

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

Manoj Sinha

@manojsinha



I congratulate the meritorious students felicitated by Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. Our young generation is the torchbearer of India's tradition of knowledge & culture. Urged empowerment of border youth through education, entrepreneurship, sports, culture & mentorship, inspiring them to dream big with confidence.

GMK

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CM Calls For Long-Term Global Partnerships To Promote J&K Products

Urges buyers to build long-term partnerships with local producers

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SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday called for sustained business partnerships between Jammu and Kashmir's entrepreneurs and buyers from across India and abroad, emphasising that the Government is working to create an enabling environment for investment, trade and industry while protecting the unique identity of the region's traditional products. Addressing the inaugural day of the two-day Jammu and Kashmir International

Buyer-Seller Meet organised by the J&K Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) in collaboration with the Trade Promotion Council of India at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of

Jammu (SKUAST-K), the Chief Minister said the Government's efforts to promote exports and attract investment must go hand in hand with making it easier for businesses to operate in J&K. **●P-06**

Youth Torchbearers Of India's Knowledge, Culture: LG Sinha

Urges empowerment of border youth through education, entrepreneurship

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said the younger generation has an important role in carrying forward India's rich traditions of knowledge, literature and culture. Sinha was speaking at a felicitation ceremony organised by the Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, where meritorious students were honoured. Extending his greetings to students, teachers, parents, and organisers, the Lieutenant Governor said that the honoured students are not merely winners of a competition but torchbearers of India's rich tradition of knowledge, literature, and culture. Highlighting the significance of the mother tongue, the Lieutenant Governor observed that it is not just a medium of communication but an identity, memory, and sensibility connected to the soul. He underlined that Jammu Kashmir's linguistic diversity reflects the confluence of India's shared culture. He noted that the National Education Policy places special emphasis on early education in the mother tongue and Indian languages, enabling children to learn and grow with confidence. The Lieutenant Governor also stressed that the mother tongue is the foundation of a modern India. He urged that children must be rooted in their heritage while being given wings to soar globally. He also observed that true development of Jammu Kashmir will be realised when every child in border villages can confidently pursue their dreams. "The real development of Jammu Kashmir will come when a child in our border villages can say with confidence "I can fulfil my dreams." I know that the children and youth of border areas are brimming with courage, talent and they are an inspiration for the entire nation," he said. Calling upon officials, the Lieutenant Governor outlined five key themes for youth empowerment in border areas- education and technology, employment and entrepreneurship, sports and culture, connecting to opportunities, and guidance and mentorship. He emphasised that talent achieves true success when it paves the way for others. "We must ensure that smart classrooms, digital libraries, and skill-development opportunities reach remote villages. We must create opportunities for youth in handicrafts, horticulture, agriculture, tourism, and local industries so that they become not just job-seekers but also job-creators. Let our youth hold books, pens, sports equipment and give strong expression to art, so that their energy finds a creative direction. Our youth should not lag behind those living in any metro city of the country. All scholarships, digital platforms, training programmes, and competition opportunities at national and international levels must also be accessible to the youth of border areas. **●P-06**

26,544 EWS certificates issued in J&K in last two years: Govt

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that 26,544 Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) certificates were issued across the Union Territory during the last two years, with 24,058 issued in Jammu Division and 2,486 in Kashmir Division. The information was provided by the Revenue Department in response to an unstarred question raised by MLA Surjit Singh Slathia regarding the number of **●P-06**

Terrorist Killed in Budgam Gunfight

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SRINAGAR: One terrorist was killed in an encounter between security forces and terrorists in the Gurwatalan area of Budgam district late Tuesday evening, officials said. A top police officer said that the operation was launched after security forces established contact with the terrorists in the area. He said a joint operation is underway, with security forces **●P-06**

BJP stages walkout over statehood resolution

Unconstitutional resolution has been allowed: LoP Sharma



WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday witnessed uproarious scenes as BJP legislators protested against Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather over the Statehood resolution before staging a walkout from the House. As soon as Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, sought the removal of the Speaker, he alleged that an "illegal and unconstitutional" resolution had been allowed. Sharma said the Chief Minister had himself disclosed that the Law Department had given an opinion against discussion on the resolution and demanded that the Speaker take responsibility and step down. **●P-06**

NHPC Hydro Projects Generate Rs 5,537 Crore for J&K in 5 Years

RIYAZ BHAT



SRINAGAR: In past five years Jammu and Kashmir has received substantial revenue of Rs 5537 crores from NHPC projects operating in the Union Territory. The government in a reply to question tabled by MLA Shakti Raj Parihar said that the power generated from the hydropower projects owned and operated by JKPDCL Government of J&K, in accordance with the applicable power allocation arrangements. The government informed the house that "During the last five financial years, JKPDCL has sold a total of 19,222.21 Million Units (MU) of electricity to the UT of Jammu & Kashmir at an average selling price of Rs. 2.033 per unit." "However, JKPDCL has paid an amount of Rs. 745.151 crore to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir on account of Water Usage Charges (WUC) during the last five financial years," the government said. It also said, "The UT of Jammu and Kashmir has received substantial revenue from NHPC projects over the last five financial years, totaling Rs 3582.06 Crore in Water Usage Charges and Rs 1955.26 Crore in the monetised value of 12 percent free power plus 1 percent LADF, across its various power stations with a combined installed capacity of 2250 MW." The house was further informed that apart from the direct financial benefits **●P-06**

J&K to offer 100 high-footfall govt services through WhatsApp

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards making public service delivery more accessible, convenient and citizen-friendly, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of all the concerned Administrative Secretaries to review the preparedness of the IT Department for the early rollout of an AI-powered conversational messaging platform that will enable citizens across Jammu and Kashmir to access government services directly through WhatsApp. The meeting besides the Commissioner Secretary, IT was attended by other Administrative Heads, Deputy Commissioners, senior officers and a team from NeGD, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), NIC and senior officers from IT Department. The initiative envisages onboarding 100 high-footfall government services in the first phase, allowing citizens to apply for essential services, track applications, submit documents, make payments and receive official communications through WhatsApp without the need to download separate applications or navigate multiple government portals. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the implementation roadmap for the proposed Multi-Channel Conversational Messaging API Solution, which will leverage Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) to provide an integrated, multilingual and interactive interface for accessing **●P-06**

Turkey's reference to Kashmir at UN unwarranted: MEA

'No external party has any locus standi on matters concerning India's territorial integrity'

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Reiterating that no external party has any locus standi on matters concerning the India's territorial integrity and sovereignty, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday rejected Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's reference to Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations General Assembly. Responding to questions on Erdogan's remarks, MEA spokesperson Randhir

Jaiswal, said India rejects the "unwarranted references" to India and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir made by the Turkish president during his address to the 81st UN General Assembly. "This is a matter, as you would understand, pertaining to India's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and no external party has any locus standi on this issue," Jaiswal said. Pertinently, Erdogan, while addressing the UN General Assembly in New York, had said disputes in South Asia, including Kashmir, should be addressed through dialogue within the framework of the UN Charter and relevant resolutions. His latest reference marked the seventh time since 2019 that the Turkish president has

raised Kashmir in his UN General Assembly address. Erdogan first raised the issue at the UNGA after India's August 2019 decision to abrogate Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status. He subsequently referred to Kashmir in his addresses in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. He did not mention it in 2024 but raised it again in 2025. India has consistently rejected references to Kashmir by Turkey and maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the country. New Delhi has also maintained that India and Pakistan should resolve their differences bilaterally, citing the 1972 Simla Agreement. India has maintained that any meaningful dialogue with Pakistan would require **●P-06**

Mission YUVA Over 1 lakh applications, Rs 1,769 crore disbursed

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that 1,00,407 applications have been received under Mission YUVA as of August 31, 2026, of which 36,077 have been sanctioned and 32,156 disbursed by banks, involving credit disbursement of Rs 1,769 crore. The information was provided by the Labour & Employment Department in response to a starred question raised by MLA Surjit Singh Slathia (Samba) regarding unemployment and the measures being taken by the government to address the issue. The department, said the government has been taking various measures to enhance employability, facilitate employment opportunities and promote self-employment among youth. The Labour & Employment Department is presently implementing Mission YUVA **●P-06**

CM Uses BJP's 'Appropriate Time' Line on Panchayat Polls



WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday took a dig at the BJP over its repeated assertion that Statehood would be restored at an "appropriate time," saying the government would use the same response when asked about holding Panchayat elections.

Responding to a question from BJP MLA R.S. Pathania on the timeline for Panchayat polls in the Legislative Assembly, Omar, said: "You say appropriate time for Statehood, we will say the same for Panchayat polls." He added that if the BJP continued to press for clarity on Panchayat elections, the government **●P-06**

Weather to remain dry across J&K till Oct 4

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Centre on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally dry weather till October 4, with light rain and snowfall expected over higher reaches on October 5 and 6. According to the latest forecast accessed, the weather is expected to remain generally dry on September 30 and from October 1 to 4. "On October 5 and 6, the weather is likely to be partly to generally cloudy, with light rain, thunder and gusty winds at a few places. Light **●P-06**

AUTUMN SESSION

Legislators raise public issues during Zero Hour

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SRINAGAR: The Legislators, during the Zero Hour of J&K Legislative Assembly, Tuesday raised various issues of public importance.

MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen raised the issue of unfilled vacancies in the educational and health institutions of Banihal Constituency. He sought installation of CT Scan at SDH Banihal. Additionally, he raised the issue of rationalization of Patwar Halqas and GQ Circles commensurate to the population growth.aa

MLA Pattan Javid Riyaz Bedar sought the attention of Government towards upgradation of CHC Pattan into the SDH hospital in view of the high foot fall to this health facility.

MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa asked the Government to withdraw the notices issued by JMC to the shopkeepers of Jammu.

Legislator Surjeet Singh Slathia seconded the issue raised by the MLA and said that CLU provisions were not in vogue then, therefore the affected shopkeepers should not be compelled to furnish the same.



MLA Kupwara Mir Mohammad Fayaz sought upgradation of schools in his area besides provision of SRTC buses for the students as they have to cover long distance to reach their educational institutions.

MLA Eidgah Mubarik Gul sought the intervention of government to promote Kashmiri language in schools and protection of city water bodies by carrying out their fresh demarcation and dredging.

MLA Zaidibal Tanvir Sadiq appealed the Government to consider withdrawal of FIRs registered against juveniles during protests against killing of Ayatollah Khamenei on the pattern of Ladakh recently. He also sought a policy for providing pensionary benefits to journalists in J&K.

MLA Rajouri Iftkar

Ahmed sought the intervention of the government to appoint full fledged Registrar at BGSBU besides enhancing the Grant-in-Aid to the varsity. Additionally, he sought Cath lab and MRI facility at GMC Rajouri.

MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar requested for inclusion of six far-flung roads in the annual plan of the district besides seeking measures to tide over the water crisis in Kishtwar district.

MLA Uri Dr. Sajjad Shafi sought formulation of some scheme on the pattern of ReT to fill vacancies of teachers in far flung areas of J&K.

MLA Gulabgarh Er. Khurshid Ahmed raised the issue of shortage of staff in the health and educational intuitions of

his constituency. He also raised land compensation issues of farmers of his constituency.

MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal sought assessment of losses caused by Hydro projects. He also raised the issue of the shortage of electricity and other public infrastructure in his constituency.

MLA Anantnag East-Shangus Riyaz Ahmad Khan sought intervention of the government for upgradation of irrigation facilities and restoration of water bodies in his constituency. He also sought completion of works on road connectivity projects.

MLA Jammu west Arvind Gupta sought initiation of second phase of Bone and Joint Hospital Jammu besides deployment of specialist doctors in this health facility.

MLA Bijbehara Dr. Syed Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri raised the issue of lifting the educational bar on MTS posts and sought implementation of Minimum Wages Act for consolidated employees of the government.

MLA Khansahib Saif-ud-Din Bhat raised the issue of land issue of Degree

College. He also sought attention of government towards defunct irrigation schemes in his area.

MLA Mehraj Malik requested the government to initiate recruitments at local level besides establishing a separate Hill Development division for Chenab region. He also called for lifting the educational bar on MTS posts and demanded enhancement of risk allowance of eligible employees.

MLA Surankote Choudhary Mohammad Akram sought relief for the families and farmers affected by recent floods besides allotment of 5 marlas of land in favour of households damaged in these floods.

MLA Tral Rafiq Ahmad Naik raised the issue of establishment of Fruit and Vegetable Mandi at Tral, macadamisation of roads in his constituency besides promotion prospects for Accounts Assistants recruited in 2019.

MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone sought the intervention of government to address the connectivity issues in his constituency besides construction of hospital building and playgrounds.

Dy CM reviews development works in Lolab constituency



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary Tuesday reviewed the progress of various ongoing developmental works in Lolab constituency at a meeting held with MLA Lolab Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Chief Engineer North, Chief Engineer PMGSY and other senior officers

of PW (R&B) and PMGSY.

The Deputy Chief Minister had a detailed review of the ongoing road and infrastructure works. He sought updates on their physical progress and implementation status.

Surinder Choudhary directed the concerned officers to expedite the pace of work, ensure timely completion and maintain the prescribed quality standards.

He also stressed close monitoring and effective coordination among all concerned departments for resolving bottlenecks and ensuring smooth execution of projects.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that developmental works should be completed within stipulated timelines so that the people of Lolab constituency receive the intended benefits at the earliest.

MLA's call on Javed Rana, raise constituency specific issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Members of the Legislative Assembly Abdul Majeed Bhat and Irshad Rasool Kar Tuesday called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed various issues pertaining to development and welfare of their respective constituencies.

During the meeting, the legislators apprised the Minister of the issues and developmental requirements concerning their constituencies, particularly those related to water supply, infrastructure and other public utility services. They also highlighted the need for timely completion of ongoing works and execution of priority projects to address the



demands of the people.

The Minister assured the Legislators that their concerns would be examined on priority for speedy redress. He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts between the concerned departments and the elected representatives for effective implementation of developmental programmes and timely resolution of public grievances.

Javed Rana reiterated the government's com-

mitment to ensure equitable development and strengthening of essential public services across Jammu and Kashmir. He directed the concerned officers to examine the issues raised and take appropriate action within the prescribed timelines.

Similarly, a number of people from the respective areas also raised various area-specific issues and apprised the Minister of their concerns and developmental requirements.

Workshop on “Adoption, Implementation of ECSBC” begins in Srinagar

ACS advocates energy-efficient practices for sustainable development

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A two day regional workshop on “Adoption and Implementation of ECSBC and ENS”, organised by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) Tuesday commenced in Srinagar.

The workshop was inaugurated by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar.

The workshop is being attended by senior officials, experts and representatives from State Designated Agencies and concerned departments from various States and UTs of the northern region to deliberate on implementation of energy-efficient building codes and share experiences, challenges and best practices.

Addressing the gathering, the ACS emphasised the importance of energy efficiency and energy conservation in achieving sustainable development. He highlighted that conservation of energy is a collective responsibility requiring the active participation of all sections of society.

Ashwani Kumar stressed the need to adopt energy-efficient practices in homes, offices, industries and public institutions. He underlined the importance of creating greater public awareness regarding the judicious use of electricity and avoidance of energy wastage.

The ACS appreciated the



role of BEE and J&K SDA in promoting energy conservation through awareness and capacity-building initiatives. He called for greater adoption of energy-efficient technologies and practices across different sectors.

Director General, BEE, Krushna Chandra Panigrahy, emphasised the importance of Centre-State collaboration, breaking institutional silos and strengthening communication for effective implementation of ECSBC. He also underlined the critical role of energy efficiency in strengthening India's energy security and in achieving the country's Net-Zero target by 2070.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants, Sanjay Sharma, Chief Electrical Inspector and Head, SDA J&K, highlighted the enormous energy-saving potential of the building sector. He also elaborated the importance of effective implementation of ECSBC and ENS for maximising energy savings in the build-

ing sector. He briefed the participants on some of the key energy-sector reforms and initiatives being undertaken in J&K, and apprised the gathering of BEE-supported initiatives relating to energy conservation and e-cooking.

During the workshop, Pravatanalini Samal, Director, BEE and Dr. Abhishek Sharma, Director, BEE reviewed the progress of ECSBC implementation, check testing and market surveillance activities. The challenges being faced by State Designated Agencies in implementing energy-efficiency programmes were discussed, with participants sharing their experiences and deliberating on possible solutions, support mechanisms and strategies for strengthening implementation.

BEE reiterated its commitment to provide necessary technical assistance and support to States and UTs for effective adoption and implementation of ECSBC and other building energy-efficiency initiatives.

SMC organises mental health, meditation session for employees

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Tuesday organised a Mental Health and Meditation Session for its officers and employees in collaboration with the Art of Living at the SMC Meeting Hall, Srinagar, with the objective of promoting mental well-being, mindfulness and effective stress management in the workplace.

The session was attended by senior officers and officials of the Corporation and focused on the importance of mental well-being, emotional balance and maintaining a healthy approach towards workplace stress. Participants also took part in guided meditation and wellness-oriented practices.

Among those present were Nuzhat Khurshid Qurashi, Joint Commissioner (Administration), SMC; Suhail Ul Islam, Joint Commissioner (R&E); Syed Abul Qasim, Joint Commissioner (S), SMC; Dr. Fozia Habib, Health Officer, SMC; Taahir Ahmad Magray, Secretary, SMC, besides other senior officers and officials.

The session was conducted by Vinod Soni and Jyoti Kaur, Senior Faculty, Art of Living, who guided the participants through meditation and wellness practices, while highlighting practical approaches to stress management and mental well-being.

The programme emphasised the importance of fostering a supportive, healthy and positive workplace, particularly for personnel engaged in demanding administrative and public-facing responsibilities.

The initiative reflects SMC's continued commitment to employee welfare and workplace well-being, complementing its ongoing efforts towards efficient and responsive civic service delivery to the citizens of Srinagar.

Waqar Knowledge Centre Bandipora hosts HSS Aragam Students



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Waqar Knowledge Centre, Bandipora, hosted an exposure visit of the students of HSS Aragam at the Knowledge Centre, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, Tuesday.

The students were apprised of various Government schemes, career opportunities, skill-development avenues, educational resources, and guidance and counselling services available through different departments and dedicated desks.

The session was highly interactive and engaging, providing students with an opportunity to directly interact with the visiting officers, resource persons and subject experts, seek guidance, and gain practical insights into various educational and career pathways.

The visit concluded with an emphasis on empowering students through awareness, guidance, and access to available opportunities and government initiatives.

The session was graced by Rafiq Ahmad Mir, CEO Bandipora, Resource Persons associated with the dedicated desks of the Knowledge Centre.

Mega Kisan Mela held in Shopian, ADDC presides over programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: A district-level Mega Kisan Mela under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), was organised by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shopian, Tuesday at Old Fruit Mandi, Shopian.

The programme was inaugurated by Additional District Development Com-

missioner (ADDC), Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone.

Addressing the gathering, the ADDC appreciated the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments for organising the event and emphasised the need to further strengthen support to the farming community.

He urged farmers to make optimum use of modern technologies, government schemes and departmental interventions to enhance productivity and improve

their income.

The Mela aimed to empower local farmers by providing insights into modern agricultural practices, high-yielding crop varieties and government welfare schemes designed to boost farming productivity and income across the district.

During the programme participating departments and agencies put up stalls showcasing various schemes, technologies, machinery, inputs and

other facilities available for farmers. Farmers interacted with departmental experts and sought information regarding different schemes and modern farming practices.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Shopian, Shahnawaz Ahmad Shah, while presenting the welcome address, highlighted the importance of the Kisan Mela in providing farmers with scientific knowledge and modern agricultural

technologies.

Experts from SKUAST and other institutions also delivered informative awareness sessions during the Kisan Mela, sensitising farmers about modern agricultural practices, improved crop varieties, scientific farming techniques, pest and disease management, and the adoption of innovative technologies for enhancing productivity and farmers' income.

Audoora Receiving Station augmentation 95% complete: CM Omar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Power portfolio, Tuesday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that the augmentation of the Receiving Station at Audoorā is 95 per cent complete, while the construction of a new 6.3 MVA Receiving Station at Kandi, Handwara is also under progress.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Khurshed Ahmad Sheikh during the Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session, the Chief Minister said that the augmentation of the Audoorā Receiving Station is being executed under UT Capex, with installation of the 10 MVA Power Transformer remaining as the major pending component.

He said procurement of 32 Power Transformers, including the transformer required for Audoorā, is under process. The tender process was delayed due to inadequate response to the initial tender, which was subsequently cancelled after extensions. A fresh tender was floated on the J&K Tenders portal, with the financial bids opened on September 11, 2026.

Regarding the Kandi



Receiving Station, the Chief Minister said that construction of the 6.3 MVA station at Kandi, Handwara is under progress, with associated civil works, transmission-line works and electrical works at various stages of execution and tendering.

On the provision of a dedicated feeder for Qalamabad Hospital, Omar Abdullah informed the House that the 11 kV dedicated Hospital Feeder was constructed during 2024-25 and the work stands completed. However, a separate VCB panel for the feeder is presently not available at the Audoorā Receiving Station. Consequently, the dedicated feeder is currently being charged and operated through the Lach Feeder.

Giving the project-

wise financial and physical status, the Chief Minister stated that the augmentation of the Audoorā Receiving Station has an estimated cost of ₹133.28 lakh. Against this, ₹76.50 lakh was released during 2025-26, with expenditure of ₹49.52 lakh recorded during the year, while ₹2.50 lakh has been released during 2026-27. The project has achieved 95 per cent physical progress.

The construction of the Receiving Station at Kandi, Handwara has an estimated cost of ₹393.39 lakh. Against this, ₹20 lakh was released during 2025-26 and ₹25 lakh during 2026-27, with expenditure of ₹21.50 lakh recorded during 2026-27. The project has achieved 40 per cent physical progress.

AUTUMN SESSION

118 Kms macadamized across Srinagar during current fiscal: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that total road length of 118.06 KMs has been successfully macadamized/ upgraded across Srinagar District during the current financial year through the joint efforts of the PWR&B Department and the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

The Minister was replying to a question raised by the legislator Ali Mohammad Sagar. The Minister said that under special development directives, 15.43 KMs of road length have been upgraded specifically within the Khanayar Constituency till date.

The Minister informed the house that the R&B Department's community centres in Srinagar have generated an annual revenue of ₹6,83,000/- in the 2025-26, up from ₹4,15,000/- in the previous year, which is being actively utilized toward essential maintenance works.

The Minister said that the department continues to aggressively pursue bottleneck removals on historical transit corridors under the oversight of the High-



Level Committee (HLC).

"With regard to Syed Meerakshah Road (SMS Road), out of the total 10.33 Km stretch, 2.68 Km has been fully widened (25.95% physical progress) and settlement as well as acquisition have been successfully completed for 132 out of 332 affected structures. Similarly, for Khanayar-Zadibal-Pandhath (KZP Road), the total road length is 12.45 Kms. Out of 314 structures, 161 structures have already been acquired, achieving a physical widening of approximately 2.00 Km of the road corridor. In respect of Koolipora-Budoobagh Road (Special Reference) a critical 435-metre road widening project has achieved a completed stretch of 231 metres. Out of 29 struc-

tures, 14 have been cleared. The remaining 15 cases are currently undergoing fast-tracked resolution. The project stands approved at an estimated cost of ₹450.00 lakh", the Minister informed.

Deputy Chief Minister further informed the House that the widening and upgradation proposal for the Devi Angan-Hawal Road has been submitted under the CRIF scheme at an estimated cost of Rs 31.25 crore. The proposal includes Rs 30 crore for land acquisition and utility shifting and Rs 1.25 crore for development works along an approximately 1.40-kilometre stretch. The project will be taken up after the requisite approval is received under the scheme.

On the Alamgiri Bazar Chowk project, Deputy Chief Minister stated that the work has been authorised under the UT Sector at an estimated cost of Rs 335 lakh, including acquisition of five structures and redesigning of the junction. Administrative approval has been accorded by the Chief Engineer, Public Works (R&B) Department, Central Kashmir. An amount of Rs 20 lakh was allocated during the financial year 2025-26, while the case is presently under examination at the Administrative Department level for further necessary action and release of funds.

With regard to the Buchpora- Hazratbal Road, the House was informed that administrative approval for the revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) is awaited. Land acquisition cases pertaining to 34 structures have been taken up under the Bottleneck Removal Component, of which two structures have already been acquired. An amount of Rs 700 lakh has been received for the removal of the bottleneck, of which Rs 20 lakh has been disbursed for the acquisition of two structures. The remaining amount is pending

revalidation, while further acquisition will be undertaken subject to the availability of requisite funds, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister also apprised the House of the progress on the Babapora-Haba Kadal Road, which has been substantially cleared, with only four structures remaining to be removed.

Regarding the Habba Kadal-Gowkadal Road, the Deputy Chief Minister informed the Assembly that 24 structures are presently pending acquisition. An amount of Rs 21 lakh is available for the project, while additional funds are required to complete the acquisition of the remaining structures and facilitate further widening work.

On the Fateh Kadal to Habba Kadal via Chinkral Mohalla Road, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that the widening stretch involves 176 structures requiring acquisition and removal. Of these, 13 structures have been notified under Section 4, while 8 structures have already been acquired through the High-Level Committee. The acquisition and removal of the remaining structures will be taken up subject to

517 stone crusher units inspected since Jan; 146 closure directions issued: Min Rana

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SRINAGAR: The Government Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) inspected 517 stone-crusher units across the Union Territory from January 2025 till date, issuing 229 legal notices and 146 closure directions for violation of environmental and pollution-control norms.

This was stated by Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, while replying to a question raised by MLA Ajaz Ahmad Jan.

The Minister said that in Kashmir Division, 318 crusher units were inspected, 154 legal notices issued and 112 closure orders issued. In Jammu Division, 199 inspections were conducted, resulting in 75 legal notices and 34 closure directions.

The Government stated these directions were issued under the relevant provisions of the Water



(Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The action was taken, among other reasons, against units found operating without the requisite NOC from the concerned Deputy Commissioner, without valid consent from the J&K Pollution Control Committee and without adequate or requisite pollution-control measures.

The Government also provided details of four stone crushers approved for establishment in Poonch district, from January 2025 till date, located at Seeri Chowana, Salotri and Bhainch areas, with the approvals granted in accordance with the pre-

scribed norms and criteria.

Javed Rana stated that permissions for setting up and operating stone crushers in the Union Territory are being granted only after ensuring compliance with prescribed environmental norms, siting criteria and applicable regulations.

The minister stated that consents have been granted in accordance with the criteria and norms prescribed by the competent authority, while adhering to the environmental guidelines and siting criteria governing the establishment and operation of stone crushers in Jammu and Kashmir.

He further stated that the applicable framework includes the JKPC Order No. 70 of 2025 dated May 9, 2025, along with the subsequent amendment to the Siting Criteria for establishment and operation of stone crushers in Jammu and Kashmir issued vide JKPC Order No. 124-JKPC of 2025 dated August 30, 2025.

CS reviews preparations for first-ever GCC Summit at IIM Jammu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday reviewed the preparations for the first-ever Global Capability Centre (GCC) Summit, scheduled to be held at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu, on October 9-10, with a focus on attracting investment, generating skilled employment and exploring the potential of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities as emerging destinations for technology-driven enterprises.

The meeting besides ACS, Finance was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology Department; Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Secretary, Skill Development Department; Director, IIM-Jammu; Director, Skill Development Department; CEO, CITaG; Representatives from NassCom and other senior government functionaries.

Chairing a high-level preparatory meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised that the summit should go beyond deliberations and serve as a platform for building meaningful partnerships between the government, industry and academic institutions, besides identifying new avenues for economic growth across Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that the growing preference of global enterprises for Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities presents a significant opportunity for J&K to leverage its educated youth, competitive operating costs and expanding institutional infrastructure to attract investment and create high-value employment opportunities.

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of exploring the potential of smaller cities to emerge as alternative destinations for GCCs,

thereby extending the benefits of technology-led economic growth beyond traditional metropolitan centres.

He further observed that the summit would provide a valuable learning experience for government officers by exposing them to emerging industry requirements, global business practices and innovative models of collaboration between the government and private sector.

Dulloo called for systematically documenting the feedback, recommendations and suggestions emerging from the summit so that these could inform future policy interventions. He said the deliberations should also contribute towards laying the groundwork for the government's upcoming policy on the circular economy.

Emphasising the importance of wider publicity, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to undertake extensive media outreach at both regional and national levels to ensure greater visibility for the summit and effectively communicate the investment opportunities offered by Jammu and Kashmir.

Steps taken to retrieve encroached SIDCO land: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government has initiated measures to rationalize manpower across industrial corporations, address encroachment on SIDCO land and finalize the revised Industrial Policy for Jammu & Kashmir.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Chander Prakash Ganga, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that SICOP has 591 surplus staff following the closure/cessation of

its Marketing Wing and Raw Material Depots. He said the surplus employees are presently engaged on 89-day arrangements.

He informed the House that J&K SIDCO is facing a shortage of regular manpower, particularly due to retirements. To meet the identified requirements, surplus staff from SICOP, along with personnel from J&K Cements Limited, have been deployed in SIDCO. Wherever required, skilled manpower is also being engaged through outsourcing to ensure smooth functioning of the Corporation, he added.

'SRTC Complex Anantnag project proposed to be completed during 2026-27'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Housing & Urban Development portfolio, Tuesday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that the long-pending SRTC Complex project at Anantnag is being taken forward for completion, with a Detailed Project Report (DPR) amounting to ₹12.10 crore for the balance works presently under technical vetting.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Peerzada

Mohammad Syed during the Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session, the Chief Minister said the construction of the SRTC Complex, Anantnag, was taken up in 2005 and subsequently revived under the Languishing/JKIDFC funding mechanism in 2018 with an approved allocation of ₹11.42 crore.

He said approximately 70-75 per cent of the work was completed following the revival of the project, after which it was entrusted to R&B Division, Anantnag in February 2020 for further execution.

Chadoora bridge restoration work underway: Dy CM



GMK NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that restoration work on the main bridge at Chadoora, which was declared unsafe and closed to vehicular traffic on November 28, 2025, is presently underway.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Ali Mohammad Dar regarding the status of bridges, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Chadoora main bridge was technically inspected by NIT Srinagar, following which recommendations were

received on February 2, 2026. He informed the House that, based on the technical recommendations, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for restoration/reconstruction of the bridge was prepared and Administrative Approval amounting to ₹999.54 lakh was accorded. The work was subsequently awarded on August 3, 2026 and is presently in progress.

Regarding the alternate bridge near New Bus Stand, Chadoora, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that the bridge has already been constructed. He said that ₹50 lakh has been provided under UT Capex 2026-27 for completion of its approach road.

Omar Abdullah says clerical errors being rectified in J&K land records

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday said that more than 1.3 million clerical errors in land records have been identified and rectified as part of the ongoing digitization and verification of Jamabandis across Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to a question tabled by MLA Devyani Rana during the Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister,

who also holds the Revenue portfolio, said that verification of digitized Jamabandis is currently under progress in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said a robust digitization process, followed by an extensive error-rectification mechanism, has been put in place to ensure that the digitized Jamabandis are accurate and error-free.

The Chief Minister informed the House that the land-records system has been transitioned from a static Oracle SQL-based

database to a dynamic PostgreSQL platform. Under close supervision, error correction has been undertaken across the entire land records, with more than 1.3 million clerical errors identified and rectified.

He said each entry in the digitized record is subjected to a three-stage verification process through the Maker-Checker-Approver framework. A digital record is also maintained of any changes carried out in the Jamabandi to ensure accountability and traceability.

Govt to ensure adequate water supply to Alambal Mirgund under JJM: Min Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Government Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that adequate and reliable water supply on a long-term and sustainable basis will be provided to village Alambal, in the Mirgund area of Pattan Constituency, through augmentation and retrofitting of WSS Perihaspura under the Jeevan Mission, at an estimated cost of ₹19.1 crore.

This was stated by Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, while replying to a Calling Attention

Notice moved by MLA, Javid Riyaz Bedar, regarding scarcity of potable drinking water in village Alambal.

Giving the status of the scheme, the Minister said that the WSS under JJM is 60 per cent complete. He added that, following the extension of JJM up to December 2028, efforts are underway to secure the requisite funds from the Centre and the UT Government, with the scheme expected to be completed within the extended timeline.

The Minister further said that the distribution

network laid under CDF for commissioning of the scheme needs to be connected with the supply main of the Augmentation and Retrofitting of WSS Perihaspura. However, the proposed connection has faced objections from locals of Mirgund. He said the matter has been taken up with the local administration, and efforts are underway to resolve the issue amicably.

The Minister also said that village Alambal presently gets water supply from WSS Narbal of PHE Division, Budgam.

utes to energy security, economic growth and balanced regional development.

The meeting also reviewed the experience and performance of the hydropower policies introduced in 2003 and 2011, with discussions focusing on the lessons learnt, challenges faced and the need for appropriate policy alignment to accelerate future investments and project implementation.

Detailed deliberations were also held on institutional mechanisms, including streamlining the respective roles of the Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC) and the Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA).

CM Omar Reviews Draft J&K Hydropower Policy 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the Draft J&K Hydropower Policy 2026, calling for a focused policy framework to accelerate the harnessing of Jammu & Kashmir's vast hydropower potential, augment power generation capacity and strengthen the overall electricity sector.

Reviewing the performance of the existing policy framework, the Chief Minister directed that the new policy should address the challenges that have constrained hydropower development and provide a clear roadmap for faster and sustainable development of the sector.

Journalism At The Crossroads Of The Future



NAVEED QAZI

Journalism is entering another uncomfortable age. The newsroom was once built around reporters, editors, printing presses, television studios, and websites. Today's news ecosystem is scattered across phones, podcasts, newsletters, social platforms, databases, and artificial intelligence tools. The result is an existential struggle over journalism's core purpose.

Environmental journalism is evolving from a niche beat into a fundamental lens for all reporting. Because environmental change directly impacts food security, human migration, public health, urban planning, energy, business, and global security, climate stories can no longer be confined to specialist desks. Despite its critical importance, climate journalism historically comprised a tiny fraction of mainstream media coverage. Researcher Jill Hopke reported in *Nieman Reports* that it accounted for just 0.55% of coverage among leading US news organisations. However, newsrooms are actively shifting towards cross-border, collaborative models. For instance, Nicole Meir reported for *The Associated Press* in May 2023 on a major climate journalism collaboration with the Press Trust of India in Kochi. Ultimately, climate coverage is no longer a standalone topic—it is a vital lens for interpreting the entire world.

Solutions journalism offers a vital antidote to an exhausted, crisis-weary news culture. While traditional reporting excels at diagnosing what goes wrong, solutions journalism tackles a tougher question: what, if anything, is working? Writing for Nieman Reports in June 2015, John Dyer defined the practice as a rigorous effort to highlight how people actively address systemic issues. Crucially, the Solutions Journalism Network emphasises that this reporting must focus heavily on evidence and limitations.

This distinction is vital: solutions journalism is not public relations disguised as news, and analysing a failed initiative can be just as revealing as profiling a success. Ultimately, the best reporting moves seamlessly from diagnosis to examination—offering hope without crossing into propaganda.

Data-driven journalism is fundamentally reshaping the reporter's



craft. A spreadsheet can expose hidden patterns that a press conference conceals. Public records, satellite imagery, financial filings, and vast databases empower journalists to verify claims rather than merely repeat them. Data does not replace traditional reporting, as it instead provides a sharper instrument. Reporters must still frame critical questions, verify evidence, navigate uncertainty, and explain numbers. The strongest data stories seamlessly fuse statistics with human reporting. While a number establishes structural scale, a human story reveals what that scale actually means.

In all this, the independent content creator has become a formidable competitor to the institutional newsroom. Where journalists once needed a newspaper, radio station or television channel to reach an audience, a single person with a phone, microphone, and loyal following can now publish globally. Nic Newman reported for the Reuters Institute in the June 2025 Digital News Report that social media and video platforms were weakening the influence of institutional journalism while podcasts, YouTube, and TikTok strengthened an alternative media environment. Competition is not simply about speed—creators can be intimate, specialised, and responsive in ways large organisations struggle to match. Consequently, newsrooms are learning to act more like creators, while creators borrow journalistic methods.

This creates a productive tension. Journalism retains distinct institutional advantages: editorial standards, deep archives, specialist reporters, verification systems, and resources for costly investigations. Independent creators bring distinct strengths: personality, flexibility, direct audience relationships, and freedom from cumbersome bureau structures. The future will likely blend the two—provided independence and verification remain prioritised over raw reach.

Artificial intelligence enters this landscape as both a tool and a threat. Used carefully, AI helps journalists search documents, summarise material, translate interviews, analyse data, suggest headlines, and identify hidden patterns in massive datasets. The Associated Press stated in July 2026 that journalists could use AI for early research, summarisation, and headline suggestions while remaining strictly responsible for verification and editorial judgment. In July 2026, Emily Goligoski of the Columbia Journalism Review reported that Tess Jeffers,

The Wall Street Journal's head of newsroom AI and data, outlined a policy designed to encourage experimentation while protecting journalistic integrity. In August 2026, Scott Nover reported in The Washington Post that The Wall Street Journal's editorial page editor, Paul Gigot, defended an opinion contributor's use of AI, arguing that the author's argument and credibility mattered more

than the prose generation tools used. The piece was published without an AI label, a decision that sparked industry debate.

The primary danger is not that machines will replace journalists outright, but that economic pressures will incentivise publishers to use AI to churn out higher volumes with fewer reporters. If news organisations chase sheer volume, the internet will grow even more saturated with competent-looking prose that lacks depth or original reporting. Original human reporting remains expensive, slow, and uncertain, whereas AI makes generic content cheap.

Yet AI could also make journalism more ambitious. A specialist can use machine assistance to map complex documents, identify anomalies, and formulate sharp questions before going into the field. The machine widens the journalist's field of vision. This principle applies to creators and newsrooms alike: as polished prose becomes cheap, human experience, ground-level reporting, sharp judgment, curiosity, voice, specificity and rigorous fact-checking become invaluable. Furthermore, human oversight acts as an indispensable firewall against AI hallucinations.

Journalism faces a choice, but not simply between humans and machines. The newsroom of the future will rely on artificial intelligence extensively, yet its authority will remain tied to timeless virtues: accuracy, scepticism, independence.

The primary danger is not that machines will replace journalists outright, but that economic pressures will incentivise publishers to use AI to churn out higher volumes with fewer reporters. If news organisations chase sheer volume, the internet will grow even more saturated with competent-looking prose that lacks depth or original reporting. Original human reporting remains expensive, slow, and uncertain, whereas AI makes generic content cheap.

accountability, and the courage to ask difficult questions. Technology can accelerate journalism, but it cannot supply its conscience—that remains a uniquely human responsibility.

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Empowering Students To Build Future With Sustainable Startups



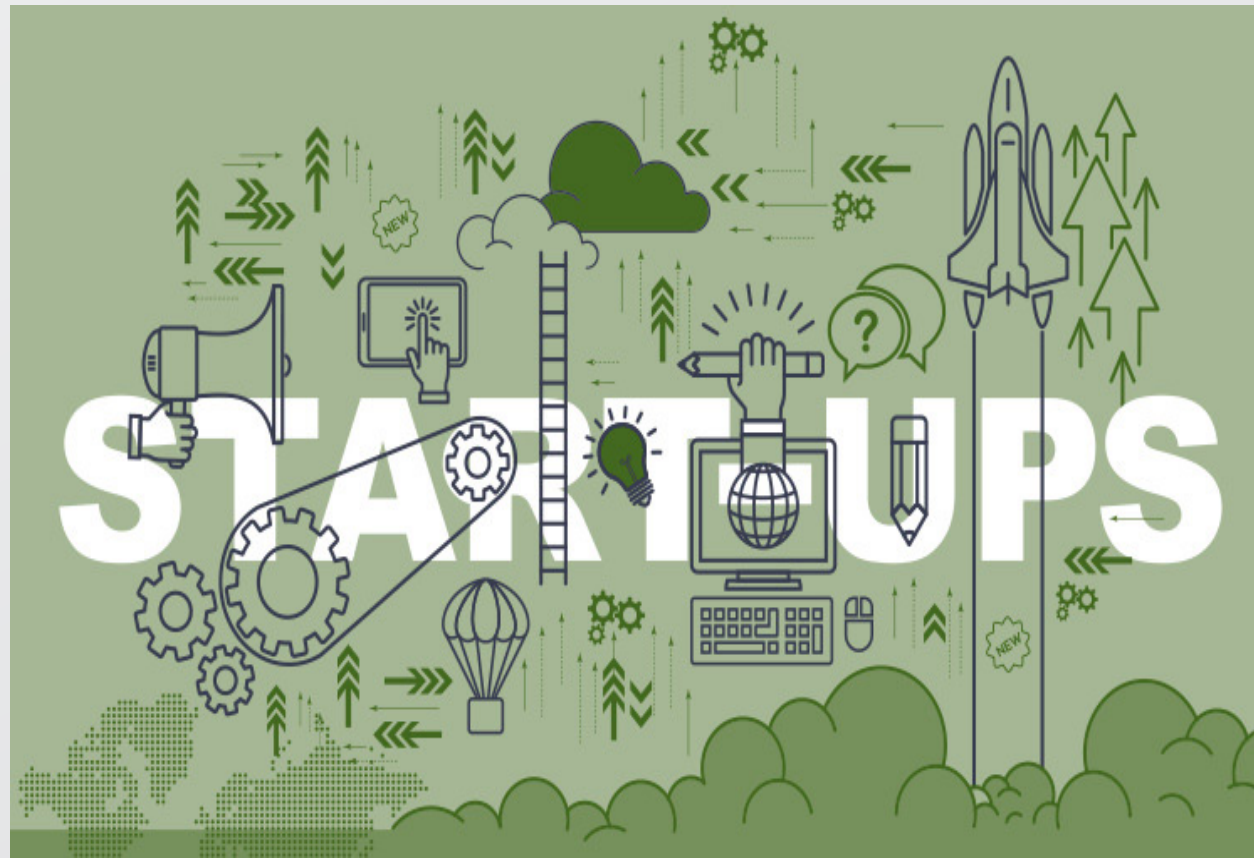
DR. ANJUM NAZIR OURESHI

Higher education institutions across the country are increasingly focusing on motivating students towards startups and entrepreneurship. However, with growing concerns about climate change and environmental shocks, it is no longer enough to encourage students to become entrepreneurs. We must motivate them to build sustainable startups.

Sustainable entrepreneurship not only shifts students from being job seekers to problem solvers but also encourages them to combine profitability with social and environmental impact.

The first step for higher education institutions should be to create a strong innovation ecosystem. Students should be encouraged to identify real-world problems and provided with the resources and guidance needed to develop solutions. Incubation centres can play a crucial role by providing students with space, mentorship, technology, and opportunities to transform their ideas into prototypes and businesses.

However, before providing infra-



structure, we need to transform mindsets. Students should move beyond the conventional goal of securing a good job after graduation and develop an entrepreneurial mindset that encourages innovation, calculated risk-taking, experimentation, and problem-solving. Entre-

preneurship camps, talks by successful entrepreneurs, industry visits, hackathons, and interactions with researchers can expose students to real-world opportunities. Connecting them with mentors and industry experts can further help them refine and implement their ideas.

Students should also understand financial planning, seed funding, pitching, angel investment, and government schemes supporting startups. Lack of funds should not become a barrier to innovation when various funding and support opportunities are available. At the campus

level, hackathons, innovation challenges, project exhibitions, startup clubs, idea labs, and incubation programmes can provide platforms for students to convert ideas into experiments and prototypes.

When we add the word “sustainable” to startups, the responsibility of educational institutions, mentors, and innovators also increases. Students need to understand sustainability and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and explore how their ideas can contribute to one or more of these goals.

They should be encouraged to identify local challenges related to waste management, pollution, agriculture, water, clean energy, and climate resilience and explore how these challenges can become viable business opportunities. Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, IoT, renewable energy, and data analytics can help students develop smarter and more scalable solutions.

When a student startup becomes successful, we celebrate. But for sustainable entrepreneurship, we must celebrate impact alongside success. These startups can create jobs, address pressing social and environmental challenges, and contribute to a healthier, more resilient future.

The goal is not merely to create entrepreneurs; it is to empower students to become responsible innovators who build businesses that create value for both people and the planet.

*Author is Assistant Professor,
RCERT, Chandrapur (International
Trainer, Author and TEDx Speaker)*

CM Calls For

Referring to the passage of important legislation in the Legislative Assembly earlier in the day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the Government had taken a significant step towards improving the business environment in Jammu and Kashmir.

“We have brought a law in the form of Ease of Doing Business, in which we have tried to put a stop to all these things,” he said, referring to unnecessary permissions, delays and excessive inspections faced by businesses.

He said the legislation provides for applications to be dealt with within prescribed timeframes and, where applicable, provides for deemed approval if action is not taken within the stipulated period.

“We have reduced the number of inspections,” the Chief Minister said, adding that the Government wants to ensure that those seeking to establish industries, educational institutions and other enterprises are not discouraged by cumbersome procedures.

He said the Government was also taking steps towards decriminalising certain minor violations and mistakes, observing that not every lapse should result in a criminal case and a lifelong criminal record.

“Today, we have also tried to decriminalise some ordinary mistakes, so that people don’t have to go to the courts for no reason. This will reduce the pressure in the courts,” he said.

The Chief Minister said these measures were part of the Government’s larger effort to create conditions in which trade, commerce, manufacturing and investment can grow in Jammu and Kashmir.

“On one hand, we organise buyer-seller meetings. It is a good thing. But on the other hand, if we don’t make your work easier, then there is no point in these buyer-seller meetings if we tie one hand behind your back,” he said.

Emphasising the need to protect the distinct identity and authenticity of J&K products, the Chief Minister said the Government was working to strengthen Geographical Indication (GI) protection and ensure that products marketed in the name of Kashmir genuinely reflected the skills and craftsmanship of its people.

“Our Pashmina, our embroidery, the magic in the hands of our people, we are trying to sell it to the world in the name of Kashmir Shawl,” he said, adding that products such as shawls, carpets, Namda, walnut, wool and papier-mâché needed sustained promotion and protection.

“If something is sold in the name of Kashmir, it should be made in the hands of the people of Kashmir. And I’m it should benefit the people of Kashmir,” the Chief Minister said.

He stressed that the buyer-seller meet should not remain a one-off exercise but should lead to enduring commercial relationships.

“We don’t want this buyer-seller meet to be a one-off. We want to see relationships built from here,” he said, urging buyers and sellers to approach the event as an opportunity to establish continued business partnerships.

The Chief Minister noted that buyers attending the event had travelled from different parts of India as well as North America, Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

“It will be a matter of great disappointment if we approach this buyer-seller meet as a simple one-off, that I’ll do one deal and that will be the end of the story,” he said, expressing hope that buyers would identify products they could take back and market in their respective regions.

Highlighting the craftsmanship of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the region’s artisans possess unique skills that can transform simple materials into intricate and high-value products.

“It is our craftsmen and craftsmen who can convert a simple piece of thread into a beautiful piece of embroidery,” he said, describing the intricate workmanship found in Kashmiri carpets and other traditional crafts.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the participation of women from rural areas associated with self-help groups, saying they had come together under difficult circumstances and were creating a wide range of handicrafts and products.

He encouraged buyers to engage with these groups and explore opportunities for sustained commercial relationships.

The event brought together over 25 international buyers, more than 15 national buyers and over 80 exhibitors and sellers, with participation from more than 12 countries. More than 200 handicraft, handloom and agro-food products are being showcased during the two-day event.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah recalled that the process of organising such buyer-seller interactions had begun during his earlier tenure as Minister for Commerce and Industries, and expressed appreciation for the Industries and Commerce Department for carrying the initiative forward.

He also invited visitors from outside Jammu and Kashmir to explore the Valley beyond the business event and experience its natural beauty.

“Every season in Kashmir is beautiful. Autumn has its own charm,” he said, invit-

ing the visiting buyers and delegates to travel around the Valley and return with memorable experiences.

The Chief Minister called upon participants to share suggestions on how such buyer-seller meets could be further improved and expressed hope that both buyers and sellers would conclude the event satisfied with the opportunities created.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K Nazir Ahmed Ganai, Managing Director JKTPO Sudharshan Kumar, heads of various departments, university faculty and staff, students, delegates, buyers, sellers and other concerned were present on the occasion.

Later, the Chief Minister inspected various stalls set up by entrepreneurs showcasing Jammu and Kashmir’s handicrafts, handloom and agro-food products and interacted with the exhibitors.

J&K Assembly

24 and September 28, 2026, after being circulated among the members on the respective dates, and were taken up for consideration and passage during the ongoing Autumn Session of the Assembly.

The Bills moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah include the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 10 of 2026), moved in his capacity as Minister Incharge, Housing and Urban Development.

As Minister Incharge, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, the Chief Minister moved the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 11 of 2026). The Bill seeks to consolidate and amend the law to replace permission-based control with rule-based governance and enable citizens and enterprises to plan, invest and work with confidence. It also seeks to foster Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living in the Union Territory in a manner that generates employment, attracts investment and sustains long-term economic growth.

In his capacity as Minister Incharge, Finance, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah moved the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 12 of 2026), seeking amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

The Chief Minister also moved the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members’ Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 15 of 2026), as Minister Incharge, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. The Bill seeks to amend the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members’ Pension Act, 1984, along with matters connected or incidental thereto.

Another legislation moved by the Chief Minister was the Jammu and Kashmir Decriminalisation and Rationalisation of Offences Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 16 of 2026). The Bill seeks to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to promote Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business, besides repealing certain enactments and addressing matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

CM withdraws

the proposed increase in salaries and allowances.

He also said that while BJP members were seeking salaries and allowances, they were simultaneously attempting to politicise the issue by referring to the problems faced by daily wagers.

“I was never in favour of it. Ask my MLAs. If a single member opposes, it will never pass. I withdraw the Bill,” the Chief Minister said.

The House subsequently voted in favour of withdrawal of the legislation by majority.

The Bills withdrawn by the Chief Minister, in his capacity as Minister Incharge Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, were:

“A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Ministers’ and Ministers of State Salaries Act, 1956” (L.A. Bill No. 13 of 2026).

“A Bill to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Act, 1960, and for matters connected or incidental thereto.” (L.A. Bill No. 14 of 2026).

Youth Torchbearers

All officials should ensure that well-known professionals from Jammu Kashmir visit these children twice a year, or share their experiences and provide hand-holding through programmes in Srinagar or Jammu,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged students to take pride in their language and culture while embracing science, technology, and modern knowledge. He lauded the efforts of Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti and its office-bearers for promoting Hindi language and wished a bright future for all meritorious students honoured at the event.

“Each student possesses special ability. They should transform that ability into

responsibility. Take pride in your language, understand your culture, and at the same time move forward to touch new horizons in science, technology, entrepreneurship and modern knowledge,” he said.

Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr. GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Ms Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL; Ms. Nasreen Ali Nidhi, National President Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti, senior officials, office bearers of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, Vaishvik Hindi Parivar and Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti, prominent citizens, heads of educational institutions, teachers and students of Army Goodwill Schools and Kendriya Vidyalayas attended the felicitation ceremony.

26,544 EWS

EWS certificates issued in Jammu and Kashmir and the government’s position on revisiting the existing criteria.

The department, said that 2,486 EWS certificates were issued in Kashmir Division during the period under review.

Among Kashmir districts, Anantnag recorded 583 certificates, followed by Kulgam with 618, Baramulla 315, Budgam 254, Pulwama 157, Srinagar 174, Kupwara 80, Bandipora 82, Ganderbal 70 and Shopian 153.

In Jammu Division, 24,058 EWS certificates were issued. Jammu recorded the highest number with 5,075 certificates, followed by Kathua with 5,865, Samba 4,614, Udhampur 3,435, Doda 1,804, Ramban 1,440, Reasi 1,381, Kishtwar 429, Rajouri 12 and Poonch three.

Regarding Samba district, the government said 4,614 EWS certificates were issued constituency-wise, including 1,083 in Vijaypur, 1,854 in Samba and 1,677 in Ramgarh.

On whether the government intends to review or revisit the existing criteria for issuance of EWS certificates, the Revenue Department said the criteria are already prescribed under the J&K Reservation Rules read with SRO 518 dated September 2, 2019.

The department said the existing criteria are in conformity with applicable constitutional and legal provisions and are being implemented. It further clarified that there is no proposal at present to review or revisit the criteria—(KNO)

Terrorist Killed

having killed one terrorist.

The area has been cordoned off and additional security forces have been rushed to the site. (KNO)

BJP stages

The BJP opposed references to the 2000 autonomy resolution and the November 2024 special status resolution included in the Statehood resolution, while maintaining that it supports restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to the objections, Speaker Rather asserted that he was aware of his powers and responsibilities and warned that strict action would be taken if members created disruptions. His remarks led to a heated exchange between the treasury benches and the opposition, with National Conference members raising “Vote Chor” slogans.

Amid the commotion, BJP legislators staged a walkout, protesting the Speaker’s decision to allow discussion on the Statehood resolution. The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, was passed on Monday amid protests by BJP members—(KNO)

NHPC Hydro

acruing to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in the form of free power, water usage charges and taxes and duties, hydropower projects also generate substantial indirect economic benefits locally.

“The implementation and operation of such projects create a continuous chain of economic activities, thereby contributing to employment generation, development of local enterprises and strengthening of the ancillary service sector,” the government said.

It also said that the continuous requirement of operation, maintenance, repair and upkeep of hydropower projects generates recurring opportunities for contracting agencies and local service providers.

“A substantial portion of such maintenance and ancillary works, particularly routine, minor and specialised works, is undertaken through contractors and agencies operating in and around the project area, sustained business. opportunities firms and entrepreneurs,” the government informed the house.

It also informed that during the operational phase of a hydropower project, various activities such as housekeeping, security, transportation, equipment handling, support

services, routine maintenance and other ancillary operations require engagement of outsourced manpower and service providers.

The government further said that these activities provide regular employment and livelihood opportunities to local residents, including skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

“Thus, the operation of hydropower projects creates a continuous local economic ecosystem, wherein expenditure on maintenance works, contracts, procurement and outsourced services circulates within the project area and contributes to employment generation, income enhancement and the growth of local businesses and development of skilled manpower for future requirement of up-coming projects,” the government informed—(KNO)

J&K to offer 100

government services.

Emphasising the importance of simplifying government-citizen interactions, the Chief Secretary observed that the initiative should substantially reduce procedural complexities, minimise physical visits to government offices and make essential public services accessible to citizens from the comfort of their homes.

He stressed that the platform should particularly benefit people living in rural and remote areas by providing a familiar, user-friendly interface capable of functioning even on low-bandwidth internet connections.

The Chief Secretary directed the IT Department to work in close coordination with the concerned line departments to expedite backend integration of the identified services and ensure their seamless delivery through the proposed platform.

He further called for comprehensive performance benchmarking, User Acceptance Testing (UAT) and adequate training of government functionaries to ensure the platform’s smooth and effective rollout.

On this occasion the Commissioner Secretary, IT Department, Saurabh Bhagat apprised the meeting that Jammu and Kashmir currently offers 1,710 e-services through various digital platforms, including e-UNNAT, ServicePlus and Revenue Plus. Of these, 100 frequently accessed services have been identified for onboarding in the first phase to maximise public outreach and ensure immediate benefits to citizens.

These include issuance of Income, Domicile, Caste, EWS and RBA certificates, besides access to land records such as Fard, Girdawari, Jamabandi and Mutation under the Revenue Department.

Similarly, services relating to issuance and renewal of driving licences, vehicle ownership transfers, payment of e-Challans and fancy vehicle number e-auctions are proposed to be integrated from the Transport Department.

Under the Housing and Urban Development Department, citizens will be able to access services relating to Birth and Death certificates, commercial establishment NOCs and building construction permissions.

The platform will also facilitate access to various social welfare schemes, including Ladli Beti, marriage assistance and post-matric and merit-cum-means scholarships. Other identified services include electricity and water bill payments, ration card modifications, agricultural schemes under HADP, JKSSB registrations and pilgrimage-related services.

Highlighting the key features of the proposed platform, the IT Department informed that it would offer multilingual support in Urdu, Hindi and English to ensure wider accessibility across Jammu and Kashmir.

The platform will also incorporate a one-time registration and Single Sign-On (SSO) mechanism, eliminating the need for citizens to repeatedly enter their personal details while accessing different government services. A unified citizen database is also envisaged for seamless integration with the Family ID system.

Other proposed features include AI-assisted conversational interfaces, Optical Character Recognition (OCR)-based document processing and validation, secure integration with multiple payment gateways, automated grievance escalation mechanisms and modular workflows for document submission.

Regarding the progress achieved so far, the Department informed that a dedicated System Integrator has already been onboarded through the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) empanelment framework to facilitate the implementation of the project.

It was further disclosed that JK SAMADHAN 2.0, the government’s public grievance redressal platform, has been selected as the first service for integration. A functional working demonstration featuring a multilingual citizen interface has already been developed and showcased, marking an important milestone towards the operationalisation of the proposed platform.

Taking note of the progress, the Chief Secretary reiterated that the ultimate objective of the initiative should be to bring government services closer to citizens by leveraging widely used digital technologies, ensuring that people across Jammu and Kashmir can

access essential public services with greater ease, transparency and convenience.

Turkey’s reference

an end to cross-border terrorism and “talks and terror” cannot go together—(KNO)

Over 1 lakh

(Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) , aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, self-employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities among youth.

Under Mission YUVA, interventions are being undertaken for enterprise development, credit enablement, subsidy/interest subvention, market linkage, capacity building and ecosystem creation.

The department further said it is facilitating skill development training through District Employment & Counselling Centres (DECCs) across districts to enhance employability and job-readiness of unemployed youth.

As per the reply, 5.50 lakh-plus potential entrepreneurs have been identified across Jammu and Kashmir through a data-driven baseline survey involving door-to-door enumeration of households and registered and unregistered enterprises.

The outreach covered approximately 3 lakh rural women, 50,000 youth and more than 20,000 potential entrepreneurs through targeted campaigns.

The Mission envisages facilitating establishment of 1.37 lakh-plus new enterprises and generation of 4.25 lakh-plus employment opportunities.

Agriculture and allied sectors account for approximately 21 per cent of the applications received.

The government said 1,00,407 applications had been received under Mission YUVA, with loans worth Rs 1,996 crore sanctioned, of which Rs 1,769 crore was disbursed to 32,156 beneficiaries. It added that 3,003 enterprises were financed and more than Rs 100 crore was disbursed in a single day, contributing to the crossing of the Rs 1,000-crore disbursement milestone.

Of the total applications, 77,850 were verified by SBDUs, 70,114 were sent to banks, 36,077 were sanctioned and 32,156 were disbursed.

An Agri Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme has also been launched to facilitate collateral-free credit of up to Rs 10 lakh, with 85 per cent guarantee coverage.

The department said 20 Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) have been established across all districts, besides 82 Business Help Desks (BHDs) at the sub-division level. As on August 31, 2026, 1,322 positions under the Institutional Business Support Mechanism had been filled.

A network of 295 training institutions has been created with 403 active trainers, and more than 36,000 training completions have been recorded. As many as 477 mentors have been onboarded, while 2,500 applicants have completed structured enterprise mentorship.

The government said 18,969 applications were received from women applicants, while among the cases disbursed, 759 pertained to women belonging to Self-Help Groups. A total of 80,052 applications were received from rural areas. 96 per cent of applications pertained to small/nano units.

A further 7,755 youth have benefited under the Mumkin, Tejaswini and Spurring Entrepreneurship Innovative (SEI) schemes since their inception.

Responding to whether the government intends to provide a monthly stipend to unemployed youth, the department said there is presently no such proposal, keeping in view the overall financial position and resource constraints of the Union Territory.

However, the Labour & Employment Department provides a stipend of Rs 1,000 per month to eligible candidates undergoing Skill Development Courses of three months’ duration, subject to prescribed terms and conditions—(KNO)

CM Uses BJP’s

could similarly respond that they would be conducted at an “appropriate time.”

Omar also questioned the meaning of the phrase, pointing out that the BJP itself had not clarified when that time would come or how it would be determined—(KNO)

Weather to remain

snowfall is also possible over the higher reaches during the period,” the MeT centre said.

The weather is forecast to remain generally dry again on October 7 and 8.

Another spell of partly to generally cloudy weather is expected from October 9 to 11, when light rain, light snowfall over higher reaches, thunder and gusty winds may occur at scattered places.

The Meteorological Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting apples and paddy along with other agricultural operations during the period—(KNO)

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DC Sgr, SSP review anti-narcotics strategy in District NCORD meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District-Level NCORD Committee at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office to review ongoing efforts under the anti-narcotics strategy aimed at combating drug trafficking and substance abuse, ensuring prosecution of offenders, disrupting drug networks and expanding treatment and rehabilitation facilities across the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarthi was present in the meeting. The meeting held detailed discussions on enforcement, prevention and rehabilitation, effective implementation of the Common SOP for action against accused persons, implementation of the nationwide 100 Weeks Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, maintaining zero tolerance towards Government employees involved in NDPS cases, regulation of pharmaceutical drugs and strengthening and expansion of treatment and rehabilitation measures for drug victims.

On the occasion, the



Deputy Commissioner called upon all stakeholder departments to maintain coordinated efforts to curb drug trafficking and strengthen rehabilitation mechanisms to effectively address the drug menace. He noted that while significant achievements have been made under the ongoing anti-drug campaign, all stakeholders need to work with renewed zeal, dedication and commitment to realize the vision of a drug-free society.

While reviewing the progress in implementation of the recently launched rehabilitation policy being implemented on a pilot basis in selected Districts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar, the DC appreciated the efforts of IMHAANS and called for further strengthening of rehabilitation,

counselling, follow-up and aftercare mechanisms for drug victims to facilitate their recovery and reintegration into society. He further underlined the need for proper enrolment and tracking of rehabilitation cases to ensure timely interventions, effective monitoring of beneficiaries and enhanced coordination among line departments and rehabilitation institutions.

The DC also reviewed the implementation of the nationwide 100 Weeks Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and directed the concerned departments to ensure effective implementation of the activity plans under the campaign. He stressed the need for sustained awareness and preventive interventions, particularly among youth and vulnerable sections of

society, to strengthen the collective fight against drug abuse.

Reiterating the importance of a coordinated and proactive approach, the DC called upon all stakeholder departments to intensify their collective efforts towards curbing the menace of drug abuse.

The DC directed all concerned Departments to maintain close coordination and emphasized the need to protect the younger generation from the harmful consequences of drug abuse and urged all stakeholders to work in unison towards achieving the shared objective of a drug-free society.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Srinagar underscored the need for sustained and coordinated efforts to effectively combat narcotics-related activities, with particular emphasis on enhanced vigilance, stronger inter-departmental coordination and collective action. He stressed that a proactive and unified approach, coupled with timely sharing of information, is essential to prevent the spread of drug abuse and safeguard the younger generation from its harmful consequences.

DC B'pora reviews winter preparedness, directs timely stocking of essential Items

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Tuesday reviewed the district's winter preparedness, focusing on snow clearance, road connectivity, power supply, healthcare and availability of essential commodities.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the District Control Room to compile last year's winter-related challenges so that timely measures could be taken to address them.

Reviewing road connectivity, the Officer Commanding, BRO,

briefed the meeting about the steps taken to reduce Bandipora-Gurez road closure and informed that new works have been taken up to improve road conditions. The DC directed BRO to expedite work on the Markoot Bridge and other bridges and immediately flag any issues causing delays to the district administration.

The DC expressed displeasure over delays in bridge works and directed concerned departments to ensure adequate availability of machinery for winter-related requirements.

The DC stressed that poor road connectivity affects all essential ser-

vices and directed R&B, PMGSY and MED to finalize their snow-clearance plans well in advance. The Executive Engineer, MED, was directed to visit Gurez and submit an inspection report. GPS devices were also directed to be installed in vehicles deployed for snow clearance.

During the meeting, the Assistant Director FCS&CA Bandipora, informed that essential commodities would be stocked by the end of October. The DC directed the department to submit details of Fair Price Shops and storage facilities.

On healthcare preparedness, the meeting was informed that medicines would be stocked by

the end of October. The DC directed the CMO to keep a clear emergency response plan, particularly for pregnant women, and stressed the importance of institutional deliveries and saving every precious life.

Regarding power preparedness, the meeting was informed that adequate HSD has been stocked for generators, with further stocking planned by October. The DC also directed the concerned officer to submit details of the PM Surya Ghar scheme in Tulail and directed concerned officers to organize awareness camps on PM Surya Ghar, Mission YUVA and J&K Bank schemes.



OFFICE OF THE ELECTION AUTHORITY OF COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES KUPWARA (ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER REVENUE KUPWARA)

subject: Holding of Elections to the Managing Committees of Cooperative Societies, Kupwara.
Reference: Notification of Election issued by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies J&K vide reference No: 07-RCS/SS of 2026, Dated: 10-08-2026.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

In pursuance to the notification issued by the Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, for the conduct of Election to the Managing Committees of Cooperative Societies, Kupwara. The schedule for the conduct of Election is given in the Annexure A. The venue of Election shall be notified separately.

No: - ACR/KUP/2026/331-340
Dated:28/09/2026

Election Authority of CS
(Assistant Commissioner Revenue)
Kupwara

(ANNEXURE A)

S.No.	Block	Name of Cooperative Society	Date of Issuing of Nomination Papers	Date of Receipt of Nomination Papers	Date of Scrutiny	Date of Withdrawal of Nomination Papers	Date of Election
01	Rajwar	The Zachaldara primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Ltd Zachaldara Kupwara	01-10-2026	03-10-2026	05-10-2026	06-10-2026	10-10-2026
02	Kupwara	The Jaggerpora Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Ltd Jaggerpora Kupwara	01-10-2026	03-10-2026	05-10-2026	06-10-2026	10-10-2026
03	Sogam	The Kalarooch Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Ltd Lashtiyal Kalarooch Kupwara	01-10-2026	03-10-2026	05-10-2026	06-10-2026	10-10-2026
04	Tangdar	The Dildar Multipurpose Co-operative Society Farmer Producer Organization Ltd Dildar Kindi Teetwal Kupwara	01-10-2026	03-10-2026	05-10-2026	06-10-2026	10-10-2026
05	Rajwar	The Shogpora Kupwara Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Ltd Shogpora Kupwara	03-10-2026	05-10-2026	06-10-2026	07-10-2026	12-10-2026
06	Kralpora	The Dardsun Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Ltd Dardsun Kupwara	03-10-2026	05-10-2026	06-10-2026	07-10-2026	12-10-2026
07	Sogam	The Wamow Aafan Lolab Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Ltd Wamow Aafan Lolab Kupwara	03-10-2026	05-10-2026	06-10-2026	07-10-2026	12-10-2026
08	Tangdar	The Kamah Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Ltd Tad Kamah Kupwara	03-10-2026	05-10-2026	06-10-2026	07-10-2026	12-10-2026
09	Sogam	The Dudi Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Ltd Dudi	05-10-2026	06-10-2026	07-10-2026	09-10-2026	13-10-2026
10	Trehgam	The Awoora Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Ltd Awoora Kupwara	05-10-2026	06-10-2026	07-10-2026	09-10-2026	13-10-2026

Election Authority of CS
(Assistant Commissioner Revenue)
Kupwara

DIPK-6207-26
DT: 29/09/2026

Cement units using Pet Coke to install advanced pollution control systems: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that cement plants using pet coke as feedstock will install advanced pollution control systems.

Replying to a question in the House, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the proposed systems include Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) System with sulphur removal efficiency of over 90 percent, along with alkaline scrubbers and Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs).

He said the initiative is aimed at curbing emissions and ensuring compliance with the environmental norms.

The Dy CM was speaking while replying to Calling Attention Notice raised

by MLA Justice (Retd) Husnain Masoodi regarding the continued use of Pet Coke by cement factories in the Khrew-Khanmoh area and the alleged pollution threat to human and animal life.

Surinder Choudhary, who is also Minister incharge Industries & Commerce Department, informed the House that the department primarily has a facilitative role while compliance with the pollution-control norms falls within the statutory mandate of the J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC).

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that registration of eligible industrial units/MSMEs is accorded through the concerned District Industries Centre(s), subject to fulfilment of all codal formalities and requirements prescribed under the Indus-

trial Policy in vogue. This includes obtaining the requisite consent to establish and operate from the J&K Pollution Control Committee.

He clarified that monitoring and enforcement of prescribed pollution-control norms and standards fall within the statutory jurisdiction of the J&K Pollution Control Committee.

Surinder Choudhary informed that as per information received from J&K PCC, the provisions governing the use of Pet Coke as feedstock in cement/lime kilns, calcium carbide and gasification industries have been specified in the Jammu and Kashmir Pet Coke Furnace Oil Policy issued by the Industries & Commerce Department.

The Deputy Chief Minister further informed the House that the use of Pet

Coke is permitted in industries/processes where it is used as feedstock, including calcined Pet Coke and aluminium industries, or where it is absorbed along with the product during the manufacturing process, such as cement kilns and calcium carbide industries, in accordance with the Supreme Court.

He said that cement plants using Pet Coke as feedstock, where it is absorbed along with the product in the manufacturing process on an actual-user basis, are required to comply with the specific safeguards, such as the units are required to seek authorization under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, as the sulphur content in Pet Coke is above five per cent.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT HAJIN

Subject: Engagement of candidates for the Posts of Sahayikas (AWH).

This office has advertised Nine posts of Sahayikas (AWHs) vide advertisement Notice No 01 of 2026 Dated 20-06-2026 under endorsement No: CDDP/HJN/ADV/2026-27/375-91 Dated: 20-06-2026 and same was published through department of information vide DIP No. #DIPK-2426/26 in Newspapers JK Newspoint, Kashmir Despatch and Ugaab on 24-06-2026 and wide publicity was also given through PRIs and same was also uploaded on website of DC Bandipora and applications were received accordingly. After proper scrutiny of application forms by the District Level selection committee the final merit of candidates for each ward was made accordingly as per H.R policy for Sangnis (AWW) & Sahikayas (AWH) constituted by Government vide order No: 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30-11-2022 which is now being published for inviting of objections if any within 10 days from the date of publication, after expiry of cutoff date, no objection shall be entertained. The merit list of all candidates is mentioned at Annexure "A" and provisional/Tentative selection list as per Annexure "B" is shown below for each ward from were applications for engagement of Sahayika (AWH) were received.

ANNEXURE "A"

S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage / Husbands Name	DOB	Name of location for which she has applied	Marks obtained in 10 th Class	Percentage of Marks
01	Mubeena Bano	W/o Gulzar Ahmad Rather, D/o Mohammad Ashraf Wani	23-03-2005	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	340/500	68.00%
02	Kowsar Jan	D/o Shabir Ahmad Rather	13-05-2002	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	258/500	51.60%
03	Akhara Bano	D/o Ghulam Mohammad Rather	04-01-2002	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	231/500	46.20%
04	Shazia Bashir	D/o Bashir Ahmad Parray	12-03-2001	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	230/500	46.00%
05	Sadakat Rashid	W/o Qazi Bashir Ahmad, Ab Rashid Shah	D/o 01-03-1990	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	227/500	45.40%
06	Suriya Rashid	D/o Abdul Rashid Parray	03-07-2001	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	225/500	45.00%
07	Aasifa Zameer	D/o Zameer Ahmad Rather	15-03-1997	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	219/500	43.80%
08	R Humaira Jan	W/o Ali Mohammad Parray, D/o Abdul Satar Reshi	04-01-1995	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	209/500	41.80%
09	Mysara Majeed	D/o Ab Majeed Rather	14-03-2001	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	204/500	40.80%
10	Shaista Shabir	D/o Shabir Ahmad Rather	01-01-2000	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	192/500	38.40%
11	Muzamil Hassan	W/o Gayas UD Din Qazi, D/o Ghulam Hassan Shah	01-03-1994	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	188/500	37.60%
12	Rehana Bano	D/o Qazi Noor UD Din	08-04-1992	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	182/500	36.40%

01	Suzaina Shafi	D/o Mohammad Shafi Ganaie	06-04-2007	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 04	315/500	63.00%
02	Nasreena Bano	W/o Abdul Rashid Sheikh, D/o Khazir Mohd Dar	06-05-1992	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 04	296/500	59.20%
03	Shahida Nazir	W/o Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat, D/o Nazir Ahmad Mir	03-01-1994	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 04	251/500	50.20%
04	Rabiya Rashid	D/o Abdul Rashid Sheikh	13-03-2005	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 04	236/500	47.20%
05	Morifa Mohd	W/o Tariq Ahmad Dar, D/o Gh Mohd Nadaf	05-02-1990	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 04	236/500	47.20%
06	Tahira Habib	W/o Firdouse Ahmad Sheikh, D/o Habibullah Dar	15-06-2000	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 04	211/500	42.20%
07	Neelofar Nisar	D/o Nisar Ahmad Sheikh	15-02-1999	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 04	204/500	40.80%
08	Ruqaya Bano	W/o Mubashir Ahmad Sheikh, D/o Muhammad Ayoub Sheikh	16-01-1996	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 04	202/500	40.40%
09	Nusrat Nazir	W/o Sajad Ahmad Bhat, D/o Nazir Ahmad Ganai	02-03-1991	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 04	199/500	39.80%

01	Shugufta Rasool	W/o Firdous Ahmad Bahar, D/o Gh Rasool Bhat	01-03-1992	Baharabad B W.No. 07	383/500	76.60%
02	Seerat Bano	D/o Reyaz Ahmad Wagay	22-10-2004	Baharabad B W.No. 07	342/500	68.40%
03	Shagufta Akhter	D/o Nazir Ahmad Bahar	19-04-2002	Baharabad B W.No. 07	289/500	57.80%
04	Aarifa Manzoor	D/o Manzoor Ahmad Shah	08-08-2007	Baharabad B W.No. 07	261/500	52.20%
05	Abida Rasool	D/o Ghulam Rasool Wagay	15-07-2001	Baharabad B W.No. 07	255/500	51.00%

01	Rukhshanda Rehman	W/o Irfan Ahmad Khan, D/o Ab Rehman Kuchey	08-08-1997	Chewa B W.No. 04	296/500	59.20%
02	Sanjfor Mohi Ud Din	D/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Khan	05-04-1999	Chewa B W.No. 04	235/500	47.00%
03	Iqra Akbar	W/o Abdul Majeed Rather, D/o Mohammad Akbar Bhat	10-09-2000	Chewa B W.No. 04	321/600 (8 th pass)	53.50%
04	Meema Bano	W/o Javid Ahmad Bhat, D/o Ghulam Rasool Parray	15-10-1990	Chewa B W.No. 04	207/500 (8 th pass)	41.40%

01	Raja Bano	W/o Ghulam Nabi Dar, D/o Sonu- aliha Bhat	06-08-1997	Band Mohalla B W.No. 02	396/500	79.20%
02	Shahzadah Bano	W/o Javade Ahmad Dar, D/o Sona Ullah Mir	16-12-1989	Band Mohalla B W.No. 02	198/500	39.60%

01	Nighat Farooq	D/o Farooq Ahmad Khan	03-04-2007	Wazpora Naidkhai W.No. 04	294/500	58.80%
02	Javeda Bano	W/o Ajaz Rashid Dar, D/o Abdul Hamid Yatoo	01-09-1989	Wazpora Naidkhai W.No. 04	223/500	44.60%
03	Shazia Showkat	W/o Mohiud Shafi Fafao	30-12-1990	Wazpora Naidkhai W.No. 04	209/500	41.80%
04	Sanobar Fayaz	D/o Fayaz Ahmad Akhooon	05-03-2001	Wazpora Naidkhai W.No. 04	208/500	41.60%
05	Rifat Rajab	D/o Mohd Rajab Farooq	25-09-2003	Wazpora Naidkhai W.No. 04	300/600 (8 th Pass)	50.00%

01	Sameera Bashir	W/o Irshad Ahmad Dar, D/o Bashir Ahmad Dar	23-03-1994	Poshwari B W.No. 03	212/500	42.40%
02	Posha Akhter	W/o Tariq Ahmad Hurrah, D/o Ab Rehman Malik	05-09-1995	Poshwari B W.No. 03	197/500	39.40%

01	Sabiya Fayaz	D/o Fayaz Ahmad Sheergojri	12-07-2005	Hakeem Mohalla Safapora W.No. 03	304/500	60.80%
01	Rohee Jan	W/o Ishfaq Majid Mir, Mohd Sidiq Bhat	D/o 15-10-1992	Lolipora W.No. 01	237/500	47.40%

Annexure "B"

S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage / Husband's Name	DOB	Location for which selected provisionally	Marks 10 th Class	Percentage of Marks	Remarks
01	Mubeena Bano	W/o Gulzar Ahmad Rather, D/o Mohammad Ashraf Wani	23-03-2005	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	340/500	68.00%	Married
02	Nasreena Bano	W/o Abdul Rashid Sheikh, D/o Khazir Mohd Dar	06-05-1992	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 04	296/500	59.20%	Married
03	Shugufta Rasool	W/o Firdous Ahmad Bahar, D/o Gh Rasool Bhat	01-03-1992	Baharabad B W.No. 07	383/500	76.60%	Married
04	Rukhshanda Rehman	W/o Irfan Ahmad Khan, D/o Ab Rehman Kuchey	08-08-1997	Chewa B W.No. 04	296/500	59.20%	Married
05	Raja Bano	W/o Ghulam Nabi Dar, D/o Sonu- aliha Bhat	06-08-1997	Band Mohalla B W.No. 02	396/500	79.20%	Married
06	Javeda Bano	W/o Ajaz Rashid Dar, D/o Abdul Hamid Yatoo	01-09-1989	Wazpora Naidkhai W.No. 04	223/500	44.60%	Married
07	Sameera Bashir	W/o Irshad Ahmad Dar, D/o Bashir Ahmad Dar	23-03-1994	Poshwari B W.No. 03	212/500	42.40%	Married
08	Sabiya Fayaz	D/o Fayaz Ahmad Sheergojri	12-07-2005	Hakeem Mohalla Safapora W.No. 03	304/500	60.80%	Un-Married
09	Rohee Jan	W/o Ishfaq Majid Mir, D/o Mohd Sidiq Bhat	15-10-1992	Lolipora W.No. 01	237/500	47.40%	Married

No: CDDP/HJN/Rec/2026-27/
Dated:

DIPK-6230-26
DT: 29/09/2026

Child Development Project Officer,
Poshan Project Hajin Bandipora.
(Member Secretary DLSC)

ASIAN GAMES

PM Modi congratulates women's 4x400m relay team on historic gold

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Kiran Pahal, M.R. Poovamma, Prachi Choudhary and Vithya Ramraj after the Indian quartet won gold in the women's 4x400m relay at the Asian Games here on Tuesday.

The Indian team clocked 3:29.69 to finish ahead of Bahrain (3:30.21) and China (3:31.02) in a tightly contested final, helping India end its wait for gold in the women's 4x400m relay at the Asian Games.

"Congratulations to Kiran Pahal, Poovamma MR, Prachi and Vithya Ramraj on a magnificent performance in the Women's 4x400m Relay at the Asian Games. Their speed and determination powered India to the top of the podium. This is a proud moment for Indian athletics and a wonderful example of what teamwork can achieve! Best wishes to the athletes for the endeavours ahead," the PMO posted on X.

India started the final



in lane six, with Kiran running the opening leg before handing over to the experienced Poovamma in third position. Poovamma produced a strong second leg to bring India into contention at the front.

Prachi, who had already won an individual bronze in the 400m, kept India in the medal fight before handing the baton to Vithya for the anchor leg.

Vithya produced a strong finish, making her move around the 200m mark before holding off Bahrain's Salwa Eid Nasr in the closing stages to seal

the gold for India.

The victory marked an improvement on India's silver-medal finish in the women's 4x400m relay at the previous edition of the Asian Games.

It was also a memorable Games for Vithya, who claimed her third medal of the competition. She had earlier won silver and bronze and also rewrote the national record in the women's 400m hurdles a day before the relay final.

Japan finished fourth in 3:31.44, followed by Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka and Chinese Taipei.

KV Aminoo Kulgam's Under-14 Cricket team to represent Jammu region at 55th National Sports Meet

GMK SPORTS DESK

KULGAM: Under-14 Cricket Team of Kendriya Vidyalaya Aminoo, Kulgam has been selected to represent the Jammu region at the 55th National Sports Meet, which is scheduled to be held in Bengaluru.

In this context, Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, who is also the Chairperson, Vidyalaya Management Committee (VMC), interacted with the young players and encouraged them to perform their best at the national-level competition. He motivated the students to participate with confidence, discipline, dedication and true sportsmanship and inspired them to strive for victory.

The Deputy Commissioner also extended his best wishes for their



upcoming national-level participation and encouraged them to bring laurels to Kendriya Vidyalaya Aminoo, Kulgam and to the district.

On the occasion, the sports kits provided by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) were also distributed among the selected players. The distribution of the sports kits further boosted the enthusiasm and morale of the young sportspersons.

Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya Aminoo, Kulgam, congratulated the players and their coaches and stated that representing the Jammu Region at the national level is a matter of great honour for the Vidyalaya.

Principal expressed confidence that the students would showcase their talent, hard work and sporting spirit and make the Vidyalaya and the region proud.

Bandipora clinches U—17 Boys Handball Title at S.K. Stadium



GMK SPORTS DESK

BANDIPORA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Bandipora, successfully concluded the Inter-District UT Level Handball Boys U—17 Competition at S.K. Stadium, Bandipora, with an exciting final bring-

ing the championship to a memorable close.

In the much-awaited title clash, Bandipora defeated Baramulla to lift the U-17 Boys Handball title, putting up an impressive performance before the home crowd. The final witnessed intense competition, determination and quality hand-

ball from both teams.

In the third-place match, Jammu defeated Udhampur to secure the third position in the competition.

The successful conclusion of the event reflects the commitment of the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K towards providing young athletes with competitive platforms and opportunities to showcase their sporting talent.

The S.K. Stadium witnessed several days of spirited handball action, marked by enthusiasm, sportsmanship and competitive spirit among the participating teams.

Golf: Women's Indian Open to be held from October 22 to 25 in Gurugram

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Three of the last four champions will return for the 2026 edition of the Women's Indian Open, when it tees off on October 22 at the challenging DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurugram. The final round is scheduled for October 25.

Led by the defending champion Shannon Tan of Singapore, England's Liz Young (2024 winner) and Germany's Olivia Cowan (2022 winner) will be among those attempting to take back the

coveted trophy that signifies the champion of one of the elite Ladies European Tour tournaments in Asia.

Tan won the US\$ 500,000 event last year after finishing in a four-way tie. In 2024, she was second behind the winner Liz Young. A year ago, she started the final round five shots off the lead but then proceeded to pull off a stunning win for her third Ladies European Tour title. Tan played a final-round 67 for an overall score of 7-under 281, one stroke ahead of Alice Hewson, with India's

Hitaashee Bakshi third at 5-under.

Early entries include three past LET Order of Merit winners – Tan (2025), Switzerland's Chiara Tamburini (2024) and Thailand's Trichat Cheenglab (2023). Also in the field are four current season winners – Eleanor Givens of England (Swiss Ladies Open), Thai golfer Aunchisa Utama (Dutch Ladies Open), Germany's Leonie Harm (German Masters) and Agathe Laisné of France (Joburg Ladies Open and Women's NSW Open).

ASIAN GAMES: President Murmu hails historic women's 4x400m gold, congratulates relay medallists

IAN S

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday congratulated India's women's 4x400m relay team on winning gold at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, while also extending her wishes to the mixed 4x100m and men's 4x400m relay teams on their bronze-medal performances.

Kiran Pahal, M.R. Poovamma, Prachi Choudhary and Vithya Ramraj combined to win the women's 4x400m relay gold in 3:29.69, with Bahrain taking silver in 3:30.21 and China claiming bronze in 3:31.02.

The victory was India's first-ever gold medal in the women's 4x400m relay at the Asian Games. President Murmu said the achievement would inspire young



girls across the country.

"I am delighted to extend my warm congratulations to Kiran Pahal, Poovamma Machettira, Prachi Choudhary and Vithya Ramraj on winning the Gold Medal in the Women's 4x400m Relay at the Asian Games 2026.

This historic victory has brought India its first-ever gold in this event at the Asian Games. Every Indian feels proud hearing the National Anthem after such a triumph. Memories of the golden moment will be cherished for years to

come. This achievement will inspire many young girls to dream big," President Murmu wrote on X.

She also congratulated Gurindervir Singh, Sneha Shanuvalli Sathyanarayana, Animesh Kujur and Harita Bhadra after they secured bronze in the mixed 4x100m relay.

The Indian quartet clocked 41.06 seconds to finish third and also broke the national record of 41.35 seconds set at the World Relays 2026 in Gaborone.

"Warm congratulations to Gurindervir Singh, Sneha Shanuvalli Sathyanarayana, Animesh Kujur and Harita Bhadra on winning the Bronze Medal in the Mixed 4x100m Relay event at the Asian Games 2026. Your strong teamwork and high speed have done the nation

proud. May you continue to inspire young athletes with your dedication and excellence," President Murmu wrote on X.

India's men's 4x400m relay team of Dharmveer Choudhary, Manu Thekkinilil Saji, Jay Kumar and Vishal Thennarasu also claimed bronze, clocking a season-best 3:01.61. Japan won gold in 3:00.75, while Qatar took silver in 3:00.93. "I congratulate Dharmveer Choudhary, Manu Thekkinilil Saji, Jay Kumar and Vishal Thennarasu Kayalvizhi on securing the Bronze Medal in the Men's 4x400m Relay at the Asian Games 2026. May this achievement inspire you to continue striving for excellence and bringing greater laurels to the nation," President Murmu wrote on X.

Swachhata Run, T-10 Cricket Match held in Budgam under Swachhata Hi Seva 2026



GMK SPORTS DESK

BUDGAM: The Office of the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Budgam, in collaboration with the Education Department, today organised a Swachhata Run and T-10 Cricket Match at Government High School Sitaharan under the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 450 students, local residents, NGO representatives and officials from different departments, with participation from across the district.

The Swachhata Run was organised to spread awareness about cleanliness, sanitation and responsible waste management. Students from Government High School Sitaharan, Government

Higher Secondary School Drang and nearby institutions participated in the run along with local residents and volunteers.

A T-10 Cricket Match was also organised to engage youth through sports and reinforce the message of cleanliness, healthy living and community participation.

The organisers appreciated the active participation of students, civil society and volunteers and highlighted the importance of sustained public participation in making cleanliness a collective responsibility.

The RDD Budgam expressed gratitude to the District Administration, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Beerwah, Block Development Officers and Police Department for their support and coordination in the successful conduct of the event.

National Deaf Men's T20 Cricket Championship highlights inclusive Sports Culture in Srinagar

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar is hosting the 9th National Deaf Men's T20 Cricket Championship 2026, bringing together talented deaf cricketers from across the country and providing them a national-level platform to showcase their sporting skills.

The championship is being held from September 28 to October 04 at Bakshi Stadium and TRC Ground, Srinagar.

The tournament commenced with an opening ceremony at Bakshi Stadium, where the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, congrat-

lence and inclusion among athletes.

The successful conduct of the championship reflects the continued efforts of the J&K Sports Council towards promoting competitive and inclusive sports, supporting national-level sporting events and making optimal use of the sports infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir to provide athletes with quality facilities and platforms.

The participation of teams and athletes from different parts of the country also highlights Srinagar's growing stature as a host for national sporting competitions. The championship further underscores the power of sport to bring together



ulated the participating athletes and emphasised the importance of creating equal and inclusive opportunities in sports.

Highlighting the spirit of the championship, the Secretary stressed that sports belong to everyone and that sporting platforms play an important role in fostering confidence, participation, excel-

athletes from diverse regions and backgrounds, while promoting the values of inclusion, equality, sportsmanship and national unity.

The event is providing an opportunity for athletes to compete at a high level while also showcasing the potential of Jammu and Kashmir to host major sporting events in a professional and inclusive environment.

INOX
LIVE the MOVIE
SRINAGAR

MOVIES
SCHEDULE

30TH
SEPTEMBER
2026
WEDNESDAY

THE VVAAN
(HINDI) (UA 16+)

SHOW TIMES

11:00 AM
05:40 PM

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE
(A)
HINDI

SHOW TIMES

01:50 PM
05:40 PM

AVENGERS: ENDCGAME ENCORE
(3D ENGLISH MS – INFINITY VISION WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE)
(UA 16+)

SHOW TIMES

11:00 AM
02:40 PM
06:20 PM

HEART OF THE BEAST
(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
(UA 16+)

SHOW TIMES

12:05 PM
03:25 PM
08:30 PM

TASRUFDAAR (DJINNS OF KASHMIR)
(KASHMIRI ,URDU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
(UA 13+)

SHOW TIMES

02:20 PM

TICKETS AT FLAT ₹99 & 199

EXCLUDING AVENGERS ENDCGAME ENCORE