Rei Pelé training centre over the weekend, signed a deal that runs until December.

"With recognised technical quality and vision, in addition to a winning career in Europe and with the Brazilian national team, the midfielder arrives with a contract valid until the end of 2026," Santos said in a social media post.

Coutinho had been without a club since parting ways with Vasco da Gama in February, citing mental fatigue.

He admitted his long-time friend Neymar had played a key role in bringing him to the club. The pair previously played together for Brazil at both youth and senior levels, including at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

"Neymar has definitely played an important role in my life," Coutinho told a news conference. "He's a friend I've had since childhood. He was the first person in football to send me a message when I left Vasco. He said it would be a pleasure to play together, but at that moment I couldn't - I wasn't doing well."

SAD DEMISE

’Inna ’Lillahi Wa ’Inna ’Ilayhi ’Raji’un

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of **Mohammad Anwar Mir**, resident of **Divar, Tral, Pulwama**, who left for heavenly abode on **16 September 2026 (Wednesday)**. May Allah (SWT) grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannah and give strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

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