

CM Omar mourns demise of former Minister S. Harbans Singh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep grief over the demise of former Minister S. Harbans Singh, who passed away at a private hospital in Jammu early Monday at the age of 84.

Recalling his distinguished service to Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister termed his demise a great loss to Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister extended



his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

S. Harbans Singh served

as cabinet minister in the government headed by former J&K Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah from 1996 to 2002.

Dr. Basharat Qayoom assumes Charge as Commissioner SMC, CEO SSCL



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SRINAGAR: Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Monday assumed charge as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), and Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), with a focus on strengthening civic services and making urban governance more responsive to the needs and aspirations of Srinagar's citizens.

Dr. Basharat Qayoom succeeds Faz Lul Haseeb. A brief function was held at the SMC Headquarters to welcome the newly appointed Commissioner and CEO. Senior officers and officials of SMC and SSCL welcomed Dr. Basharat Qayoom and assured him of their full cooperation in advancing citizen-centric governance and ensuring efficient, accessible and responsive municipal services.

Addressing the officers and officials, Dr. Basharat Qayoom reiterating the ‘‘Citizen First approach’’ emphasised that citizens must remain at the centre of the Corporation’s policies, programmes and service delivery mechanisms. He stressed the importance of accountable administration, effective interdepartmental coordination and timely resolution of public grievances to address the everyday civic concerns of residents.

He highlighted the need to strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms, improve the delivery of essential municipal services and ensure greater responsiveness to citizens’ complaints and feedback. He also underscored the importance of a coordinated and forward-looking approach towards transforming Srinagar into a sustainable, clean and

liveable city where urban development translates into tangible improvements in the quality of life of residents.

His assumption of charge is expected to provide further impetus to ongoing urban development programmes, Smart City initiatives and efforts to improve the accessibility, efficiency and accountability of municipal services.

As Commissioner, SMC, and CEO, SSCL, the focus will be on strengthening civic infrastructure, improving sanitation and other essential municipal amenities, promoting sustainable urban planning, enhancing public participation and ensuring the timely implementation of development projects. Greater emphasis on citizen engagement and responsive grievance redressal will remain central to efforts to address public concerns and improve service delivery.

The overarching objective is to build upon the existing responsive, inclusive and citizen-friendly municipal administration, ensuring that the benefits of urban development are reflected in better civic amenities, improved public services and an enhanced quality of life for the people of Srinagar.

DC Sgr inspects progress in construction of District Circuit House Bemina

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Monday conducted an on-site inspection of the construction work of District Circuit House, Srinagar at Bemina.

He also inspected the progress of ongoing works on the Additional Accommodation Block of the Zila Sainik Welfare Bhawan at Batamaloo.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir, Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Sai Kiran, Superintending Engineer R&B North, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer R&B, South, Tatheer Manzoor, SDM West, Seerat Baji, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, ACR, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineer R&B, Fareed Khan, Executive Engineer R&B, Abdul



Qayoom, Executive Engineer, KPDCI 3rd, Abrar Hussain, Executive Engineer, Water Works, Aijaz Rafiq, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool, Tehsildar North, Syed Shahid and other concerned Officers.

At the construction site of the District Circuit House at Bemina, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the progress of ongoing works and reviewed various components of the project, aimed at augmenting cost effective

accommodation & reasonable facilitation amenities in the District.

On the occasion, the DC underscored the significance of the facility in strengthening cost effective accommodation and facilitation infrastructure in Srinagar and improving the availability of suitable accommodation for public, official and other designated purposes.

The DC directed the concerned executing agency to expedite the pace of work

while ensuring strict adherence to prescribed quality standards and stipulated timelines, stressing that all components of the project must be completed in a time-bound manner without compromising on quality.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress on the construction of the Additional Accommodation Block at Zila Sainik Welfare Bhawan, Batamaloo aimed to enhance the accommodation capacity of the

facility and strengthen the delivery of welfare services to eligible beneficiaries, particularly the wards of ex-servicemen and martyrs who visit or temporarily reside in Srinagar for educational purposes.

During an interaction with Officers and Officials of Zila Sainik Welfare Bhawan, the DC was informed that more than 40 percent of the civil works had been completed, with the ground floor completed and work underway on the first floor.

The DC stressed the need for expeditious execution of the remaining works, directing the concerned Officers to ensure timely completion of the project so that the facility can be made functional at the earliest. He emphasized that the timely completion of the Accommodation Block would enhance facilities for beneficiaries and contribute to the more effective delivery of welfare services to the wards of ex-servicemen

Jatin Kishore assumes Charge as DC Budgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Jatin Kishore Monday assumed charge as the Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, during a formal handover ceremony held in the office chamber of the Deputy Commissioner.

He took over from Athar Aamir Khan, who was serving as Deputy Commissioner, Budgam.

The charge-taking ceremony was attend-

ed by senior officers of the district administration, including ADC Budgam Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, Joint Director Planning, Budgam, all SDM, Sub-Registrar Budgam, DIO and other senior officers.

Following the assumption of charge, Deputy Commissioner Budgam interacted with senior officers and took a brief overview of the functioning of various departments.

Drug Control Dept Kulgam conducts inspection of Chemist Shops

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The Drug Control Department Kulgam Monday conducted multiple inspections of chemist shops in the vicinity of Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Yaripora under the aegis of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA).

During the inspections, the officials checked and verified records of scheduled drugs on the spot and examined the computerized billing systems adopted by the chemists. CCTV footage was also checked to ensure compliance with the prescribed regulations.

During the drive, the operation of one sales establishment was closed down for non-compliance

with certain conditions of its licence.

The chemists were sensitized about the importance of strictly dispensing drugs with addiction liability only against valid prescriptions issued by Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs). They were also directed to ensure that every sale of medicine is supported by a proper cash memo.

The Drug Control Department reiterated that any violation of statutory requirements will invite strict regulatory action. The department further stated that such enforcement drives will continue across the district to ensure compliance with drug regulations.

Director Agriculture flags off farmers group for exposure visit to PAU

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah Monday flagged off a group of 45 progressive farmers from different zones of Srinagar district for an exposure visit and capacity building programme to Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana.

The exposure visit has been organised by Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare department district Srinagar under HADP project, Promotion of aromatic and medicinal plants.

While interacting with the farmers on the occasion, the Director said that that the main objective of this exposure visit cum capacity building programme is to train the local farmers in the niche sector of medicinal

and aromatic plants for a gradual shift from survival livelihood to high return agribusiness. As Kashmir offers a unique agro climatic conditions for the cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants, this exposure visit will provide an opportunity to the trainees to explore new income generating avenues in Lavender, Rosemary, and specializ- es aromatic and medicinal plants that thrive locally.

Director Agriculture stressed upon the participants to take full advantage of this opportunity so that they get acquainted with the latest high value varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants, their nursery management, post-harvest Extraction and processing besides exploring market dynamics.

Kuldeep Krishan Sidha assumes charge as DC Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Monday assumed charge as the new Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama.

Upon assuming charge, the Deputy Commissioner was warmly received by the outgoing Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, along with other senior officers and officials of the district administration.

Soon after taking over, the Deputy Commissioner held an introductory-cum-review meeting with senior district and sectoral officers at the Circuit House, Pulwama, to take stock of the overall developmental and administrative scenario of the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the officers and sought a comprehensive overview



of the functioning of various departments, ongoing developmental works, implementation of government schemes and delivery of public services in the district.

He emphasized the need for close coordination among departments, timely execution of developmental projects and efficient delivery of public services to the people.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to maintain a proactive and people-centric approach, ensure effective implementation of government programmes and address public grievances promptly.

He also called for focused efforts towards achieving developmental targets and strengthening inter-departmental coordination for effective and result-oriented administration in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; ADCs Pulwama, Tral and Awantipora; GM DIC Pulwama; District Programme Officer, Poshan Pulwama; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama; Superintending Engineers of Hydraulics, PWD (R&B) and KPDCI, ACR, ACD, ACP, CEO, Tehsildars, BDOs and other district and sectoral officers from various departments.

SWD Kulgam observes International Girl Child Day DC stresses education, safety, equal opportunities for girls

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Kulgam, Monday organised a programme at the Conference Hall, Kulgam, to mark the International Day of the Girl Child, highlighting the importance of girls’ education, safety, welfare and empowerment.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, attended the programme as the chief guest. District Social Welfare Officer Kulgam, Raja Rameez, officers from line departments, students, lactating mothers, ASHA workers and other participants were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gather-

ing, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to ensure equal opportunities for girls in education and other spheres of life. He called for collective efforts by families, educational institutions and society to eliminate gender-based discrimination and ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of every girl child.

He also highlighted various government initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of girls and promoting women’s empowerment, urging people to create an environment where girls can pursue their aspirations and contribute equally to society.

District Social Welfare Officer Kulgam, highlighted the department’s role

in implementing welfare schemes and awareness programmes for women and children. He emphasised community participation in promoting gender equality and safeguarding the rights of girls, while urging eligible beneficiaries to avail themselves of various government welfare schemes.

On the occasion, baby kits were distributed among lactating mothers as part of efforts to support maternal and child health and welfare.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about the rights of the girl child and reinforce the collective responsibility of society towards ensuring a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for every girl.

SWD organises Awareness Programmes on Social Security Schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organised awareness programmes at Rangpora and Illahi Bagh Srinagar to sensitise the public about various scholarships, sponsorship assistance, skill development courses and other social security schemes aimed at supporting eligible beneficiaries and promoting their social and economic empowerment.

The programmes were organised to enhance awareness among the community regarding the benefits and eligibility criteria of various welfare initiatives and to encourage eligible individuals and fami-



lies to avail themselves of the assistance available through the Department of Social Welfare. Special emphasis was laid on reaching out to vulnerable sections of society, including children in need of care and protection, girls, women and economically disadvantaged families.

During the awareness sessions, participants were informed about various scholarship opportunities available for eligible students to support their education and help prevent

school dropouts. Detailed information was also shared regarding sponsorship support for eligible children, skill development and vocational training courses for improving employability, and other social security schemes intended to provide assistance to deserving beneficiaries.

In addition, the Department in collaboration with Mission Poshan at Illahi Bagh, celebrated International Girl Child Day 2026 under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

Sakeena Itoo chairs 31st JKWDC Board meeting

Calls for efficiency, transparency to empower women entrepreneurs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Monday chaired the 31st meeting of Board of Directors of the Jammu & Kashmir Womens' Development Corporation (JKWDC) Limited at SKICC.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Social Welfare Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray; Managing Director JKWDC, Purnima Mittal representatives of Planning & Finance Departments, J&K and Apex Corporations from New Delhi.

During the meeting, the Board deliberated upon various important administrative, financial and policy matters concerning the functioning of the Corporation and took several key decisions.

Speaking during the meeting, the Minister emphasised the need for the Corporation to function with greater efficiency, transparency and responsiveness. She advocated a focused approach towards ensuring that the intended benefits of welfare and development schemes reach the eligible Women beneficiaries in a timely manner.



Sakeena Itoo called for strengthening the institutional mechanisms, streamlining procedures and improving coordination among the concerned stakeholders to facilitate easier access to financial assistance, self-employment opportunities and other support measures for the Women entrepreneurs.

"Welfare interventions should translate into tangible improvements in the socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries, particularly through initiatives that encourage entrepreneurship, sustainable livelihoods and economic self-reliance", maintained the Minister.

The Minister directed the Corporation to maintain close engagement with the beneficiaries and community representatives, identify

emerging requirements and take necessary measures to address genuine concerns within the prescribed framework.

Sakeena Itoo appreciated the efforts of the Corporation and stressed upon all concerned officers to ensure transparency, accountability, efficiency and timely implementation of the decisions taken by the Board in the larger public interest.

During the meeting, the Board directed the Corporation to intensify and expedite the recovery of outstanding loans, particularly long-pending dues and adopt all permissible measures for effective follow-up and timely recovery. She enquired about the establishment of online system for recovery and disbursement of various schemes.

DG Prosecution J&K addresses prosecution fraternity of UT

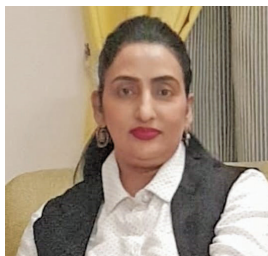
Emphasises professional excellence, accountability, institutional discipline

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The new Director General (DG) of Prosecution, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Sunita Kargotra Monday underscored the need to strengthen the prosecution system through professional excellence, institutional discipline/strengthening, accountability and effective coordination among Prosecutors across the Union Territory.

In her maiden address to the Prosecutors of UT of J&K after taking over as the DG, Sunita Kargotra emphasised the pivotal role of the Prosecution Department in the Criminal Justice Delivery System. The Director General stated that the foremost objective of the Directorate would be to ensure effective, fair and legally sound prosecution, while upholding the rule of law and public confidence in the Justice System.

She stressed that every Prosecutor must discharge his or her duties with



integrity, diligence and a high degree of professional competence. Timely examination of Judgments and Court Orders, prompt legal action wherever warranted, effective case preparation and close coordination with investigating agencies/ Stakeholders were identified as important areas requiring sustained attention.

The Director General also emphasised the need to foster a work culture founded on responsibility, merit and performance. She observed that officers, who take initiative, demonstrate leadership and complete assignments with dedication, even under challenging circumstances,

deserve recognition and encouragement.

Underscoring the importance of collective responsibility, she called upon senior officers to lead by example, mentor their colleagues and ensure that the Directorate functions as a cohesive and professionally driven institution.

She further assured that genuine professional concerns and issues relating to the working conditions and welfare of Prosecutors would receive due consideration and would be taken up with the higher authorities for early consideration.

Reaffirming the core principles governing Prosecution, Ms. Kargotra observed that the role of a Prosecutor extends beyond securing convictions and includes assisting the courts in the fair administration of Justice. She emphasised that independence, impartiality and adherence to law must remain the guiding principles of every Prosecutor.

COSL reviews progress on framing of recruitment rules for H&ME Dept

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, under the Chairmanship of its Chairman Muzaffar Iqbal Khan Monday convened a meeting at the J&K Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Srinagar, to review the progress made in the framing and finalization of recruitment rules pertaining to the Health & Medical Education Department and other allied matters.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Hilal Akbar Lone, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Bharat Bhushan, Sheikh Khurshed and Peerzad Feroz Ahmad of the Committee, who are the members of the Committee.

Commissioner Secretary ARI & Training Shabnam Kamili, Commissioner Secretary Law Justice Parliamentary Affairs Achal Sethi besides senior officers of the concerned Departments/ organizations and officers of the J&K Legislative Assembly Secretariat were



present in the meeting.

The Chairman emphasized the need for expeditious finalization of recruitment rules, observing that prolonged delay in framing such rules adversely affects the functioning of institutions and the service interests of employees. He stressed that the concerned departments should accord priority to the matter and complete the prescribed formalities at the earliest.

The Committee was apprised by the Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department, that draft recruitment rules are in process and will be finalized after getting concurrence from the Finance Department.

During the meeting, the Chairman stressed the desirability of framing uniform/model recruitment rules for Medical and

Dental Colleges, wherever the posts, requirements and recruitment procedures are substantially similar, instead of adopting separate rules for each institution.

In this regard, the Committee was informed that the ARI & Trainings Department has already shared a format with the Health & Medical Education Department for devising Model Recruitment Rules for all Medical/Dental Colleges.

The Committee expressed concern over delay in finalization of Recruitment Rules and emphasized that the process should be accorded the highest priority, particularly in view of its direct bearing on functioning of health institutions and the career prospects and service interests of employees.

Comm SMC chairs introductory-cum-review meeting with officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Monday chaired an introductory-cum-review meeting with officers representing all wings of the Corporation, underscoring the need to make municipal services more efficient, accessible and responsive to the needs of citizens.

The meeting focused on reviewing the functioning of various wings, assessing ongoing developmental works, strengthening sanitation and cleanliness mechanisms, improving public grievance redressal and identifying priority areas requiring immediate attention.

Taking a comprehensive overview of the Corpora-



tion's activities, the Commissioner reviewed departmental responsibilities, the progress of ongoing works, operational challenges and service delivery mechanisms. He emphasised that citizen welfare, efficient civic services and accountable administration must

remain at the core of SMC's functioning.

Dr. Basharat Qayoom stressed the need for a proactive and time-bound approach to public grievance redressal, directing officers to ensure that complaints received through various channels

are addressed promptly and followed through to their logical conclusion. He emphasised that citizens must experience tangible improvements in municipal services, with particular attention to responsiveness, transparency and accountability.

Highlighting the importance of sanitation and cleanliness in maintaining the city's civic standards, the Commissioner called for strengthened coordination among the concerned wings to ensure effective sanitation operations, improved waste management and sustained cleanliness across Srinagar. He stressed that field-level monitoring and timely intervention are essential for resolving sanitation-related issues and maintaining public spaces.

The Commissioner also

underscored the need for close monitoring of developmental works, adherence to prescribed timelines and optimum utilisation of available resources. He called upon officers to identify bottlenecks, expedite pending works and ensure that development initiatives translate into visible and meaningful improvements in the lives of citizens.

Emphasising coordinated functioning across departments, Dr. Basharat Qayoom directed all wings to work in close synergy, strengthen internal monitoring mechanisms and adopt a result-oriented approach to municipal administration. He stressed that accountability must be reflected in measurable outcomes, timely service delivery and effective resolution of public concerns.

The Commissioner

ACB catches Agriculture official accepting Rs 40,000 bribe in Handwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday caught a Senior Assistant of the Sub-Division Agriculture Office, Handwara, red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 for the release of a pending tractor subsidy bill under the HADP scheme, officials said.

In a statement issued, the ACB said the accused, Irshad Ahmad Peer, was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe.

The ACB's Police Station Baramulla had received a written complaint alleging that Peer had demanded rupees 40,000 from the complainant for releasing a subsidy bill for a tractor purchased by the complainant's brother under the HADP scheme. A discreet verification was conducted, during which the allegations of bribe demand were found to be true, the statement said.

Following the complaint and verification, a case (FIR No. 06/2026) under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018, was registered at ACB Police Station Baramulla on October 12, and an investigation was taken up.

The ACB said a trap team was constituted after the registration of the case, with independent witnesses associated as per procedure. The team subsequently caught the accused red-handed while allegedly demanding and accepting the bribe of rupees 40,000, which was recovered from his possession. The accused has been arrested and further investigation is in progress, the statement added.

BJP, Congress workers trade slogans during Srinagar protest

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Slogans like, Ek Kachori, Do Samosa, Rahul Gandhi Par Kya Bharosa echoed around Pratap Park in Srinagar on Monday as BJP Mahila Morcha activists staged a protest against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party, accusing them of "vote chori".

The protesters, assembled outside the Congress office around noon and raised slogans against Rahul Gandhi and the Congress leadership.

They also burnt an effigy of Rahul Gandhi during the demonstration at Pratap Park in Srinagar.

The protest soon saw a face-off between workers of the two parties, with Congress workers coming out of their office and raising counter-slogans, including "Vote Chor BJP" and "BJP Murdabad".

The BJP protesters accused the Congress of electoral irregularities, while Congress workers responded with counter-slogans targeting the BJP.

The protest comes amid an ongoing political row over allegations of "vote chori", with the BJP and Congress trading accusations over electoral practices—(KNO)

DIPR bids affectionate farewell to Shreya Singhal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Monday accorded an affectionate farewell to Shreya Singhal, outgoing Director Information, on her transfer as Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, acknowledging her valuable contributions, professional commitment and leadership during her tenure in the Department.

The farewell gathering was attended by Director Information, Mamta Yadav; Joint Director Information (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; Deputy Director Information (PR) Kashmir,



Mohammad Rafiq Zullah; Deputy Director Information (Hqr) Kashmir, Zubair Ahmad Lattoo; other officers and officials of the Department, who expressed their appreciation for her administrative acumen and dedicated efforts towards strengthening the Department's information dissemination mechanism and enhancing its public outreach initiatives.

The officers and officials recalled her encouraging leadership, approachable demeanor and emphasis on teamwork, coordination and accountability. They acknowledged her contribution towards fostering a positive working environment and motivating the staff to uphold the highest standards of public service and professional integrity.

The Department also wished Shreya Singhal good health, happiness and success in all her future endeavours.

4715 scholarships allotted so far PMSSS witnesses significant progress in 2026-27

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) has registered a significant progress during the current academic session 2026-27, with 4715 scholarships allotted against the annual target of 5000, thereby achieving 94.3 per cent of the overall target so far.

PMSSS provides students of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh through AICTE counselling process, an opportunity to pursue undergraduate studies in institutions outside these Union Territories, with financial support towards academic fees and maintenance expenses. The scheme aims to improve access to quality higher education,

enhance skills and expand employment opportunities for youth.

During the current Academic Session 2026-27, 1894 scholarships have been allotted under General Degree Courses against 2070, and 2741 scholarships under Professional Courses against 2830, and 80 scholarships under Medical/BDS courses against the target of 100.

The current achievement is significantly higher than the full-year figures recorded during the previous three academic sessions. PMSSS had recorded 3627 beneficiaries in 2023-24, 3674 in 2024-25 and 3585 in 2025-26. The current-year allotment is already 1130 higher than the 2025-26 figure, registering an increase of around

31.5 per cent.

The Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, has been facilitating and coordinating the implementation of PMSSS in the UT, including timely commencement of registration and counselling, besides facilitating through Facilitation Centres and Facilitation-cum-Documents Verification Centres for students.

The Department also plays an important role in the verification and review mechanism under the scheme through the UT-level Review Committee headed by the Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education Department, with the Director Colleges, J&K as its Member Secretary.

Timely completion of works essential to ensure benefits reach people: Speaker

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and MLA Charar-i-Sharief, Abdul Rahim Rather, Monday convened a review meeting to take stock of progress of development works being executed in Charar-i-Sharief constituency under various schemes by the Public Works Department (R&B) and the Rural Development Department (RDD).

During the meeting, the Speaker reviewed the scheme-wise progress of works being undertaken under District Capex, UT Capex, NABARD, Bridges, C&T and SASCI by PWD (R&B), besides works being executed under DDC, BDC, PRI, ADBP, CDF, CDP, SBM and other schemes by the RDD.



Emphasising the need for timely execution of development projects, the Speaker directed the concerned officers to expedite the pace of ongoing works and ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

He underscored that timely completion of development works was a collective responsibility of all stakeholders. He added that the primary objective of

these projects was to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes reach the people without any unnecessary delay.

"The benefits of government schemes can reach the intended beneficiaries only when the sanctioned works are executed efficiently and completed within the stipulated timeframe," maintained the Speaker. He stressed the need for greater accountability and close monitoring at every stage of

execution.

While reviewing the macadamisation of various roads in the constituency, the Speaker expressed concern over delay in execution of the works. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the pace of macadamisation and ensure its completion at the earliest. He emphasised that the available working season was nearing its end due to the onset of severe winter conditions, leaving a limited

window for carrying out such works. He stressed the need for timely intervention and effective supervision to ensure that the road macadamisation works are completed within the available working season without compromising on quality standards.

The Speaker also directed the concerned departments to expedite the tendering and allotment process of pending works so that their execution could commence without delay and the projects could be completed within the prescribed timelines. He called for effective inter-departmental coordination and regular monitoring to address bottlenecks, wherever encountered, and ensure the smooth implementation of development projects.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Kashmir's Handicrafts Cannot Survive On Sentiment Alone

Kashmir's traditional handicrafts are more than products made by skilled hands. They are a living expression of the Valley's history, cultural identity and artistic excellence. From the intricate patterns of papier-mâché and the delicate weave of Pashmina to the elegance of carpets and traditional embroidery, these crafts have carried Kashmir's name across the world. Yet, behind this celebrated heritage lies an uncomfortable reality: the people who preserve it are increasingly struggling to make a dignified living. Concerns raised by a delegation of artisans from Srinagar's Shehr-e-Khaas have once again brought the challenges confronting the handicrafts sector into focus. Their grievance that artisans receive only a limited share of the value generated by their products points to a deep-rooted imbalance in the traditional craft economy. Kashmiri handicrafts may command considerable value in domestic and international markets, but the artisans whose skill creates that value often remain at the margins of its financial rewards.

This contradiction demands serious attention. If a handcrafted Kashmiri product fetches a handsome price in the market while its maker struggles to meet household expenses, the benefits of the trade are clearly not reaching those who deserve them most. Cultural recognition means little when the hands that sustain a tradition remain economically insecure. The problem is not simply a lack of demand. Kashmiri handicrafts continue to enjoy recognition for their craftsmanship, originality and heritage. The greater challenge is ensuring that this recognition translates into better earnings, fairer returns and greater security for artisans. Middlemen, market access, changing consumer preferences and the growing complexity of commercial competition all deserve examination. The objective should be to create a system in which artisans are not merely producers at the bottom of the value chain but respected participants in the economic success of their own creations. Equally worrying is the declining interest among younger generations in taking up traditional occupations. This should not be dismissed as a change in lifestyle or a loss of cultural attachment. Young people are increasingly conscious of their economic future. They cannot reasonably be expected to spend years mastering demanding techniques if the eventual returns offer little financial stability, limited opportunities for growth and uncertain prospects for their families.

No tradition can survive for long if its practitioners are forced to choose between preserving their heritage and securing their livelihood. The responsibility for reversing this trend rests with the government, industry stakeholders, exporters, designers and the institutions entrusted with promoting Kashmir's crafts. Financial assistance and welfare measures are important, but support must extend beyond occasional schemes and announcements. Artisans need access to affordable credit, social security, healthcare, insurance, skill-development programmes and reliable marketing channels. Their work must be connected directly to wider markets so that a greater share of the final price reaches the maker.

There is also a need to strengthen cooperative models and transparent marketing arrangements that improve artisans' bargaining power. Digital platforms and international exhibitions can open new opportunities, but these initiatives must be accessible to individual artisans and small craft groups rather than benefiting only established commercial players. Measures to protect authenticity, prevent imitation and strengthen geographical indication recognition where applicable can also help preserve the identity and value of genuine Kashmiri products.

The government must listen to artisans from Shehr-e-Khaas and other traditional craft centres not merely as representatives of a fading occupation but as custodians of an economic and cultural asset. Their concerns should lead to a comprehensive assessment of earnings, market access, working conditions and the effectiveness of existing support mechanisms. Policies designed without adequate consultation with artisans are unlikely to address the realities they face.

At the same time, the private sector must recognise that the future of Kashmir's handicrafts depends on the sustainability of the artisan community. Commercial success cannot be separated from fair compensation for skilled labour. A thriving export market means little if the people responsible for producing its goods are gradually abandoning their craft. Kashmir's handicrafts have survived generations of social and economic change because knowledge has passed from one generation to the next. That chain is now under pressure. Once a specialised skill disappears from a family or community, reviving it can take decades, if it is possible at all. The Valley cannot afford to allow its artistic legacy to become a subject of nostalgia, displayed in museums and celebrated in tourism campaigns while its living practitioners struggle for survival. Preserving handicrafts requires more than praising their beauty; it requires protecting the dignity of the people who create them.

Kashmir's handicrafts will have a future only when artisans can earn a respectable living from their skills. The real test of the government's commitment to cultural preservation is not how often it celebrates these crafts, but whether the next generation sees enough promise in them to carry the tradition forward.

Tourism Beyond Destinations

Why India's Next Leap Must Be Built On Partnership



GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT

India has never suffered from a shortage of destinations. What it has occasionally lacked is the institutional imagination to make the world discover them, reach them, experience them and, most importantly, return to them.

Our civilisational inheritance is almost without parallel: ancient cities and living traditions, sacred landscapes and wildlife, architecture and crafts, cuisine and festivals, mountains and coastlines. Yet tourism is not created by heritage alone. A monument does not constitute a destination; a destination is an ecosystem. It is the road that leads to it, the story that precedes the journey, the hospitality that receives the traveller, the artisan who gives it authenticity, the technology that makes it discoverable, and the community whose participation determines whether tourism becomes an economic opportunity or merely an intrusion.

This is why the next chapter of Indian tourism must be written not in terms of destinations alone, but in terms of partnerships.

The old architecture of tourism was largely hierarchical. Governments built infrastructure, destinations were promoted, industry transported and accommodated visitors, and communities remained largely at the periphery. The new architecture must be horizontal. Government, industry, technology companies, creators, investors, States, local bodies and communities must become co-creators of the tourism experience.

The distinction is more than semantic. It represents a fundamental change in how we understand development.

Tourism today is no longer simply the movement of people from one place to another. It is the movement of ideas, stories, aspirations, capital and cultural influence. The traveller increasingly seeks not merely to see India but to encounter it—to taste its food, understand its traditions, enter its homes, meet its artisans and participate, however briefly, in its living culture.

That transformation presents India with an extraordinary opportunity. But opportunity without coordination rarely becomes outcome.

The State therefore has a vital, though changing, role. Its responsibility is not to do everything; it is to make more things possible. Public investment in roads, airports, railways, sanitation, digital infrastructure, heritage conservation and civic amenities provides the foundation upon which private enterprise can innovate and invest. Political will provides continuity and direction. Industry contributes capital, managerial expertise, technology and access to markets. Communities contribute



what no government or corporation can manufacture: authenticity.

The real challenge is to bring these capacities together. The Ministry of Tourism's expanding engagement with industry is an attempt in this direction. Eleven strategic MoUs have been entered into, including five exchanged on World Tourism Day 2026. Their importance lies not in the documents themselves but in the capabilities they seek to connect—technology, mobility, hospitality, content, digital outreach and local enterprise.

Consider the changing economics of destination discovery. A generation ago, a traveller might have encountered India through a travel guide or an advertisement. Today, a destination can enter the global imagination through a film, a streaming platform, a creator's narrative or an image encountered on a mobile phone.

The collaboration with Netflix demonstrates this new grammar of destination promotion, bringing India's culture, wildlife and mountain landscapes to international audiences. Flavours of India, showcased at ITB Berlin 2026, and promotional campaigns in London and New York illustrate how the geography of tourism is increasingly preceded by the geography of storytelling.

But storytelling must eventually lead to a reason to travel. This is where the next generation of partnerships becomes significant. Project Varanasi Priceless, developed with Mastercard, moves beyond advertising towards an experience that can actually be discovered and booked: the Ganga at sunrise, classical music, conversations around literature, Banarasi weaving communities and heritage stays. The significance of such an initiative is that Varanasi is presented not as a monument to be photographed but as a civilisation to be experienced. This distinction should inform our entire tourism strategy.

India must move from selling attractions to curating experiences. Air connectivity is an equally important part of this architecture. Partnerships with Alliance Air, Air India and IndiGo extend Incredible India into the passenger ecosystem itself, bringing destination promotion into flights, digital

platforms and international markets.

Technology adds another dimension: intelligence. The future tourism system must increasingly understand who is travelling, what travellers seek, where demand is emerging and how preferences are changing. The collaboration with Google India, including capacity-building and work towards understanding global travel demand and traveller behaviour, points towards a tourism policy that can become progressively more evidence-led.

Yet the most consequential transformation may occur far away from the traditional tourism centres.

If tourism is to become genuinely inclusive, the village must become as important to tourism policy as the metropolitan gateway. The homestay can become as important as the hotel. The artisan can become as important as the attraction. The local entrepreneur can become as important as the large operator.

Partnerships involving Airbnb, Soul of India and MakeMyTrip are attempting precisely this democratisation of opportunity—equipping homestay hosts with digital capabilities, giving lesser-known destinations greater visibility and connecting unexplored villages with creators and bookable accommodation. The underlying proposition is profound: when a destination enters the traveller's imagination, the economic opportunity it creates must enter the lives of the people who give that destination its identity.

This is the true test of tourism-led development. Visitor numbers alone cannot be the measure of success. We must ask a more searching question: Who benefits when a destination succeeds?

Does the artisan earn more? Does the young person find an opportunity locally? Does the woman entrepreneur gain a market? Does the community acquire an incentive to preserve its cultural and natural inheritance? Does the traveller leave with a deeper understanding rather than merely a photograph?

If the answer to these questions is affirmative, tourism becomes more than an industry. It becomes an instrument of cultural confidence and distributed economic development.

Capitalism And The Seventeen Threats To Life On Earth



BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

The report of the Lancet Commission on '21st Century Global Threats to Health' has identified seventeen threats to global

health: air pollution, antimicrobial resistance, childhood malnutrition, the collapse of development and health assistance and aid, conventional conflicts, high alcohol use, high blood pressure, income inequality, low educational attainment, the malicious use of AI, nuclear conflict, obesity, pandemics, poor mental health, smoking, and unhealthy aging.

These are threats to health and life on earth. The malicious use of AI and nuclear conflict carry the potential for catastrophic extinction of the idea of life and planet. Social, political and economic conditions produce and impose these threats on people. Their impacts will be uneven, and working and marginalised populations in underdeveloped and developing countries will pay the greater price.

The Lancet report projects that these seventeen threats will contribute to a total loss of at least one billion years of healthy life by the end of the century (2025-2100) if they are not averted through changes in policy direction and positive policy interventions. These threats are not independent from each other but interconnected issues that define planetary crisis of our times.

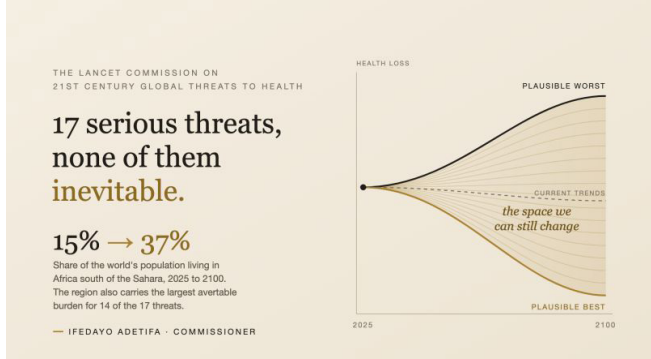
What are the sources or origins of these seventeen threats? Capitalism as an economic, political, social and cultural system produces conditions in which corporations overexploit nature, destroy the environment, and impose climate change and crisis on poor people in terms of

lives and livelihoods. Extractive and other large-scale industries cause water, air and land pollution, which causes respiratory diseases and kills more than 8 million people annually worldwide.

Climate-driven wildfire smoke claimed over 154,000 lives globally, according to Health Policy Watch. The WHO report predicts that extreme heatwaves could cause 250,000 deaths annually between 2030 and 2050. The environmental crisis is further aggravated by the use of pesticides and various fertilisers in agriculture, which pollutes land, air, water and food. Profit-driven agriculture under the capitalist system uses 70% of all antimicrobials in livestock, aquaculture and farming. Antimicrobials are not used to treat illness but are added to animal feed for rapid growth, and they are transmitted to humans through the contaminated food chain, creating conditions for antimicrobial resistance.

This is further aggravated by the privatisation of health, where sickness is a business for profit. Medical practitioners are paid by the pharmaceutical industry to overprescribe antibiotics and made it accessible for public without prescription which accelerates antimicrobial resistance and creates an unprecedented health crisis. A Lancet and WHO study reveals that antimicrobial resistance directly causes 1.14 million deaths and is associated with 4.71 million deaths globally each year. The environmental crisis breeds various pandemics that cause millions of deaths. COVID-19 has caused approximately 7.12 million deaths worldwide.

According to the WHO, tobacco smoking caused roughly 100 million deaths in the 20th century, and if the current trends persists, smoking can cause up to 1 billion deaths in the 21st century. Governments continue to promote it in different ways by following the rent-seeking culture of capitalism. Historically, tobacco industries played a central role in converting a need-based



society into a desire-based society in the 20th century, in line with the requirements of capitalism. Tobacco companies continue to make super-profits at the cost of human lives. Similarly, capitalist rent-seeking policies frame, promote and implement alcohol policies through governments, causing 2.6 million deaths worldwide each year.

Wars and conflicts are not natural; they are promoted by imperialist forces to sustain capitalist exploitation and domesticate people and control their resources. Data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (2026), Brown University study, and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) reveal the cost of wars in terms of deaths and destruction. In the 20th century (1900-1999), more than 231 million people lost their lives in wars and conflicts; similarly, in the 21st century, more than 9 million have died due to wars and conflicts so far.

All these deaths were avoidable, but they were imposed on people by imperialist wars, geopolitical hegemony, and resource conflicts waged to uphold capitalism as the dominant system. All other available and viable alternatives are either destroyed or suppressed by wars, crises and conflicts created by capitalist and imperialist forces.

The culture of atomisation, alienation, individualisation, commodification and mass consumerism produced by capitalist culture creates conditions for poor

mental health and unhealthy aging. The WHO study reveals that roughly 8 million deaths by suicide per year globally are due to mental health issues, and 1 billion people live with different forms and level of mental health conditions across the world. Stressful living conditions, sleep deprivation, restless life style, loneliness, poor diet, smoking and substance use cause unhealthy aging.

These conditions are created by the capitalist system, in which insecurity, competition, crisis and conflict have destroyed the collective foundations of life and happiness. It is calculated that 69% of global deaths are due to unhealthy aging. It is estimated by the WHO that obesity causes 3.7 million deaths worldwide and that more than 1.9 billion adults suffer from obesity. It is predicted that over half of the global adult population could be obese by 2050 if the current trend persists.

Obesity, on the one hand, and child malnutrition, on the other, are contradictory challenges produced by a single source called capitalism, which produces conditions of economic crisis, exploitation and income inequality that breed hunger, homelessness, illness and child malnutrition. The WHO argues that 45% of all deaths in children under 5 years of age globally are linked to malnutrition, causing an estimated 2.2 million to 2.4 million child deaths annually worldwide.

The collapse of welfare states in

pursuit of economic austerity and the destruction of 'Development Assistance for Health' by global institutions and various governments accelerate the global health crisis. It is projected that the reduction or complete abandonment of development assistance could cause between 9.4 million and 22.6 million excess deaths across 93 low- and middle-income countries by 2030. It could cause 2.5 million deaths among children under the age of five. These deaths are completely avoidable.

The weaponisation of AI and the threat of the use of nuclear weapons by imperialist forces in recent wars pose the greatest danger to human life and the planet. All these deaths and destitution are completely avoidable. The world produces enough food, homes, employment and wealth, but it is controlled by a very few individuals and families in a world economy dominated by capitalist and imperialist forces. In pursuit of profit, capitalism is not only mortgaging our future but landed working masses in the gas chambers and gallows of death and destitution. Capitalism means accumulation of profit at the cost of people, lives, livelihoods and nature.

Therefore, the struggle for life and sustainability based on an egalitarian political, economic, cultural and social order shaped by distributive justice can ensure security, peace, prosperity and happiness in the world. There is no alternative but to defeat capitalism in order to establish an alternative and organic system called socialism, where the collective foundation of life can be re-established to end death and destitution in the contemporary world.

Bhabani Shankar Nayak works as Professor of Business Management, Guildhall School of Business and Law, London Metropolitan University, UK. He can be mailed at bhabani79@gmail.com

■ Silent Pages

Journalism And The Decline Of Deep Reading

“For When Newspapers Fall Silent, The Greater Loss Would Be A Society That Gradually Forgets How To Listen, Question, And Understand.”



DR. RIZWAN RUMI

There was a time when the arrival of the morning newspaper was an essential part of everyday life. For many households, the day began with a cup of tea, the rustle of printed pages, and a careful reading of the events shaping the world. Newspapers were not merely a source of information; they were a window into society, a companion in solitude, and an important instrument of public awareness. From political developments and economic decisions to local concerns, sports, literature, and editorials, the newspaper offered readers an opportunity to understand the world beyond their immediate surroundings.

Today, however, this familiar ritual is gradually losing its place in many households. The printed newspaper, once an indispensable part of the morning, increasingly competes with smartphones, social media platforms, digital news applications, and instant notifications. Information is now available at our fingertips, delivered within seconds and consumed in brief moments between other activities. This transformation has made news more accessible than ever, but it also raises an important question: as our

The decline of newspaper reading should not be viewed merely as a change in technology or personal preference. It reflects a broader transformation in the way people acquire knowledge, engage with public affairs, and understand the society in which they live.

access to information expands, are we losing the habit of reading?

The decline of newspaper reading should not be viewed merely as a change in technology or personal preference. It reflects a broader transformation in the way people acquire knowledge, engage with public affairs, and understand the society in which they live.

From the Printed Page to the Smartphone

The digital revolution has fundamentally changed the media landscape. A reader no longer needs to wait for the morning edition to learn about a major development. News travels through websites, mobile applications, social media feeds, and messaging platforms almost instantaneously. For younger generations, checking a phone has become a natural part of daily life, while purchasing or subscribing to a printed newspaper may seem unnecessary.

There are genuine advantages to this transformation. Digital platforms provide speed, convenience, multimedia content, and access to a wide range of national and international sources. They have also created opportunities for independent journalists and smaller publications to reach audiences that were once difficult to access.

Yet the convenience of digital information has introduced its own challenges. News is often encountered through short headlines, brief summaries, notifications, and isolated social media posts. Readers may become familiar with fragments of numerous stories without taking the time to



PHOTO CREDIT: ANAS RIYAZ

understand their background, implications, or wider context.

The problem, therefore, is not that people have moved from paper to screens. It is whether the movement towards digital consumption is accompanied by a corresponding commitment to thoughtful and sustained reading.

The Difference Between Scrolling and Reading

Reading a newspaper requires a certain degree of patience. A reader moves from one report to another, considers competing viewpoints, examines editorial arguments, and gradually develops an understanding of public issues. A well-produced newspaper brings together different dimensions of society, allowing readers to connect events that might otherwise appear unrelated.

Social media, by contrast, often encourages rapid movement from one item to another. A headline captures attention, a notification interrupts concentration, and another piece of content immediately replaces the previous one. Although this format can be useful for discovering information, it does not always encourage the sustained attention necessary for deeper understanding.



PHOTO CREDIT: ANAS RIYAZ

“The decline of newspaper reading should not be viewed merely as a change in technology or personal preference. It reflects a broader transformation in the way people acquire knowledge, engage with public affairs, and understand the society in which they live.”

This distinction deserves attention, particularly in an age when the quantity of available information is frequently mistaken for the quality of knowledge acquired.

A person may read dozens of headlines in a day and still struggle to explain the background of a major political decision, the causes of an economic crisis, or the consequences of a public policy. The challenge is not simply to know that something has happened, but to understand why it happened and what it means.

Newspaper reading, when approached critically, can help develop this habit of looking beyond the immediate event. It encourages readers to compare information, consider evidence, and engage with arguments rather than merely react to them.

Of course, printed newspapers are not automatically accurate, impartial, or comprehensive. They, too, require critical scrutiny. The real distinction

is not between paper and technology, but between passive consumption and informed engagement.

Concern for Education and Young Readers

The changing culture of reading has particular implications for education. Students today have access to an extraordinary volume of educational resources, online lectures, digital libraries, and current affairs content. These resources can enrich learning when used effectively. However, easy access to information does not necessarily translate into strong reading habits or independent thinking.

Regular engagement with substantial written material can help learners develop vocabulary, improve comprehension, strengthen writing skills, and become familiar with different styles of argument. Editorials and analytical articles, in particular, expose students to the language of public debate and encourage them to consider issues from multiple perspectives.

Newspapers can also provide a valuable connection between classroom learning and the world outside it. Subjects such as history, geography, economics, environmental studies, and political science become more meaningful when students

are especially important because they often cover municipal issues, public services, rural concerns, educational institutions, and community developments that receive limited attention in larger national media outlets.

In Jammu and Kashmir, newspapers have historically played an important role in documenting regional developments, providing space for local voices, and bringing public concerns into wider discussion. Their contribution extends beyond the reporting of major events to the everyday issues affecting ordinary people.

When readers disengage from serious journalism, the consequences may extend beyond the newspaper industry. Public debate risks becoming increasingly dependent on fragmented information, emotionally charged content, and unverified claims circulating through digital networks.

“This distinction deserves attention, particularly in an age when the quantity of available information is frequently mistaken for the quality of knowledge acquired.”

A healthy democracy requires citizens who can examine policies, question public authorities, evaluate competing arguments, and make informed judgments. No single medium can guarantee these qualities, but responsible journalism and an engaged readership remain important foundations of an informed society.

This is why the future of newspapers should concern not only publishers and journalists but also educators,

“The decline of newspaper reading should not be viewed merely as a change in technology or personal preference. It reflects a broader transformation in the way people acquire knowledge, engage with public affairs, and understand the society in which they live.”

policymakers, and citizens.

The Challenge Facing Print Journalism

It would be unfair to attribute the changing reading culture entirely to readers. Newspapers themselves face considerable challenges. Rising production and distribution costs, competition for advertising revenue, changing consumer preferences, and the expansion of digital platforms have placed pressure on traditional print

business models.

At the same time, younger audiences often expect news to be immediate, accessible, visually engaging, and available across multiple platforms. Newspapers that fail to respond to these expectations risk becoming disconnected from the needs of emerging generations.

The answer, however, is not to abandon the values that make journalism meaningful. Newspapers must adapt while preserving accuracy, editorial independence, depth, and public responsibility.

A stronger digital presence, accessible subscriptions, high-quality explanatory journalism, engaging local reporting, and responsible use of multimedia can help publications remain relevant. Print editions can continue to offer carefully curated coverage and thoughtful analysis, while their digital counterparts provide timely updates and interactive content.

Equally important is the need to rebuild trust. Readers are more likely to remain engaged when they find journalism that is credible, transparent, fair, and attentive to the concerns of ordinary people. The future may not belong exclusively to printed newspapers or digital platforms. It may instead belong to publications that successfully combine the accessibility of technology with the depth and credibility of good journalism.

Rebuilding Culture of Reading

Reviving newspaper reading does not require society to turn away from technological progress. It requires a more balanced relationship with information.

Families can encourage children to read age-appropriate news reports and discuss significant events together. Schools can introduce regular current-affairs discussions and newspaper-based activities. Colleges and universities can promote editorial reading, critical analysis, and informed debate. Public libraries can provide access to print and digital publications, ensuring that reading remains accessible to people from different economic backgrounds.

Readers, too, can make small but meaningful changes. Setting aside fifteen or twenty minutes each day for a substantial news report, an editorial, or a well-researched feature can be more valuable than endlessly scrolling through headlines without reflection. Choosing credible sources, checking claims before sharing them, and reading beyond sensational titles can help cultivate a more responsible information culture. These practices should apply equally to print and digital media. The goal is not to restore an idealised past, but to preserve the enduring value of reading in a changing world.

When Pages Turn, Knowledge Must Continue

The decline of newspaper reading, wherever it is occurring, should prompt reflection rather than panic. Every generation adopts new ways of communicating, and the printed newspaper may no longer occupy the central place it once held in daily life. That change, by itself, does not signal the end of reading or the disappearance of informed citizenship. What matters is whether society continues to value depth over superficiality, evidence over rumour, and understanding over the endless accumulation of information.

“The objective should not be to compel every young person to read a printed newspaper. Rather, it should be to ensure that the next generation does not lose the ability to read carefully, question intelligently, and form independent opinions.”

A printed newspaper can be replaced by a digital edition, but the intellectual habits associated with thoughtful reading must not be allowed to disappear. Technology can deliver information to our doorsteps and into our hands, yet the responsibility to examine, understand, and evaluate that information remains ours.

Perhaps the real concern is not that fewer people may be turning the pages of a newspaper. It is that, amid the constant noise of the digital world, we may be finding less time to pause, reflect, and think.

Newspapers may change their form, their reach, and even their place in our homes. But the need for informed citizens, responsible journalism, and a sustained culture of reading will remain. For when newspapers fall silent, the greater loss would be a society that gradually forgets how to listen, question, and understand.

Author is a researcher, author, and educator. He can be mailed at rizwan-roomi2012@gmail.com

4 Terrorists Killed

detected two rusted landmines near the border fence in Basoni area of Mendhar sector.

The landmines were spotted during track construction at 8.25 am and 12.10 pm, officials said, adding that both explosive devices were later destroyed by Army experts in a controlled explosion.

The forward areas along the LoC are dotted with landmines as part of an anti-infiltration system. However, heavy rainfall can sometimes wash away the mines, causing them to surface in areas where they may pose a potential risk.—(KNO inputs)

'Op Sindoor'

requirements. FCI warehouses, he said, could similarly support the Army's supply chain when required.

The MoU will remain valid for five years and may be extended by mutual consent. Coordination will take place at formation level between the Army's Supply and Transport elements and FCI's regional and divisional offices, with the arrangements incorporated into operational logistics plans.

The rice will be milled to prescribed defence specifications and supplied through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) during the 2026-27 financial year after quality-control checks. It will be supplied in 10-kg and 30-kg bags to ease handling and transportation, particularly at forward posts.

Singh said the government is focusing on self-reliance and modernisation across defence requirements, including weapons, technology, clothing, equipment and training. He also stressed the need to ensure quality supplies and timely delivery to troops deployed in forward areas.

"When the soldiers stand guard at the borders, they must have the confidence that the entire country stands with them," he said—(KNO)

Mamta Yadav

platforms and modern communication tools to strengthen the Department's outreach and enhance public engagement.

Joint Director Information (Headquarters), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Deputy Director Information (PR&AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; besides other senior officers and officials of DIPR, were present on the occasion.

Later, the Director also inspected various sections of the department and took detailed assessment of their functioning.

Abdullah Family

process was being challenged after opposition parties had participated in elections under the same system.

Referring to earlier remarks by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Sharma said the National Conference leader had previously praised the conduct of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and reported no widespread booth-level irregularities.

He said opposition leaders should clarify their current objections and position on the electoral process.

Sharma said political parties had every right to protest but should do so without disrupting public life.

He criticised road blockades and other forms of disruption, saying people needed access to schools, hospitals, workplaces and businesses.

"People have to go to school, hospitals and work. Roads cannot be blocked in a way that disrupts normal life," he said.

He suggested demonstrations be held at designated venues such as Jantar Mantar, Ramlila Maidan or stadiums instead of public roads.

Sharma said protests should not obstruct patients, students or businesses, and urged police to ensure law and order is maintained.

Responding to National Conference president Farooq Abdullah's remarks that Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would never be enforced in Kashmir, Sharma said it would be implemented across the country, including Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

NIA Attaches

further found that the accused had knowingly provided his residential premises as a safe haven for the terrorists and allowed the property to be used to facilitate their activities,

it said.

The probe is continuing to identify and expose the complete terror-support network, including other OGWs, facilitators and persons linked to the Pakistan-based handlers, the NIA added.

DGP Calls For

flagged off a contingent of 15 bikers, including 10 from J&K Police and five from Ladakh Police, from J&K Police Public School, Bemina, for Ekta Nagar in Gujarat. The team will participate in the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Parade on October 31.

Ahead of the flag-off, an awareness programme on the theme "Fight Against Drugs" was organised at the school, drawing enthusiastic participation from students.

The DGP also lauded the participation of J&K Police in the national motorcycle rally, which will feature 45 contingents from states, Union Territories and Central Armed Police Forces across the country.

He expressed satisfaction over ongoing efforts to realise the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for a drug-free society.

Several senior police officers, including Special DGP (Coordination) S.J.M. Gillani, Additional DGP (Armed) Nitish Kumar and IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar, were present on the occasion—(KNO)

Ladakh Records

called for promoting festivals and events to extend tourism beyond the traditional peak summer season.

"Our aim is to encourage travel during shoulder and off-season periods, diversifying the tourism economy and creating more sustained livelihood opportunities for local residents. The Administration's focus is not limited to increasing visitor numbers, but also on ensuring that tourism growth translates into tangible benefits for local communities," he said.

The growth in tourist footfall has been supported by the Administration's efforts to expand Ladakh's tourism calendar through festivals, sporting events, and cultural programmes. Events such as the Ladakh Festival, Ladakh Marathon, Ladakh Bike Week, and Ladakh Zaskar Festival have added to the region's appeal, attracting visitors interested in its distinctive culture, traditions, landscapes, and adventure tourism experiences—(KNO)

'Rain, Gusty Winds

general public to plan their journeys accordingly and follow traffic advisories.

According to the weather data released by the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 23.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 9.7 degrees Celsius on Monday. Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 17.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 6 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 13.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 4.5 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 23.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.1 degrees Celsius, while Katra recorded 21 degrees Celsius and 15.6 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The department advised people, particularly those travelling through higher reaches and mountain passes, to remain alert during the forecast period—(KNO)

J&K Set To

affecting Jammu and Kashmir, making sustainable development essential for its long-term survival.

"We do not take care of our mountains, our environment as much as we should. We cannot stop global warming on our own, nor can we reverse it. The whole world will have to come together to address this challenge. But we can certainly take better care of our own environment," he said.

Referring to changing weather patterns, the Chief Minister observed that snowfall had become increasingly erratic, with reduced snowfall and delayed winter precipitation contributing to water shortages during the spring months. He said prolonged dry spells were often followed by intense rainfall, cloudbursts and flooding, creating fresh challenges for communities and infrastructure.

Describing these developments as the new reality, Omar Abdullah said

the challenge was to determine how Jammu and Kashmir could continue to develop while adapting to growing environmental risks.

"We have to ask ourselves: how do we sustain our livelihoods and how do we develop? Development is essential, but it must be sustainable," he said.

The Chief Minister cautioned against viewing tourism as the sole cause of environmental degradation, while acknowledging the pressure that growing tourist numbers placed on popular destinations. He stressed that environmental responsibility had to be shared by the government, residents, businesses and visitors alike.

"Tourism does put pressure on our environment, but to assume that the situation is bad only because of tourism or tourists would also be wrong. We will have to take some responsibility," he said, urging people to avoid littering, reduce the use of single-use plastic and conserve water and energy.

He called for a change in everyday practices, observing that people often discarded plastic wrappers and bottles in public places while expecting the government to clean up after them. While acknowledging the government's primary responsibility for environmental management, he underlined that individual actions were equally important in protecting the natural surroundings.

On tourism development, the Chief Minister said the answer was not to abruptly restrict visitors to established destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg, where livelihoods depended substantially on tourism. Instead, he advocated developing new destinations through a planned and sustainable approach, with adequate arrangements for sewage treatment, wastewater management and solid waste disposal in place from the outset.

"Some of our destinations do not have enough carrying capacity. We have to widen tourism, not to stop people from going to Gulmarg, Pahalgam or Sonamarg, but to develop new and sustainable destinations where the systems for waste disposal and sewage disposal are already ready," he said.

Highlighting the need for environmentally sound infrastructure, Omar Abdullah said unscientific hill cutting during road construction had contributed to landslides and repeated damage to roads, particularly in far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said road construction agencies often resorted to indiscriminate cutting of mountain slopes without adequate consideration for slope stabilisation and appropriate cutting angles. While such practices might reduce initial construction costs, the resulting damage during rainfall frequently necessitated reconstruction, diverting resources that could otherwise be used to build new roads.

The Chief Minister said he had asked the Forest and Environment Department and the Public Works Department to work together to ensure that development projects incorporated sustainable engineering practices and reduced the risk of landslides.

"When you cut a mountain, cut it in a way in which the possibility of landslides may not be eradicated, but at least be reduced," he said, emphasising that long-term sustainability must take precedence over short-term savings.

On urban development and housing, the Chief Minister called for greater emphasis on energy-efficient and earthquake-resilient buildings, along with more efficient land use. With land becoming increasingly scarce in the Valley, he said, planners needed to explore vertical development wherever appropriate rather than continued horizontal expansion, while ensuring compliance with seismic safety requirements.

Recalling the devastation caused by past natural disasters, including the 2014 floods and the earthquake that affected the region in 2005, he stressed the need to incorporate disaster resilience into future construction and examine cost-effective ways to retrofit existing buildings.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the visible retreat of glaciers in the region, recalling how the glacier near Sonamarg once extended close to the meadows. Today, he said, younger generations have to trek considerably farther to reach the receded glacier.

He said the changes underscored the responsibility of the present generation to protect the region's natural heritage and preserve it for those who would inherit it.

"That is what we owe the future generations. Protect what we have,

retrieve what we can, and ensure that we do not do any further damage, while also ensuring that livelihoods are protected," he said.

Underlining the importance of agriculture and horticulture to Jammu and Kashmir's economy, Omar Abdullah said the region's economic foundations were often misunderstood by those who viewed tourism as its principal source of income. Agriculture and horticulture, he pointed out, contributed substantially more to the economy than tourism.

He said protecting the environment and promoting sustainable mountain development were therefore not merely conservation objectives but fundamental to the region's economic security, livelihoods and long-term prosperity.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that the three-day summit would move beyond academic discussions and produce concrete recommendations that could be translated into effective policies and practical action.

He said Jammu and Kashmir aspired to become the first Himalayan territory to have its own mountain policy and that his government was keen to take the initiative forward. However, he stressed that the policy must emerge from wider consultation and reflect the realities of the region rather than being based on idealistic assumptions.

"Those recommendations need to be grounded in reality. We need to balance the need for sustainability with the need for existence and livelihoods," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to delegates and participants who had travelled from different parts of the country to attend the summit and said he would look forward to its recommendations.

"I cannot emphasise this point strongly enough. Sustainable development through actionable inputs and practical steps is what I hope this summit will deliver," he said, wishing the participants success in their deliberations.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also released several publications brought out for the summit.

Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmed Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department Mandeep Kaur, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir Prof Nazir Ahmed Ganai, President, Integrated Mountain Initiative, STS Lepcha, former president IMI PD Rai, Councillor, Integrated Mountain Initiative, Rajan Kotru, delegates from 11 mountain states, representatives of NGOs, faculty members, scholars, students and other concerned persons were present.

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SWD Srinagar organises Training Programme on POSH Act 2013

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organised a comprehensive training programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) and the SHe-Box portal for members of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) from various district offices Srinagar.

The programme was held at the Banquet Hall, M.A. Road, Srinagar, with the objective of strengthening institutional mechanisms for the prevention and redressal of sexual harassment at the workplace and promoting a safe, secure and dignified working environment for women employees.

Resource persons from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, participated in the programme and delivered infor-



mative sessions on the legal provisions of the POSH Act, 2013, the responsibilities of Internal Complaints Committees and the procedures to be followed while dealing with complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace.

During the training, participants were sensitised about the importance of ensuring a workplace free from sexual harassment, discrimination and intimidation. The resource persons elaborated on the key provisions of the POSH Act, including the prevention of sexual harassment, the constitution and functioning of Internal Complaints Committees, the process of receiving and

examining complaints, and the need to ensure fairness, confidentiality and impartiality throughout the inquiry process.

Special emphasis was laid on the roles and responsibilities of ICC members in handling complaints with sensitivity, maintaining confidentiality, adhering to prescribed procedures and ensuring that complaints are addressed in a timely and legally appropriate manner.

The participants were also encouraged to discharge their responsibilities with professionalism, integrity and a strong commitment to safeguarding the dignity and rights of women employees.

The session also focused on the SHe-Box portal, an online platform designed to facilitate the reporting and monitoring of workplace sexual harassment complaints. The participants were familiarised with the purpose and significance of the portal and its role in strengthening transparency, accessibility and accountability in the complaint redressal mechanism. The importance of proper handling of complaints received through the portal and coordination with the concerned authorities was also highlighted.

The programme concluded with an emphasis on the need for effective implementation of the POSH Act, 2013, proper utilisation of the SHe-Box portal and the active functioning of Internal Complaints Committees across district offices to ensure a safe and dignified working environment for all women employees.

IICT Unveils ‘DesignNweave’ to Empower Artisans

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening digital design capabilities in the handicraft and handloom sector, the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, under the aegis of the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, has developed an indigenous design software named “DesignNweave.”

The software has been developed after more than four years of dedicated research and development by IICT, in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), Srinagar.

While elaborating on the details of the initiative, the Director, IICT, stated that DesignNweave has been designed to be compatible with a wide range of software and hardware platforms and incorporates additional tools, commands and options

aimed at enhancing the efficiency and productivity of designers and users. He further stated that the software has been specifically developed to facilitate the creation, development and refinement of designs for carpets, Kani shawls and other handicraft and handloom products of Jammu & Kashmir.

Importantly, the software also generates computerized design scripts (Talim), an indigenous system of Kashmir, for the execution of designs by the concerned artisans and weavers.

The initiative marks an important step towards promoting the adoption of modern digital design technologies while simultaneously supporting the preservation, development and commercial advancement of the rich traditional handicraft and handloom heritage of Jammu & Kashmir.

In view of the demand from stakeholders, and with the approval of the Competent Authority of IICT, Srinagar, the Institute has fixed

the cost of a Single-User Licensed Copy of “DesignNweave” at ₹20,000. The pricing has been kept affordable with the objective of making the indigenous design software accessible to artisans, manufacturers, designers, stakeholders and Government organisations.

The Director, IICT, Srinagar, urged concerned stakeholders to avail the Single-User Licensed Copy of DesignNweave from the

Institute at the nominal approved cost and utilise the software for improving design development, productivity and overall efficiency.

The initiative is expected to provide stakeholders with a modern, indigenous and sector-specific digital design solution while contributing to the continued growth and competitiveness of Jammu & Kashmir’s traditional handicraft and handloom sector.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that I, Mushtaq Ahmad Kathjoo, S/o Late Mohammad Ismail Kathjoo, R/o Naidyar, Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir, intend to transfer the electricity connection vide consumer ID No: 0204020008332 presently registered in the name of my deceased father, Late Mohammad Ismail Kathjoo, in my own name. Any person having any objection to the proposed transfer may submit the same to the concerned authorities or contact me within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Mushtaq Ahmad Kathjoo
S/o Late Mohammad Ismail Kathjoo
R/o: Naidyar, Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir.
Contact No: 9541711312

AHD Flags off Farmers’ Delegation for Inter-State Training at LUVAS Hisar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Animal Husbandry Department (AHD), Kashmir Monday flagged off a delegation of progressive farmers for a specialized five-day Inter-State Exposure and Capacity Building Training Programme at Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS), Hisar, Haryana. The initiative has been organized under the Agriculture Extension – Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme.

The flag-off ceremony was conducted by Deputy Director Central, Dr. Reyaz Nazir, in the presence of



senior officers and officials of the department from the Directorate Premises at Gaw Kadal, Srinagar.

The training program aims to acquaint local farmers and livestock rearers with advanced scientific management practices, modern breeding techniques, innovative disease management protocols, and high-yielding dairy and livestock production technologies.

During their five-day exposure training, the delegation will participate in interactive technical sessions, practical field demonstrations, and institutional visits to state-of-the-art livestock research and production facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Director Central highlighted that exposure and training programs under the ATMA scheme play a vital role in broad-

ening the horizons of local farmers by exposing them to progressive farming models practiced in other states. He emphasized that such capacity-building initiatives are designed to encourage the adoption of scientific livestock management at the grassroots level, ultimately leading to enhanced productivity, better income generation, and rural self-sustainability across Kashmir.

The participating farmers expressed deep gratitude to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir for providing them with this platform to learn and adopt modern scientific practices to strengthen their livestock enterprises.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE MANAGER BROILER PRODUCTION

HARIPARBATH-SRINAGAR

Ref No. **NOTICE INVITING DASTI QUOTATIONS** Dated 12/10/2026

Sealed quotations (strictly by hand / Dasti) are hereby invited from reputed, registered feed manufacturers, millers, and authorized suppliers for the supply of Layer Breeder Feed conforming strictly to IS 1374:2007 (BIS Specifications for Poultry Feeds).

1. SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT

S.No.	Item Description	Layer Breeder Feed Standard/Specification	Quantity	Delivery Terms
1	Layer Breeder Feed	Conforming to IS 1374:2007	125 Quintals	F.O.R. Manager Broiler Production Hariparabath.

2. Key Submission Details

Mode of Submission:	Strictly By Hand (Dasti) in a sealed envelope superscribed: “Quotation for Supply of 125 Quintals Layer Breeder Feed (IS 1374:2007)”
Last Date & Time:	By or before 19 October 2026 up to 04:30 PM
Receiving Office:	Manager Broiler Production Hariparabath-Srinagar
Contact for Inquiry:	9858895422/9419107895

3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Quality Compliance: The feed supplied must strictly conform to the physical, chemical, and nutritional standards stipulated under IS 1374:2007. It must be wholesome, fresh, and completely free from mold, adulteration, rancidity, musty odor, and insect infestation.

- Sampling & Testing:** Random composite samples will be drawn from the delivered lot for proximate laboratory testing. Any supply failing to meet prescribed BIS standards will be rejected summarily at the supplier's risk, cost, and responsibility.
- Packaging:** Must be delivered in sound, clean, moisture-proof HDPE/polypropylene bags (standard 50 kg packing), properly machine-stitched and labeled with net weight, batch number, and manufacturing date
- Rates:** Rates must be quoted per quintal on an F.O.R. Destination basis (inclusive of loading, transit insurance, unloading, and freight to MBP Hariparabath). Applicable GST must be clearly indicated.
- Mandatory Enclosures:** (Quotations must be accompanied by valid GST registration certificate, PAN card copy, and Feed Manufacturing License/ Authorized Dealership Certificate.
- Right of Acceptance:** The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning any reason thereof.

-Sd-

Manager

Broiler Production Hariparabath

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE MANAGER BROILER PRODUCTION

HARIPARBATH-SRINAGAR

ANNEXURE – A: FINANCIAL BID PROFORMA

(To be submitted on the official letterhead of the bidder)

S.No.	Particulars of Feed	Quantity	Basic Rate per Quintal (Rs.)	GST %	Net F.O.R. Rate per Quintal (Rs.)
1	Layer Breeder Feed (as per IS 1374:2007)	125 Qtls			

I/We hereby declare and confirm that the feed supplied shall strictly meet all standard nutritional requirements and safety limits prescribed under IS 1374:2007.

DIPK-6650-26
DT: 12/10/2026

Signature and Stamp of Bidder:
Name of Agency/ Firm:
Contact:

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JS (PHE) RURAL

WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, GANDERBAL/SGR.

H.Q: CHEKI-DUDERHAMA GANDERBAL.

e – mail: phe-rwsgbl@jk.gov.in Phone: 0194 – 2416292

NOTICE INVITING e – TENDERS:

GIST of S/T e – NIT No: - 20 / JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Civil of 2026-27

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir U.T, Short Term e – tenders are invited (in TWO - Cover System) on “Percentage basis” for Registered / Approved / Valid Civil Contractors/Agencies for the following work(s):

Table (I) Detailed Scope of work(s)

S. No	Name of work (s)	Estt./ Advt. Cost of work (s) (₹ In Lacs)	Cost of tender doc. (In ₹)	Amount of earnest money/ EMD (@ 3%) (In ₹)	Time for completion	Class of contractor	Major Head of account	Tender Call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Improvement and extension of water supply distribution system at various spots at Tailbal Hazratbal	22.75	1000.00	68300.00	90 Days	BEE & CEE	District Capex	1 st

Note: The work includes providing / procurement of pipe material:

Position of Funds: - Demanded

Position of AA: - Accorded

Position of Technical Sanction (s):- Under Process

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>

From 12.10.2026 (02:00 PM) UPTO 23.10.2026 (03:00 P.M.)

i) GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktenders.gov.in

As per schedule of dates given below

TABLE (II)

01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	12.10.2026
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	12.10.2026 from 02.00 PM 23.10.2026 upto 03:00 PM
03	Bid Submission Start Date	12.10.2026 from 02.00 PM
04	Bid submission End Date	23.10.2026 upto 03.00 pm
05	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	24.10.2026 at 11:30 AM

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and Document fee in shape of TR/e-challan/e-transfer (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the e-NIT) & cost of Tender Document under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JS- PHE RWS Division Ganderbal /Sgr (H.Q. Chek Duderhama Ganderbal) (as specified in the table (I) (above) & all other requisite documents mentioned in the Uploaded SBD of the work(s). Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) RWS Division Ganderbal /Sgr (Hq. Chek Duderhama Ganderbal) on 24.10.2026 at 11:30 AM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue:

No: - JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs. /5368 - 92

Dated: - 10.10.2026

DIPK-6627-26

DT: 12/10/2026

Sd/-
(Er. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat)
Executive Engineer JS-PHE
RWSD Ganderbal/Sgr

J&K bowled out for 120, MP take 135-run lead on Day 2

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Defending champions Jammu and Kashmir suffered a batting collapse to be bowled out for 120 in their first innings before Madhya Pradesh reached 59 for four in their second essay to take a 135-run overall lead on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match here Monday.

J&K, who had dismissed Madhya Pradesh for 196 on the opening day, could not capitalise on their impressive bowling effort as their innings folded in 46.3 overs. Wicketkeeper-batter Kanhaiya Wadhawan remained unbeaten on 35 off 63 balls, hitting three fours and a six, while opener Qamran Iqbal made 31 off 64 deliveries.

Shubham Pundir contributed 20 and Abdul Samad scored 17, but the defending champions lost wickets at regular intervals.

They slipped to seven for two before Qamran and Pundir added 34 runs for the third wicket.

Their dismissals at team scores of 41 and 62 respectively triggered another slide, with J&K losing their last four wickets for 32 runs.

For Madhya Pradesh,



pacers Avesh Khan and Aryan Pandey claimed three wickets apiece, while Akshay Sharma took two for 18 runs in 10 overs.

Ravi Kiran picked up one wicket.

Madhya Pradesh then lost Harsh Gawli (11), Himanshu Mantri (0), Yash Dubey (22) and Chanchal Rathore (8) in their second innings.

Auqib Nabi and Sunil Kumar took two wickets each to keep J&K in the contest. At stumps, MP captain Shubham Sharma was unbeaten on 15, while Aryan Pandey was yet to open his account.

Earlier, Rohit Sharma had starred with the ball

on the opening day, taking five wickets for 36 runs in 21.2 overs as Madhya Pradesh were dismissed for 196. Sunil Kumar claimed four wickets for 69 runs.

Baroda in command against Goa

Baroda declared their first innings at 472 for eight before Goa ended the second day at five for one, trailing by 467 runs in Panaji.

Goa lost Suyash Prabhudessai for a duck off the first ball of their innings, with Mahesh Pithiya providing the breakthrough. Shivendra Bhujbal was unbeaten on five and Darshan Misal was on nought at stumps.

The substantial first-innings total put Baroda in a strong position, leaving Goa with a considerable deficit to overcome. The hosts will need a significant batting effort on the third day to prevent Baroda from tightening their grip on the contest.

Vidarbha build lead over Puducherry

Vidarbha posted 428 in their first innings and reduced Puducherry to 107 for one at stumps on the second day in Nagpur.

Puducherry were still 321 runs behind, but their batting showed signs of resistance after an early setback.

Ritesh Gudge was batting on 59 off 122 balls,

having struck 10 fours, while Nikhil Gangta had made 32 not out from 105 deliveries.

The pair had put together an unbroken 93-run stand for the second wicket, helping Puducherry recover after Neyan Shyam Kanganyan fell to Harsh Dubey for 10.

Puducherry's remaining batters will look to build on the partnership and narrow the deficit when play resumes.

Uttar Pradesh pile up 540 against Bihar

Uttar Pradesh made 540 in their first innings before Bihar reached 44 for two at stumps on the second day of their Group A match at Rajgir.

Bihar trailed by 496 runs, leaving them with a substantial task to avoid conceding a sizeable first-innings advantage.

Piyush Singh was unbeaten on 16, while Amod Yadav was yet to open his account when play ended for the day. Bihar lost Ayush Loharuka for a duck.

Karan Sharma had taken two wickets for Uttar Pradesh, who will look to exploit their commanding position, as Bihar attempt to build a response on the third day. (PTI)

Injured Pant ruled out of India A's first two games against NZ; Kushagra named replacement

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been ruled out of the first two matches of India A's upcoming tour of New Zealand due to a left-side strain, with young keeper-batter Kumar Kushagra named as his replacement in the updated squad, the BCCI announced on Monday.

Pant, whose availability for the tour was subject to fitness after catching viral fever while leading the Rest of India to clinch the Irani Cup over Ranji Trophy winners Jammu & Kashmir at the Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar from October 1-4.

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said Pant, 29, remains under the medical team's supervision, with a final call on his participation in the third match starting on October 7 in Lincoln to be taken later. "He remains under the care of the BCCI Medical Team and is recovering well. "A decision on his



availability for the third match will be taken at a later stage. The Men's Selection Committee has named Kumar Kushagra as Pant's replacement for the first two matches," added Saikia.

Kushagra, the 21-year-old Jharkhand keeper-batter, will join the Dhruv Jurel-led squad for India A's red-ball shadow tour alongside international stars like Yashasvi Jaiswal, B Sai Sudharsan, Mukesh Kumar, and Kumar Kushagra (wk) (1st and 2nd matches).

Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Manav Suthar, and Washington Sundar.

Kushagra is coming on the back of a good run in India A red-ball games against Australia A in Puducherry. He amassed scores of 113 and 46 to give India A a victory in the first game, while making 10 and 1 in the second clash.

The shadow 'A' series holds immense significance for both sides as a critical warm-up series ahead of the two-game Test series to be played in Wellington and Christchurch, which carries major implications in terms of entering the World Test Championship (WTC) final.

India A updated squad: Dhruv Jurel (captain & wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Devdutt Padikkal, Ravichandran Smaran, Washington Sundar, Auqib Nabi, Akash Deep, Anshul Kamboj, Manav Suthar, Mukesh Choudhary, B Sai Sudharsan, Yash Rathod, Mukesh Kumar, and Kumar Kushagra (wk) (1st and 2nd matches).

India need cultural shift to tackle fielding form slump in shortest format, says R Sridhar

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former India senior men's fielding coach R. Sridhar believes the national team urgently requires a complete cultural shift to address a worrying form slump in the shortest format, while adding that the newbies in the team are arriving 'undercooked' in terms of their fielding abilities ahead of their upcoming all-format tour of New Zealand starting on October 22.

As per statistical data from Cricket-21 in T20Is in 2026, India's fielding standards have been in decline. India currently ranks second-to-last among the top 10 nations in catching efficiency at 73.4 per cent -- having put down a jaw-dropping 58 catches. While Indian fielders have saved 129 runs, dropped chances and ground-fielding errors have led to 226 runs being leaked, resulting in a net deficit of 97 runs.

Furthermore, India leads all teams in missed run-out opportunities with 19, despite effecting 14 of them. Add to it, two missed stumpings out of five chances were recorded by the Indian wicketkeepers. With matches in New



Zealand to begin at 8 pm local time, it means fielders will take the field when it's biting cold.

"Let me tell you that. The form is not great. Like you said, the fielding form of the Indian team, not just over the last few months, it's not been great. We ended up winning the T20 World Cup, but still we were nowhere near being a good fielding unit in that tournament as well. Axar Patel probably just saved us from falling by the wayside in that semifinal. So we need to pick up our act together."

"I think fielding has now definitely taken a backseat in terms of application and in terms of building a certain culture. As we can see, there is a clear culture with the batting,

the way the Indian team is batting. Similarly, there's a clear culture in the way the Indian team is using fast bowlers, especially in the ODIs, where Shubman Gill likes to hit the deck.

"But whereas in fielding, that seems to be absent, and what is really worrying is the fact that the new kids who are coming into the squad are undercooked in their fielding ability. Some are fast bowlers, some are batters, but whoever is coming in, they don't seem to be the kind of fielder a Kohli is or even a Surya or Shreyas is, the generation of that block, I'm saying, because they seem to have been brought up on only one skill, that is batting." Sridhar told IANS in a select virtual interaction facilitated by Sony Sports Network on Monday.

Fenesta Open: Ribhav Saroha, Paranjay Siwach begin U-16 campaigns with convincing wins

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Fresh from winning the U-18 boys' singles title last week, top seed Ribhav Saroha began his U-16 campaign with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Raghav Sarode, while third seed Paranjay Siwach defeated Bhavik 6-1, 6-1 in the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championships in New Delhi on Monday.

The U-16 and U-14 competitions got underway at the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA) Complex, with the country's leading junior players returning to action in the second week of the national championship.

Saroha, who clinched the U-18 title on Saturday, was pleased with his opening-round performance

but said he was not taking anything for granted in his bid to complete a double at the tournament. "The confidence is high. If I am performing well in U-18s, obviously my confidence is very high in U-16s as well. I played against Raghav Sarode, and he is a really good friend of mine. The first set was close, but in the second set I was able to pull off quite easily. It was a good match for me," Saroha said.

Asked about his ambition of winning a second title in as many weeks, Saroha said he was working hard to maintain his form.

"I am working really hard in the second week also for the U-16 title. I have to grind in U-16 as well because you can't take anything easily in Fenesta

Open, as everyone is really good in nationals. "The confidence is really high because I won the U-18s, but I can't take anything lightly. I am really focused on the U-16 title as well," he added.

Siwach, meanwhile, produced a commanding performance to get past Bhavik in straight sets and advance in the competition.

Reflecting on his match, the third seed said his opponent had started well, but he managed to stay focused and find his rhythm. "It's fine, it was a great match, and he was playing good in the start, and at the start of the second set also. But I tried to stay in the game, and I played good," Siwach said.

Play was running nearly four hours behind schedule after heavy rain

in the morning disrupted the day's programme. The organisers plan to extend the playing day to make up for the lost time, with an extended schedule also planned for Tuesday.

A few of Monday's remaining matches will be shifted to Tuesday due to heavy rain playing havoc with the schedule at the DLTA Complex.

Apart from top seed Ribhav Saroha and third seed Paranjay Siwach, eighth seed Vivaan Mirdha beat Mahijith Kaura 6-1, 6-2, while fifth seed Divey Malik defeated Sai Kanithi 7-6(3), 6-3.

Seventh seed Jeevith Sathish beat Charchit Boora 6-4, 6-2, and 12th seed Monodip Dey overcame Heet Kandoriya 6-4, 6-0.

In other notable results,

11th seed Rishi Yadav defeated Govardan Suresh 6-2, 6-0, while 16th seed Anay Pandey beat Rishik Kanchugatla 6-1, 6-4. There were also seeded player exits: Yash Sharma, the fourth seed, lost to Aaryan Kirrtane 6-2, 4-6, 6-10.

In the girls' U-16 singles, Rabiah Dulle defeated Pun Pratiksha 7-5, 6-1, while Pooja Nagaraj registered a dominant 6-1, 6-1 win over Aayushri Tarange.

Sarithra Entoori overcame Japji Badohal 7-6(3), 6-4 in a closely fought contest, and Miraya Agrawal pushed Tejasi Manneni to a match tie-break before going down 2-6, 6-4, 5-10.

Unnathi Muralidhar advanced with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Janhavi Sawant, while Bawyasri Asr beat Aashi Shamshery 6-2, 6-1.

COAS Dhiraj Seth felicitates Army athletes for 20-medal haul at Asian Games

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Dhiraj Seth on Monday felicitated Indian Army athletes for their impressive 20-medal haul in the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, praising their dedication and resolve while urging them to aim higher with the Los Angeles Olympics 2028 in focus.

The Army contingent secured six gold, eight silver and six bronze medals at the continental showpiece, contributing nearly 24 per cent of India's overall tally of 85 medals. The six gold medals also marked a 100 per cent increase over the Army's gold-medal tally at the previous edition of the Games.

A total of 62 Army athletes, including nine women, competed across 15 disciplines, with notable performances in shooting and athletics.

According to a post by the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI), Indian Army on X, General Seth felicitated the contingent at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on October 12, celebrating their achieve-



ments under the theme 'Jai Se Vijay - Vijay Se Vijeta'.

"Drawing parallels with the spirit of a Soldier, the #COAS lauded the champions for their dedication, hard work and resolve to excel," the Army said in the post.

"Complimenting the progress from 16 medals at the Commonwealth Games (2026) to 20 at the Asian Games, he credited the athletes and the enabling sporting ecosystem, particularly the #MissionOlympicsWing, for this success," it added.

The army chief also asked the athletes for their opinions on the aspects that needed improving and encouraged them to show

the spirit of the 'Sporting Yodha' as they prepare for future international competitions.

Naib Subedar Neeru Dhandha was one of the top performers at the Asian Games, taking home two gold medals and one silver in the shooting events. She became the first Indian woman to win an individual gold medal in the women's trap event at the Asian Games.

Naib Subedar Gulveer Singh also had a memorable campaign, securing three individual medals in athletics, and Havildar Sawan Barwal won a silver medal in the marathon, putting an end to India's 44-year wait for an Asian

Games medal in that event.

After its strong performance at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow, where its athletes secured 16 medals—eight gold, seven silver and one bronze—the Army came away with 41 per cent of India's total medal count at the event.

Women athletes also played a significant role in the Army's achievements, since four female Army boxers won gold medals at the Commonwealth Games; at the Asian Games, the women earned two gold and one silver medal, which shows that their contribution to the Army's sporting programmes is increasing.

INOX

LIVE the MOVIE

SRINAGAR

MOVIES WATCHLIST

13 OCTOBER 2026 TUESDAY

IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD TIME FOR A MOVIE

DRISHYAM: THE CONCLUSION

HINDI ATMOS

10:45 AM | 01:45 PM

04:45 PM | 07:45 PM

THE VVAAN

HINDI

11:05 AM

DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NEW NOBITA AND THE CASTLE OF THE UNDERSEA DEVIL

HINDI

04:00 PM

OTHER MOMMY

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

01:55 PM

THE SOCIAL RECKONING

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

06:15 PM

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