

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication



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'ENFORCE BAN' HC bans fuel-powered motorboats on Dal Lake



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has banned fuel-powered motorboats and jet skis from operating on Dal Lake until further orders and directed the government to frame a comprehensive policy balancing tourism and pollution control.

A copy of the order accessed, said a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Rajesh Sekhri passed the directions while hearing a petition filed by Mohammad Rafiq Mir and others.

The court directed the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority

(LCMA), Tourism Department and Police to ensure that no fuel-powered motorboat, including motorised shikaras, or jet ski operates on the lake.

It said any violation would amount to contempt of court and directed the authorities to take strict action against violators.

Boats used by the administration for emergency services, law and order, disaster management and safety have been exempted from the ban.

The petitioners raised concerns over the absence of uniform and transparent criteria for granting licences to motorboat operators and flagged the environmental impact of motorboats and jet skis on Dal Lake. ●P-06

Any terror attack originating from Pakistan will invite stronger response: Rajnath Singh

Says India prepared to respond decisively to threats against its security

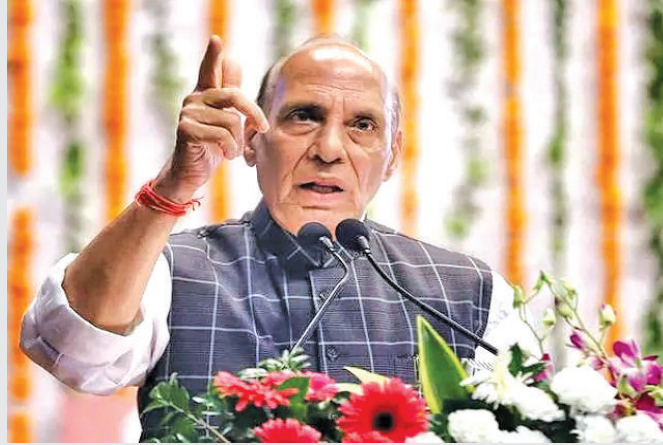
GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Rajnath Singh on Thursday said any terrorist act originating from Pakistan would invite an even stronger response from India, asserting that Operation Sindoor, the Balakot airstrikes and surgical strikes marked a shift from diplomatic condemnation to proactive action against terrorism.

Addressing a Defence Conclave in New Delhi, the Defence Minister asserted that India remained committed to peace but would respond firmly to threats against its sovereignty and national security. He warned that any further terrorist acts originating from Pakistan would invite a stronger response.

“Operation Sindoor, Balakot Airstrikes and Surgical Strikes weren’t just military operations; they symbolised a decisive shift in the nation’s approach, moving from diplomatic condemnation to proactive action aimed at rooting out terrorism by reaching its very source,” Singh said.

He emphasised that India’s cultural ethos favoured dialogue, coexistence and peaceful resolution of disputes, but its commitment to peace should not be mistaken for weakness. He also said that since 2014, the ‘shelf life’ of most terrorists had fallen to less than a year,



with security forces neutralising them within a year of their taking up arms against India.

Highlighting the changing security environment, Singh stressed the need for heightened vigilance and preparedness amid the growing complexity of hybrid, high-tech and hyper warfare.

He outlined what he termed the ‘5D Security Threat’ — Disinformation, Destabilisation, Disruption, Deception and Destruction — and cautioned that terrorism was evolving beyond organised groups to include lone-wolf attacks and what he described as ‘white-collar terrorism’.

Referring to a recent incident involving a co-pilot who allegedly attempted to crash a

passenger aircraft, Singh also praised Captain Smit Machhar for his role in averting a potential tragedy.

“The fight against terrorism requires not only the capabilities of security agencies but also the active participation of aware and responsible citizens,” he said, underlining the importance of public vigilance in preventing security threats.

The Defence Minister called for integrating military strength with technological innovation and strategic awareness. He advocated a shift towards ‘smart power’, combining conventional military capabilities with advanced technologies and cost-effective systems.

“Modern defence strategies must integrate precision-

guided weapons and loitering munitions with cost-effective weaponry, human intelligence with artificial intelligence, and advanced systems with low-cost, agile and adaptable technologies to address evolving security challenges,” Singh said.

Singh attributed India’s growing defence capabilities to reforms, changes in operational approaches and a renewed focus on self-reliance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said the government had shifted from meeting immediate defence requirements towards building an Aatmanirbhar and future-ready defence ecosystem. Reforms in licensing regulations and measures to improve the ease of doing business had expanded the domestic defence manufacturing base, with more than 500 companies now operating in the sector and hundreds of new industrial licences issued.

Highlighting reforms in defence procurement, Singh said priority was being given to domestic manufacturers through mechanisms such as the Defence Acquisition Procedure and the ‘Buy Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured’ category.

He noted that 75 per cent of the defence modernisation budget had been ●P-06

Traffic resumes on Mughal Road after snow clearance



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SRINAGAR: The Mughal Road, which was temporarily closed following the season’s first snowfall, has been reopened for vehicular movement after clearance of snow, officials said.

SO Traffic Mughal Road, Mahroof Choudhary said that snow clearance operation was completed and the road has been made motorable.

He said traffic has been restored on the route, however, drivers have been advised to drive cautiously in view of slippery conditions.

Authorities said men and machinery were deployed soon after snowfall stopped to ensure early restoration of traffic. (GNS)

Rain hits parts of J&K, snow in Kashmir’s higher reaches



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir received rain on Wednesday, while higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley, including Razdan Pass and Tulail Valley, recorded snowfall, bringing down daytime temperatures across the region.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar, forecast light to moderate rain at many places and light

snowfall over higher reaches on Thursday, with thunderstorms, gusty winds and hailstorms possible at isolated places.

Generally dry weather has been forecast from October 17 to 24, followed by another possible spell of rain and snow from October 25 to 27.

According to the India Meteorological Department’s evening bulletin, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature ●P-06

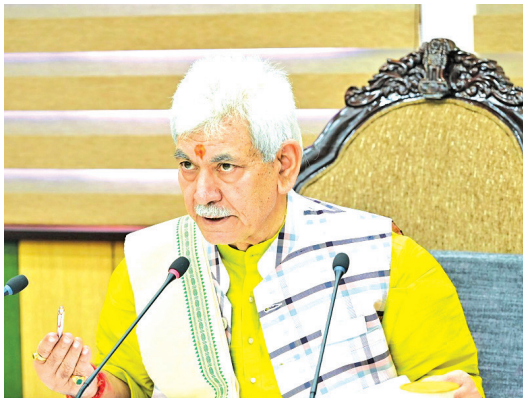
LG Congratulates J&K Police on successful completion of Jashn-e-Dal

Calls Upon Youth to Dream Big and Build a Drug-Free Society

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Thursday congratulated Jammu Kashmir Police on the successful completion of Jashn-e-Dal-2026.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said that sports is the celebration of human capability, perseverance and collective aspiration. Appreciating the enthusiasm of the athletes and the efforts of the Jammu Kashmir Police, the Lieutenant Governor said that sports not only produce champions but also instil determination,



patience and courage among young people.

Highlighting the growing stature of Jashn-e-Dal, the Lieutenant Governor said that the event has

evolved beyond an annual competition into a cherished tradition emotionally connected with the people of Jammu Kashmir. Over the past few days,

nearly 600 young athletes participated in 20 water-sports disciplines, including kayaking, canoeing, rowing, sculling and the traditional shikara race, showcasing the region’s immense sporting potential and vibrant water-sports culture.

The Lieutenant Governor urged athletes to dream without limits and strive for excellence with dedication and sincerity. Referring to the achievements of sportspersons nurtured through initiatives of Jammu Kashmir Police, the Lieutenant Governor in his message said that young ●P-06

ECI defers voter revision exercise for J&K

Says schedule will be announced in due course of time

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday said that the schedule for the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir will be announced in due course of time, keeping in view the region’s weather conditions.

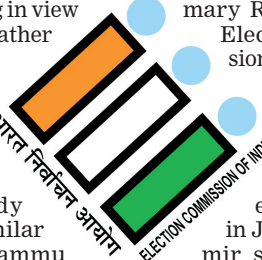
While unveiling the SSR schedule for 17 states, the poll-body said that a similar exercise for Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh will be notified separately.

“Also, for the three States/UTs namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu

& Kashmir and Ladakh, where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has not been started so far, the schedule for roll revision will be announced in due course of time, keeping in view their weather conditions,” the ECI said.

The Special Summary Revision is the Election Commission’s annual exercise to update the electoral rolls. There has been no revision of electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir since the 2024 Assembly elections.

Officials said the revision is necessary for holding municipal polls. While the State Election Commission carries out the ●P-06



PM Modi inaugurates Leh Airport Terminal, key projects worth Rs 3350 crore

Says development of Ladakh top priority for Centre, new projects will ease travel

SAJID RAINA

LEH: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday virtually inaugurated and dedicated to the nation five development projects worth around ₹3,350 crore in Ladakh. The projects cover airport infrastructure, road connectivity, renewable energy, heritage conservation and water security.

Addressing people through video conferencing, PM Modi, said, “Projects would make travel easier, strengthen electricity infrastructure, improve water availability and give fresh impetus to the conservation of Ladakh’s ancient heritage.”

Congratulating the people of Ladakh, he also highlighted



efforts to expand educational opportunities, promote sports, boost tourism, strengthen digital connectivity and create new livelihood opportunities for the region’s youth.

Referring to the enthusiasm of people waving the tricolour amid fresh snowfall in Zaskar, the Prime Minister thanked the engineers, labour-

ers, local workers and Border Roads Organisation personnel involved in executing the projects under challenging conditions.

PM Modi inaugurated the new terminal building of the Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport in Leh, built at a cost of around Rs 650 crore. Recalling that he had earlier laid its foundation stone, he said, the facility would triple the airport’s flight capacity and increase its annual passenger-handling capacity from 10 lakh to 35 lakh.

He said the terminal was India’s first to incorporate geothermal heating alongside solar energy, taking into account the region’s harsh climatic conditions. ●P-06

Govind Jaiswal posted as Principal Secretary to LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday ordered the posting of Govind Jaiswal, IAS (AGMUT: 2007) as Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor. Jammu and Kashmir travel

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer(KNO), Jaiswal who was awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD has been posted as Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor.

The order further states that he shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

The post of Principal Secretary to LG fell vacant after Mandeep K Bhandari (IAS: 2001: AGMUT) was appointed as Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on September 25, 2026.

Tied Hands, Delivered

NC Says Omar Abdullah Govt Beat the Odds in 2 Years

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: As Omar Abdullah-led government completes two years in office tomorrow, National Conference leaders on Thursday said the administration has managed to deliver despite limited powers, bureaucratic hurdles and constraints of the Union Territory model.

Talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Member of Parliament Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan said the government undertook significant work across education, healthcare, agriculture, horticulture, tourism and other sectors during the past two years.

Ramzan said the NC government fulfilled key electoral promises, including introducing a resolution



seeking the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir’s special status in the first session of the Legislative Assembly.

“The Assembly subsequently passed a resolution seeking the restoration of statehood with an overwhelming majority after Cabinet approval,” he said, adding that the Assembly also recalled the 2000 Autonomy Resolution

and the 2024 resolution on special status.

Highlighting welfare measures, Ramzan said the government increased financial assistance for the marriage of poor families from Rs 5000 to Rs 75,000, introduced free bus services for women, students and persons with disabilities, doubled the quantity of free ration for eligible households. ●P-06

J&K Bank holds customer interaction, felicitation meet at Lassipora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Strengthening its engagement with the industrial and horticulture sectors, J&K Bank Thursday organised a customer interaction cum felicitation meet at Industrial Growth Centre (IGC), Lassipora. Held under the theme “Our Customer—Our Privilege”, the programme brought together over 50 representatives of controlled-atmosphere (CA) storage businesses, fruit trade and other industrial estate activities.

The Bank's Chief General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen chaired the interaction in presence of General Manager & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri, General Manager Suresh Kumar Chowdhary, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar,

Zonal Head (Pulwama) Masood Ahmad Lankar, DGM & Head M&LC (Kashmir) Nuzhat Parveen, Cluster Heads and other senior officials.

The participant customers were led by President of Industrial Estate Lassipora, Mukhtar Ahmad Khan; President Jammu Kashmir Fruits and Vegetables Processing and Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) Bashir Ahmad Naik and President Fruit Mandi (Pulwama) Javad Ahmad.

In his presidential address to the participants, CGM Ashutosh Sareen reaffirmed the Bank's unwavering com-



mitment in supporting the Agriculture/Horticulture industry.

“When you describe J&K Bank as your own bank, it places a special responsibility on us to honour that trust through our service and support. At Lassipora, supporting industrial growth also means supporting growers, strengthening the apple value chain and sustaining employment. Our commitment to this shared progress is unshakable and long term,” he said.

Urging participants to understand the regulatory requirements within which the Bank operates, he emphasised the importance of working together to address their banking needs.

“Customer engagement becomes meaningful when listening leads to action. We are committed to address the concerns raised here and translating your suggestions into practical improvements within the Bank's laid-down guidelines and the applicable regulatory framework. Our shared endeavour must be to ensure that viable enterprises receive timely and responsive banking support,” he added.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, President, Industrial Estate Lassipora, Mukhtar Ahmad Khan expressed profound gratitude to the Bank's leadership for its commitment in supporting apple production, storage and processing. He said the estate houses around 950 industrial units employing nearly 20,000 people, underscoring its importance to the local economy.

“We consider Jammu & Kashmir Bank not merely a banking institution, but our own bank—a financial partner that we have trusted for generations,” he said.

Highlighting rising input costs, working capital requirements, delays in credit disbursement and issues concerning collateral-free credit guarantee schemes, he sought continued support for the industrial community.

“We also request the Bank to consider a dedicated mechanism through which the Association can periodically discuss industry-specific banking issues with the concerned authorities,” said President (JK PICCA) Bashir Ahmad Naik on the occasion.

Yasha Mudgal chairs 5th AGM of BCCB

Emphasises mission-mode NPA recovery, financial revival

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Limited (BCCB) was held Thursday, under the chairpersonship of Yasha Mudgal, Chairperson, Professional Board of Directors (PBOD), BCCB and Commissioner Secretary Cooperative Department.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, members of the Professional Board of Directors, Director Horticulture, Kashmir and other senior officers of the department along with representatives of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS).

Dr. Khalid Hussain, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, BCCB, made a detailed presentation on functioning of the Bank. He highlighted the significant role of PACS in strengthening the coop-



erative credit structure at the grassroots level.

During the statutory proceedings, the House unanimously adopted the audited financial statements of the Bank, including the Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Accounts and related schedules for the financial years ended March 31, 2025 and March 31, 2026. The House also ratified the appointment of M/s IMT & Company, Chartered Accountants, as the Statutory Auditor for the financial year 2026-27,

as approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Addressing the AGM, Yasha Mudgal emphasized that the financial revival of BCCB, improvement in asset quality and restoration of public confidence must remain the foremost priorities of the Bank's management. She stressed the need for a result-oriented and time-bound approach towards the recovery of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). She directed the management to establish clear, branch-wise recov-

ery targets, strengthen the field-level monitoring and ensure accountability at every level.

The Chairperson called for a comprehensive borrower-wise review of overdue accounts. She directed the Bank to formulate specific recovery plans for chronic defaulters, supported by time-bound legal and administrative action wherever warranted.

Emphasizing the importance of sound credit management, Yasha Mudgal directed the Bank to strengthen its credit appraisal and pre-disbursement assessment procedures, improve post-disbursement monitoring and address deficiencies in loan underwriting. She also stressed the need for closer coordination with all 92 PACS to facilitate field-level follow-up, improve recovery efforts and reinforce the cooperative credit network.

The Chairperson further underscored the importance

of financial discipline, prudent resource management and strict adherence to applicable RBI guidelines and prudential norms. She directed the management to exercise greater control over administrative expenditure and take sustained measures to improve the Bank's financial position, operational efficiency and institutional accountability.

Reiterating her focus on institutional revitalization, Yasha Mudgal stated that the Bank's turnaround would depend on disciplined execution, transparent functioning and clearly measurable outcomes. She called upon the management, field functionaries and PACS representatives to work collectively towards strengthening the cooperative banking system and ensuring that the Bank effectively fulfills its role in meeting the credit needs of its members and the wider cooperative sector.

DDC Pulwama reviews Rural Development Progress in district



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Thursday called a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of various schemes and programmes under the Rural Development Sector in the district.

A detailed presentation was made before the Chair, covering the overall physical and financial progress under MGNREGA/VB-G RAM G, including employment generation, job card and worker-related status, Aadhaar seeding and e-KYC, verification of job cards, geo-tagging of assets and generation of Asset IDs.

The review also covered the labour budget and its achievement, material expenditure, material liability, wage component and financial performance, besides the status of material claims and funds released under VB-G RAM G.

The DDC further reviewed the status of ongoing works, work completion, social audit, playground development and other rural infrastructure-related activities across the district. Block-wise progress was assessed to identify areas requiring focused attention and timely corrective action.

The DDC stressed the need for close monitoring at the block and field level, timely completion of ongo-

ing works, proper utilisation of available funds and adherence to prescribed guidelines and quality standards.

The Chair further called for strengthening social audit mechanisms, resolving pending issues, ensuring timely e-KYC and verification, improving geo-tagging and Asset ID generation, and maintaining updated records on the Management Information System.

The DDC directed that all bottlenecks and issues relating to playgrounds be resolved immediately and made functional for public use. He also directed that convergence of works under different schemes be ensured wherever feasible to avoid duplication and maximise utilisation of available resources.

He further directed that social audits be conducted within the prescribed timelines, with proper reports generated and maintained. The PMAY-G coverage survey was also directed to be duly verified through Social Audit teams to ensure correctness and transparency.

The DDC directed the ACD, Pulwama, to closely monitor all ongoing works under the Rural Development Sector and ensure their timely completion as per approved specifications and timelines. He also directed the ACD and ACP to conduct a weekly review of the progress of schemes and works.

Property cards distributed among rural household owners in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A programme on the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) initiative was organised at the Conference Hall of the Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam, to familiarise participants with its objectives and the process of preparing property records of Abad e Deh through drone-based surveys.

During the programme, various aspects of SVAMITVA were highlighted, including drone-based mapping of inhabited rural areas, preparation and rectification of village maps, verification of property records and issuance of property cards to property owners. Issues encountered during the preparation of maps and ownership records, including disputes among co-sharers, discrepancies in records and matters related to alienation and mortgage, were also discussed.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, informed that work under SVAMITVA has been completed in 178 villages of the district, while the remaining villages are at different stages of the process.



The DC appreciated the revenue team for starting the assigned work within a short time and stressed the need to expedite the remaining activities to ensure timely completion.

As part of the SVAMITVA scheme, property cards were distributed among owners from different tehsils of Kulgam district in the presence of the concerned Tehsildars.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri emphasised the need to complete the pending work in a time bound manner.

The primary objective of the SVAMITVA scheme is to provide a legal "Record of Rights" and property cards to rural household owners by mapping residential land parcels (Abad e Deh) using modern drone technology.

Following the conclusion of the programme, the DC chaired a review meeting on Farmer ID generation and Agristack implementation with the

concerned revenue officers and field functionaries to assess progress and address issues hindering the process.

The DC directed the revenue functionaries to reach out to farmers and facilitate the generation of their IDs at the earliest and stressed the need to contact migrated families, wherever required, and resolve related issues to ensure that eligible farmers are not left out.

The meeting also reviewed the status of the bucketing of villages with work completed in 208 villages, and discussed issues requiring resolution for the timely generation of Farmer IDs under Agristack.

The DC further directed the concerned officials to expedite pending mutations, address discrepancies in revenue records and ensure that Patwar Khanas remain functional and accessible to the public for the convenient delivery of revenue services.

Secretary Tourism Reviews Facilities at RSGC Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Avny Lavasa, Secretary, Tourism Department, who is also the Chief Executive of Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar, conducted her first review meeting at the Royal Springs Golf Course, Srinagar, to assess the overall functioning, operational efficiency, and maintenance of the facilities at the prestigious Golf Course.

During the visit, the Chief Executive, accompanied by the Secretary RSGC, and the allied team, undertook a comprehensive inspection of the golf course premises and its various facilities. The visit was aimed at taking stock of the existing arrangements, reviewing the efficiency of the overall setup, and assessing the function-



ing and upkeep of the facilities to ensure smooth and effective operations.

The Chief Executive visited different sections of the Golf Course to gain first-hand insight into the working of the golf course and the facilities being extended to members and visitors.

The interaction with the Secretary RSGC, and the concerned team provided

an opportunity to review the existing operational arrangements and assess areas requiring attention for further improvement.

Secretary Tourism was apprised about the initiatives being taken to improve the Course, Club House, enrolment of new members and follow up action being taken on the decisions taken in the Board of Governors meeting of RSGC that was chaired by the Chief Minister on 2nd June, early this year.

The visit reaffirmed the importance of maintaining high standards of service, effective management, and the continued upkeep of infrastructure at Royal Springs Golf Course, which remains one of Srinagar's prominent tourism and recreational destinations.

Master artisan Rafiq Ahmed makes Kashmir proud, wins National Award

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has extended heartiest congratulations to the master artisan Rafiq Ahmed Sofi of Eidgah, Srinagar, on being conferred with the National Award 2025 in the Hand-Knotted Carpet category by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

Sofi is the sole awardee from Jammu & Kashmir in this category for 2025, winning it for a carpet that features intricate floral motifs, traditional architectural patterns and calligraphic elements.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the Department paid rich tributes to the master artisan for making the famed handicrafts and handloom sector of Kashmir proud at the national stage. “This honour recognises his exceptional craftsmanship and contribution to the traditional art



of hand-knotted carpet weaving,” he stated, adding it will give further traction to the Valley's carpet industry.

Kashmir's hand-knotted carpets represent a centuries-old tradition that combines fine knotting techniques with distinctive design elements and talem, for which it was awarded GI registration in the year 2016, based on its source of origin.

The spokesman further stated that recognition of Sofi's work at the national



level reaffirms the continued excellence and relevance of this heritage craft. “The Directorate encourages artisans across the region to draw inspiration from this achievement and continue upholding the standards of quality and artistry that define Kashmir handicrafts,” he added.

A formal award ceremony is scheduled in the month of December 2026 in which amongst other winners, Rafiq Ahmed Sofi shall also be felicitated.

DC B'pora presides over seminar on 'Gandhian Thoughts' at GDC Ajas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Government Degree College (GDC) Ajas Thursday organised an inter-college seminar on the theme “Gandhian Thoughts in the 21st Century: Peace, Ethics, Democracy and Sustainable Development” to mark Gandhi Jayanti.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib presided over the programme as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Mohd. Ameen Parry, Department of English, University of Kashmir, South Campus, attended as the Guest of Honour. Students and faculty members from Government Degree College Sumbal and Government Degree College Hajin also participated in the event.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, released the College Newsletter and College Anthem in the presence of other dignitaries and participants. The College Anthem was penned by noted poet Showkat

Ahmed Sofi, popularly known as Sufi Showkat. The releases reflected the institution's academic achievements, literary expression and cultural identity.

Addressing the gathering, the DC highlighted the enduring relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, particularly truth and cleanliness, in shaping individual character and bringing about positive social transformation. She emphasised that cleanliness reflects civic responsibility and discipline, while truth forms the foundation of ethical conduct and public life. She urged students to imbibe these values and practise them in their daily lives.

Speaking on the relevance of Gandhian philosophy in the digital age, Prof. Mohammad Ameen Parry highlighted the challenges of violence and non-violence on social media. He stressed the need for responsible digital behaviour, respectful communication and the promotion of truth and non-violence in online spaces.

J&K IMPARD begins JKAS Foundation Course for Officer Trainees

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The JKAS Joint Foundation Course for the Officer Trainees Batch - 2024 was inaugurated Thursday at J&K IMPARD Main Campus, Srinagar by the Director General J&K IMPARD, Rahana Batul.

The programme marked the commencement of the Foundation Course, aimed at providing newly recruited civil servants with essential administrative knowledge, professional competencies, and an understanding of the principles of good governance, public service delivery, and ethical conduct.

Addressing the participants, the Director General congratulated the officer trainees on embarking upon their careers in public service and emphasized the importance of integrity, impartiality, accountability, and dedication in the discharge of official responsibilities. He underscored the need for civil servants to remain responsive, compassionate and with integrity to the aspirations of the public and committed to transparent, efficient, and citizen-centric governance.

The Director General highlighted the significance of joint training in fostering mutual under-



standing, coordination, and a spirit of cooperation among officers from different services. He observed that such initiatives provide a common platform for sharing experiences, developing leadership qualities, and strengthening interdepartmental coordination, which are essential for effective administration.

The Foundation Course is designed to equip the trainees with a sound understanding of constitutional values, administrative procedures, public policy, governance frameworks, and contemporary challenges in public administration. The course will also focus on capacity building, teamwork, decision-making, and the

adoption of innovative approaches to improve public service delivery.

The inaugural function was attended by senior officers and officer trainees of JKAS Batch-2024. The programme concluded with a call to the participants to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and public service and to work towards building an accountable, inclusive, and citizen-friendly administration.

The Joint Foundation Course represents an important step towards strengthening institutional capacity and nurturing a new generation of competent, ethical, and service-oriented civil servants committed to nation-building.

CM inaugurates projects, lays foundation stones worth 58.26 crore in G'bal

Reviews Ring Road, Sindh River Front, Town Hall projects; interacts with fruit growers



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday reviewed the overall development scenario in Ganderbal district, inaugurated five completed development projects worth ₹16.72 crore and laid foundation stones for two new projects worth ₹41.54 crore, taking the total value of the projects to ₹58.26 crore.

The projects include improved road connectivity, a new school building, a bridge over the River Jhelum and a multi-purpose auction platform at the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi, Zazuna, aimed at strengthening public infrastructure and supporting the district's horticulture economy.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of a bridge over the River Jhelum at Guzham Shilwat at a cost of ₹39 crore. The bridge is expected to improve connectivity for local residents. He also laid the foundation stone for a multi-purpose auction platform at the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi, Zazna, at a cost of ₹2.54 crore to strengthen trading facilities for fruit and vegetable growers.

The Chief Minister inaugurated five completed projects, including roads connecting Tehsil Bagh with Lar Bypass and Yanihama with Danglerpora; the road from Dar Mohalla Wattalbagh to Danglerpora and allied links; the double-storey building at High School Gogligund; the widened and upgraded road from Fatehpura Dak Bangloo to Gadoora Bridge; and the Pati Waskura to Kharbagh Bund road along the River Jhelum. These works, completed at a combined cost of ₹16.72 crore, are expected to improve local connectivity and educational infrastructure.

During the tour, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of the Srinagar Ring Road project and was briefed by engineers at Dr Farooq Abdullah Environmental Park, Manigam, on the ongoing construction and upgradation of the Pandaach-Manigam section.

The 12.115-kilometre highway project, being executed by the National Highways Authority of India at a cost of ₹290.51 crore, involves upgrading the existing two-lane road to a four-lane dual carriageway. The project includes bridges, a flyover, culverts and ser-

vice and slip roads, and is scheduled for completion by May 2028.

The Chief Minister also reviewed ongoing works on the Sindh River Front and the Municipal Town Hall in Ganderbal. The first phase of the Sindh River Front project, being developed at an approved cost of ₹4.83 crore, includes a protection wall, landscaping, a paved walkway, a viewpoint, a patio café and ornamental lighting.

Reviewing the Town Hall upgrade and extension project, approved at a cost of ₹3 crore, the Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to expedite the works and ensure their early completion so that the facilities could be made available to the public at the earliest.

During his visit to the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi at Zazuna, the Chief Minister assessed arrangements and activities during the ongoing harvest season and interacted with farmers and progressive growers. The growers apprised him of issues affecting their work and the horticulture sector. Omar Abdullah assured them that their genuine demands would be taken up for appropriate resolution.

Secy RDD reviews flagship rural development schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Ramesh Kumar conducted a comprehensive review of schemes and programmes being implemented by the Department across Jammu and Kashmir.

The review was focused on physical progress, financial discipline, timely utilisation of funds and strengthening the service delivery in rural areas.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in RDD Rachna Sharma; Mission Director, NRLM, Shubhra Sharma; COO, Himayat, Rifat Kohli; Director, RDD Jammu, Shahnaz Akhtar; Director Finance, Umar Khan; CEO, IWMP, Rajnish Kumar; Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma; Additional Secretary, RDD, Waseem Raja; Joint Director, RDD, Mantasha Binti Rashid; Deputy Director Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, Shabir Ahmed



Hakak and other officers.

The Secretary reviewed the progress under major programmes, including Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VBGRAM-G), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G), Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), Himayat and the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP).

Reviewing VBGRAM-G, the Secretary assessed employment generation, implementation of works and financial progress under the programme. He was informed that 3.21

lakh persons had availed employment, generating 59.19 lakh person-days.

The Secretary emphasised financial discipline, timely processing of wage and material payments, effective monitoring of works and coordination between district and block-level functionaries to ensure that implementation remains on schedule and funds are utilised efficiently.

He observed that although the planning process is digital, errors and discrepancies often emerge at the finalisation stage. He directed the concerned officers to adhere to prescribed timelines, review entries carefully and ensure that Gram Panchayat-level functionaries

are fully familiar with the list of permissible works.

The Secretary also emphasised that village plans should reflect local needs, geographical conditions and the specific vulnerabilities of each area. He called for prioritising works according to ground requirements, including water conservation, drainage, protection structures and connectivity in vulnerable and disaster-prone locations.

Reviewing PMAY-G, the Secretary assessed the progress of rural housing under the SECC and Awaas Plus categories. As per the data, 3,27,210 houses had been completed against 3,34,586 sanctioned houses, taking the overall completion rate to approximately

98 per cent.

The Secretary stressed the need to accelerate the completion of pending houses through regular district-level monitoring, close follow-up with beneficiaries and prompt resolution of implementation bottlenecks. He also emphasised proper verification of beneficiary records, timely release and utilisation of available funds, and effective convergence with other schemes to ensure that eligible rural households receive the intended housing benefits without avoidable delays.

Reviewing SBM-G Phase II, Kumar underscored the importance of sustained behavioural change in ensuring long-term sanitation outcomes across Jammu and Kashmir, stressing that the focus must extend beyond infrastructure creation towards fostering a lasting sense of responsibility and ownership among the people towards sanitation, hygiene and cleanliness.

J&K Govt to expand official languages list

Law to be enacted to declare Punjabi, Gojri, Pahari as official languages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Conference-led Government has decided to introduce a bill in the 2027 budget session of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly to declare Punjabi, Gojri, and Pahari as official languages of the Union Territory.

NC's Rajiya Sabha Member of Parliament Shammi Oberoi said he had made a commitment to the people on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah that Punjabi would be included in the list of official languages.

"We have decided to adopt Punjabi, Gojri, and Pahari languages as official languages," Oberoi said. On Wednesday, Oberoi

met Sikh Sangat and representatives of various Gurdwara Prabandhak Committees and assured them that Punjabi language would be adopted under the Official Languages Act of the UT.

Following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, Parliament enacted the Jammu & Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020, which declared Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu, Hindi, and English as the official languages of the Union Territory. The Act also mandated that the Administrator of the UT shall make special efforts to promote and develop Gojri, Punjabi, and Pahari languages through institutional mechanisms such as the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. —(KNO)

Amid protests

SKUAST-K suspends academic activities at Faculty of Forestry

Orders Ganderbal campus students to vacate hostel on Oct-16

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Following a month long protest, Faculty of Forestry at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir in Ganderbal campus on Thursday ordered suspension of all academic activities of UG, M.Sc and Ph.D courses.

The Dean Faculty of Forestry of Benhama, Watlaar Ganderbal campus in an order said, "It is for information of enrolled students of Faculty of Forestry that all academic activities including class work of UG, M.Sc and Ph.D courses except UG 1st year are hereby suspended till further orders." "As such, all students belonging to J&K and Ladakh residing in the Pine Boys and Girls hostels are hereby directed to vacate their Hostel rooms on October-16 by 10.00 am without fail," it reads.

The order said that any violation shall invite serious consequences under rules. "Warden Boys and Girls hostel shall ensure vacation of both the hostels within

stipulated time."

An official informed KNO that the academic activities of UG, M.Sc and Ph.D courses have been suspended in view of a month-long protest by the students. Pertinently, the students of SKUAST-K are holding protests across multiple campuses regarding job policies and recruitment rule changes.

One of the students said, "We are protesting against the outdated recruitment rules of the Forest Department, where the eligibility criteria for the post of Forester fail to recognize the specialized education of B.Sc Forestry graduates."

"Everyone is eligible for the post, but a degree specifically in Forestry carries no weightage and preferences. We spend years studying Silviculture, Forest Management, Wildlife, Mensuration, Agroforestry, Ecology and other specialized forestry subjects, yet when it comes to recruitment in the Forest Department, our professional qualification is treated no differently from general qualifications," the students said—(KNO)

Gulmarg constituency will be among Kashmir's best by 2029: MLA Shah

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmed Shah on Thursday termed his two-year tenure satisfactory, claiming that development works undertaken during the period were comparable to those carried out in the constituency over the previous two decades.

Shah said major projects promised to the people were being implemented, with tourism, healthcare, education, road connectivity and basic infrastructure among his priorities.

Highlighting tourism-related development in Gulmarg, Shah said initiatives included

the establishment of what he described as Asia's longest drag lift, a restaurant at Affarwat which he claimed was the world's highest, revival of the heritage golf course, development of pedestrian walkways and improvement of parking facilities.

He said construction of a new hospital building and macadamisation of roads across the Gulmarg-Tangmarg belt had also been prioritised.

Shah said more than 400 people had benefited from livelihood opportunities linked to guide licences, helpers, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other tourism services.

Environment Committee reviews Anchar Lake conservation

Inspects SKIMS waste management; directs time-bound remedial action

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, under the Chairmanship of MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Thursday conducted an extensive visit to Anchar Lake and its adjoining areas to assess the measures being undertaken by the Government for conservation, restoration and pollution control of the lake besides identifying further interventions required for its effective protection and sustainable management.

Members of the Committee, including MLAs Daleep Singh Parihar, Showkat Hussain Ganie, Javid Ahmad Mirchal, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Salman Sagar and Javid Reyaz Bedar besides MLA Mubarak Gul, accompanied the Chairman during the visit.

During the inspection, the Committee expressed serious concern over the rampant encroachments in and around Anchar Lake. It said that immediate and effective measures shall be taken for removal of illegal encroachments and retrieval of encroached land in accordance with the law. The Committee stressed that any further encroachment on the lake and its adjoining areas must be prevented through stringent enforcement,



regular monitoring and coordinated action by the concerned departments.

The Chairman directed the Vice-Chairman, Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), to furnish a detailed report on the nature and extent of illegal encroachments around Anchar Lake, the status of land retrieval and the action taken against the violators. He also called for clear timelines and an account of the measures proposed to prevent fresh encroachments and ensure strict compliance with the applicable environmental and land protection regulations.

Expressing concern over the deteriorating ecological condition of the lake, the Chairman observed that Anchar Lake is facing serious environmental challenges due to encroachment, pollution, siltation and other anthropogenic pressures. He emphasised that the protection and restoration of the lake require sustained institutional efforts, effective implementation of environmental safeguards

and close coordination among all concerned departments.

He underscored the need for a comprehensive and time-bound conservation strategy, encompassing the prevention of untreated sewage and waste discharge, scientific desiltation wherever required, restoration of the lake's natural water channels, protection of its catchment areas and regular monitoring of water quality. He stressed that all interventions must be guided by scientific assessments and ecological considerations to ensure the long-term sustainability of the lake.

The Chairman also emphasised that the preservation of Anchar Lake is a shared responsibility of the government and the public. He called for greater community participation, public awareness and strict adherence to environmental norms while urging the concerned authorities to adopt a proactive approach towards safeguarding the lake from further degradation.

Commissioner State Taxes reviews revenue performance of Kashmir Division



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner State Taxes, Jammu and Kashmir, P. K. Bhat, Thursday chaired a meeting to review the revenue performance of the Kashmir Division.

The meeting was organised by the Additional Commissioner State Taxes, Kashmir Division, Parveez Ahmad Raina, which was attended by State Taxes Officers of all circles of the division.

The Additional Commissioner, presented an exhaustive and comprehensive appraisal of the performance parameters of all the Circles functioning under the Kashmir Division. He apprised the Chair of the cumulative revenue realised to date, delineated the multifarious measures and strategic interventions being undertaken to augment revenue mobilisation, and outlined the prospective course of action envisaged for the ensuing months, with a view to ensuring the unequivocal attainment of the revenue target stipulated for the current financial year.

The Commissioner observed that the impact of GST rate rationalisation has largely stabilised,

creating favourable prospects for enhanced revenue realisation in the ensuing months. Noting that the national average growth in GST revenue exceeds 15 per cent, he exhorted the officers to intensify revenue mobilisation efforts to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir maintains parity with the national growth trajectory. He emphasised the need to augment cash collections, including through effective IGST settlement commensurate with value addition within the Union Territory, and reiterated the monthly revenue target of ₹800 crore.

Emphasising the significance of timely compliance, the Commissioner directed focused monitoring of September returns, including quarterly filings under the QRMP scheme. He underscored that timely GSTR-1 filing is fundamental to revenue realisation, safeguarding ITC integrity and curbing fraudulent transactions, and directed officers to strive towards positioning Jammu and Kashmir among the leading States and Union Territories in this regard. Referring to approximately ₹2,500 crore reflected in GSTR-7 returns, he instructed systematic follow-up to

ensure timely realisation of the corresponding revenue.

In view of simplified registration and return-filing procedures, the Commissioner stressed the need to pivot towards data-driven enforcement, particularly through analytics-based scrutiny of purchases from unregistered persons and verification of their underlying supply chains. He also directed effective utilisation of Section 71 of the GST Act for inspection and verification of business records, wherever legally permissible, and advised the issuance of consolidated show cause notices covering multiple financial years, subject to statutory limitations and applicable legal provisions.

The Commissioner cautioned against initiating proceedings solely on third-party information, emphasising independent verification and judicious application of mind by proper officers. He further directed strict, time-bound follow-up of show cause notices, accountability of proper and adjudicating officers, and comprehensive preparation for defending departmental cases before the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).

Jatin Kishore reviews essential services for Air Force Station Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Thursday chaired a meeting to review issues concerning essential services and infrastructure requirements at Air Force Station Srinagar, Budgam, and directed the concerned departments to ensure timely provision of all requisite facilities for smooth functioning of the station.

The meeting discussed key issues related to power supply, water supply infrastructure, emergency access roads, solid waste management, public safety and other essential requirements.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned power authorities to expedite the completion of the dedicated 33 KVA feeder line and ensure reliable backup power arrangements for the Air Force Station.

The Jal Shakti Depart-



ment was directed to expedite the required water supply infrastructure, ensure uninterrupted emergency water supply and take necessary measures to augment the existing water supply scheme to meet the station's requirements.

Emphasising the importance of emergency preparedness, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to coordinate with Air Force authorities and expedite the identification, survey and development of emergency access roads. He also stressed timely resolution of issues related to land requirements, regulatory clearances and other infrastructure works.

The meeting also

reviewed issues concerning solid waste management, stray dog management and leopard movement in and around the Air Force campus.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Administrative Officer, Air Force Station Srinagar; Superintending Engineers of EM&RE, Hydraulic and R&B Circles; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Budgam; Divisional Forest Officer, PP Division, Budgam; Executive Engineers of R&B, KPDC, Electric Division-II Srinagar and Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Budgam; Executive Engineers of PHE Mechanical Division and PHE Srinagar Division-I; and Tehsildars of Budgam, Chadoora and B.K. Pora.

Dr. Asha Lakra visits Baramulla, interacts with ST Representatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Dr. Asha Lakra, Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), visited Baramulla and interacted with representatives of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla, to review issues related to tribal welfare, constitutional safeguards, and the implementation of government welfare and development schemes.

During the interaction, ST representatives presented various grievances and demands concerning the welfare and development of tribal communities. They raised issues relating to basic amenities, education, healthcare,

employment, livelihood opportunities, and infrastructure in tribal-populated areas.

The representatives emphasised the need to introduce Gojri and Pahari languages into the education system to promote inclusive and culturally responsive learning for tribal children. They also highlighted gaps in road connectivity, drinking water, electricity, sanitation, skill development, and economic empowerment.

A key demand was the effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act in the region, in line with its implementation in other parts of the country. The representatives also sought to strengthen the concerned departments through adequate staffing,

resources, and infrastructure to improve service delivery to tribal communities.

They further called for the effective implementation of constitutional safeguards and improved access to scholarships, social security measures, and other government welfare schemes for eligible ST beneficiaries.

The ST representatives also handed over a memorandum containing their demands and concerns to Dr. Asha Lakra for consideration and necessary action.

Dr. Lakra heard the concerns and demands raised by the representatives and assured them that the issues would be duly examined.

Good Morning Kashmir

Statehood And Accountability
The Real Test Of Governance

The National Conference-led government in Jammu and Kashmir faces a familiar but difficult challenge: meeting public expectations while operating within the limitations of the Union Territory framework. The government has repeatedly promised to fulfil its manifesto commitments, but people are waiting to see how far these assurances translate into improvements in their daily lives. The government's argument that it lacks the full powers of a state cannot be dismissed. The existing administrative structure limits its authority in several areas, making some decisions more difficult. However, these constraints cannot become an excuse for every delay or an answer to every public grievance. The powers available to the elected government must be used effectively, and its decisions must remain open to scrutiny. Authority and accountability must go together. An elected government needs sufficient powers to deliver on its promises, but it must also answer to the people who placed their trust in it. Questioning the government's performance is not an attempt to undermine democracy; it is an essential part of it. Restoration of statehood and constitutional guarantees remains a major demand of the NC-led government. Rural Development Minister Javed Ahmad Dar has reiterated that these issues are among its top priorities. For Jammu and Kashmir, statehood is about more than political status. It is also about giving elected representatives greater authority to make decisions and respond to public needs. Yet, the demand for statehood must not overshadow the responsibility to govern effectively under the existing arrangement. The government has highlighted several initiatives aimed at supporting agriculture and horticulture. These include plans to establish Centres of Excellence in all 20 districts, develop pesticide and fertiliser testing laboratories in Shopian and Baramulla, and propose similar facilities in Srinagar. The increase in subsidies for anti-hail nets for traditional orchards from 50 per cent to 75 per cent could also offer meaningful support to fruit growers. These are welcome steps, particularly for a region where thousands of families depend on farming and horticulture for their livelihood. But farmers need more than announcements. They need functional facilities, timely subsidies, affordable inputs and practical assistance when crops are threatened by hailstorms, disease or other natural hazards. The success of these initiatives will depend on their implementation and the difference they make on the ground. The decision allowing eligible employees under the New Pension Scheme to opt for the Old Pension Scheme is another important development for government employees. However, such decisions also carry financial implications and must be implemented transparently, keeping both employees' concerns and the government's long-term financial position in view. For the ruling government, the bigger challenge is to demonstrate progress on issues that matter most to ordinary people. Employment, rural development, public services, farmers' welfare and economic security cannot remain confined to speeches and policy announcements. People judge a government by what changes in their lives, not simply by what it promises to do. The government must be clear about the limitations it faces, explain the steps being taken to overcome them and regularly inform the public about progress on its commitments. Greater transparency would help distinguish genuine constraints from administrative failures and give people a clearer picture of the government's performance. Jammu and Kashmir needs a debate that recognises the limitations of the present political arrangement without weakening the demand for accountability. Neither blind criticism nor unconditional political defence serves the public interest. Restoration of statehood is important for strengthening democratic governance, but public trust cannot be put on hold until it happens. The government must deliver wherever it has the authority to act. Ultimately, promises may win public support, but it is honest governance, visible results and accountability that sustain it.

Self-Accountability: The First Gate To Answerability

Taqwa And The Question: "Where Do I Stand?" The Greatest Danger Is Not Making A Mistake. The Greatest Danger Is Refusing To Recognize That A Mistake Was Made.



DR. FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI

In our collective life, the word accountability is used frequently. We demand it from rulers, institutions, scholars, journalists, doctors, and businesspeople. Yet an uncomfortable question remains: Have we ever applied the same standard to ourselves? Taqwa is often translated as piety or God-consciousness. It is the inner state that inspires a person to avoid wrongdoing, pursue righteousness, and remain mindful of Allah in all aspects of life. A famous saying attributed to Caliph Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA) captures this spirit: "Take account of yourselves before you are called to account." This brief statement points to a profound principle: whoever ceases to hold themselves accountable gradually loses the moral authority to demand accountability from others. The first witness to a person's faith is the person himself. We may successfully appear virtuous before people, but only Allah truly knows the condition of our hearts. Real success lies not in appearing righteous but in remaining sincere before our Creator. Today, let us ask ourselves: Is my heart as pure as my tongue claims it to be? This is not a question for others. It is a question for ourselves. This is self-accountability (muhasabah), the starting point of genuine reform. Allah says: "O you who believe! Fear Allah, and let every soul consider what it has sent ahead for tomorrow." Notice that the Qur'an first calls us to examine our own deeds before judging the deeds of others. We often judge others by a standard we would never apply to ourselves, quickly noticing their faults while excusing our own. Another person's harshness becomes rudeness, but our harshness becomes "speaking the truth"; their self-interest is condemned, while ours is renamed "necessity." This is where self-accountability gives way to self-deception. The same tendency can appear in religious discourse, where the focus shifts from serving the truth and guiding the Ummah to proving who is more correct, knowledgeable, authentic, or pious. Differences of opinion



have always existed within Islamic scholarship and can enrich it when guided by evidence, sincerity, and respect. The real concern arises when disagreement turns into contempt, scholarly criticism into personal attacks, and the pursuit of truth into a contest of egos where winning matters more than wisdom. Allah warns us in the Qur'an, "Do not claim yourselves to be pure; He knows best who is truly God-conscious." If Allah alone knows who possesses true taqwa, then who are we to distribute certificates of piety? A scholar's responsibility is not to prove his superiority but to clarify the truth. A mufti's task is not to diminish another mufti but to explain an issue with evidence, integrity, and sound methodology. True scholarship is measured not by the loudness of one's voice but by knowledge, dignity, and ethical conduct in disagreement. At this point, the same question returns: Am I serving the truth, or serving my ego? The Test of the Heart: People see our public image, but Allah sees our reality. We may pray, give charity, write religious articles, share beneficial reminders, and earn a reputation for piety. Yet one question must remain alive within us: For whom am I doing this? Showing off (riya) does not always appear in grand acts. Sometimes it hides within a sentence, a social media post, or the publicity surrounding a charitable act. At times, we simply want people to regard us as righteous, sincere, oppressed, or courageous. The true test of sincerity comes when no one is watching, praising, or applauding. Social media has given every voice a wider audience, but it has also placed a greater burden on our conscience. Before sharing information, we should ask whether it is true; before commenting, whether our words

would be acceptable face-to-face; and before turning disagreement into hostility, whether we are seeking truth or merely defending our ego. A screen may hide our identity, but it does not remove accountability. Even religious discussions can become contests for attention, measured by views, followers, and applause rather than sincerity and benefit. Yet the Prophet reminded us, "Actions are judged by intentions." The real question is not how many people heard us, but why we spoke and what our words left behind. If our religious discourse spreads contempt, division, or hatred, then we must pause and ask: Did we truly serve the faith, or merely ourselves? Knowledge should produce humility, not pride. Speaking the truth, correcting mistakes, and even refuting errors are sometimes necessary, but the greater challenge is guarding the heart from arrogance while doing so. Faith is not a competition, and taqwa is not measured by applause, followers, or debate victories; its true measure belongs to Allah alone. Self-accountability is therefore not about self-condemnation, but honest correction: admitting our mistakes, repenting for our sins, restoring people's rights, and apologizing when we have caused harm. That is where real reform begins. The greatest danger is not making a mistake. The greatest danger is refusing to recognize that a mistake was made. Before you sleep, ask: Did I hurt anyone, act unfairly, speak without knowing, fail to practice what I preach, and above all, is Allah pleased with me? Allah says: "Successful indeed is the one who purifies the soul, and failed indeed is the one who corrupts it." (Qur'an 91:) Perhaps true success lies not in appearing great in the eyes of people, but in striving to become

Showing off (riya) does not always appear in grand acts. Sometimes it hides within a sentence, a social media post, or the publicity surrounding a charitable act. At times, we simply want people to regard us as righteous, sincere, oppressed, or courageous.

better in the sight of Allah. We cannot know what lies in others' hearts, but we can examine our own; so before judging anyone, ask: What is my intention, what does my character reveal, and what do my actions say about me? And if I were to stand before Allah today, would my deeds speak for me, or my titles and claims? That is self-accountability. That is the beginning of taqwa. It is the moment we learn that serving the faith is not the same as using the faith to serve ourselves. And perhaps every meaningful reform begins with one quiet question: "Where do I stand before my Lord?" May Allah fill our hearts with sincerity, God-consciousness, and faith; grant us the ability to recognise our own faults and correct them; and make us among those who hold themselves accountable before judging others.Ameen. Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili is a distinguished clinical auditor and an expert in healthcare data analysis, with a prolific career spanning over two decades. He has served as the Director of Documentation and Research, contributing extensively to the development of evidence-based practices in healthcare. His insightful analyses and contributions to healthcare policy and practice make him a respected voice in the field.

SHARADIYA NAVRATRI

Awakening Women's Power Through The Worship Of Maa Durga

Nine Days Of Spiritual Practice, Inner Strength And A Commitment To Building An Empowered Society



SAVITRI THAKUR

Sharadiya Navratri is a sacred festival in Indian culture that celebrates strength, faith, spiritual practice and self-purification. Worshipping the nine forms of Maa Durga inspires us to embrace courage, restraint, patience, compassion and self-confidence in our lives. These nine days are not merely an occasion for worship and prayer, but also a time to recognise the strength within ourselves and resolve to fulfil our responsibilities towards society. Each day of Navratri brings a special message. Maa Shailputri inspires firm determination, Maa Brahmacharini represents penance and discipline, Maa Chandraghanta embodies courage, and Maa Kushmanda inspires creativity. Maa Skandamata represents maternal affection, Maa Katyayani the fight against injustice, Maa Kalaratri fearlessness, Maa Mahagauri purity, and Maa Siddhidatri the fulfilment of spiritual practice. Through fasting, meditation, the chanting of mantras and service, we can focus our minds and bring positivity and discipline into our lives. True spiritual practice is that which purifies our thoughts, brings sensitivity to our behaviour and inspires us to work for the welfare of others. Worshipping the Goddess and respecting women's power In Indian tradition, women are regarded as embodiments of



Shakti, or divine feminine power. The form of Maa Durga reminds us that, alongside affection and compassion, women possess remarkable courage, leadership abilities and the capacity to overcome challenges. Today, women are demonstrating their talent and capabilities in every field, including education, science, sports, administration, entrepreneurship, agriculture and politics. Genuine respect for women must not be limited to the worship of goddesses. It is our responsibility to ensure that every girl has equal opportunities for education, healthcare, safety and advancement. Efforts to make women self-reliant, respect their decisions and provide them with an environment free from discrimination are what give true meaning to the worship of the Goddess.

When a woman becomes educated and self-reliant, her positive influence extends to her entire family and society. Women's empowerment is therefore not merely a matter of women's development; it is a cornerstone of national progress. From respecting women to nation-building under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi: A new vision for women and child development The Ministry of Women and Child Development aims to create a safe, healthy environment full of opportunities for women and children. Maternal and child health, nutrition, girls' education, women's safety and economic self-reliance are among the priorities of our collective efforts. To make women's empowerment an integral part of national development, several important initiatives have been

undertaken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The government's vision extends beyond women's development to enabling them to lead the development process. In this direction, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, is a historic initiative that provides for the reservation of one-third, or 33 per cent, of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies. This is an important step towards increasing women's participation in the country's democratic system and strengthening their role in decision-making. The Central Government has prioritised women's safety and health alongside their social, economic and political empowerment. The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign promotes a positive attitude towards girls and encourages their education.

Mission Shakti focuses on women's safety, support and empowerment, while Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 strengthens maternal and child nutrition. The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana plays an important role in providing financial assistance to eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women in accordance with prescribed provisions. Resolve to respect and serve women this Navratri Sharadiya Navratri teaches us that the true meaning of strength lies not merely in possessing power, but in using it for truth, justice and public welfare. On this sacred occasion, let us all resolve to provide girls with opportunities to progress, respect women's contributions, and come forward to help women and children in need. Let us make the spiritual practice of these nine days a means of bringing positive change into our lives. May our faith become a source of inner strength, our devotion pave the way for service, and our resolve give new direction to women's empowerment and child welfare. We pray to Maa Durga that, through her grace, every family may be blessed with happiness, peace and prosperity; every woman may gain the strength to live with self-respect and become self-reliant; and every girl may fulfil her dreams. Let us work together to build an India where women are respected, children's futures are secure, and equal opportunities reach every individual. Heartfelt greetings to everyone on the occasion of Sharadiya Navratri. Jai Mata Di! (Courtesy: PIB) (The author is the Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development.)

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■ Migrant Property Protection

From Pending Complaints to Ground-Level Justice



MOHD AMIN MIR

The protection of migrant immovable property is not merely an administrative responsibility; it is a matter of trust, justice and the preservation of the rights of those who were compelled to leave their homes. For many migrants, their ancestral land and property in Kashmir represent not only economic assets but also memories, identity and an enduring connection with their native places. Every grievance concerning such property therefore deserves serious attention, timely action and a result that can be verified on the ground.

In Tehsil Qazigund, District Anantnag, a noticeable change has emerged in the manner in which migrant property grievances are being handled under the leadership of Tehsildar Shakil Ahmad Ganie. His approach, as reflected in recent cases concerning villages such as Levdoora and Kurigam, demonstrates how personal supervision, field-level verification and direct communication with complainants can transform the grievance redressal process from a routine exchange of official reports into a meaningful exercise in public service.

Migrant property grievances are uploaded on the designated Migrant Portal and forwarded to the Patwari concerned for spot verification and submission of a report. Where necessary, the identified land is placed under the supervision of the Lambardar and Chowkidar-e-Deh to help protect it against unauthorised occupation. After receiving the Patwari's report, the Tehsildar's office, through the Office Qanungo, compiles and forwards its report to the Nodal Officer for Migrant Immovable Properties, Additional Deputy Commissioner concerned. The grievance may then be treated as disposed of at the tehsil level.

However, experience in Qazigund has shown that some grievances, despite having passed through this process, return to the tehsil after a few months for

further disposal. Similar concerns have been observed in other tehsils as well. The repeated movement of complaints raises an important question: does the submission of a report necessarily mean that the migrant's property has actually been protected or that the grievance has been resolved on the ground?

A report may satisfy a procedural requirement, but the real test of disposal is whether the facts have been established, the alleged encroachment has been dealt with lawfully and the complainant has received a clear account of the action taken. This distinction between the disposal of a file and the resolution of a grievance is where the Qazigund experience deserves attention.

Since Shakil Ahmad Ganie took over as Tehsildar Qazigund a few months ago, the handling of migrant grievances has reportedly acquired a more direct and field-oriented character. Instead of relying solely on the routine movement of files, he personally fixes dates for examining grievances and contacts the migrant who has lodged the complaint. He seeks essential particulars, including the survey number, the recorded area, the nature of the alleged encroachment and whether an attorney has been executed in respect of the property. After obtaining these details, he orders spot verification involving the Patwari, Girdawar and Naib Tehsildar. Where circumstances warrant, the Office Qanungo and police personnel are also involved.

What distinguishes this approach is the Tehsildar's reported personal involvement at different stages. He examines the relevant revenue records, seeks measurement of the land and checks the details of the case rather than treating the submission of a subordinate officer's report as the final word. Every survey number, measurement and relevant fact must be examined carefully because even a small discrepancy in a revenue record or the identification of a parcel can complicate a property dispute. In cases involving migrant property, such diligence is particularly important, as the owner may be living far away and may not be in a position to supervise the land personally.

Where an encroachment is established, appropriate action is ordered in accordance with the applicable law and due procedure. The complainant is then informed of the action taken. In some cases,

the Tehsildar has reportedly used video calls to communicate directly with migrants and inform them that their land has been retrieved and freed from encroachment. Such direct communication can provide reassurance to a property owner who has spent years worrying about the condition of ancestral land in his or her absence.

The effectiveness of any grievance



redressal mechanism is best judged by the experience of those who use it. In this regard, recent visits by migrants who had lodged complaints concerning Levdoora and Kurigam are noteworthy. A group of migrants visited the area about a week ago in connection with their grievances. During field-level proceedings concerning Survey No. 118 at Levdoora, one migrant, Vimal ji, expressed his appreciation for the Tehsildar's direct involvement in the disposal process. In the presence of other migrants, he remarked: "Aaj pehli baar aisa Tehsildar dekha jo khud disposal ke mauqe par kaam kar raha hai." The sentiment conveys a simple but powerful message: "For the first time, I have seen a Tehsildar personally involved at the spot in the disposal of a grievance."

The significance of the remark lies not merely in the praise of an individual officer, but in the expectation it reflects. Migrants want their complaints to be heard, their land to be inspected and their rights to be protected through visible and verifiable action.

Similar appreciation has reportedly been expressed by Pran Nath Dhar and Sanjay Raina in connection with migrant property grievances concerning Kurigam. Such responses suggest that personal engagement by an officer can help rebuild confidence in the admin-

istrative machinery. Rani Dhar of Vessu has also reportedly expressed strong confidence in the safety of migrant property in Tehsil Qazigund, conveying the sentiment that migrant land there is completely safe. These are encouraging expressions of public trust, although the long-term protection of every property must continue to be assessed through records, field verification

area, ownership particulars, possession on the ground and the status of any attorney or other relevant document should be verified wherever necessary. Second, field verification should be meaningful and properly documented. A report should clearly state what was found during inspection, whether the measurements correspond with the relevant records, whether an encroachment was established and what action was recommended or taken.

Third, the disposal of a grievance should be distinguished from the mere forwarding of a report. Where the complaint concerns encroachment, the final outcome should explain whether the allegation was established and what lawful steps followed. If the matter requires further proceedings, the complainant should be informed of the actual status instead of receiving an impression of final resolution. Fourth, direct communication with migrants should become an important feature of the process. Video calls, telephone updates and written communication can help property owners who live outside Kashmir understand the progress of their cases. Where feasible, photographs, measurement records and field reports may also help provide a clearer account of the action taken.

Finally, the administration should maintain a system for monitoring grievances that are reopened or returned after being marked as disposed of. Repeated returns should prompt a review of why the earlier disposal did not settle the matter and what corrective steps are required. These measures would help ensure that the protection of migrant property does not depend entirely on the personal initiative of an individual officer. Rather, it would become an established administrative practice supported by accountability, continuity and clear procedures.

The responsibility of the Revenue Department in migrant property matters is substantial. Revenue officials are often the first authorities approached when questions arise about survey numbers, recorded areas, possession, boundaries and alleged encroachments. Their reports can influence the next steps taken by the competent authorities. Accuracy, impartiality and procedural fairness are therefore indispensable.

At the same time, the rights of migrants must be protected with-

out compromising the rights of any other person. Allegations of encroachment must be verified, disputed claims examined and any removal or restoration of possession carried out by the competent authority in accordance with applicable law and due process. Personal supervision can strengthen the process, but it cannot replace the legal safeguards that make administrative action fair and sustainable.

The Qazigund experience offers an encouraging example of what becomes possible when an officer takes personal interest in complaints, examines records, visits the field through the official machinery and keeps the complainant informed. It reminds us that public administration is most effective when the citizen does not have to rely merely on a file number or a formal disposal entry. For a migrant living away from Kashmir, the knowledge that an official has personally examined a grievance and communicated the result can mean much more than a routine letter from an office.

The appreciation expressed by Vimal ji, Pran Nath Dhar, Sanjay Raina and Rani Dhar deserves to be viewed in this larger context. Their remarks reflect the hope that migrant property grievances can be resolved with seriousness, transparency and sensitivity. The real test of reform is not how many complaints are marked as disposed of, but how many are resolved fairly, conclusively and lawfully. If the approach being followed in Qazigund is sustained and adapted to local circumstances elsewhere, it could help make migrant property protection more credible and responsive throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

The protection of ancestral land is not simply a revenue matter. It is a responsibility towards citizens whose connection with their homes has endured despite displacement. Every such grievance deserves more than a report; it deserves a fair hearing, a verified outcome and the assurance that the administration has taken the matter seriously. That is the standard by which migrant grievance redressal should ultimately be judged.

Mohd Amin Mir is a columnist and legal affairs writer who focuses on governance, land reforms, and institutional accountability in Jammu & Kashmir. He can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

Economic Models Minus Social Realities Equals a Nobel Prize in Economics

BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel—commonly known as the Nobel Prize in Economics—for 2026 goes to Prof. Robert E. Hall and Prof. Michael Woodford "for microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation." There is no doubt that a link exists between the "microfoundations" of individual consumer behaviour, individual choices, economic interactions, economic agents, and firm behaviour, on the one hand, and "macroeconomic" structures, policies, performances, behaviour, and functions at regional, national, and global levels, on the other.

However, the microfoundations of macroeconomic structures operate within social, political, economic, cultural, religious, legal, and environmental contexts beyond the control of individual consumers and their economic behaviour. It is therefore organic that macroeconomic structures determine the nature of the "microfoundations" of economics. This basic relationship is manipulated by the postwar "microfoundations project," which synthesises model-driven neoclassical economics with Keynesian ideas and offers it as a predictable alternative. That alternative rests on an ambiguous methodological individualism shaped by a narrow, reductionist empiricist ideology that continues to undermine the social and eco-

nomic realities of people and their everyday lives. At stake is not simply a technical model and prize for it. The award sanctifies a particular knowledge tradition: an empiricist tradition driven by abstract models designed to prove that markets work on the basis of rational choice of individuals and their behaviour. This microfoundations argument concerning economic stability and instability exonerates capitalism and its market forces and their role in producing instability and crises to make super profit.

Contemporary individual consumers have absolutely no control over the products and services they consume or the prices they pay to fulfil their everyday needs and desires. Therefore, individual consumer behaviour and decisions have little to do with the inherent instabilities and crises of capitalism that shape the global economic and local firm behaviour. Nevertheless, the postwar microfoundations project of neoclassical economics, with its utility-maximising rational individual consumer, became the foundation of the microfoundations of macroeconomics. In this framework, the individual is celebrated or demonised according to the success or failure of policy guidance shaped by abstract economic models and narrow empiricist knowledge traditions. Here, economic model development is the core of knowledge production, in line with the requirements of national and international



economic institutions and banks that govern both local and global economic trajectories shaped by capitalism. In this trajectory, individuals do not shape the trajectory; they are forced to accept a trajectory that determines their everyday interactions and activities—from production, consumption, and distribution to modes of exchange relationship in the market.

For example, as a consumer of organic eggs, one's consumption depends on the availability and accessibility of organic eggs in the marketplace, whether physical or

digital platforms. The organic-egg consumer does not know the farmer, the cost of production, the price of the product, or the nature of demand and supply of organic eggs. In such a blind market, the individual consumer and producer pays the ultimate price while the market makes the profit. The separation of the individual consumer from the producer destroys the market as a social institution. This separation was central to the neoliberal project of the Washington Consensus, which has failed to create the conditions even for a free market in which consumers and

producers are free to interact directly, despite all digital and technological accessibility and availability.

Prof. Robert E. Hall's and Prof. Michael Woodford's model-led paradigm shift in the quantification of stabilisation policy—and its revitalisation to ensure stability in business cycles and the smooth operation of central banks and financial institutions—reveals the social nature of economics. It fundamentally obscures the social realities of inflation, production, and consumption by reducing them to variables and numbers in a model devoid of social

conditions, economic realities, and the political, economic, and legal environment. Hall's and Woodford's equations are beautiful, but they are designed to hide the ugly realities of working people who suffer every day under neoliberal capitalism, which has failed people and the planet.

The dangerous disconnect between society and economics in the abstract models of Nobel laureates Prof. Robert E. Hall and Prof. Michael Woodford continues to promote a knowledge tradition supported by the "Nobel" art of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences. These are not accidental omissions but a conscious decision to revitalise economic policy projects that uphold a capitalist system that fundamentally survives by exploiting people and the planet. The Nobel endorsement and celebration of the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation lacks a sociological understanding of economics.

It is not agricultural workers and farmers who decide the nature of agricultural economics; they play no role in framing and implementing agricultural policies. Similarly, factory workers do not decide industrial policies or the nature of industrial economics, and small and medium traders do not decide trade policies, trade relations, flows, or stagnation in international trade. Individual producers and consumers do not decide the nature of markets and their operations. All these

economic functions are shaped by policies framed by ruling classes in accordance with the requirements of the capitalist system. Therefore, the intellectual lineages of the postwar microfoundations project of neoclassical economics and its knowledge traditions are reinforced by Prof. Robert E. Hall's and Prof. Michael Woodford's work, which upholds capitalism; and the Nobel Committee rewards them with the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2026.

The central problem is not merely a technical disagreement within neoclassical economics and its knowledge traditions, which operate as a make-believe science. It is the construction of an empiricist knowledge tradition driven by abstract models to prove that stability depends on individuals, which is not true in reality, while ignoring the role of the capitalist system and the way markets work by creating desire-driven irrational consumers. Thus, making the market the foundation of politics, society, economics, and culture is central to capitalism which manufactures instabilities and crisis. Such a knowledge tradition is a great disservice to people. The alternative is to build collective foundations of politics, society, economics, and culture in which markets, banks, and other economic and political institutions serve people rather than gambling on their labour, wages, savings, and creative abilities.

The author can be mailed at bhabani79@gmail.com

Hundreds of families in J&K await PMAY-G assistance as winter approaches

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: With winter approaching, hundreds of families across Jammu and Kashmir who claim to be eligible for assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) continue to wait for their cases to be cleared, with many alleging that repeated verifications over the past several years have yielded little progress on the ground.

For families living in makeshift sheds, temporary structures and dilapidated shelters, the delay has become a source of growing anxiety as temperatures begin to fall. They say their living conditions become particularly difficult during winter, when rain, cold and snowfall make it challenging to protect children, elderly family members and other vulnerable household members.

Gulzar Ahmad from south Kashmir's Pulwama district and Nadeem Ahmad from Shopian are among those who say they have been waiting for their cases to move forward despite repeated verification exercises. They claim their experiences reflect the difficulties faced by other economically vulnerable families still hoping to receive assistance to build permanent homes.

The affected families, allege that officials have visited their homes and

verified their living conditions on several occasions, but they have yet to see any tangible outcome. They say they have repeatedly provided information about their circumstances and waited for their cases to be processed, only to find themselves facing another winter without a permanent roof over their heads.

"We have been waiting for years, and our circumstances have not changed. Officials have conducted verifications repeatedly, but we are still living in the same conditions. Every winter brings fresh difficulties, and we do not know how much longer we will have to wait," said a beneficiary awaiting assistance.

Gulzar said families like his were not seeking anything beyond the opportunity to build a modest, permanent home where they could live with dignity and security. He said living in a temporary shelter had become increasingly difficult, particularly for families with children and elderly members.

"We are not asking for anything luxurious. We only want a safe house for our families. Our circumstances have been checked several times, yet we are still waiting. If the verification has already established our condition, the authorities should tell us why our cases have not progressed," he said.

Similarly, Nadeem said

the prolonged wait had left his family uncertain about its future, with the prospect of another harsh winter adding to their worries.

"Every year, we hope that our case will finally be cleared and that we will be able to start building a proper house. But the years pass, and we remain where we were. Another winter is approaching, and our family is still struggling to live in a makeshift shelter," he said.

The issue has assumed greater significance as the Centre has extended PMAY-G for the period from 2024-25 to 2028-29, with assistance aimed at providing permanent houses to additional eligible rural households. The scheme provides financial assistance of 1.30 lakh per house in hilly areas, including Jammu and Kashmir, subject to prescribed eligibility and implementation guidelines.

However, the affected families said the extension of the scheme would offer little immediate relief unless their pending cases were examined and eligible beneficiaries were brought into the assistance process.

They also called for greater transparency in beneficiary selection, saying authorities should clearly communicate whether an application is pending verification, awaiting approval, excluded from the relevant list or held up for any other reason.

In September 2026, the

government informed the Legislative Assembly that the inclusion of beneficiaries under PMAY-G was being undertaken in accordance with prescribed guidelines. It also acknowledged that some deserving households were not appearing in the draft Permanent Wait List, apparently because of automated scrutiny, validation and eligibility checks.

The affected families said such cases required careful examination so that eligible households were not left out because of procedural issues or discrepancies in the verification process.

They urged the Rural Development Department and concerned district administrations to review long-pending cases, conduct a fresh assessment wherever necessary and communicate clear decisions to applicants.

With winter approaching, they said, the immediate priority should be to identify genuinely deserving families living in unsafe conditions and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive assistance in accordance with the scheme's rules.

For Gulzar Ahmad, Nadeem Ahmad and other families in similar circumstances, the demand is simple: after years of waiting and repeated verification, they want a clear decision and a realistic path towards a permanent home—(KNO)

ACB J&K, CEO Shopian organises Vigilance Awareness Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with Chief Education Officer (CEO) Shopian organised a Vigilance Awareness Programme at the Meeting Hall of the CEO Office, Mini-Secretariat, Arhama, Shopian.

The programme was conducted with the objective of promoting integrity, transparency, accountability and ethical conduct in public service.

The event witnessed participation from key administrative and police dignitaries, including, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), ACB, Mohammad Saleem; Chief Education Officer (CEO), Shopian, Bashir Ahmad Shah; Principal, DIET Shopian, Neetu Gandotra; Senior Prosecuting Officer, ACB, Umar Mansoor; DySP, ACB, Deputy Chief Education Officer, Shopian, Principal, GHSS Zainapora, District Vigilance Officer (DVO),

Principals of all Government Higher Secondary Schools, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) and Headmasters of Government High Schools across District Shopian.

Senior Superintendent of Police, ACB, delivered a comprehensive address highlighting how corruption undermines public confidence, impedes institutional progress and adversely affects essential service delivery. He urged all participating officers to uphold honesty, impartiality, and transparency in official dealings.

He further stressed the importance of preventive vigilance, institutional accountability and collective effort in creating a corruption-free administrative environment.

Resource person, Umar Mansoor, Senior Prosecuting Officer, ACB delivered a detailed presentation on the theme "Probity for Prosperity." He elaborated on the close link between integrity in public life, good governance, and sus-

tainable development.

He stressed that probity is a fundamental value that strengthens public trust and ensures effective utilization of public resources. He also sensitised participants on relevant Conduct Rules and the importance of maintaining professional discipline.

The Chief Education Officer, expressed gratitude to ACB officials for sensitising the education fraternity on issues of vigilance and official conduct. He issued clear directives to all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs), Principals, ZEOs and Headmasters to maintain strict adherence to prescribed rules, regulations and established administrative procedures.

"Officers must lead by personal example, Vigilance must not remain confined to an annual observance but must become a continuous institutional practice reflected in daily actions and decisions," he added.

DySP, ACB, Mansoor

Ahmad, delivered an informative talk on preventing and combating corruption. He discussed the importance of vigilance in official transactions, adherence to established procedures, proper documentation, timely disposal of public grievances, and remaining alert to procedural irregularities or misuse of official authority.

Principal GHSS Zainapora highlighted the significance of Vigilance Awareness initiatives in fostering a culture of honesty, discipline and responsibility within government institutions. He emphasized that educational institutions must serve as models of ethical conduct.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment by all participating officers to uphold the highest standards of integrity, transparency, accountability and ethical conduct in public service, contributing toward a corruption-free, responsible and progressive education system in District Shopian.

DDC Pulwama reviews implementation of SWM Rules 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 across the district.

A detailed presentation on the progress and status of implementation was presented before the Chair, covering SWM assets, capacity building, IEC activities, monitoring and reporting, and door-to-door (D2D) waste collection.

The meeting was informed that four Plastic Waste Management Units and 166 segregation sheds have been constructed across the district, while 676 community compost pits have been estab-

lished. Under capacity building, 19 training sessions covering 570 participants have been conducted.

Under IEC activities, 26 awareness camps have been organised, with over 1,400 pamphlets distributed while extensive wall writings and flexes have been placed across the district.

The chair also reviewed D2D waste collection across the district. It was further informed that seven Gram Panchayats have adopted two-stream source segregation, while further efforts are required to expand segregation and improve collection and processing of waste.

The DDC stressed the need for a coordinated and sustained approach towards effective implementation of the SWM Rules, with emphasis on

source segregation, strengthening D2D collection, operationalisation of SWM assets, scientific waste processing and disposal, and intensified awareness activities.

He directed the concerned EOs of Municipal Councils/Committees and BDOs to ensure timely notification and proper management of all identified dumping/SWM sites. Where such sites have not yet been established, suitable land shall be identified by the concerned ACR/Tehsildar in consultation with the respective EO/BDO. He further directed that all segregation sheds be properly covered and maintained and that source segregation be strictly enforced, with no mixing of waste during collection and transportation.

The DDC also called for

strengthening sanitation arrangements by directing regular morning sweeping and cleaning of streets and public areas before office and school hours. He further directed that door-to-door garbage collection be ensured twice a day, with the morning collection scheduled from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM and the evening collection from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. He stressed the need to provide requisite safety gear/PPE to sanitation workers and ensure strict adherence to prescribed SOPs and applicable guidelines at all SWM sites. He further directed that biomedical/medical waste be handled, transported and disposed of separately as per the prescribed protocol, without mixing it with municipal waste.

SWD Srinagar organises International Day for Rural Women 2026 BBBP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organised a programme to commemorate the International Day of Rural Women 2026 at Higher Secondary School Kothibagh, Srinagar, in collaboration with the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

The programme aimed to highlight the significant contribution of rural women to society, promote women's empowerment, and create awareness about opportunities for their social and economic development.

The programme wit-

nessed participation from Officials of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, the members of National Rural Livelihoods Mission, and other stakeholders. A resource person from the Chief Agriculture Office Srinagar participated in the programme and highlighted the important role played by rural women in agriculture, allied activities, household food security, and rural economic development.

During the programme, emphasis was laid on the need to empower women through education, skill development, vocational training, entrepreneurship, and access to livelihood opportunities. Participants were sensitised about the

importance of encouraging girls to pursue education, develop their skills, and become self-reliant. The programme also highlighted the significance of ensuring equal opportunities for girls and women and fostering an environment in which they can participate actively in social and economic activities.

A major highlight of the programme was the distribution of certificates among women entrepreneurs and achievers from different blocks of District Srinagar in recognition of their efforts, accomplishments, and contributions towards economic empowerment and community development. The recognition was

intended to appreciate the determination, initiative, and entrepreneurial spirit of women who have been making meaningful contributions to their families and communities.

The collaboration with the National Rural Livelihoods Mission underscored the importance of strengthening livelihood opportunities for women, particularly those belonging to rural and economically weaker sections of society. The programme also reinforced the objectives of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao by promoting the value of the girl child, encouraging gender equality, and creating awareness about the need to protect, educate, and empower girls.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER
MINI-SECRETARIAT SHOPIAN

Phone No. 01933-260980, Fax: 260479

Subject: Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. CEO/SPN/Accts/2026-27/907 dated 08-10-2026.

CORRIGENDUM

In partial modification to the Tender Notice issued vide number No. CEO/SPN/Accts/2026-27/907 dated 08-10-2026, which appeared in print media (Daily Srinagar Times and Brighter Kashmir Dated:- 11/10/2026) through information Department vide endorsement no.DIPK-6576/26, please read "Chitragam" instead of "Pahnoo" wherever appearing in the said notice. The other contents/ terms and conditions of the tender notice shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the original Tender Notice.

No:-ceo/spn/acctts/2026-27/918
Dated:- 13-10-2026

sd/
Chief Education Officer
Shopian

DIPK-6771-26
DT: 15/10/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR
(ERSTWHILE MECHANICAL HOSPITAL & CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR)

Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: exen-mechospngr@jk.gov.in,

Sub:- Rate Contract For Refilling Of Various Types Of Fire Extinguishers Installed At GMC Srinagar And Its Associated Hospitals For The Year 2026-27

Ref:- This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2026-27/63/ e-tendering, Dated:- 07.10.2026.

EXTENSION 01

In view of Poor response, the critical dates of above subject work tendered vide above referred e-NIT are extended as follows:-

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	17.10.2026 (13:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	17.10.2026 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

No: M&HDS/TS/ 4645-48
Date: - 14.10.2026

SD/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

DIPK-6743-26
DT: 15/10/2026

HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF J&K

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG

COLLEGE CANNPUS, DIALGAM ANANTNAG J&K-192210

Email ID: principal-gmca@jk.gov.in

ORDER NO 737-GMCA OF 2026
DATED:15-10-2026

Whereas, this office vide Advertisement Notice No. 08 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 24.04.2026 invited applications from the eligible candidates possessing requisite qualification for filling up tenure posts of Junior Residents in the Government Medical College, Anantnag; and

Whereas, the written test for the said posts was conducted on 1st of June, 2026 at Main Campus Dialgam, GMC Anantnag; and

Whereas, the merit list of the candidates who appeared in the said written test was published vide this office notification dated 16.06.2026; and

Whereas, on the basis of merit secured and vacancies available, candidates were selected as Junior Residents vide this office Notification No.'s 11 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 03.07.2026, 14 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 30.07.2026 and 17-GMCA of 2026, Dated: 09-09-2026, with directions to report the Establishment Section (Main Campus) of Govt. Medical College, Anantnag for verification of their credentials and documents; and

Whereas, in view of prevailing shortage of staff and the exigencies of patient care, the selected candidates were permitted to join and were allotted to various departments for provisional duties, subject to submission of an affidavit dully attested by 1st Class Magistrate regarding the pending CID Verification reports; and

Whereas the CID Verification report in respect of the candidates mentioned below have been received by this office from the concerned quarters, and upon verification thereof, the below mentioned candidates are engaged as Junior Residents in Government Medical College, Anantnag, with effect from the date of their initial joining, for a period of six (06) months extendable upto maximum of one (01) year subject to the satisfactory performance to be certified by the concerned Head of the Department.

S. No.	Name of Candidate	Date of Joining	CID Verification Details	Department Allotted
1)	Insha Gulzar	11.08.2026	Form No.: 168331 Dated: 07.10.2026	Ophthalmology
2)	Faisal Yousuf Rather	11.08.2026	Form No.: 167739 Dated: 07.10.2026	Psychiatry

Terms and Conditions:

- The selected candidates shall have to submit an affidavit in the Establishment Section (Main Campus), Govt. Medical College Anantnag duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) to the effect that:
 - I understand and accept all the terms and conditions stipulated in the Agreement (Form A of S.O. 364 of 2020) and undertake to abide by all such terms and conditions duly executed by me.
 - My engagement shall be purely temporary and tenure-based and shall not confer upon me any right to claim regular appointment or continuation beyond the prescribed tenure. ,
 - My engagement shall remain subject to satisfactory performance, conduct, attendance and fulfilment of all applicable conditions, as certified by the concerned Head of the Department and approved by the competent authority.
 - In the event of unsatisfactory performance, misconduct, unauthorised absence, or violation of any of the terms and conditions of engagement, my engagement shall be liable to be terminated forthwith without any notice to that effect.
 - The tenure of my engagement shall initially be for a period of six (06) months, extendable up to a maximum period of one (01) year, subject to satisfactory performance, as certified by the concerned Head of the Department and approved by the competent authority.
 - I undertake that whenever I intend to leave, abandon or discontinue the post during the period of my engagement, I shall submit one month's prior notice to the institution. In case of failure to serve the requisite notice period, the salary for one month shall be liable to be withheld as per the applicable terms and conditions.
 - In the event of my leaving or discontinuing the post of Junior Resident before completion initial tenure of six (06) months, I shall not be entitled to claim an experience certificate in respect of the said engagement or violates the terms and conditions mentioned here.
- During the tenure of engagement, the candidate shall be entitled to 7 V2 days of Casual Leave. Any leave beyond the admissible entitlement, if sanctioned by the competent authority, shall be treated as leave without stipend/remuneration, as applicable under the prescribed terms and conditions.
- Department allocation may be altered in the interest of institutional requirements.
- The services of Junior Resident shall be liable to termination without prior notice in the event of misconduct, participation in any strike or unauthorized cessation of duties or unsatisfactory performance.
- The engagement shall be full-time and non-practicing in nature. The Junior Resident shall not undertake private practice or any other professional engagement during the period of tenure.

No. GMCA/Estt/2026/ 8861-67
Dated: 15-10-2026

Prop. (Dr) Junaid S. Wani
Principal
Govt. Medical College, Anantnag.

DIPK-6748-26
DT: 15/10/2026

CM Omar inaugurates 70th National School Games in Ganderbal

Urges young athletes to pursue sporting excellence

GMK SPORTS DESK

GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday inaugurated the 70th National School Games at the Government College of Physical Education, Ganderbal, welcoming young athletes from 23 States and Union Territories and calling for greater recognition, support and opportunities for sports beyond cricket.

The five-day sporting event features Under-17 boys' and girls' competitions in Wushu and Taekwondo, bringing together promising young talent from across the country.

Welcoming the participating athletes to Kashmir, particularly Ganderbal, the Chief Minister said the region had a strong tradition of excellence in Wushu and Taekwondo, with local athletes achieving success at both national and international levels.

Expressing happiness at the enthusiasm and determination of the young participants, he said he hoped the athletes would compete wholeheartedly and bring pride to their respective States and Union Territories.

Highlighting the importance of sports in the overall development of children, Omar Abdullah



said young people should be encouraged to pursue their sporting interests alongside academics, without being burdened by excessive pressure to secure high marks.

He expressed concern over the disproportionate attention and resources devoted to cricket, observing that other sports, including football, hockey and disciplines such as Wushu and Taekwondo, deserved greater media visibility, sponsorship and institutional support.

Chief Minister stressed the need to create a more inclusive sporting environment in which talent

said young people should be encouraged to pursue their sporting interests alongside academics, without being burdened by excessive pressure to secure high marks.

He said sports played a vital role in instilling discipline, building confidence and opening new avenues for young people. He urged the participants to compete with determination, uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and develop lasting friendships during their stay in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister said the government was making concerted efforts to strengthen sports infrastructure and expand opportunities for young athletes. He emphasised the need to develop indoor

sports complexes in every district to encourage wider participation and provide children with better facilities to pursue different sporting disciplines.

Encouraging the visiting teams and officials to explore the region, Omar Abdullah invited them to visit Sonamarg, Srinagar's Mughal Gardens and other local attractions, adding that Kashmir's hospitality was as memorable as its natural beauty.

On the occasion, boys and girls presented demonstrations of Wushu and Taekwondo, drawing appreciation from the Chief Minister and other dignitaries.

'38 medals won by women is a picture of new India': PM Modi hails 'daughters' of nation

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hailed the Indian women athletes for their success at the recent Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, calling the 38 medals won by them not just a number but a picture of new India.

PM Modi met with India's Asian Games participants at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in the national capital and praised the athletes for their performances as India bagged 85 medals and finished fourth in the medal tally with 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze medals.

He reserved special praise for the daughters of the nation for bringing laurels to the country. "Friends, I would like to especially praise our daughters. Out of the 85 medals won by India, 38 medals were won by our women athletes. And 11 gold medals are included in them. And these medals are not just a number. This is a picture of a new India," PM Modi said in his address.

He also hailed the Indian women's hockey team for winning a gold medal for the first time in 44 years, ending a long



wait for a yellow metal. For the first time in the Asian Games history, both India's men's and women's hockey teams won gold medals in a single edition of the continental showpiece.

"Both teams have won gold medals this time. And especially our women's hockey team. You have brought gold and completed the long wait of 44 years," he hailed the Indian hockey women's team as the athletes cheered with chants of "Bharat Mata ki Jai". Several Indian women athletes had a great Asian Games as the likes of Kumkum Mohod, Neeru

Dhanda, Pranavi Urs and Mirabai Chanu, among others, created historical milestones.

The 17-year-old Kumkum created history as she became India's first woman to win a gold medal in the individual recurve archery, and she also clinched the team gold, defeating powerhouses South Korea in both the finals.

Neeru also created history by becoming India's first individual trap women's gold medalist at the Asian Games. She also won a gold in the mixed trap event with Kynan Chenai and a silver in the women's

event with Aashima Ahlawat and Manisha Keer.

Pranavi also became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal in golf at the Asian Games. She also helped India win the team silver at the continental showpiece.

Meanwhile, Mirabai also won a silver in the women's 49kg weight category in Aichi-Nagoya, completing her medal cabinet after having won medals in the Olympics, Commonwealth Games and World Championships. Her silver also ended India's 28-year-long wait for a weightlifting medal at the continental showpiece.

If batters don't take responsibility, this Indian side will not succeed: Gavaskar

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has called on India's batting unit to take greater responsibility ahead of the T20I series decider against West Indies in Bengaluru, identifying the team's struggles while chasing as a major concern after their latest defeat.

With the visitors keeping the contest alive through an impressive all-round display, Gavaskar believes India must translate their reputation as back-to-back T20 World Cup champions into a more commanding batting performance, particularly under dew-assisted conditions, if they are to secure the series.

Gavaskar's criticism centred on India's inability to build on a promising start from Sanju Samson, whose contribution offered the hosts an opportunity to



establish control during the chase. However, the subsequent batters failed to sustain the momentum, allowing the West Indies to seize control of the contest.

"The first thing this Indian side needs to improve is how they chase. On a pitch like this, with the dew coming in, you have to show the kind of dominance with

the bat that a back-to-back T20 World Cup winning team should, but that was missing completely in this game. Sanju gave India a great start, but the rest of the batters didn't capitalise at all. Abhishek Sharma played a poor knock, which is not acceptable by his standards. Ishan Kishan fell right into Keemo Paul's trap,

and Shreyas Iyer has not got going since his hundred," Gavaskar told JioStar.

Gavaskar was particularly critical of the middle order's inability to convert a solid platform into a competitive chase. Abhishek Sharma's dismissal, Ishan Kishan's failure against Keemo Paul and Shreyas Iyer's continued search for

form following his century were among the concerns he identified. In his view, India cannot afford repeated lapses in execution when the series is at stake.

"The batting unit needs to show more responsibility. Yes, I know the bowling has been poor, but these bowlers are not experienced. They are new to international cricket, and they will need to get hit for boundaries, otherwise they will not learn. For India to win the decider, they should bat first, put up 240 to 250 and then keep West Indies to a low total. If the batters don't take responsibility, this Indian side will not succeed," he added.

The series decider, scheduled to take place at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday, will therefore test more than India's ability to respond to a setback.

'They had all day to announce the ban': Vinicius slams La Liga for suspension timing

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior has slammed La Liga for announcing his four-match domestic suspension just two hours before the club's UEFA Champions League fixture against Roma on Thursday.

The Brazilian winger will miss Real Madrid's upcoming La Liga fixtures, including the highly anticipated El Clasico against Barcelona, following his straight red card during the league match against Villarreal last weekend.

"I only heard about it at the stadium. I think the ban came at a bad time. They had all day to announce the suspension, and just as I got to the stadium, I got the message that I was going to miss four La Liga games," Vinicius said as quoted by goal.com.

The forward also questioned the lack of communication surrounding the disciplinary regulations,

claiming players had not been adequately informed about the rule that led to his suspension.



"I don't understand why. The truth is that the rule is new. They've never explained this to us. Someone from LaLiga always comes in, or from whatever the refereeing organisation is called, to explain the new rules to us. But this time, this specific thing, nobody told us about it," he added.

Real Madrid head coach Jose Mourinho also criticised the timing of the announcement, arguing that the authorities could have communicated the suspension the following morning instead of doing so shortly before a major European fixture.

"Couldn't they do it tomorrow morning? They do things shamelessly now. The cat is out of the bag now. Two hours before the match, a player must know he has a four-match suspension. You want to kill a player two hours before the match? It doesn't seem normal to me," he told reporters after the match.

The suspension follows a controversial incident during Real Madrid's 1-0 league victory over Villarreal. Vinicius was sent off after pulling the hair of opponent Nathan Saliba, with the incident coming after the Brazilian had seen a goal disallowed following a VAR review.

England include Filer, Wong, and Corteen-Coleman in A squads for tour to India

IAN S

LONDON: Pacers Lauren Filer, Issy Wong and left-arm spinner Tilly Corteen-Coleman have been named in all three England A squads for a multi-format tour of India, set to happen in November and December.

The trio, who were part of England's runners-up finish in this year's T20 World Cup at home, headline a set of experienced squads for the seven-match series against India A, comprising three T20s, three one-dayers and a four-day game. In all, 11 players picked across the three formats have already represented England.

Mady Villiers and Jodi Grewcock, who played international cricket this summer, join Lauren, Issy and Tilly as the other capped players named in all three squads. Warwickshire all-rounder Charis Pavely and Surrey wicket-keeper-batter Kira Chathli, who led England A in their two home white-ball series against India A earlier this year, also feature in squads across all formats.



finishing runners-up in the 2023 U19 Women's T20 World Cup, has been picked for the 50-over and four-day squads.

Surrey bowler Ryana MacDonald-Gay, the leading wicket-taker in England A's 2-1 T20 series win over India A, is named in both white-ball squads. Head coach Jon 'JJ' Lewis said the squads were built around players on the cusp of senior selection, with next summer's Ashes in mind. "The selection for A squads is often about the bigger picture and getting ready for challenges further down the line.

"These squads have an element of that, but are more about the players who are considered the next in line for the senior England teams, as well as the players who are looking to establish themselves in those teams.

"With the Ashes next summer, we are keen to see some valuable top-level competitive game time against India's next best for several players who will be

in contention for selection next year, particularly in the 50-over and 4-day games.

"We head to India with strong ambitions to be successful, knowing that a tour to India is always a tough assignment. They toured the UK in the summer and had some success over here, so we know it will be a challenge that we are looking forward to meeting head-on," he said in a statement.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said captains for the three squads will be named later. The selectors have also picked six players for the England Women Performance Programme at home happening this winter – four of which are named in the A tour squads.

The T20s will be played at the MCA Stadium in Pune on November 30, December 3 and December 5 respectively. It is followed by the one-dayers at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on December 8, 11 and 14

respectively, before a four-day game happens from December 19 to 22.

England A squads for India tour:

T20 team: Hannah Baker, Grace Ballinger, Kira Chathli, Tilly Corteen-Coleman, Lauren Filer, Jodi Grewcock, Bess Heath, Niamh Holland, Emma Jones, Ryana MacDonald-Gay, Charis Pavely, Grace Potts, Jemima Spence, Grace Thompson, Mady Villiers, and Issy Wong.

50-over team: Hannah Baker, Grace Ballinger, Kira Chathli, Tilly Corteen-Coleman, Lauren Filer, Katie George, Jodi Grewcock, Bess Heath, Niamh Holland, Emma Lamb, Ryana MacDonald-Gay, Charis Pavely, Grace Potts, Grace Scrivens, Ellie Threlkeld, Mady Villiers, and Issy Wong.

Four-day team: Hannah Baker, Grace Ballinger, Kira Chathli, Tilly Corteen-Coleman, Lauren Filer, Katie George, Jodi Grewcock, Bess Heath, Emma Lamb, Charis Pavely, Grace Potts, Grace Scrivens, Ellie Threlkeld, Mady Villiers, and Issy Wong.

Performance Programme: Niamh Holland, Emma Jones, Cassidy McCarthy, Davina Perrin, Jemima Spence, and Grace Thompson

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