

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

SRINAGAR • Friday 25, September 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 228 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

No Rigid Timeline For Regularisation Of Contractual Workers: Govt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has declined to set a deadline for deciding on the regularisation of casual, seasonal and need-based workers, saying a high-level committee is still examining the legal, administrative and financial implications of the long-pending issue.

The government conveyed this in a written reply to a starred question raised by CPI(M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami during the ongoing autumn session of the Legislative Assembly.

A committee headed by the Chief Secretary was constituted through Government Order No. 384-JK(GAD) of 2025 dated March 19, 2025, to examine the matter and formulate a uniform framework for dealing with the various categories of workers.

The government said the committee is examining workers who were engaged at

different times and under different terms and conditions, making the issue complex from legal and administrative perspectives.

According to the reply, any proposed policy would have to comply with applicable statutory provisions, the prevailing legal position and the prescribed recruitment framework, while also taking into account the financial implications of regularisation.

The government said consultations with the departments concerned are being undertaken from administrative, legal and financial perspectives before a final decision is taken.

Asked by Tarigami about the status of the committee's report and the timeframe for ensuring a fair, transparent and time-bound resolution, the government said it was not appropriate to prescribe a rigid deadline at this stage.

It said the matter remained under **•P-06**

CM Fulfils Budget Commitment

Govt Approves 6 Free LPG Cylinders For AAY Families

Sharma Announces Approval On Floor Of Assembly; Rollout Orders To Follow Shortly

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's commitment to provide six free LPG cooking gas cylinders annually to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families across Jammu and Kashmir has been approved by the government, marking the fulfilment of a key assurance made in his second Budget earlier this year.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma announced the approval today on the floor of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly during the ongoing Autumn Session.

"I want to inform this august House that the six free gas cylinder policy for AAY has got approval from the competent



authority. Necessary orders for rolling out the scheme are being issued shortly," the Minister informed the House, drawing

applause from the members.

The Minister highlighted that under this provision, eligible AAY families will be entitled

to six LPG cooking gas cylinders free of cost every year, providing significant relief towards their household cooking requirements and reducing the financial burden on families belonging to the most disadvantaged sections of society.

He highlighted that the measure is aimed at strengthening the social security framework and ensuring that welfare benefits reach those who need them the most.

He emphasised that providing affordable and accessible cooking fuel is an important component of improving household well-being and ensuring a dignified standard of living for vulnerable families.

The Minister said that this initiative is expected **•P-06**

CM Reviews Draft Industrial Policy 2026-35

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired a meeting here at Civil Secretariat to review the draft Jammu & Kashmir Industrial Policy (2026-35).

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj

Gupta, ACS Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Viramjit Singh, MD & CEO J&K Bank Amitava Chatterjee and senior officers of the Industries & Commerce Department and allied departments attended the meeting.

Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce made a presentation on the draft policy and apprised the meeting of its broad framework, objectives and the policy **•P-06**

Devotees Offer Night-Long Prayers At Dastgeer Sahib (RA) Shrine



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Thousands of devotees thronged the historic Dastgeer Sahib shrine at Khanar on Thursday as the annual Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA), popularly known as Ghaus-ul-Azam, was observed with religious fervour across Kashmir.

The display of holy relics at the shrine drew large crowds, with devotees arriving from different parts of Srinagar and elsewhere in the Valley to offer prayers, seek blessings

and participate in religious observances.

The shrine premises and adjoining areas remained packed throughout the day as devotees joined special prayers, recitation of the Holy Qur'an, zikr and other programmes organised to mark the occasion.

Suhaib Ahmad, a devotee from Habba Kadal, said the annual Urs brings together people from across Kashmir.

"Every year, we come here to offer prayers and be part of the Urs. Seeing so many devotees gathered **•P-06**

Assembly Passes Resolution Seeking TET Exemption For Teachers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Thursday passed by voice vote a Resolution moved by Minister for School Education, Sakeena Itoo, seeking exemption of teachers appointed before October 31, 2019 from appearing in the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET).

The Resolution was passed after a two-day debate during which members deliberated upon various aspects of the issue and highlighted the concerns of teachers appointed prior to the cut-off date.

The Resolution states: "This House unanimously urges the Union Government to make necessary statutory amendment to Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, to exempt all teachers appointed



before October 31, 2019 from appearing in the TET."

It further urges the Union Government to take all necessary legal steps and issue the requisite notification through the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for granting exemption from the TET

requirement.

Sakeena Itoo thanked all the legislators for expressing their concerns and for coming together to unanimously support the Resolution. She said that the Resolution was being moved in the House with the intention of addressing the concerns of teachers who have been serving the education sector for years.

She said that the issue should not be viewed merely from the perspective of whether teachers can pass another examination, as many of them have already appeared in and cleared various tests during their careers. "These teachers have made immense sacrifices, devoted their time and energy and worked tirelessly to prepare our students for various professions, including doctors and engineers, while helping secure their future. The credit for their achievements **•P-06**

CS Reviews Implementation Of New Labour Codes In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the status of the implementation of the four new Labour Codes in Jammu and Kashmir, directing the concerned departments to expedite the remaining formalities and ensure a smooth transition to the new regulatory framework.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, Labour and Employment; Labour Commissioner, J&K; and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the overall progress, the Chief Secretary appreciated the steps taken by the Labour and Employment Department and directed the concerned departments to strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines. He emphasised the need for timely completion



of the remaining statutory and administrative formalities to ensure the effective implementation of the new Labour Codes in Jammu and Kashmir.

He underscored that the transition to the new framework should strengthen workers' welfare and social security while promoting transparency, industrial harmony and a more efficient regulatory environment for industrial establishments across the Union Territory.

During the **•P-06**

2,241 Health Institutions In J&K Operating From Rented Buildings: Govt

₹Rs 52.75 Lakh Monthly Rental Expenditure, Permanent Infrastructure To Be Developed'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: As many as 2,241 dispensaries and other health institutions across Jammu and Kashmir are functioning from private or rented buildings, incurring a monthly rental expenditure of Rs 52.75 lakh, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

The information was provided in response to a question by Channapora MLA Mushtaq Guroo, who sought details of health institutions operating from rented premises, the expenditure involved and plans for developing permanent infrastructure.

According to the government's reply, the monthly



rental expenditure for these institutions stands at Rs 52,75,309, amounting to nearly Rs 6.33 crore annually.

The government, said the suitability of rented build-

ings is assessed by field-level health authorities, including Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), Block Medical Officers (BMOs) and Medical Officers. The assessment takes

into account factors such as space availability, accessibility, basic healthcare infrastructure, patient privacy and other prescribed standards.

It said the exercise is aimed at ensuring healthcare services are delivered from safe, accessible and appropriate premises.

On the construction of permanent buildings, the government said efforts are underway to develop permanent infrastructure for health institutions operating from rented accommodation in a phased manner.

The move, it said, is intended to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and reduce recurring expenditure on rent.

However, the **•P-06**

NC Govt Failed To Fulfil Promises: LoP Sharma

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma on Thursday said the National Conference-led government has failed to fulfil its promises and provide basic amenities during its two years in office, questioning its commitments on free LPG cylinders, electricity, jobs, education and healthcare.

Reacting to the government's approval of six free LPG cylinders annually for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, Sharma termed the decision a "mockery" and questioned the earlier promise of providing one free cylinder every month to every household.

"They had announced that one cylinder would be given to every household every month. Today they have made a big joke with the people of J&K by giving only six **•P-06**

New Tourist Destinations Being Developed Across J&K: Govt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that it is actively exploring and promoting new and emerging tourist destinations across the Union Territory, including Bandipora, with the objective of diversifying the tourism circuit, decongesting established tourist destinations and promoting lesser-known destinations.

The government, stated this in a written reply to Starred Question D.No. 1/6/47 raised by MLA Bandipora Nizam-ud-din Bhat regarding tourism destinations.

The Tourism Department

said it has identified and is promoting several emerging tourist destinations across J&K, including Aharbal, Bangus, Gurez, Tosamaidan, Daksum, Chatpal, Sanasar, Basholi, Rajouri, Mansar, Badaradi, Suchetgarh, Poonch and other locations through infrastructure development and destination promotion.

With specific reference to Bandipora constituency, the department said it is promoting the tourism potential of Athwatoo, Wular Lake and adjoining areas, including Zurimanz, Wular Vantage Park and Watlab. These destinations offer considerable potential for **•P-06**

Div Com directs DCs to accelerate Agristack, NAPS registrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Thursday directed Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to intensify efforts and accelerate progress towards achieving the targets set for Agristack and apprentice registrations under NAPS

The directions were issued during a meeting convened to review the district-wise progress under these initiatives.

The meeting was attended by the Director, Skill Development; Deputy Commissioners; Additional Secretary, Revenue; Assistant Commissioner Central; and OSD.

While reviewing the progress of Agristack, particularly village-wise coverage, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure 100 percent submission and 60 percent approval of the targeted villages by September 30.

Reviewing the status of farmer registrations, the Div Com called upon



the DCs to step up efforts and bridge the gap against the assigned targets. He stressed the need for focused monitoring and expeditious processing of registrations across the districts.

The Deputy Commissioners were also directed to submit a clear and consolidated list of issues and bottlenecks being encountered during the registration process, so that the same could be taken up with the concerned departments and offices for timely resolution.

While reviewing the

progress under the National Apprentice Promotion Scheme (NAPS), the Divisional Commissioner directed the DCs to surpass the assigned targets by Monday. He further stressed the importance of conducting proper quality checks of establishment and apprentice registrations to ensure accuracy and compliance.

The Div Com called for close monitoring of progress at the district level and directed the concerned officers to accord priority to the targets within the stipulated timelines.

Dir Agri visits Integrated Mushroom Development Centre at Lalmandi



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Thursday visited the Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC) at Lalmandi, Srinagar, to review its operations and ongoing initiatives aimed at promoting mushroom cultivation across the Kashmir division.

During the visit, the Director took a detailed round of the centre's key sections, including the Spawn Production Centre, Pasteurised Compost Unit, Mushroom Research Laboratory, and other facilities.

He interacted extensively with officers, scientists, and technical staff to assess the centre's functioning, production capacities, and support extended to mushroom growers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that IMDC serves as a crucial hub for providing high-quality spawn, compost, and technical guidance to farmers, bridging the gap between research and practical application in mushroom farming, and the department is committed to upgrade the facilities at the centre and steps are being taken to introduce modern

technologies, ensure the availability of quality inputs, and commercialize the other high value exotic mushrooms to improve the socio-economic status of our farmers."

The Director emphasised that Kashmir's favourable agro-climatic conditions make it ideally suited for commercial mushroom production and highlighted its role in enhancing farmers' income, promoting agri-entrepreneurship, generating employment opportunities, and contributing to nutritional security.

He directed the officers to intensify awareness campaigns among farmers about the benefits of high value exotic mushrooms, expand capacity-building programs, and strengthen market linkages for better returns. The visit underscores the Department's ongoing efforts under various schemes to boost scientific mushroom production and support progressive growers in the region.

FDA intensifies inspection of canteens of educational, healthcare institutions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a special inspection drive, FDA, J&K has conducted food safety inspections of canteens, messes and other food premises operating in Universities, Medical Colleges, Engineering Colleges, Hospitals, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs), and Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostels across all the districts to ensure the availability of safe, hygienic and wholesome food to students, patients, attendants and staff.

During the drive, 108 premises were inspected and 62 food samples were lifted for testing through NABL-accredited food testing laboratories. The inspections focused on FSSAI registration/licensing, hygiene and sanitation, medical fitness of food handlers, availability of potable water, safe storage and handling of food, pest control, waste management and the use of food-grade materials.

The inspections revealed various deficiencies, including operation without valid FSSAI registration/license, inadequate pest control, deficiencies in the medical fitness of food handlers, improper storage and handling of food, structural and sanitation



deficiencies, and use of non-food-grade materials. 24 premises were found operating without the requisite FSSAI registration/license. Action under section 55, 58 and 63 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has been initiated against all such premises.

As part of the enforcement action, 15 cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with a total fine of ₹35,000. Further, three cases requiring further legal action. Section 56 provides for penalty for carrying out food processing or manufacturing under insanitary or unhygienic conditions, with the penalty extending up to ₹1 lakh, while Section 58 provides penalty up to

₹2 lakh. The concerned Food Safety Officers have been directed to conduct follow-up inspections and ensure compliance with the notices and directions issued.

FDA, J&K reiterated that food safety in educational and healthcare institutions remains a priority and that inspection, sampling and enforcement activities will continue across the Union Territory to ensure compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made thereunder and to safeguard public health.

Consumers are requested to report any suspected unsafe or adulterated food product through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in

■ Vyeth Truvah

DC Anantnag attends celebrations at Ancient Vitasta Ashthapan Verinag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: On the auspicious occasion of "Vyeth Truvah" (the birthday of River Vitasta/Jhelum), Deputy Commissioner (DC), Anantnag Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Thursday visited the sacred ancient Vitasta Ashthapan at Vyeth Vathur, Verinag, and attended the ongoing celebrations.

A large congregation of devotees have thronged the revered site with religious fervor and traditional enthusiasm to pay obeisance, offer prayers, and perform sacred rituals to honor River Vitasta, marking the river's origin in the Valley.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by CEO VDA, SDM Dooru, Tehsildar, BMO, AEE R&B and other concerned officers.



Interacting with the devotees and community representatives, the DC extended his warm greetings and also participated in the ceremonial observances. He observed that traditional festivals like Vyeth Truvah symbolize the rich cultural heritage and harmony that define the region. He further stated that the occasion serves as an ideal opportunity to strengthen social bonds, promote unity, and preserve the age old syn-

cretic traditions.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the overall arrangements and directed the concerned departments to ensure all basic facilities remain fully operational throughout the festival period. He instructed the officials to ensure uninterrupted power and drinking water supply with adequate backup and fully equipped medical facilities with ambulances and life-saving drugs.

Furthermore, he empha-

ing issues promptly, and extend full support to the devotees.

The devotees and representatives of the local management committee expressed their gratitude to the district administration for its proactive support and the elaborate arrangements provided during the festival.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner, accompanied by the team of officers, visited the Prachin Shiv Temple at Omoh Verinag, where members of the Devasthan Prabandhak Committee, Verinag, apprised him of various demands and issues concerning the temple. He gave a patient hearing to the committee members and assured them that their genuine demands and issues would be examined and addressed on priority.

'District Red Cross Society Kulgam to be made more resourceful'

Focus on revenue generation through voluntary contribution: DC Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A meeting of the District Red Cross Society, Kulgam was convened Thursday to deliberate upon strengthening the functioning of the District Red Cross Society and expanding its humanitarian outreach for needy people of the district.

The meeting discussed at length the major role of the District Red Cross Society in extending timely help and relief to people in distress, destitutes, fire victims, patients, students needing educational assistance and other persons across the district.

Detailed deliberations were held on augmenting the revenue of the Society. It was decided that a comprehensive membership

drive shall be launched in the district. The drive will initially start with Government employees joining for the noble cause with voluntary contribution to strengthen the Red Cross family and ensure a steady support base.

It was also decided that regular Blood Donation Camps shall be organized in hospitals across the district in coordination with the Health Department to ensure availability of blood for patients in need and to promote voluntary blood donation through the Red Cross platform.

Resource generation through creation and operation of assets on a sustainable basis, besides voluntary contributions towards the Red Cross Fund by local citizens, was

also deliberated upon. Several key proposals were put forward for consideration in this regard.

The core objective of the meeting remained to make Red Cross Society more vibrant, visible and responsive in Kulgam. In this context, strategies to create revenue avenues for fund raising by exploring sustainable models of resource mobilization to ensure financial self-reliance of the Society were discussed.

It was further decided that wide publicity shall be given to the activities, benefits and achievements of the Red Cross Society for greater public awareness, participation and stakeholder engagement. The role of Red Cross in Disaster Management and relief operations was also emphasized.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kulgam, Vihar Ahmad Giri; ACR, Reyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; DIO, DTO, DSWO, CMO, Medical Superintendent DH Kulgam, ALC, BMOs, Treasury Officers and other district officers and officials.

Army Flags Off Capacity Building Tour for 20 Kashmiri Girl Students to Pune

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: In a significant outreach initiative aimed at empowering youth, the Indian Army has flagged off an educational and motivational Capacity Building Tour (CBT) for 20 girl students from the Kashmir Valley to premier defence establishments in Pune, Maharashtra.

Organized under the aegis of Operation Sadbhavana, the tour offers young girl students direct exposure to India's frontline military and academic training ecosystems. Over the course of the visit, the cohort will tour the National Defence Academy (NDA) at Khadakwasla, the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), and the Army Institute of Technology (AIT).

The itinerary is struc-



tured to provide an immersive experience of cadet life, military pedagogy, and technical research. A central highlight includes interactive sessions with serving women officers, faculty, and lady cadets currently undergoing training at the NDA, offering the students a practical perspective on career pathways in the Armed Forces.

According to a defence spokesperson, the initia-

tive seeks to broaden academic horizons, stimulate leadership aspirations, and foster national integration by connecting the youth of Jammu and Kashmir with premier institutions across the country.

The tour forms part of the Army's sustained civic-action programme to open educational, technological, and vocational vistas for young women in the Valley, the spokesperson added.

Workshop on Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan held in Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: A workshop on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 was held Thursday at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla, with Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Baramulla, Mudassir Hussain, presiding over the workshop.

The workshop was aimed at sensitising officials and stakehold-

ers about the VGPP framework and key provisions of the VB-G RAM G Act, with emphasis on participatory, bottom-up and integrated planning at the Gram Panchayat level. The Act envisages preparation of Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans through the Gram Sabha, ensuring that local priorities and development requirements are identified and incorporated into village-level plans.

During the workshop, detailed discussions were held on the major provisions of the Act, including the

enhanced statutory guarantee of 125 days of wage employment to eligible rural households in a financial year. Participants were also briefed about the four major thematic areas under the framework-water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and special works for extreme weather events and disaster preparedness.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of convergence and saturation-based planning to

address development gaps and create durable and productive rural assets. The VGPP framework seeks to bring together different development programmes and interventions through a coordinated planning process at the Gram Panchayat level.

Speaking on the occasion, the ACD highlighted the significance of the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 in strengthening rural livelihoods, employment opportunities and village-level infrastructure. He

emphasised the need for close coordination among Panchayati Raj Institutions, Gram Sabhas, line departments and field functionaries for effective implementation of the new framework.

He stressed the importance of preparing realistic and need-based VGPPs through active community participation, ensuring that the plans reflect the priorities of local communities and contribute to sustainable and resilient rural development.

Govt intensifies measures to curb spurious pesticides in J&K: Javid Dar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that the government has put in place a comprehensive regulatory and enforcement mechanism to prevent the sale and use of spurious and substandard pesticides and to promote their safe and judicious application across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Para on concerns over rising cancer patient graph and alleged risks from spurious pesticides in major agricultural and horticultural areas.

The Minister stated that the Agriculture Production Department is taking stringent measures under the Insecticides Act, 1968, to regulate the sale and use of pesticides and prevent the circulation of spurious and sub-standard products. He further informed that two Quality Control Laboratories, one each at Srinagar and Jammu, are



functional for testing the quality of pesticides. The existing enforcement mechanism is also being strengthened to ensure strict compliance with prescribed quality standards, he added.

Giving details of enforcement action, the Minister said that during 2025-26, 5,772 pesticide samples were tested, of which, 85 were found sub-standard. Action taken included 93 show-cause notices, 52 prosecutions, 22 FIRs and recovery of 70,000 in fines.

During 2026-27, 1,658 samples have so far been tested, with 66 found sub-standard. Consequently, 19 licences were cancelled/suspended, 19 prosecutions initiated, three FIRs registered and

1.33 lakh recovered as fine.

The Minister also informed the House that 32 highly toxic pesticide formulations have been banned/restricted in J&K in accordance with the advisories of the Government of India.

Emphasising responsible pesticide use, Javid Dar said that the government is ensuring strict adherence to recommended doses, crops, target pests, waiting periods and application methods. He said the farmers and pesticide applicators are being sensitised on proper selection, dosage, timing, safe handling, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and disposal practices.

The Minister also

highlighted the promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce excessive dependence on chemical pesticides. During 2025-26, 520 IPM Farmer Field Schools were conducted in major horticultural districts, including Shopian, Pulwama, Baramulla, Kulgam and Anantnag, to promote scientific pest management and safe pesticide use.

Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), the government is promoting organic farming and judicious use of agro-chemicals.

The Minister said that around 1.15 lakh Soil Health Cards have been issued to promote balanced use of agricultural inputs, while a State Pesticide Residue Testing Laboratory is at the final stage of establishment. He said fruit growers are being advised to use only registered pesticides from licensed dealers, follow prescribed doses and waiting periods, use protective equipment and adhere to departmental advisories on safe handling, storage, weather conditions and application.

Referring to pesti-

cide-residue monitoring, Javed Ahmad Dar informed the House that the NABL-accredited Research Centre for Residue and Quality Analysis at SKUAST-Kashmir regularly tests fruits, vegetables and field crops under the MPRNL programme of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India. He said residues generally remain within prescribed Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs), though occasional exceedances are detected.

The Minister said a comprehensive, science-based study involving the Agriculture Production, Health & Medical Education departments, SKUAST-Jammu, SKUAST-Kashmir, SKIMS and SMHS could assess pesticide exposure, residue levels, usage patterns and related health data to strengthen risk assessment and preventive measures.

Referring to the Committee on Environment's recommendations regarding pesticide exposure and malignant brain tumours, Dar said SKUAST-Jammu had recommended a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to minimise risks from indiscriminate and unsafe pesticide use.

AUTUMN SESSION

Schools with higher PTR being addressed through ongoing rationalisation process: Min Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo Thursday informed the J&K Legislative Assembly that the issue of maintaining the Pupil-Teacher Ratio is being addressed by providing additional staff to understaffed schools through rationalisation across J&K, including those in Uri constituency.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Uri Sajjad Shafi during Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister said the staffing requirements of schools with relatively higher PTR are being addressed through the ongoing rationalisation process.

She said that only 10 out of 375 government schools in Uri constituency have a Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) of more than 40, while steps are underway to address



staffing requirements in these schools through rationalisation and judicious deployment of available teaching resources.

Sakeena Itoo said applications from eligible teachers have already been invited under the Annual Transfer Drive (ATD)-2026, and these applications will be considered with due regard to the staffing requirements of schools having relatively higher

pupil-teacher loads, wherever warranted.

The Minister further informed the House that 22 Laboratory Assistants have recently been promoted as Teachers, of whom eight have been adjusted in Uri constituency. In addition, five Masters have been transferred to Uri constituency to supplement the existing teaching arrangements, particularly in schools where the pupil-teacher load is relatively higher.

Sakeena Itoo added that the rationalisation exercise for the current academic year has already been initiated and the staffing requirements of individual schools will be duly considered as part of the exercise to ensure a more balanced distribution of teaching personnel.

12.89 lakh farmers covered under PMFBY; 3.72 lakh claims amounting to ₹221.71 crore registered.

'Contributes around 10% to UT's GDP

Horticulture sector supports livelihoods of nearly 35 lakh people: Javid Dar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that the horticulture sector remains one of the key pillars of Jammu & Kashmir's economy, supporting the livelihoods and employment of a large section of the population.

The Minister was responding to a clubbed question raised by MLAs Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah, Gulam Mohi-ud-din Mir and Irfan Hafiz Lone, along with the supplementary raised by MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay.

Javid Dar said that approximately 35 lakh people, comprising nearly 7.5 lakh families, are directly or indirectly associated with the horticulture sector. The sector contributes approximately 10 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Union Territory and generates an estimated annual income of

around ₹12,000 crore.

He further stated that horticulture has considerable employment potential, with one hectare of orchard area generating approximately 400 man-days of employment annually, thereby making a significant contribution to rural livelihoods and the broader economy of J&K.

On crop insurance, the Minister said that the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is presently being implemented across all 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

He informed the House that the scheme is demand-driven and there is no cap on the number of farmers who can avail its benefits, subject to prescribed guidelines and eligibility criteria. He said that approximately 13.985 lakh Farmer Families (FoFs) in the UT are eligible to avail the benefits of the scheme.

As per the available data, 6,86,741.37 hectares of area has been covered, benefiting 12,89,917 farmers, while 3,72,134 claims have been registered involving an

amount of approximately Rs 221.71 crore.

The Minister acknowledged that farmers and orchardists in various areas have suffered losses due to natural calamities, including hailstorms, floods and heavy rains.

He said that the Department undertakes assessment of crop losses through its field functionaries and extends assistance and relief, wherever admissible, under the provisions of applicable schemes and guidelines.

Javid Dar stated that PMFBY provides insurance coverage against notified natural risks, including hailstorms, for notified crops. The basic cover provides area-based insurance against yield losses in standing crops from sowing to harvesting arising from non-preventable risks such as drought, dry spells, floods, inundation, widespread pest and disease attacks, landslides, natural fire due to lightning, storms, hailstorms and cyclones, subject to notified crops, areas and applicable guidelines.

CALLING ATTENTION MOTION

Govt taking measures to maintain landslide, flood-affected roads: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Thursday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that the government has undertaken necessary measures for restoration and maintenance of roads affected by landslides, floods and other damages, to ensure traffic connectivity and minimise inconvenience to the general public.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Balwant Singh Mankotia.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the House that the government is closely monitoring the condition of the affected roads through the concerned field formations. He said that permanent restoration works have been sanctioned for identified damages, clear landslides and maintain road connectivity, particularly in areas vulnerable to landslides and flood-related damages.

Giving a road-wise status, the Deputy Chief Minister informed the House that the Nagulta to Razar road comprises of two parts, with Part-I measuring 11.00 km and Part-II measuring 12.700



km, making a total length of 23.700 km.

Surinder Choudhary said that Nagulta-Razar Part-I was completed in January 2024, while permanent restoration works amounting ₹47.99 lakh have been sanctioned and are presently 75 per cent complete.

Regarding Nagulta-Razar Part-II, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the 12.700-km road was completed in October 2022 and is currently being maintained by the contractor. He informed that an estimate of ₹35.29 lakh has been framed for the permanent restoration of damage caused during 2026-27. He further stated that permanent restoration works, sanctioned at a cost of ₹95.73 lakh for damages caused by the 2025-26 floods, are already 70 per

cent complete.

On the 17 Km long Gujad to Chirdi road, the Deputy Chief Minister informed that the road was completed in December 2021. Permanent restoration works amounting ₹35.19 lakh have been sanctioned and are presently 90 per cent complete, he stated.

Regarding the Narsoo to Thanidhar road, measuring 20.700 km, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the road was completed in June 2023 and is being properly maintained by the contractor. He informed that permanent restoration works amounting ₹31.99 lakh, sanctioned for damages caused during the 2025-26 floods, have been completed.

Surinder Choudhary further stated that regular slip clearance is being undertaken on the roads as and when required.

CM Omar condoles loss of lives in Greater Noida bus fire

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday expressed grief over the loss of lives in a tragic bus fire accident in Greater Noida.

The Chief Minister conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved families who lost their

loved ones in the accident and prayed for strength to them in this hour of grief.

He also wished those injured in the incident a swift and complete recovery.

Nine passengers were killed after a bus travelling from Delhi to Mahoba in Bihar caught fire on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida.

Revised car policy under consideration: Satish Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma Thursday informed the J&K Legislative Assembly that the Revised Car Policy is presently under consideration of the Government, wherein it has been proposed to introduce the principle of "One Vehicle-One Officer".

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ranbir Singh Pathania.

"The proposed policy shall also provide for such specific exceptions as may be considered necessary by the Government, keeping in view security requirements, field duties, additional assignments/charges, operational exigencies

and the functional requirements of Particular Departments/ organizations' After approval of the Revised Car Policy by the Government, the provisions thereof shall be implemented across the concerned Departments/ PSUs/ Boards/ Autonomous Bodies as Per the approved policy. The proposed "One vehicle-one officer" principle is thus intended to ensure rationalization of Government vehicles, optimum utilization of available resources and economy in Government expenditure" he informed.

He said that the State Motor Garages Department conducts necessary audit/Physical verification of the vehicle fleet timely.

Assembly defeats bill seeking govt schooling for officials' children

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Thursday rejected a Private Members' Bill proposing to make it obligatory for the public representatives and public servants to educate their children in government educational institutions.

The Bill, moved by MLA Sheikh Khurshid Ahmad, was titled "A Bill to make it obligatory for the Public Men and Public Servants to educate their children in Government educational institutions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto" (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 22 of 2025).

Minister for School Education, Sakeena Itoo, while opposing the Bill, said that the government was already taking

several steps to increase enrolment in government schools, where capable and hardworking teachers were serving. She said that meetings had also been held in this regard and emphasised that such a measure could not be enforced through compulsion.

The Minister also said that legislation alone would not address the issue and emphasised that improving enrolment and strengthening government schools requires a collective effort and shared responsibility.

She urged the MLA Sheikh Khurshid to withdraw the Bill. However, he declined to withdraw the Bill.

Subsequently, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather put the Bill to vote and it was defeated by voice vote.

JJM, AMRUT projects to strengthen water supply infrastructure in Sopore: Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday stated that the Jal Shakti Department is implementing various water supply schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and AMRUT to ensure adequate and potable drinking water supply to rural and urban habitations of Sopore Constituency.

The Minister stated this while replying to a Calling Attention Motion moved by Legislator Irshad Rasool Kar in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today.

Rana informed the House that 16 water supply schemes have been taken up under JJM at an estimated cost of ₹85.55 crore to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to households across the rural areas of Sopore Constituency. He also said that nine



of these schemes have been completed and made functional.

Regarding Sopore Town, the Minister said that its water supply infrastructure is being augmented under AMRUT 2.0 at an estimated cost of ₹73.39 crore, against which ₹63.92 crore have been allotted. The project is presently under execution and has achieved around 35 per cent physical progress. He said that upon completion and commissioning, the project would substantial-

ly augment and improve the water supply infrastructure of Sopore Town and cater to its increasing water demand.

The Minister said that the Department is providing drinking water to the affected habitations through water tankers as an interim arrangement pending completion and commissioning of the ongoing schemes. He added the tanker service would continue to bridge the gap in water supply until the JJM and AMRUT 2.0 projects are completed and made fully operational.

It was further informed that PHE Division Sopore has, presently, six functional water tankers deployed in areas covered under incomplete JJM schemes, including Dangerpora, Saidpora, Warpora, Adipora, Aminabad, Tarzoo, Watlab-Sangritop and adjoining areas besides various water-deficient areas of Sopore Town.

CS Dulloo condoles demise of former IAS officer S. S. Rizvi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, has expressed profound grief over the demise of S. S. Rizvi, a retired IAS officer of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir cadre, who served in several key administrative positions during his illustrious

career.

Recalling his service as Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Additional Chief Secretary and Joint Secretary to the Government of India, the Chief Secretary said that Rizvi's long administrative career reflected his dedication to public service and his contribution to governance

at both the regional and national levels.

Describing his passing as a loss to the administrative fraternity, Dulloo conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

J&K Must Honor Its Promise To Dental Graduates

The Health Minister’s announcement in the Legislative Assembly that Jammu and Kashmir is considering phased recruitment for BDS doctors is a long-overdue step in the right direction. However, for thousands of unemployed dental surgeons across the Union Territory, optimism must be tempered with cautious realism.

The stark reality is that Jammu and Kashmir has not conducted direct recruitment for BDS doctors since 2008. Over the past 16 years, successive batches of dental graduates have entered a bloated job market, pouring years of grueling study and financial resources into a profession that offers virtually zero government employment avenues. Hundreds of young doctors have aged out of eligibility, while others have been forced into low-paying private clinical setups or left the medical field altogether.

Minister Sakina Itoo’s statement, noting that the file has moved from the Health Department to the Finance Department, indicates movement, but the caveat that recruitment will depend on the "availability of funds" leaves room for concern. Budgetary bottlenecks have historically served as the grave for many promising administrative proposals in J&K.

This delay is double-edged. While dental graduates face chronic unemployment, primary and secondary healthcare infrastructure across rural J&K continues to suffer from a lack of specialised oral healthcare. Dentistry in government health centers is often treated as an afterthought, despite oral health being deeply linked to overall systemic health and early detection of diseases.

Phased recruitment is a practical strategy to manage fiscal constraints, but it must come with a clear timeline and transparent quotas. The government cannot let this proposal stagnate in administrative back-and-forth between departments.

If the administration is serious about upgrading J&K’s public health delivery and addressing youth unemployment within the skilled medical sector, converting this intent into actual advertised posts must be treated as a priority, not an afterthought. The state’s dental surgeons have waited 16 years; they deserve action, not just assurance.

From Orchard To Consumer

Rebuilding The Market For Kashmir’s Apple Growers



DR. RIZWAN RUMI

As the apple harvest gathers momentum across Kashmir, orchards once again become centres of intense activity. Families, workers and growers spend days harvesting, sorting, grading and packing fruit that represents an entire year’s investment of labour, money and hope. For an orchardist, every apple carries the memory of months of pruning, spraying, irrigation, weather uncertainties and sleepless nights.

Yet there is an uncomfortable reality that deserves greater attention: growing the apple is only half the story. Selling it fairly is the other half.

Kashmir has developed considerable expertise in producing apples, but the marketing system surrounding that production still leaves many growers vulnerable. The grower may cultivate the fruit, bear the production risk and absorb the impact of weather and disease, but once the produce enters the market, the final price is often determined somewhere far away from the orchard.

This raises an important question: if Kashmir produces the apple, why should the grower have so little control over how and where it is sold?

The long journey between the orchard and the consumer

The traditional apple supply chain involves several layers. Apples may move from the orchard to a local agent, then to a commission agent, wholesaler, transporter and retailer before finally reaching the consumer.

Each participant may have a legitimate role. Transportation, storage, grading, packaging, financing and distribution all require investment. The problem is not necessarily the existence of intermediaries; it is the lack of sufficient alternatives for growers.

When farmers have very few options, they become price takers rather than price negotiators.

For small and medium orchardists in particular, selling directly to distant markets can also involve significant costs and risks. Transportation, packaging, loading and unloading, market commissions, wastage and delayed payments can reduce the amount that eventually reaches the grower.

Meanwhile, consumers may still end up paying substantially more.

The result is a strange disconnect: the producer receives less while the consumer often pays more.

The missing link: strong local markets

One way to address this imbalance is to strengthen local markets.

Kashmir should not look at local markets merely as places where agricultural produce is exchanged. They can become organised platforms connecting growers directly with households, retailers, hotels, restaurants, schools, hospitals, juice manufacturers and other institutional buyers.



During the harvest season, dedicated farmer markets could be established in major towns and urban centres where orchardists or their producer organisations can sell directly.

Such markets would shorten the distance between orchard and consumer.

A family in Srinagar, for instance, should have the opportunity to purchase apples directly from an orchardist from Shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama, Baramulla or another producing area without the produce passing through multiple commercial layers.

The farmer receives a better realisation. The consumer gets fresher produce. And more of the economic value remains within the local economy.

Direct does not necessarily mean digital

The idea of direct trade is often associated with online platforms, but technology is only one part of the solution.

A simple WhatsApp group connecting orchardists with local retailers can sometimes be more useful than an expensive digital platform.

Similarly, a local directory of growers, their varieties, grades, approximate quantities and contact details could help hotels, restaurants, retailers and households purchase directly.

The objective should not be to create technology for its own sake. The objective should be to remove unnecessary distance between the producer and the buyer.

Digital platforms can eventually make this system more sophisticated through online ordering, digital payments, traceability and delivery networks.

But the basic principle remains simple: the person who grows the apple should have a greater say in determining where and how that apple is sold.

Not every apple needs to travel hundreds of kilometres

Another important issue is grading.

Not every apple belongs in the same marketing channel. Premium-quality apples can command better prices in high-value retail markets, while smaller or cosmetically imperfect but perfectly edible apples can

be sold locally or directed towards juice, processing and other industries.

Instead of treating every apple as a commodity requiring the same supply chain, Kashmir needs a more diversified marketing structure. A premium apple could go directly to consumers. A different grade could go to local retailers. Another category could be purchased by hotels and institutions. Processing units could absorb fruit that does not meet fresh-market standards. This would reduce wastage while creating multiple revenue streams for growers.

Farmer Producer Organisations can change the equation

For an individual small orchardist, negotiating with a large supermarket chain or institutional buyer can be difficult. But hundreds of growers acting collectively have a very different bargaining position. This is where Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) can become important.

An effective FPO can aggregate produce, standardise grading, organise packaging, negotiate prices and enter into agreements with institutional buyers.

Instead of ten small growers separately trying to sell ten different quantities, a producer organisation can present a consolidated and professionally managed supply.

This can also improve transparency. Buyers know what quantity is available. Growers know what price is being offered. Standards can be established before the transaction. Payments can be tracked.

The objective should be to move from an informal and fragmented system towards a more organised agricultural marketplace without eliminating the legitimate role of traders who provide valuable services.

Government has a role—but so does the consumer

Building a better marketing ecosystem cannot be left entirely to growers. Government agencies and local bodies can facilitate dedicated seasonal farmer markets, improve local market infrastructure, provide grading and packing facilities and encourage direct procurement by institutions.

Schools, hospitals, hotels, government

departments and other large institutions could also explore mechanisms for procuring locally produced fruit wherever feasible and compliant with procurement rules. At the same time, consumers have a role. Every purchase is also a market signal.

When consumers consciously buy locally produced apples through transparent channels, they contribute to a system in which the producer has a stronger relationship with the final buyer. But consumers should not be expected to pay more simply because a product is labelled "local." Direct marketing must benefit both sides. The objective should be fair prices, not artificially high prices.

Kashmir needs an orchard-to-consumer ecosystem

The future of Kashmir’s apple economy cannot depend only on increasing production. More apples do not automatically mean more prosperity for orchardists. What matters is the value realised from those apples. That requires investment not only in orchards but also in grading, packaging, storage, processing, transportation, digital marketing and, above all, market access.

The policy conversation therefore needs to move beyond the question of how many apples Kashmir produces. We should also ask: How much does the grower actually earn from each apple? How much does the consumer pay? How many hands does the apple pass through before reaching the consumer? And most importantly: Can we create a system where the grower and consumer are connected more directly?

Kashmir’s apple industry has already demonstrated that it can produce for large markets. The next challenge is to build a market architecture that gives growers greater bargaining power and consumers greater transparency. The orchard should not be the beginning of the farmer’s anxiety about where the crop will go. It should be the beginning of a well-connected value chain. The apple is grown in Kashmir. It is time that more of its value stayed in Kashmir too.

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Turkey Deserved Better Than This Kashmir Hypocrisy

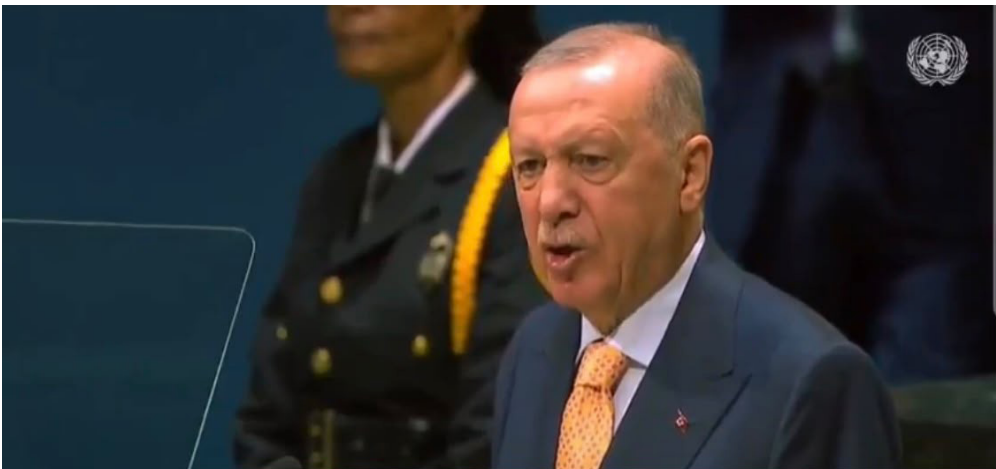


RISHI SURI

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s decision to raise Kashmir yet again at the UN General Assembly may play well with Pakistan, but it does little for Turkey’s credibility as an independent regional power. Speaking at the 81st UNGA, Erdoğan once again called for the Kashmir issue to be addressed through dialogue under the UN Charter and relevant resolutions. There is an uncomfortable contradiction in doing so at precisely this moment.

Across the Line of Control, Pakistan occupied Kashmir is going through a serious human rights crisis. Reports in recent months have documented a sweeping crackdown involving prolonged internet restrictions, arrests and deadly confrontations. International human rights bodies have called for investigations into reported deaths and the treatment of protesters.

If Ankara believes the welfare of Kashmiris deserves international attention, that concern cannot logically stop at the Line of Control. The rights of people living in



Pakistan occupied Kashmir deserve precisely the same scrutiny.

The contrast becomes even more striking when set against what has been happening in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years. Whatever political disagreements remain over the region, measurable changes on the ground cannot simply be ignored.

Jammu and Kashmir recorded more than 23.5 million domestic tourist visits in 2024, alongside more than 65,000 foreign tourist visits. Its 2024-25 Economic Survey projected real economic growth of 7.06 per cent, with per capita income rising to about ₹1.55 lakh. The survey also recorded the unemployment rate at 6.1 per cent in 2023-24, compared with 6.7 per cent in 2019-20.

Infrastructure has

undergone a particularly visible transformation. The 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link has now been commissioned, providing all-weather rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of India’s railway network. The project includes the Chenab Bridge and has reduced Katra-Srinagar rail travel to roughly three hours. It is also opening larger markets to Kashmiri apples, dry fruits, handicrafts and pashmina producers.

Government figures also report that 53 of 63 major development projects worth roughly \$80,000 crore have been completed, while more than 41,000 government jobs were created between 2019 and May 2026 and self-employment schemes reached more than 9.8 lakh people over the

preceding four years. These are government figures and should be understood as such, but they nevertheless provide measurable indicators against which claims about the region can be assessed.

None of this means that Jammu and Kashmir is beyond criticism or that every political grievance has disappeared. It does mean that any serious international discussion about Kashmir should acknowledge developments on both sides of the Line of Control rather than repeating a decades-old formulation as though nothing has changed.

That is where Erdoğan’s intervention looks increasingly selective. At a moment when Pakistan occupied Kashmir is confronting allegations of killings, arrests, restrictions and a prolonged

communications crackdown, singling out India while saying comparatively little about conditions across the Line of Control creates an obvious credibility problem.

There is also a Turkish national interest at stake. India and Turkey are significant economies with considerable potential for trade, tourism, investment and diplomatic cooperation. Allowing Pakistan’s Kashmir position to repeatedly intrude into Ankara’s relationship with New Delhi risks letting a third country define a bilateral relationship that could otherwise be far more consequential.

Turkey has every right to discuss human rights. But credibility comes from consistency. If Kashmir matters, then all Kashmiris matter. Turkey is too important a country for its South Asia policy to be reduced to rhetorical solidarity with Pakistan. Its diplomacy should be capable of recognising how much Jammu and Kashmir has changed while also asking difficult questions about what is happening in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Turkey deserved better than selective outrage. Kashmiris deserve better than selective concern.

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

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

Good Morning

Kashmir

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

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Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

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

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

Beyond Success

The Heart That Never Feels Full

In The Race For Success, Have We Forgotten What Truly Matters?



ABROO MUSHTAQ

Every morning, we wake up with something to chase. A better result, a successful career, financial stability, recognition, comfort or simply the approval of others. We make plans for tomorrow while barely stopping to think about where all these plans are taking us. Ambition is not wrong. Wanting to learn, grow and build a better future is a natural part of life. But there comes a point when we must ask ourselves a deeper question: Are we using the world, or has the world started using us?

Modern life has quietly turned into a competition. We compare our achievements, our appearance, our possessions and even our happiness with other people. Social media has made this comparison even easier. Someone else's success can make us feel unsuccessful, even when we have much to be grateful for. Sometimes, we become so busy trying to prove ourselves to others that we forget to understand ourselves. We start choosing things because they look impressive rather than because they are meaningful. We may begin measuring our worth through likes, compliments, marks, money or recognition. Yet none of these things can permanently define who we are.

There is another cost to this constant race that we often fail to notice: the loss of time. We spend hours planning how to build a better future, but sometimes give very little attention to the people and moments already present in our lives. We may be physically present with our families but mentally occupied with the next achievement, the next examination, the next opportunity or the next notification. Time is something we can earn money again, but we can never earn back. Once a day has passed, it becomes part of our history. This does not mean that we should stop planning for the future. Rather, it reminds us that the future should not become an excuse for forgetting the present.

A person can spend years preparing for a life that they forget to actually live. We often imagine that peace will come after one particular achievement. We



tell ourselves that once we get better marks, enter the right career, earn enough money or receive the recognition we want, then we will finally be satisfied. But when one goal is reached, another often appears. The finish line keeps moving. This raises an important question: if happiness is always waiting for the next achievement, when do we actually allow ourselves to be grateful for the life we already have?

Islam offers a different perspective. It does not ask a person to leave the world or stop working for a better life. Instead, it teaches us not to let worldly success become the purpose of our existence. Allah says in the Qur'an: Know that the life of this world is only play, amusement, adornment, boasting to one another, and competition in wealth and children." (Surah Al-Hadid 57:20) These words remind us that everything we see around us is temporary. Wealth can disappear, beauty changes, positions are replaced and the attention of people does not last forever.

The Prophet Muhammad gave a beautiful reminder about our relationship with this world: "Be in this world as though you were a stranger or a traveler." (Sahih al-Bukhari 6416) A traveler does not spend his entire journey trying to permanently settle at every place he visits. He knows that he has somewhere else to go. In the same way, a believer is encouraged to live responsibly in this world while remembering that this life is not the final destination.

The problem is not having money. The problem is when money becomes more important than honesty. The problem is not success. The problem is when success makes us arrogant. The problem is not enjoying life. The problem is when enjoyment makes us forget our responsibilities towards Allah and

other people. The Prophet also said: "Richness is not having many possessions. Rather, true richness is the richness of the soul." (Sahih al-Bukhari 6446; Sahih Muslim 1051) This is a powerful message in a world that constantly tells us that we need more. More followers. More money. More attention. More possessions. More achievements.

But how much is enough? Perhaps one of the greatest challenges of our time is learning the difference between need and endless desire. There is nothing wrong with wanting a comfortable life, a good education or financial security. But when "enough" is never enough, the pursuit itself can become exhausting. We may begin to sacrifice sleep, relationships, peace of mind and even our values simply to stay ahead. Slowly, the goal is no longer to live well but to appear successful. And when appearance becomes more important than reality, we can lose sight of what success was supposed to mean in the first place.

If a person has everything yet remains permanently dissatisfied, can possessions alone bring peace? And if someone has fewer worldly things but possesses gratitude, faith and contentment, can their life still be meaningful? Perhaps the problem is that we have become better at counting what we own than appreciating what we have. We count marks, money, followers and achievements, but sometimes forget to count blessings: a family that cares for us, a healthy body, the opportunity to study, a safe place to sleep, a friend who stands beside us and another morning in which we are given the chance to improve ourselves. Gratitude does not mean giving up our ambitions. It means pursuing our goals without becoming blind to the blessings already present

in our lives.

The Qur'an reminds us: Seek, through what Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter, and do not forget your share of the world." (Surah Al-Qasas 28:77) Perhaps this is the balance we need. We should study, work hard, build careers, support our families and make plans for the future. But while doing all this, we should remember that our worldly achievements are not the final measure of our lives.

Balance also means remembering that our relationships are part of what makes life meaningful. A successful career cannot replace every conversation we postponed. Money cannot recreate every moment we ignored. Recognition cannot give us back the time we failed to give to the people who genuinely cared about us. Sometimes, we are so focused on becoming someone in the eyes of the world that we forget to remain someone our family, friends and society can trust.

There will also be moments when our plans fail. We may work hard and still face disappointment. We may prepare carefully and still not receive the result we expected. We may lose something we thought we could never live without. These moments can teach us something that success sometimes cannot: that our entire identity cannot be built around worldly achievements. Failure does not make a person worthless, just as success does not make a person superior. What matters is how we respond. Do we learn? Do we remain patient? Do we continue trying? Do we remember Allah when circumstances do not go according to our wishes?

Life is not always about getting what we want. Sometimes it is also about becoming the person we need to become through what we experience. Perhaps some of life's most important lessons are not found in moments when everything goes according to plan. They are found when we are forced to slow down, rethink our priorities and discover what truly remains valuable when temporary things are taken away. One day, the things we spend years collecting will remain behind. The clothes, money, titles, certificates and popularity will no longer define us. What will matter is how we lived, how we treated people, what choices we made and what we did with the blessings and opportunities given to us.

The Prophet Muhammad said: Actions are judged by intentions. (Sahih al-Bukhari 1; Sahih Muslim 1907) This reminds us that even ordinary parts of life can have a greater

purpose. Studying can be connected with the intention to gain beneficial knowledge. Working can be connected with providing for one's family through lawful means. Helping others can be an act of sincere goodness.

Our intentions can therefore change the way we look at everyday life. Instead of asking only, What will I get from this? we can also ask, Why am I doing this, and who will benefit from it? So perhaps the question is not whether we should chase success. The real question is: what kind of success are we chasing?

A successful life cannot be measured only by what others can see. Sometimes the greatest achievements are invisible: remaining honest when lying would be easier, staying patient during hardship, being grateful when others have more, forgiving someone, helping someone quietly and keeping one's connection with Allah alive. There is also a kind of success that receives no applause. It is waking up and choosing goodness again after a difficult day. It is controlling anger when anger would be easier. It is refusing to hurt someone even when we have the opportunity. It is helping without expecting recognition.

These things may never appear on a certificate or become a social-media post, but they can hold far greater meaning. The world will always give us something new to chase. But we should occasionally stop, look at our direction and ask ourselves whether we are becoming better human beings or simply becoming better at collecting things. Perhaps we should not wait until we lose something to understand its value. We should not wait for failure to become grateful. We should not wait until life becomes difficult before remembering Allah. The purpose of life is not to possess everything. It is to understand what deserves our heart, our time and our effort. Because one day, the race will end. And perhaps the most important question will not be How much did I have? It will be. What did I do with what Allah gave me? And perhaps that is the question worth asking today not tomorrow, not after success, not after failure, but now.

Abroo Mushtaq is an author and anthology contributor whose work is rooted in a deep love for literature and creative writing. A dedicated student and storyteller, she is author of 'The Voice I Hold' and continues to explore the intersection of narrative and emotion in all her work. She can be mailed at abroomushtaqwani@gmail.com

Can Man Or A Woman Escape The Responsibility For Modesty?

Modesty: A Shared Command, Not A Female Burden

RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

It's a hot topic at any given time that "Should a woman dress herself in a way that completely covers her body, or should people change their thinking?" The really useless argument that's put across is that "Islam doesn't only make it obligatory for a woman to dress in a modest way but also asks man to lower his gaze." The wording of the argument is very fine, but the way it's used can't be justified. The people who put this argument forward want to justify that which can't be justified in any way. Be it by the prism of Islam or through Science Or through the moral prism, the argument finds no place.

In Islam both women and Men have been asked to cover themselves. It's not only for the Women to be modest, but for men the obligation in Islam is the same. Whereas a man doesn't have a strict rule for being covered but for being modest and not leaving the boundaries of discipline, there are scholars who have put their opinion that a man should cover his chest. In principle it is permissible for a man to show his chest or any part of his body which is not an 'Awrah' (parts of the body that should be covered in Islam) even in the presence of women.

Nonetheless, a Muslim should not do so without a need, as this is not an act of noble men. In addition to this, this act may cause women to be tempted by you, so you should be careful. It's to be kept in mind that Although the chest is not part of the 'awrah' for men, uncovering it is still an action that is not appropriate for a man and is one of the actions of the immoral. While you read the above-mentioned part regarding the chest of a man, you must know that this is not my own opinion; I have read it on Islamic



websites available. It should have been clear to you that Islam doesn't exclusively put women under the burden of covering themselves, but a man is also under obligation to cover himself in a way that doesn't upset the modesty and doesn't go beyond discipline.

The Holy Quran has spoken on clothing. The Quran says, "O children of Adam, We have bestowed upon you clothing to conceal what should be concealed, and as a fine adornment, and the garment of righteousness, that is best." (Al-A'r f 7:26). There's a misconception that the Quran has left Men out of the modesty and doesn't put any obligation on them, but that's completely wrong. The Quran has done justice to both men and women. Islam places the burden of modesty on man before woman.

Allah says in the Quran, "(O Prophet), enjoin believing men to cast down their looks and guard their private parts.

That is purer for them. Surely Allah is well aware of all that they do." (Surah An-Nur, 24:30) Those people who accuse Islam of being tough on women and very flexible for men. They either have a mission to put otherwise things in the minds of people, or they have no knowledge of Islam. Islam is the only religion which has made "Rights of Women" part of men's faith. Islam has exclusively asked a man to respect the rights of women. It's out of the question to say that Islam is harsh on women only. Had it been so, the lowering of Gaze wouldn't have been in the Quran, or had it been the case, there would have been no mention of share of property to women. Islam has done pure justice to women in every case.

Additionally, the Quaran has this to say: "For Muslim men and women, for believing men and women, for devout men and women, for true men and women, for men and women who

are patient and constant, for men and women who humble themselves, for men and women who give in Charity, for men and women who fast, for men and women who guard their chastity, and for men and women who engage much in Allah's praise, for them Allah has prepared forgiveness and great reward" (Quran 33:35).

Had Islam put Man completely out of the burden of modesty. The Verses mentioned above wouldn't have been in the Quran. The burden is equally on both. And both are on their end responsible for it. There are people who don't subscribe to what the Quran mentions about modesty. But let's take psychology and modern study into consideration.

What Studies and Surveys Show: Upper Body Strength: Research indicates that perceived upper-body strength, including a defined chest, broad shoulders, and arms—is a major factor in how women

rate male physical attractiveness. The V-Shaped Torso: Evolutionary psychology points to broad chests and shoulders paired with a narrow waist as an appealing silhouette because it signals physical fitness and health. Preference for Toned over Bulky: Most surveys suggest women prefer a solid, toned chest (chiselled pecs) rather than an overly massive or extreme bodybuilder physique.

The study also indicates that some women are attracted to hairy chests. So it completely validates that a man should cover his chest. Not understanding the hijab through the prism of Islam but through Psychology. Even psychology supports that the dressing of a woman attracts men. Why Well-Dressed Women Attract Men. Visual Cues and Signalling: Evolutionary psychology notes that clothing acts as a form of signalling. A put-together outfit shows conscientiousness, self-respect, and an investment in personal presentation.

The Halo Effect: Psychological research shows that people tend to attribute positive internal traits (like confidence, intelligence, and friendliness) to individuals who are neat, well-groomed, and well-dressed Enhancing Symmetry and Form: Clothing that fits well can accentuate natural posture and body language, which are major components of physical attractiveness. Apocrine glands in the body are what control the attraction between man and a woman. The Gland doesn't follow "My Intentions are pure theory"; it does its job either way. After reading the article, there can't be any excuse for blaming a man by a woman for attraction or a woman by a man. Both have equal rules to play, and none can escape the responsibility.

Author is a law student. He can be mailed at raqifmakhdoomi18@gmail.com

No Rigid Timeline

active consideration and efforts were being made to complete the necessary examination and consultations at the earliest.

The government said the multiplicity of worker categories and the legal, administrative and financial consequences of any decision required a comprehensive assessment before a final framework could be adopted.

In a separate part of the query, Tarigami sought details of a proposed policy for compassionate engagement of eligible family members of workers who died while in service and were awaiting regularisation.

The government said this issue does not fall within the terms of reference of the committee constituted to examine regularisation.

It told the House that a considered decision would be taken after all relevant aspects had been examined and the required inputs obtained from the departments and authorities concerned.

Govt Aproves

to provide sustained support to AAY households across Jammu & Kashmir and further reinforce the Government's focus on inclusive development, social justice and people-centric welfare measures.

Soon after the announcement, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the initiative would provide direct relief to the most deserving households and strengthen the government's commitment to public welfare.

"This key initiative aims to extend direct relief to the most deserving households, ensuring a dignified life for vulnerable sections and reinforcing the government's commitment to social justice and public welfare," the Chief Minister said.

The initiative was announced by the Chief Minister while presenting his second Budget as Finance Minister in February this year, wherein he had proposed six free LPG cylinders annually for AAY households across Jammu and Kashmir.

The provision will extend direct assistance to AAY families across Jammu and Kashmir, helping ease their household expenditure on cooking fuel and providing additional support to economically vulnerable households.

—CM Reviews Draft

formulation process.

The Chief Minister held detailed discussions on the proposed policy and directed the department to ensure that the final framework is balanced, pragmatic and responsive to the evolving needs of Jammu & Kashmir's industrial sector.

He emphasised that the policy should provide a conducive environment for investment while ensuring that its benefits translate into greater opportunities for local entrepreneurs, businesses and employment generation.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the new policy should provide a comprehensive and competitive incentive framework, with focused support for priority sectors and emerging sunrise sectors.

He also stressed strengthening market access for local industries, further improving ease of doing business, and closely linking incentives with local employment generation and skill development.

The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of a robust implementation mechanism, with clear focus on simplifying processes, facilitating ease of doing business and ensuring effective delivery of the policy's objectives.

The department was directed to further refine the draft in light of the discussions before it is finalised through the prescribed process.

Peer-Ki-Gali

mainly clear skies on September 25, 26 and 27, followed by partly cloudy conditions with the possibility of moderate rain or thunderstorm on September 28 and 29.

Jammu city is also expected to remain mainly clear till September 27, with partly cloudy conditions and a possibility of moderate rain or thunderstorm on September 28 and 29.

The weather conditions are expected to bring a further drop in temperatures in the higher reaches, with snow-fall likely to become more frequent as

the season progresses—(KNO)

Devotees Offer

here makes the occasion even more meaningful," he said.

Firdous Jan, a devotee from Budgam, said the Urs serves as an occasion for prayer and remembrance.

"People come here with faith and devotion. It is always special to be part of this gathering," she said.

The Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA) is observed annually at Dastgeer Sahib shrine with special prayers and religious gatherings. The occasion traditionally attracts devotees from across the Valley who visit the shrine to pay homage to the revered Sufi saint.

Elaborate arrangements were put in place around the shrine and adjoining areas to facilitate the movement of devotees and ensure smooth conduct of the annual observance—(KNO)

Assembly Passes

goes to their teachers," she said.

The Minister emphasised that the contribution and years of service of these teachers need to be duly recognised while considering the matter.

On the first day of the debate, legislators Balwant Singh Mankotia, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Waheed Ur Rehman Para and Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh participated in the discussion and expressed their views on various aspects of the Resolution.

The debate continued today, with legislators Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah (Veeri) also participating in the discussion and putting forth their views on the issue.

Following the detailed two-day discussion, the House passed the Resolution by voice vote.

CS ReviewS

meeting, the Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan gave a detailed presentation on the progress achieved in implementing the four Codes, namely the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020; Code on Social Security, 2020; and Code on Wages, 2019.

He apprised the meeting about the new framework that consolidated 29 existing labour laws into four Codes to strengthen workers' welfare, improve industrial relations and facilitate ease of doing business.

Reviewing the status of rule formulation, the Chief Secretary was informed that Jammu and Kashmir has already notified the rules under the Industrial Relations Code and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code. The rules under the remaining two Codes are in the final stages of notification.

The Department further informed that the draft rules under the Code on Social Security and the Code on Wages had been pre-published following the necessary approval of the Lieutenant Governor, attracting 27 and five objections respectively. Additionally these objections have been examined and are being disposed of, with the Department targeting submission of the rules for final publication within the next ten days.

The meeting was further informed that administrative notifications under all four Codes have been framed and submitted to the Law Department for statutory vetting. The requisite notifications are proposed to be issued soon after reception from the Department of Law.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the Department's preparedness for transitioning to a unified digital compliance and grievance redressal system through the Central Government's Shram Suvidha and Samadhan portals.

He was informed that J&K has already conveyed its consent to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, for onboarding onto the Shram Suvidha portal and furnished the requisite banking details to facilitate digital transactions.

Moreover it was divulged that the Shram Suvidha portal will provide a single-window platform for registration, licensing, filing of annual returns and inspections, while the Samadhan portal will enable workers and employers to register, track and seek resolution of industrial disputes and grievances online.

It was informed that the Ministry is presently undertaking the necessary customisation and revamping of both platforms to facilitate their seamless integration with J&K's compliance systems and ensure their effective implementation for the benefit of stakeholders across the Union Territory.

2,241 Health

government noted that constructing permanent buildings for all such institutions would require financial investment running into thousands of crores of rupees, which cannot be accommodated within the available resources in the short term.

Given the scale of the investment involved, permanent infrastructure will be developed in phases, subject to the availability of funds and fulfilment of other required formalities, the government said.

It added that the process would be planned in a manner that ensures healthcare services are not disrupted during the transition to permanent facilities—(KNO)

NC Govt Failed To

cylinders in the name of AAY," Sharma said while speaking to reporters at the Assembly Secretariat.

He asked, "If they have to give only to AAY, then where are those 24 cylinders over the past two years? And what about the rest of the people?"

Sharma also questioned the government's earlier promise of 200 units of free electricity for AAY families. "Two years ago, one year ago, the CM said he would give 200 units of electricity to AAY. That has not been delivered either," he said.

He further questioned the status of the government's commitment to provide one lakh jobs, alleging that several promises made to the people remained unfulfilled.

On the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), Sharma said teachers who had served for years were being asked to prove themselves again, expressing concern over the manner in which the issue had been handled. "Teachers have contributed immensely to building our society and shaping generations. Yet, the government has failed to hold any meaningful debate on their concerns and has shown little sensitivity towards their difficulties. The manner in which this issue has been handled has left the teaching community deeply disappointed," he said.

On healthcare, Sharma said around 1,500 doctor posts were vacant and 219 ventilators in Government Medical Colleges were non-functional. He also questioned diagnostic facilities and the availability of essential materials, including CT scans and X-ray films. "The health infrastructure cannot be allowed to suffer while the government continues to offer excuses. When patients are struggling to access basic healthcare, the government must answer why critical posts remain vacant and why essential equipment is lying defunct," he said.

Sharma further criticised the functioning of the Assembly, alleging that issues of public importance were not being adequately discussed. "The government is least bothered to discuss or address issues of public importance. They are just setting up a session for the sake of a session," he said, adding that the sitting was being held merely to meet the constitutional requirement of convening the Assembly within six months—(KNO)

New Tourist

nature, eco, adventure, water-based and rural tourism," the government said.

The department said it has also taken up the following tourist destinations and infrastructure projects for development in Bandipora constituency: tourist Cafeteria at Watlab (Village Khensusa). Watapora Park. Wular Vantage Park, Garoora, Bandipora. Budget Accommodation at Athwato, Bandipora.

The government further said that during the current financial year, the work titled "Construction of View Points along both banks of Nallah Bun from Chandaji Village downwards" has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 50 lakh under the Priority Works Plan.

"Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under process," it said.

Besides, the government said development of a Water Sports Centre-cum-

Boat Club at Wular Lake is also being taken up during the current financial year.

On whether the existing tourist destinations are being developed to make them fully tourist-friendly and whether concepts and resources are being provided for such activities, the government replied in the affirmative.

"The existing tourist destinations are being progressively developed and upgraded to improve tourist facilities, enhance overall visitor experience and ensure sustainable tourism development," it said.

The government said carrying capacity of the overburdened sites is also being taken into consideration for the current financial year 2026-27.

The development interventions, it said, envisage provision and improvement of basic tourist amenities, including public conveniences, drinking water, seating, signage and visitor information facilities.

These also include improvement of basic tourist infrastructure, landscaping and beautification, besides development of viewpoints, recreational and interpretation facilities wherever feasible and environmentally appropriate.

The department said the initiatives further include promotion of eco-tourism, nature tourism, adventure tourism, rural tourism and water-based tourism, keeping in view the carrying capacity of each destination.

Other interventions include improvement of cleanliness, sanitation, waste management and environmental sustainability, development of low-impact and environmentally sensitive tourism infrastructure, promotion of homestays, local guiding and other tourism-related livelihood activities, and enhanced participation of local communities in tourism development.

"The overall objective is to make tourist destinations more visitor-friendly while ensuring environmental protection, sustainable tourism development and generation of employment and livelihood opportunities for the local population," the government said.

It added that the requisite resources for undertaking these activities are being met through the Annual Capex Budget and funding provided by the Government of India under applicable Central Sector Schemes, including Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD and PMDP, wherever applicable.

"Convergence with concerned departments and agencies is also undertaken, as required," the reply stated—(KNO)



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Govt strengthening trauma, critical care services in remote areas: Sakina Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government is taking a series of measures to strengthen healthcare delivery, emergency response, trauma care and critical-care services in remote, hilly and difficult-to-access areas of Jammu Division, including the Padder-Nagseni Assembly Constituency.

The Minister was responding to a question raised by Sunil Kumar Sharma regarding the availability of doctors, specialists, nurses and paramedical staff, besides infrastructure, diagnostic facilities and emergency healthcare services in remote areas.

The Minister said that the Government is progressively augmenting Emergency, Trauma and Critical Care Services in remote and difficult areas through strengthening of critical-care infrastructure, emergency and trauma services, ambulance and medical evacuation facilities, human resources and telemedicine support.

She said the focus is on ensuring timely stabilization and management of critically ill and trauma patients at the nearest available health facility, followed by referral to higher centres wherever specialized treatment is required.

Highlighting the initia-



tives being undertaken under PM-ABHIM, the Minister informed that 17 Critical Care Blocks are being established across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, comprising 15 blocks of 50 beds each and two blocks of 100 beds each. These facilities, she said, are aimed at substantially augmenting critical-care capacity and decentralizing specialized services, thereby reducing the need for patients from remote and far-flung areas to undertake long journeys for critical medical care.

The Minister further informed that emergency response and patient transportation facilities have also been strengthened with the addition of 44 Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances, including 22 each for Jammu and Kashmir divisions, taking the total fleet under 102/108 ambulance services to 530.

She said that another 100 ambulances are being added to the fleet, comprising 75 critical-care ambulances and 25 4x4 All-Terrain Ambulances, which

will further enhance emergency transportation and evacuation capabilities, particularly in mountainous, remote and difficult-to-access areas.

“An effective ambulance network plays a crucial role in ensuring timely emergency response, initial stabilization and safe transportation of patients, particularly from remote, hilly and geographically challenging areas,” the Minister said.

She added that the Department is undertaking need-based augmentation of manpower and emergency-care infrastructure in health institutions, keeping in view patient load, geographical accessibility, institutional requirements and identified service gaps.

Emphasizing the role of technology in bridging geographical barriers, Sakina Itoo said that telemedicine and specialist outreach services are also being utilized wherever feasible to facilitate specialist consultations and provide clinical support to patients and healthcare institutions in

remote areas.

The Minister informed that Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed between the Principals of GMC Jammu, GMC Kathua, GMC Udhampur and GMC Rajouri and the Medical Superintendents of District Hospitals Reasi, Samba, Ramban and Poonch respectively for conducting specialist outreach camps and providing tele-consultation services.

She further informed that the draft MoU between GMC Doda and District Hospital Kishtwar has already been prepared and will be finalized shortly, which will further strengthen specialist support and referral linkages for patients in the region.

Regarding healthcare services in Padder-Nagseni, the Minister said that the First Referral Unit (FRU) at SDH Atholi, Paddar, provides referral services to District Hospital Kishtwar or higher health institutions, depending upon the clinical requirements of patients.

She said that timely referral and evacuation of critically ill and injured patients is facilitated through 108/102 ambulance services available at SDH Atholi and in the Padder-Nagseni area.

“In cases requiring specialized treatment, patients from the remotest and inaccessible areas are also evacuated or airlifted to higher health institutions, wherever required and feasible,” the Minister stated.

Legislators raise issues of Public Welfare, Development during Zero Hour

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi) asked for swift forest clearance of the road projects to ensure their timely completion. The Minister In-Charge PWD clarified that the matter would be taken on priority with the forest department and the connectivity Projects completed on time.

MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat raised the issue about the refusal of Environmental Clearance to the New Ganderbal Hyderal Power Project.

MLA Shamim Firdous raised the issue of Water Scarcity in her area and demanded the construction of reservoir to tide over this issue.

MLA Mohammad Yousuf Rather (Tarigami) Requested the Government to hike the Honorarium of consolidated employees like Asha, Anganwadi and Mid Day Meal workers on the lines of Sikkim and Pondicherry

MLA Muzaffar Iqbal Khan asked the Minister



In charge to consider the Cooks and other similar staff in schools to be paid as per the Minimum Wages Act as their Honorarium is very Less. He also demanded fair compensation in favour of the farmers whose land has been acquired for the construction of schools or Water supply schemes in his areas.MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz raised the issue of dearth of doctors and medical supplies in his constituency.MLA Mian Mehar Ali demanded Degree College, horticulture office for Gund tehsil, Night stay Permission for tourists at Naranag and large scale winter events at Sonamarg.MLA Sur-

jeet Singh Salathia raised the issue about release of the money of the Account Holders of cooperative Bank, pending salaries of its staff and asked for the time frame to make the payments.

MLA Daleep Singh Parihar raised the issue of Sexual Assault of a young Girl in his area and demanded stern punishment to the culprits.

MLA Rameshwar Singh raised the issue of maintenance and restoration of Road infrastructure damaged due to rainfall in his constituency and rollback of new UGC rule.

MLA Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah raised the issue of Poonch- Tangmarg

road and called for taking up the work on this pivotal project aiming to connect two regions of Jammu and Kashmir. He also called for taking stringent measure for ensuring ban on Polythene in Gulmurg and catchment areas.

MLA Shakti Raj Parihar raised the issue of delay in execution of connectivity works due to delay of forest clearance and dearth of manpower in his constituency.

MLA Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi raised the issue of absorption of daily wagers of JK Cements and the pending dues of Handloom Development Corporation Employees. He also raised the issue of Customary Quarry Mining of the area.

MLA Sajad Gani Lone raised the issue of privileges entitled to the Members of Legislative Assembly and called for ensuring the same.

MLA Narinder Singh Raina raised the issue of ST2 Certificates in his Constituency and called for taking measure for their early issuance.

CORRECTION

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Date of Birth of my son, namely Mohammad Usman Dar, S/o Firdous Bashir Dar R/o Reban presently studying in Hanfia Middle School Reban Rafiabad, has been recorded incorrectly in the school records. As per the Birth Certificate issued by the Municipal Authority, the correct Date of Birth of the student is 26/09/2012 , whereas the same has inadvertently been recorded in the school records as 04/06/2016. Accordingly, I have to rectify/correct the Date of Birth in the school records as per the Municipal Birth Certificate. Any person having any objection regarding the proposed correction may submit the same, along with documentary proof, to Principal Hanfia Middle School Reban within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I, Nisar Ahmad Beigh, son of Late Mohammad Amin Beigh, resident of Devi Angan, Badamwari, Hawal, Srinagar, have lost the Registration Certificate (RC) of my vehicle bearing registration No: JK01AJ-5301 (Hyundai i10). The RC was lost while travelling from Nowhatta to Jehangir Chowk. Now, i have applied for a duplicate RC with the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Srinagar. If anyone has any objection regarding this matter, they may submit their objection at the RTO Office, Srinagar, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

Nisar Ahmad Beigh S/o Late Mohammad Amin Beigh
R/O Devi Angan, Badamwari, Hawal, Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

SINDH FOREST DIVISION GANDERBAL

e- NIT No:- 10 of 2026-27 | DATED: 21-09-2026

email:- dfosindh.for-jk@nic.in

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:-

Name of Work	Location	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) INR	Class Of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion
Planting of Polybag raised sapling of Conifer (Kail/Betula/Mapple/Fir. etc) saplings in staggered pits of size 45x45x45 cm along the contours as well as flat surface including extraction /lifting/carriage of plants from different Nurseries of Forest Department by mechanical transportation within a maximum lead of 100 kms and head load carriage including loading, unloading up to site of work with all operations, under scheme CAMPA (NPV) for the year 2026-27.	Compt 63 a Sindh / Baltal	Rs. 3.52 Lakhs	Rs. 7042/-	D Class PWD Contractor or B Class Forest Contractor	Rs. 200/-	30 days

The position of codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA	Accorded
Position of TS	Accorded

The e-NIT, consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities (B.O.Q),Terms & Conditions of contract and other details, can be seen /downloaded from the website:-www.jktenders.gov.in.

Publishing Date:	22 -09 -2026 from 11: AM
Download Start Date:	22 -09 -2026 from 11: AM
Bid submission Start Date:	22 -09 -2026 from 11: AM
Bid submission End Date:	29 -09-2026 Upto 04:00 AM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	30-09-2026 at 10:00 AM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Kashmir Srinagar Circle Srinagar
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after the technical evaluation is completed. Date will be notified separately.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department).(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- III of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and 2% of EMD in the Shape of CDR/ FDR pledged in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer Sindh Forest Division, Ganderbal. The issuance date of the treasury challan and EMD must be in between that date of downloading to bid submission end date. The name of the work or NIT No, S.No. should clearly be mentioned on the treasury challan. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR 2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by the successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded. which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90-days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if -
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. EMD, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2026-27, PAN, Valid GST Registration along with latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the preceding quarter with respect to the issuance of e-NIT., Affidavit cum Undertaking (Notarized along with e-stamp) (Annexure-I), Cost of Tender Document.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labor Registration Certificate issued by Labor Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually otherwise the bid of the bidder shall be rejected.
- Bidder should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded / submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake / not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the contractor / bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division / Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.
- General Conditions of Contract:-
 - The date of start of the work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of LOI/ Contract allotment as the case may be.
 - Penalty for delay in completion:
 - Incase of delay in completion of work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty upto maximum of 10% of the contract shall be imposed. Time extension:-Suitable time extension shall be granted in case of increase in scope of work and in the event of delay beyond control of contractor to be determined by the department.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

No. DFO/Sindh/Plg/2026-27/645-51
Dated: 21 - 09 -2026.
DIPK-6062-26
DT: 24/09/2026

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Sindh Forest Division
Ganderbal

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Notice Inviting short term E-Tenders-NIT No.23 of 2026-27

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J and K U.T, e-tenders on percentage rate basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible contractors registered with J& K U.T Govt./CPWD/Railways/other govts./UT's for the following works:-

S. NO.	NAME OF WORK	Estt Cost (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender opening authority
1	Strengthening of weak embankments at RD 4800 M OF Darkhan Wohan 2nd Canal by way of construction of retaining wall	3.51	10530/=	20 days	DEE	300/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
2	Construction of lining wall on right side and bed treatment on Pranigam Ladi from 780to 3000 mtrs at spots	2.03	6090/=	12 days	DEE	200/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
3	Construction of Lining wall on Right sides of Nogund ladi From RD 1200 mtrs onwards at spots	2.28	6840/=	20 days	DEE	200/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
4	Construction bifurcations of Panzath- Sronsoo and Shampora- Dardikoot ladi.	1.44	4320/=	12 days	DEE	200/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer

Remittance Head:- 0702

Position of AAA:- (1)Accorded vide Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Anantnag's AA order No. 32 DB of 2026 dated 25/08/2026 issued under No. SE/Hyd/DB/AA/5494-95 dated 25/08/2026

Position of TS:- (1). Accorded vide this office TS order No. 10 DB of 2026-27 dated 31/08/2026 issued under No. IDA/DB/3785 dated 31/08/2026

Position of Funds:- Budgetary Provision

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria , specifications , bill of quantities (BOQ) set to terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website.www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates detailed below :-

1.	Publishing date	22.09.2026	06.00PM
2.	Download Date Starts	22.09.2026	06.00PM
3.	BID Submission Date Starts	22.09.2026	06.00PM
4.	BID Submission Date Ends	28.09.2026	06.00 PM
5.	Date of opening of tenders	29.09.2026	11:00 AM

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and The bids uploaded shall be opened online on above mentioned date by the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies (on 100dpi) of all necessary documents like Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag, latest GST clearance certificate(GSTR-3B and GSTR-1).Registration card duly renewed along with Verification, Affidavit (1st Class Magistrate/Norary),BID Security in the form of EMD for an amount detailed above.. (EMD Ddr shall be deposited separately for each item of work). The date of CDR/ FDR / should be between the bid submission start date and bid submission end date. After opening of tenders online, the 1st lowest bidder shall be asked to deposit the CDR/ FDR /additional performance security pledged to tender receiving authority and other documents in original. The CDR/ FDR / additional performance security and other documents in original shall be deposited within two Days positively after opening of tenders. The EMD in the shape of CDR/ FDR of the successful bidder will be retained as performance security deposit till expiry of defect liability period, whereas the EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned/released latest by 30 days after award of the contract.
- The check list of documents for cover 1st is attached with the NIT & bidders are advised to recheck the uploaded documents as per the Check list. Additional Performance Security shall be taken from the first lowest bidder/selected bidder (within 02 days after opening of the tenders) in the shape of CDR/ FDR as per the Circular issued by the Finance Department vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 dated 08-08-2025 if the bid percentage is below 10%. The additional performance guarantee/security shall be treated as a part of performance security.
- The CDR/ FDR/ Security Deposit uploaded during tendering shall be properly verified from the issuing bank before awarding the contract. Furthermore if at any stage the CDR/APS/ FDR/ Security Deposit are found to be false/ or forged/ fraudulent, action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the contractor as laid down in Procurement of Manual of works GFR 2017 besides blacklisting the contractor from tendering process.
- If the successful bidder is seriously unbalanced or front loaded in the opinion of the Tender Opening Committee. The Tender opening Committee may in such cases seek written clarifications from the bidder, including detailed price analyses of its bid price in relation to scope, schedule, resources mobilization, allocation of risks and responsibilities and any other requirements of the bid's documents besides Additional Performance Security as per above breakup. If, after evaluating the price analyses , procuring entity determines that the bidder has substantially failed to demonstrate its capability to deliver the contract at the offered price, the Tender Opening Committee may reject the bid/proposal. A bid which contains several items in Bill of Quantities those are unrealistically priced low and which cannot be substantiated satisfactorily by the bidder may be rejected as non-responsive.
- Contractor / Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/ FDR / Treasury Challan as required, & APS (if applicable)their EMD will be forfeited besides they will be barred/prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of Six Months (06 Months) in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be considered for the said period.
- Contractor who shall be allotted the work has to start the work within the stipulated time period after the date of allotment as the work is of very important nature.
- The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids due to any reason what so ever.
- The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days.(Ninety Days)
- As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department.

No. IDA/4660-77
Dated: 22/09/2026

DIPK-6037-26
DT: 24/09/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Anantnag

1st ODI: Breetzke, bowlers give South Africa a winning start against Australia in Durban

IAN S

DURBAN: South Africa began their home season with a 67-run win over the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup champions Australia in the first of the three ODI matches at Kingsmead in Durban on Thursday.

The Temba Bavuma-led Proteas, the reigning World Test Champions, were right on the mark as they overcame Australia by 67 runs in the first meeting between the two sides in the format since the latter had defeated them in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

Asked to bat first after Mitchell Marsh won the toss, South Africa lost an early wicket as Josh Hazlewood struck to give the tourists the advantage. Things became further difficult for the hosts as Nathan Ellis' first-ball special accounted for Quinton de Kock (18) in the eighth over.

Matthew Breetzke walked out to bat at 29/2, and over the next three hours displayed positive intent mixed with an ability to find gaps, securing his second ODI hundred along the way.

Despite starts for Temba Bavuma (30) and Ryan



Rickelton (27), Australia kept themselves in the contest with regular breakthroughs.

Things changed when Breetzke found an able partner in Marco Jansen, who smashed 75 off merely 59 to lift South Africa closer to 300. That they fell three runs short was due to the wily efforts of Ellis, who finished at 3-57. Adam Zampa was the second-best bowler with his 2-50.

Australia's reply began in stark contrast to South Africa, with Mitchell Marsh unleashing havoc with the willow, racing to a 36-ball 60 before falling when the team score was 90 in the 10th over. He was dismissed by Keshav Maharaj, and soon enough Bavuma understood the pattern of

the wicket and unleashed his tweakers to trouble the batters.

Maharaj (4-20) and Bjorn Fortuin (2-34) shared six wickets between them, as despite efforts from Travis Head (36), Cooper Connolly (38) and Matt Renshaw (44), Australia's later batters failed to match up to the fireworks of Marsh.

Brief scores:

South Africa 297/8 in 50 overs (Matthew Breetzke 112, Marco Jansen 75, Temba Bavuma 30; Nathan Ellis 3-57, Adam Zampa 2-50) beat Australia 230 all out in 31.2 overs (Mitchell Marsh 60, Matt Renshaw 44, Cooper Connolly 38, Travis Head 36; Keshav Maharaj 4-20, Corbin Bosch 2-67. Bjorn Fortuin 2-34) by 67 runs

Asian Games: Abuduaini ends China's 24-year wait for men's discus gold

IAN S

NAGOYA (JAPAN): Abuduaini Tuerhong won the men's discus title at the Asian Games 2026 on Thursday, ending a 24-year wait for China to reclaim the gold medal in the event.

Abuduaini threw 64.26 metres on his third attempt to take the title, while his compatriot Wu Nanjun finished second with 61.58m.

The 29-year-old, a two-time Asian championships winner who broke the Chinese national record several times last year, was visibly emotional after the victory.

"It's been more than 20 years since China last won the title. Now we've brought it back," Abuduaini said. "I'll call my family and friends when I get back to my hotel, and then have a good sleep."

Abuduaini took bronze at the Hangzhou Asian Games three years ago. He said gaining more than 20 kilograms since then had helped improve his performance, reports Xinhua.

"I weighed around 113 to



114 kilograms in 2023, and now I'm 140 kilograms," he said. "It feels so special because it's my first 10k at the Asian Games and I did it for the first time in my life in a competition," Yavi said. "It felt so good, entering such an event and getting a gold medal."

Yavi said she would gradually shift her focus from the steeplechase to the 5,000 and 10,000 meters. Uzbekistan's Sharifa Davronova won the women's triple jump with a personal-best 14.35 metres, with China's Huang Yingying taking silver and compatriot Li Yi bronze.

Bahrain's quartet won the mixed 4x400-metre relay in an Asian Games-record 3:12.87.

In the men's 100 metres, Thailand's Puripol Boonson ran a season-best 9.95 seconds to top the preliminary heats. "I am extremely happy now because I never expected to reach this

result," the 20-year-old said. "My initial goal was around 10 seconds."

It was Boonson's second sub-10-second run of the season. He set his personal best of 9.94 seconds last year.

The Hangzhou Asian Games silver medallist said he was confident ahead of the final and hoped to win gold for Thailand. China's Zeng Keli, who ran in the same heat as Boonson, advanced in 10.22 seconds. Defending champion Xie Zhenye won another heat in 10.30 seconds and also progressed to the semifinals.

In the women's 100 metres, 17-year-old Chinese sprinter Chen Yujie won the first heat in 11.41 seconds to post the fastest time in the preliminaries.

Chen said she was not satisfied with the result after having targeted 11.40 seconds or faster before the race.

"Before the race, I had a conversation with the coach. I estimated that I would aim for a time of 11.40 seconds or less," she said.

Asian Games: President Murmu congratulates skeet duo, Seema on historic bronze medals

IAN S

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday congratulated shooters Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Parinaaz Dhaliwal and long-distance runner Seema Kumari after the trio secured bronze medals for India at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan.

President Murmu hailed Naruka and Parinaaz for their historic achievement in the skeet mixed team event, which brought India its first-ever medal in the discipline at the Asian Games.

"My heartiest congratulations to Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Anantjeet Singh Naruka on winning the Bronze Medal in the Skeet Mixed Team event at the

Asian Games 2026. This is India's first-ever medal in the Skeet Mixed Team event at the Asian Games. The duo displayed excellent teamwork and consistency, adding to India's strong performance in Skeet at the Games. My best wishes to both of you for many more successes in the years ahead," President Murmu wrote in a post on X.

Naruka and Parinaaz finished with 44 hits from 48 shots in the final, level with South Korea, but Korea took silver on the tie-breaker based on the qualifying scores. China won gold with 45 hits.

The Indian pair produced a perfect eight from eight in their final series to finish on 44 and secure the bronze.



President Murmu also congratulated Seema after she won bronze in the women's 10,000m, ending India's 16-year wait for a medal in the event at the Asian Games.

"Warm congratulations to Seema Kumari on securing the Bronze Medal in the Women's 10,000m at the Asian Games 2026. Your remarkable performance has ended India's 16-year wait for a medal in this event. This is a memorable

milestone in your sporting journey and a moment of immense pride," President Murmu wrote.

Seema clocked 32:50.05 to finish third behind Bahrain's Winfred Yavi, who won gold in 32:39.18, and Japan's Nozomi Tanaka, who took silver in 32:41.54.

The Indian had made a strong start to the race and led the field through the opening 2,000 m before slipping to fourth as the pace increased. She moved back into third with 1,000 m remaining and held on to secure the bronze.

Seema's medal made her the only third Indian woman to win an Asian Games medal in the women's 10,000 m, after Preeja Sreedharan's gold and Kavita Raut's silver in 2010.

Chess Olympiad: Gukesh misses his chance as India drew with Azerbaijan; Savitha Shri wins seventh game

IAN S

SAMARKAND: Defending champions India lost an opportunity to surge into the top spot as they were held 2-2 by Azerbaijan in the eighth round of the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad in Samarkand on Thursday. In the women's section, India's B Savitha Shri continued her onward march by scoring a seventh successive win as India were held 2-2 by Kazakhstan.

The men's team remained in joint second position in the Open section with 13 match points, even as table-toppers Uzbekistan (14 match points) were stunned by Germany and are now sharing the top spot with the hosts.

R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, D. Gukesh and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, who returned to the team to replace Nihal Sarin, were all held to a draw by their opponents for a 2-2 result with Azerbaijan.

Things turned topsyturvy at the top with Germany upsetting Uzbekistan 2.5-1.5 thanks to wins by Frederik Svane and Rasmus Svane over Nodirbek Yakubboev and Shamsiddin Vokhidov, respectively.

The highlight for Indian fans in the 2-2 draw was the Gukesh versus Muradli Mahammad on the third board, in which the reign-



ing World Classical Champion missed a chance to close out the game.

Playing white pieces in a Sicilian Najdorf game, Gukesh went for an ambitious queen move, but Muradli Mahammad came up with an accurate reply and responded with some crafty queen moves of his own. In a queenless endgame, Muradli locked down the centre and activated his king as Gukesh tried some aggressive moves to create an attack by making space on the queenside.

The two players tried their best under severe time pressure before agreeing to a draw in 56 moves, with Muradli putting up a stout defence.

On the other boards, Praggnanandhaa was held by the experienced Shakhriyar Mamedyarov; Arjun Erigaisi was held by Aydin Suleymanli with white pieces, while Vidit Santosh Gujrathi drew

with Rauf Mamedov.

After the eighth round, Uzbekistan and Germany share the top spot with 14 match points, with eight teams including India, China, Netherlands and the USA in the joint second spot with 13 points.

In the women's section, defending champions India were held to a 2-2 draw by Kazakhstan as they remained in joint-second spot.

On the top board, Koneru Humpy was held to a draw by Bibisara Assaubayeva, as did Divya Deshmukh against Meruert Kamalidenova, both playing with black pieces.

Savitha Shri won her game against Elnaz Kaliakhmet and saved India's day after Vaishali Rameshbabu had lost to Nurman Alua as the defending champions missed an opportunity to jump into the lead.

Pooran to lead Royal Desert Champions in Abu Dhabi T10; Robin named Team Director

IAN S

ABU DHABI: Former West Indies power-hitting batter Nicholas Pooran has been appointed as the captain and Icon player of the newly formed franchise Royal Desert Champions for the upcoming edition of the Abu Dhabi T10 tournament.

The tournament, which enters a new era under the stewardship of Abu Dhabi Cricket & Sports Hub (ADCSH), will take place from November 7 to 20 at the Zayed Cricket Stadium. Alongside Pooran, the new franchise has secured England opener Phil Salt and West Indies all-rounder Sherfane Rutherford as direct platinum picks ahead of the official player draft on September 30. Former India cricketer Robin Singh has been appointed as the Team Director.



He comes into the franchise with extensive coaching experience, including a long stint with IPL franchise Mumbai Indians and past title-winning runs in T10 and

ILT20 competitions, and will oversee the team's sporting operations.

"Having been closely associated with the Abu Dhabi tournament format over the years, I am delighted to continue my journey with the Royal Desert Champions. I look forward to building around our strong core a quality and competitive team capable of making an immediate impact in the Abu Dhabi T10," he said.

Detailing the vision behind the new team, team owner and UAE-based fintech entrepreneur Amit Narang said, "Royal Desert Champions is built on the belief that champions are revealed when conditions are toughest. The desert embodies the qualities we want this team to stand for - resilience, courage, adaptability, and ambition.

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AVENGERS: ENDGAME ENCORE (UA 16+)

3D ENGLISH MS - INFINITY VISION WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

02:55 PM

06:35 PM

THE VVAAN (UA 16+)

HINDI

01:50 PM

04:40 PM

07:30 PM

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE (A)

HINDI

05:40 PM

HEART OF THE BEAST (UA 16+)

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

03:25 PM

TASRUFDAAR

DJINNS OF KASHMIR (UA 13+)

KASHMIRI, URDU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE

02:20 PM

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CMYK

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