

Good Morning

Kashmir

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200 Free Power Units Within UT Govt's Domain: Power Secy



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Union Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal said on Saturday that the decision to provide 200 free units of electricity to consumers in Jammu and Kashmir falls within the domain of the Union Territory Government.

Speaking to a local news channel on the sidelines of a PM Surya Ghar event, Agarwal said the Union Government's role was distinct from the UT Government's decision on the provision of free electricity.

His remarks come as Jammu and Kashmir moves towards implementing a 200-unit free-power scheme for eligible Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households through rooftop solarisation under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The Centre approved the J&K Government's proposal covering about 2.23 lakh AAY families under the scheme's Utility-

Led Aggregation model. Read History

The scheme is being pursued through solar systems installed at the homes of eligible beneficiaries, with the systems expected to generate up to 200 units of electricity a month. It is therefore distinct from a universal provision of the first 200 units of grid electricity free of charge to every household.

Agarwal also said several large public and private companies have shown interest in developing solar power infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, indicating growing interest in expanding renewable-energy capacity in the Union Territory.

The J&K Government has been working on the implementation mechanism for the 200-unit scheme. In September, it informed the Legislative Assembly that the proposed benefit would be delivered through a Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) •P-06

Wildlife Deptt Warns Against Sharing Exact Locations Of Migratory Birds



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Protection Department has advised birdwatchers, wildlife photographers and visitors against sharing exact locations, GPS coordinates or other identifiable details of migratory bird congregations on social media.

The advisory was issued by the Office of the Range Officer, Lakes Range Hokersar, Wetlands Division, Srinagar, ahead of the seasonal arrival of migratory birds in Kashmir's wetlands.

The department said responsible wildlife photography and social-media

posts can promote awareness about Kashmir's avian diversity and the ecological importance of wetlands. However, it cautioned that publicly sharing precise locations of bird congregations and sensitive habitats could expose them to poachers, hunters and others involved in illegal wildlife activities.

Kashmir's wetland network serves as feeding and resting grounds for migratory birds during their seasonal movements, with large congregations expected during the coming season. Explore History

The department urged wildlife enthusiasts and visitors to exercise •P-06

Saffron Growers Fear Further Production Slump Amid Dry Weather

Timely Rains Crucial For Flowering As Growers Flag Rising Temperatures

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Saffron growers in Kashmir are pinning their hopes on timely rainfall, fearing that prolonged dry weather and high temperatures could hurt flowering and further reduce production this season.

Growers, said inadequate soil moisture has raised concerns across saffron-growing areas, stressing that rainfall at this stage is critical for flowering and yields.

Abdul Majeed Wani, president of the Saffron Growers Association Kashmir, said high temperatures were a concern as saffron corms require favourable weather



and adequate moisture for proper flowering.

"Temperatures are quite high these days, and this can affect flowering. When corms do not get favourable conditions and adequate moisture, the number of flowers declines, ultimately affecting

production," Wani said.

He said climate change and erratic weather have already taken a toll on saffron cultivation, leading to a sharp decline in production over the years.

"Production has declined considerably in recent years, and if timely rains do not

occur this season, farmers fear further losses," he said.

Wani said more farmers had taken up saffron cultivation this year, but adequate moisture remained essential for the crop's success.

"Without sufficient moisture at the right time, growers' investments can be affected," he said.

Another grower said farmers were hoping for favourable weather in the coming days as saffron is highly sensitive during the flowering period.

"Timely rain can make a significant difference. If dry conditions persist, yields may again remain poor," he said.

Government data reflects the sector's •P-06

PM Modi Committed To Restoring Jammu Kashmir's Statehood: BJP

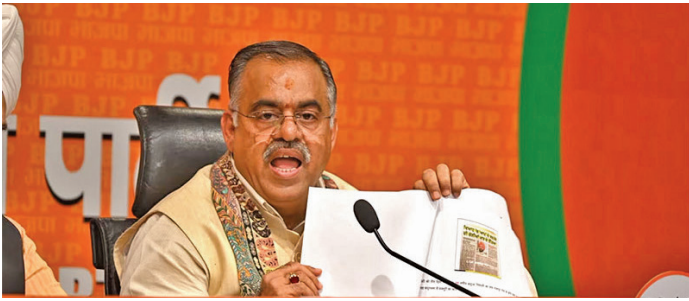
GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: BJP MP Tarun Chugh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, while describing the statehood resolution passed by the Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly as a "political gimmick".

Jammu Kashmir government

Chugh's remarks came after the Assembly passed a resolution on September 28 calling upon the Government of India for the immediate and urgent restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

The resolution became a point of confrontation between the ruling benches and BJP legislators, who objected to references to earlier Assembly resolutions concerning autonomy and special status. BJP members sup-



ported restoration of statehood but opposed the inclusion of references that they said related to Jammu and Kashmir's pre-August 5, 2019 constitutional position.

The BJP legislators protested during the proceedings and later walked out of the House before the resolution was passed.

Chugh maintained that the Prime Minister remains committed to the restoration of

statehood, while questioning the purpose and wording of the Assembly resolution.

The Assembly resolution itself does not restore statehood. It represents the elected House's demand to the Government of India for restoration of the status. Jammu and Kashmir was reorganised as a Union Territory in 2019 following the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act. •P-06

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT A STRONG MILITARY, RECENT CONFLICTS HAVE SHOWN THAT air power has emerged as the cutting edge of military capability and remains a key instrument for achieving national objectives,"



with other weapons to create the desired effect. We cannot operate one type of weapon separately and another elsewhere," he said.

The IAF chief said recent conflicts had reinforced the importance of aerospace power in military operations.

"When we talk about a strong military, recent conflicts have

shown that air power has emerged as the cutting edge of military capability and remains a key instrument for achieving national objectives," he said.

Singh said growing global interest in advanced fighter aircraft, long-range precision weapons, integrated air command-and-control systems and unmanned aerial systems

reflected the increasing concentration of military power in the aerospace domain.

On China's fifth-generation fighter aircraft and reports that Pakistan may acquire them, Singh said the development was a concern but not an insurmountable challenge.

"However, is it a no-go situation? I wouldn't agree with that," he said.

He noted that the effectiveness of any fighter aircraft depends on its integration with the broader military system rather than the platform alone.

Pakistan had operated advanced platforms in the past but failed to achieve significant results during Operation Sindoor, he said, adding that effective integration of India's existing and newly inducted systems would help counter future threats until any such aircraft were fully integrated into Pakistan's military architecture.

The IAF chief also called for the early induction of next-generation fighter aircraft and faster progress on the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

"We must prioritise the early induction of an •P-06

Students Warned Over Fake Admission Messages



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police have warned students and parents against cyber-criminals using fake university admission messages to pressure victims into making payments or sharing sensitive personal information.

The advisory cautions that fraudsters may misuse university branding and lure students with claims of limited seats, urgent deadlines and short-term offers to create a sense of urgency.

Police highlighted several fake messages, including claims that only a limited number of seats were available, that admission had been confirmed and that fees had to be paid immediately. Other messages falsely claimed that an admission deadline had been extended and urged recipients to click a link and make a payment.

Students and parents have been advised to verify admission-related communications through the university's official website and contact numbers before taking any action.

Police also urged people not to •P-06

CS, Additional Secy MHA Review Implementation Of CSS



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Additional Secretary (Foreigners & UT), Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Nitesh Vyas Saturday jointly chaired a high level meeting at SKICC here to review the implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and progress on ongoing developmental projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra; ACS Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar; Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti; Administra-

tive Secretaries of various departments and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking during the meeting, Chief Secretary stressed on the need for a focused and outcome-oriented approach towards implementation of centrally sponsored schemes and flagship programmes in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the objective should not only be to achieve physical targets but also to ensure that the infrastructure and services created under these programmes deliver sustained and measurable benefits to the people.

Atal Dulloo •P-06

India Mocks Pak's 'Form 47 Rulers' Over Terrorism Distraction

IAN S

UNITED NATIONS: India has accused Pakistan's "Form 47" military rulers of weaponising terrorism as a distraction from its raging domestic discontent that is being suppressed by killing civilians in the area of Kashmir it illegally occupies and within its country.

"Instead of addressing domestic discontent, Pakistan seeks to distract by fomenting instability in India and sponsoring, inciting, abetting, and financing cross-border terrorism in my country for more than three decades", said Bhavika Mangalanandan, a First Secretary in India's UN Mission.

She invoked "Form 47", an election document that the military rulers manipulated to put the pliable government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as its proxy in Islamabad in 2024, and it has metamorphosed into a meme of ridicule.

"The only human rights violation taking place in •P-06

'New Hydropower Projects, Including Sawalkot, On Cards For J&K'

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Stating that Jammu and Kashmir is set to see further development in its hydropower sector, Union Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal, on Saturday said the Centre is considering new projects, including Sawalkot, to harness the Union Territory's vast hydropower potential.

Agarwal said reports here that the ongoing hydropower projects in J&K are making good progress and would help meet the Union Territory's power requirements and would also contribute to the electricity needs of the rest of the country.

The Union Power Secretary said the Centre is already making progress

on major hydropower projects in J&K, including Ratle, Pakal Dul, Kiroo and Kwar and that the projects would help meet not only the Union Territory's electricity demand but also contribute to the power requirements of the rest of the country.

"We are thinking about Sawalkot. We definitely want to work on this project in the future," Agarwal said.

He said the Centre is working in collaboration with J&K through the Chenab Valley Corporation Ltd and is receiving full support from the UT administration.

"We are already working on big projects like Rasle, Pakaldol, Kiroo, Kwar. And we are making good progress. And we are getting the full support of the •P-06

LG Saxena Unveils ‘Sacred Art of Ladakh: Fading Treasures’ in Leh

Book documents Ladakh’s precious, fragile sacred art

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: A visually evocative coffee-table book, “Sacred Art of Ladakh: Fading Treasures,” was ceremonially unveiled by Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, at The Grand Dragon Ladakh in Leh.

Published by Niyogi Books, the volume by industrialist, explorer, and photographer Shreekant Somany traces Ladakh’s sacred Buddhist art, architecture, and spiritual traditions, seeking to document and help preserve them.

Speaking at the launch, Vinai Kumar Saxena commended the author’s efforts, stating, “Sacred Art of Ladakh: Fading Treasures is much more than a collection of photographs; it is a timely documentation of Ladakh’s rich culture, art, traditions and heritage. Shreekant Somany has meticulously captured the region’s sacred art and cultural heritage, bringing to light a deep-rooted artistic and philosophical tradition that is integral to Ladakh’s. At a time when age and environmental conditions are making them increasingly vulnerable, documenting and preserving them is a collective responsibility. I commend Shri Shreekant Somany for bringing this invaluable legacy to a wider audience and drawing attention to the need for



its preservation.”

The project is the culmination of Somany’s nine journeys to Ladakh over more than four decades, beginning with his first visit in 1981. During these travels, he witnessed fading pigments, water-damaged murals, and deteriorating plaster threatening art-works created by generations of unknown artists. The camera consequently became more than a means of artistic expression; it became a tool for preserving a visual memory of treasures that may otherwise be irretrievably lost.

The book brings together evocative photography and scholarly insights from 16 sacred and historic sites. These include Lamayuru, Mangyu, Sumda, Wanla, Thiksey, Hemis, and Leh Palace, alongside ancient monasteries, rock-carved statues, murals, sculptures, palaces, caves, and forts that remain little known beyond the region.

Through the book, Somany seeks to raise

awareness of Ladakh’s fading artistic and spiritual traditions and inspire their preservation for future generations. Reinforcing this commitment, he has pledged the entire royalty from the book’s sales to initiatives dedicated to safeguarding this invaluable heritage.

“Ladakh has drawn me back repeatedly not only for its landscape, but for the depth of faith, artistry and history held within its monasteries and monuments,” said Shreekant Somany. “This book is my effort to share what I have witnessed and to encourage greater appreciation and care for a heritage that is both precious and vulnerable, many of which will be lost in the next decade or so, if not preserved.”

The book also introduces readers to the symbolism and iconography of Buddhist art while drawing attention to a fragile cultural legacy increasingly threatened by time, weather, and deterioration.

NIT Sgr Hosts Expert Talk on Advanced Fibre-Reinforced Polymer Composites

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, in association with Dhaatu Mitra-The Metallurgy Club, organised an expert talk on “Advanced Fibre-Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Composites for Structural Applications.”

The session was delivered by Dr. R. T. Durai Prabhakaran, Professor and Dean (Research & Consultancy), IIT Jammu, who has dual affiliation with the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Materials & Metallurgical Engineering.

The programme was held under the patronage of NIT Srinagar Director Prof. Anurag Mishra. Dr. Srinibash Mishra, Head, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, served as Convener, while Dr. Anshul Gupta and Dr. Nitika Kundan were the Coordi-



nators.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Anurag Mishra, Director, NIT Srinagar, said expert talks of this nature provide our students and faculty members with valuable exposure to emerging research, technologies and contemporary developments in their respective fields.

“Such interactions facilitate knowledge exchange while creating opportunities for academic and research collaborations with leading institutions

and experts. NIT Srinagar will continue to promote such programmes to strengthen academic engagement and broaden research opportunities for its students and faculty,” he added.

In his key address, Dr. Prabhakaran discussed FRP composites, their material systems, manufacturing techniques, mechanical performance and structural applications.

He highlighted their high strength-to-weight

ratio, design flexibility and corrosion resistance, besides their growing use in civil, mechanical and aerospace structures.

The expert also discussed thermoplastic polymers, steel fabrics, hybrid composites and challenges associated with steel fibres. A practical demonstration on compression testing of steel-fibre/polyester composite samples provided students with exposure to laboratory-based mechanical evaluation.

The session further covered reuse of discarded glass fibres, fibre-polyester resin interfacial properties, FRCM composites and structural health monitoring. Dr. Prabhakaran also highlighted research initiatives on lightweight below-knee prosthetics, structural power composites and other advanced materials in collaboration with institutions including IIT Kanpur, AIIMS Rishikesh, IIT Jammu, the Biocomposites Centre, UK, and RISEO Laboratory.

An interactive discussion involving Dr. Anshul Gupta, Dr. Prvan Katiyar, Dr. Nitika Kundan, Dr. Yashwant Mehta, Dean P&D, faculty members and students focused on contemporary developments and challenges in composite materials.

The programme also featured a question-and-answer session on fibre identification techniques and instruments used in composite materials and mechanics laboratories.

DC B'pora reviews spot arrangements for BSF Wular Ultra Run



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: A day ahead of the 3rd Edition of the BSF Wular Ultra Run 2026, scheduled to be held on October 4, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Saturday conducted a route inspection and dry run to review on the spot arrangements for the event.

The DC inspected the designated route, including the starting point at BSF Headquarters and the U-turn point at Darmhama, along with key locations identified for water

and hydration points, health and medical facilities and other necessary arrangements.

She was accompanied by senior officers of the District Administration and BSF, and jointly reviewed the preparedness at various points along the route and assessed the arrangements for the smooth and safe conduct of the ultra run.

The BSF Wular Ultra Run is being organised under the theme “Save Wular, Run With Bordermen” and features 50 km, 25 km, 10.5 km and 5 km categories.

ADDC Shopian Flags Off Exposure Visit for Children with Special Needs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: An educational exposure visit for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) was flagged off from the Mini Secretariat, Shopian, by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, here Saturday.

The exposure visit to Dar-ul-Shikwa Park, Bijbehara, was organised by the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Shopian, through the Inclusive Education (IED) Wing of Samagra Shiksha (J&K), with the objective of promoting inclusivity and experiential learning among Children with Special Needs.

Present on the occasion were ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR Shopian, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; CEO Shopian, Bashir Ahmed Shah; Cultural Coordinator, Sajad Ahmed Bhat; along with Central Zone Officers, coordinators and other officials from the Education Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC highlighted the importance of such initiatives under Samagra Shiksha in fostering an inclusive educational environment. He emphasised that experiential activities provide children with special needs opportunities to explore, learn and grow beyond the boundaries of a conventional classroom.

ADDC Anantnag reviews Road Safety Measures

Directs Agencies to take remedial action at Accident-Prone Spots

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee to review the status of road safety measures being implemented across the district and assess the progress made by various concerned agencies towards reducing road accidents.

The meeting also reviewed the status of compensation and relief being provided to road accident victims and their families, besides deliberating upon preventive and engineering measures required to enhance road safety.

The meeting was attended by the SE R&B (Member Secretary), Chief Medical Officer (CMO), ARTO, representatives of NHAI,



NHIDCL, Beacon, DySP Traffic, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Anantnag and other officers and representatives of departments and agencies associated with road safety planning and implementation. At the outset, SE R&B, Syed Ishfaq Ahmad gave a detailed presentation on the decisions taken during the previous meeting of the District Road Safety Committee and the progress achieved on various directions.

The Committee was

informed about the preventive measures undertaken by the concerned agencies, including identification of accident-prone black spots, implementation of remedial measures, regular maintenance and strengthening of vulnerable road stretches, improvement and standardisation of road signage and installation of reflectors. The meeting was also apprised of the technical inspection of vehicles being undertaken to ensure roadworthiness and compliance with prescribed safety standards.

GMC's Medicine Dept pays Tribute to Prof Mohammad Yousuf Bhat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Postgraduate Department of Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar Saturday organized a condolence meeting in the Department Seminar Room to pay rich tributes to Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Yousuf Bhat former Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine Government Medical College Srinagar.

His demise has left a profound sense of loss among colleagues, students and the medical fraternity. Prof Bhat had a long association with GMC Srinagar, he joined GMC Srinagar in 1960 as undergraduate medical student and took retirement as Prof and Head of internal medicine.

The meeting was attended by Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan, Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Ismail, Head of the Department of Medicine, Heads of Departments, senior faculty members, Senior Residents, post-graduate students and other staff of the Department of Medicine.

Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan expressed deep sorrow over the passing of one of the institution’s most respected academicians and clinicians. She said that Prof



Bhat’s distinguished contributions to Medicine, unwavering commitment to teaching and patient care will remain an enduring part of the institutional legacy at Government Medical College Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Head of the Department of Medicine, described Prof. Bhat as an astute physician, accomplished academican, dedicated teacher, and compassionate human being. He said that Prof. Bhat possessed a remarkable ability to simplify complex clinical concepts and inspire students to develop sound clinical reasoning and ethical medical practice. His disciplined and rational approach to patient care set a benchmark for genera-

tions of medical professionals. He further highlighted Prof. Bhat’s invaluable contributions to the Department of Medicine and to medical education, particularly in the fields of Emergency Medicine and Hypertension, which will continue to inspire future generations of doctors.

Heads of Departments and faculty members, including Prof. (Dr.) Iqbal Saleem, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul, Prof. (Dr.) Ishrat Hussain Dar, Prof. (Dr.) Omar Farooq, Prof. (Dr.) Muzafar Maqbool Rather, Prof. (Dr.) Arshad Hussain, Prof. (Dr.) Asifa Nazir, Prof. (Dr.) Lateef Ahmad Wani, Prof. (Dr.) Mehnaaz Sultan Khuroo, Prof. (Dr.) Salma Bhat, Prof. (Dr.) Arsalan F. Rashid, Prof. (Dr.) Bashir Ahmad Shah, Dr. Irfan Ali, Dr. Sobia Nisar, Dr. Javaid Ahmad Chachoo, Dr. Nazir Ahmad Pala, Dr. Aadil Hassan Siddique, and other faculty members fondly recalled Prof. Bhat’s exceptional clinical expertise, humility, integrity and unwavering dedication to his students and patients. They observed that his legacy would continue to live on through the countless doctors he mentored and the values he instilled during his distinguished career.

B'pora admin organises water safety demonstration at Athwatoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In view of recent drowning incidents and as part of an extensive awareness drive initiated by the District Administration, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) on Saturday conducted a comprehensive live demonstration and awareness programme at Government Middle School, Athwatoo.

The primary objective of the program was to sensitize the local populace, particularly youth and school

children, on drowning prevention, water safety measures, and life-saving rescue techniques during water-related emergencies.

During the session, SDRF personnel demonstrated practical rescue operations, standard operating procedures to follow during flash floods or swift water currents, and essential first-aid measures to be administered before hospital transit.

On the occasion, experts and officials urged the community to exercise utmost caution around vulnerable

water bodies, strongly advising children and youth against swimming, bathing, or venturing near perilous stretches of Nallah Madhumati.

The demonstration witnessed active participation from officers and officials representing the Revenue Department, Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES), SDRF, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC), Rural Development Department (RDD), along with local representatives, school faculty, students, and a large gathering of local residents.

Tourist Interaction Event held at Zabarwan Park



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A Tourist Interaction Event was organised Saturday by the Tourist Police at Zabarwan Park, bringing together senior officials of the Tourism Department, Tourist Police, different stakeholders and service providers, besides visiting tourists.

The event was organised under the initiative of Dr. S.D. Chowdhury, SSP Enforcement / Deputy Director Tourism (Enforcement), with the objective of strengthening coordination

among the Tourism Department, Tourist Police and tourism stakeholders and ensuring a safe, welcoming and hassle-free experience for tourists visiting Kashmir.

A key feature of the programme was direct interaction with visiting tourists and recording their testimonials and experiences, which will be disseminated through official social media platforms and news portals to showcase authentic visitor experiences and assess their wider impact on the tourism profile of Jammu & Kashmir.

The interaction also focused on tourist safety, transparent pricing, quality service delivery, prevention of toutting and unfair practices, and respecting the freedom of tourists to choose their accommodation, transport, shopping and other services.

Tourism stakeholders and service providers actively participated and shared valuable suggestions and practical ideas for further improving tourist facilitation and strengthening the tourism ecosystem.

The event concluded on a highly positive and constructive note, with all stakeholders reaffirming their commitment to closer coordination and collective efforts towards making Jammu & Kashmir a safe, transparent, tourist-friendly and welcoming destination.

Traffic Police issues traffic advisory ahead of ‘Wullar Ultra Marathon-3.0’

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In view of the conduct of the Wullar Ultra Marathon-3.0 scheduled to be held in Bandipora today, the Traffic Police Rural Kashmir has issued a detailed traffic advisory to facilitate the smooth conduct of the event and ensure the safety of participants and the general public.

As per the advisory, vehicular movement along the designated marathon route, commencing from BSF Headquarters, Maddar, proceeding towards NHPC Peth-

kote and returning to Chewa via Kangrichowk through Wullar Vantage Road, shall remain suspended from 5:00 AM to 2:00 PM on October 4.

Motorists have been advised to avoid the notified marathon corridor during the restricted period and plan their journeys in advance. Necessary traffic diversions have been put in place to facilitate smooth movement of vehicles.

All Srinagar-bound traffic originating from Gurez, Bandipora town and Bandipora Bus Stand shall be diverted via the Bandipora-Sopore

road and vice versa. Similarly, Bandipora- and Gurez-bound traffic from Srinagar shall be routed through Narbal, Pattan, Sopore and onward to Bandipora.

Traffic moving from Ganderbal towards Bandipora shall proceed via Sumbal, Naidkhai, Sopore and Bandipora, with the same route applicable for return journeys.

The general public has been requested to cooperate with traffic personnel deployed on duty and adhere to the notified diversions for smooth vehicular movement during the event.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Saturday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Zakura Bay will be observed due to which power supply to Kashmir University, Nageen, Kanitar, NIT, Hazratbal, Umer colony, Rangpora, BARC, Habak Indehama, Burzhamba, Danihama, Rahbagh,

Gasoo and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 02 PM on 07 & 11 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 220 KV Wagoor-Zainakote Circuit-I will be observed due to which power supply to Char-i-Sharief, Chadoor, Nagam, Panzan, Wat-hoora, Bugam, Hafroo, Hayatpora, Yousmarg, Gogjiapatra, Ranger, Sogam, Badipora, Lalgam, Gudsathoo,

Budgam, Ichgam, Choon, Kremshore, Khan Sahib, Brenwar, Kanir, Barwah, Hanjoora, SIDCO, Ompora, NIFT, Railway Station Budgam, Nasrullahpora, Sholipora, Watihail, Charangam, Sebdan, Brinjin, Raithan, Surasary, Kralwari, Dadaompura, Zohama, and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 02:30 PM on 10 October 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 132 KV Zainakote-Wanganpora Transmission line Circuit-I and 132 KV Zainakote-Wanganpora Transmission line Circuit-II will be observed due to which power supply to Kawdara, Khanyar, Safakadal, SH Pora, Soura, Takanwari, Bagh-i-Ali Mardan Khan, Kathidarwaza and adjoining areas (on rotational basis) will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 12 & 17 October 2026.

Likewise shutdown of 132/33 KV Grid Station Wanganpora and 100 MVA, 132/33 kV GIS Khan-yar will be observed due to which power supply to Kawdara, Khanyar, Safakadal, SH Pora, Soura, Takanwari, Bagh-i-Ali Mardan Khan, Kathidarwaza and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 22 October 2026.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Social Welfare facilities at Nanil, Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Sturday, visited Nanil in Anantnag and inaugurated four newly constructed buildings of the Social Welfare Department dedicated to an Old Age Home and PLASH and PAREESH facilities.

On the occasion, Director Social Welfare Mohammad Akbar Khan briefed the Minister about the infrastructure created at the site. He informed that the four buildings have been constructed at an estimated cost of 11.27 crore. He further informed that an additional 1.10 crore has been kept available for development of allied infrastructure, including roads, parks and other essential facilities for PLASH and Old Age Home.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo said that the government is



committed to the welfare and empowerment of people, particularly those facing social and economic vulnerabilities. She emphasised the need to strengthen the basic infrastructure and welfare services at the grassroots level so that the benefits of government initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries.

The Minister highlighted various developmental and welfare works undertaken for benefit of the people of Anantnag district. She said that the newly inaugurated facilities are aimed at providing care, shelter and support to vulnerable sections of society.

Explaining the purpose

of the facilities, Sakeena Itoo said that PLASH is intended to provide care and support to orphaned children who have lost their parents and have no adequate source of livelihood while the Old Age Home is meant for destitute elderly persons who do not have a home or family support.

She said that the Social Welfare Department has an important role in extending support and protection to the people facing social insecurity, physical disabilities and other vulnerabilities. She stressed that such institutions should provide not only shelter but also a safe, dignified and supportive environment for their residents.

Wanigam Bala Taps Run Dry for 15 Days, Residents Warn of Highway Blockade

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: Acute drinking water scarcity has gripped Ganie Mohalla and Bhat Mohalla in Wanigam Bala village, located in the Pattan subdivision of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. With taps running completely dry for the past 15 days, agitated locals have warned that they will stage a protest and block the national highway if authorities fail to restore supply immediately.

Residents stated that chronic shortages have plagued the village for nearly a year, escalating into a severe crisis over the past two weeks. The prolonged outage has forced locals, particularly women, to travel long distances on foot to secure basic drinking water.

"We are forced to fetch



water from two kilometers away, dragging us back to conditions we experienced in the 1990s," said Aisha Begum, a resident of Wanigam Bala. "Our local MLA visited the area two months ago following public protests and assured

us the problem would be sorted out within days. Yet, weeks have passed, and nothing has changed on the ground."

Another resident, Bashir Ahmad, criticized the administrative inaction despite repeated rep-

resentations. "We have been dealing with persistent water shortages for over a year. We made numerous visits to the concerned offices, but all our pleas have fallen on deaf ears," he said.

The residents reiterated

their appeal to the local MLA and district administration to intervene and provide a permanent solution.

When contacted, the concerned supervisor of the Jal Shakti Sub-Division, Pattan, stated that measures are being taken to address the situation. "The issue will be resolved at the earliest. In the interim, we are dispatching two water tankers to the affected mohallas to provide immediate relief," the official said.

Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Jal Shakti, Er. Sajad Ahmad, assured that the department is looking into the crisis. "The matter will be examined thoroughly, and the genuine grievance of the residents will be redressed soon. Our priority remains ensuring uninterrupted public service," he said.

Forest Department retrieves 150 kanal forest land in Raika area

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: An encroachment eviction drive was Saturday carried out in Co. 66/B (Raika) of Jammu Forest Division. As many as 17 kutcha and 3 pucca structures occupied mostly by Rohingya families were removed.

In this drive 150 kanal of forest land was retrieved by the Forest Department. The exercise was carried out under the direct supervision of DFO Jammu Anurag Arya. He led a joint team of the Forest Department and Forest Protection Force on the field. J&K Police and District Administration

Jammu also provided support, making the exercise a success. The fresh eviction adds to the 4225 kanal already retrieved in Jammu Forest Division this year.

The action follows the encroachment eviction exercise being carried out under the overall supervision of CCF Jammu Dr. V.S. Senthil Kumar which has seen the retrieval of over 68,000 Kanal of forest land across the Jammu Province since May 2026. Dr. V.S. Senthil Kumar has stated that the evicted land will be fenced with chain link fencing to reduce risk of re-encroachment and the same will be restored to proper forest use.

BL Santhosh stresses organisational continuity, Chugh targets NC over statehood

YOGESH

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) BL Santhosh on Saturday said organisational responsibilities may change, but the core duties and commitment of party workers remain unchanged.

Addressing a Samman Samaroh at the BJP headquarters to honour Tarun Chugh and Ashok Koul for their organisational contributions, Santhosh, said workers should remain committed to the larger organisational mission rather than individuals or positions.

Congratulating Chugh and Koul, he said organisational responsibilities help individuals gain experience and leadership skills. He also praised Koul's long association with the RSS and his work in J&K.

Chugh, now BJP National Office Prabhari and Gujarat Prabhari, said BJP workers had made sacrifices during difficult periods in J&K and credited the Narendra Modi government with putting the Union Territory on the path of development.

He described Koul as a key force behind the BJP's organisational expansion in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a separate statement, Chugh criticised the Omar

Abdullah-led National Conference government over the proposed statehood resolution, alleging it was being used to divert attention from governance issues.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had already committed in Parliament to restoring J&K's statehood and urged the government to focus on jobs, development and delivery of electoral promises.

"Omar Abdullah should stop talking about irrelevant issues and present his government's report card. People are waiting for answers on jobs, development and the promises made to them," Chugh said. Asserting that J&K had moved beyond the politics of the 1990s, he cautioned against what he termed separatist politics and said the BJP would continue to function as a strong and constructive Opposition in the Assembly.

On the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Chugh said the exercise was necessary to maintain electoral integrity and questioned Congress' opposition to it.

Among those present at the function were J&K BJP president Sat Sharma, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma and MPs Jugal Kishore Sharma and Ghulam Ali Khatana.

Justice Kumar visits Child Care Institutions "Palaash" and "Pareesha" at Nishat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority Saturday visited "Palaash" (Children Home for Boys) and "Pareesha" (Children Home for Girls) at Nishat, here to take stock of the facilities being provided to the children in these Homes.

On his arrival at Pareesha, Justice Sanjeev Kumar was accorded warm welcome by the District Child Protection officer Srinagar, CWC Srinagar Chairperson, Superintendent, Pareesha and staff of the homes.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar interacted with children staying there and enquired about their studies and other activities of interest. The DCPO, Superintendent Pareesha informed Justice Sanjeev Kumar about the various upgraded facilities provided at Pareesha like improved Computer room, open gym, and facility of evening Tutor.



The Home for Boys "Palash" situated adjoining to Pareesha was also inspected where boys of different age groups were present. Similar facilities were available in the said Home. During an interaction with the children both at "Palaash" and "Pareesha", Justice Sanjeev Kumar was informed that they are being provided with nutritious and satisfactory meals, educational and health facilities. They further informed that they are being provided with books as well as sports equipment.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar gave some onspot directions to the DCPO, Superintendent of these Home to provide all required facilities to the children in Home and to involve IMHANS

for mental health psycho social camps and for referrals in case of any severity.

Thereafter, Justice Sanjeev Kumar visited Observation Home Harwan, Srinagar and inspected the facilities being provided to the inmates. While interacting with inmates of the Home, Justice Sanjeev Kumar issued necessary directions to the management for ensuring that the facilities are maintained and the needs of the inmates are duly attended to.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar appreciated the efforts of the Social Welfare Department in ensuring satisfactory services and care for children, while maintaining cleanliness and the required standards of living in the child-care institutions.

ASHA workers protest, demand pay hike, parity with other States

Say they face financial uncertainty despite being frontline health workforce

JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG: ASHA workers on Saturday staged a protest at the Sports Stadium in Anantnag under the banner of the Trade Union Coordination Committee (TUCC), demanding the fulfilment of their long-pending demands, including an enhancement in their monthly remuneration.

The protesting workers, raising slogans in support of their demands, said they have been performing crucial grassroots-level responsibilities in the healthcare system but continue to face financial difficulties due to what they described as inadequate remuneration. The protest, was led by ASHA Workers' President Shaheena Akhtar and Trade Union General Secretary Muzfar Ahmad Ganai.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers said ASHA workers serve as an important link between the health department and communities, particularly in rural and far-flung areas. They said the workers remain engaged in



various activities related to maternal and child health, immunisation, nutrition, awareness programmes and other public health initiatives.

The protesters demanded that the government enhance their monthly remuneration and ensure that their financial compensation is commensurate with the responsibilities entrusted to them.

"ASHA workers are performing essential duties at the grassroots level and often work in difficult circumstances. Their remuneration should reflect the nature and extent of their responsibilities," the speakers said.

They demanded that the government consider their long-pending issues on priority and take concrete measures to improve

their financial and working conditions.

The speakers sought parity with ASHA workers in other states, stating that the government should examine the remuneration being provided elsewhere and take appropriate measures to improve the compensation of ASHA workers in Jammu and Kashmir.

Several protesters said that despite being the frontline workforce of the public health system, ASHA workers continue to face financial uncertainty.

"We are working in villages and remote areas and remain available for different health-related activities. We want the government to recognise our contribution and address our genuine demands," the protesters said.

Satish Sharma Undertakes Extensive Development Tour of Chhamb

GMK NEWS NETWORK

CHHAMB: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Saturday undertook an extensive tour of the Chhamb Assembly Constituency, inaugurating and laying foundation stones for a series of development works worth more than 3 Cr aimed at strengthening basic infrastructure, improving connectivity and enhancing public amenities across the constituency.

The day-long programme covered several villages and habitations, with the Minister personally reviewing the progress and requirements of infrastructure works and interacting with local residents. The development initia-



tives included roads, culverts, drainage and protection works, community infrastructure and educational facilities, reflecting a focused approach towards addressing the immediate infrastructure needs of the people.

At Migrant Colony, Kodewala Camp, Satish Sharma laid the foundation stone for construction of a park and inaugurated the newly constructed drains, aimed at improving the local

environment, drainage management and public amenities for residents.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for construction of a link road from Kharah to Thanda Choa, underlining the importance of improved road connectivity for facilitating movement of people and access to essential services.

At Village Kalah, the Minister inaugurated protection works near the house of Madan Lal, Ex-Punch, followed by inauguration of protection works at Mohalla Chatyala. The works are intended to strengthen vulnerable stretches and protect residential and public infrastructure.

At Village Jawan, Satish Sharma laid the foundation stone for construction of a culvert near Atta Chakki and inaugurated a Community Hall.

ter of Rafia Kalas, a resident of DH Pora, Kulgam.

Meanwhile, the incident has cast a pall of gloom over the area, while locals have urged the authorities to take immediate measures to prevent further leopard attacks—(KNO)

7-year-old injured in leopard attack in Kulgam

UMAISAR GUL

KULGAM: A seven-year-old girl was injured after being attacked by a leopard in the Damhal Hanji Pora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said.

An official said that the girl sustained injuries in the leopard attack in Damhal Hanji Pora, Kulgam.

He said the girl was shifted to SKIMS Srinagar for specialised medical care and identified her as Shahida Akhtar (7), daughter of Rafia Kalas, a resident of DH Pora, Kulgam.

Sakeena Itoo stresses girls empowerment through education, sports

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday presided over a felicitation ceremony organized under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) for top performer teams of various Girls Sports Tournaments and NEET Qualifiers of the district at Government Degree College, Kulgam.

The ceremony was organized by the Social Welfare Department Kulgam in collaboration with Sports, Higher Education and other departments of district administration with the objective of celebrating the achievements of girls in sports and academics, promoting the message of women empowerment.



Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted the importance of empowering women and girls through education, sports, skill development and awareness. She also emphasized the need to create greater awareness

among women and girls about various government schemes and welfare initiatives being implemented by different departments for their benefit.

Sakeena Itoo stressed that participation in sports helps girls develop confidence, discipline, leadership qualities and teamwork while providing them opportunities to showcase their talent at different levels.

Director General ICDS Sajad Hussain Ganie, DPO Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi, ACR Kulgam Reyaz Ahmad Shah

and District Social Welfare Officer Kulgam Rameez Ahmad Ganie, also addressed the gathering. They spoke on women empowerment, education, sports participation and initiatives available for women and girls.

The programme witnessed participation of girls, officials, sports personnel, students and other stakeholders. The speakers appreciated the efforts being made to provide girls with opportunities in sports and education and encouraged them to pursue their aspirations with confidence.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Tourism In Kashmir

Smiles That Depend On An Uncertain Season

For a significant section of Kashmir's population, life is a constant struggle between hope and uncertainty. Their livelihood depends almost entirely on tourism, a sector that remains vulnerable to political developments, unpredictable situations, security concerns and circumstances beyond their control. For these families, every tourist season is not merely a business opportunity; it is a question of survival, dignity and the future of their children. Behind every shikara gliding through Dal Lake, every motorboat ferrying tourists, every cab parked outside a hotel and every houseboat waiting for guests lies a story of anxiety, sacrifice and an uncertain tomorrow. These are people who live from season to season, with little assurance of what the next day may bring. Their earnings are often concentrated in a few months, while their household expenses, children's education, medical needs and financial obligations continue throughout the year.

For a shikara owner, the arrival of tourists brings more than customers. It brings the possibility of paying school fees, purchasing groceries, clearing debts and returning home with something to offer the family. A motorboat operator waits for the sound of approaching visitors, while a cab driver hopes that the phone will ring with another booking. For many, an entire day's earnings depend on whether a handful of tourists choose their services.

But Kashmir's tourism sector has always lived under the shadow of uncertainty. Political developments, security-related incidents, disruptions, adverse weather conditions and changing travel sentiments can alter the fortunes of thousands of families overnight. A season that begins with expectations can suddenly turn into months of despair. The consequences are not confined to those directly engaged in tourism. Shopkeepers, artisans, small traders, vendors and countless others who depend on tourist spending also feel the impact.

What makes their situation particularly painful is that these people have little control over the circumstances that determine their income. They cannot predict whether the coming season will be peaceful, whether tourists will arrive in sufficient numbers or whether an unexpected development will bring activity to a standstill. Yet they continue to invest their savings, maintain their boats and vehicles, repair their establishments and prepare for a season that may or may not fulfil their hopes.

Every year, as the tourist season approaches, anxious faces begin to look towards the mountains, lakes and roads that bring visitors to Kashmir. There are prayers for peace, hopes for uninterrupted business and a quiet wish that nothing happens to frighten tourists away. When the season progresses without disruption and tourist arrivals increase, those anxious faces gradually regain their smiles. The sound of shikaras on Dal Lake, the movement of cabs and the bustle around tourist destinations become signs of renewed hope.

But beneath those smiles lies the fear of another uncertain season. A good year may help a family repay some debts or meet accumulated expenses, but it does not necessarily provide financial security for the future. Many tourism-dependent households have no alternative source of income, savings or social protection to fall back on when business collapses. Some borrow money during lean months, only to spend the next season trying to repay it.

The government and tourism authorities must look beyond tourist arrival figures and recognise the human lives behind these statistics. Tourism policies should not be confined to attracting visitors, promoting destinations and organising events. They must also address the economic vulnerability of those whose livelihoods depend on the sector. Affordable credit, insurance coverage, skill development, social security support and alternative livelihood opportunities can help families withstand periods when tourism slows down.

Equally important is the need to protect Kashmir's reputation as a peaceful and welcoming destination. Every stakeholder, including the administration, tourism operators and the general public, has a responsibility to ensure that visitors feel safe, respected and comfortable. Sustainable tourism, environmental protection and responsible commercial practices are essential for preserving the confidence on which thousands of livelihoods depend.

There is also a human dimension that often remains unnoticed. A tourist may cancel a trip or change a destination without much difficulty, but for a family dependent on tourism, that decision can mean a missed school fee, an unpaid instalment or another month of financial hardship. The uncertainty is not reflected in the photographs of a beautiful valley or the official figures announcing record tourist arrivals. It is felt in homes where parents quietly calculate how long their savings will last. Kashmir's tourism-dependent population does not ask for extraordinary privileges. It seeks peace, stability, fair opportunities and a system that does not leave families entirely at the mercy of circumstances. They want to earn through their hard work, educate their children, provide for their families and live with the assurance that an unexpected disruption will not push them into destitution. For these people, an incident-free tourist season is not simply a matter of commercial success. It is a season of hope, a chance to recover from past losses and an opportunity to restore a measure of dignity and financial stability. Their prayers for peace are also prayers for their children's future, for their homes and for the survival of livelihoods painstakingly built over generations.

Kashmir's beauty attracts visitors from across the world, but behind its picturesque landscapes are thousands of families whose lives remain tied to the uncertain fortunes of tourism. Their smiles return when the season goes well, but those smiles should not have to depend entirely on the absence of an unfortunate incident or the arrival of tourists.

A tourism economy that brings prosperity to the region must also provide a sense of security to the people who sustain it. Until the families who depend on tourism can look beyond one season and plan their lives with confidence, their struggle will continue behind the smiling faces that welcome visitors to Kashmir. For them, every peaceful day is a blessing, every tourist is a source of hope and every successful season is a prayer answered. Their greatest wish is not merely another good season, but a future in which they no longer have to live on the razor's edge, waiting anxiously for tomorrow.

Rediscovering Purpose

Seniors' Contributions To A Civilized Society



DR. FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI

October 1 is observed as International Day of Older Persons, providing an opportunity to reflect on the dignity, rights, aspirations and contributions of senior citizens. In contemporary society, ageism remains a pervasive problem, perpetuating stereotypes that diminish the perceived capabilities and value of older people. The prevailing narrative often overlooks the wealth of wisdom, experience and potential that seniors possess. Consequently, many find themselves struggling with a diminished sense of purpose, feeling marginalized or undervalued.

Yet the reality is quite different. Growing older need not mean withdrawing from meaningful life. Seniors can continue to lead purposeful lives and make substantial contributions to the rituals and institutions of a civilized society.

Experience is an Asset, Not a Liability

Age does not diminish a person's capacity for meaningful engagement and contribution. Seniors bring with them a lifetime of experiences, skills and knowledge that can enrich almost every sphere of society.

Their wisdom can be invaluable in mentoring younger generations and offering insights gained through decades of navigating the complexities of life. Many also possess specialized skills developed over years of professional experience, making them valuable contributors in fields ranging from education and healthcare to administration, business and community service.

What society sometimes regards as "old age" may actually represent a remarkable accumulation of human capital.

Custodians of Memory and Culture

Seniors also play a vital role in preserving cultural heritage and collective memory. They carry stories of the past and help transmit traditions, values and social practices from one generation to another.

Through storytelling, crafts, customs, community participation and everyday examples of tolerance and coexistence, older people help preserve a community's identity and sense of belonging.

They remind younger generations that society did not begin with them—and that the lessons of the past can help us navigate the future.

Building Bridges Between Generations

Seniors can also serve as important bridges between generations.



Intergenerational learning programmes, community projects and shared social activities allow older people to pass on knowledge while simultaneously learning from younger generations. Such interaction promotes empathy, mutual respect and reciprocity.

It also challenges ageist assumptions by allowing generations to encounter one another not as stereotypes, but as individuals with something meaningful to offer.

The Invisible Contribution Within Families

Within families, seniors frequently perform another important but under-recognized role. They provide emotional support, childcare, guidance and companionship to younger relatives.

Grandparents, in particular, often contribute significantly to the upbringing of children, helping transmit values, family histories and life lessons. Their presence can strengthen family bonds while also providing practical support to working parents.

This contribution may not appear in economic statistics, but its social value is immense.

Seniors and Civic Responsibility

Older citizens are also an important part of volunteerism and civic engagement. Many devote their time and energy to charitable activities, community organizations, advocacy, educational initiatives and social causes.

Their participation demonstrates that citizenship does not have an expiry date. Whether helping the disadvantaged, supporting environmental initiatives, participating in community organizations or simply being available to someone in need, seniors can make meaningful contributions to collective well-being.

The Barriers They Face

Despite these contributions, many seniors continue to face systemic barriers to full participation in society.

Ageist attitudes can restrict employment

and social opportunities. Limited access to healthcare, mobility challenges, social isolation and inadequate community infrastructure can further reduce independence and participation. These difficulties can be particularly acute among economically disadvantaged seniors, persons with disabilities and those living without adequate family or community support.

The challenge, therefore, is not merely to add years to life, but to add life, dignity and purpose to those years.

What Can Society Do?

Helping seniors lead purposeful lives requires more than sympathy. It requires creating an environment in which their participation is genuinely valued.

Promoting inclusion and respect: Society should recognize seniors as citizens with continuing capabilities, aspirations and rights—not merely as recipients of care.

Creating flexible opportunities for work: Those who wish to remain professionally active should have access to part-time employment, consultancy, mentoring, teaching and honorary or community roles appropriate to their abilities and interests.

Building age-friendly communities: Accessible infrastructure, public transportation, safe walking spaces, green areas and community gathering places can help seniors remain independent and socially connected.

Encouraging meaningful volunteerism: Volunteer opportunities should be matched to seniors' interests, experience and abilities, enabling them to contribute in ways that provide genuine fulfilment.

Combating social isolation: Community centres, senior clubs, neighbourhood gatherings and intergenerational programmes can create networks of companionship and belonging.

Ensuring accessible healthcare: Affordable healthcare, preventive services and wellness programmes are essential for maintaining independence and enabling older people to participate actively in society.

Supporting lifelong learning: Seniors should have opportunities to pursue education, technology, literature, arts, hobbies and other interests. Learning should not be treated as something that ends with retirement.

Strengthening intergenerational relationships: Mentoring programmes, shared learning and community projects can bring young and old together, benefiting both.

Promoting age-inclusive policies: Laws and policies should protect the dignity, rights and equal participation of older citizens while addressing discrimination based on age.

Retirement Should Not Mean Social Irrelevance

Perhaps one of the greatest misconceptions of modern society is that retirement from employment means retirement from usefulness. A person may retire from a government office, hospital, school, business or profession—but that does not mean retiring from citizenship. Indeed, retirement can offer an opportunity to redirect experience toward mentoring, volunteering, scholarship, community service, family life and causes that may previously have received little time. The challenge is to ensure that seniors are not forced into irrelevance simply because society has stopped asking what they can contribute.

Rediscovering Purpose

Entering a particular age group does not mean entering a period of diminished human worth. Seniors have much to offer to the rituals of civilized society—from accumulated knowledge and professional experience to compassion, resilience, patience and perspective.

We need to move beyond seeing older people merely as dependants requiring care. They are also repositories of experience, custodians of memory, mentors, caregivers, volunteers, citizens and contributors.

By challenging ageist stereotypes and creating inclusive spaces that value and empower older people, society can harness an enormous reservoir of human potential. Age is not necessarily a barrier to purposeful living. It can be a source of strength, perspective and enrichment. On this International Day of Older Persons, perhaps the most meaningful question is not "What can society do for our seniors?" It is also: "What more can society enable our seniors to do for society?"

A civilized society does not discard its elders. It listens to them, learns from them, stands with them—and gives them the opportunity to continue contributing.

The author, besides being a medical doctor, is actively engaged in promoting positive perceptions around various moral and social issues. He can be mailed at drfiazfazili@gmail.com and on X (formerly Twitter) @drfiazfazil.

Tribute To Prof. Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Bhat

A Life Of Knowledge, Service And Compassion



HAROON RASHID BHAT

With profound grief and a deep sense of respect, we remember Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Bhat Sahab, who passed away on October 1, 2026, leaving behind a distinguished legacy of medical service, teaching and compassion. His departure is a deeply felt loss for his family, friends, colleagues, students, patients and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

For the people, his passing carries a special poignancy. Dr. Sahab was the first doctor from our area, and his remarkable achievement was cherished not merely by his family but by the entire community. His success became a matter of collective pride and inspiration, particularly for the younger generation, who could see in his journey the possibilities that education, determination and perseverance could create. He was among those rare individuals whose personal accomplishments gradually became part of the collective memory of the place from which they came. His journey brought honour to his family and pride to New Theed, and his professional success was celebrated as a shared achievement by the people of the area. Some rare and inspiring memories of his student life have been shared with me by my uncle, Abdul Gafar Bhat. According to him, Dr. Sahab was the first doctor in his family as well as the first

from our locality.

His journey into medicine was therefore not simply a continuation of a family tradition; it was a path he forged through his own hard work, discipline and unwavering commitment to education. His years as a medical student at Government Medical College were marked by an extraordinary dedication to his studies. One particular anecdote has remained especially memorable. It is recalled that while studying for long hours, he would sometimes tie a rope to his hair to prevent himself from falling asleep.

The story may sound unusual today, but its deeper significance lies in what it reveals about his determination. He was unwilling to allow tiredness or sleep to stand between him and his educational aspirations. From his childhood, he was reportedly deeply attached to books and preferred solitude, spending much of his time absorbed in study. Books were his constant companions, accompanying him wherever he went, even to the kitchen and, according to the recollections shared with me, at times even to the washroom. These simple memories offer a glimpse into the making of a young man for whom learning was not merely a requirement for examinations but a way of life. His extraordinary dedication eventually became the foundation of his professional journey.

The qualities visible in the young student, discipline, concentration, perseverance and a thirst for learning—remained evident in the physician and professor he later became.

As a doctor, Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Bhat Sahab was remembered for the attention and patience he extended to his patients. He did not approach a patient merely as a medical

case requiring a prescription. He listened carefully, tried to understand the patient's concerns and gave importance to the human dimension of medical care. His approach reflected the belief that listening is itself an important part of healing. Patients need not only medicines but also reassurance, understanding and guidance, and he recognised that responsibility. His philosophy of treatment was equally noteworthy.

He was known to avoid unnecessary medication whenever possible and encouraged patients to give due importance to prevention, healthy habits and responsible living. Rather than



considering medicine only as a means of treating illness after it appeared, he placed value on preventing disease and helping people understand their own health. Such an approach requires not only medical knowledge but also patience, communication and a genuine concern for the well-being of others. His contribution to medicine extended beyond the consultation room. As a professor, he became part of the educational

journey of generations of medical students and young doctors.

The influence of a teacher cannot always be measured in certificates or official records; it is often reflected in the knowledge, discipline and values that students carry with them into their own professional lives. In this sense, his legacy will continue through those whom he taught, guided and inspired. For New Theed, his life holds an additional and deeply personal significance. When one of its own rose to become a doctor and later a respected physician and professor, the accomplishment was celebrated as a success belonging to the entire community. His journey widened the horizon of aspiration for young people from the area.

The boy who once devoted himself to his books became a physician whose professional achievements brought honour to his family and pride to his native place. His story therefore remains more than a personal biography; it is also a reminder to the younger generation that one's circumstances need not determine the limits of one's dreams. As we remember him today, it would perhaps be inadequate to recall him only through his academic qualifications, professional positions or medical achievements. His real legacy lies in the values that accompanied those achievements, his devotion to learning, his discipline, his humility, his concern for patients and his commitment to serving humanity. These are the qualities that give professional success its deeper meaning and transform an accomplished individual into an enduring source of inspiration.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Bhat Sahab has left this world, but the imprint of his life remains in many forms: in the memories of his family

and friends, in the affection of the people of New Theed, in the gratitude of patients, in the experiences of colleagues and in the lessons carried forward by his students. His journey from a young student with an extraordinary thirst for knowledge to a respected physician and professor stands as a lasting testament to the power of dedication and perseverance. For the community that proudly watched him rise, his memory will remain inseparable from the values of education, hard work and service. His life reminds us that knowledge acquires its highest meaning when it is used for the welfare of others, and that a medical profession becomes truly noble when it is practised with compassion and humanity.

In mourning his passing, we also celebrate the life he lived and the example he left behind.

May his journey continue to inspire students who dream of serving society through knowledge and young people from New Theed who look towards education as a means of building a better future. May the memory of Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Bhat Sahab remain a source of pride for his native place and a lasting tribute to a life devoted to learning, healing and humanity. May Almighty Allah grant Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Bhat Sahab the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, shower His infinite mercy upon him, illuminate his grave with His Noor and grant eternal peace to his soul. May Almighty Allah give strength, patience and solace to his bereaved family, relatives, friends, colleagues, students, patients and all those who mourn this profound loss. Ameen.

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■ After The Fall

Between One Chapter And The Next

MOHD ABASS DAR

There are moments in life when one failure feels much bigger than it actually is. A student fails an examination and suddenly believes that his future has failed with him. Someone loses a job and begins thinking that every door has closed. A business collapses, a relationship ends, an application is rejected, or a long-awaited opportunity goes to somebody else, and the mind immediately starts whispering a dangerous sentence: "It is over." But is it really over?

Sometimes, the event we call failure is not the end of the story; it is simply a pause in the sentence. A full stop tells us that the sentence has ended, while a comma tells us that something more is still going to be said. Life often works in the same way. We may stop at one disappointing moment and mistake it for the conclusion, even though the larger story has not yet finished.

The problem is that failure hurts not only because we lose something, but because we often attach a meaning to that loss. A student who fails an examination may not merely think, "I did not pass this examination." Instead, he may begin thinking, "I am a failure." These two sentences appear similar, but they are completely different. The first describes an event; the second turns the event into an identity. Once a person begins believing that he himself is the failure, rather than understanding that he has experienced a failure, it becomes much harder for him to stand up and try again. History gives us countless reminders that temporary failure and permanent defeat are not the same thing.

Consider Thomas Edison, whose name eventually became associated with one of the most influential developments in electric lighting. His path was not a smooth road of immediate success. His experiments involved repeated unsuccessful attempts, and his approach to those setbacks became famous because he did not treat every unsuccessful experiment as proof that he should stop. Whether we count particular numbers attached to the Edison story or not, the larger lesson remains clear: repeated failure can become part of the process through which a person discovers what does not work.

That distinction matters in ordinary life too. When a student gets a mathematics question wrong, the wrong answer contains information. It tells the student that something in the method, understanding or calculation needs to be examined. If the student tears the page out and says, "I cannot do mathematics," the information contained in the mis-



every rejection we have received, every mistake we have made and every opportunity we have lost, whereas we usually see only the visible result of somebody else's long struggle. The same lesson appears in the life of J. K. Rowling, whose early adult life included significant

personal and financial difficulties before the publication of the Harry Potter series. Her experience became a reminder to many readers that a difficult period can coexist with the possibility of a very different future. The important point is not that every person who experiences hardship will eventually become famous. That would be a false promise. The deeper lesson is that hardship does not automatically tell us what the final chapter of a person's life will look like. And that distinction is crucial.

Not every failure will eventually produce fame. Not every rejected application will lead to a better job. Not every broken plan will magically become a success story. Sometimes we genuinely have to accept that one particular dream

dimension of this lesson. His long imprisonment could easily have been understood as a period in which his life and ambitions had been permanently destroyed. Yet his later role in South Africa's transition demonstrated that a long period of suffering did not prevent him from contributing to history. His story is not a simple motivational formula in which suffering automatically produces success; rather, it shows how a person can continue to hold purpose even when circumstances appear to have taken away almost every immediate possibility of progress.

There is also something worth learning from Walt Disney, whose early career included setbacks and whose ventures did not all succeed. His eventual influence on animation and entertainment is often remembered more vividly than the difficulties that came before it. This happens with many historical figures: once they become successful, their earlier uncertainty becomes almost invisible. Success makes the past look inevitable, even though it rarely felt inevitable while

has already been written while leaving space for what comes next. Similarly, moving forward after failure does not require pretending that the disappointment did not hurt. It means accepting what happened, learning what it can teach, and refusing to allow one painful chapter to become the entire book. The Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with visible lines of gold, often associated with kintsugi, offers a useful metaphor

bers what it felt like to be confused and afraid of making mistakes, the old difficulty may later help him understand another struggling child. A person who has experienced financial hardship may become more careful with money and more compassionate towards others. Someone who has been rejected may eventually learn how to handle rejection without allowing it to destroy self-respect. The wound does not have to become meaningless simply because it was painful. This is perhaps the message that disappointed people need most: you are allowed to be disappointed, but you do not have to become defeated.

Take time to grieve the loss if the loss matters. Accept the embarrassment if the mistake was public. Admit that rejection hurts. There is no wisdom in pretending to be unaffected. However, after accepting the pain, ask the more useful question: "What can I do with what has happened?" That question changes the direction of the mind. Instead of "Why did this happen to me?" we can eventually ask, "What does this teach me?" Instead of "What will people think?" we can ask, "What do I need to improve?" Instead of "What if I fail again?" we can ask, "What can I change before I try again?" And instead of "Is my life over?" we can ask, "What can the next sentence look like?" There is no guarantee that the next attempt will succeed. That honesty matters. Life does not promise us that every effort will produce the result we want. But refusing to try again guarantees something else: it prevents us from discovering what might have happened if we had continued.

So, to the student who has failed an examination, the failure may be telling you that your preparation needs to change—not that your future has disappeared. To the young person who has been rejected for a job, the rejection may be telling you that another opportunity must be pursued or another skill must be developed not that you have no value.

To the person whose business has collapsed, the loss may contain lessons about planning, risk, timing or judgment that can become useful if those lessons are honestly examined. And to the person who feels that life has simply not gone according to plan, remember that a plan can fail without a life becoming a failure. History does not remember only people who never fell. It remembers people who continued after falling, learned from circumstances, changed their methods, endured difficult periods and sometimes found a new direction altogether.

Therefore, do not demand that your present moment tell you the entire truth about your future. A comma is small, but it changes the meaning of a sentence because it tells the reader to continue. Perhaps that is what failure is sometimes asking us to do. Not to deny it. Not to romanticise it. Not to pretend that it did not hurt. But simply to continue. Because the page may look disappointing right now, and the sentence may feel unfinished, but as long as life continues, there is still another word to write. Failure is not always a full stop. Sometimes, it is simply a comma, and the next sentence is still waiting to be written.

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Not every failure will eventually produce fame. Not every rejected application will lead to a better job. Not every broken plan will magically become a success story. Sometimes we genuinely have to accept that one particular dream will not happen. But even then, the end of one plan does not have to become the end of a person's capacity to learn, adapt and begin again.

here. A repaired object does not become identical to what it was before it broke. Instead, the marks of repair become part of its later appearance. Human beings can be like that too. Some experiences leave scars. They may change us permanently. But being changed by failure does not necessarily mean being destroyed by it. Sometimes the experience makes a person more patient, more realistic, more compassionate and more aware of what truly matters.

Think of a teacher who once struggled as a student. If that teacher remem-



take is lost. If, however, he asks, "Where did my reasoning go wrong?" the same mistake becomes a teacher. Failure becomes useful when we interrogate it instead of merely suffering from it.

The story of Abraham Lincoln offers another powerful example of perseverance through disappointment. Before becoming one of the most consequential presidents in American history, Lincoln experienced political defeats and personal difficulties. His public life was not a straight line from obscurity to greatness; rather, it contained setbacks, disappointments and periods in which success was far from certain. His life therefore reminds us that a person's present position does not necessarily reveal where that person can eventually reach.

This is important because we often judge our entire future from our present circumstances. A young person who has failed today may look at somebody successful and imagine that the successful person simply moved forward without obstacles. However, we usually see other people's finished chapters while reading our own unfinished one. We know

will not happen. But even then, the end of one plan does not have to become the end of a person's capacity to learn, adapt and begin again.

Perhaps the greatest danger of failure is not the failure itself but the shame that follows it. A student who fails may avoid classmates because he fears their questions. A young person who does not get selected may stop applying because he does not want to experience rejection again. Someone who starts a business and loses money may never attempt another venture because the memory of the loss becomes stronger than the desire to build something new.

This is how one failure can become many failures.

The first failure happens in reality. The second happens when fear prevents another attempt. The third happens when the person begins believing that trying itself is dangerous. Therefore, recovering from failure requires more than repairing the practical damage; it also requires repairing our relationship with the idea of trying again. The life of Nelson Mandela illustrates another

the person was living through it. This is why we should be careful when somebody says, "I have failed, so I have no future." How can we know that? We cannot.

A failed examination tells us something about one examination. A rejected application tells us something about one application. A failed business tells us something about one business attempt. None of these events, by themselves, possesses the authority to write the entire biography of a human being. Of course, this does not mean that we should respond to every failure by simply saying, "Try again," without thinking. Sometimes trying again with exactly the same method is not courage; it is repetition. A useful failure should change something in us. If the preparation was insufficient, preparation must improve. If the strategy was wrong, the strategy must change. If a skill was missing, that skill must be developed. If the goal itself has become unrealistic or unsuitable, perhaps the goal needs reconsideration. This is where the comma becomes meaningful.

A comma does not mean that nothing happened before it. It acknowledges what

200 Free Power

model, with rooftop solar systems to be installed for eligible AAY consumers. The tendering process for selecting RESCO vendors had reached the evaluation stage, with bids opened separately for the Jammu and Kashmir divisions. Access Services

The government had estimated the annual financial implication of providing up to 200 free units to the eligible AAY households at Rs 130.87 crore, based on 222,568 consumers and a tariff of Rs 2.45 per unit for the 200-unit entitlement.

The remarks also come against the backdrop of the recent revision of electricity tariffs in J&K. The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission approved an average 6.83 per cent increase in retail electricity tariffs from September 1, 2026, while the UT Government continues to provide financial support to the power distribution companies.

The 200-unit scheme and the tariff revision are separate matters, with the former being implemented through the solarisation programme and the latter determined through the electricity regulatory process.

'Op Sindoor'

aircraft of this generation. We need to push the AMCA programme forward; if there are delays, we must make alternative decisions,” he said.

Singh had earlier said India was likely to finalise the long-pending Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) deal by the end of the current financial year if the acquisition process proceeds as planned—(KNO)

Students Warned

make payments under pressure and warned against sharing one-time passwords (OTPs), bank details, identity documents or login credentials.

The advisory further cautioned against clicking suspicious links or downloading unknown files and encouraged students to consult parents or mentors and report suspicious messages or calls.

“Real universities don’t create panic,” the advisory said, urging people to “Think, Verify, Stay Safe.”

Wildlife Deptt Warns

caution while documenting sightings and posting them online, particularly when photographs or accompanying information could disclose the precise location of large bird gatherings.

The advisory comes during Wildlife Week, being observed from October 2 to 8, which focuses on awareness and protection of wildlife and habitats, including Kashmir’s wetlands and their seasonal bird populations.

PM Modi Committed

The BJP’s stated position has been that it supports restoration of statehood but opposes linking that demand with the restoration of the pre-2019 constitutional arrangement.

CS, Additional Secy

directed the concerned departments to accord priority to time-bound completion of ongoing projects, effective utilization of funds and saturation of eligible beneficiaries under various welfare and development schemes. He emphasized the importance of regular field-level monitoring and periodic assessment of outcomes so that gaps in implementation are identified at an early stage and corrective measures are taken promptly.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Additional Secretary MHA emphasized on the importance of timely implementation, effective inter-departmental coordination, optimal utilization of resources and regular monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and flagship programmes. He stressed on the need for addressing implementation bottlenecks and ensuring that the benefits of various Government initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

Nitesh Vyas called upon the concerned departments and implementing agencies to maintain close coordination with the respective Ministries of the Government of India and ensure timely resolution of issues affecting implementation.

The Additional Secretary MHA also laid emphasis on strengthening convergence among concerned departments and implementing agencies, improving project execution and ensuring measurable outcomes from the various development and welfare programmes being imple-

mented across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the progress of various CSS, development projects and other welfare initiatives of the Union Government being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir was held in detail.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation was also delivered on the occasion covering Samagra Shiksha and PM SHRI Schools, including phase-wise selection, comparative assessment of schools and infrastructure status. The progress of skilling initiatives under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and preparedness for PM-SETU were also reviewed.

The meeting also undertook a detailed review of the PM Surya Ghar- Muft Bijli Yojana, with focus on the installation of rooftop solar systems at households and solarisation of Government buildings. Progress in the installation of smart meters, augmentation and upgradation of power infrastructure, connectivity infrastructure and projects under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) were also discussed. The progress of BharatNet Phase-III was reviewed with emphasis on strengthening digital connectivity and expanding broadband infrastructure.

Under the social sector, progress of major social security and welfare schemes was reviewed, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and enrolment under maternity benefit schemes. The implementation of POSHAN 2.0, nutritional profiles, workforce vacancies and key indicators relating to Saksham Anganwadi were also discussed.

The progress under AMRUT 2.0 was also reviewed, with discussions focusing on the status of ongoing projects, works undertaken and their physical and financial progress. The meeting also reviewed urban housing and sanitation initiatives under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban (PMAY-U) and Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban (SBM-U), including implementation of PMAY-U 1.0 and PMAY-U 2.0.

The health sector review covered Ayushman Bharat Digital Health, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), National Health Mission (NHM) and TB Mukht Bharat. Discussions included targets and progress towards TB elimination and the strategy for achieving the desired outcomes. The National AYUSH Mission was also reviewed.

The meeting further reviewed rural housing and financing, including financial utilisation and the status of delivery under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G). The review focused on progress achieved, utilisation of funds and timely completion of housing interventions for eligible rural beneficiaries.

In the tourism sector, the progress of projects under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and key components of the scheme was discussed. The meeting also reviewed green mobility and civil aviation infrastructure, including electric mobility initiatives and projects under FAME and PM-eBus initiatives.

A detailed review was also undertaken regarding the implementation of Swadesh Darshan 1.0/2.0, PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) and the India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF), with emphasis on the progress of projects and infrastructure development.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF). Discussions focused on strengthening fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure, enhancing fish production and productivity, improving post-harvest management and market linkages, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders associated with the fisheries sector.

During the meeting, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) was discussed with emphasis laid on improving sanitation and hygiene in rural areas. The Mission aims to sustain Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in villages and promote improved standards of cleanliness, sanitation and waste management. The discussion covered continued efforts towards solid and liquid waste management, including effective management of household waste, plastic waste, greywater and other forms of rural waste. Emphasis was also placed on ensuring that sanitation infrastructure created under the Mission is properly maintained and remains functional.

While reviewing the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the focus was laid on providing adequate, reliable and sustainable drinking water supply to rural households through functional household tap connections. The review covered the status of water supply infra-

structure, functionality of household tap connections, operation and maintenance of schemes, water quality monitoring and the sustainability of drinking water sources.

The water transport and development of inland waterways under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways was also discussed. The potential of waterways as an alternative mode of transportation for passengers and goods was highlighted. The discussion covered the development of supporting infrastructure, including terminals, jetties and navigational facilities, wherever feasible, besides strengthening connectivity and exploring the potential of inland water transport for enhancing mobility and economic activity.

Later, in an another meeting, the Chief Secretary and Additional Secretary MHA also held a comprehensive review on the implementation of New Criminal Laws as well as new legal framework related to Immigration and Foreigners Management across Jammu and Kashmir.

Saffron Growers

challenges. Production fell from 17.33 metric tonnes (MT) in 2021 to 14.87 MT in 2022 before marginally improving to 14.94 MT in 2023. Growers said output dropped sharply thereafter, with production in 2024 estimated at around 30 per cent of normal levels and nearly 10 per cent in 2025.

They said repeated declines in output have hit farm incomes and raised concerns about the long-term viability of saffron cultivation.

Growers said interventions under the National Mission on Saffron (NMS) helped rejuvenate saffron fields and encouraged cultivation, but stressed that the benefits would remain limited without reliable irrigation and protection of saffron corms.

Wani urged the government to ensure irrigation infrastructure in saffron-growing areas remains functional and accessible.

“Farmers should not be left entirely dependent on rainfall, especially when weather patterns have become increasingly unpredictable,” he said.

Growers also expressed concern over the alleged illegal removal and diversion of saffron corms, saying it could undermine efforts to revive the sector.

They urged authorities to strengthen monitoring, prevent illegal siphoning of corms and ensure revival measures reach genuine growers.

Calling for urgent intervention, they sought restoration of irrigation facilities and revival of the saffron development project, saying a coordinated approach involving irrigation, climate-resilient practices, quality planting material and field-level support was essential to safeguard Kashmir’s traditional saffron sector—(KNO)

India Mocks Pak's

Kashmir is perpetrated by the armed forces of Pakistan and their terrorist proxies”, Mangalanandan said, exercising the right of reply to Pakistan’s allegations against India in the General Assembly’s Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian, and cultural issues.

She said making accusations against India “is a desperate attempt by Pakistan to mask the ongoing tragedy in Rawalakot and its other cities, the killing of hundreds of civilians, and the brutal crack-down across Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, for merely demanding bread, electricity, and human dignity”.

According to human rights groups, over 90 people have been killed in recent months in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) alone, where the government has brutally put down a popular movement for economic rights and against importing people from elsewhere to take over the area and against election manipulation.

“This is of course unsurprising”, she said, because it is a natural outcome of prolonged military occupation of the region and repression.

“When any free media is banned from covering such news in Pakistan, the evidence becomes undeniable for the global community that only the writ of the ‘Form 47’ government and their masters in the army headquarters runs large”, she said.

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan remains in jail “even as his health is reported to be fast deteriorating”, and his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has not been allowed to run in elections, she said, calling out the military’s proxy claims to democracy.

Mangalanandan brought out the political and electoral distinctions between the conditions in Kashmir that is free of Pakistani military rule and the occupied region, as well as between the two countries.

“By contrast, Jammu and Kashmir held assembly elections in 2024 with a massive turnout, followed by a peaceful transfer of

power to an elected government”, she said.

“The contrast could not have been starker”, she said. “We all know that the so-called civilian governments in Pakistan serve at the mercy of their army and rarely complete their terms”.

“The union territories of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh were, are, and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India”, she declared.

'New Hydropower

UT administration. We will also think about other new projects,” he said.

Asked about J&K’s dependence on power supplied from outside despite identifying around 14,500 MW of hydropower potential, Agarwal said the ongoing projects would help address the issue.

“All these projects that I have told you about are in your UT. And they will not only meet your demand, but will also meet the demand of the rest of the country,” he said.

On the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Agarwal said around 50 lakh people across the country had joined the programme so far, while J&K had achieved its first milestone of 100 MW. “Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the first milestone of 100 megawatts. Once the momentum is there, the progress will definitely be fast,” he said.

He said J&K had made a good start under the rooftop solar programme and was now reaching the take-off stage. “J&K has made a good start in PM Suryagar. And it takes time to build momentum in the beginning. Once the momentum builds up, it will take off,” Agarwal said.

He said Srinagar, Budgam and Kupwara are doing “extremely well”, while Baramulla and Bandipora were lagging. He said the subsidy disbursement system under the scheme was completely portal-driven and the flow of central government subsidy directly to beneficiaries had been smooth.

He also said the issue of better streamlining of the UT’s top-up subsidy would be discussed with the Chief Secretary. Agarwal said 164 GW of solar capacity is connected to ground-mounted solar nationally, with states such as Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh using ground-mounted solar extensively.

Earlier, Agarwal visited the Seva Setu Abhiyan Camp being organised under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Srinagar, where he inspected stalls and help desks and interacted with vendors providing services related to the scheme.

KPDCL Managing Director Mahmood Ahmad Shah briefed him on the implementation of the scheme in the region and initiatives aimed at facilitating public access to rooftop solar-related services. The Seva Setu Abhiyan Camp is aimed at strengthening public outreach, facilitating citizen-centric service delivery and creating awareness among citizens about the benefits of rooftop solar under the scheme—(KNO)



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Special Gram Sabhas held across Kupwara under Reform Utsav Campaign



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: As part of the nationwide Reform Utsav and Swachhata Hi Seva 2026, District Administration Kupwara conducted Special Maha Gram Sabhas across all blocks and panchayats on Gandhi Jayanti, enabling citizens to directly engage with the administration on grassroots development.

Deputy Commissioner, Shrikant Suse chaired the flagship Sabha at Panchayat Ghar Sulkote, alongside senior revenue and development officers. Residents, including senior citizens, raised local issues, which the DC assured would be

addressed in a time-bound manner. He urged citizens to actively use Gram Sabhas for participatory planning and called for a drug-free, clean and developed Kupwara.

A Swachhata Pledge was administered and participants were briefed on farmer registration, Jal Jeevan Mission, SWM Rules, Viksit Bharat-G RAM G, Nasha Mukta J and K campaign and the Nyas Sanhita.

Sabhas were held in all blocks, including Teetwal, Tangdar, Vilgam, Drugmulla, Karnah, focusing on roads, water, power, education, health, agriculture and livelihoods.

Man posing as govt official through social media held in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Police have registered a case against a man for impersonating government officials and cheating people through social media in Shopian district, officials said here on Saturday.

An official said that the accused is involved in impersonating officials of various government administrative offices and deceiving people.

“The allegations include impersonation of a public servant, cheating and fraud, criminal intimidation and wrongful restraint,” the official said.

The accused was identified as Umer Shamaim Ganie, son of Mohd Shami-am Ganie, a resident of Meemander, Shopian. Meanwhile, FIR No. 207/2026 under relevant sections has been registered and cognizance has been taken, the official said—(KNO)

Pulwama conducts District-Level Workshop on Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Department of Rural Development, District Pulwama, Saturday organised a district-level one-day workshop on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) under the VB-G RAM G initiative, with the theme “From Planning to Action.”

The workshop focused on strengthening grass-roots development through effective, participatory and outcome-oriented Panchayat-level planning.

The workshop was inaugurated by Additional District Development Commissioner Pulwama,



Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, and Assistant Commissioner Development Pulwama, Hilal Arafat. BDO Shadi-marg, M. Ashraf Mir, along with Resource Persons and other officers, also participated in the proceedings.

Addressing the participants, the officers underscored the importance of participatory governance, robust grassroots-level planning and effective

oment planning process and enhancing the capacity of field-level functionar-ies to effectively translate approved development plans into tangible out-comes on the ground.

Block Development Officers from across the district, along with AEEs, AEs and other officers and officials of the Rural Devel-opment Department, participated in the workshop.

The programme provided a platform for knowl-edge-sharing, coordination and discussion on strength-ening Panchayat-level planning mechanisms for inclusive and sustainable rural development.

DC B'pora reviews Road Safety Measures, seeks Time-Bound ATRs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) at the Mini Secretariat here to review the implementation of road safety measures and the status of Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on decisions taken by the Committee.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress made by concerned depart-ments and stressed the

need for close inter-depart-mental coordination and timely implementation of road safety measures. She directed the departments concerned to furnish ATRs within stipulated timelines and ensure effective follow-up of the directions issued by the Committee.

The DC also sought comprehensive details of road safety works undertaken during the financial year 2025-26 and directed the concerned departments to submit projections for proposed works for 2026-27. She emphasized that timely availability of such

details would facilitate effective monitoring and implementation of the district's road safety action plan.

Stressing that road safety requires coordinated efforts by all stakeholders, the Deputy Commissioner called for focused attention towards infrastruc-ture improvement, identification of vulnerable road stretches and timely implementation of preventive measures to enhance road safety and minimize the risk of accidents.

The meeting also reviewed measures for

effective implementation of the PM-RAHAT (Prime Minister-Road Accident Victims' Hospitalisation and Assured Treatment) Scheme, which provides cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh per road accident victim for a maximum period of seven days from the date of the accident. The scheme also provides for stabilisation treat-ment at designated hospi-tals for up to 24 hours in non-life-threatening cases and up to 48 hours in life-threatening cases, as per the prescribed guidelines and procedures.

Gandhi Memorial College organises Seminar on "Truth and Non-Violence"



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Gandhi Memorial College, in col-laboration with the Gandhi Global Family (J&K), orga-nized a seminar on the theme "Truth and Non-Violence" as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebra-tions, attended by a large gathering of students and faculty members.

Delivering the keynote address, Padma Bhushan awardee Rajeev Sethi emphasized the enduring

relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's core philoso-phy, highlighting truth and non-violence as vital instruments for fostering modern societal peace, ethical leadership, and conflict resolution.

Other eminent speak-ers, including Padma Shri awardee S. P. Verma, Arvind Matoo, and Kusum Kaul Vyas, also shared insightful perspectives on applying Gandhian principles in contemporary society and education.

NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the name of SGCT **Dev Raj** No. 740/IR, 13th Battalion PID No. ARP 108902 S/o **Charan Singh** R/o **Tridwan(Choi)** Tehsil Kathua, District Kathua, J&K 84152 has been incorrectly recorded.

The correct name of the individual is **Dev Raj Singh** No. 740/IR, 13th Battalion.

All concerned are requested to take note of the above correction and record the correct name as **Dev Raj Singh** in place of **Dev Raj**, if any body have any objection regarding the correction, may contact the Commandant IR 13th Bn within seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Sgt. . Dev Raj Singh 740/IR 13 Bn
PID NO : 108902

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Subject: Corrigendum to Advertisement Notification No. 09 of 2026 dated: 01.09.2026												
CORRIGENDUM												
In partial Modification of Advertisement Notification No. 09 of 2026 dated: 01.09.2026, it is hereby notified that Annexure "A" to the afore-mentioned Advertisement Notification has been modified and is notified as per the details indicated below:												
Annexure "A"												
Cadre-wise/Department-wise break up of Class-IV (MTS)/Sanitation Worker Posts												
Item No.	Cadre of the post	Department	Name of the post	OM	SC	ST1	ST2	OBC	ALC/IB	RBA	EWS	Total
182	UT	Agriculture Production Department (Sericulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
183		Estates Department	Sanitation Worker	30	6	7	7	6	3	7	7	73
184		Home Department	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
185		Transport Department	Class-IV (MTS)	11	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	28
186		Sanitation Worker		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
		Total (UT Cadre)		44	9	10	10	8	5	10	9	105
187	Division Jammu	Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
188		Agriculture Production Department (Sericulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
189		Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	5	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	11
190		ARI & Trainings Department	Class-IV (MTS)	19	4	5	5	4	2	5	4	48
191		Sanitation Worker		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
192		Culture Department (Archives, Archaeology and Museum)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
193		Culture Department (Libraries & Research)	Class-IV (MTS)	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	11
194		Estates Department	Sanitation Worker	19	4	5	5	4	2	5	4	48
195		Higher Education Department	Class-IV (MTS)	11	2	3	3	2	1	3	2	27
196		Public Works (R&B) Department	Class-IV (MTS)	375	75	94	94	75	38	94	94	939
		Total (Div. Cadre Jammu)		439	92	110	109	86	43	109	105	1093
197	Division Kashmir	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	8	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	20
198		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
199		Sanitation Worker		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
200		Agriculture Production Department (Sericulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
201		Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	29	5	7	7	6	3	7	7	71
202		Sanitation Worker		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
203		ARI & Trainings Department	Class-IV (MTS)	19	4	5	5	4	2	5	4	48
204		Sanitation Worker		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
205		Culture Department (Archives, Archaeology and Museum)	Class-IV (MTS)	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
206		Culture Department (Libraries & Research)	Class-IV (MTS)	4	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	10
207		Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks	Class-IV (MTS)	79	16	20	20	16	8	20	20	199
208		Estates Department	Sanitation Worker	15	3	4	4	2	2	4	3	37
209		Higher Education Department	Class-IV (MTS)	7	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	16
210		Public Works (R&B) Department	Class-IV (MTS)	193	38	48	48	39	19	48	48	481
		Total (Div. Cadre Kashmir)		362	73	91	90	71	36	88	86	897
		Total (All Div. Cadre)		801	165	201	199	157	79	197	191	1990
211	Anantnag	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	4	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	10
212		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	7	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	15
213		Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	13	2	4	4	2	2	3	2	32
214		Agriculture Production Department (Sericulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
		Total (District Cadre Anantnag)		25	5	7	6	4	3	5	4	59
215	Bandipora	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
216		Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	7	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	16
		Total (District Cadre Bandipora)		9	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	20
217	Baramulla	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
218		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	6	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	18
219		Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	18	3	5	5	3	2	3	3	42
220		Agriculture Production Department (Sericulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
		Total (District Cadre Baramulla)		31	7	8	8	6	3	6	6	75
221	Budgam	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
222		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	7
223		Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	12	2	3	3	2	1	2	2	27
		Total (District Cadre Budgam)		22	4	5	5	3	2	3	3	47
224	Doda	Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	19	4	5	4	3	3	4	4	46
		Total (District Cadre Doda)		19	4	5	4	3	3	4	4	46
225	Ganderbal	Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	10	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	22
226		Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	10	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	24

		Total (District Cadre Ganderbal)		20	4	4	4	4	2	4	4	46
227	Jammu	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	10	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	23
228		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
229		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	16	3	4	4	4	2	4	3	40
230		Agriculture Production Department (Sericulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Total (District Cadre Jammu)		28	5	6	6	6	3	6	5	65
231	Kathua	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
232		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
233		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	17	3	5	5	4	2	4	3	43
		Total (District Cadre Kathua)		21	4	6	6	4	2	4	3	50
234	Kishtwar	Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	10	2	3	3	2	1	3	1	25
		Total (District Cadre Kishtwar)		10	2	3	3	2	1	3	1	25
235	Kulgam	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	11
236		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
237		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
		Total (District Cadre Kulgam)		10	4	2	2	2	0	1	2	23
238	Kupwara	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	3	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	8
239		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
240		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	4	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	10
		Total (District Cadre Kupwara)		10	4	3	2	2	0	2	1	24
241	Poonch	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
242		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
243		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	17	3	5	5	3	2	3	3	41
244		Agriculture Production Department (Sericulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Total (District Cadre Poonch)		23	5	5	5	3	2	3	3	49
245	Pulwama	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
246		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	7	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	17
247		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	10	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	23
		Total (District Cadre Pulwama)		19	4	5	5	3	2	4	3	45
248	Rajouri	Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
249		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	10	2	3	3	3	1	3	2	27
		Total (District Cadre Rajouri)		11	2	3	3	3	1	3	2	28
250	Ramban	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
251		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
252		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	7
		Total (District Cadre Ramban)		5	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	9
253	Reasi	Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
254		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	14	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	33
		Total (District Cadre Reasi)		15	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	34
255	Samba	Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	6	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	14
		Total (District Cadre Samba)		6	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	14
256	Shopian	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
257		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
258		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
		Total (District Cadre Shopian)		6	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	10
259	Srinagar	Agriculture Production Department	Class-IV (MTS)	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	11
260		Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	15	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	34
261		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	7
262		Agriculture Production Department (Sericulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Total (District Cadre Srinagar)		24	5	5	5	3	2	5	4	53
263	Udhampur	Agriculture Production Department (Horticulture)	Class-IV (MTS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
264		Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department	Class-IV (MTS)	18	4	5	5	3	2	5	3	45
		Total (District Cadre Udhampur)		19	4	5	5	3	2	5	3	46
		Total (All District Cadre)		333	72	82	77	56	31	64	53	768
		GRAND TOTAL		1178	246	293	286	221	115	271	253	2863

J&K has immense cricketing talent, needs nurturing: BCCI Chief

Auqib Nabi's rise reflects region's potential: Mithun Manhas

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), president Mithun Manhas on Saturday said Jammu and Kashmir has immense cricketing talent that needs to be nurtured and backed, while expressing commitment to helping cricket flourish across J&K and Ladakh.

Speaking to reporters here on the sidelines of the five-day Irani Cup, Manhas highlighted the rise of Baramulla-born pacer Auqib Nabi, saying his journey to the Indian team reflected the hard work and talent available in the region.

"Auqib Nabi, who comes from Baramulla, has worked very hard to reach here. BCCI has given its full support to this association, and we have promised



to give further support," he said.

Manhas, said the BCCI wanted more players from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to emerge at

the national level. "We want cricket to flourish in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and more and more players should come up," he said.

He also pointed to the ongoing Irani Cup clash between Jammu and Kashmir and Rest of India in Srinagar as a reflection of the improvement in the standard of J&K cricket. "You can see the way the level of J&K cricket has gone up. There is a lot of talent here. It just needs to be nurtured, and it needs to be backed," Manhas said.

The BCCI chief also praised the Indian team for its latest title triumph, saying the side's ability to handle pressure had been a key factor in its success. "The way they have performed this time is commendable. The way our team handles pressure

situations, no other team in the country can do that," he said.

He hailed India's batting unit, saying the openers set the tone while the middle order finished games and lauded players for stepping up at crucial moments.

Manhas said the growing participation of countries in cricket is a positive development and welcomed the sport's increasing global reach. He also said the contribution of former BCCI secretary Jay Shah to Indian cricket, including the development of the women's game.

The BCCI chief said the latest success of Indian cricket should be celebrated by fans across the country and dedicated the achievement to supporters and soldiers who, he said, pray for and support the team—(KNO)

IRANI CUP Rest of India lead by 265 runs, Smaran scores century

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Ravichandran Smaran's unbeaten century rescued Rest of India from a precarious position and helped them stretch their lead over Jammu and Kashmir to 265 runs at stumps on the third day of the Irani Cup encounter at the Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar on Saturday.

According to the details available, Rest of India began the day with a 17-run deficit and finished on 306 for eight after 94 overs, with Smaran remaining unbeaten on 126 and Mukesh Choudhary on 9.

J&K had reduced Rest of India to 197 for eight, with the visitors' lead standing at only 156 runs, but Smaran and Choudhary frustrated the hosts with an unbeaten 109-run partnership for the ninth wicket.

Smaran, who had scored 68 in Rest of India's first innings, once again played a rescue act for the visitors. He reached his second fifty of the match and went on to complete a century, finishing unbeaten on 126 off 131 balls, with 15 fours and five sixes.

The late partnership



completely changed the position of the match after J&K had produced a strong spell of bowling in the afternoon and evening sessions.

Sanat Sangwan, who was unbeaten on 52 at lunch, scored 55 off 160 balls before Umar Nazir Mir provided the breakthrough. The J&K pacer then dismissed Saransh Jain for 25 and Sarfaraz Khan for a duck in the same over, reducing Rest of India from 128 for two to 131 for five.

Umar Nazir finished with three for 87, while Sahil Lotra also claimed three wickets for 71 runs. Lotra dismissed Manav Suthar for 16 before removing Rest of India captain Rishabh Pant for eight and

Akash Deep for two.

Despite the collapse, Smaran, as per KNO, continued to hold one end together. He first added 52 with Suthar and then found a valuable partner in Choudhary, who faced 47 balls for his unbeaten nine.

Earlier, J&K had taken a crucial 41-run first-innings lead after posting 278 in reply to Rest of India's 237.

The hosts had slipped to 166 for eight before captain Paras Dogra, Abdul Samad and Lone Nasir Muzaffar helped them recover.

Dogra top-scored with 75, while Samad made 57. Nasir then produced an attacking 64 off just 58 balls from the lower order, striking eight fours and three sixes, to take J&K past Rest of India's total.

Nasir's counter-attacking innings came after J&K had lost eight wickets for 166 runs and proved vital in giving the hosts their first-innings advantage.

Rest of India began their second innings cautiously after losing Shikhar Mohan early. Sudip Kumar Gharami made 33 before being dismissed by Nasir, while Sangwan and Saransh steadied the innings before J&K's bowlers triggered the middle-order collapse. With 265 runs now separating the teams, Rest of India will resume on Sunday with two wickets in hand and Smaran still at the crease.

With 265 runs separating the sides, J&K will look to wrap up the Rest of India innings quickly on Sunday before beginning their chase, while the visitors will aim to add to their lead with two wickets still in hand as the match heads into its final two days.

Notably, the Irani Cup encounter, being played from October 1 to 5, is the first edition of the prestigious fixture to be hosted in Srinagar.

Scorecard: Rest of India 237 & 306/8 (94 overs); J&K 278. Rest of India lead by 265 runs—(KNO)

IRANI CUP Samad backs Nasir after magnificent all-round show for J&K

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: For Jammu and Kashmir all-rounder Lone Nasir Muzaffar, the historic Irani Cup encounter in Srinagar has brought a significant moment in his young first-class career, with the pacer claiming his first first-class wicket and then producing an attacking 64 to help the hosts take a 41-run lead over Rest of India.

According to the details available, Nasir, playing only his fourth first-class match, produced an all-round performance for J&K, taking three wickets in Rest of India's first innings before scoring 64 off 58 balls to help the hosts recover from 166 for eight and post 278. The innings gave J&K a 41-run first-innings lead over Rest of India's 237.

Speaking in a video shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Nasir described the experience of playing in such a major match as a "very good feeling" and said he was grateful for the opportunity to contribute to his team.

"I got the opportunity to



play in this match and to deliver for my team. I consider myself lucky and I am very grateful," Nasir said.

His 64 came at a crucial stage of J&K's innings. The hosts had slipped to 166 for eight, still 71 runs behind Rest of India's first-innings total, when Nasir joined captain Paras Dogra at the crease.

Nasir said his approach was to play normally and take the innings deep after Dogra, who was already batting, advised him to watch the ball and play according to the situation.

He said his aim was to take J&K's total to around 300, but added that he regretted not being able to reach that mark.

The partnership with Dogra, however, proved crucial as the pair added 64 runs for the ninth wicket before Dogra was dismissed for 75. Nasir then added another 48 with Sunil Kumar for the final wicket as J&K moved from 166 for eight to 278 all out.

Nasir eventually fell for 64 off 58 balls, with eight fours and three sixes, as J&K secured the first-innings lead. His contribution, as per KNO, had begun with the ball. Nasir claimed three wickets in Rest of India's first innings and, according to his account in the BCCI video, his first wicket in first-class cricket came in the Irani Cup.

Recalling the moment, Nasir said he had made

his first-class debut two years ago and had played two or three matches without taking a wicket. "I will remember that wicket for a long time. It is a special feeling and it is a great thing for me to get my first wicket in this big match," he said.

Abdul Samad, who spoke with Nasir in the BCCI video, highlighted the all-rounder's long association with J&K cricket and said he had been in the team's scheme of things for the last five to six years.

Samad said Nasir had played through the Under-19 level and described him as a "top-level all-rounder", while noting that he had not been getting an opportunity in the senior side in recent years.

Referring to the competition within J&K's bowling unit, Samad mentioned Auqib Nabi, Yudhvir Singh and Umran Malik before telling Nasir that he had believed in him from the beginning. "He is a very good boy," Samad said, encouraging Nasir to continue bowling in the same manner and contributing with the bat.—(KNO)

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