

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication



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■ 'Won't Allow Gundagardi'

Chaos On Day 1 Of J&K Assembly Autumn Session



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly began on Monday with noisy scenes as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators staged protests over power tariff hike and the regularization of daily-wagers.

As soon as the Speaker read the obituary references, BJP lawmakers led by Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Kumar Sharma stood up and raised slogans demanding justice for daily-wagers and National Health Mission (NHM) employees. They also protested against the recent hike in power tariff.

Shouting slogans such as “Jo Sarkar Na De Sakhe Bijli Pani, Woh Sarkar Nakami” (A government that fails to provide power and water is incompetent), “Insaf Karo, Daily-wagers Ke Sath” (Do justice with daily-wagers),

and “Insaf Karo, NHM Employees Ke Sath” (Do justice with NHM employees), the BJP legislators disrupted proceedings.

Despite the protests, ministers continued replying to questions raised by other lawmakers. Amid the din, BJP legislators shouted “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” and “Vande Mataram” slogans. Congress legislators Irfan Hafiz Lone and Iftikhar Ahmad attempted to counter them, though their exchanges could not be clearly heard. CPI(M) leader Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami also intervened, urging BJP members to raise slogans about the non-restoration of statehood. “Another slogan should be raised here that despite two years of an elected government having taken over, statehood has not been restored,” Tarigami told the BJP lawmakers.

Soon, BJP ●P-06

School Teacher Dismissed For Impregnating Minor Student

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has dismissed from service a government school teacher who is accused of sexually exploiting a minor nomadic girl, leading to her pregnancy and subsequent death.

The teacher, Khalid Hussain, has been terminated with immediate effect and permanently disqualified from future government employment under Article 311(2)(b) of the Constitution of India. His dismissal follows a series of deeply disturbing events that unfolded in Chattroo, remote hilly area of eastern Kishtwar district, where the minor girl, a student at the school, was allegedly subjected to repeated sexual exploitation, resulting in a pregnancy that ultimately proved fatal.

The case has shaken the local community, prompting strong administrative action



and renewed calls for safeguarding vulnerable children in remote areas.

According to Government Order No. 3880JK(Edu) of 2026, issued by the School Education Department on September 21, Hussain was posted at Government Middle School, Bumalpora, Gurnaila, Zone Inderwal, district Kishtwar.

The order states that an FIR No. 34/2026 was registered at Police Station Chattroo under Sections 61(2), 65(1), 90, 91 and 92 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, along with Sections 4, 6, 8, 10 and 17 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act, 2012, ●P-06

J&K Millets Mission To Boost Health, Sustainability: LG Sinha

Says Millets Were Part Of Our Agricultural Memory For Centuries

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that millet cultivation can give marginal farmers in the Union Territory a new sense of confidence while also helping reduce the risks associated with farming, as the J&K Millets Mission seeks to boost health and sustainability.

“I see the Millets Mission as the greatest hope for the smallest farmer in our villages. Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan, we prepared a strategy 3-4 years ago to ensure the health of future generations, the prosperity of our farmers and the protection of our earth. I believe that millet cultivation can give marginal farmers in Jammu Kashmir a new sense of confidence while also helping reduce the risks associated



with farming. On this occasion, I would like to tell all our marginal farmers that although the size of your landholding may be small, your contribution to building a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir can never be small,” Lieutenant Governor, Manoj

Sinha said while inaugurating the National Dialogue on Millets for Health: Building Healthy Ecosystems, Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems at SKUAST, Jammu.

Expressing gratitude to Padma

Shri Dr. Khadar Wali, popularly known as the “Millet Man of India” and Shri Umendra Dutt of Kheti Virasat Mission, the Lieutenant Governor lauded their efforts in creating a new awakening through the Millets Mission in UT of Jammu Kashmir. He emphasized that the occasion was not merely a seminar but a celebration of a revolution rooted in India's villages.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the pioneering role of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, who declared millets as “nutri-cereals” in 2018 and gave them the name Shree Anna, will be remembered by history. Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiatives led to the United Nations declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, bringing global recognition to India's traditional wisdom.

Tracing the ●P-06

LG Addresses 'Millets For Health' Seminar At GMC Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Monday addressed the ‘Millets for Health’ seminar at Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, and called upon the medical fraternity, scientists, farmers and citizens to make millets part of everyday life. Earlier in the day, the Lieutenant Governor addressed a national dialogue on the Millets

Mission organised by SKUAST, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor said the GMC's seminar was more than an academic exercise. “It is a reminder of shared responsibility towards the Earth, its water, farming families, villages and the health of every citizen. Nature's message is clear that limits cannot be crossed, and millets offer a credible alternative,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor ●P-06

Over 40,000 Posts Vacant Across Departments: Govt Informs Assembly

Health Sector Accounts For Highest Number Of Vacancies With 12,797 Posts

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that 40,672 posts are vacant under the direct recruitment quota across various departments in the Union Territory.

While responding to MLA Sajad Gani Lone and Irfan Hafiz Lone's queries, the government stated that the vacancies include 3,318 Gazetted, 24,427 Non-Gazetted and 12,927 Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) posts.

The Health and Medical Education Department has the highest number of vacancies at 12,797, comprising 2,125 Gazetted, 8,064 Non-Gazetted and 2,608 MTS posts.

The Agriculture Production, Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Horticulture Department has

4,939 vacancies, including 84 Gazetted, 1,925 Non-Gazetted and 2,930 MTS posts.

Similarly, Public Works (R&B) has 2,190 vacant posts, Housing and Urban Development 2,741, Finance 1,829, Industries and Commerce 1,787, Forest, Ecology and Environment 1,619, and School Education 1,364 vacancies.

The data further shows Power Development has 1,264 vacant posts, Youth Services and Sports 1,369, Jal Shakti 1,019, Revenue 1,208 and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj 836 vacancies.

The government said details of vacancies and posts referred

to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) have been appended separately.

It said measures being taken to ensure time-bound filling of vacancies include timely identification and referral of posts to recruiting agencies, adherence to the prescribed statutory framework, advance planning of recruitment cycles and close monitoring of recruitment timelines.

The government further said efforts were being made to streamline procedures, strengthen coordination with recruiting agencies and leverage ●P-06



CS Reviews Functioning Of Rehabilitation Council In EC Meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday chaired the 12th Executive Council Meeting of the J&K Rehabilitation Council for Orphans, Women and Disabled Persons to review its functioning, achievements and action plan for 2026-27.

The Meeting besides the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department was attended by Secretary in Social Welfare Department; DG, Budget; and Executive Director, Rehabilitation Council here.

The meeting reviewed major welfare interventions undertaken during the previous financial year and approved an expanded roadmap focused on improving mobility and self-reliance among specially-abled persons besides providing greater national exposure



and opportunities to children from vulnerable and economically weaker sections.

A major focus of the meeting was the free distribution of retrofitted motorized tricycles to eligible orthopedically disabled persons of J&K. The initiative prioritizes students, girl students, artisans and small vendors who possess a Priority Household (PHH) ration card and have at least 40 per cent locomotor disability. ●P-06

Examining Uniform Framework For Regularisation Of Temporary, Daily-Rated Workers: Govt

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday informed the House that it is examining a uniform framework for the regularisation of temporary workers, including daily-rated workers, casual and seasonal labourers, and other contractual and need-based employees engaged across departments.

In a written response to a question raised by MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone, the government said the matter is being examined by a committee constituted through Government Order No. 384-JK(GAD) of 2025 dated March 19, 2025.

The committee has been tasked with examining the humanitarian, legal and financial aspects of the regularisation of such workers,



the government said, adding that it is also reviewing the varying terms and conditions under which different categories of workers were engaged over time.

The government said any

proposed policy would have to conform to applicable statutory provisions, the prevailing legal position and the prescribed recruitment framework, while also taking into account the financial

implications.

It said the committee is undertaking a comprehensive exercise to formulate a framework that is legally enforceable and administratively implementable across departments.

The government added that consultations with the concerned departments and an examination of the issue from administrative, legal and financial perspectives are required before a final policy decision can be taken.

On the committee's report, the government said the matter remains under examination and that a considered decision will be taken after the exercise is completed and requisite inputs are received from the concerned departments and authorities—(KNO)

"Mere Drama" Deputy CM Slams BJP Over House Disruption

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday termed the disruption of Legislative Assembly proceedings by BJP members as “mere drama”, saying the opposition should question the government and raise people's issues instead of creating a ruckus.

Reacting to the disruption on the opening day of the Assembly session, Choudhary said that the limited time available should have been utilised to address public concerns.

“The House should have been used for people's expectations. No doubt the time was less; however, it should have been utilised for the people,” he said.

Choudhary said it was the opposition's responsibility to hold the government accountable and highlight issues concerning the people, but maintained that this should be done through debate and ●P-06

Only 899 New Posts Created In J&K Since Oct 2024: Govt

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Only 899 new posts have been created across various departments in Jammu and Kashmir since October 16, 2024, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

In response to a question by Handwara MLA Sajad Gani Lone, government data, showed that the Health and Medical Education Department accounted for the highest number of new posts created at 485, followed by the Housing and Urban Development Department with 266 posts and the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department with 82 posts.

The Jal Shakti Department created 43 posts, while the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Reha-

bilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) created 16 posts.

The remaining posts included three in the Cooperatives Department, two in the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, and one each in the ARI & Trainings and Transport departments.

The House was also informed that a total of 7,580 selections have been finalised by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) since October 2024.

The government said JKPSC finalised 1,768 selections, while JKSSB finalised 5,812 selections during the period.

According to the government, a total ●P-06



Water Supply in Batamaloo, Aloochoi Bagh to get major augmentation: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that the government is undertaking a series of long-term measures to augment potable water supply in S.D. Colony, Batamaloo, Aloochoi Bagh and adjoining densely populated areas.

The Minister said this while replying on behalf of Minister-In-charge Housing & Urban Development Department to a question raised by MLA Lal Chowk Constituency, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed Pardesi, during Question Hour regarding upgradation and augmentation of the water supply scheme in the area, the Minister said that a number of interventions have already been taken up to address the existing deficiencies and improve the adequacy, reliability and service levels of drinking water supply.

She stated that additional storage infrastructure is being created through construction of a 70,000-gallon capacity RCC Overhead Tank (OHT) at Danderkha, Batamaloo, under AMRUT 2.0. The work is presently under execution and is targeted for completion by the end of 2026-27. On commissioning, the facil-



ity is expected to enhance the storage capacity and improve the availability and service levels of potable water in Batamaloo and adjoining areas.

Similarly, the department has taken up construction of another 70,000-gallon capacity OHT at Khadi Mill, Aloochoi Bagh, including complete electro-mechanical works and operation and maintenance, under AMRUT 2.0. The project, estimated to cost ₹213.00 lakh, is presently in progress and is targeted for completion by the end of 2026-27.

The Minister said that, upon commissioning, the facility is expected to improve the water supply to approximately 477 households in Aloochoi Bagh and adjoining areas.

Sakeena Itoo informed the House that two new Water Treatment Plants

(WTPs), with capacity of 5.50 MGD at Alusteng and 5.00 MGD at Rangil respectively, are presently under execution and expected to be completed and commissioned by the end of the current year.

The Minister said that commissioning of these additional treatment capacities would substantially augment the availability of treated water in Srinagar city and, consequently, improve the water supply position in Batamaloo and its adjoining areas.

She further informed that, with a view to provide additional augmentation in the area, a 2.50 MGD Water Treatment Plant at Mehjoor Nagar has also been proposed. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project has been prepared and submitted for approval and subsequent funding of the scheme.

The Minister assured the House that the ongoing augmentation measures and projects under execution will help strengthen the water supply network and improve the availability and reliability of potable water in the city, including S.D. Colony, Batamaloo, Aloochoi Bagh and adjoining areas.

MLA also raised a supplementary to the question.

NRLM's Four-Day Regional Workshop on NSSF begins in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A four-day Regional Workshop on the National Supportive Supervision Framework (NSSF), Zone-3, commenced in Srinagar Monday, focusing on strengthening women-led community institutions and enhancing their sustainability.

Hosted by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) under DAY-NRLM, the workshop brings together NRLM officers and representatives from State Rural Livelihoods Missions of participating States.

Amit Shukla, Joint Secretary (Rural Livelihoods-I), Ministry of Rural Development, inaugurated the event virtually. He emphasized shifting from institutional scale to maturity, setting a milestone-based goal to develop 5,000 self-reliant Swawalambi Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) across blocks by 2031.

Dr. Monika B, Deputy Secretary, Rural Livelihoods, highlighted that CLFs must evolve into self-sustaining units. She stressed that these groups should independently build leadership and mobilize resources rather than rely on continuous external support.

Raman Wadhwa, Deputy Director of DAY-NRLM, discussed the potential of CLFs to implement the



SHE LIFE programme. He noted that their grassroots networks can translate national policies into coordinated community action.

Welcoming the participants, Mission Director JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, said the workshop provides an important platform for collective learning, sharing of experiences and effective implementation of the NSSF.

The framework aims to strengthen Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) through supportive supervision, with focus on governance, human resources, financial self-reliance, member outcomes and social agency, enabling them to evolve into autonomous and self-reliant institutions.

The inaugural session also featured a documentary highlighting JKRLM's achievements in women's empowerment, entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods.

The four-day workshop will include technical sessions by national-level experts from DAY-NRLM focusing on strengthening linkages among SHGs, Village Organisations, Producer Groups, FPOs, government departments and local markets and communities in a coordinated and sustainable manner.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Mission Director JKRLM; Syed Sajad Qadri, Mission Director Ladakh Rural Livelihood Mission; Dr. Jui Bhattacharya, National Mission Manager; Anshuman Singh, National program Manager; Syed Naseer, Additional Mission Director JKRLM (Kashmir), besides Participants from Six States and Union Territories, including Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, are taking part in the workshop.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Monday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Pampore-BK Pora line will be observed due to which power supply to BK Pora, Khanda, Chattergam, Kenihama, Summerbugh, Shalina, Wagoor, Wadipora, Aribagh, Checkpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 24 & 28 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Budgam line will be observed due to which power supply to Budgam, Sebdan, Nasrullahpora, Jawalapora, Ompora, SIDCO, Housing Colony, Railway Station Budgam, NIFT and adjoining areas will be affected

from 09 AM to 03 PM on 24 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Airforce line will be observed due to which power supply to Peerbagh, Cooperative Colony, Jeelana, Hyderpora, Nadru, PHQ, Airport, Sheikhpora, Friends Colony, Humhama Heights, Tawheed Bagh and adjoining areas will be affected from 11 AM to 03 PM on 23 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Pohrupeth Tapline of 33 kV Handwara Hot line will be observed due to which power supply to Flour Mill and Army Camp will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 23 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Badampora-Lar Tullulla line will be observed

due to which power supply to Lar, Waliwar, Watlar, Repora, Tullmulla, Dangerpore, Watlar, Theeru, Larsun and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 24 & 29 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kangan Surfraw line will be observed due to which power supply to Gund, Kullian, Gagangeer, Sonamarg, Fraw, Ganiwan and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 22 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Kangan Kangan line will be observed due to which power supply to Mammer, Wangath, Kangan, Akhal, Baba Nagri, Canal and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 26 September 2026.

Jammu Expo 2026 concludes on high note with overwhelming public response

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The first edition of Jammu Expo 2026 – A Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine successfully concluded here at Gole Market Gandhi Nagar, receiving an overwhelming and encouraging response from the people of Jammu.

Organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) under the aegis of the Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Jammu & Kashmir under the tagline “Discover Local-Experience Dogri Cuisine-Connect with Markets,” the three-day Expo, held from September 18 to 20, 2026, brought together local entrepreneurs, artisans, MSMEs, women-led enterprises, startups, ODOP enterprises and emerging businesses on a common platform to showcase their products and connect directly with consumers and markets.

Jammu Expo celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit, cultural identity and culi-



JAMMU EXPO 2026

Thankyou Jammu for supporting local entrepreneurs

nary heritage of Jammu and witnessed heavy footfall throughout all three days, with visitors showing keen interest in local products, handicrafts, handloom, agriculture, horticulture, food products, innovative offerings and products showcased by women-led SHGs/enterprises and local entrepreneurs. The enthusiastic participation of the public translated into impressive and strong

consumer engagement, providing exhibitors with valuable market exposure and direct customer interaction.

A major attraction of the Expo was the dedicated “Taste of Jammu” Food Corner, which offered visitors an opportunity to savour traditional Dogri cuisine, local snacks, beverages and value-added food products. The Expo also featured cultural

performances celebrating the rich Dogra heritage, adding to the overall visitor experience.

The participation of rural women Self-Help Groups, startups, ODOP enterprises, artisans, MSMEs and local businesses further strengthened the Expo's objective of promoting local enterprise and creating opportunities for market linkages.

The successful culmina-

tion of Jammu Expo 2026 reflected the growing interest of consumers in local products, local brands and local entrepreneurship, while providing participating enterprises with a platform to engage with customers, understand market preferences and expand their reach.

The JKTPO has extended its sincere gratitude to the people of Jammu, exhibitors, artisans, entrepreneurs, women-led enterprises, startups, partners and all stakeholders for their enthusiastic participation and support in making the first edition of Jammu Expo a success.

The overwhelming public response has further encouraged JKTPO to continue creating regular, market-oriented platforms across Jammu & Kashmir to promote local enterprises, strengthen market linkages and provide entrepreneurs and artisans with greater opportunities to connect with consumers and wider markets.

DC Budgam reviews NABARD-Funded Development Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Amir Khan, Monday chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of development projects being executed in the district under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of 90 projects sanctioned under RIDF-XXV to RIDF-XXXI was undertaken. It was informed that 68 projects have been completed, while 15 connectivity projects are presently under execution.

The meeting reviewed the progress of major road and bridge projects being implemented through the R&B Divisions of Budgam, Chadoora, Beerwah and Charar-i-Sharief.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of the status of ongoing works and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the projects.

The meeting was also informed about the progress of the Kutbal-Yousmarg Road, Kanidajang-Pehlipora-Seklu Road and Hanjigund-Chadoora diversion road-cum-bridge.



The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure timely completion of all requisite formalities and expedite execution of the works.

The meeting further reviewed eight new high-priority road and bridge projects sanctioned under NABARD RIDF-XXXII for 2026-27, covering important connectivity works in Nasrullahpora, Farshangipora, Beerwah, Charar-i-Sharief, Chadoora and Khansahib areas. Administrative Approval has been accorded for seven projects, while the remaining project is under process.

Emphasizing the importance of improved rural connectivity for socio-economic development and tourism, particularly in areas such as Tosamaidan, Doodhpathri and Yousmarg, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned Executive Engineers to augment man-

power and machinery and ensure time-bound execution of ongoing works.

He stressed adherence to approved specifications and quality standards, regular field monitoring, effective coordination among concerned departments and timely resolution of implementation issues.

The DC further directed the executing agencies to ensure optimum utilization of available resources and complete the projects within the stipulated timelines for early delivery of intended benefits to the public.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam Vivek Agarwal, SE R&B Division Budgam, Joint Director Planning Budgam, DFO Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam, Executive Engineers of R&B Divisions Budgam, Beerwah, Chadoora and Charar-i-Sharief, besides other concerned officers.

Civil Admin, Indian Army conduct Mega Cleanliness Drive in Tangdhar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In a major community-driven initiative towards improving sanitation and promoting responsible waste management, the Civil Administration Karnah, in collaboration with the Indian Army, conducted a Mega Cleanliness Drive in Tangdhar town Monday, bringing together government departments, local institutions and community stakeholders.

The drive witnessed active participation from Beopar Mandal Karnah, ex-servicemen, students, government officials, Numberdars, Chowkidars, former PRI members and other stakeholders, reflecting a collective commitment towards a cleaner and healthier Karnah.

The Commander, 104 Infantry Brigade; SDM Karnah; Tehsilidar Karnah; and BDO Tangdhar/Teethwal along with officers and officials of various departments, remained present during the drive.

Alongside the Mega Cleanliness Drive, the Rural Development Department (RDD) formally launched a door-to-



door (D2D) waste collection campaign in Tangdhar, with active participation and support of Beopar Mandal and other stakeholders.

A major emphasis of the campaign was placed on four-stream segregation of waste at source. Residents, shopkeepers and commercial establishments were sensitised to segregate waste at the point of generation and hand it over in segregated form to the designated door-to-door collection vehicles.

The Administration also called for zero open dumping and stressed that waste should not be discarded along roadsides, in drains, water channels or other public spaces.

Shopkeepers and commercial establishments were directed to maintain appropriate dustbins within

and around their premises and ensure proper disposal through the designated collection system.

It was further conveyed that sanitation and waste-management norms would be enforced and violations, including open dumping and improper disposal of waste, would invite action under the applicable provisions wherever warranted.

The Administration underlined that sustainable cleanliness cannot be achieved through periodic drives alone and requires segregation at source, systematic collection and sustained community ownership.

Citizens, traders and institutions were urged to make these practices part of their daily routine and collectively contribute towards a cleaner, healthier and more responsible Karnah.

DDC Kulgam reviews implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A review meeting on the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 was held Monday at Kulgam and was presided over by the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Shahzad Alam.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress

tion and functioning of Waste Processing Plants, four-way segregation of waste at source and the status of retrofitting of door-to-door collection vehicles, implementation of the Single-Use Plastic Portal and enforcement of penalties against violations and seized plastic, capacity-building programmes and prepared-



made by various departments and Urban Local Bodies towards effective solid waste management and to identify areas requiring further improvement.

The officers of the concerned RDD and Executive Officers of all Municipal Council/Committees apprised the meeting of the latest status, achievements, ongoing activities and issues requiring intervention.

Important aspects of solid waste management, including registration and management of Bulk Waste Generators, inspec-

ness for implementation of the SWM Rules, 2026 were reviewed in the meeting.

The DDC stressed the need for strict enforcement of rules, source segregation, efficient door-to-door collection, scientific processing and disposal of waste, besides strengthening coordination between Urban Local Bodies and Rural development.

The meeting was attended by ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; CPO, Malik Suhail; CEO MC Kulgam, Mohammad Irfan, BDO's and other officers and representatives of MCs.

SKUAST-K Scientists train Gurez Farmers in Silage making

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: SKUAST-Kashmir scientists conducted a two-day training and awareness programme on silage making, fodder conservation and scientific livestock management in Gurez, providing farmers with practical training and equipment to support livestock nutrition and address seasonal fodder shortages.

Organised in collaboration with KVK Dawar, the programme included practical demonstrations at Dawar and Kanzalwan. Farmers received hands-on

and Dr. Riyaz Bhat, SMS Animal Sciences and Co-Principal Investigator, provided technical training on silage preparation and fodder conservation. Dr. Maliha Gulzar, Project JRF, and Akif Wani, Semi-Skilled Worker, were also part of the project team.

The awareness sessions covered livestock vaccination, deworming, mineral supplementation and balanced feeding. Mineral mixture and deworming medicines were distributed among farmers as part of the programme.

The initiative seeks to



training in fodder selection, harvesting, chopping, compaction, sealing and storage for silage preparation.

Silage chaff cutters and drums were distributed for community use, while selected farmers received prepared silage to familiarise themselves with its use and encourage adoption of the practice.

Dr. Manzoor Yatoo, Associate Professor and Animal Nutrition Specialist, MLRI,

improve fodder conservation and livestock nutrition, reduce feed wastage and promote community-level silage preparation as a supplementary entrepreneurial activity in Gurez.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Amatul Muhee, Principal Investigator and Head, Veterinary Clinical Complex, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-Kashmir.

LG felicitates Langar Organisations on successful culmination of Amarnath Yatra

Calls selfless service the true soul of the pilgrimage; hails 120 Langar Organisations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Monday felicitated the organisers and volunteers of the Langar Organisations at Katra, Reasi, following the successful culmination of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

The Lieutenant Governor said the Langar volunteers are living embodiments of selfless service and compassion. He stated that every stakeholder associated with the sacred pilgrimage is a carrier of India's eternal cultural consciousness, and that history will remember the contribution of each one.

The 57-day yatra, which began on 3 July and concluded on Raksha Bandhan, 28 August 2026. More than 4.80 lakh devotees had darshan of Baba Barfani. About 82 percent of darshans were completed within the first 20 days and 95 percent within 30 days. The yatra was affected by rainfall for over 10 days, and an unexpected rush of unregistered pilgrims arrived in the first four to five days. The Lieutenant



Governor noted that the Shrine Board's coordination, swift decisions and stakeholder cooperation ensured that services and facilities were provided to all.

"We saw the spirit of selfless service manifest in the early days of the yatra and despite the unforeseen crowds, there was no shortage of any kind. I believe that the true soul of Lord Shiva's pilgrimage lies not only in reaching the holy cave, but also in the remarkable spirit of selfless service visible at the base camps and along those difficult routes," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said 120 Langar

Organisations set up service camps at base camps and along the arduous routes. Thousands of volunteers worked day and night, despite the biting cold, and none sought recognition or reward. The Lieutenant Governor observed that selfless seva of Langar Organisations gave strength to lakhs of pilgrims.

Highlighting the management of the yatra, the Lieutenant Governor noted that about 1.87 lakh devotees used palanquin and pony services through the digital pre-paid system, ensuring adherence to prescribed rates, swift redressal of complaints and an

end to overcharging. 93 medical facilities were set up, including over 595 beds and 26 oxygen booths. DRDO and the Department of Health & Medical Education established 100-bed hospitals at Baltal and Chandanwari. A total of 1,430 doctors and health workers were deployed round the clock, along with 48 ambulances, including 4x4 vehicles for inaccessible routes. Around 7,900 toilet and bathing units were installed and 7,900 sanitation workers were deployed, realising the resolve of a zero-waste yatra. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, had mentioned

the "Swachh Amarnath Yatra" in Mann Ki Baat.

The Lieutenant Governor said the yatra had again shown that when the administration, civil society, local residents of Jammu Kashmir and the Langar Organisations work with shared resolve, no challenge is insurmountable. Calling them custodians of India's shared civilizational heritage, the Lieutenant Governor urged all stakeholders to begin preparations for next year based on this year's experience, and to work with the Shrine Board so that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is regarded nationwide as a model spiritual pilgrimage.

"My prayer is that Lord Shiva may continue to shower His divine grace upon you all, and that every year you may continue to serve Baba's devotees in the same manner," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon the Shrine Board and Langar organizations to explore the inclusion of millets in community kitchens and bhojnalayas, and promote healthier dietary habits.

AUTUMN SESSION

Govt considering Rs 323.41 cr road projects to decongest Sopore town: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The government has formulated four major road infrastructure projects involving an estimated cost of ₹323.41 crore for easing traffic congestion in Sopore town and improving connectivity along the key routes, including those serving the Sopore Fruit Mandi. This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, while replying to a question raised by MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar during Question Hour in the Legislative Assembly Monday seeking details of a decongestion plan for Sopore town.

The Deputy Chief Minister informed the House that, with a view to decongest Sopore town, various road projects have been formulated on recommendations of the concerned



MLA. He said that the government is currently looking for sources to fund these projects under the relevant plan or scheme.

Giving details, he stated that the proposals include upgradation/widening of Sopore-Mazbugh-Ladoora road at an estimated cost of ₹24,952.45 lakh (₹249.52 crore); upgradation of Sofi Akbar-Chankhan road at ₹1,012.11 lakh (₹10.12 crore); upgradation of Sopore-Bandipora road

at ₹2,971.14 lakh (₹29.71 crore) and development/strengthening of Manzbugh-Ashpeer road at an earmarked cost of ₹3,405.70 lakh (₹34.06 crore).

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the identified projects have already been formulated as part of the efforts to address the infrastructure requirements of Sopore town. Their approval under an appropriate plan or scheme would pave the way for further action towards their implementation, he added.

The proposed road works, once approved and executed, are envisaged to enhance the capacity and condition of key connecting routes and contribute to more efficient traffic movement in and around Sopore.

MLA also raised a supplementary to the question.

LG hands over appointment letter to PSI Sachin Verma's Wife



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday handed over the appointment letter, on compassionate grounds, to Dr. Vaishali Misra, Wife of J&K Police Sub-Inspector Sachin Verma.

The Lieutenant Governor assured all possible assistance and support from the Administration to the family.

PSI Sachin Verma of 23 Bn IRP lost his life in an unfortunate road accident in the Nowgam area of Srinagar on August 11, 2025.

New appointments, rationalisation of medical staff to boost healthcare: Min Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that the government is taking sustained measures to strengthen the healthcare delivery in remote and difficult areas, including Kamah, through recruitment, rational deployment and augmentation of medical and paramedical manpower.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Javid Ahmad Mirchal during Question Hour regarding deployment of staff and augmentation of healthcare facilities in his constituency, the Minister said that 480 Medical Officer (Allopathic) posts were referred to JKPSG, against which 416 candidates have been recommended and 335 have been appointed, so

far. She said the newly appointed doctors would be appropriately deployed, with priority to the peripheral, underserved, remote and difficult-area health institutions including ALC areas.

The Minister informed the house that 73 NHM personnel are presently serving in Kamah Constituency while 466 non-gazetted posts under the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, have also been referred to the recruiting agency for selection. She said AYUSH doctors are posted at PHC Chiterkote while paramedical staff is available at PHC Chiterkote, PHC Teetwal, PHC Panzgam and PHC Nachiyar. She added that necessary internal arrangements are being made to ensure continuity of healthcare services in institutions where regular doctors are presently unavailable.

AAJ covers 879112 beneficiaries in J&K: Satish Sharma



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, Monday said that 8,79,112 beneficiaries have been covered under the Antyodaya

Anna Yojana (AAJ) in Jammu and Kashmir as on January 1, 2025.

The Minister was replying to the question raised by Sajad Gani Lone in the Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister apprised that the government of J&K has announced provision for refilling cost of 06 free domestic LPG cylinders per annum for AAY families through Aadhaar enabled DBT into the bank account of the beneficiaries. Necessary action for implementation of the scheme is underway and examination of various aspects/modalities involved is presently underway. The exact financial implication shall be worked out upon finalization of the scheme.

AUTUMN SESSION

₹3.22 crore relief disbursed to flood-affected families in Rajouri constituency: CM

403 roads and bridges proposed for permanent restoration at a cost of ₹185 crore

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that a detailed assessment of damage caused by the recent flash floods and landslides in Rajouri constituency has been carried out, with relief disbursed to affected families and plans prepared for permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure.

Replying to a question by MLA Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed during Question Hour of the Autumn Session, the Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, said 149 family-wise cases pertaining to damages caused by flash floods and landslides had been received by the District Administration Rajouri.

He said ₹40.61 lakh had been disbursed to the affected families of Rajouri constituency under the prescribed SDRF norms. In addition, ₹2.81 crore had been released to District Rajouri from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund which has been disbursed among the affected families in accordance with the approved norms.

The Chief Minister said a preliminary assessment of damage to roads and bridges in Rajouri district had been carried out and a proposal for permanent restoration of 403 roads and bridges had been prepared at an estimated cost



of ₹185 crore.

On the power infrastructure, he said damage amounting to ₹27.99 crore had been assessed in Rajouri district due to heavy rains and flash floods during July 2026, of which ₹9.39 crore pertained to Rajouri constituency.

He said temporary restoration of power supply had been undertaken through installation of an Emergency Restoration System (ERS) tower on the 132 KV Rajouri-Draba transmission line. The tendering process for its permanent restoration is under way.

The Chief Minister further informed the House that ₹1.25 crore had been received under SDRF for temporary restoration of power supply in Rajouri district. Of this, ₹57.60 lakh had been allocated to Rajouri constituency, while the remaining amount was distributed among other affected constituencies of the district.

As regards agricultural losses, the Chief Minister said the Agriculture Department had assessed crop damage during Kharif

2026 through field-level verification. Maize was affected over 416 hectares, with 15 per cent damage assessed, while paddy was affected over 101.50 hectares, with 65 per cent damage assessed.

He said the Jal Shakti and Public Works (R&B) Departments had also carried out detailed assessments of damage to water supply, irrigation and road infrastructure in the constituency.

The Chief Minister said all damaged roads, bridges, water supply and power supply schemes had been temporarily restored within one month. Detailed Project Reports for permanent restoration had been prepared and were under consideration.

He further stated that flood-prone electrical infrastructure would be strengthened and realigned wherever required to enhance its resilience against future eventualities. Adequate spares would also be kept available for immediate restoration of the electrical infrastructure in case of future damage or disruption.

Kupwara electrification works covering 29 habitations under implementation: CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Power Department portfolio, Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that electrification works covering 29 habitations and 1,936 households in Kupwara district are under implementation under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

Replying to a starred question raised by MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz during Question Hour of the Autumn Session, the Chief Minister said Letters of Award (LoAs) have already been issued for 10 blocks of Kupwara district for works amounting to ₹14.74 crore.

The works cover identi-

fied un-electrified habitations in Moori, Manigah, Kumkadi, Tangdar, Reday Chokibal, Wawwoora, Machil, Keran, Hyhama, Karoos, Teatwal, Sogam and Qadriabad.

He said the survey, drawings and final Bills of Quantities (BOQs) for all the identified habitations have been completed, while procurement of the required material is currently underway.

The Chief Minister further informed the House that works have already commenced in 10 habitations spread across five blocks, with expenditure of around ₹86 lakh incurred so far.

He said the action plan for electrifying all remaining un-electrified households has been prepared

as per the DPR sanctioned under RDSS, with the works prioritized and their implementation being monitored.

"The period for completion of these works is up to October 2027," the Chief Minister said.

Responding to a question on the availability and utilization of funds, he said no funds sanctioned for the works had lapsed. During the current financial year, ₹3.68 crore has been released for Kupwara district.

The Chief Minister said the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) is committed to completing the electrification works in a time-bound manner and ensuring reliable and quality power supply.

AUTUMN SESSION

J&K Assembly pays tributes to former Ministers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, which convened Monday for the Autumn session, paid tributes to former Ministers who passed away since the last session of the House.

During the obituary references, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather recalled the contributions of former Ministers Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Dharam Paul and Ghulam Hassan Khan.

The Speaker said the departed leaders remained at the forefront of the social and economic activities of Jammu and Kashmir and made valuable contributions to the development and welfare of the people. The House observed silence as a mark of respect to the departed leaders and conveyed heartfelt condolences. The Speaker also urged



Speaker announces Panel of Chairmen for Autumn session

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather Monday announced the Panel of Chairmen for the Autumn session.

The Speaker nominated MLA Eidgh Mubarak Gul, MLA

Samba Surjeet Singh Slathia and MLA Bandipora Nizam-ud-din Bhat as members of the panel.

The Panel of Chairmen will preside over the proceedings of the House in the absence of the Speaker.

the members to make judicious use of the time available during the session and work with dedication

and sincerity to live up to the expectations and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Healthcare Warranted,
Not Postponed

Geographical remoteness has long served as an convenient excuse for systemic neglect in healthcare delivery. In places like Karnah and other challenging, frontier constituencies, access to basic medical services remains disproportionately shaped by topography rather than human need. Yet, geography must not dictate the right to life and dignity. The residents of remote areas are entitled to the same standard of accessible, reliable, and timely medical attention as those living in urban centers.

Addressing this disparity requires moving beyond administrative promises to structural reform. Healthcare workers deployed to difficult terrains face distinct operational and personal hardships. Without adequate accommodation, functional working facilities, professional support, and continuous supervision, retaining medical staff in these regions will remain an uphill task. Staff retention and service continuity cannot rely on mandates alone; they depend on creating an environment where doctors and paramedical staff can work effectively and safely.

The Government's stated commitment to rational deployment and manpower augmentation is a welcome first step. However, policy intent holds little value if it fails to cross the threshold of implementation. The burden now falls squarely on the Health and Medical Education Department to bridge the gap between recruitment on paper and functional deployment on the ground. Staff allocations must translate into physically present, well-supported personnel at local health centers.

For the people of Karnah, progress will not be measured by official assurances or policy documents. The true benchmark of reform lies in everyday realities: operating health centers, available doctors, dependable emergency services, and a drastic reduction in the necessity for patients to travel long distances for primary care. Until administrative promises find expression in the lived experience of these communities, the promise of equitable health-care remains unfulfilled.

Beyond Comfort Lies The Path To Greatness



TAWHEED PARVAIZ BHAT

Life is a journey through different stages, and every stage teaches us something valuable. We often dream of achieving something extraordinary, yet we hesitate to take the first step because we are afraid of discomfort, failure, uncertainty and challenges. We want success, but we want it without leaving the comfort of what is familiar. But the truth is simple: growth begins where comfort ends. From the very beginning of life, we experience this reality.

Consider a child growing inside the mother's womb. The womb is a protected and comfortable environment. The child receives nourishment, warmth and protection without having to struggle for anything. It is, in a sense, the child's first comfort zone. But that comfort cannot last forever. After a certain period, the child must leave that protected environment and enter a completely new world.

The moment of birth is the child's first major transition, from comfort to uncertainty, from protection to challenge, and from dependence to a journey towards independence. The same path continues throughout our lives. Life moves from comfort to fear, from fear to learning, and from learning to growth.

The Comfort Zone
The comfort zone is a place where everything feels familiar. We know our routines, we understand our surroundings and we face very little risk. We may put in small efforts and accept small challenges because they make us feel safe. There is nothing wrong with being comfortable. The problem begins when comfort becomes a permanent destination rather than a temporary place to rest. If we remain there for too long, we may stop exploring our potential. We may avoid opportunities because they seem difficult. We may tell ourselves: "I cannot do it.", "What if I fail?", "Let someone else try." and "I am comfortable where I am." Comfort can protect us, but excessive comfort can also confine us. If we want to accomplish something extraordinary, we must eventually take the courage to step beyond it.

The Fear Zone
The moment we leave our comfort zone; we often enter the fear zone. This is where uncertainty begins. We may have low confidence. We may fear failure. We may



worry about what others will say. We may make excuses or feel that the road ahead is unclear. But fear does not always mean that we are on the wrong path. Sometimes, fear is simply a sign that we are entering unfamiliar territory.

A child taking his first steps may fall. A student attempting something new may make mistakes. A teacher introducing an innovative idea may face difficulties. An entrepreneur starting a business may experience setbacks. Yet every attempt teaches something. If we remain in the fear zone instead of running away from it, something important begins to happen: our confidence starts growing. We begin to discover that many of the things we feared were not as impossible as they appeared.

The Learning Zone
Once we begin confronting our fears, we enter the learning zone. This is where real transformation begins. We learn new skills. We face actual situations. We make mistakes and learn from them. We encounter challenges that force us to think differently. We become more adaptable and begin developing the confidence to handle unfamiliar circumstances. Just as a child learns to walk by standing, falling and trying again, we too learn through experience. Failure becomes a teacher, challenges become lessons, and mistakes become opportunities and experience becomes strength. The learning zone may not always be comfortable, but it prepares us for the

future. Every new skill we acquire, every challenge we overcome and every difficult situation we handle makes us stronger than we were before.

The Growth Zone
When learning, experience and perseverance come together, we enter the growth zone. This is where we begin moving towards our goals with greater confidence and clarity. In the growth zone, we are not simply learning how to survive challenges—we are learning how to transform ourselves. We begin setting bold goals, we develop and master new skills, we pursue our dreams, we discover our purpose, we remain motivated despite difficulties, we begin inspiring others.

and, most importantly, we begin feeling fulfilled. Growth is not merely about achieving success for ourselves. True growth also enables us to give back, support others and become a source of inspiration for those around us.

Nature itself teaches us that nothing grows without change. A seed must break open before it can become a plant. A butterfly must struggle to emerge from its cocoon. A river must continue moving to reach its destination. Likewise, a person must be willing to struggle, learn and change in order to reach his or her potential.

We cannot expect extraordinary results while living an ordinary routine of fear and comfort. If we always choose the easiest path, we may remain where we are. But

if we are willing to face challenges, learn from failures and keep moving forward, we create the possibility of achieving something greater.

Every person has dreams. Every person has untapped potential. But dreams alone cannot change our lives. Action does. If you want to achieve something meaningful in life, take the first step. Leave the comfort zone, face your fears, accept challenges, learn continuously, make mistakes, rise after every fall and

keep moving forward.
The journey may not be easy. At times, it may be uncomfortable, uncertain and even frightening. But remember: growth was never meant to be comfortable.

The child who leaves the comfort of the womb discovers a world waiting for him. In the same way, when we step beyond the boundaries we have created for ourselves, we may discover abilities, opportunities and possibilities that we never knew existed. Do not let comfort become your cage. Let it be the place from which you gather the courage to move forward. Because if you truly want to achieve something extraordinary in life, you must be willing to leave the ordinary behind.

The author is a teacher, writer and columnist focused on education, ethics, environment and emerging social challenges in the digital age.

BEYOND THE DESK

The Case For Saturday Holidays



HAROON RASHID BHAT

In today's fast-paced and increasingly mechanical age, one of the most valuable things we are gradually losing is something that cannot be measured in terms of money or productivity, quality time with our families, relatives, friends and communities. A weekly holiday on Saturday for all eligible government departments and sectors deserves serious consideration as a possible step towards restoring a healthier balance between professional responsibilities and personal life.

The idea is not entirely unfamiliar. Central Government employees already have notified holiday arrangements, while several universities in Kashmir have adopted a five-day working system, showing that institutions can function effectively on such a pattern when working hours, academic calendars and administrative requirements are properly planned. The proposal, therefore, should not be viewed merely as a demand for an additional holiday; rather, it is an opportunity to rethink how working time is organised in an age when professional responsibilities, long commuting hours, academic pressures and household commitments have left families with increasingly little time to spend meaningfully together.

For many parents, weekdays begin with rushing to workplaces and schools and end with exhaustion, leaving very little opportunity for conversation, recreation or social interaction. A common Saturday-Sunday weekend could provide families with a genuine opportunity to

slow down, sit together, visit relatives, meet friends, attend family functions, manage household responsibilities and, most importantly, reconnect with one another. Children, in particular, could benefit from such an arrangement. In an increasingly screen-dominated world, many children are growing up with limited interaction with grandparents, cousins and extended family members. A two-day weekend could give them an opportunity to visit grandparents and relatives, listen to their experiences, understand family traditions and develop a stronger sense of belonging.

Such experiences are themselves a form of education that cannot always be provided within the four walls of a classroom. Families could also use weekends for outings to parks, historical places, villages, mountains, lakes and other natural and cultural destinations. Kashmir, with its rich landscape, history and cultural heritage, offers enormous possibilities for meaningful family outings. A visit to a historical site, a nature trail, a local museum, a sporting activity or a tourist destination can provide children with practical knowledge about geography, environment, history, culture and society while simultaneously giving them recreation. Such activities could also create economic opportunities for small businesses connected with tourism, transport, food, handicrafts, sports, recreation and other local services.

A vibrant weekend economy could therefore benefit not only families but also small entrepreneurs and workers whose livelihoods depend on local visitors and tourism-related activities. There could also be an administrative advantage. Employees often have to seek casual leave for routine personal and family commitments because there is insufficient time outside working days. With a predictable



two-day weekend, many such activities could be planned for Saturday and Sunday, potentially reducing dependence on casual leave and helping maintain greater continuity in offices during the working week. However, any such policy must carefully address concerns relating to productivity, public services and academic requirements.

A five-day working week should not result in a reduction in prescribed working or teaching hours, nor should it affect syllabus completion or learning outcomes. A practical approach could therefore be adopted under which departments and educational institutions adjust working hours or academic calendars to ensure that the required number of working and teaching hours are maintained. Where a public holiday falls during the working week, Saturday could, wherever necessary, be treated as a working day to compensate for the lost working day, thereby ensuring that academic, administrative and institutional targets remain unaffected. Essential services such as hospitals, emergency services, public safety, transport and other departments requiring

continuous operation would naturally require separate shift or roster arrangements so that public services remain uninterrupted.

The Government could consider introducing the Saturday holiday initially on a phased or pilot basis for eligible departments and reviewing its impact after a defined period on parameters such as attendance, productivity, casual-leave utilisation, service delivery, academic progress and employee well-being. Such an approach would make the proposal a matter of practical administrative reform rather than simply a demand for another day off. Yet there is another important question that society must honestly address: how will families use the additional time? A Saturday holiday will have little meaning if the entire weekend is spent endlessly scrolling through mobile phones and social-media platforms.

The real purpose should be to encourage conversation, outdoor activities, reading, sports, visiting relatives, exploring nature and spending genuine time with children and elders. Technology has given us unprecedented connectivity,

yet ironically, people sometimes communicate more with distant strangers than with those sitting beside them. We must remember that human beings are not merely employees, consumers or users of technology; we are also parents, children, siblings, friends, neighbours and members of communities. A well-designed five-day working week could give people the time and space to fulfil these relationships without compromising professional responsibilities.

The Government may therefore consider a clear policy framework under which Saturday and Sunday are weekly holidays for eligible departments, while preserving essential services, maintaining prescribed working and teaching hours, ensuring syllabus completion and permitting Saturday working wherever required to compensate for holidays falling during the week. Such a framework could contribute to better work-life balance, reduce unnecessary dependence on casual leave, strengthen family relationships, encourage children's experiential learning and generate additional opportunities for local economic activity. Ultimately, the success of such a reform would depend not merely on the number of holidays but on how responsibly society uses them.

We should use the weekend to meet our parents, visit our relatives, take our children outdoors, play a sport, explore our surroundings, participate in community life or simply sit together and talk. A holiday is not merely a day away from work; it can be a day given back to family, relationships, community and life itself. Perhaps, in this increasingly mechanical age, giving people a little more time to be human is not a luxury but a necessity.

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Left Behind By Design

The Unfinished Promise Of Adivasi Schools



DR. NAWAZ SARIF

Three girls dead of snakebite in Gadchiroli, an eight-year-old dead in Nashik three weeks later, and 584 ashram-school deaths in Maharashtra alone in two years. This is not a mystery. It is a promise the state keeps funding and never quite finishes keeping.

On the night of August 9, six girls sleeping on the floor of a hostel dormitory in Jap-talai village, Gadchiroli district, because there were not enough cots for the 79 students packed into that single room, were bitten by a snake. No warden was on duty. Three of them, Deepika Lakda, 12, Sushmita Mandal, 14, and Anu Koreti, 8, died before morning. The state government cancelled the school's licence within a day, ordered a safety audit of all 511 aided ashram schools in Maharashtra, and had the headmaster and warden arrested; the school's own trustee, a former member of Parliament, was later made a co-accused, and a Gadchiroli court denied him anticipatory bail as recently as September 10.

Barely three weeks after that audit was announced, an eight-year-old at a different ashram school, this one in Kalwan taluka of Nashik district, developed a fever, was taken to hospital, sent back to her hostel once she seemed to improve, and died overnight; three officials were suspended within days. Her death fell in the middle of a twelve-day hunger strike already under way by tribal students elsewhere in the same district, protesting conditions in the very schools the state had just promised to audit. Somewhere in the middle of all this, Maharashtra's own Tribal Development Department disclosed that 584 ashram school students had died in the state over the preceding two years, from causes ranging from snakebite and sickle-cell complications to illness, accident and suicide.

None of it is confined to one state or one season. In July, 70 to 80 children fell

ill after eating spoiled food at an ashram school in Amravati's Melghat forest; further south, dozens more were hospitalised after suspected food poisoning at a girls' ashram school in Telangana's Warangal district. Versions of these nights recur, in one form or another, across India's tribal belt: in the Santhal villages of Jharkhand, the PVTG settlements of Odisha, the tea-garden Adivasi colonies of Assam, and Banswara's hills in Rajasthan. More than six decades after the Dhebar Commission, in 1961, first recommended residential ashram schools as the answer for tribal children in India's most inaccessible regions, the institution built on that recommendation still struggles, in state after state, to reliably feed, staff and protect them.

Strip away the inauguration ribbons and the enrolment numbers underneath tell an equally sobering story. UDISE+ data for 2023-24 shows the Gross Enrolment Ratio for Scheduled Tribe students falling from 98.3 per cent at the primary level to just 48.7 per cent by higher secondary, close to half the cohort lost somewhere along the way. For ST girls specifically, enrolment drops from 97.4 per cent in elementary school to 78.5 per cent at secondary and 48.4 per cent by higher secondary. Meghalaya recorded a fall of 71.6 percentage points between elementary and secondary ST enrolment in a single year's data; Bihar, 55.6 points.

Nationally, over 1.1 lakh schools still run on a single teacher, and nearly 32,000 report zero enrolment, a pattern concentrated overwhelmingly in the remote, forested and hilly terrain where most tribal habitations sit. There has been genuine improvement too: ST secondary enrolment ticked up from 63.0 to 66.9 per cent between 2023-24 and 2024-25, and Mizoram's ST enrolment, at 97.8 per cent, is the highest of any social category in any state. What the national figure hides is that some parts of India have essentially solved this problem, while others, this August's headlines suggest, have not even secured the basics.

The two flagship schemes built to close that gap have a story of their own to tell. Eklavya Model Residential Schools, the Centre's showcase residential programme for tribal children, were meant to number 728 by this year; as of the last government count, 721 had been sanctioned and only 477 were actually functional, serving roughly 3.5 lakh students against a much larger need. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs told Parliament in 2022 that 41 per cent of EMRS teaching posts nationally were vacant, against a sanctioned requirement of over 7,000. A 2023 commitment to recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff within three years has quietly run past its



own deadline with no public accounting of how many posts were actually filled. The older, far larger network of state-run Ashram Schools, first proposed under the Dhebar Commission in 1961, has fared worse simply because it has barely been counted at all: a parliamentary standing committee found only 862 such schools formally sanctioned nationwide and conceded that the data on the rest was too unreliable to summarise.

A hostel with 79 girls sleeping on the floor because there are not enough beds is not a freak occurrence; it is what an occupancy shortfall looks like the one night it goes wrong.

Maharashtra's numbers put that undercounting in sharp relief. In 2016, a member of Parliament told the Lok Sabha that 882 tribal children had died in state-run Ashram Schools across the country over the preceding five years, 684 of them in Maharashtra alone between 2010 and 2015, a toll of roughly 137 deaths a year in that one state. This August's disclosure of 584 deaths in Maharashtra's ashram schools over just the last two years works out to close to 292 a year, more than double the earlier figure, even allowing for differences in how the two counts were compiled. The National Human Rights Commission has now opened suo motu notices on Maharashtra's ashram schools twice inside a decade: once over reports that more than 500 Scheduled Tribe girls had died under suspicious circumstances over ten years, with abuse by staff also alleged, and again this August over the Gadchiroli snakebite deaths. There is no public record that the first notice was ever

fully closed out before the second one was opened.

Taken separately, a snakebite, a missed diagnosis, a batch of spoiled food and an old committee report can each be filed away as its own contained mishap. Strung together, over one state, inside barely five weeks, they describe something closer to a system that keeps producing the same outcome through different routes. A hostel with 79 girls sleeping on the floor because there are not enough beds is not a freak occurrence; it is what an occupancy shortfall looks like the one night it goes wrong. A residential school running on 59 per cent of its sanctioned teaching strength cannot deliver the "quality education on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas" that EMRS was designed to promise, and cannot staff a night warden either. And a network with a documented decade of unexplained deaths and unresolved abuse allegations teaches Adivasi families, not unreasonably, that a government hostel is not an unambiguous act of opportunity. Each of these failures nudges families toward exactly the choice UDISE data shows thousands are already making: pulling children, especially daughters, out before secondary school begins.

The shortfall here is harder to excuse than it once was, because money is increasingly not the constraint. The Union Budget for 2025-26 raised the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' allocation by nearly 46 per cent, to Rs 14,925.81 crore, with Rs 7,088.60 crore earmarked specifically for EMRS, enough, on paper, to finish what has been started. Yet that same year, Parliament's own standing committee on social jus-

tice and empowerment had to formally direct the ministry to spend the funds it had already been given. An agency sitting on unspent allocations is not short of resources. It is short of the follow-through needed to turn a sanctioned budget line into enough cots for a hostel room, a night warden on duty, and a staffed classroom the next morning.

Nothing here is beyond repair, and Maharashtra's own response to Gadchiroli shows both what urgency looks like and how quickly it can lapse. A licence cancelled within a day, an audit of 511 schools ordered within a week, arrests made within days: none of that prevented Kalwan, three weeks later, or the hunger strike still running in Nashik as this is written. Mizoram and much of the north-east demonstrate that near-universal tribal school retention is achievable inside India's own borders. Jharkhand posted a sharply improved secondary dropout rate for 2024-25, evidence that the gap narrows quickly once it is actually worked on. What the rest of the country needs is less a new scheme than the discipline to finish auditing what it has already promised to audit: complete the safety review of all 511 Maharashtra schools and extend it nationwide rather than letting it fade after the next news cycle, fill the 41 per cent of EMRS posts still standing empty before sanctioning fresh schools that would only join them, and turn every NHRC notice on an ashram-school death into a standing commitment that is checked back on, publicly, rather than quietly allowed to lapse the way the first Maharashtra notice appears to have.

India speaks often of its Adivasi communities as custodians of forest and culture worth protecting. It says far less, and does considerably less, about the schools it built in their name and never finished staffing, funding or supervising properly. A filled warden's post on the night of August 9 would have said more about that commitment than any inquiry ordered the morning after. Sixty-five years after the Dhebar Commission first recommended residential schooling as the answer, and several committees since that have said much the same thing, the fair question is not whether India cares about its Adivasi children, but when the provisioning will finally catch up with the caring.

NOTE: Views expressed in this opinion are authors' own and may not be found in accord with those of GMK

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Old Duties, New Technologies, Same Grade Pay



MOHD AMIN MIR

The ongoing session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has once again brought a range of public issues, administrative challenges, and matters concerning different sections of society into focus. Among the many questions that deserve the attention of this House, there is one that concerns the Patwari cadre of the Revenue Department, a long-pending issue relating to Grade Pay. This is not a new demand. It has been raised before, discussed in various forums, and has remained unresolved for reasons that are not entirely clear to those who live with its consequences every day. The present session offers an opportunity to look at it afresh.

The timing of this appeal is not accidental. Patwaris across Jammu and Kashmir are presently engaged in AgriStack-related assignments and the Digital Crop Survey, in addition to their regular revenue duties. They are, in a sense, the ground-level implementers of some of the government's most ambitious digital initiatives. The question of their Grade Pay, therefore, is not merely a service matter sitting in some file. It is connected to the larger question of how we recognise and support those who are carrying the weight of administrative transformation.

The role of a Patwari has changed substantially over the years. Once confined to maintaining traditional revenue records and performing routine field duties, the Patwari today is increasingly involved in the transition from paper-based administration to digital governance. AgriStack, Digital Crop Survey, digitisation of land



records, verification of ownership particulars and other technology-driven initiatives have added new dimensions to field-level responsibilities. Yet, behind every digital entry there is a field employee who has to verify the information. A computer may store the data, but the accuracy of that data often depends upon the person who visits the field, examines the record, interacts with the landholder and understands the ground reality. This makes the Patwari an important link between technology, revenue records and the common citizen.

There is a tendency to assume that digitalisation reduces the workload of employees. At the field level, however, the situation can be quite different. When old records contain discrepancies, when ownership has changed through inheritance, when several co-sharers are recorded under one survey number, when names differ between documents, or when the position on the ground does not immediately correspond with an old record, human verification becomes essential. These matters cannot always be resolved merely by pressing a button.

They require experience, knowledge of revenue records, understanding of local conditions and careful field-level verification. At present, Patwaris are undertaking these responsibilities while continuing their conventional duties relating to Jamabandis, mutations, Girdawari, field verification and other revenue work.

It is against this background that the issue of Grade Pay of Patwaris deserves the attention of the Government and elected representatives. The demand should not be viewed simply as a request for an increase in salary. For employees, the pay structure is also connected with the recognition accorded to the responsibilities attached to their post. When the character of a job changes and new technical and field responsibilities are added, it is natural for the concerned employees to expect that their service conditions will also be examined from time to time. The Patwari cadre has been adapting itself to a rapidly changing system of revenue administration. The humble request is therefore that the Government may kindly examine the Grade Pay issue on its merits and in accordance with the applicable rules, service

conditions and financial procedures.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister may kindly consider giving this matter appropriate attention during the present Assembly session. A clear response regarding the status of the Grade Pay proposal, the stage at which the matter presently stands and the steps required for its consideration would go a long way in addressing the concern among the cadre. A field workforce that feels recognised and supported can contribute with greater confidence to the Government's ambitious programme of digital transformation. The request is therefore not merely about an employee benefit. It is also about strengthening the field machinery of the Revenue Department.

The Hon'ble State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly also have an important opportunity to take up this issue with the Government. The Patwari works at the village level and remains one of the most visible representatives of the Revenue Department before rural citizens. Farmers, landowners and ordinary villagers frequently approach the Patwari for matters connected with their land and revenue records. The cadre therefore performs a public-facing role of considerable importance. A humble request is made to Hon'ble Members that they may kindly raise the issue with the concerned authorities and seek a factual update on the Grade Pay matter, so that the employees concerned may know where the issue presently stands.

Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards increasingly digital governance. This transformation is welcome and necessary. But successful digital governance depends upon a strong field-level institutional structure. AgriStack and Digital Crop Survey are examples of programmes where the quality of the final database depends substantially upon the quality of information collected and verified on the ground. Therefore, while the Government is investing in digital platforms, databases and technology, equal attention to the human resources implementing these

reforms is also important. The Patwari should not be viewed merely as the person entering information into a system. The Patwari is often the person who helps determine whether that information corresponds with the actual revenue record and the reality in the field.

The purpose of this appeal is not to create confrontation between employees and the administration. On the contrary, it is a humble request for dialogue and consideration. Patwaris have continued to perform their duties during a period of significant transformation in the Revenue Department. Today, when they are deeply engaged in AgriStack and Digital Crop Survey assignments, their long-standing service-related concerns also deserve to be heard. The Government may kindly examine the matter through the appropriate administrative and financial channels and, if the proposal is found admissible under the applicable norms, take necessary steps towards its resolution.

The present Assembly session provides an appropriate platform for elected representatives to bring such grassroots administrative issues to the attention of the Government. A kind word, a serious look at the file, a factual update on where the matter stands, these are small things in the larger scheme of administration, but they matter greatly to those who have been waiting for years. The Patwari stands at the point where the Government's policies meet the village, the farmer and the landholder. As Jammu and Kashmir moves towards a modern and technology-enabled Revenue Department, it is equally important that the field employees carrying this transformation forward feel that their legitimate concerns are receiving the attention they deserve. A fair and sympathetic consideration of the Grade Pay issue during this session would be a step in that direction.

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

MRI procurement underway, Cath lab tender floated at GMC B'la: Govt

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The Health and Medical Education Department has informed the Legislative Assembly that several key infrastructure and healthcare expansion projects at Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla are at different stages of implementation, with procurement of an MRI machine underway and a fresh tender process initiated for a Cath Lab.

The details were furnished by the department in response to a question raised by Javid Hassan Baig, MLA Baramulla, regarding the status of MRI, Cath Lab, medical waste management, land expansion, AYUSH facilities and ambulance services in

the constituency.

Regarding the MRI facility, the department, said the machine has been approved under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme. The J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) placed a purchase order for its procurement on July 24, 2026.

The procurement process is expected to take around five to six months, subject to the availability of funds.

The Cath Lab project, meanwhile, has faced delays after the selected bidder could not supply the equipment according to the tender specifications, as the specified model had reportedly been discontinued by the

firm.

The government said a fresh tender has now been floated and its technical evaluation is currently underway. The financial bid is scheduled to be opened by September 30, while a fresh rate contract is targeted to be awarded by October 10, 2026.

On medical waste management, the department said waste generated at GMC Baramulla is presently being managed through an outsourced agency. It added that a Sewerage Treatment Plant/Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) has been approved under the 2026-27 Capex Budget.

The cost estimates for the project are currently being verified by the Engineer-in-Chief, PWD, following which the process for according

administrative approval is expected to be taken forward.

On the expansion of GMC Baramulla, the department said 61 kanals and 13 marlas of land had been transferred to the Health and Medical Education Department from the Industries and Commerce Department for the establishment of the medical college.

However, citing an acute shortage of land at the institution, another 32-kanal patch adjacent to GMC Baramulla, reportedly under the possession of the District Industries Centre (DIC), Baramulla, has been identified for acquisition.

The matter has been taken up with the Industries and Commerce Department for the issuance of a

formal NOC for the transfer of the land, which is still awaited.

For AYUSH infrastructure, the government said a proposal for the establishment of an Ayurvedic Medical College in Baramulla has been approved under the National AYUSH Mission.

Land measuring 50 kanals at Amargarh in Sopore has already been transferred to the H&ME Department through Government Order No. 23-JK (Rev) of 2026 dated July 8, 2026.

The Chief Engineer, R&B, North Kashmir, has been asked to formulate the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed institution.

On ambulance availability, the government said emergency response and patient transportation in the con-

stituency are being provided through the 102/108 ambulance services.

At present, the constituency has ambulances stationed at Fatehgarh, Chandoosa, GMC Baramulla, PHC Sheeri and PHC Delina, including BLS, ALS and 102-service ambulances.

The department clarified that there is no separate proposal for constituency-wise procurement of ambulances. Any future additions to the 102/108 fleet, it said, would be prioritised based on critical gaps.

The government also disclosed that, following certification by the Collector Land Acquisition (ACR), Baramulla, regarding the non-availability of state land, four kanals of private land have been identified for the construction of an additional/

new building for CHC Chandoosa.

The proposed site is located around 200 metres from the existing hospital building.

Before construction can begin, the land will have to undergo a technical feasibility assessment by the expert wing of the Public Works (R&B) Department. The prescribed revenue procedures for the acquisition of private land and the requisite NOC from the J&K Architects Organisation will also have to be completed.

After the completion of these prerequisites, the project will be uploaded to the BEAMS portal for the release of funds by the Finance Department and the accord of administrative approval by the competent authority—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Chaos On Day 1

legislators stormed into the Well of the House, resorting to massive anti-government sloganeering. Congress MLAs Irfan Hafiz Lone and Iftikhar Ahmad, along with MLA Shopian Shabir Kulley and MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshed, attempted to enter the Well but were prevented by marshals.

National Conference (NC) MLAs also stood up, raising slogans demanding the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather repeatedly appealed to the protesting lawmakers to return to their seats and warned them of action. "Go to your seats," he urged, but BJP legislators remained in the Well and continued their sloganeering.

Amid the uproar, NC's Nazir Gurezi accused BJP leaders of wasting the House's time to hide their incompetence. "They should protest in Delhi rather than here," he told the Speaker. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary alleged that the BJP did not want the government to resolve issues confronting the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

As commotion continued, the Speaker adjourned the House for the day—(KNO)

J&K Millets

heritage of millets, the Lieutenant Governor noted that sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, kodo millet, little millet, foxtail millet, and barnyard millet have nourished generations of farmers and families. Once sidelined as "food of the poor," millets are now reclaiming their place at the intersection of tradition and modern science. He reiterated the ancient wisdom—"Annam Brahma"—food is divine, and healthy food builds healthy citizens, strong societies, and resilient nations.

"The experts are aware that millets nourished the families of small and marginal farmers in different parts of the country for many decades. At that time, modern irrigation facilities were not available. Marginal farmers had neither access to fertilisers nor accurate weather forecasts. However, millet crops did not require these to the same extent, because they could grow even in the most difficult weather conditions and provide support to families.

Today, science is understanding this traditional wisdom through new research and evidence. Countries across the world that are facing the challenge of climate change are also realising that the food of the future will not merely be food that can be produced in large quantities. It will have to be nutritious, profitable for farmers and sustainable for the planet," he said.

Highlighting the relevance of millets for Jammu Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor underscored that over 80% of the region's farmers are small and marginal, dependent on uncertain weather. Millets, requiring less water and fewer inputs, offer them confidence and sustainability. He urged farmers to embrace millet cultivation as a pathway to self-reliance and resilience against climate change.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized the health benefits of millets, noting their dietary fibre, low glycaemic index, and rich nutrients such as iron, calcium, magnesium, and zinc. He called upon citizens to bring millet-based foods like bajra rotis, ragi dishes, and barnyard millet rice back to their plates to combat lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and hypertension.

On the economic front, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of creating a millet economy from farm to market.

"With India producing 18 million tonnes of millets in 2024-25 and accounting for

38% of global production, the importance of value-added millet products is immense. We must encourage women's self-help groups and young entrepreneurs in Jammu Kashmir to innovate with millet-based enterprises, packaging, and branding under initiatives like One District, One Product," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all stakeholders including farmers, researchers, doctors, entrepreneurs, and citizens, to make food systems diverse, nutritious, sustainable, and resilient.

"I call upon every household to give millet products a place on their plate and strengthen farmers, empower women, and ensure a healthier future for generations. I also want all of you to carry this message to the villages that millets are not merely a heritage of the past but they are a strategy for the future of Jammu Kashmir. Let us work together to ensure that every village has opportunities and future generations inherit a healthy planet," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released several publications including 'A Laboratory Manual on Soil Microbiology'; 'Fundamentals of Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing', and 'Package of Practices for Minor Millets'.

Padam Shri Dr Khadar Vali; Prof BN Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu; Shri Umendra Dutt, Executive Director, Kheti Virasat Mission; Dr. Anjani Kumar, IFPRI; Prof. SK Gupta Director Research, SKUAST Jammu; experts, policy makers, researchers; senior officials, progressive farmers, agri-preneurs, members of Self-Help Groups, faculty and students attended the inaugural ceremony.

JK Govt To Move

As per list of business, Minister for Rural Development Department, Javaid Ahmad Dar will move a Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 19 to repeal the Jammu and Kashmir Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999 to provide transitional arrangement of self-reliant cooperatives under Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989 and for matters connected or incidental thereto—(KNO)

LG Addresses

underlined that millets are as old as Indian civilisation. Bajra, jowar, ragi, kodo, kutki, kangni and sanwa have sustained generations, grow with little water in harsh climates and need minimal chemical support.

The Lieutenant Governor cited the 2018 ICMR report, which found that non-communicable diseases accounted for 61.8 percent of all deaths in 2016, up from 37.09 percent in 1990. The National Family Health Survey, the Lieutenant Governor noted, records high blood pressure in 11 per cent of women and 15 percent of men aged 15-49.

"I believe these are not merely medical problems but they directly affect family economic conditions, social life, and national productivity. I firmly believe that, in such times, greater inclusion of our traditional food, millets, can show us an important path towards disease prevention and a healthy lifestyle," he said.

Highlighting their nutritional value, the Lieutenant Governor said millets are rich in fibre, iron, calcium and other micronutrients. He said several research papers suggest that millets have a relatively low glycaemic index and support heart health, cholesterol control and weight management.

"Looking at the research studies, I can say that millets impact the entire chain,

from protecting individual health to conserving nature and with the cooperation of the medical fraternity, awareness about their benefits must reach every section of society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Stressing that the time has come to move from discussion to action, the Lieutenant Governor appealed to farmers to diversify their crops and to scientists to develop high-yielding, climate-suited varieties.

"I urge all doctors and nutrition experts to create evidence-based awareness about the role of millets in a balanced diet. I appeal to all citizens of Jammu Kashmir to prioritise the nutritious and balanced food of millets over processed food.

I am fully confident that, if we all move forward together, we can build a Jammu Kashmir that ensures food security, safeguards citizens' health, and also protects water, soil, and the environment. Together, we should sow the seeds of health, sustainability, and prosperity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Padma Shri Dr Khadar Vali; Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal, GMC Jammu; Shri Umendra Dutt, Executive Director, Kheti Virasat Mission; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; senior officials, experts, faculty and students were present.

School Teacher

reported news agency Kashmir Dot Com.

The government said that after considering the facts and circumstances of the case and material on record, the activities attributed to Hussain warranted imposition of a major penalty. GeographicReference

The order further states that the competent authority decided to dismiss him from service, which ordinarily disqualifies him from future government employment. It invoked Article 311(2)(b), read with Rule 30(viii) of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, stating that holding an inquiry was not reasonable practicable and categorizing the case among the "rarest of the rare cases".

The dismissal order was issued by the School Education Department today, with the order signed by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma.

Over 40,000 Posts

technology to expedite the recruitment process while ensuring transparency, fairness and merit.

It added that directions had already been issued to all departments for timely referral of vacancies falling under the direct quota to recruiting agencies in accordance with SRO-166 of 2005 dated June 14, 2005, and Circular No. 01-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated January 1, 2024—(KNO)

CS Reviews

It was given out by the Commissioner Secretary, SWD, Sarmad Hafeez that during 2025-26, against an approved proposal of 13 crore, the Social Welfare Department released 11.05 crore under the CAPEX Budget to the State Motor Garages Department for procurement of around 1,284 motorized tricycles at an approximate cost of 86,000 per unit through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

Similarly for 2026-27, the Council has proposed 12.95 crore for procurement of around 1,500 units, with an initial 4 crore already released after completion of mandatory codal formalities by the Department.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the 'Watan Ko Jano' Youth Exchange Programme, being fully funded and supported by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, since 2012.

The programme provides children and youth from vulnerable sections, including children of militancy-hit victims, specially-abled children and those belonging to economically weaker sections, an opportunity to experience the cultural diversity and developmental progress of different parts of the country.

Under the programme, the Executive Director of the Council divulged that around 250 children from EWS families, studying in government schools and residing in Palash and Parisha Homes managed by the Social Welfare Department, undertook a visit to Lucknow and New Delhi in April 2026, accompanied by 23 coordinators. During the visit, the children also had the opportunity to meet and interact with the President of India and Vice President of India.

Moreover, building on the initiative, the Council is going to take more 400 children on national exposure visits in two phases during 2026-27, covering the Mumbai-New Delhi and Jaipur-New Delhi circuits, with funding already secured from the MHA.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to fast-track procurement and implementation processes while maintaining complete transparency and adherence to prescribed procedures.

He also stressed maximizing outreach and ensuring that welfare schemes translate into tangible benefits for eligible beneficiaries at the grassroots level, with particular attention to empowerment and social inclusion of vulnerable sections across the cross section of the society here.

Deputy CM Slams

discussion.

"They don't want to run the House but only to be in headlines and reels. This drama won't be allowed to continue," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

The House proceedings were disrupted amid BJP protests over power tariff hikes and demands for the regularisation of daily wagers. National Conference and Congress members also raised slogans seeking the restoration of statehood.

Choudhary further alleged that the BJP deliberately disrupted proceedings over the report related to the Jal Jeevan Mission.

"BJP knew the Jal Jeevan Mission report was to be submitted. The irregularities pertain to their tenure and were committed by them," he said.

He alleged that the BJP was attempting to divert attention from its record during its tenure in Jammu and Kashmir.

"If they want a CBI inquiry, they should raise the matter before the government and the Assembly instead of creating a hue and cry," Choudhary said.

He reiterated that the Assembly should be used to debate public issues and seek answers from the government rather than disrupt proceedings—(KNO)

Only 899 New

of 1,852 vacancies were referred to JKPSC. These included 855 Open Merit (OM), 198 Scheduled Caste (SC), 166 ST-1, 156 ST-2, 114 OBC, 65 ALD/IB, 149 RBA, 139 EWS, four PSP and six ST backlog vacancies.

For JKSSB, 12,418 vacancies were referred, including 5,173 Open Merit, 1,104 SC, 1,248 ST-1, 1,212 ST-2, 933 OBC, 495 ALD/IB, 1,174 RBA and 1,079 EWS vacancies.

Overall, 14,270 vacancies were referred to the two recruitment agencies for recruitment during the period, according to the government reply—(KNO)

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Govt ensures transparency in allotment of works below departmental estimates: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary Monday informed the House that the government follows a well-defined, transparent and rule-based mechanism for allotment of works, including those where the accepted bid is lower than the departmental estimated cost.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Mehraj Malik regarding the allotment of works below departmental estimates, the Deputy Chief Minister said that departmental estimates are prepared strictly in accordance with the applicable Schedule of Rates, prevailing site conditions, approved technical specifications and quantities. Wherever required, prevailing market rates are also taken into consideration, he added. He said that all estimates are subjected to due technical scrutiny and are sanctioned by the competent authority in accordance with the prescribed rules and procedures.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that works are subsequently allotted through a transparent and competitive e-tendering process to the lowest responsive and eligible bidder, strictly as per the applicable tendering pro-



visions. He clarified that where a bid is substantially lower than the departmental estimated cost, it is not accepted mechanically. Instead, its reasonableness, financial viability and the bidder's capacity to execute the work are examined in accordance with the applicable rules, Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs) and prescribed procedures before a decision on award is taken.

He further informed the House that a well-defined mechanism is in place for scrutiny of substantially low or abnormally low bids. Before awarding such works, the bidder's eligibility, technical and financial capacity, past experience, available resources and the reasonableness and viability of the quoted rates are duly assessed with reference to the tender conditions and applicable SBDs.

Wherever prescribed under the tender condi-

tions, Additional Performance Security is also obtained from the successful bidder to safeguard the government's financial and contractual interests, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that allotment of a work at a rate lower than the departmental estimate does not dilute the prescribed quality standards. During execution, compliance with the approved specifications, quantities, quality parameters and contractual conditions is ensured through regular inspections, testing and established quality-control mechanisms.

He stated that appropriate Defect Liability and Maintenance provisions are incorporated in contracts, wherever applicable. The concerned field officers remain responsible for monitoring the condition of completed works during the stipulated period and maintaining

prescribed inspection and maintenance records.

"Where any defect attributable to the contractor is noticed, the contractor is directed to rectify the same in accordance with the contractual provisions and within the stipulated time," he said.

Surinder Choudhary added that in case of failure to comply with the contractual obligations, necessary action is taken under the relevant provisions, including withholding or recovery of payments and invocation of performance securities, wherever warranted.

Referring specifically to PMGSY works, the Deputy Chief Minister said that maintenance and performance of completed road works are also monitored through the e-MARG portal, in accordance with the applicable provisions. The system facilitates systematic monitoring of road conditions, maintenance obligations and timely rectification of deficiencies, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister maintained that every bid, whether above, at or below the departmental estimate, is considered strictly on the basis of the prescribed rules, eligibility criteria, financial and technical viability and contractual safeguards.

AUTUMN SESSION

Hasnain Masoodi presents House Committee Report

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chairman of the House Committee, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, Monday laid on the Table of the House, a copy of report of the House Committee to probe into the alleged irregularities in implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, the House Committee had been constituted vide number L. A. 1994-2014/legn/2025 dated 09.04.2025.

Javid Dar introduces Bill to amend J&K Cooperative Societies Act

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Cooperatives, Javid Ahmad Dar Monday introduced in the Legislative Assembly a Bill seeking to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989.

"A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989, to repeal the Jammu and Kashmir Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999 and to provide transitional arrangement of self-reliant cooperatives under the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989 and for matters connected or incidental thereto. (L.A. Bill No.9 of 2026)," already published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette.

UTLIMC reviews progress on PACS computerisation

Directs timely completion of remaining deliverables

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary Cooperative, Yasha Mudgal, Monday chaired the 12th meeting of the Union Territory Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (UTLIMC) to review the progress on the Centrally Sponsored Project for Computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K; Deputy General Manager, NABARD; Managing Director, J&K State Cooperative Training Board (JKSTCB); representatives of the System Integrator and Managing Directors of the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs).

During the meeting, the

System Integrator made a detailed PowerPoint presentation before the Committee, apprising the members of the overall progress of the PACS Computerisation Project, the status of implementation across the Union Territory. The presentation also highlighted the activities presently underway and the areas requiring focused attention for timely completion of the remaining targets.

Reviewing the progress, Yasha Mudgal directed the System Integrator to maintain the momentum of implementation and ensure completion of all assigned deliverables within the stipulated timelines. She emphasized that the approved implementation schedule must be adhered to strictly and all necessary measures should be taken to prevent delays in completion

of the remaining activities.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed that the objective of the project should go beyond mere installation or deployment of the computerised system and should culminate in its effective adoption and utilisation by PACS. She emphasized that the computerisation initiative should facilitate improvement in the day-to-day functioning of PACS and enable them to provide more efficient and transparent services to their members.

She underscored the importance of close and continuous coordination among the Cooperative Department, Registrar Cooperative Societies, NABARD, DCCBs, System Integrator and other stakeholders for timely resolution of field-level issues and smooth implementation of the project.

District-Level NCORD meeting held in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, along with SSP Budgam, Hariprasad KK Monday chaired the 51st District-Level Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) meeting at the Conference Hall, Budgam. The Deputy Commissioner took detailed review of measures for prevention and control of drug abuse in the district.

At the outset, the DC reviewed enforcement, awareness, treatment and rehabilitation measures and called for stronger coordination among all concerned departments. He directed intensified IEC activities, particularly among youth, students and vulnerable groups, besides strict vigil around educational institutions and other vulnerable areas.

BJP Organises Plantation Drive Under Seva Sankalp Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar, organised a Plantation Drive at Rajbagh, near Presentation Convent School, under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan.

The programme was attended by BJP State General Secretary Anwar Khan Ji, State General Secretary Gopal Mahajan Ji, State Vice President Shahnaz Ganai Ji, State Secretary Arif Raja Ji. All cell co-ordinator Bilal Parray Ji. State General Secretary BJYM Majid Ajaz Khan Ji, State Vice President BJYM Khalid Bakal Ji, State Secretary Umar Jan Ji,



The programme was organised under the leadership of District President Youth BJP Srinagar, Yash Parimoo Ji, with the active participation of the BJP Youth Srinagar team.

The plantation drive highlighted the importance of environmental responsibility and encouraged youth participation in community service and nation-building.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION- 1ST, SRINAGAR.

Email: xen-ed1@jk.gov.in Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No. 042/EDI, dt: 19.09.2026

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), the Tender Floating Authority, as specified in clause 1 of BDS, invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&KPDD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/GEM, for the works as specified in clause 2 of BDS (Bid Data Sheet).

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost
1	Creation of 100 KVA, 11/0.433KV substation at Drug Lab CD Hospital Srinagar	Rs 4.79 lacs

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/ Sale of Bid Document (Start)	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 19-09-2026; 16:00 PM
B	Clarification start date	19-09-2026; 16:00 Hours
C	Clarification End date	07-10-2026; 16:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	19-09-2026; 16:00 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	10.10.2026; 16:00 Hours
F	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
G	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	12-10-2026; 12:00 Hours
H	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
I	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-I, Sgr.
J	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs. 200/- (Rupees One Hundred only).
H	EMD (2%)	Rs.9600/- (Rupees Nineteen thousand Six Hundred Only)

Sd/-

Executive Engineer
Electric Division 1st, Srinagar

DIPK-NB-1695-26
DT: 21/09/2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NEAR: TEHSIL OFFICE CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Two cover system | E-NIT No: 67/EE/R&B/CHD/ 4240-49 of 2026-27/Dated: 19/09/2026

Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

SN	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (incl. cost of Bitumen and GST (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money CDR/ FDR/ BG (Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Upgradation of road from Mukam to Shumnag Dowut road.	43.61	1100	87,220.00	20	4059 UT Sector	A/B
2	Upgradation of Chattergam to Gowherpora Road.	145.51	2600	2,91,020	730	4059 UT Sector	AAV

Project Authority: Chief Engineer (R&B) Central Kashmir
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned
Position of funds: Committed

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	19/09/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	19/09/2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	19/09/2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	28/09/2026 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	29/09/2026 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Inviting Authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3.1. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work, The CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security on stipulated period, the case may be forwarded to Higher Authorities for debaring of the participating in tendering process for a period of 01 Year.

4. Abnormally Low Bid Price:
As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08.08.2025, which is reproduced as :-
Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance security/percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance Security shall be taken only after approval of next Higher authority.

5. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Receiving Authority).

6. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

ii) All other terms and conditions will be as per PWD Form 25 and CPWD General Conditions of Contract (CPWD G.C.C)

ii) All other terms and condition shall be same as per NIT No:

No: 4240-49
Dated: 19/09/2026

DIPK-5941-26
DT: 21/09/2026

Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Chadoora

UT Inter-District U-19 Cricket Tournament inaugurated at Anantnag



GMK SPORTS DESK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Monday formally inaugurated the UT Level Inter-District U-19 Cricket Tournament at Nanil, Anantnag, marking the commencement of a major sporting event featuring young cricketing talent from across Jammu and Kashmir.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by DYSSO Anantnag, Zahoor Ahmad Wani, Tehsildar Anantnag, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer and other officers and officials. Players representing 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, along with officials of the Youth Services and Sports Department, participated in the inaugural programme.

The tournament is being organized by the Youth Services and Sports Department, J&K, and hosted by DYSSO Anantnag. Around 360 U-19 male cricketers representing 20 district teams are taking part in the competition.

The matches are being conducted across four venues at Jablipora, Bijbehara and Nanil under the supervision of officials from the Youth Services and Sports Department. Speaking on the occasion, DC Anantnag highlighted the vital role of sports in the holistic development of youth. He emphasized that sporting activities provide young people with a positive and productive platform and can play an important role in keeping them away from drug abuse and other social challenges.

He encouraged the participating players to make sports an integral part of their daily lives and appreciated the Youth Services and Sports Department for organizing the tournament in Anantnag.

The tournament is expected to provide a valuable platform for emerging cricketers to showcase their talent, gain competitive exposure and further strengthen the sporting culture across Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Sports Council's 'My Youth My Pride' takes grassroots sports to B'pora



GMK SPORTS DESK

BANDIPORA: The J&K Sports Council's "My Youth My Pride" initiative continued to promote grassroots sports across the Union Territory, with netball competitions in Bandipora providing young athletes opportunities to compete, showcase their talent and develop their sporting potential.

The District Netball Championship was held at the Indoor Sports Hall, Shadipora, Sumbal, with 160 players, 15 officials and around 50 spectators participating and witnessing the competition. The championship offered young netball players an opportunity to demonstrate their skills, competitive spirit and sportsmanship.

The activities underline the Government's continued focus on taking sports beyond major urban centres and into rural, remote and far-flung areas, ensuring that young athletes across every district have access to sporting platforms and facilities.

Through initiatives such as My Youth My Pride, the J&K Sports Council is utilising existing sports infrastructure, including indoor halls, school grounds and district-level facilities, to create regular opportunities for youth participation and talent identification. The initiative aims to strengthen the grassroots sports ecosystem and provide a pathway for budding athletes to progress from local competitions to higher-level sporting platforms.

Ahead of facing Australia 'A', how N Jagadeesan stopped chasing and started enjoying his cricket

IAN S

NEW DELHI: N Jagadeesan used to begin each domestic season by calculating numbers in his head. These many in the first game and second match will be needed by the season's end so that the selectors would find it hard to look past him. The method was sound in the quest to play for India, but it was also ruining him.

"I was very motivated to be part of the Indian team and in terms of being part of the Indian team, the things what I wanted to do in the domestic circuit was something which I had thought even before the season had started. I had my own goals as to how many runs I need to score in first game and second game, how much do I score?"

"But when you actually have a plan of that sort, it is more often than not that it doesn't go to your plan and all of a sudden, when it doesn't go to your plan, you feel a lot of pressure. Once the pressure hits you, you no longer play your game and you don't enjoy the sport."

"You just end up taking the pressure too much and not expressing yourself on the field. So, I feel there was a time in my career where I



felt that I was taking a lot of pressure - thinking of selections, my result, the amount of runs I am scoring and stuff. So, that was really taxing on me and it wasn't the best feeling I had because the love for the sport had not been there.

"So, the only thing what I wanted to do was to get the love back of the sport because the day I started playing cricket was just to enjoy the sport as it is and not think about anything else," Jagadeesan told IANS in a chat ahead of India A's series against Australia A, which begins in Puducherry on Tuesday.

Needing a mindset shift and regaining the joy of play-

ing cricket, Jagadeesan found a mentor in former India batter and his ex-Chennai Super Kings team-mate Robin Uthappa. At some point, Uthappa mentioned something about Jagadeesan's stance and weight transfer. Though both soon went out once CSK released them, Jagadeesan remembered it and implemented it in his batting.

In the 2022/23 Vijay Hazare Trophy, Jagadeesan was in a magical run-making spree - 830 runs in eight games with five hundreds. After hitting the fifth century, his phone rang. It was Uthappa on the other side and asking what he had done to his batting to get these monstrous runs. Jagadeesan, unable to work out why a player of that standing would bother, told him about the advice he gave which he implemented.

With no band-aid of an IPL contract, Jagadeesan wanted a mentor who had been inside the India set-up and would help him achieve his ambition - a perfect setting for Uthappa, a member of 2007 T20 World Cup winning team, to come in. "We were just talking about life and all of a sudden, I just asked him, I really want to have someone who actually mentors me. I want to play for India - that's my goal."

Asian Games: Defending champions India cruise past Bangladesh 42-21 in women's kabaddi opener

IAN S

AICHI: India began the defence of their women's kabaddi title at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya with a 42-21 win over Bangladesh in their opening Group A fixture at the Tokai Citizens Gymnasium on Monday.

India produced a dominant all-round display to defeat Bangladesh, combining a disciplined defensive setup with consistent attacking pressure, led by Sanju Devi's contribution in offence.

India established control early, making it difficult for Bangladesh to reach the bonus line while regularly finding points through successful raids. Bangladesh Captain Sraboni Mollick kept her side on the scoreboard, but India's



defence continued to limit their opportunities. Manisha Kumari was particularly effective from the left cover, while Sonali Shingate and captain Pushpa Rana added valuable points in attack as India secured

an All-Out and took a 21-10 lead into the break.

India carried the same intensity into the second half, with Sanju Devi and Pooja finding quick hand touches and the defence maintaining a high line

to put pressure on Bangladesh's raiders. The approach paid off as India inflicted another All-Out, while Sanju Devi continued to keep the scoreboard moving with successful raids.

Bangladesh mounted a brief fightback with Sraboni and the other raiders stringing together consecutive points, while their defence also began to slow India's momentum. The gap narrowed with five minutes remaining, but India responded through Sanju Devi, who produced a series of successful raids to restore a sizeable advantage and close out a comfortable 42-21 victory.

India's 42 points included 11 bonus points and four All-Out points, while Bangladesh managed five bonus points and a single Super Tackle point.

The result gives India a winning start to their title defence, with the women's team looking to extend their run against the formidable Iran, at 8:30 AM on Wednesday.

Dhoni part of decision making team to appoint Zaheer as head coach, says CSK MD Viswanathan

IAN S

NEW DELHI : The legendary MS Dhoni was actively involved in the decision to appoint former India pacer Zaheer Khan as the new head coach of Chennai Super Kings (CSK), said the franchise's managing director Kasi Viswanathan.

Five-time champions CSK on Monday named Zaheer, 47, as their head coach for IPL 2027 and fill the high-profile vacancy left by ex-New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming, who parted ways with the franchise after an 18-year association. Apart from Dhoni, other CSK cricket management members included owner Rupa Gurunath and skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad.

"See, basically, the cricket management took this decision. They wanted Mr. Zaheer Khan as the head coach based on his experience. He has played over 100 games in IPL and was an all-round player."

"So, they preferred that he will be a good option for them and we abided by what the cricket management wanted. Definitely, he (MS Dhoni) was part of the decision when this was taken. Without his advice, we don't do anything," Viswanathan said to IANS on Monday.

When asked about Dhoni's future as a player, after he didn't play a single game for

tor of Cricket Operations and Head of Global Development at Mumbai Indians from 2018 to 2022, before taking up a mentoring role with Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2025.



As a left-arm pacer, Zaheer turned out for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Mumbai Indians, and Delhi Capitals, claiming 102 wickets in 100 matches at an average of 27.27. But this will be the first time Zaheer will be the head coach of a cricket team, and he can solely focus on CSK due to him having no other franchise T20 cricket coaching commitments.

Outside of coaching and mentoring, Zaheer co-owns Antwerp Anchors in the European T20 Premier League in Belgium, Jaffna Kings in the Lanka Premier League (LPL) in Sri Lanka and Vancouver Anchors in the Super60 league in Canada.

When quizzed on how long the negotiations happened before Zaheer agreed to join the yellow brigade, Viswanathan chose to keep details under wraps. "That is the process everybody goes through. Those are all things which we need not tell," he said.

Opening batter Aaryavir Sehwa provided a brisk start at the top of the order with a 48-ball 47 after captain Lakshay Raichandani fell for 11. India then took complete control as Chauhan and Vineeth joined forces and stitched together a commanding 132-run partnership off 124 balls for the third wicket.

Chauhan was in sublime touch, striking 15 boundaries and two maximums in his 100-ball stay at a strike-rate of 122 and raised his second fifty-plus score in as many matches. Vineeth provided ideal support by clearing the

Yashbardhan Chauhan's all-round show guides India U-19 to series-clinching win over Australia U-19

IAN S

RAJKOT: An all-round performance from Yashbardhan Chauhan powered India Under-19 to a comprehensive 103-run victory over Australia Under-19 in the second Youth ODI here at the Niranjan Shah Stadium and helped the hosts seal the three-match series with a game to spare.

Chauhan starred with an explosive 122 off 100 balls before picking up two crucial wickets to dismantle Australia's run chase. Electing to bat first, India Under-19 posted a formidable 341/7 in their allotted 50 overs, anchored by Chauhan's magnificent century and a blistering 87 off 92 balls from VK Vineeth.

Opening batter Aaryavir Sehwa provided a brisk start at the top of the order with a 48-ball 47 after captain Lakshay Raichandani fell for 11. India then took complete control as Chauhan and Vineeth joined forces and stitched together a commanding 132-run partnership off 124 balls for the third wicket.

Chauhan was in sublime touch, striking 15 boundaries and two maximums in his 100-ball stay at a strike-rate of 122 and raised his second fifty-plus score in as many matches. Vineeth provided ideal support by clearing the

fence six times alongside four hits to the boundary ropes.

By the time Vineeth fell in the 40th over with the scoreboard reading 233/3, the foundation for a massive total was well laid. Chauhan and Kushagra Ojha then provided the late flourish, with the latter smashing a quickfire 34 off just 20 balls to help India plunder 106 runs in the final ten overs.

For Australia Under-19, pacer Thomas Vaseo was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 3-78 from his ten overs. Chasing a daunting target of 342, Australia U-19 started steadily through skipper Jack Czosnek and Matthew Lough. Lough contributed a 40-ball 42, while Czosnek scored a fighting 81 off 63 balls, laden with seven fours and four sixes.

The duo kept the visitors in the hunt with a 99-run stand off 82 balls for the fourth wicket after Australia had stumbled to 72/3. But the turning point came in the 27th over when Kavya Paresh Patel dismissed the dangerous Czosnek. His departure triggered a massive collapse, with Australia losing their last six wickets for just 38 runs. Despite a fighting 44 off 46 balls from Blake Cattle, laced with five fours and a six, Australia Under-19 were eventually bundled out for 238 in 41.1 overs.

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22 SEPTEMBER 2026 TUESDAY

SAME SCREEN MORE EMOTIONS

Good Films Brighter Days

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VIBE

VIBE (A)

HINDI

11:00 AM 04:50 PM

DAAYRA

DAAYRA (A)

HINDI

01:55 PM

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE (A)

HINDI ATMOS

11:05 AM 02:55 PM 06:45 PM

HINDI

01:25 PM

RESIDENT EVIL

RESIDENT EVIL (A)

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

11:20 AM 07:45 PM

4 RIVERS 6 RANGES CHUSHI GANGDRUK

4 RIVERS 6 RANGES CHUSHI GANGDRUK (U/A 13+)

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