

Good Morning

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Riyadh Airport Attack

Two Injured Indians Remain In ICU, Says Embassy



IANIS

RIYADH: Two of the several Indian nationals injured in the October 10 attack on Riyadh airport remain in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia said on Friday. It mentioned further that one more Indian national is in the High Dependency Unit (HDU) while three others are in a normal ward.

The update came in a fresh advisory issued by the Embassy, which said that Riyadh's international airport remains closed to flight operations, while Dammam, Jeddah and Medina airports remain operational, although some disruptions continue.

"In view of the prevailing situation, Indian nationals should continue following instructions by local authorities, stay indoors in case of aerial attack, and refrain from filming, publishing, or

sharing any information, photos, or videos related to the ongoing events," the advisory stated.

According to the Embassy, Indian carriers have extended the suspension of flights to and from Saudi Arabia, with Air India and Air India Express suspending operations on all routes until October 20 and IndiGo until October 24. Akasa Air has suspended its flights to Riyadh until October 24 and to Jeddah until October 21.

Saudia continues to operate scheduled flights to Indian destinations from Dammam, Jeddah and Medina, while Flynas is operating scheduled flights on the Dammam-Lucknow sector and Flyadeal has announced the launch of Dammam-Mumbai flights for October 17-18, it added.

Indian nationals requiring urgent departure may consider transiting **●P-06**

Delhi Protests

Congress, Allies Seeking Bangladesh-Like Regime Change: Rajnath Singh

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW: Union Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday lashed out at the Congress and its allies over the protests in the national capital, accusing them of seeking a regime change along the lines of Bangladesh and using the energy of youth to spread "anarchy".

Addressing a press conference here, Singh asserted that democracy does not give anyone the licence to create disorder or undermine the credibility of constitutional institutions.

"It appears that the Congress and its political allies, directly and through their supporting organisations, are trying to use the energy of the youth to fuel political confrontation and spread anarchy instead of channelling it towards constructive work and nation-building," the defence minister said.

"The youth of the country are being made pawns in the politics of anarchy," he stated.

Singh alleged that the Congress and its allies want a change of government in India along the lines of Bangladesh.

"They openly say at press conferences that they have



drawn inspiration from Bangladesh for regime change, while another speaks openly about bringing down the government. This makes it clear that their only agenda is to dismantle democratic institutions and set the country on fire," he said referring to the uprising in Bangladesh in 2024 that toppled the Sheikh Hasina government.

Singh said Mahatma Gandhi had suspended the entire non-cooperation movement fol-

lowing the violence at Chauri Chaura.

However, the Congress, which claims to be Gandhi's political heir, wants to "avenge" its electoral defeats on the country by talking about a change of government through "violence and anarchy", he said, calling it "the height of the decline in the Congress' moral values".

"The Congress wants to push the country into the fire of violence and anarchy and is dream-

AFTER 1984, THE CONGRESS DID NOT GET A MAJORITY AT THE CENTRE. AT THAT TIME, the BJP was a party with just two seats. Was it vote theft or failure to deliver? Rahul Gandhi should answer this," he said.

Weather To Remain Dry Till October 24: MeT



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday predicted that weather across Jammu and Kashmir is likely to remain dry till October 24.

The MeT department, said the weather is expected to remain generally dry till late afternoon on October 24.

From October 25 to 27, generally cloudy weather with light rain at scattered places is likely, while higher reaches may receive light snowfall. Thunderstorms and gusty winds are also expected at a few places during the period, it said.

The department advised farmers to resume harvesting and other agricultural operations from Friday onwards.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 7.4 degrees Celsius. Jammu recorded a maximum of 29.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 15.3 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded the lowest **●P-06**

'Unwarranted And Uninformed'

MEA Condemns US Congresswoman's Comments On Electoral Process

IANIS

NEW DELHI: India on Friday rejected US Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal's comments on electoral process in the country, terming them as "unwarranted, uninformed" and tantamount to interfering in the electoral practices of a fellow democracy.

"We find the remarks of the Congresswoman unwarranted and uninformed and tantamount to interfering in the electoral practices of a fellow democracy. This is an approach that undermines democracy itself," said Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal while responding to a question during a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Friday.

Jaiswal's response came after Jayapal expressed concerns over certain reports about names of people being removed from India's elec-



toral rolls.

"I am deeply concerned about the actions of the Indian government to purge 130 million people from the voting rolls," the Democrat from Washington state wrote on X.

On Thursday, Washington time, India's Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, also sharply rejected Indian-American Congresswoman Jayapal's charge that New Delhi was **●P-06**

Maintain Professionalism, Mutual Respect In Interactions: J&K Govt To Employees

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has issued a circular reminding all officers and officials that they must maintain professionalism, courtesy, and mutual respect in their interactions with seniors, colleagues, subordinates, and the public.

Citing Rule 3 of the J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971, the General Administration Department (GAD) directed that employees are expected to uphold integrity, discipline, and conduct befitting public servants.

The circular has been issued at a time when a major controversy has erupted over alleged misconduct by a senior IAS officer with a junior KAS officer.

It emphasizes that official interactions should be conducted with due courtesy, restraint, dignity, and mutual respect.



Seniority and supervisory authority, the GAD said, must be exercised with responsibility and fairness, while all employees are expected to extend due regard to lawful directions, established procedures, and the responsibilities attached to their offices.

The department cautioned against the use of derogatory, threatening, or inappropriate language, stressing that conduct

inconsistent with the dignity of office must be avoided.

The circular directed all Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Heads of Departments, and Managing Directors to bring these instructions to the notice of employees under their administrative control and ensure strict observance—(KNO)

CS Reviews Multi-Pronged Traffic Management Plan For Jmu, Sgr

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management to review the implementation of a comprehensive action plan aimed at easing traffic congestion, improving urban mobility and strengthening road safety in the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

The meeting reviewed the Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCoRS), besides assessing the progress of various inter-departmental interventions relating to traffic regulation, parking management, public transport, road infrastructure, enforcement and assistance to road accident



victims here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Transport; Secretary, Tourism; Inspector General of Police, Traffic; Deputy Inspector General, Traffic, Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner, Jammu/Srinagar Municipal Corporations; Vice-Chairman, SDA/JDA; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/Kashmir; Vice-Chairman, Lakes Conservation and Management Authority, besides other officers of the concerned departments.

Emphasising the need for coordinated and outcome-oriented efforts, the Chief Secretary directed **●P-06**

EAM Jaishankar To Host Counterparts From UAE, US In Mumbai

IANIS

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar will host counterparts from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States (US) in Mumbai on October 19-20 and also attend the celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the US as a Guest of Honour, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Friday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the meeting between EAM Jaishankar and his UAE counterpart Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan will be an opportunity to review all facets of bilateral cooperation and discuss the situation in West Asia, as



well as global and multilateral issues.

"On 19th and 20th October 2026, External Affairs Minister will host in Mumbai the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of UAE, His

Highness Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, for an official visit. On 20th October, External Affairs Minister will hold talks with the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and attend the celebration of the

250th anniversary of the independence of the United States of America as the Guest of Honour," Jaiswal said when asked about EAM Jaishankar's upcoming meetings.

"The visit of the UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister will be an opportunity to review all facets of bilateral cooperation under the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The two delegations will assess and take forward initiatives in the areas of energy, trade, investments, fintech, defence, and connectivity. There will naturally be an opportunity also for a detailed exchange on the situation in West Asia, as well as on global and other multilateral issues," he added.

Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan's visit to **●P-06**

CBI Arrests SMC Ward Officer In Bribery Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Ward Officer of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) in a bribery case.

According to an official press release dated October 16, 2026, the accused was posted in the Safakadal area. The CBI registered the case against the officer on October 15, 2026, following a formal complaint.

The complainant alleged that the Ward Officer had demanded a bribe of Rs. 10,000 to allow the continuation of minor renovation work at their residence.

Acting on the complaint, the CBI laid a trap on October 15, 2026, and successfully caught the accused red-handed as he demanded and accepted the Rs. 10,000 bribe. Following the operation, the Ward Officer was placed under arrest.

The agency noted that further investigation into **●P-06**

Centre Approves Rs 475 Crore For Upgradation Of ITI Clusters In J&K

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Centre has approved an investment of Rs 475.41 crore for upgrading two Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters in Jammu and Kashmir under the P.M.-SETU scheme, with private companies set to partner in modernising vocational training infrastructure.

According to an official statement, the National Steering Committee of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) approved Rs 240 crore for the Jammu ITI cluster and Rs 235.41 crore for the Srinagar cluster at its meeting held in New Delhi on Friday.

It said that Eagle Infra India Ltd will partner in upgrading the Jammu cluster, while Inderdeep Infra



India Ltd has been selected for the Srinagar cluster.

The Srinagar cluster comprises Government ITI Srinagar as the hub, with ITIs in Ganderbal, Kangan, Budgam and Charar-i-Sharief as associated institutes.

The Jammu cluster includes Government ITI Jammu as the hub, with ITIs in R S Pura, Nowshera, Samba and Kathua as associated institutes.

The approved plans envisage modernisation of infrastructure, introduction of industry-aligned courses, improved training facilities and capacity-building for instructors, with the stated objective of improving employment opportunities for trainees.

Approvals are part of five ITI cluster projects worth Rs 1,194.92 crore cleared at the meeting. **●P-06**

GMC Sgr marks World Anatomy Day; Masrat Hashim attends programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Anatomy at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar celebrated World Anatomy Day, with great enthusiasm by organizing a series of academic, scientific and cultural programmes that highlighted the importance of anatomy in medical education, patient care and research.

In her inaugural address, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, Principal/Dean Government Medical College congratulated the Department of Anatomy for organising the event and appreciated the active participation of the students and faculty members. She described anatomy as the foundation of medical science and said that a thorough understanding of human anatomy is essential for developing competent and compassionate doctors. She encouraged students to remain committed to learning, research and innovation while always placing patient care at the centre of their profession.

The programme included guest lectures by senior faculty members of the Department of Anatomy who attended the event. Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Masrat Hashim, Administrator, Associated



Hospitals, Government Medical College Srinagar, Financial Advisor/CAO GMC, were also present.

The speakers emphasized on the growing importance of anatomy in modern medicine and explained how detailed anatomical knowledge supports safe surgical practice, accurate diagnosis, advanced medical imaging, interventional procedures and evidence based clinical decision making. They also discussed recent advances in anatomy education, including simulation based learning, three dimensional anatomical models, virtual dissection and digital technologies that are transforming medical training.

The celebration also featured academic competitions for MBBS students, poster presentations by postgraduate students and cultural events. These activities reflected the enthusiasm, creativity and scientific temperament of the students while provid-

ing an excellent platform to showcase their academic and artistic talents.

The event reflected the Department's continued commitment to promoting excellence in medical education, research and professional development while inspiring future doctors to uphold the highest standards of healthcare, ethics and service to society.

Recently, the Faculty, Sr. Residents and Post Graduate Scholars of the Department participated in a workshop on Plastination organized by Dr. Martin Luther, Director and Head, Department of Anatomy, CIMS Karnataka on 9th and 10th September. The workshop provided hands on exposure to the science and technique of plastination, an advanced method of preserving biological specimens by replacing water and fat with specialised polymers.

The participants gained practical knowledge about tissue fixation, dehydration, forced impregnation under vacuum and specimen curing. The workshop demonstrated how plastinated specimens serve as durable, odourless and nontoxic teaching resources that enhance anatomical learning, surgical training and research while preserving fine structural details for long term educational use.

Dir Agri inaugurates Agricultural Products Sale Centre at Lal Mandi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Friday inaugurated a Sale Centre for Agricultural Products at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, in the presence of Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) and other concerned officers of the department.

The establishment of the Sale Centre marks an important initiative towards promoting agricultural products and strengthening their marketing through an organised platform. The centre is aimed at facilitating the availability of agricultural products to consumers while providing greater visibility and market opportunities for the produce of the agricultural



sector.

On the occasion, the Director Agriculture underscored the importance of strengthening marketing infrastructure and promoting agricultural products through dedicated sale outlets. He emphasised that such initiatives can play a significant role in improving market access, encouraging agricultural entrepreneurship and fostering stronger linkages between producers and consumers.

He also stressed the need

for coordinated efforts among departmental officers to ensure the effective functioning of the centre and to promote greater awareness about the availability and significance of agricultural products.

The initiative underscores the Department of Agriculture Kashmir's continued commitment to promoting the agricultural sector, supporting farmers and entrepreneurs, and creating better avenues for the marketing and promotion of agricultural produce.

MP Khatana chairs Public Darbar at Town Hall Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, Friday visited Kupwara district and chaired a public darbar at Town Hall Kupwara to review developmental activities, assess the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and address public grievances.

The darbar was attended by Ex-MLC Syed Rafiq Shah, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara Ghulam Rasool, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Superintending Engineer (SE), Roads and Buildings (R&B), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), other concerned district officers, and prominent citizens of Kupwara district.

During the interaction, the MP conducted a sector-wise review of various departments, focusing on the progress of developmental works, implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other issues concerning public welfare.

Representatives and members of the public from different constituencies raised several issues related to electricity, drinking water, road connectivity, transport, ration distribution, telecommunications, forest-related matters and other essential services. He gave a patient hearing to the grievances and took up several issues on the spot, directing the concerned officers to take prompt and necessary action for their early redressal.

Emphasising the importance of responsive and accountable governance,

Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana directed the officers to maintain close coordination with the public, conduct regular field visits and ensure that the genuine grievances of people are addressed in a time-bound manner. He stressed that the benefits of government schemes must reach the intended beneficiaries and that developmental works should be executed efficiently and transparently.

The MP further directed the Additional District Development Commissioner, Kupwara, to obtain progress reports from the concerned officers on the issues raised during the public darbar and submit a consolidated report to his office within two weeks. He underscored the need for regular monitoring and follow-up to ensure tangible outcomes and effective resolution of public grievances.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Friday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV GIS Theed-Shalimar line will be observed due to which power supply to Deewan Colony, SKUAST, Shalimar, Arabal, Tailbal and

adjoining areas will be affected from 10 AM to 01 PM on 19 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Budgam SIDCO line will be observed due to which power supply to Ompora, SIDCO, Housing Colony, Railway Station Budgam, NIFT and adjoining areas will be affected from 9:30 PM to 03

PM on 19 & 24 October 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Budgam Watrehail Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Samsun, Parthan, Watrehail, PHE Substation, Charangam, Utigam, Waterwani and adjoining areas

will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 19 October 2026.

DC Anantnag directs Time-Bound resolution of Bottlenecks

Directs timely completion of Transit Accommodation Project for PM Package Employees

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, Friday chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Complex, Anantnag, to take stock of the progress of the Transit Accommodation Project being developed under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) for PM Package employees in the district.

He directed the concerned departments to expedite the pace of work, resolve pending issues on priority and ensure timely completion of the project with all requisite infrastructure facilities.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a detailed review of the progress achieved on various components of the project and assessed the status of ongoing construction works. He also reviewed the availability and provision of essential



infrastructure facilities, including road connectivity, drinking water supply and electricity, which are crucial for ensuring that the accommodation is fully functional and equipped to meet the requirements of the intended beneficiaries.

The DC took stock of the issues and bottlenecks affecting the pace of execution and sought feedback from the concerned departments regarding the status

of pending works, interdepartmental coordination and the measures required to address implementation-related challenges. He stressed that all critical components of the project must progress in a coordinated manner to avoid delays and ensure the creation of a complete and functional residential facility.

Emphasising the importance of timely delivery of the project, Dr. Bilal Mohi-

ud-Din Bhat directed the executing agencies and line departments to work in close coordination, identify and resolve all outstanding issues in a time-bound manner, and ensure that no avoidable delays hamper the execution of the project. He called for focused attention on pending infrastructure works and directed the officers to take prompt corrective measures wherever required.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the need for regular field inspections, effective monitoring and periodic assessment of physical progress to ensure adherence to prescribed timelines and quality standards. He underscored that the provision of essential services, particularly road connectivity, water supply and uninterrupted electricity infrastructure, must be given due priority so that the accommodation is made ready with all necessary facilities.

He also impressed upon the concerned officers to

maintain close coordination and accountability at every stage of execution and ensure expeditious resolution of any administrative or technical issues arising during implementation.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that the timely completion of the Transit Accommodation Project is a priority and directed all concerned departments to work with a coordinated and result-oriented approach to ensure its completion within the stipulated timeline, with adequate infrastructure and essential amenities for PM Package employees.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineers of the Roads and Buildings (R&B), Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Power Development Department (PDD), besides other concerned officers and officials associated with the execution and monitoring of the project.

RNAF Organises Blanket Distribution Drive in Downtown, Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a meaningful step towards supporting vulnerable communities during the colder months, the Rouble Nagi Art Foundation (RNAF) organised a Blanket Distribution Drive in Downtown Srinagar, Kashmir on Friday. The initiative aimed to provide warmth and comfort to individuals and families in need, reaffirming the Foundation's commitment to humanitarian outreach and community welfare.

As part of the initiative, Rouble Nagi, Founder of the Rouble Nagi Art Foundation, led the Foundation's efforts to distribute blankets among community members. Over 150 women participated in the Blanket Distribution Drive, which was organised to support individuals and families facing challenges during the winter season, ensuring that essential warmth and

care reach those who need it most.

The initiative reflects the Foundation's continued efforts to address the immediate needs of underserved communities through meaningful, on-ground interventions. By providing essential winter supplies, RNAF seeks to extend support and promote dignity, compassion, and social responsibility.

Through this initiative, the Rouble Nagi Art Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to reaching communities in need and ensuring that humanitarian support extends to those who may be most vulnerable during the colder months.

The Blanket Distribution Drive in Srinagar reflects RNAF's broader mission of creating positive social change through community-centred initiatives, ensuring that every individual is treated with dignity and receives support during times of need.

DC Kulgam inaugurates Digital Information Board at Mini-Secretariat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Friday inaugurated a Digital Information Board at the Mini Secretariat Kulgam, aimed at improving tourist information services and promoting the tourism potential of the district.

The digital board will provide updated information about tourist destinations, distances, tourism infrastructure and other important locations across South Kashmir, helping visitors plan their journeys conveniently. It

will also serve as a central information point for tourists and the general public.

The board will further be used to display public awareness messages and other government initiatives.

The installation of the digital information board enhances the visibility of District Kulgam on the digital tourism map and promotes Aharbal as a peaceful, culturally rich, and tourist-friendly destination. CEO, Aharbal Development Authority and other officers and officials were present on the occasion.

BOSE constitutes grievance-redressal cell ahead of annual exams

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has constituted a grievance-cum-monitoring cell to address examination related grievances, complaints and queries from stakeholders during the forthcoming annual examinations. The cell has been established to ensure timely redressal of the grievances and mitigate problems of the stakeholders cropping up during the course of examinations.

The cell will register grievances for timely disposal and making prompt corrective interventions. It will register complaints, ensure their timely dis-

posal, and take corrective action wherever necessary. The cell will function under the direct supervision of the Secretary, JKBOSE.

Meanwhile, BOSE has exhorted upon the centre superintendents and their supervisory staff to safeguard the integrity of the examinations and make sure these are conducted in a fair, transparent and orderly manner. The integrity and sanctity of the examinations will be safeguarded at any cost, it added.

The board has urged the stakeholders to lodge the grievances on jsexam-sjd.jkbse@jk.gov.in, 0191-2585732 (Jammu), jsexam-skd.jkbse@jk.gov.in, 0194-3186762 (Kashmir).

DC Srinagar inspects fencing, upgradation work on Budshah Bridge

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday conducted a site inspection of the fencing and allied upgradation works along both sides of Budshah Bridge, aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety, strengthening preventive measures to address negligent falls, suicide incidents and improving the overall aesthetic appearance of the bridge over River Jhelum.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the major components of the upgradation works, which include installation of new fencing on both sides of the bridge, strengthened protection railing system, lighting provisions.

While speaking on the occasion, the DC said that public safety remains a top priority of the District Administration and said that fencing of bridges is being undertaken as a preventive safety measure in view of concerns over suicide incidents from bridges, besides addressing public demand for enhanced safety measures. He added that the initiative is expected to enhance the appearance of Budshah Bridge, an important urban landmark in Srinagar, while ensuring a safer and more durable facility for the public.

The DC said that the upgradation works were executed to strike a balance between improved public safety, structural durabil-



ity and aesthetic enhancement, ensuring that the fencing complements the bridge's surroundings without compromising the scenic charm of the river.

The DC further stated that the District Administration Srinagar has already undertaken several similar measures, particularly at vulnerable bridges over the River Jhelum, including New Zaina Kadal, Aali Kadal, Old Zaina Kadal, Nawakadal and Safakadal in the Shahr-e-Khaas areas of the District. These measures are aimed at creating a safer environment for pedestrians and commuters through the installation of appropriate safety safeguards and strengthening preventive infrastructure. He also stated that fencing work along Noor Jehan bridge at Qamarwari is also being taken up and will be completed soon.

During the visit, the DC was informed that the major components of the work include installation of structural steel posts finished with stainless steel sheets to provide a durable and aesthetically

pleasing fencing system, along with stainless steel railings at different levels to ensure proper edge protection and improved safety for pedestrians.

The project also includes provision and installation of high-tensile, low-relaxation, seven-wire prestressing steel strands as per the approved structural arrangement, to support the railing and fencing system. A lighting system/illumination along the railings and fencing on both sides of the bridge is also part of the project aimed at improving visibility during night hours while enhancing the overall visual appeal of the bridge.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Sai Kiran, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Executive Engineer R&B, Khalid Mehmood, Executive Engineer KPDC, Tasaduq Nabi, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah and other concerned.

ICS&C Signs MoU with EMLY LABS AI Academy to promote AI Education

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Islamia College of Science and Commerce (ICS&C), Hawal, Srinagar, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EMLY LABS AI ACADEMY, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar Friday, to promote academic collaboration, skill development, and industry-oriented learning opportunities for students.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, Principal, Islamia College of Science and Commerce, and Monis Khan, CEO, EMLY LABS AI ACADEMY. The collaboration aims to strengthen the relationship between academia and the technology sector, with a particular focus on emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, and practical skill development aligned with the evolving needs of the job market.

The partnership is expected to facilitate opportunities for student internships, hands-on training, exposure to industry practices, and



capacity-building initiatives. It also reflects the College's commitment to implementing the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by promoting experiential learning, multidisciplinary education, employability, and the development of industry-relevant competencies among students.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of Islamia College of Science and Commerce, emphasized the importance of building meaningful partnerships between educational institutions and technology-driven organizations. He stated that such collaborations can help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world applications, enabling students to develop the skills, confidence, and adaptability required in a rapidly

changing technological landscape.

Dr. Abid Hussain Bandy, Convener, Internship Programme, emphasized that the initiative would support the College's efforts to expand internship opportunities, foster innovation, and equip students with relevant skills for future careers. He noted that such partnerships are an important step towards making internships more meaningful, structured, and aligned with the objectives of NEP 2020.

The collaboration marks another step in Islamia College of Science and Commerce's ongoing efforts to establish institutional partnerships that enhance experiential learning, encourage innovation, and strengthen students' connections with industry.

Rs 13.99 Crore allocated for Srinagar EV charging infrastructure

CS reviews twin-city traffic plan; 2.79 lakh e-challans generated in seven months



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has allocated Rs 13.99 crore for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Srinagar, with work underway at Batamaloo, Harwan and Bemina, as Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Friday reviewed measures to ease traffic congestion and improve road safety in Jammu and Srinagar. The Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management, reviewed parking, public transport, road infrastructure, enforcement and implementation of recommendations of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCoRS).

The meeting was informed that the Pantha Chowk charging station, with a capacity for 100 buses, has been developed, while the Zoonimar station is functional for 15 vehicles. Charging stations at Batamaloo, Harwan and Bemina are under execution under the ₹13.99-crore allocation.

In Jammu, sites have been handed over to the

Transport Department under the PM E-Drive scheme, with ₹15 crore allocated and civil works for an electric bus depot underway.

Seventeen roadside parking sites have been identified in Jammu, of which three are functional and seven allotted to vendors. In Srinagar, an IT-based Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system is monitoring 300 parking spaces at key locations.

Dulloo directed the municipal corporations to regularly inspect traffic signage and create additional parking spaces to reduce congestion caused by unregulated parking.

He also called for upgrading the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) in both cities with facial recognition capabilities to strengthen enforcement and road safety.

The Traffic Department was directed to analyse e-DAR data to identify accident-prone locations and deploy personnel at identified hotspots and blackspots.

The meeting was informed that Jammu generated 1,75,384 e-chal-

lans involving ₹20.20 crore between January and July 2026, while Srinagar generated 1,04,311 challans involving ₹10.50 crore.

Together, 2,79,695 e-challans involving ₹30.70 crore were generated during the seven months. Of these, 14,677 were disposed of and ₹1.23 crore realised.

Dulloo also sought a proposal to strengthen safety audits of heavy passenger vehicles, particularly school buses, and called for an effective grievance redressal mechanism under PM-RAHAT for road accident victims.

The Transport Department said 68,000 vehicle registration certificates had been cancelled for repeated violations.

Since 2021, ₹18.14 crore has been allocated under Road Safety Funds, of which ₹13.83 crore has been utilised for traffic monitoring and enforcement equipment, including body-worn cameras, interceptor vehicles, cranes, breath analysers and first-responder kits.

No-honking zones have also been mapped at 29 major institutional locations in Jammu and 12 in Srinagar—(KNO)

J&K Bank deepens strategic institutional engagement in Ladakh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Taking forward J&K Bank's strategic focus on strengthening institutional relationships through engagement at the senior leadership level, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta visited Ladakh and held meetings with Commissioner/Secretary, Finance, UT Ladakh, Tsewang Tharchin (IA&AS) and Director General of Police, Ladakh, Anand Jain (IPS).

The interactions formed part of the Bank's continued efforts to deepen partnerships with government institutions and key stakeholders, particularly across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and align its banking outreach with



regional priorities.

During the meetings, the Executive Director briefed the senior officers on the Bank's key initiatives and ongoing efforts to support economic growth and expand access to banking services in Ladakh. He also sought their perspectives on institutional requirements, regional priorities and areas where closer coordination could strengthen service delivery and facilitate greater collaboration.

The visit reflects the Bank leadership's emphasis on sustained institutional dialogue as a strategic means of building enduring partnerships, understanding emerging needs and translating stakeholder engagement into responsive banking services. It also reaffirms the Bank's commitment to contributing to Ladakh's socio-economic development through a stronger relationship with the UT Administration and other institutions.

Rana directs speedy execution of Jal Shakti, I&FC works in Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Friday chaired a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to assess the physical and financial progress of various schemes and executed works being executed by the Jal Shakti Department and the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department in Jammu Division.

During the meeting, the concerned officers briefed the Minister on the progress of ongoing schemes, achievements recorded so far, implementation-related bottlenecks and the status of expenditure against funds sanctioned and earmarked for various works.

While reviewing the progress, the Minister directed the officers to accelerate the execution of works on the ground for expeditious completion. He asked them to ensure that all the projects nearing



completion are completed within the prescribed timelines, particularly before the onset of winter.

Reviewing the functioning and progress of the Jal Shakti Department, Rana directed the officers to accord top priority to the incomplete drinking water supply schemes and make every effort to commission them at an earliest.

He stressed the need for advance functional testing of pipelines, pumping arrangements, storage tanks and other associated infrastructure to ensure that any technical deficiencies are identified and rectified well in time, facilitating the smooth commissioning of schemes

and reliable drinking water supply to the people.

The Minister also called for close field-level monitoring of schemes and directed the concerned officers to undertake regular inspections, particularly of works at advanced stages of completion, to ensure adherence to quality standards and approved timelines.

Reviewing the progress of works under the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, the Minister directed that de-silting of water channels and the strengthening of flood-protection infrastructure and embankments along vulnerable stretches be undertaken and completed on priority.

J&K Govt shuffles 27 officers, assigns new administrative roles

‘Officers assigned as In-charge Administrative Officers across departments’

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday ordered the transfer and posting of 27 officers as In-charge Administrative Officers across various departments and offices in the Union Territory.

According to an order issued by the Jammu and Kashmir General Administration Department (GAD), the transfers and postings have been ordered with immediate effect.

As per the order, Iftikhar Layaqit Bhatti has been posted to the Directorate

of Economics and Statistics, J&K; Suman Kumar to the J&K Pollution Control Board; and Ab. Rashid Bhat to the Directorate of Fisheries, Kashmir.

Tahir Ahmad Khan has been posted to the State Taxes Department, Kashmir, while Gurvinder Kour has been posted to Government Dental College, Jammu. Gurjeet Singh has been transferred to the Directorate of Hospital-ity and Protocol, J&K, and Mushtaq Ahmad Zaroo to Government Medical College, Srinagar.

Showkat Ahmad Dar has been posted to the

office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, while Ab. Rashid Wani has been transferred to the Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services, J&K. Shakeel Ahmad Bhat has been posted to Government Dental College, Kashmir.

Rajinder Kumar Pandita has been posted to the Directorate of Prosecution, J&K; Arun Kumar to the office of the Advocate General, J&K; and Neelam Sobti to the Financial Commissioner (Revenue), J&K (Relief).

Manzoor Ahmad Khanda-day has been posted to SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina, while

Shafat Ahmad Lala has been transferred to the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, J&K. Kamal Singh has been posted to the J&K Forensic Sciences Laboratory.

Vikas Gupta has been posted to the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, while Athar Hussain Nengroo has been posted to SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina.

Devinder Singh has been posted to the Directorate of Horticulture (P&M), J&K; Sanjay Kumar Raina to the Directorate of Motor Garages, J&K; and Adeeta Raina to the Directorate of

Industries and Commerce, Jammu.

Mir Shafiq Ahmad has been posted to the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K, while Sanjay Dhar has been transferred to the Government Ayurvedic Medical College, Akhnoor, Jammu.

Shabir Sultan Dar has been posted to the office of the Food and Drug Control Organization, J&K; Bishan Dass to the State Taxes Department, Jammu; Anju Kumari to the Directorate of Fisheries, Jammu; and Nusrat Mubeen to the Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Kashmir—(KNO)

Secy PD&MD reviews key Developmental Initiatives, Departmental Priorities



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD), Dr. Owais Ahmed held an introductory meeting with the officers and officials of the Department to review its functioning, the progress of key developmental initiatives and the priorities for effective implementation of various programmes.

During the meeting, the status of the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) was reviewed. The package comprises 53 projects sanctioned at a total cost of ₹70,244.55 crore, with an aggregate physical progress of 89%. The progress of the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) was also discussed, with 123 out of 124 identified issues reported as resolved.

The meeting also reviewed various important initiatives, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Census 2027, Family ID, data harmonization, Vibrant Villages

Programme-II and the Aspirational Districts, Blocks and Panchayats Programme. The Department's role in strengthening project monitoring, statistical systems, evidence-based planning and evaluation of developmental schemes was also discussed.

Progress under public-private partnership (PPP) initiatives and capacity-building activities through the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) was reviewed. Preparations for the 6th National Conference of Chief Secretaries and the forthcoming Northern Zonal Council meeting were also discussed.

In his closing remarks, the Secretary emphasized the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination, timely submission of requisite information, regular monitoring of projects, and prompt resolution of pending issues to ensure the effective implementation of developmental programmes and the achievement of the development priorities of Jammu and Kashmir.

Traffic restrictions in Sgr areas on Oct 18 for 'Pedal Through Paradise' cycling event

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Senior Superintendent of Polcie (SSP) Traffic Srinagar City Bisma Qazi on Friday urged people to plan their journeys in advance for Sunday, October 18, in view of the ‘Pedal Through Paradise’ cycling event.

Sharing details of the traffic restrictions, SSP Bisma Qazi, said restrictions would be imposed on several roads in Srinagar from 5 am to ensure the safety of cyclists and smooth traffic movement.

She said the cycling event would begin at Lalit Ghat and proceed towards Nagbal via Shalimar and Harwan, with restrictions on the Lalit Ghat-Harwan and Lalit Ghat-Pandesh routes.

“Motorists travelling from Harwan should use the Burzahom, Chandpora, Telbal, Zakura, Malbagh, Ellahibagh and 90 Feet

Road routes. Those coming from Ganderbal and Nagbal should also use 90 Feet Road,” Qazi said.

The SSP said restrictions would also be imposed at Badiyari Chowk, Nishat, Dal Gate and adjoining roads. Parking arrangements have been designated for the Golf Course, Barista, Zabbarwan Park and Nehru Park up to Lalit Crossing.

“Traffic for medical emergencies and passengers travelling to Srinagar Airport will be facilitated via the Dargah-Khanyar route. People can contact the Traffic Police Control Room at 103 for assistance,” Qazi said, urging commuters to cooperate with traffic personnel.

The ‘Pedal Through Paradise’ event aims to promote cycling and showcase Srinagar's scenic surroundings. Commuters have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel on affected roads during the event—(KNO)

Ladakh gets one more district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: The Union Territory administration of Ladakh on Friday notified the creation of Sankoo as a new district, with its headquarters at Sankoo.

According to a notification issued by the Revenue Department, the new district namely Sankoo has been created.

The notification states

that the newly created Sankoo district will comprise four tehsils—Sankoo, GM Pore, TSG and Taisuru—along with their respective revenue villages.

It further states that the jurisdiction of Kargil district has been modified by excluding the tehsils and revenue villages now included in Sankoo district—(KNO)

Prabhari Officer reviews TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in J&K

Emphasizes stronger coordination between UT Government and MoH&FW

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR : State Prabhari Officer for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Joint Secretary of DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Sumeet Kumar Jarangal , Friday virtually chaired a high-level review meeting to evaluate the implementation of the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) in the UT of J&K.

The comprehensive review was attended by Mission Director NHM J&K, Athar Amir Shafi Ul Khan, along with the Director Health Services of Jammu and Kashmir, State Tuberculosis Officers (STOs), Chief Medical Offi-



cers (CMOs), District Tuberculosis Officers (DTOs) and Programme Management Unit NHM J&K.

Presenting the progress of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme across the Union Territory, Mission Director NHM J&K, highlighted the steady advancements made in grassroots screening, expansion of diagnostic networks, and enhanced tracking through the Nikshay portal. He underscored that the health administration is fully dedicated to optimizing field operations, strengthening differentiated TB care, and expanding nutritional support networks to drive down morbidity and

mortality.

During the deliberations, the Prabhari Officer emphasized the crucial need to act as an effective bridge between the UT Government and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of India, to proactively address and fulfill any program deficiencies. He highlighted that achieving a tuberculosis-free Jammu & Kashmir requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, driven by robust community participation (Jan Bhagidari), intensified screening in high-risk villages, and strengthened diagnostic infrastructure.

J&K Prosecution's strong advocacy leads to dismissal of bail pleas in Narco-Terror Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Prosecution Department of the Union Territory of J&K announced that three bail pleas were dismissed by the Courts of Districts Samba and Jammu, a result of sustained and evidence-driven Prosecution.

On 15 October 2026, the Additional Sessions Judge Samba Arvind Sharma dismissed the bail applications of Jagpreet Singh and Neeraj Jaiswal @ Romi in FIR No. 31/2023 of Police Station Ramgarh. The case involves cross-border, drone-dropped narcotics, the use of a Glock pistol and serious injuries to two local youths. The Ld. Public Prosecutor, Kuldeep Bhat, argued that the accused acted as local guides, that the rigour of Section 37 of the NDPS Act is attracted due to the commercial quantity involved and that granting bail

would send a wrong message to society. The Court agreed, citing the heinous nature of the crime, the logistical support and harbouring attributed to the accused and the second applicant's past antecedents. The Hon'ble Court's orders also reflect the Prosecution's commitment to speedy justice. In line with the Hon'ble High Court's direction to conclude the trial within three months, the Prosecution examined 29 witnesses in just 2.5 months, with 46 judicial hearings held at the shortest possible intervals.

On 14 October 2026, the Principal Sessions Judge, Jammu Tahir Khursheed Raina, dismissed the anticipatory bail application of the applicant, Rajat Pal Singh, in FIR No. 268/2026 under Section 318(4) BNS, registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar and cancelled his interim protection. The Ld. Public Pros-

ecutor Himanshu Parkash, relied on the Investigating Officer's status report, which cited bank statements, CCTV footage, the admission of one of the accused and the recovery of Rs. 47,200. Further, the applicant was not present in court when the application was called for hearing and the counsel appearing on his behalf failed to apprise the court of his whereabouts. Given the serious nature of the allegations against the applicant, Rajat Pal Singh and the clear admission recorded in the status report, the Court finds no merit or justification in extending the privilege of this discretionary relief, particularly when the applicant is absent.

The Department commends its Ld. Public Prosecutors for dedication and diligence and reiterates its resolve to oppose bail in serious offences and safeguard public safety.

DHSK orders probe into pregnant woman's death in Gurez

Four-member committee to submit report within five days

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) has constituted a four-member committee to investigate the death of a pregnant woman from Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, with the panel asked to determine whether medical negligence was involved.

Haseena Begum, wife of Showkat Ahmad Lone and a resident of Mazgund village in Tulail, died on October 14, according to an order issued by the Directorate on Thursday.

The committee, headed by Deputy Director Schemes Dr Saba Wani,

has been directed to submit its report within five days of the issuance of the order and specifically examine whether the death was attributable to medical negligence.

The panel also includes Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Bandipora Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Malla, consultant gynaecologist at Gousia Hospital Srinagar Dr Rohana Ali, and Medical Officer Dr Musadiq Ahmad Khan, who is also a nodal officer with the Directorate.

As already reported by KNO on Wednesday, Begum was shifted to District Hospital Bandipora that morning after developing complications during pregnancy.

Her baby was stillborn.

She was initially taken to a primary health centre in Sheikhpura late on Tuesday evening, but no medical staff was available there, the report said.

She was subsequently taken to Sub-District Hospital Gurez, where doctors advised that she be shifted to Bandipora for further treatment due to low blood levels, according to the report.

The inquiry is expected to examine the circumstances surrounding the woman's death and establish whether any lapse in medical care occurred. The Directorate will decide on further action after receiving the committee's findings—(KNO)

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Exams Should Test Knowledge, Not Confidence

For nearly 2.7 lakh students across Kashmir and the winter-zone areas of Jammu, the next few days will bring a mix of anticipation, nervousness and hope. The annual Class 10, 11 and 12 examinations conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) are set to begin on October 19, and preparations are reportedly complete.

Class 10 examinations will begin on October 19, followed by Class 12 on October 21 and Class 11 on October 29. With examinations being held across all ten districts of Kashmir and the winter-zone areas of Jammu, the scale of the exercise is considerable. But beyond examination centres, question papers and security arrangements, there is a more important concern: how students experience these crucial days.

For many students, particularly those appearing in Class 10 for the first time, examinations can feel like a defining moment in their lives. The pressure to score good marks, meet family expectations and keep pace with classmates often makes the experience more stressful than it needs to be.

This is why JKBOSE Secretary Gh Hassan Sheikh's advice to students not to panic deserves attention. Examinations are important, but they should not be treated as a test of a student's entire future. Every child has different abilities, and a set of marks cannot fully capture a student's potential, creativity or capacity to succeed in life.

Students need encouragement, not fear. Parents and teachers have an equally important role in helping them understand that sincere preparation matters more than constant worry. Comparing children with their friends or repeatedly reminding them of the consequences of poor results only adds to the pressure. A little patience and reassurance at home can make a real difference.

At the administrative level, JKBOSE has established 2,602 examination centres in the winter-zone areas, appointed supervisory staff and dispatched confidential examination material to designated police stations. Around 40 vigilance teams have also been constituted to monitor the conduct of examinations.

These arrangements are necessary to ensure that the process remains fair and that students who work hard are not disadvantaged by cheating or other unfair practices. The board has also sought police assistance and asked district magistrates to consider restrictions under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita wherever required.

However, maintaining discipline should not mean creating an atmosphere of fear inside examination halls. Students may become nervous, misunderstand an instruction or need help with a procedural issue. Examination staff must be firm about the rules while remaining patient and considerate. A young student should never be made to feel intimidated for asking a genuine question.

The board's emphasis on analytical and competency-based questions, in line with the National Education Policy 2020, is another important aspect of the examination process. Education cannot remain confined to memorising textbooks and reproducing answers. Students must learn to understand concepts, think independently and apply their knowledge.

But changing the pattern of question papers alone will not bring about this transformation. Classroom teaching must also encourage understanding rather than rote learning. Teachers need the necessary support, and students should be given enough practice to become familiar with the new approach. Otherwise, a change intended to improve learning could become another source of anxiety. The grievance monitoring cell established by JKBOSE is a welcome step. Its real value, however, will depend on how quickly and fairly complaints are addressed. Students, parents and teachers should be able to report examination-related problems without unnecessary difficulty and receive a clear response.

Students must also be careful while filling in their roll numbers and question-paper series details on answer scripts. Such small errors can create avoidable complications during evaluation and result preparation. Clear instructions from examination staff can help prevent them.

Special attention is also needed in far-flung and winter-zone areas, where students may face practical difficulties in reaching examination centres or obtaining timely information. Coordination between the board and district administrations must ensure that avoidable administrative problems do not come in the way of a student's examination.

Ultimately, the responsibility for a smooth examination process is shared. JKBOSE must ensure fairness and proper arrangements, teachers must guide students, parents must provide emotional support, and students must approach their papers with sincerity and confidence.

Examinations will always bring some nervousness. A degree of pressure is natural, but it should never overshadow the purpose of education. Young people must be allowed to learn from their mistakes without being made to believe that one examination will determine their worth.

As the examinations begin, students need a simple message: do your best, trust your preparation and do not let fear take over. There is life beyond marks, and there are many paths to success.

The real achievement for JKBOSE will be to conduct examinations that are not only fair and transparent, but also humane. Students deserve an environment where their knowledge is tested, their dignity is respected and their confidence remains intact.

■ From Access To Dignity

Women, Telemedicine, And A New Future In J&K



SHAKEELA REHMAN

For decades, the single biggest determinant of whether a woman in Jammu and Kashmir received timely healthcare was not her illness; it was her geography. A woman in Gurez Valley in Bandipora, in the high-altitude reaches of Kargil and Leh (now part of Ladakh's story but sharing its infrastructure legacy), or in the remote border belt of Rajouri and Poonch, might live within sight of Pakistan-administered mountains yet be hours away from the nearest obstetrician. A difficult pregnancy, a persistent gynaecological complaint, a child's fever that would not break: each meant a journey often on foot, then a shared taxi, then a long wait at a district hospital that could consume a day and a family's weekly income.

The consequences were visible in every health statistic. Maternal mortality, anaemia among adolescent girls, low institutional delivery rates in remote blocks, and the near-total invisibility of mental health care were not merely medical failures; they were failures of distance, of male-dominated household decision-making that rationed a woman's travel, and of a health system that concentrated specialists in Srinagar and Jammu while the periphery marled.

Telemedicine Arrives, and Women Lead Its Adoption

The turning point was the national rollout of eSanjeevani, India's government-run telemedicine platform, launched in November 2019 and scaled dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic. The platform operates in two modes. In the first, eSanjeevani AB-HWC (now anchored in Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, the upgraded Health and Wellness Centres), a Community Health Officer at a rural spoke centre examines the patient and connects via video to doctors and specialists at a hub, typically a district hospital or medical college. In the second, eSanjeevani OPD, patients consult doctors directly from their phones.

The national data tells a striking story: women are the platform's dominant users.

In the assisted hub-and-spoke model, women accounted for roughly 60% of consultations in 2020, and their share has remained stable at around 57%; in the direct-to-patient OPD model, women's share climbed from 57.6% in 2020 to over 70% by 2023. By early 2025, more than 57% of all eSanjeevani beneficiaries nationwide were women. The platform has grown into the world's largest government-owned telemedicine system, crossing 50 crore (500 million) teleconsultations and linking over 1.4 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandir spokes with nearly 20,000 hubs.

For J&K, this architecture is transformative precisely because it was designed for places like it. A spoke centre in a far-flung block of Kupwara or Doda can now connect a woman to a gynaecologist or physician at a hub in Srinagar or Jammu or, through inter-hub linkages, to super-specialists at PGIMER Chandigarh, AIIMS New Delhi, or SKIMS Srinagar. Pilot work in the neighbouring Union Territory of Ladakh demonstrated the model's reach: in a series of super-specialty teleconsultations delivered to remote areas via eSanjeevani, a majority of the patients were women who would otherwise simply never have seen an endocrinologist, neurologist, or cardiologist.

Beyond Consultation: The Digital Health Ecosystem

Teleconsultation is the visible tip of a deeper digital transformation. Under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, every woman can now hold an ABHA, a unique digital health account that links her records across public and private facilities, ending the era in which a patient's history lived and died in a paper file at a single hospital. Digitally signed e-prescriptions flow from the consultation to the Ayushman Arogya Mandir pharmacy, so that a prescription written in Srinagar can be dispensed in the village the same day.

Maternal care has been a particular beneficiary. The old paper-based tracking of pregnancies has given way to digital registers, in which each pregnant woman is flagged for ante-natal check-ups, high-risk screening, and institutional delivery follow-up. The ASHA and ANM, overwhelmingly women themselves, have become data-enabled frontline professionals: registering pregnancies on their phones, flagging danger signs, and routing high-risk cases into the telemedicine network rather than hoping the family finds transport in time.



Then there is mental health, the most neglected dimension of women's health in a region that has lived through conflict, curfews, displacement, and loss. The Tele MANAS national tele-mental health programme (helpline 14416), launched in October 2022 with services in Kashmiri and Urdu, has given women a channel for help that requires no permission slip from the household and no visible trip to a psychiatrist's office. Within its first three months, the Kashmir centre alone had received around 4,000 calls from every district of the Union Territory, a volume that revealed both the enormous unmet burden and the pent-up demand from women who could finally seek help privately, free of charge, 24 hours a day.

From Access to Dignity

It is worth pausing on why digital healthcare is, in this context, a distinctly gendered advance. The barriers that kept women from care were never only kilometres. They were the cost of travel, the loss of a day's wages, the need for a male escort, the embarrassment of describing intimate symptoms in a crowded OPD, and the quiet deprioritisation of a woman's complaint within her own family. Each of these barriers is softened, sometimes decisively, by the digital model.

A teleconsultation at a village health centre costs almost nothing and takes an hour, not a day. A woman can be seen without a long journey, and often without needing to justify one to anyone. A conversation about

reproductive health, post-partum depression, or domestic distress can happen with a screen between her and the world, a degree of privacy that the district hospital corridor never offered. And when a prescription arrives digitally and medicines follow from the local pharmacy, the entire economy of shame and exclusion that governed a woman's health choices begins to lose its grip.

The Honest Ledger: Challenges That Remain

None of this should be mistaken for completion. The same mountains that made healthcare distant now make connectivity uneven. Uninterrupted internet at peripheral facilities remains a genuine constraint, and network outages in remote areas can still turn a scheduled teleconsultation into a wasted visit. National evaluations of eSanjeevani flag recurring challenges: audio-visual glitches, shortages of specialists at hubs leading to long waits, follow-up care that can fall through the cracks, and concerns about data privacy for sensitive consultations, particularly acute for women discussing reproductive or mental health.

Digital literacy, too, is unevenly distributed. The assisted model mitigates this, but it concentrates enormous responsibility on the CHO or ASHA — often underpaid, overworked, and carrying a tablet in one hand and a community's expectations in the other. There is also the quieter risk of the 'digital divide within the digital': households where the phone belongs to the man, where a woman's call to 14416 is monitored, or where a health app in English remains a closed door.

The Road Ahead

The next chapter should focus on three things. First, continuity: teleconsultation must evolve from one-off transactions into longitudinal care, with digital records following the woman across pregnancy, childbirth, and beyond, and with referral tracking that ensures a woman flagged as high-risk actually reaches the specialist. Second, integration: telemedicine, Tele MANAS, ABHA-linked records, and the ASHA network must function as one seamless system, so that a distressed caller to 14416 can be routed to clinical care without friction. Third, quality and dignity as explicit metrics measuring not just the number of consultations, but whether women report respectful, private, and effective care.

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■ From Paper To Pixels

Why J&K's Revenue Laws Must Catch Up With Digital Land Records Digitisation Of Jamabandies, Locked Records And Online Mutation Systems Demand Clear Legal Powers, Correction Procedures And Accountability.



MOHD AMIN MIR

The digitisation of land records has transformed revenue administration in Jammu and Kashmir. Jamabandies once maintained in handwritten registers are increasingly being processed through digital platforms, enabling easier access, improved monitoring and faster delivery of services. Yet, as technology changes the way revenue work is performed, an important question arises: have the laws and rules governing this administration kept pace with the transformation?

The answer calls for urgent attention. Digitisation is not simply the transfer of paper records to computers. It changes how records are authenticated, corrected and accessed, while reshaping the responsibilities of Patwaris, Girdawar Qanungos, Naib Tehsildars and Tehsildars. A digital system operating under unclear legal procedures can create confusion for officials and inconvenience for citizens. Jammu and Kashmir must therefore modernise its revenue framework to match the realities of digital governance.

The Jamabandi in a Digital Era For generations, the Jamabandi has remained a cornerstone of revenue administration. Maintained through prescribed registers and procedures, it records land rights and other relevant particulars, subject to applicable law. Mutations, field records and revenue maps complement this system.

Digitisation has made these records more accessible, but it has also exposed discrepancies inherited from older records. A survey number may have been entered incorrectly, an area may differ between the Jamabandi and the corresponding map, or an earlier mutation may not have been incorporated accurately.

Such problems are not merely hypothetical. In villages where records have passed through generations of handwritten maintenance and subsequent computerisation, reconciling the original register, field

documents and digital entries can require detailed verification. Historical spellings, inheritance-related changes and differences in recorded areas may further complicate the exercise.

A digital entry does not become legally correct merely because it appears on a screen. Its reliability depends on the source record, verification, lawful authentication and an effective correction mechanism.

Locked Records and Unclear Procedures

One of the most pressing challenges concerns Jamabandies that have been digitally locked or frozen after a prescribed stage of processing.

Locking records can prevent unauthorised changes and protect data integrity. However, difficulties arise when a genuine error is discovered after the record has been locked. If the portal does not provide a clear route for reopening or correcting the entry, officials may be unable to resolve the issue without seeking instructions through several administrative levels.

Consider a situation in which a mutation was lawfully attested but was not correctly reflected in the digitised Jamabandi. Another example is a discrepancy between a recorded survey number and the original authenticated record. Such cases require examination of the underlying documents, but the correction process must also identify the competent authority and the legal procedure to be followed.

The solution is not to permit unrestricted editing. The government should prescribe a uniform procedure for reopening locked records, supported by written authorisation, documentary evidence, supervisory scrutiny and a complete audit trail. Where a proposed correction may affect another person's rights, notice and an opportunity to be heard should be provided as required by law. A record must be secure without becoming impossible to correct.

Software Access Is Not Legal Authority

Digitisation has introduced different stages of data entry, verification and approval. These arrangements can improve accountability, but an important distinction must remain clear: permission granted by software does not, by itself, confer statutory power. If a portal allows an official to change a particular entry, that facility cannot replace the legal authority required for the decision. Similarly, a



competent revenue officer should not be prevented from implementing a lawful order merely because the portal lacks an appropriate function.

The Jammu and Kashmir Revenue Department should review the applicable revenue laws, rules and instructions to determine whether they adequately address electronic authentication, correction of digital records, official responsibility and supervisory powers.

The distinction between clerical correction and adjudication is particularly important. A transcription error may be corrected through a prescribed administrative procedure. A disputed ownership entry, inheritance claim or alteration affecting another person's rights may require notice, examination of evidence and a reasoned order by the competent authority. A Patwari should not be expected to decide matters reserved for a competent revenue officer or court. Nor should a technical limitation of the software be allowed to obstruct a lawful decision.

Concrete Challenges in Jammu and Kashmir

The ongoing digitisation and verification of Jamabandies, together with online mutation processing and initiatives such as AgriStack and the Digital Crop Survey, demonstrate how extensively technology is becoming part of field-level revenue work. These initiatives require officials to reconcile land particulars, ownership information and field-level realities across different digital workflows. In cases involving deceased landowners, pending inheritance mutations, mismatched personal particulars or differences between recorded shares and actual cultivation arrangements, verification may require examination of original documents and local circumstances.

Similarly, discrepancies between a Jamabandi and a Massavi or Latha cannot always be resolved through a simple change in a digital field. The original records, relevant maps,

mutation history and applicable legal provisions may all need examination. These examples underline the need for clear procedures rather than informal solutions. They also show why digitisation targets should not be treated as a substitute for accuracy. The objective must be reliable records, not merely completed online entries.

Accountability Must Be Fair

Errors in digitised records can originate at different stages: the original record, data entry, migration, verification or subsequent processing. It would therefore be unreasonable to attribute every discrepancy automatically to the Patwari responsible for maintaining village-level records. Responsibility should be determined by examining the source of the error; the duties assigned to each official and the available evidence. Honest mistakes, negligence and deliberate misconduct must be distinguished.

The maker-checker-approver system can strengthen accountability if each participant's role is clearly defined. Every entry should be traceable to its source, every approval identifiable and every correction supported by recorded reasons. At the same time, field officials need proper training, functional hardware, reliable connectivity, technical support and reasonable workloads. Expanded digital responsibilities must be matched by institutional support.

The Legal Reforms Required

Jammu and Kashmir needs a structured programme to bring its revenue framework into line with digital administration. First, the government should conduct a comprehensive review of applicable revenue laws, rules, manuals and standing orders to identify provisions that require amendment or clarification.

Second, rules should clearly recognise the legal treatment of authenticated electronic revenue records, while specifying their relationship with original registers and other legally relevant documents.

Third, a uniform correction protocol should classify clerical

errors, data-migration discrepancies and substantive disputes. It should identify the competent authority, prescribe documentary requirements and establish reasonable timelines. Fourth, the law and corresponding procedures should clarify who may authorise the unlocking, correction and re-authentication of Jamabandies. Every change should preserve the original entry and a traceable record of the action taken.

Fifth, responsibilities for data entry, verification, approval and adjudication should be clearly separated. The government should also establish a grievance-redressal mechanism through which citizens can track correction requests and receive decisions within prescribed periods. Finally, experienced Patwaris, Girdawar Qanungos, revenue officers and legal experts should be consulted while drafting the reforms. Their practical experience can help ensure that the new framework addresses actual field-level difficulties.

Modern Technology Needs Modern Law

Digitisation offers Jammu and Kashmir an opportunity to build a more transparent and accessible revenue administration. But technology cannot compensate for unclear powers, outdated procedures or the absence of a reliable mechanism for correcting errors. The objective should not be to abandon established revenue principles, but to adapt their implementation to the digital age. Accuracy, lawful mutation, protection of property rights and accountability remain essential, whether a record is maintained in a register or an electronic database.

The time has come to move from digitising land records to modernising the laws that govern them. Every official must understand the limits of his authority, every correction must follow a lawful procedure, and every citizen must have access to an effective remedy. Only then can Jammu and Kashmir's digital Jamabandies become a foundation for genuine administrative reform rather than merely electronic versions of the old registers.

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■ Why J&K Needs Madarsa Board

Manoj Sinha's Institutional Reset And Kashmir's Next Counter-Radicalisation Frontier

The Takeover And Restructuring Of Falah-E-Aam Trust-Linked Schools Marks One Of Post-Independence J&K's Most Significant Institutional Interventions Aimed At Disrupting The Ecosystem Through Which Ideological Influence And Radicalisation Could Be Transmitted.



MUDASIR DAR

For much of the past three decades, Kashmir's security problem was visible in its most brutal forms: guns, killings, stone-pelting, shut-downs, militant funerals, public glorification of terrorists and the mobilisation of young people through the streets. The transformation after 2019 has fundamentally altered that landscape. Organised stone-pelting and separatist street mobilisation have virtually disappeared, large militant funerals no longer routinely become recruitment spectacles, and local recruitment into terrorist organisations has fallen dramatically. The figures indicate that 146 local youth joined terrorist ranks in 2021, 121 in 2022, 19 in 2023, four in 2024 and just one in 2025. This is a remarkable security transformation. But it also raises a more difficult question: when the old, visible pathways of mobilisation have been disrupted, where does the next generation of radicalisation take place? The answer cannot be reduced to one cause. Online propaganda, Pakistan-based handlers, encrypted communication, personal grievances and extremist networks remain important. Yet the possibility of quieter ideological radicalisation, through private networks, selective religious narratives, closed spaces and individuals exercising disproportionate influence over impressionable young people, deserves much greater policy attention. The battlefield may have moved from the street to the mind.

That shift requires a fundamental change in how counter-radicalisation is understood. Before a young person becomes an operative, someone usually has to change the way he understands violence, morality, identity and death. The process may begin with propaganda, a personal interaction, an online group or the misuse of religious authority. Kashmir's experience in 2016 demonstrated the mobilisation potential of religious spaces when the Ministry of Home Affairs told the Supreme Court that public-address systems at some local mosques were being used for pro-freedom slogans and to incite youth towards stone-pelting and protests. That episode should not be misread as an indictment of mosques or religious scholars; rather, it demonstrated a broader security principle: any institution or platform capable of influencing large numbers of young people can become vulnerable to ideological capture. The same principle applies to schools, madrasas, Darul Uloom, charitable trusts and digital communities. The relevant question is therefore not whether an institution is religious, but whether it is transparent, accountable and protected against being converted into an instrument of unlawful mobilisation.

One of the most instructive aspects of Jammu and Kashmir's counter-radicalisation experience in recent years has been the prevention of recruitment before a young person actually crossed the line into terrorism. In one such case involving a young boy from south Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir police was able to identify and intervene before the recruitment process could mature into operational militancy. In this case a boy of the age group of around 17 years had been approached through social-media channels by a person presenting himself as a Maulvi and Named as Ashiq nengroo from Pulwama , who acts as a terror handler and sitting across in Pakistan and he used selective references to Qur'anic verses and Hadith to construct a narrative around jihad, martyrdom and religious obligation. The contact was not simply theological instruction; according to the credible sources who were familiar with the case, the religious references were allegedly being used in a recruitment-oriented context to influence a vulnerable adolescent and gradually normalise the idea of participation in violence. What makes the case particularly significant is that the intervention occurred before the young man could be converted into an operational asset. The security forces were able to identify the vulnerability, trace the contacts and disrupt the recruitment

process. This is precisely what preventive counter-radicalisation should look like: not waiting for a minor to pick up a weapon, but identifying the ideological and digital pipeline that is attempting to place the weapon in his hands. It also demonstrates why the state needs a far more sophisticated understanding of the distinction between legitimate religious instruction and the deliberate weaponisation of religious narratives for extremist recruitment. A Qur'anic verse or Hadith does not radicalise a person by itself; the danger arises when texts are selectively presented, stripped of context and combined with propaganda, personal influence and calls towards violence. In this case, the fact that the target was a young boy makes the issue even more serious. It raises questions not merely of national security but of child protection, digital safeguarding and institutional responsibility. The success of the security agencies was therefore not simply an arrest avoided or a terrorist attack prevented, it was a young life potentially diverted before radicalisation could become irreversible.

Recent terrorism investigations make the issue more complex because they challenge the assumption that radicalisation necessarily produces poorly educated or socially marginalised recruits. The Delhi Red Fort bombing investigation of 2025 exposed an alleged "white-collar" terror module involving medical professionals, digital communication channels and religious influence. Investigators have examined the role of Telegram groups, Pakistan-linked handlers and a Kashmiri cleric accused of facilitating the ideological recruitment of educated youth. The significance of the case lies precisely in the profile of those involved: professional education did not make them immune to extremist ideology. The case therefore illustrates why counter-radicalisation cannot be treated simply as a problem of unemployment or lack of education. A young person can be academically accomplished and still become vulnerable if an ideological ecosystem convinces him that violence is morally justified and death in the service of an imagined cause is spiritually rewarding.

Reports surrounding the case have also generated questions about the role of religious institution and networks, as it is being learnt that the boy namely Umar had a basic schooling from one of the FAT schools in his locality and before joining the Medical College in Srinagar he was groomed in one of the leading Madrasa of South Kashmir, what is being learnt is that the boy went to highest level of radicalisation. The policy lesson is nevertheless clear: radicalisation can occur inside educated, connected and apparently successful communities, and the state needs mechanisms to detect the transition from legitimate religious belief to advocacy, recruitment and operational terrorism.

The vulnerability of minors makes the issue even more urgent. The case of a teenage boy from Pulwama who became involved in the killing of a non-local in 2023 illustrates how quickly a young person can move from exposure to extremist material and contacts to actual violence. The case I am referring to is a very important example of how radicalisation can gradually take place through ideological grooming.

There was a mosque right next to the boy's residence, but it followed a different school of thought. Instead of attending that mosque, the boy would travel nearly 35 kilometres to Srinagar to attend a mosque associated with another ideological school. By that stage, he had already been consuming sermons and religious content on YouTube, which had gradually influenced and radicalised his thinking. After he started regularly attending prayers there, he was reportedly given separate sessions after Friday prayers. What initially appeared to be religious instruction gradually turned into a process of ideological grooming. The concern was not simply about the religious teachings themselves, but about how selective interpretations of religious texts were being used to create an ideological mindset in a vulnerable young person.

The eventual consequence was extremely serious. The grooming became part of a pathway that led the boy towards involvement in the killing of a non-local labourer. The act of violence was effectively presented to him as a prerequisite or a test before he could be fully inducted into the terrorism ecosystem.

That happened afterwards is equally revealing. Around a month after he joined the terror network, his mother

released an emotional video appealing to him to return home. The emotional appeal eventually contributed to his surrender. When he was later asked about the killing and whether he felt remorse for taking another human being's life, his response was deeply disturbing. He said that he did not initially feel anything. He had been ideologically conditioned to believe that he was not committing a crime, but doing something spiritually supreme. He had been made to believe, through selective references to Quranic verses and Hadith, that such an act would earn him a place in Jannah.

This is precisely what makes ideological radicalisation so dangerous. Terrorism does not always begin with a gun, a weapon or a militant commander. Sometimes, it begins much earlier with repeated exposure to selective narratives, isolation from alternative interpretations, personal grooming, and the gradual normalization of violence in the name of religion.



The most important lesson from this case is that counter-terrorism cannot remain limited to the stage where a young person has already picked up a weapon. By then, the ideological battle may already have been lost. The real intervention has to happen much earlier, at the stage of online radicalisation, ideological grooming, social isolation and the manipulation of religious texts. The objective should not be to target a particular sect or school of thought. It should be to identify and disrupt any ecosystem, online or offline that transforms a vulnerable young mind into a person who can see the killing of another human being as a religious achievement.

The records in related Kashmir cases have increasingly shown the role of social media, jihadist literature, Telegram groups and personal networks in radicalisation. In one recent J&K case, for instance, the High Court recorded the investigating agency's allegation that a young accused had been radicalised after reading jihadist literature, watching jihadist videos on YouTube and subsequently entering a Telegram group through which he was connected to a militant network. Such cases demonstrate why the security system must intervene before recruitment becomes operational. The question should not merely be, "Who supplied the weapon?" It should also be, "Who supplied the worldview that made the weapon acceptable?" That is where responsible regulation of educational and religious institutions becomes relevant. It is neither legitimate nor useful to portray every madrasa or maulvi as a security threat. But where an adult exercises sustained ideological influence over minors, there must be accountability, safeguarding and a mechanism for identifying the difference between religious education and extremist indoctrination.

Pakistan's experience provides a regional warning about what can happen when religious institutions, geopolitical conflict, foreign funding and ideological mobilisation intersect without adequate institutional safeguards. During General Zia-ul-Haq's Islamisation programme and the Afghan jihad of the 1980s, Pakistan witnessed a major expansion of madrasa networks, accompanied by state patronage and substantial foreign, including Saudi and Gulf, funding. Parts of this religious ecosystem became intertwined with the mobilisation that ultimately fed jihadist organisations in Kashmir. The historical lesson is highly relevant: religious education becomes a national-security concern when institutional opacity, external financing, ideological mobilisation and geopolitical conflict converge. Kashmir has also witnessed repeated security investi-

gations into alleged hawala channels, foreign-linked donations and financial networks associated with separatist and extremist activity. Consequently, regulation cannot stop at curriculum. The government must know who owns an institution, who controls it, who sits on its governing body, where its donations originate, how its accounts are maintained, what properties it controls, which organisations it is affiliated with and whether charitable resources are being diverted towards unlawful activity.

It is in this larger context that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's intervention in the Falah-e-Aam Trust-linked school network deserves to be understood. The government's takeover of hundreds of schools associated by authorities with the FAT ecosystem was not merely an administrative exercise. It represented an attempt to address the institutional layer of a security problem: the possibility that educational

tion and residential facilities, audited finances, identifiable bank accounts, declared sources of donations, transparent affiliations and periodic inspection. Religious education can remain an integral part of the curriculum, but students should simultaneously receive modern subjects and acquire the skills necessary to participate in contemporary society. The board should also establish clear safeguards around minors, because a child living in a residential institution is particularly dependent upon the adults who supervise him. International experience demonstrates that religious education and regulation are not incompatible: Muslim-majority countries such as Indonesia have formal systems of registration, accreditation, curriculum standards, teacher requirements and institutional oversight for Islamic schools. The principle is straightforward: faith can remain protected while institutions remain accountable.

The reform must also address the preparation of the future maulvi. A religious scholar who will lead Friday prayers, deliver sermons, teach children and influence an entire community should not be trained exclusively in textual memorisation. He should have deep knowledge of the Qur'an and Hadith, but also an understanding of constitutional values, Indian law, psychology, technology, communication, economics, contemporary social problems and the realities faced by young people. He should be able to answer difficult questions about identity, extremism, social media and violence with intellectual confidence rather than allowing radical influencers to occupy that space. Equally important, madrasas should not become repositories for children who have failed in conventional schooling. Educational failure should trigger additional support, not automatic diversion into religious education. A modern madrasa should produce scholars, educators and socially responsible citizens, not young people isolated from the intellectual and professional world around them. This is not dilution of religious education; it is its institutional modernisation.

The next responsibility now lies with the elected government. The government have an opportunity to take the debate beyond individual institutions and create a permanent policy architecture. Manoj Sinha's intervention demonstrated that the state can act against institutions when credible security concerns arise; the next step is to ensure that such action becomes the exception rather than the recurring mechanism. A statutory Madarsa Board, combined with transparent registration, financial scrutiny, curriculum standards, teacher certification, child protection and proportionate security oversight, would allow Jammu and Kashmir to move from reactive counter-radicalisation to preventive security. The objective should be neither to stigmatise religious education nor to place an entire community under suspicion. The objective should be to ensure that no educational institution, religious or otherwise can become an opaque ecosystem for ideological exploitation, financial diversion or recruitment into violence.

Kashmir has already demonstrated that terrorism can be defeated on the streets when security forces, institutions and society act together. The next challenge is more subtle. It is to ensure that the decline of visible militancy is accompanied by the decline of the invisible conditions that can reproduce it. The real frontier of counter-radicalisation is therefore not merely the militant hideout; it is the classroom, the madrasa, the mosque, the online group, the financial network and the private conversation in which a vulnerable young person first encounters the idea that violence can be a virtue. The most successful counter-terrorism operation is the one that prevents a child from becoming a recruit in the first place. A Madarsa Board, if designed intelligently and implemented fairly, can become part of that preventive architecture, protecting education, protecting children, preserving legitimate religious scholarship and, at the same time, protecting Kashmir's next generation from the ideological machinery that once turned young lives into instruments of violence.

Mudasir Dar is a social and peace activist based in South Kashmir. He is a Rashtrapati Award recipient in world scouting and has contributed to many local and national publications on a diverse range of topics, including national security, politics, governance, peace.

Two Injured

via Bahrain, Kuwait or Qatar, subject to obtaining the necessary visas, the Embassy said.

“Indian nationals planning to travel to Saudi Arabia, including for Umrah, are advised to take into account the ongoing disruptions at Saudi airports and the possibility of flight cancellations, which may result in extended stays,” it stated.

On Thursday, in a video message to the Indian community in the wake of the recent attacks, India’s Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Vipul, said India had condemned the attacks on civilian facilities and infrastructure in the country.

He said the Embassy had started helplines for Umrah pilgrims who had faced inconvenience, and asked those planning to travel to Saudi Arabia from India to keep possible disruptions in mind. "In the current situation, all of us have to remain calm and alert. Especially in case of an aerial attack, we have to remain indoors," Ambassador Vipul said, adding that sharing any photo or video of the attacks was against Saudi law and could cause problems.

Congress, Allies

Rahul Gandhi and his allies need to understand that democracy does not permit attempts to create anarchy, undermine constitutional institutions or obstruct India’s development.

"Respecting the law is also essential to maintaining law and order. India’s democratic institutions cannot be sacrificed at the altar of political self-interest," he said.

Singh added that falsehoods, anger, attempts to malign institutions and political opportunism could not obstruct India’s development.

He advised Gandhi to respect the people’s mandate and introspect on his political role instead of pursuing what he called "politics of destruction" in the name of protecting democracy.

"India’s future is everyone’s responsibility. We must choose the path of dialogue and nation-building, not confrontation," Singh said.

The minister also questioned the Congress’ allegations of vote theft, saying the party had failed to win a majority on its own for decades. He said the Congress last formed a government in Uttar Pradesh in 1985.

"After 1984, the Congress did not get a majority at the Centre. At that time, the BJP was a party with just two seats. Was it vote theft or failure to deliver? Rahul Gandhi should answer this," he said.

Referring to Gandhi’s description of the alleged electoral irregularities as a "hydrogen bomb", Singh said the claim had failed to make an impact.

He also claimed that the Congress had not filed a single formal appeal against the electoral rolls, alleging that it had no evidence to support its charges.

Singh said the BJP had never questioned constitutional institutions or the country’s electoral system, and accused the Congress of attempting to mislead people by casting doubts on these institutions.

Referring to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi’s assassination, Singh questioned the Congress over the postponement of elections across the country then following the incident.

He said the death of a candidate normally leads to the postponement of polling only in the constituency concerned, and claimed that the Amethi election had already been held when the decision to defer elections nationwide was taken.

Singh also questioned the Congress’ political strength in Uttar Pradesh, where it has been out of power since 1989. He asked Gandhi whether the Congress could win even the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat without the support of the Samajwadi Party.

Referring to the recent clashes among Congress leaders in the state, he asked whether the BJP was responsible for the discord within the party’s Uttar Pradesh unit.

He claimed Congress leaders of the Uttar Pradesh unit don’t have faith in each other, and indulge not only in verbal assault, but also in physical assault with each other.

"The Congress has been out of power in Uttar Pradesh for 37 years. Whether this is due to an alleged theft of the public’s votes or because of the Congress’ own style of functioning and failures, the people of the state and the country understand this very well," he said.

During the press conference, the defence minister also cited India’s economic and defence achievements under the Modi government.

He said India’s global standing had improved and the country had emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies.

The defence minister also said that India’s defence production had increased and the country has emerged as an exporter of defence equipment.

Weather To

minimum temperature among the listed

stations at 0.5 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 4.8 degrees Celsius.

The Met department has advised people to follow weather updates for further information—(KNO)

MEA Condemns

purging voters.

He called her remarks “unacceptable interference in India’s internal affairs”.

“The remarks by Rep. Jayapal on India’s electoral and political processes are unacceptable interference in India’s internal affairs,” Kwatra wrote on X.

“India is a vibrant democracy, with robust, independent constitutional institutions and a longstanding record of free and fair elections. Always open to constructive conversation with the Congresswoman to dispel her misconceptions,” he said.

Born in Chennai, Jayapal is a former chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. She has clashed with New Delhi before as well. In 2019, she moved a House resolution urging India to lift communication curbs in Kashmir.

The Election Commission of India has been carrying out a nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in phases. The Commission has said lists of absent, shifted, dead and duplicate voters were displayed publicly and shared with political parties, and that anyone whose name was deleted can apply for enrolment at any time.

CS Reviews Multi-

the concerned Municipal Corporations to undertake regular inspections to assess the installation and adequacy of traffic signages at different locations across both cities. He asked the respective Divisional Commissioners to closely monitor the progress and ensure timely resolution of deficiencies.

He enjoined upon the Traffic Department to analyse the data available on the electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) portal to identify accident-prone locations and time-specific traffic risks. The deployment of traffic personnel, he stressed, should be aligned with the identified hotspots and blackspots to improve enforcement and substantially reduce road accidents.

The Chief Secretary also called for working out a proposal to augment the capacity of the Transport Department to conduct comprehensive safety audits of heavy passenger vehicles operating across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular emphasis on school buses.

On parking management, he underscored the need to designate additional on-street parking spaces at suitable locations to facilitate the general public. He further stressed the implementation of the parking policy through the creation of additional parking lots across urban centres of the Union Territory to address congestion arising from unregulated parking.

Taking note of the functioning of the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS), the Chief Secretary called for upgrading the system to incorporate Facial Recognition System (FRS) capabilities in both cities to strengthen enforcement and enhance the sense of safety among commuters and drivers.

He also stressed the establishment of an effective grievance redressal mechanism for the implementation of the PM-RAHAT scheme, ensuring that no road accident victim is denied timely treatment at health facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting also reviewed the status of vending zones, the Integrated Road Accident Database (i-RAD), e-Courts, enforcement measures undertaken by the Traffic and Transport Departments, and ongoing/proposed road-widening and road-protection works aimed at improving traffic flow and ensuring the safety of road users.

On this occasion the Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Anil Kumar Singh, presented video walk-throughs of various elevated corridors proposed for Jammu and Srinagar. He also apprised the meeting of the progress of ongoing road-widening works and the projects proposed for execution to improve connectivity and ease traffic congestion.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, take this occasion to gave a detailed presentation on measures undertaken in and around Srinagar, including identification of parking spaces, decongestion initiatives, ITMS-enabled junctions, e-charging stations, remodelling of bus stops and rectification of identified blackspots.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, presented the status of various interventions being implemented by the department and urban local bodies to streamline public transport, regulate parking, develop vending zones and strengthen technology-enabled traffic management.

On the development of organised parking facilities, the Commissioner Secretary revealed that 17 roadside parking

sites have been identified in Jammu, of which three are functional and seven have been allotted to vendors. In Srinagar, an IT-based Automatic Number Plate Recognition (AMPR) system is monitoring 300 parking spaces across key commercial areas, including M.A. Road, Lal Chowk, Residency Road, Jhelum Riverfront and Karan Nagar, the meeting was apprised.

She also made out that IT-based parking management is also being pursued through Srinagar Smart City Limited, while Jammu Municipal Corporation has constituted a Parking Cell and will incorporate IT-based parking provisions in future tenders. Srinagar Municipal Corporation is preparing a GIS-based Parking Management Area Plan for systematic identification and regulation of parking zones, she added.

The meeting also reviewed the development of electric-vehicle charging infrastructure. Regarding the same it was given out that in Jammu, sites have been identified and handed over to the Transport Department under the PM E-Drive scheme, with 15 crore allocated and civil works for the e-bus depot underway. In Srinagar, the Pantha Chowk charging station, with a capacity of 100 buses, has been developed, while the Zoonimar station is functional for 15 vehicles. Charging stations at Batamaloo, Harwan and Bemina are under execution, against an allocation of 13.99 crore.

The meeting was further apprised that four vending-zone sites are operational in Jammu at Roop Nagar, Talab Tillo, Shakti Nagar and Narwal behind Wave Mall. In Srinagar, vending spaces at Magarmal Bagh, Batamaloo and Nishat are functional, with vending zones are being developed in other districts. For improving traffic discipline, it was added that No-honking zones have been mapped at 29 major institutional locations in Jammu and 12 locations in Srinagar..

The presentation highlighted the enforcement performance of ITMS during January–July 2026. In Jammu, the system generated 1,75,384 e-challans involving 20.20 crore, of which 11,467 challans were disposed of and 1.04 crore realised. In Srinagar, 1,04,311 e-challans involving 10.50 crore were generated, with 3,210 challans disposed of and 0.19 crore realised.

The Transport Department also apprised the meeting of its enforcement initiatives, including the cancellation of 68,000 vehicle registration certificates for repeated violations, utilisation of the Road Accident Victim Fund and implementation of PM-RAHAT for accident victims requiring medical treatment.

Against 18.14 crore allocated under Road Safety Funds since 2021, 13.83 crore has been utilised for procuring traffic-monitoring and enforcement equipment. These include 560 iron traffic barricades, 685 body-worn cameras, 1,000 traffic safety night belts, 19 interceptor vehicles, 16 high-patrol vehicles, 23 cranes, 36 breath-alcohol analysers and 100 first-responder kits, besides ambulances. A GeM contract and supply order have also been issued for 30 containerised traffic booths at a cost of 103.50 lakh, with prototype preparation underway.

The Public Works Department further reported the completion of metal beam crash barriers along a 13-km stretch of NH-44 in Jammu on May 7, 2025, and along a 31-km stretch in Kashmir to improve road safety and lane management.

The committee reviewed the inter-departmental action points under the SCCoRS framework, including strengthening District Level Road Safety Committees, operationalising the Road Accident Victim Fund, implementing PM-RAHAT, integrating ITMS, e-DAR, e-Courts and i-RAD, auditing blackspots and dark hotspots, conducting school-bus safety audits and assessing the status of trauma-care facilities.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that systematic parking management, effective enforcement, safer road infrastructure and timely emergency response must remain central to the administration’s efforts to make urban travel safer, smoother and more convenient for the people.

EAM Jaishankar

India comes after EAM Jaishankar travelled to UAE on an official visit from October 14-16, where he held talks with the country’s leadership and also attended the Raisina Middle East event.

The MEA spokesperson stated that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s upcoming visit to India will provide an opportunity for both sides to review bilateral ties and discuss ways to further strengthen the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.

"In so far as the visit of the Secretary of State is concerned, this forthcoming visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to review India-US relations and discuss ways to further strengthen the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership that we have with the United States. Discussions are expected to cover key areas of our bilateral cooperation, including

energy, trade, investment, defence, critical emerging technologies, and other areas of mutual interest. The two sides will also exchange views on regional and global developments. The visit will provide an opportunity to sustain the high-level engagement between the two countries and advance our shared priorities," he said.

Rubio will be visiting Mumbai and Jammu next week for talks that will include "enhanced energy cooperation", the US State Department said. During his visit, Rubio will meet with senior government officials to strengthen the US-India strategic partnership, exchange views on regional and global dynamics, and discuss prospects for enhanced energy cooperation. According to the US State Department, he will also meet with business leaders to promote opportunities for commercial investment and economic cooperation.

When asked about the choice of Mumbai as a venue for EAM Jaishankar’s bilateral engagements, Jaiswal responded: "It has been the practice for the last decade or so that we have hosted foreign dignitaries outside Delhi. To just give you some example, Prime Minister hosted the Prime Minister of Spain in Baroda. He hosted Chancellor Merz in Ahmedabad. Prime Minister of Mauritius was hosted by him in Varanasi, and the External Affairs Minister hosted the SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Goa. He hosted the Foreign Minister of Botswana in Kevadia in Gujarat, and the External Affairs Minister also hosted the Heart of Asia Conference in Amritsar. So, that was just to give you few examples of the meetings of leaders, of dignitaries that have happened outside of Delhi."

CBI Arrests SMC

the case is currently in progress.

Emphasizing its firm commitment to curbing corruption, the CBI issued a public appeal encouraging citizens in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to come forward if they encounter corruption or face demands for bribes by public officials.

Residents can lodge complaints by visiting the Office of the CBI, ACB, Srinagar (Guest House No 6, Near MLA Hostel, M A Road, Srinagar), calling 9419900977, or sending an email to hobacsgr@cbi.gov.in.

Centre Approves

The other three clusters are in Maharashtra and Odisha.

With the latest approvals, the total investment sanctioned under PM-SETU has reached Rs 3,687 crore, the statement said.

The committee also reviewed the scheme’s instructor-training component. According to the statement, 3,744 trainers had been trained through National Skill Training Institutes as of October 2026.

The PM-SETU scheme aims to upgrade ITIs through partnerships involving governments and industry. The impact of the newly approved projects will depend on their implementation, the quality of training and the extent to which the courses meet employers’ requirements—(KNO)



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NCM Chairman reviews welfare, security measures for minority communities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chairman, National Commission for Minorities (NCM), Harjit Singh Grewal, Friday chaired a review meeting with the senior officers of Jammu and Kashmir Administration to assess implementation of welfare schemes, security arrangements and grievance redressal mechanisms for minority communities in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray; Special Director General of Police, Uttam Chand; Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Vikas Kundal; IGP Jammu Zone, Tejinder Singh; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Minga Sherpa; Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu, Joginder Singh; Director, Social Welfare Department Jammu, Ranjeet Singh besides senior officers of concerned departments.

During the meeting, Secretary, Social Welfare Department delivered a detailed presentation on various welfare initiatives and measures being under-



taken for socio-economic development of minority communities. The presentation covered government welfare schemes, educational assistance, financial support programmes and other initiatives aimed at ensuring that eligible beneficiaries receive the intended benefits.

Director Social Welfare Department presented district-wise details of schemes being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir for minority welfare. These included Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) and other relevant schemes. The presentation also highlighted the physical and financial status of these initiatives and efforts to improve access to benefits

at the grassroots level.

The Chairman reviewed the status of grievances received from minority communities and the action taken by the concerned departments. Emphasis was laid on timely redressal of complaints, effective coordination among departments and regular follow-up to ensure that genuine grievances are addressed appropriately.

Issues concerning educational opportunities and the promotion of Punjabi language were also discussed.

The meeting deliberated on the safety and security of minority and migrant communities in Jammu and Kashmir. The importance of continued monitoring of the security situation, coordination between security agencies and dis-

trict administrations, and appropriate measures to address the concerns of vulnerable communities was highlighted.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of sustained engagement between the National Commission for Minorities, the Social Welfare Department and other concerned authorities to address the issues affecting the minority communities. He encouraged the officers and community representatives to bring specific grievances and concerns to the notice of the Commission and the administration for examination and appropriate action.

The Chairman also stressed the need to examine community-specific demands at the appropriate departmental and administrative levels, particularly those relating to education, language promotion and welfare. He underscored the importance of constructive dialogue, inter-departmental coordination and regular follow-up in resolving genuine grievances and ensuring the effective implementation of welfare initiatives.

Obesity major risk factor for diabetes, heart disease, hypertension: Doctors

‘Don’t wait for diabetes, high BP to take weight seriously’

JAHANGEER GANAHE

SRINAGAR: Unhealthy dietary habits and a sedentary lifestyle are among the major factors contributing to the rising burden of obesity, which doctors warn can pave the way for several chronic diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disorders and certain types of cancer.

Doctors called for early intervention, healthier eating habits and regular physical activity to prevent obesity and reduce the growing burden of lifestyle-related diseases. They said obesity should not be viewed merely as a weight-related problem, as excessive fat accumulation can interfere with normal metabolic functions, increase the risk of multiple health complications and significantly affect overall quality of life.

Dr Murtaza Dar from the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSC), said obesity generally develops when calorie intake consistently exceeds the body's energy requirements, resulting in excessive fat accumulation.

"Obesity is not simply about gaining weight. It is a major risk factor for several serious health conditions. Excess body fat can affect the body's metabolism, increase blood pressure, disturb cholesterol levels and raise the risk of developing cardiovascular diseases, including heart attacks and strokes," he said.

Dr Dar said obesity is closely associated with insu-

lin resistance, making it difficult to regulate blood glucose levels and eventually leading to type 2 diabetes. It can also contribute to fatty liver disease, which may progress to inflammation and liver scarring. Obesity is linked to increased risk of certain cancers, including breast, colorectal and pancreatic cancers, while excess weight places additional pressure on knees, hips and other joints.

"People should not wait until they develop diabetes, high blood pressure or heart problems before taking their weight seriously," he said, adding that maintaining a healthy weight through appropriate dietary choices and physical activity can reduce these risks.

Dr Muzamil from Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag said a sedentary lifestyle, characterised by prolonged sitting and insufficient physical activity, has become a major contributor to obesity. Changing work patterns, increased screen time, reduced outdoor activities and dependence on motorised transport have contributed to a decline in daily physical movement.

"Physical inactivity affects more than just body weight. It can adversely affect cardiovascular and metabolic health and is also associated with poorer mental well-being. Prolonged inactivity has been linked to an increased risk of anxiety and depression, while regular physical activity can help improve mood, sleep and overall health," he said.

He said obesity usually results from a combination of factors rather than a single cause, including genetic predisposition, hormonal disorders, inadequate sleep, chronic stress and emotional eating. Conditions such as hypothyroidism and Cushing's syndrome may contribute to weight gain in some individuals and require medical evaluation. Obesity can also affect psychological well-being, contributing to low self-esteem, social anxiety and emotional distress.

Doctors said excess weight increases mechanical stress on joints and can contribute to osteoarthritis, particularly in weight-bearing joints. Obesity is also associated with sleep-related breathing disorders and a higher risk of complications from several chronic illnesses.

They said these risks can be reduced through sustained lifestyle changes, while cautioning against crash diets and unverified weight-loss remedies. They advised balanced meals containing vegetables, fruits, whole grains, adequate protein and healthy fats while limiting foods high in added sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, and reducing highly processed foods, sugary beverages and frequent calorie-dense snacks.

"People should make physical activity part of their daily routine. Walking, cycling, swimming and other forms of exercise can help maintain a healthy weight and improve blood

pressure, blood sugar control and cardiovascular fitness," doctors said.

They recommended adults aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity every week, alongside muscle-strengthening activities on two or more days. They also emphasised adequate sleep, stress management and regular health check-ups, particularly for people with a family history of diabetes, hypertension or cardiovascular disease.

According to NFHS data cited in available figures, 20.5 per cent of men and 29.4 per cent of women in Jammu and Kashmir are overweight or obese. A separate study in Kashmir found 15.01 per cent of the population was obese, with prevalence at 7.01 per cent among men and 23.69 per cent among women.

Doctors said tackling obesity requires sustained effort involving individuals, families, educational institutions and healthcare authorities, with greater emphasis on preventive healthcare. Promoting healthy eating habits among children and adolescents is particularly important, as early-life patterns influence adult health outcomes.

"Obesity is preventable and manageable in many cases, but it requires consistent efforts. Small, sustainable changes in diet and physical activity can make a significant difference in reducing the risk of diabetes, heart disease and other chronic illnesses," doctors said—(KNO)

CIPMC Srinagar organizes Farmers Field Day Programme in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, under the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Faridabad, Government of India, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, Ganderbal, organised a Farmers' Field Day Programme at Dab Village, Wakoor Block, District Ganderbal Friday.

The programme aimed to create awareness among farmers about sustainable agriculture, natural farming, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and the safe and judicious use of pesticides.

Dr. Asifa Nabi, Chief Agriculture Officer, Ganderbal, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. In her address, she emphasised the importance of natural farming and minimising pesticide application to protect the agricultural ecosystem, maintain soil health, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

IPM Kits were distributed among the farmers who attended the programme. Dr. Haroon Rashid

Hakla, APPO (PP), delivered an informative lecture on the National Pest Surveillance System and Integrated Pest Management techniques. He stressed that pesticides should be applied only when necessary and in accordance with the approved list of CIB&RC.

Ghulam Ahmad Rather, SMS (SDL), highlighted the significance of organic farming and explained the relevance of such awareness programmes in addressing the current challenges faced by farmers.

Abir Shankhari, APPO (WS), demonstrated the safe and judicious use of pesticides, focusing on precautions and responsible application practices.

Kawal Nain Singh, SA, discussed its impact and the long-term benefits of farmer awareness initiatives for the future of agriculture.

Progressive farmers Subeeqa Rizvi and Habib Ullah Khuroo appreciated the Government of India's efforts in organising such programmes and promoting sustainable farming practices among the farming community.

NIT hosts ABC programme on sustainable metallurgy, green energy transition

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Alumni Association of NIT Srinagar, in collaboration with the Office of the Dean of Alumni and International Affairs, organised an Alumni Back to Campus (ABC) Programme featuring distinguished alumnus Dr. Ing Ubaid Manzoor, Project Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute for Sustainable Materials, Germany, at the Hi-Tech Hall, NIT Srinagar.

The programme was hosted by Prof M. A. Shah, Dean of Alumni and International Affairs, along with Ms. Toyiba, Joint Secretary-II of the Alumni Association, NIT Srinagar.

During the interactive session, Dr. Manzoor emphasised that "the green energy transition is fundamentally a materials and metals transition," highlighting the growing demand for critical metals such as nickel, copper and cobalt in batteries, renewable energy technologies and modern infrastructure.

He highlighted the carbon-intensive nature of conventional metal produc-

tion, noting that producing one tonne of nickel can generate approximately 22-28 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. He stressed the need to develop sustainable, energy-efficient alternatives to conventional metallurgical processes.

Drawing on his research published in Nature and Science Advances, Dr. Manzoor discussed Hydrogen Plasma Smelting Reduction (HPSR), an innovative technology combining electrical energy, reactive hydrogen chemistry and high-temperature processing to extract critical metals from low-grade nickel laterites and deep-sea polymetallic nodules.

He explained that the technology offers an alternative to conventional carbon-based extraction by integrating reduction, melting and separation into a single electrically driven process.

Dr. Manzoor emphasised that sustainable metallurgy requires more than replacing carbon with hydrogen, calling for a fundamental redesign of metal production systems through cleaner energy, process integration and resource-efficient technologies.

SKUAST-K agriculture graduates' protest enters 26th day

Minister cites litigation, says immediate solution not possible

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: The protest by unemployed agriculture graduates of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Wadura, entered its 26th consecutive day on Friday, with demonstrators demanding regular recruitment, filling of vacant posts and reforms in the recruitment framework.

The graduates, have been seeking government intervention over what they say are long-pending recruitment concerns of agriculture professionals in Jammu and Kashmir. Their demands include a clear recruitment calendar, regular recruitment drives and a review of SRO-443, which changed the recruitment structure for Junior Agriculture Extension Officer (JAEO) posts by making them promotional.

The graduates had earlier held a candlelight protest to draw attention to their demands, saying qualified

agriculture professionals had been waiting years for recruitment opportunities.

"It has been 20 years since any recruitment advertisement was issued," a protesting graduate had said.

The protesters have urged the Jammu and Kashmir government and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene, hold talks with their

representatives and take concrete steps to address their concerns. They have said their peaceful agitation will continue until their demands are addressed.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Javed Ahmad Dar has said the government is working to resolve the recruitment issue but an immediate solution is not

possible because of litigation involving different categories of posts.

Dar said the matter had remained unresolved for years and the government had been working on it for several months. He added that groups involved in the litigation had also been taken on board in efforts to find a resolution.

CORRECTION

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the name mentioned in my driving licence bearing registration number: JK-0520140045536, has been wrongly mentioned as Amir Ahmad, son of Abdul Majeed Khan, resident of Mehmoopora, Pattan, Baramulla, where as my correct name as per Aadhaar is Mohammad Amir, son of Abdul Majeed Khan, resident of Mehmoopora, Pattan, Baramulla. Now i want to correct it. Any person having any objection in this regard may contact the office of ARTO Baramulla (HQ Sopore) within 7 days from the publication of this notice, no objection will be heard after that.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.
GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR
BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 1ST

Subject: 1. Construction of 125 mm dia machine drilled bore well along with submersible pumping Unit and allied installation to be carried out at Chittergul panchalthan wandhara ward no. 7 in District Anantnag. (Sl. No 01)
2. Construction of 125 mm dia machine drilled bore well along with submersible pumping Unit and allied installation to be carried out at barjangan gusamodar ward no. 5 in District Anantnag. (Sl. No 02)
3. Construction of 125mm Dia Machine Drilled Bore Well along with Submersible Pumping Unit and Allied Installation to be carried out at NHO Reyaz Ahmad khan Gujjar at Village Katsu Sallar, in District Anantnag. (Sl. No 06)
4. Construction of 125mm Dia Machine Drilled Bore Well along with Submersible Pumping Unit and Allied Installation to be carried out at NHO Gulam Mohammad at Village Katsu Sallar, In District Anantnag. (Sl. No 07)
5. Construction of 125mm Dia Machine Drilled Bore Well along with Submersible Pumping Unit and Allied Installation to be carried out at NHO Mohammad Yousuf Gujjar at Village Katsu Sallar, In District Anantnag. (Sl. No 08).
6. Construction of 125mm Dia Machine Drilled Bore Well along with Submersible Pumping Unit and Allied Installation to be carried out at Chohan Basti Sallar, In District Anantnag. . (Sl. No 09).

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 65/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/11282-95, dated: 19-09-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_326133_1_2_6_7_8 & 9.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 13-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	27-10-2026 Up-to 02:00 APM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	28-10-2026 02:00 PM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.
No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./14375-88
Dated: 20-08-2026.
DIPK-6792-26
DT: 16/10/2026
Sd/= Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.
GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR
BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 11TH.

Subject: AMC for the 550-200 and 575-225 Diesel Powered Screw Air (Elgi) Compressors.
Reference: This office Fresh e-NIT No. 17-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./ 1875-85-20, dated: 25-05-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_310884_2.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised videe-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 12-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	23-10-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	24-10-2026 at 02:00 PM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.
No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./14230-41
Dated: 12-10-2026.
DIPK-6821-26
DT: 16/10/2026
Sd/= Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.r.

Para Asian Games: Sheetal Devi heads to Nagoya with sights firmly on another gold

IAN S

NAGOYA: India's top female para-archer Sheetal Devi has reached Aichi-Nagoya for the upcoming Asian Para Games 2026 with one aim -- add more medals to the three she has already won in the continental extravaganza.

Sheetal, who has built her reputation on remarkable accuracy, has the form and confidence to defend her title in Compound Archery -- the individual category that she won in the Hangzhou Para Asian Games held in China in 2023.

The 19-year-old world champion and world number one shot 698 out of a possible 720 in qualification at the World Archery Para Series in Ahmedabad last month, improving her own Asian record. Of her 72 arrows, 51 landed in the 10-ring or its central X-ring, leaving her 10 points clear of the field.

A bronze medallist at the Paris Paralympics in 2024, Sheetal's coach Gaurav Sharma believes the challenge in Japan will be less about technique and more about handling pressure.

"Our primary focus has been on consistency and mental setup. At her level, major technical changes

are unnecessary; the key is maintaining seamless rhythm under pressure and ensuring external expectations don't distract her execution on the target line," Sharma was quoted as saying by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC).

Born without upper limbs, Sheetal's shooting method requires exceptional coordination. She holds the compound bow with her foot, uses her toes to position the arrow and raises her leg towards the target. Her back and shoulder generate the draw, while a specially adapted release aid allows her to release the string through a movement of her jaw.

Her technique was partly inspired by American Para-



lympic champion Matt Stutzman, who pioneered competitive archery using his feet. When they met at the 2023 World Championships in Pilsen, Stutzman examined her equipment and suggested adjustments.

Interestingly, Sheetal scored 689 in qualification at those championships, four points more than Stutzman.

"Her shooting style is biomechanically unique to her body, so we never alter her natural rhythm. Instead, we focus on micro-refinements, optimising her release consistency, anchor point stability, and physical endurance," Sharma explained.

Born with phocomelia, a rare congenital condition affecting limb development, Sheetal grew up in Loidhar

village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

She learnt to write, eat and perform everyday tasks using her feet, even climbing trees with friends. Her sporting potential was identified at a camp in 2019, before coach Kuldeep Kumar introduced her to archery.

Training began with resistance bands, strength exercises and targets placed just a few metres away. Gradually, she developed the balance and control needed to compete at 50 metres.

The results followed quickly. She won two gold medals and a silver at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games, mixed team bronze with Rakesh Kumar at Paris 2024, and the individual world title in Gwangju in 2025. In that world final against Türkiye's Öznur Çüre Girdi, Sheetal finished with three perfect arrows to win 146-143.

"Her biggest growth since Paris is tactical maturity and shot confidence under pressure," coach Sharma told the APC. "Leading into Japan, we specifically worked on fine-tuning her core stability and making quick micro-adjustments to adapt to variable wind conditions."

Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia stays on track as safety fears grow amid Middle East conflict

AGENCIES

SEOUL: Asian Cup organizers have responded to increasing concerns over the safety of players and fans if the tournament goes ahead in Saudi Arabia by confirming plans for the Jan. 7-Feb. 5 continental championship remain on track despite ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

The Saudi organizing committee issued a statement Friday saying it is continuing to coordinate closely with the Asian Football Confederation.

"Preparations across all organizational and operational areas are progressing according to the approved schedule, including work on venues, facilities and supporting services," Saudi organizers said. "The focus remains on delivering a world-class tournament experience for participating teams, fans and media from across Asia, while bringing the continent together through football."

South Korea's Professional Footballers' Association had earlier expressed concerns following a series of attacks on the Asian Cup host country by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

"The continued military tensions and security instability in the Middle East are issues that can never be taken lightly," Lee Keun-ho, head of the South Korean player union, said in a statement. "The safety of our national team, as well as all players participating in the Asian Cup, is a serious concern."

At least 19 people, including foreigners, have been killed in more than a week of Houthi attacks targeting the Riyadh international airport, the headquarters of Saudi oil giant Aramco and other aviation, oil and military facilities across the kingdom.

South Korea, a World Cup semifinalist in 2002, is set to open against Yemen on Jan. 10 but only if, Lee added, it was deemed safe to do so.

"No competition's value can take precedence over the lives and safety of players and football fans," he said. "If safety cannot be sufficiently guaranteed, all possibilities -- including whether the tournament should be held -- must be carefully reviewed."

An AFC Champions League game between Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr and Uzbekistan's Neftchi Fergana was delayed on Monday in Riyadh after Saudi Arabia's Civil Defense issued a security alert.

Asian Football Confederation President Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa told media in Zurich this week that -- if necessary -- the Asian Cup could be postponed by one year.

"We can wait until the end of November" to make a decision, Salman said. "Things can change very quickly for better or worse in the region, and it is a question of seeing what happens."

"If we need to make a decision, then we will, but we could move it back a year to 2028 if we need to."



1st T20I: Smriti's calmness gives a positive feeling, says Deepti as India begin new era against Zimbabwe

IAN S

RAIPUR: Senior all-rounder Deepti Sharma has praised Smriti Mandhana's calm demeanour as the left-handed opener begins her tenure as India's full-time captain in the T20I series against Zimbabwe starting on Friday.

Deepti has played alongside Mandhana for years in the Indian team, which is kickstarting preparations for next year's Champions Trophy. "The best thing is that she stays very cool and calm. That gives you a positive feeling whenever you're playing."

"We've played so many matches before, and even when she was the vice-captain, there was a lot to learn from her, and we used to share our points of view as well. Now, seeing her captain the team on the field will be really nice. The whole team seems to be in good shape, and we're looking forward to it," Deepti said in a pre-game chat with the broadcasters.

India are taking on Zimbabwe in women's T20I for the first time, and Deepti said the team would look to carry forward the momentum from their recent results -- the Asia Cup triumph in Dubai and retaining the Asian Games gold medal in Japan.

"Look, we're playing Zimbabwe for the first time, and it's good to see that they've done really well in their recent series. We're also playing against them for the first time, so our focus will be on carrying the same confidence from our last two tournaments, the Asia Cup and the Asian Games, into this series. That will help us a lot," she said.

Asked about her personal goals for the season, the off-spin bowling all-rounder said she was keeping things simple. "As an all-rounder, the focus is on both. I mean, my focus is on how much better I can get in all three departments every day and series by series. My approach is simple; I don't think too much about other things. I just focus on helping the team win as much as possible with my all-round performances."

Young batter Anushka Sharma, who will bat at number three in the absence of injured Jemimah Rodrigues, said the side had been working on an aggressive brand of cricket in training. "The focus has been on playing aggressive cricket overall. And we've been doing this in our training sessions as well. So let's see."

"I personally feel I'm a very versatile batter. I can play in any situation, and according to the demand of the team, that's it." Asked about her goals for the series, she kept it brief. "Just to fulfil whatever the team demands from me, that's it."

Anushka, who made her T20I debut against South Africa earlier this year, impressed in India A's 2-1 series win over Australia A, and hoped to carry that form into the Zimbabwe series. "The tournament was great for us. We won 2-1. And I would like to just continue with that form and fulfil what's the demand for the team."

She was also excited to play under Smriti's leadership. "I mean, everybody knows that she's a legend of the game and the experience that she carries. She was the vice-captain for almost 10 years. And now we're very excited. And I'm personally very excited to play my first game under a captaincy."



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Sopore 11 Storm into Semi-Finals of Kilo North Kashmir T20 Premier League



GMK SPORTS DESK

LOLAB: Sopore 11 stormed into the semi-finals of the Kilo North Kashmir T20 Premier League by defeating Hamdaniya Green Lar by four runs in the fourth quarter-final played here today.

The closely fought encounter witnessed an intense battle between the two sides, with the result remaining in the balance until the final over. Sopore 11 held their nerve in the crucial moments to register a hard-fought victory and secure their place in the last four.

The victory added another exciting chapter to the tournament, with both teams showcasing competitive spirit, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the match.

With the tournament now entering its decisive stage, the semi-finals are expected to witness high-intensity cricket as the remaining teams compete for a place in the grand finale.

The Kilo North Kashmir T20 Premier League continues to provide a platform for young cricketing talent, while promoting sportsmanship, youth participation and a vibrant sporting culture across the region.

Nortje brings that thunderbolt - Birrell banks on pace as SEC chase fourth SA20 title

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Sunrisers Eastern Cape (SEC) head coach Adrian Birrell said genuine pace sits at the heart of his side's bid for a fourth SA20 title, with Anrich Nortje's raw speed and a menacing fast bowling line-up bolstered further by the addition of Nandre Burger and Craig Overton in the season five auction held earlier this month.

Nortje, currently playing in South Africa's Test series against Australia, took 18 wickets in the SEC's title-winning campaign earlier this year. "Anrich Nortje brings us that thunderbolt. So, I think we've got options within that. They can't all play, but we've got good options and backup for any injuries that could happen. I'm delighted with our bowling attack," Birrell said in a statement by the tournament on Friday.

Birrell has coached SEC to three titles in four seasons, which makes them the most successful side in the competition's history. While other franchises looked for balance and batting depth at the auction, SEC added Burger and Overton to a pace unit featuring Nortje, Marco Jansen, New Zealand's Adam Milne and South African seamer Lutho Sipamla.

SEC will open their Season Five campaign against Pretoria Capitals at St George's Park in Gqeberha on January 17. Birrell said the franchise was delighted to land both Burger and Overton at their base price. "It's absolutely a huge X-factor, so yes, we wanted those two players. There were other options that we could have gone to had we not been able to get them. We didn't have a massive budget, but we got them at base price, both of them, so we were absolutely delighted."

Jansen has been central to the franchise's success by picking up 60 wickets across the first four seasons. He is just one behind former Sunrisers teammate Otneil Baartman, the leading wicket-taker in SA20 history. Overton, also a seam-bowling all-rounder, gives the side a like-for-like option alongside Jansen as well as cover in case of injuries.

"Marco's done so well over the four seasons for us; he's vital for us in the powerplay and at the death, and his batting and fielding are outstanding. So, he's a three-format player, a three-stage player for us, and so is Overton now, to do a similar role and bat in a similar position."

"But then we've got Adam Milne, who's an out-and-out swing bowler and has got great skills at the front and the back end. Delighted to have him in the team again, and that's why we're so keen to retain him," he said.

The signing of Burger reflects the franchise's long-term approach, despite him currently recovering from a recurrence of a lumbar stress reaction that forced him out of the 2026 Major League Cricket (MLC) season with the Texas Super Kings in June. Birrell, however, is confident the left-arm will be ready for the tournament.



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INOX

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SRINAGAR

MOVIES

SCHEDULE

17 OCTOBER 2026

SATURDAY

DRISHYAM: THE CONCLUSION

(HINDI) (UA 16+)

10:20 AM

12:50 PM

06:20 PM

PRAHAAR: THE UNTOLD STORY OF UJJWAL NIKAM

(HINDI) (UA 16+)

12:10 PM

03:05 PM

06:00 PM

NAYYI NAVELLI

(HINDI) (UA 16+)

10:00 AM

01:20 PM

04:10 PM

07:00 PM

STREET FIGHTER

(HINDI) (UA 16+)

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