

CM Omar greets people on Maha Navami, Dussehra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasions of Maha Navami and Dussehra.

In his message, the Chief Minister said these festivals embody the timeless values of truth, righteousness and the triumph of good over evil. He expressed hope that the auspicious occasions would bring peace, prosperity and happiness to the people and further



strengthen the bonds of communal harmony and brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister called upon people to

draw inspiration from the spirit of these festivals and reaffirm their commitment to mutual respect, unity and peaceful coexistence.

DC Kupwara reaches out to border populace at Keran Vibrant Village



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In an extensive outreach initiative to deliver governance at the doorsteps of border residents, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, Monday presided over a Mega Grievance Redressal Camp and conducted a comprehensive tour of the border Vibrant Village, Keran.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a firsthand assessment of various ongoing developmental works across the sector, emphasizing quality control and strict adherence to project completion timelines.

The grievance redressal camp witnessed large-scale public participation, including local ex-PRI members, village elders, and youth, who projected diverse issues and developmental demands concerning essential sectors such as power, healthcare, tourism, agriculture, and mobile connectivity.

The DC gave a patient

hearing to the issues raised and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned executing agencies and departments for prompt redressal.

Highlighting the holistic development of border areas under the Vibrant Villages Programme, the DC assured the public of saturated delivery of basic amenities and targeted economic empowerment.

Addressing connectivity challenges, he assured that telecommunication services in the sector will soon be significantly augmented, with all major operators actively being onboarded to resolve network bottlenecks.

Taking serious cognizance of power supply demands, the DC directed Executive Engineer, KPDCL to fast-track ongoing electrification projects and ensure immediate grid connectivity to two local villages facing power supply issues.

To preserve the fragile ecology while catering to the growing tourist influx, the DC called for concerted

community and administrative efforts to make Keran completely plastic-free. He directed Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) to formulate an integrated sanitation action plan, establish a Single-Use Plastic (SUP) checkpoint, and expedite the completion and proper maintenance of Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs).

To tap the area's scenic potential sustainably, Chief Executive Officer, Lolab Bangus Drangyari Development Authority (LBDDA) was instructed to draft a comprehensive infrastructure upgradation roadmap tailored for eco-tourism.

Furthermore, the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) and Horticulture Development Officer (HDO) were strictly instructed to implement targeted interventions for agricultural expansion and aggressively promote the cultivation of high-value secondary crops, notably strawberry farming, to boost local farm incomes.

On the healthcare front, the DC directed the health department to organize regular medical camps and strictly instructed that all doctors and paramedical staff deputed to the area must attend to their duties religiously to ensure uninterrupted medical services to the public.

DC Shopian visits Pir Ki Gali to assess winter Preparedness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Monday visited Pir Ki Gali to take first-hand stock of the available facilities and assess winter preparedness.

The DC was accompanied by ADDC Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz, CEO, Dubjan-Pir Ki Gali Development Authority, Rouf Rehman, Tehsildar Shopian, Executive Engineers (Xens), DIO and officers of the concerned departments.

During the visit, the DC assessed the existing facilities and stressed the need to improve basic amenities and infrastructure to ensure a better experience for tourists and visitors. He also reviewed the status of ongoing works and directed the concerned departments to ensure their timely completion.



The DC also paid obeisance at Ziyarat Shareef at Pir Ki Gali and directed the concerned authorities to ensure the provision of water facilities at the shrine.

He directed the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to ensure proper filling of potholes along the road to improve road conditions and facilitate smooth and safe movement of visitors and timely Snow clearance of the Mughal road. The DC also reviewed measures required to upgrade existing facilities, strengthen infrastructure and further promote the tourism potential of these destinations.

Emphasising the impor-

tance of advance planning and interdepartmental coordination, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance to meet winter challenges.

The officers briefed DC on the ground situation and the preparedness measures being undertaken in their respective areas. He directed them to remain vigilant and ensure the timely availability and deployment of men, machinery and other essential resources required for snow clearance, road maintenance and emergency response.

Agriculture Deptt commences First Phase of Onion Seedling Sale at Lal Mandi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Agriculture Department Kashmir Monday commenced the first phase of onion seedling sale at Kitchen Garden, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, aimed at facilitating farmers with quality planting material for onion cultivation.

The initiative is part of the department's continued efforts

to promote vegetable cultivation, strengthen local agricultural production and encourage farmers to adopt improved cultivation practices for enhanced productivity and better returns.

The availability of quality onion seedlings at the department's designated sale centre is expected to facilitate timely transplantation and support

farmers in planning their cultivation activities for the season.

The Department of Agriculture Kashmir reiterated its commitment to extending necessary support to the farming community through the timely availability of quality inputs, technical guidance and farmer-friendly initiatives to strengthen the agricultural sector in the Kashmir Valley.

DC Srinagar visits UPHC Lal Bazar, presides over Registration camp for senior citizens

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday visited the Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) Lal Bazar and presided over an awareness cum registration camp for senior citizens aged 70 years and above under the Vay Vandana Scheme.

The programme on Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme was a part of District Administration's outreach efforts to ensure maximum coverage of eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above under the scheme providing additional health support of Rs 5 Lakh over and above the existing cover aimed to strengthen senior citizen health security.

The DC was accompa-



nied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, Tehsildar Eidgah, mohamamd Iqbal Zargar, ZMO Zadibal, Dr Rubeena Aziz, ZMO SR Gunj, Dr Shafqat Medical Superintendent Government Gousia Hospital, Dr Zahida Gul and other Dis-

trict Officers.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner led an Awareness-cum-Registration Camp on Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme of Government organized by Zonal Medical Officer, Zadibal which witnessed enthusiastic participation from elderly residents from Lal Bazar, Mandibal, Now-

shahra, Botshah Mohalla,, Baghwandpora and other adjoining areas. The participants were sensitised about the benefits and advantages of the scheme and the process for registration.

Addressing the gathering, the DC highlighted the significance of the Ayushman Vay Vandana

Card and urged all eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above to enrol under the scheme. He said the initiative aims to strengthen healthcare security for the elderly by providing health coverage of Rs 5 lakh and reducing the financial burden of medical treatment, thereby ensuring greater access to healthcare and promoting dignity, well-being and a better quality of life in their later years.

During the programme, the DC handed over Vay Vandhana cards to the eligible beneficiaries of Medical Zone Zadibal, reiterating District Administration's commitment to reach out to all eligible beneficiaries and encourage citizens to take advantage of the registration facilities being provided.

MD NHM visits SKIMS Medical College Bemina to review healthcare services



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, Athar Aamir Ul Shaifi, Monday conducted an extensive visit to SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar, to review healthcare delivery systems and ongoing developmental infrastructure projects.

A comprehensive review meeting was convened with hospital administration and the discussions centered primarily on strengthening Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services and fast-tracking upcoming Critical Care Block (CCB) being built under the Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

The meeting evaluated current maternal & child health indicators, discussing targeted measures to further elevate the standard, safety, and accessibility of clinical care for expecting mothers. Detailed evaluations were conducted on pediatric healthcare services, with a specific focus on the operational performance and clinical outcomes of the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU).

The Mission Director meticulously reviewed the physical and financial prog-

ress of the upcoming Critical Care Block (CCB) being built under the Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM). Strict emphasis was placed on adhering to established timelines for its timely completion.

Following the meeting, the MD toured key critical care units, including the Labour Room, Maternity Ward, Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) and Critical Care Block.

During his rounds, he inspected the ground-level execution of healthcare delivery, evaluated hygiene and infrastructural standards, and directly interacted with frontline medical staff as well as patients. He strongly emphasized the vital importance of maintaining uncompromising standards of clinical quality, optimum institutional cleanliness, and empathetic, respectful maternity care for all beneficiaries.

The hospital administration assured the Mission Director of their unwavering commitment to translating these directives into actionable service improvements, ensuring optimal utilization of NHM resources for the benefit of the general public.

KVK B'pora strengthens Farmer Capacity for Commercial Makhana Production



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: As part of its continued efforts to promote emerging aquatic crops and diversify agricultural livelihoods in Kashmir, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, SKUAST-Kashmir, organised the fourth farmer training programme on Makhana cultivation under the Central Sector Scheme on Development of Makhana, in collaboration with the Department of Rakhs and Farms, Kashmir.

The training brought farmers and farm women into direct interaction with agricultural experts, focusing on the practical aspects of Makhana production and its prospects as an alternative income-generating enterprise.

Head, KVK Bandipora-1, Dr. Tariq Sultan, explained the cultivation requirements, production techniques, crop management, harvesting methods and possibilities for processing and

value addition.

Assistant Director, Department of Rakhs and Farms, Kashmir, Feroz Ahmad Shapoo outlined departmental initiatives aimed at expanding Makhana cultivation in the region.

Addressing the participants, Scientists from KVK Bandipora-1, discussed the nutritional and commercial importance of Makhana. They highlighted the increasing relevance of this nutrient-rich food crop and encouraged farmers to explore its cultivation as a means of diversifying farm activities and tapping emerging market opportunities.

A key component of the programme was the field visit to the aquatic crop demonstration and experimental plots at the KVK farm. Participants observed ongoing trials of Makhana, lotus and water chestnut and interacted with scientists regarding their cultivation requirements, crop establishment and adaptability to the local environment.

DC Budgam reviews Revenue Services, AgriStack Progress

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Monday chaired a meeting to review the delivery of revenue services and the progress achieved under AgriStack in the district.

The meeting discussed registration-related matters, village-wise targets, Farmer ID generation, digitisation of revenue records (Massavies), and progress under the AgriStack initiative.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of achieving assigned targets within stipulated timelines, with November 20 set as the deadline for the identified targets.

The DC also reviewed issues related to the



SVAMITVA scheme, distribution of Property Cards, correction of settlement records, removal of encroachments, mutation attestation and pending land issues and court cases.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely disposal of revenue matters, minimise pendencies and improve the delivery of revenue services to the public. Emphasis was

also laid on expediting AgriStack-related work and maintaining proper coordination among the field functionaries.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Collector Defence Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

DC Ganderbal inspects Class 10th Examination Centres

Reviews arrangements for smooth conduct of Exams

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, Monday visited examination centres in the district to inspect the ongoing Class 10th examinations and review the arrangements put in place for their smooth and orderly conduct.

During the visit, the DC took stock of the facilities available at the examination centres and assessed the arrangements made for the convenience of students. She reviewed the overall conduct of the examinations and emphasised the need to ensure a peaceful, fair and student-friendly environment.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary arrangements remain in place



throughout the examination process. She stressed the importance of addressing any issues or difficulties faced by students promptly and directed the concerned supervisory officers to ensure the fair, transparent and smooth conduct of examinations in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

It was informed that a total of 35 examination centres have been established across District Ganderbal for the Class

10th examinations. The DC directed all concerned departments and officials to maintain close coordination, remain vigilant and ensure the timely resolution of any issues that may arise during the examination period.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Tehsildar Ganderbal and other concerned officers and officials.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Monday chaired separate meetings at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, to review arrangements for the celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) and to discuss measures for the revival, restoration, preservation and maintenance of architecture and heritage in the district.

During the meeting on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, scheduled to be celebrated at EMRS Tangmarg on November 15, 2026, the DC directed all concerned departments to make necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the event. He



stressed the need to showcase developmental works and government initiatives aimed at improving the living standards and facilities of tribal communities.

The DC emphasised effective coordination among departments to ensure proper arrangements and highlight the developmental initiatives undertaken for tribal welfare.

In the meeting on heritage conservation, the DC stressed the need for coor-

ordinated efforts to preserve and restore the district's architectural and cultural heritage. He underscored the importance of protecting heritage structures and sites of historical significance and ensuring their proper maintenance. The DC called upon all concerned departments to take necessary measures to preserve the district's rich heritage and promote awareness about its historical and cultural importance.

Missing Kokernag labourer found dead in Punjab

Family alleges murder as body reaches home

JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG: Grief and anger gripped Darpora village of Hallpora in South Kashmir's Koker-nag area on Monday after the body of a 28-year-old labourer, Aijaz Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Majeed Dar, who had been missing for weeks, was brought home from Punjab.

According to the details available, soon after the body arrived family members of Dar and locals staged a protest and demanded a thorough investigation into his death.

The family members, accompanied by locals raised slogans seeking justice for the deceased. Overwhelmed with grief, the relatives were seen wailing and beating their chests as they demanded that the circumstances surrounding his death be investigated and those responsible be brought to justice.

The deceased had left his native village in search of work, hoping to earn a livelihood for his family.

As per his relatives, he had initially travelled to Srinagar before moving to Ludhiana in Punjab for employment.

A family member said that Dar remained in contact with his family for about a week after leaving for work, but his phone subsequently became

unreachable, leaving them worried about his whereabouts.

"We were in regular contact with him for nearly a week. After that, his phone was switched off, and we could not establish contact with him despite our efforts. We became increasingly worried as we had no information about where he was or what had happened to him," the family member said.

The relatives said they had been hoping for his safe return and had made efforts to ascertain his whereabouts after losing contact with him. However, the news of his death left the family devastated, raising several questions about the circumstances in which he died.

"He had left home to earn a living, but we never imagined that he would never return alive. We want to know what happened to him and how he died. Our family deserves answers, and the truth must come out," another relative said.

The family members alleged that Dar had been murdered and urged the police to investigate the case thoroughly rather than leave any aspect unexplored.

"We are demanding a proper and impartial investigation into his death. If he was killed, those responsible must be identified and

arrested without delay. We do not want the case to be closed without establishing the truth. We want justice for Aijaz and demand that the police examine every possible angle," a family member said.

They also appealed to the higher authorities to intervene and ensure that the investigation was conducted in a transparent manner, expressing apprehension over the circumstances that led to the young labourer's death.

Family members and locals had staged a protest in Hallpora on October 17, seeking urgent intervention and efforts to trace Dar after he went missing.

On Monday, after the body arrived, the protesters gathered outside Police Station Kokernag and reiterated their demand for justice, calling for the identification and arrest of those responsible for his death.

A police officer told KNO that a missing report regarding Aijaz Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Majeed Dar, a resident of Darpora, Hallpora, Gadool in Kokernag, had been lodged on September 26, 2026.

The officer said police have assured the protesting family members and locals that the matter would be investigated fairly and that all necessary steps would be taken to establish the facts—(KNO)

'Cyber slavery' adds dangerous new dimension to human trafficking: DIG Crime

Says bogus overseas consultancies lure job seekers into exploitation

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Fraudulent overseas job offers are increasingly being used to lure vulnerable people into human trafficking networks, with victims allegedly routed through multiple countries, stripped of legal protections and forced into exploitative situations, DIG Crime Branch Abdul Qayoom said on Monday.

Expressing deep concern over the growing menace, Qayoom, speaking to reporters here on the sidelines of a function, said human trafficking is taking dangerous new dimen-



sions, including "cyber slavery", as fraudulent placement agencies and criminal syndicates exploit job seekers under the guise of lucrative employment opportunities abroad.

The DIG, said bogus

recruitment firms and consultancies attract people with promises of high-paying overseas jobs but may subsequently confiscate their passports, force them into illegal activities or leave them stranded in

foreign countries under distressing conditions.

"In some cases, victims promised jobs in Dubai are allegedly diverted through multiple transit countries, including Thailand, to restrict their movement and deprive them of legal protection," he said.

Qayoom further said several victims had been rescued and repatriated from countries, including Thailand and Myanmar. "Tackling such cases remains complex, as some victims hesitate to come forward or cooperate with investigations, making prosecution difficult," he said.

The DIG said investigations have revealed that trafficking networks also source victims from different states outside the region. "Local police networks, investigative units and district-level anti-human trafficking cells are coordinating efforts to address complaints, track down suspects and dismantle the criminal syndicates," he said.

Stressing the importance of public awareness, he urged people to thoroughly verify overseas employment offers and recruitment agencies before making payments or travelling abroad—(KNO)

Theatre Artist Rayees Wathori Earns National Recognition



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri Theatre artist and cultural activist Ravice Rashid, popularly known by his stage name Rayees Wathori, has been conferred the prestigious Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025 in the Folk Theatre category for Bhand Pather of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing national recognition to the region's rich theatrical heritage.

The award, instituted by the Sangeet Natak Akademi under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, recognises Wathori's contribution to preserving and promoting Bhand Pather, Kashmir's traditional folk theatre form known for its satire, humour and social commentary.

Wathori received the award in New Delhi from Shri Gajendra Singh Shek-

hawat, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Government of India, in the presence of Vivek Agarwal, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Dr Sandhya Purecha, Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi; Anwar Khan Manganiyar, Vice-Chairman and Raju Das, Secretary of the Akademi. The ceremony was also attended by other distinguished guests, eminent artists and cultural activists.

Through his sustained engagement with folk theatre, Wathori has contributed to keeping Kashmir's traditional performing arts alive and relevant for future generations. His recognition marks a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir and highlights the cultural significance of Bhand Pather as an enduring expression of the region's identity, creativity and heritage.

Satish Sharma greets people on Maha Navami, Dussehra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasions of Maha Navami and Dussehra.

In his message, the Minister said that these festivals symbolise the eternal values of truth, righteousness, courage and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. He expressed hope that the auspicious occasions would bring peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being to every household across Jammu and

Kashmir.

Satish Sharma said that Maha Navami and Dussehra inspire people to uphold moral values, overcome challenges with determination and work collectively towards building a peaceful, progressive and inclusive society.

He also emphasised that the spirit of these festivals reinforces the importance of communal harmony, mutual respect and brotherhood, which form the foundation of Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage.

The Minister urged people to celebrate the occasions with joy and harmony, drawing inspiration from their enduring message of unity, compassion and peaceful coexistence.

Secy Tourism visits Surinsar, Mansar; reviews ongoing Dev works



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Secretary Tourism, Avny Lavasa, Monday conducted an extensive tour of the twin lake destinations of Surinsar and Mansar to review ongoing development works.

She was accompanied by Chief Executive Officer, Surinsar Mansar Development Authority (SMDA), Veavik Puri, Additional Secretary, Tourism, Vikas Bhagati and officers from PWD and Wildlife Department.

At Surinsar, she inspected the key projects including "Upgradation and Renovation of Dak Bungalow" costing Rs 194 lakh and "Restructuring of Fun Park and allied infrastructure" esti-

mated at Rs 79.23 lakh, aimed at improving the visitor experience.

The Secretary interacted with the local residents and stakeholders over the sinking zone of Surinsar Lake, listened to their grievances and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for time-bound redressal.

Senior officers of Wildlife and PWD Departments also participated to ensure inter-departmental coordination for sustainable tourism growth.

At Mansar, the Secretary was apprised of infrastructure upgrades including new buildings, shoreline beautification and upkeep of boat jetties to promote eco-tourism.

Advisor to CM felicitates newly elected members of Kashmir Golf Club

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani Monday felicitated the newly elected members of the Executive Committee of Kashmir Golf Club (KGC), following the conclusion of elections held during the club's 26th Annual General Meeting at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Chief Minister, president of the Club, had nominated Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani to preside over the Annual General Meeting of the Kashmir Golf Club.

Former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Shah, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo who is the chairman of the Executive Committee and other club members were present on the occasion.

Congratulating the newly elected members, the Advisor described Kashmir Golf Club as a prestigious institution with a distinguished place in the history of golf in the country. He noted that



the elections, held after a gap of 14 years, marked an important step towards strengthening the club's administration and restoring its facilities.

Nasir Aslam expressed hope that the newly elected executive body would work collectively to address the club's shortcomings and ensure its effective functioning. He said the government remained accessible and committed to supporting the upgradation of the historic institution.

Emphasising the need to promote golf among younger generations, the Advisor called for establishing a golf academy at the club to provide children with structured

training and opportunities to develop their skills. He observed that golf offered considerable scope for competitive participation and professional growth.

The Advisor also announced that funds amounting to ₹2 crore have been earmarked for rebuilding the clubhouse. He expressed hope that the work would be started immediately, adding that other requirements of the club would also be addressed.

He said efforts would be made to restore and upgrade the club's facilities, including its fairways, greens and restaurant, while improving its overall infrastructure and administration.

Secy Planning reviews functioning of JKERA

Advocates adoption of sustainable, end to end project formulation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Dr. Owais Ahmad, Monday chaired a meeting to review the overall functioning of J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency (JKERA), nodal agency for implementation of all externally aided projects in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Executive Officer JKERA Akriti Sagar informed that since its creation in 2004 the J&KERA has played a pivotal role in up gradation of basic infrastructure in the Union Territory of J&K. She apprised that the agency has successfully implemented three major Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) across Jammu and Kashmir. These included the Multisector Project for Infrastructure Rehabilitation in J&K (MPIR) and the Jammu and Kashmir Urban Sector Development



Investment Programme (JKUSDIP), both funded by the Asian Development Bank, besides the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP).

She added that major areas of intervention by J&KERA included basic infrastructure and critical infrastructure in health, education, livelihood and strengthening of disaster management. These included construction of state-of-the-art infrastructure in urban transportation - flyovers and grade separators, mega storm water drainage projects, construction of rural roads and bridges,

buildings in health, higher education and school education sectors, livelihood initiatives, disaster management and urban reforms like water metering and capacity building of urban local bodies.

The Secretary was apprised that JKERA pioneered advanced technologies including seismic-proof structures, rigid concrete pavements, BaLA-designed schools, certified Green buildings, pneumatic tube systems, arch bridges, gaseous chlorination, trenchless drainage and restoration using devar stone and dhajj-dewari designs.

J&K medical interns hold candlelight marches over delay in stipend hike

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: MBBS and BDS interns across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday evening held candlelight marches at Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) and SKIMS Medical College Hospital, Bemina, demanding the long-pending enhancement of their stipends.

The interns expressed resentment over what they described as repeated assurances without any concrete action, alleging that the government had failed to honour its written commitment despite the lapse of the stipulated timeframe.

An AIMSA representative

said that interns' representatives met the Director General, Finance (Budget), and the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Health and Medical Education Minister at the Civil Secretariat on Monday to discuss the issue.

However, the meeting failed to provide clarity on when the stipend enhancement order would be issued, the representative said.

According to the interns, they were assured in writing that the stipend hike would be implemented within a month, but nearly two months have passed without any formal order.

"We were assured in writ-

ing that the stipend hike would be implemented within a month. Nearly two months have passed, but there has been no concrete progress. Every time we approach the authorities, we are given the same assurances, while the actual order remains elusive," the representative said.

The interns said the delay had left them frustrated and raised questions about the government's commitment to resolving the issue. They also alleged that warnings had been issued to those pursuing the demand and expressed displeasure over what they termed discourteous treatment by officials.

Rana holds public outreach programme at Sunjwan-Barmini

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Monday held a public outreach programme in the Sunjwan-Barmini area of Jammu district to listen to public grievances and assess the difficulties faced by the residents, particularly families affected by the land-sinking incident.

Accompanied by senior JKNC leaders Abdul Gani Teli, Vijay Lochan, Shamma Akhter and others, the Minister interacted with the affected families, heard their concerns and reviewed the challenges they continue to face following the incident.

The land-sinking incident in the Sunjwan area in August 2026 reportedly damaged 15 houses and displaced dozens of families, forcing them to relocate to safer places. The incident severely affected the lives of the residents, making continued administra-



tive support and access to essential services imperative.

During the interaction, the affected families raised issues concerning basic amenities, drinking water supply, land-related matters and the assistance required at their temporary places of settlement.

Taking cognisance of their concerns, Rana reviewed matters pertaining to the Forest Department, particularly those relating to land. He assured the families that their genuine grievances would be examined and addressed through the appropriate authorities.

The Minister also took serious note of complaints

regarding the irregular supply of drinking water. He directed the concerned officers to ensure an adequate, regular and uninterrupted supply of potable water to the residents, with focus on families displaced by the land-sinking incident.

Emphasising the importance of essential services and basic amenities, he instructed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and take prompt action to resolve the issues highlighted during the programme. He stressed that families living in temporary settlements must not be left to face avoidable hardships due to gaps in service delivery.

SMC Commissioner chairs Meeting on Winter Preparedness



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Monday chaired a review meeting at the SMC Central Office, Karan Nagar, to assess the Corporation's preparedness for snow clearance and dewatering operations ahead of the winter season.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, R&E, Joint Commissioner, Works, Joint Commissioner, Superintending Engineer, City Drainage Circle, and other officers of the Corporation.

The Commissioner reviewed a comprehensive deployment plan for manpower and machinery across all municipal wards to ensure

timely and efficient snow clearance. He directed the concerned officers to prioritise key public routes, particularly those connecting hospitals, ration depots, shrines, and government institutions, to ensure uninterrupted accessibility during snowfall.

Highlighting SMC's operational capabilities, the Commissioner reviewed the availability of snow clearance machinery, advanced dewatering systems, and mobility support to facilitate a swift and effective response to winter-related challenges.

Emphasising the importance of seamless inter-departmental coordination, the Commissioner directed the Snow Monitoring Committee and the 24x7 Control Room to remain fully opera-

tional and responsive. He stressed that public grievances must be addressed promptly and that immediate action should be taken on reports concerning snow accumulation, blocked roads, and other winter-related disruptions.

Reviewing dewatering preparedness, the Commissioner directed that all permanent dewatering stations be maintained in optimal working condition. He further stressed the need for the timely deployment of high-capacity mobile pumps in vulnerable and low-lying areas to mitigate waterlogging during rainfall, snowmelt, and adverse weather conditions.

The Commissioner also underscored the importance of advance planning, field-level monitoring, accountability, and effective coordination among all concerned wings to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of essential civic services throughout the winter season.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Senior Citizens

Deserve Support, Not

Just Health Cards

For an elderly person, a trip to the hospital is rarely just about an illness. It is often weighed down by quiet anxieties—worry over rising medical bills, expensive prescriptions, and the lingering fear of becoming a financial burden on their families. At this stage in life, reliable and affordable healthcare isn't a privilege; it is a fundamental right. In this context, the Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme—which offers health coverage of up to 5 lakh to citizens aged 70 and above—brings a crucial layer of relief. The recent registration drive at Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) Lal Bazar, led by Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Akshay Labroo, was a genuinely welcome step. By bringing registration desks right into neighborhoods like Mandibal, Nowshahra, Botshah Mohalla, and Baghwanpora, the administration helped bridge a real gap. Many older residents either don't know about government programs or simply find navigating bureaucracy too daunting to tackle alone.

However, handing over a plastic card is only the easy first step. The real test is what happens when an elderly patient actually needs to use it. A health card offers zero comfort if it leads to endless red tape at a hospital reception. What senior citizens need is clarity: Clear guidance on which hospitals accept the card and what treatments are covered. Streamlined access so they aren't forced to shuffle between counters or decipher complex paperwork while unwell. Proactive outreach for those living alone, managing mobility issues, or lacking family support to complete formalities.

The Deputy Commissioner's walk-through of UPHC Lal Bazar highlighted another vital piece of the puzzle: local health infrastructure. Inspections are a great starting point, but their true value lies in lasting, tangible upgrades. Our primary health centers must be equipped with essential medicines, reliable diagnostic tools, sufficient staff, and above all, an environment rooted in patience and respect. For an older adult, being treated with empathy and dignity is often just as healing as the medicine itself.

To make this initiative truly meaningful, the administration should expand these neighborhood camps across all of Srinagar. More importantly, there must be a mechanism to audit whether cardholders are actually receiving hassle-free treatment when admitted to empanelled hospitals, with a swift grievance system to resolve roadblocks. Our senior citizens spent decades working, building homes, and contributing to society. They should not have to spend their evening years struggling with administrative hurdles just to get basic care.

The Lal Bazar camp was a step in the right direction. But a health card only truly matters when an elderly person can walk into a hospital with peace of mind, receive dignified care, and return home without the shadow of a financial burden hanging over them.

Digital Trap: Connected But Consumed



DR. ANJUM NAZIR QURESHI

Imagine waking up in the morning and reaching for your smartphone before doing anything else. For many of us, checking notifications, messages, and emails has become a daily ritual. We live in an age where information travels faster than ever, but have we paused to consider its impact on our patience, emotional well-being, and behavior? As concerns about aggression, distraction, and declining attention spans among young people grow, one question deserves our attention: Who is controlling your life—you or your smartphone?

Every day, we are exposed to an overwhelming amount of digital information. Unfortunately, much of it is believed and forwarded without verifying its authenticity. When misinformation goes viral, repetition often makes it appear credible. Similarly, a quick visit to a social media application can turn into an hour of endless scrolling, driven by notifications and personalized recommendations. What seems like harmless entertainment may gradually affect our productivity, emotional health,



and relationships.

Social media has also intensified the culture of comparison. We compare our ordinary lives with carefully edited photographs, videos, and seemingly perfect lifestyles. The pressure to look attractive, appear successful, and seek constant appreciation can damage self-esteem. The fear of missing out (FOMO) encourages young people to remain continuously connected, often measuring their worth through likes, comments, and followers rather than personal growth and meaningful achievements.

Unsupervised internet exposure also creates opportunities for cyberbullying,

online job fraud, identity theft, and emotional manipulation. Oversharing personal information can reveal details about our lifestyles, routines, and vulnerabilities. Scammers may exploit this information to gain trust and manipulate their targets. Digital awareness, privacy protection, and critical thinking are therefore essential skills for every young internet user.

However, is the smartphone alone responsible for these challenges? We often blame technology when students lose focus, young people spend hours creating videos, or online scams occur. Although excessive digital exposure can contribute to these

problems, blaming devices alone prevents us from examining our own habits, decisions, and responsibilities. Technology is a tool; the way we use it determines whether it supports our growth or distracts us from our goals.

The solution is not to abandon the internet. Technology has transformed education, healthcare, agriculture, communication, and countless other fields. Instead, we must learn to use it consciously. Start by switching off non-essential notifications and setting daily screen-free hours. Keep your phone away for at least thirty minutes after waking up and an hour before bedtime. Turn off internet access when it is unnecessary, spend more time in face-to-face conversations, and rediscover hobbies that bring genuine satisfaction.

Responsible digital citizenship begins with small but meaningful choices. Pause before posting, forwarding, or reacting to online content. Verify information before sharing it, respect others' privacy and consent, report cyberbullying, and seek help from trusted people when necessary. Most importantly, use technology to learn, create, collaborate, and solve problems.

The future belongs to those who can use technology without becoming dependent on it. Use the internet to build your future, not as a habit that consumes your present.

Author is Assistant Professor, RCERT. She can be mailed at anjnaznuz@gmail.com

WHISPERING EARTH

How Rumi's Vision Of Unity, Love Speaks To

Changing Relationship With Nature



MAUZAM BAKSHI

Rumi begins not with the world outside us, but with the world within. For Jalaluddin Rumi, the great Persian mystic and poet, the deepest human condition was separation: the feeling that the self stands apart from its source, from other people and from the greater unity of creation. His poetry is an invitation to overcome that separation. Seven centuries later, that invitation carries an unexpected urgency in Kashmir, where pressure on lakes, wetlands, springs, forests, mountains and agricultural land has become increasingly visible.

Climate change, unplanned urbanisation, shrinking water bodies, changing land use and ecological degradation are often described in technical language. Yet beneath these visible changes lies an older question: how should human beings live in a world of which they are only one part. That is, in a profound sense, a Rumi question. Rumi did not write about biodiversity, groundwater recharge, wetland conservation or carbon emissions. It would be inaccurate to call him an environmentalist in the modern scientific or political sense. Yet his spiritual vision challenges one of the assumptions that makes ecological destruction possible, the belief that human beings stand outside nature and may treat it simply as an object of ownership, extraction and consumption. In Rumi's world, existence is a web of relationships.

The individual self becomes meaningful not by isolating itself from the world, but by recognising the larger reality to which it belongs. The opening of the "Masnavi" offers one of Rumi's most enduring images, the reed flute lamenting its separation from the reed bed from which it was cut. The reed's music emerges from longing for its origin. The metaphor is spiritual, but it also offers a powerful way to think about the human relationship with the earth. What happens when people forget their own reed bed. What happens when land, water, forests and mountains are seen as things outside us, things to be divided, bought, used and exhausted. Before ecological damage appears in a polluted stream or a cleared forest, it may begin in a habit of mind, the conviction that humans are separate from the living systems that make human life possible. Rumi's great struggle was with the "nafs", the ego absorbed in possession, status and desire. The ego asks, "What belongs to me?" Rumi's thought invites a more difficult question, "What do I belong to?" Modern life is highly skilled at answering the first question.

Land is divided, property is purchased, rivers are redirected, forests are cleared and landscapes

are reshaped according to immediate human purposes. Yet the second question is more important, especially in a fragile place such as Kashmir. Do we belong only to our individual plots of land and private interests, or do we also belong to watersheds, mountain systems, soil, rainfall, wetlands, rivers and ecological networks that existed before us and must continue after us? This shift from ownership to belonging changes the way Kashmir's landscape appears. A village spring is not merely a small source of water. It is connected to snow, rainfall, mountain slopes, soil, vegetation, underground aquifers and the households that depend upon it. A lake is not simply water surrounded by land, it is tied to streams, wetlands, groundwater, aquatic life, birds, rainfall and settlements around its edge. A forest is not a collection of marketable trees. It is a living relationship among soil, insects, birds, animals, water, climate and people.

Science describes this reality as ecological interdependence. Rumi approached a comparable insight through the language of spiritual unity, not as scientific explanation, but as a way of seeing that refuses to treat any part of creation as isolated or without meaning. Kashmir's ecological pressures make this way of seeing especially relevant. A declining spring speaks through reduced flow. A polluted stream speaks through altered water quality and disappearing aquatic life. A stressed wetland speaks through shrinking habitat, disturbed bird populations and weakened flood absorption. A disturbed mountain slope speaks through erosion, landslides and changing water channels. Altered snowfall patterns eventually make themselves felt in farms, rivers, reservoirs and homes downstream. These are not separate crises. They are connected signals from one landscape.

Too often, people hear them only when they become emergencies, when a flood arrives, a water source disappears, a slope collapses or a lake begins to choke under pollution and encroachment. Rumi's poetry is full of listening. The reed speaks, the garden speaks, flowers and seasons speak and the human task is to become quiet enough to hear what creation reveals. This is not an argument against science. Kashmir needs scientific monitoring, careful planning, environmental law, hydrological studies and accountable institutions. But scientific knowledge alone does not guarantee wise action. Data can tell us that a wetland is shrinking, that a spring is weakening or that construction has altered drainage, it cannot by itself create the humility required to change behaviour. Rumi's relevance lies in that deeper level of consciousness. He asks whether people can learn to recognise warning signs before crisis becomes catastrophe. Humility is therefore central to his environmental relevance. Rumi's spiritual path moves away from arrogance and toward recognition of the limits of the self.

The ego imagines itself at the



centre of existence. Modern societies possess unprecedented power to reshape the physical world, roads can cut through mountains, rivers can be channelled, cities can expand across former agricultural land and tourism infrastructure can enter landscapes that were once isolated. But power does not abolish ecological limits. A mountain slope does not become stable because a project has been approved. A river does not stop flooding because its natural channel has been narrowed or encroached upon. A wetland does not cease to absorb water, support biodiversity and regulate local hydrology because a map has reclassified it as "unused" land. Nature does not adjust its physical laws to human vocabulary. That is why the question is not merely whether we possess the technical ability to alter a landscape. The more important question is whether we possess the wisdom to recognise when intervention must be restrained. Kashmir does not need to reject roads, housing or economic opportunity. It needs development imagined with greater respect for watersheds, wetlands, slope stability, drainage systems, agricultural land and the carrying capacity of vulnerable places. A road can be built with humility. A city can grow with restraint. Economic activity can flourish without destroying the rivers, lakes, forests and mountain that make Kashmir worth visiting.

Rumi's critique of possession also speaks directly to this question. His poetry repeatedly warns that attachment to material things can imprison the self. The more people say "mine," the narrower their vision becomes. Applied to land and landscape, this raises uncomfortable questions. A lake may become real estate. A forest may become a commercial asset. A mountain may become a tourism opportunity. Agricultural land may become a housing colony. Yet legal control does not erase ecological responsibility, and ownership does not always mean understanding. Rainfall does not recognise property boundaries. Groundwater moves beneath private plots. Floodwater follows the logic of topography, not the logic of sale deeds. A stream polluted in one place may harm a community far away. Ecological systems make a quiet argument against the illusion that any person, institution or generation can possess the earth without consequences.

This is also a question of justice between generations. The earth

received by one generation is not simply an inheritance to consume. It is held temporarily within a longer chain of life. Rumi's vision does not permit the individual self to become the final measure of value. It asks people to see themselves as participants in a reality larger than their immediate appetite, wealth or convenience. That perspective matters in Kashmir, where decisions about land, water and infrastructure will shape the lives of those who have no voice in present day planning. A drained wetland, degraded lake, damaged watershed or lost spring cannot easily be restored by future generations merely because they regret its loss. Humility, however, is not enough. Love is equally central to Rumi's thought. For him, love is more than personal emotion, it is a force that dissolves the narrow boundaries of the isolated self. Love allows people to see beyond immediate self-interest and recognise belonging.

This has profound implications for the natural world. People protect most fiercely what they love and they rarely love what they have never learned to see. A wetland regarded as empty land may be filled. A forest viewed only as timber may be cut. A stream treated as a drain may be polluted. But when a place becomes part of memory, culture, beauty, livelihood and belonging, its destruction acquires another meaning. Kashmir's own traditions offer abundant resources for such a relationship. Its poetry, folklore, gardens, spiritual practices and seasonal rhythms have long connected human life with mountains, water, meadows, springs and fields. The danger begins when landscape becomes scenery rather than relationship, something photographed, marketed and consumed, but not understood or cared for.

Rumi's vision reminds us that beauty is not merely something to look at. It can be a summons. A river, a garden, a lake or a mountain asks not only to be admired but also to be protected from the forms of human activity that make its beauty possible in the first place. Rumi's recurring images of seeds, gardens and seasons also remind us that the earth is not a static possession. It is movement, transformation and renewal. Snow becomes water, water becomes stream and river, river water enters wider cycles that sustain fields, settlements, plants, animals and people. Forests

regenerate slowly. Wetlands expand and contract. Soil forms over time. Human beings often prefer permanence, walls, boundaries, plans and projects that attempt to fix the landscape around immediate needs. But living landscapes do not remain still. The wisdom Kashmir needs is not to freeze nature in an imagined past, but to understand the processes that enable land and water systems to remain alive.

This is why Rumi's philosophy moves beyond contemplation toward responsibility. It is not enough to praise Kashmir's mountains while weakening the systems that sustain them. It is not enough to celebrate Dal Lake while ignoring the ecological pressures upon it. It is not enough to photograph migratory birds while allowing their habitats to disappear and it is not enough to call Kashmir paradise while treating the natural foundations of that beauty as inexhaustible. Wonder must lead to restraint, admiration must lead to care. Rules can regulate conduct, institutions can enforce standards, science can measure change and technology can offer solutions. All are necessary. But beneath policy lies a more fundamental question, what kind of human being do we want to become? Rumi's answer was not domination but transformation, not possession but belonging, not arrogance but humility, not separation but unity, not endless desire but love. These are not environmental slogans. They are spiritual disciplines. Yet they may be precisely the disciplines needed at a time when human power increasingly exceeds human restraint.

Rumi does not tell Kashmir to abandon modernity or retreat into romantic nostalgia. He asks for something more demanding, a transformation in the consciousness with which modernity is imagined. Development without reverence becomes extraction. Progress without limits becomes damage. But development guided by ecological knowledge, public responsibility and humility can serve both people and place. Kashmir's crisis is not only a crisis of forests, lakes, springs, wetlands and mountains. It is a crisis of relationship.

The reed does not sing because it possesses the world. It sings because its music begins with an awareness of where it comes from. Kashmir's rivers, springs, forests, wetlands and mountains have been speaking in their own language for generations, a language of flow, silence, change, loss and renewal. Rumi teaches that the world is not silent. We have simply forgotten how to listen. Perhaps the first step toward healing Kashmir's relationship with the earth is not to speak more loudly about nature, but to become quiet enough to hear what it has been saying all along.

The author can be mailed at mauzambakshi@gmail.com

Good Morning

Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors

Suhail Mir

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN

AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

How The Teachings Of Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA) Continue To Guide Kashmir



SHOAIB MOHAMMAD BHAT

Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani, popularly known as Nund Rishi, Sheikh-ul-Alam and Alamdar-e-Kashmir, occupies a special place in the spiritual, literary and cultural history of Kashmir. He is widely regarded as one of the most important figures associated with the indigenous Rishi tradition of Kashmiri Sufism. His short Kashmiri poems, known as shruks, have continued to live in the memory of Kashmiris for centuries. What makes Nund Rishi's teachings special is the simplicity of his language. He spoke about faith, human behaviour, humility, equality, nature and the temporary nature of worldly life in words that ordinary people could understand. His verses were simple to remember, yet carried deep meanings. Even today, many of his teachings remain relevant to everyday life.

A Saint of Medieval Kashmir

Nund Rishi is generally believed to have lived from 1378 to 1440, although different historical and traditional sources give varying dates. He lived during an important period in Kashmir's history, when different religious and intellectual traditions were developing alongside one another. His spiritual teachings became closely associated with the Rishi tradition, which developed its own distinctive expression in Kashmir. His followers carried his message to different parts of the Valley, and the Rishi tradition gradually became an important part of Kashmir's spiritual and cultural identity. For generations, people have remembered Nund Rishi not simply as a saint, but as a teacher whose words addressed the moral and social concerns of his time.

The Power of His Shruks

Nund Rishi's shruks are short mystical verses written in Kashmiri. Their strength comes from their simplicity. He did not depend on complicated words or lengthy explanations. Instead, he used familiar ideas and

images to speak about life, death, faith, morality and human responsibility. His use of Kashmiri was also significant. By expressing spiritual thoughts in the language spoken by ordinary people, he helped make such ideas accessible to a wider society. His

Nund Rishi is generally believed to have lived from 1378 to 1440, although different historical and traditional sources give varying dates. He lived during an important period in Kashmir's history, when different religious and intellectual traditions were developing alongside one another.

verses became part of Kashmir's oral tradition and were passed from one generation to another.

Even people who may not have read his complete body of work often recognise some of his famous shruks and sayings. One of the most widely remembered sayings attributed to Nund Rishi is: "Ann poshi teli yeli wan poshi." The saying is commonly understood as meaning, "Food will remain as long as the forests remain." The thought behind these few words is remarkably relevant today. Forests are closely connected with water, agriculture, biodiversity and human livelihoods. When forests are damaged, the effects are felt far beyond the trees themselves.

In the modern era, while people debate issues like deforestation, cli-

SAJIDASHRAF_WANI



mate change, and environmental degradation, this century-old message brings forth a simple truth: man is intrinsically linked to nature. This verse is also cited in the modern debate regarding environmental preservation and forest conservation in Jammu and Kashmir. The significance of this verse lies in its simplicity of understanding. It connects the well-being of people with the well-being of the environment in just a few lines.

A Message of Human Unity

Human equality and peaceful coexistence are other aspects that are emphasized in the preaching of Nund Rishi. The shruks of Nund Rishi have been analyzed with regard to equality, humanity, and relationships among various religious communities. These teachings help people move away from their social and religious identities and see their common duties towards mankind.

This message remains meaningful today. Kashmir, like every society, has people belonging to different communities, backgrounds and traditions. Differences can enrich society when they are accompanied by mutual respect and understanding. Nund Rishi's spiritual thought reminds people that faith should also be reflected in how they treat others with dignity, compassion and humility.

Compassion, Self-Discipline and the Nafs (Human Self)

Nund Rishi's spirituality was closely connected with personal character. He spoke about humility, self-control, compassion and the dangers of becoming overly attached to wealth and worldly

desires. For him, spiritual life was not simply about outward practices. It also involved looking within oneself.

One of the Kashmiri verses attributed to him reflects on the restless nature of the nafs:

The nafs can be understood as the inner self, including desires, impulses and attachments that can take a person away from spiritual awareness.

This idea gives another depth to Nund Rishi's teachings. He was asking people to change the world around them, while also asking them to examine themselves.

Greed, pride, anger and excessive attachment to material things can affect a person's character and relationships. His teachings therefore place importance on self-discipline and moral reflection.

These ideas remain relevant even outside religious settings. A society becomes stronger when individuals learn to control greed, respect others, help those in need and remain humble despite success.

Nund Rishi and Lal Ded

Nund Rishi is often remembered alongside Lal Ded, or Lalleshwari, another great mystical figure of Kashmir. Both became important figures in the Valley's spiritual and literary memory. Kashmiri tradition also preserves stories connecting Lal Ded with Nund Rishi from his early childhood. One such traditional account says that Nund Rishi, as an infant, was reluctant to breastfeed. Lal Ded is said to have visited him and addressed him through words remembered in Kashmiri oral

tradition: "If you are not ashamed of being born, why are you ashamed of being breastfed?" The saying is remembered as part of the traditional narrative surrounding Lal Ded and the young Nund Rishi. Its simple wording reflects the direct style associated with Kashmir's mystical oral tradition.

This episode, however, is best understood as a traditional account rather than a firmly established historical event. Details concerning a direct meeting between Lal Ded and Nund Rishi come largely through later oral and literary traditions. Lal Ded and Nund Rishi came from different religious backgrounds, but both became part of Kashmir's literary and spiritual history. Through their poetry, the themes of transformation, self-discovery, modesty, and detachment from attachment to the material world could be felt. Through their poetry, they contribute to making the Kashmiri language a potent vehicle for spiritual philosophy.

Why His Message Still Matters

Nund Rishi's continued importance comes from the fact that many of the problems he spoke about have not disappeared. His famous message can be viewed in light of present-day environmental problems. His call for equality and coexistence continues to be significant in the present world where societies have to face social and religious diversity. His lessons on compassion and self-restraint serve as a timely reminder in an era where success is sometimes valued more than virtue.

For Kashmir, Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani is therefore much more than a figure from medieval history. His poetry remains part of the Valley's living literary and spiritual heritage. His famous words, "Ann poshi teli yeli wan poshi," can be understood today as a reminder that protecting nature is closely connected with protecting human life. At the same time, his teachings about the nafs remind us that caring for the outside world should go together with improving the world within ourselves.

That may be the enduring strength of Nund Rishi's shruks. They were expressed centuries ago, yet they continue to speak about concerns that remain part of human life: faith, compassion, equality, humility, self-discipline, coexistence and respect for nature.

Author is a researcher. He can be mailed at shoaibhat2018@gmail.com

Durga Ashtami: Heart Of Navratri Celebrations



OMKAR DATTATRAY

Durga Ashtami is the most important day of the Navratri festival, and it occupies an important place in the order of significance of the nine days of Navratri. It is the eighth day of Navratri and is dedicated to Maa Durga, and everyone is celebrating the nine-day-long festival with pomp and ceremony as well as with devotion to propitiate Maa Durga. Durgaashtami is the Ashtami in Navratri, the eighth day of the festival. As we celebrate Chaitra Navratri of 2026, we all know that Ashtami is one of the most important days in Navratri, and devotees undertake fasts to please Maa Durga on this day. But why is the Ashtami so important? Ashtami during Navratri has multiple significances. We will put forwards some of them to throw light on why Durga Ashtami is so significant and is highly venerated during Navratri.

Astra Puja is on Astami Day. The eighth day of Navratri is also known as Astra Puja and known as Virashtami. This is because all weapons are propitiated and worshipped on this day, along with a display of martial arts. AS an answer to the prayers of gods and humans. Maa Durga decided to annihilate the demon Mahishasura, the giant buffalo. As she prepared for the war, all gods gave their divine weapons and powers to Maa Durga. All those weapons were worshipped and handed over to Maa Durga on the



day of Ashtami, and therefore the day came to be called Astra Puja. Another name, Virashtami, attributed to this day, heralds the courage and valour of Maa Durga.

The emergence of Maa Kali (Ashtami). On the day of Ashtam, Maa Kali emerged from the face of Durga. In addition, the Asnayikas, or the eight aspects of Durga, emerged from her and assumed their roles in war. Therefore, on the day of Astami, the war with Mahishasura gained full momentum and force. There was a fierce battle between Kali and demons Chanda, Munda and Raktabhija. As part of the Navratri Puja, Ashtami is so significant in worshipping the 64 Yoginis, Maa Kali, Maa Durga and the Ashtanayikas. The eight aspects of Durga that emerged from her and assumed distinctive forms and names include Brahmacharni, Maheshwari, Kameshwari, Vaishnavi, Varahi, Narsinghi, Indrani, and Maa Chamunda. Each of these aspects signifies a particular attribute of Ma Durga. The Puja done on the day of Navratri Ashtami is meant to propitiate all the aspects of Ma Durga together, and there it is highly significant. It is believed that

Ma Durga manifested on Ashtami day.

Month on month, special Pujas are performed for Ma Durga on Ashtami. The Ashtami falling during the Navratri festival is called Maha Ashtami or Maha Durga Ashtami. This is also the second day of the last set of three days of Navratri dedicated to worshipping Ma Durga. On Maha Durga Astami, Durga is propitiated with an elaborate Puja. Ashtami and Navami are auspicious days to celebrate the essence of womanhood. Therefore, on this day, Kanya Pujan is observed by Hindus across India. Kaniya Puja on Ashtami or Navami is offered to the Shakti. Usually nine girls who have not attained puberty are invited to homes, and their feet are washed. They are considered to represent the nine forms of Durga, namely Shilputri, Brahmacharni, Chandraganta, Kushmanda, Skandmata, Katayayni, Kalaratri, Mahagauri and Siddhidatri. They are presented with delicious food and some nice gifts which are believed to propitiate Ma Durga. It is believed that on Astami, the eighth incarnation of Ma Durga, namely Maha Gauri, took birth. She is the symbol of her devotees' welfare.

She is the problem solver and bestows good health, a good life, and happiness to all. The most famous Sandhi Puja connected with Navratri is observed on Ashtami.

This is the time when the Ashtami tithi ends and the Navami tithi starts. At this juncture, Balidan, or sacrifice, is offered to Ma Durga. Since animal sacrifice is prohibited for the Hindus, a symbolic Balidan consisting of cutting vegetables like pumpkins is done on this day. Durga Puja, or Navratri, is one of the most important and revered of all Hindu festivals. This Pan-India festival involves the ceremonial worship of Goddess Durga in nine forms spread over nine nights and celebrated in different ways across various parts of India. Durga Ashtami is celebrated in particular with great passion and fervour, especially in West Bengal. The ten armed goddesses riding on the loins are highly regarded in this part of the country, and even the weapons of Goddess Durga are worshipped while reciting mantras in a ritual known as Astra Puja.

Ashtami marks the eighth day of the festival, and on this auspicious day, devotees tend to observe a rigorous fast, feast and worship Goddess Durga, who symbolises strength. A celebration of traditional culture and customs: massive idols of Goddess Durga are installed throughout India, while enormous Puja Pandalas are set up at various places for devotees to visit and worship Goddess Durga. Durga Ashtami celebrates the victory of Goddess Durga over the evil buffalo demon, Mahishasura. Legend has it that owing to a boon bestowed upon Lord Beahma, Mahishasura could only be defeated by a female warrior. When Lord Indra was vanquished on the battlefield, the holy trinity, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, created Durga, and each part of her body was blessed with strength, with the energy of different male Gods. On this day, Durga Ashtami, she made use of weapons that symbolised their masculine strength to defeat

Mahisasura with the trident. In this festival women tend to take centre stage while being a stark reminder of how women used to hold a lot more power and status in ancient India. In certain parts of the country, especially West Bengal, Odessa, and Assam, animal sacrifices are performed at temples to commemorate the occasion. In South India, computers, vehicles, books and equipment are worshipped on the ninth day as an expression of gratitude for the blessings received in the previous year. By offering the tools of their trade to God, one commits to performing all work as worship.

On the day of Ashtami, before breaking the fast, nine girls of age ten are worshipped and fed sumptuously and, among other things, presented with new clothes. One of the many reasons why this festival is widely celebrated is to receive blessings from the Goddess with the aim of being granted wealth and prosperity, as well as knowledge. Every festival in India has a profound attachment and significance with buying investments in the form of gold and silver properties. This is because festivities are usually associated with wealth, and people strongly tend to believe that investing in something significant or starting something new on such auspicious occasions will bring in more happiness and prosperity in the following year. In short, Maha Ashtami holds great significance among Hindus. The eighth form of Maa Durga is worshipped on this day. It is believed that eight forms of Maa Durga emerged from her, and these eight Shaktis are Bharmni, Maheshwari, Kaumari, Vaishnavi, Varahi, Narsinghi, Indarni and Chamunda. Thus, Durga Ashtami is most significant for the Sanatan Dharma, and Hindus celebrate it with great devotion and fervour.

The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer. He can be mailed at onkoul2019@gmail.com

CEO SSCL Conducts Late-Night Inspection of Lal Chowk

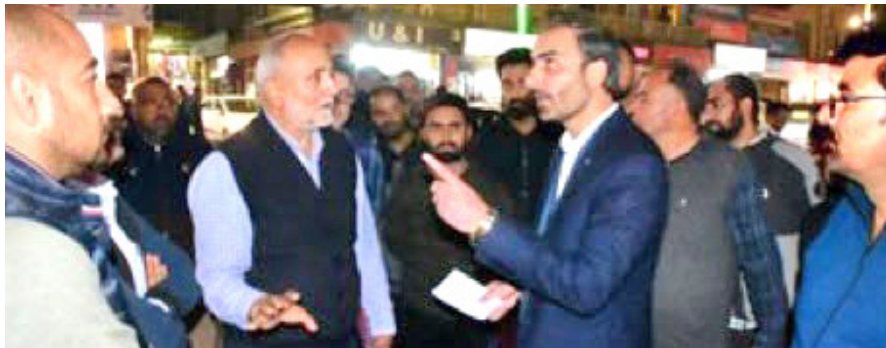
Directs Effective Maintenance of Smart City Infrastructure

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Reaffirming the focus on sustained maintenance of Smart City assets and improved public convenience, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), conducted a late-night inspection of Srinagar's Central Business District (CBD), covering Ghanta Ghar, Sheikh Bagh Car Parking and the mechanised car parking facility at Lal Chowk.

The inspection aimed to assess the condition of civic infrastructure and public amenities developed under the Smart City Mission, identify maintenance gaps and ensure prompt corrective action. The CEO was accompanied by the Chief Engineer, SSCL; Superintending Engineer, Drainage Circle, SMC; Executive Engineer, SSCL; and other officials of SMC and SSCL.

During the inspection, Dr. Basharat directed the concerned officers to address identified deficiencies on priority, initiate necessary repairs and



restoration measures without delay, and ensure the timely completion of pending works, with particular emphasis on illumination, parking management and the functionality of public conveniences.

At Lal Chowk, the CEO directed regular maintenance and timely repair of streetlights, illumination systems and façade lighting to maintain the area's visual appeal and ensure adequate illumination. At Sheikh Bagh, he instructed the concerned officers to restore and maintain the community sanitary complex near the car parking facility and expedite the

completion of the public convenience facility on the first floor, ensuring that both facilities are made operational for public use.

He further directed the officers to examine the feasibility of an alternative access route at Sheikh Bagh Car Parking to streamline vehicular movement and ease congestion. At the mechanised car parking facility in Lal Chowk, the concerned officers were instructed to undertake necessary repairs and restore the high-mast lighting system to ensure adequate illumination.

Emphasising the need for sustained upkeep of Smart City assets, Dr.

Basharat called for regular field inspections, preventive maintenance and swift resolution of operational deficiencies. He directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the progress of corrective works and ensure that all public facilities remain functional, accessible and properly maintained.

The inspection underscores SSCL's commitment to asset sustainability, reliable public services and citizen-centric urban management, ensuring that infrastructure developed under the Smart City Mission continues to serve the people of Srinagar efficiently and effectively.

Strengthen peripheral hospitals to reduce trauma deaths, doctors urge

Say timely intervention during 'golden hour' often determines survival

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Strengthening emergency medical services and upgrading trauma care facilities at district and sub-district hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir could significantly reduce preventable deaths and disabilities, medical experts have said, stressing that timely intervention during the first hour after an accident often determines whether an injured person survives or succumbs to injuries.

Doctors said that while advanced treatment facilities are available at major tertiary care hospitals, many critically injured patients from rural and remote areas lose valuable time travelling long distances before receiving definitive medical attention. They stressed that equipping peripheral hospitals with essential emergency facilities, trained personnel and life-saving equipment could improve survival rates and prevent complications.

Medical experts said the concept of the "golden hour" highlights the importance of providing prompt medical care to trauma victims, particularly those suffering from severe bleeding, head injuries, chest trauma and other life-threatening conditions.

"The first hour after a serious accident is extremely critical. In many cases, the difference between life and death depends on how quickly the patient receives appropriate medical attention. Immediate intervention

can stabilise the patient and significantly improve the chances of survival," Dr Shabir, a senior surgeon posted in south Kashmir, said.

He said patients injured in road accidents and other traumatic incidents often have to be transported to tertiary care institutions, including SKIMS and SMHS Hospital in Srinagar, even when some of their immediate medical needs could be addressed at nearby hospitals. The absence of adequately equipped emergency units at the peripheral level can result in delays in stabilising critically injured patients, increasing the risk of complications during transportation, he added.

"An injured person does not necessarily need to reach a major hospital before receiving life-saving treatment. The immediate priorities are to secure the airway, ensure adequate breathing, control severe bleeding and stabilise suspected fractures. If these interventions are available at the nearest district or sub-district hospital, the patient's condition can be stabilised before referral to a higher centre," he said.

Dr Shabir said peripheral hospitals should have essential emergency equipment, trained medical and paramedical staff, oxygen support, blood transfusion facilities where feasible, and arrangements for emergency surgical intervention according to their designated level of care.

Another health expert,

Dr Rouf Ahmad Wani, said strengthening healthcare facilities at the district and sub-district levels was essential to ensure that patients received timely treatment closer to their homes. He said tertiary care hospitals should not be the first point of treatment for every accident victim when immediate stabilisation can be provided locally.

"If peripheral hospitals have trained emergency teams, essential equipment, diagnostic support and the capacity to perform immediate life-saving procedures, a significant number of complications can be prevented," he said, adding that upgrading peripheral hospitals would reduce unnecessary referrals and ease the burden on tertiary hospitals.

Medical experts also emphasised the need for regular training programmes for doctors, nurses, paramedics, ambulance personnel and other first responders to improve the management of trauma cases. They said healthcare workers posted at peripheral hospitals should receive periodic training in trauma assessment, basic and advanced life support, bleeding control, patient stabilisation and safe transportation.

Doctors also stressed the importance of sensitising police personnel, volunteers and members of the public to basic first aid and safe practices for assisting accident victims before an ambulance arrives, cautioning that injured per-

sons should not be moved unnecessarily, particularly when spinal injuries are suspected.

Experts called for an integrated system linking peripheral hospitals with district-level facilities and tertiary care centres through a coordinated referral network, with ambulances equipped according to their designated functions and emergency personnel trained to provide appropriate care during transportation.

"An effective referral system requires coordination between the hospital receiving the patient, the referring facility and the ambulance team. The receiving hospital should be informed in advance about the patient's condition so that the required specialists and facilities are prepared before the patient arrives," the experts said.

They said trauma care planning should take local geographical conditions, travel time, road connectivity, patient load and existing capacity into account, and called for periodic assessments of emergency facilities to identify gaps in staffing, equipment, infrastructure and referral arrangements.

"Strengthening peripheral infrastructure is not just about convenience; it is about saving lives. If district and sub-district hospitals are equipped to provide immediate life-saving care, patients can receive timely treatment while arrangements are made for further management wherever necessary," Dr Shabir said—(KNO)

Autumn Silk Cocoon Auction Market commences at Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Autumn Silk Cocoon Auction Market for Kashmir Division commenced Monday at the Sericulture Complex, Srinagar, marking an important occasion for the sericulture sector and providing a platform for cocoon growers to market their produce in a transparent and competitive environment.

The market was inaugurated by Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director Sericulture J&K in presence of departmental officers, cocoon growers from various districts of Kashmir Division and buyers from within and outside the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Autumn Silk Cocoon Auction Market reflects the department's continued commitment towards strengthening the marketing infrastructure for silk cocoons, facilitating better linkages between cocoon growers and buyers and promoting a more organized and remunerative marketing system for the sericulture community. The participation of buyers from within

and outside the Union Territory is expected to encourage healthy competition, enhance market access for local cocoon growers and contribute towards improving returns from silkworm rearing.

The auction market also provides an important opportunity for growers to bring their produce to an organized marketplace, interact directly with buyers and benefit from a transparent auction-based mechanism. The initiative forms part of the department's broader efforts to strengthen the entire sericulture value chain, from silkworm seed production and cocoon rearing to marketing and silk production, thereby, supporting rural livelihoods and creating sustainable economic opportunities for farmers associated with the sector.

Later, Director Sericulture J&K, visited the Central Organization for Training in Sericulture (COTS) Mirgund to review the progress of Late Autumn Rearing 2026 and assess the functioning and progress of the newly established Silkworm Crop Improvement Laboratory.

NIT Srinagar hosts lecture on advances in Computational Fluid Dynamics

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Civil Engineering and Department of Mathematics at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Monday jointly organised a guest lecture on "Advances in Computational Fluid Dynamics: From Mesoscale Modelling to Real-World Engineering Applications".

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Dhiraj V. Patil, Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace Engineering.



ing at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Dharwad. Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, attended the programme as the chief guest.

The lecture focused on emerging computational approaches for understanding and simulating complex fluid-flow phenomena and their applications in modern engineering. Key areas covered included mesoscale modelling, particle-based techniques such as the Lattice Boltzmann Method, the Discrete Element Method

(DEM), thermal and multiphase fluid flows, non-Newtonian fluids, turbulence and high-speed flows.

The session highlighted the growing role of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) in addressing complex engineering problems, developing predictive models and bridging the gap between theoretical modelling and practical applications. It also explored the interdisciplinary relevance of computational methods across civil, mechanical and aerospace engineering.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Misra appre-

ciated the initiative and emphasised the importance of expert lectures and interdisciplinary engagement in strengthening research, technical learning and academic collaboration at the institute.

The programme provided faculty members, researchers and students an opportunity to learn about recent developments in computational modelling and numerical simulation, while encouraging knowledge exchange between the participating departments and the invited expert.

Jatin Kishore reviews Facilities at Railway Station Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Monday chaired a meeting to review the availability of essential facilities, security arrangements and ongoing developmental works at Railway Station Budgam.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the availability of essential services, particularly adequate water supply, and took stock of facilities for in-house employees. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of ongoing water supply schemes and explore a change in the existing water supply source to ensure reliable supply to the railway station.

He also instructed the concerned departments to expedite the installation of streetlights, complete pending fencing works, ensure adequate accommodation facilities for SSB and RPF personnel, and remove encroachments, wherever identified.

Emphasising inter-departmental coordination, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure the timely and quality completion of all ongoing works and the prompt resolution of issues.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Area Manager,

Northern Railways, Srinagar; ASP Budgam; Joint Director Planning; Superintending Engineers of R&B Circle and Hydraulic, Budgam; Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE and KPDC, Budgam; Tehsildar Budgam; Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam; Deputy Commandant, 163 Battalion SSB; and Assistant Divisional Engineer, Northern Railways, Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ashak Hussain, S/o Gh. Mohd. Ahinger, R/o Gumb Dachhan, Lohama, District Kishtwar, hereby inform the general public that my name, parentage and address have been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as Ashiq Hussain Ahanger, S/o Gh. Mohd. Ahanger, R/o Gumb, Dachhan, Lohma, Kishtwar, whereas my correct particulars are Ashak Hussain, S/o Gh. Mohd. Ahinger, R/o Gumb Dachhan, Lohama, District Kishtwar, as per my Matriculation Certificate. I have applied for correction of the same. Any person having any objection may approach the concerned authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Ashak Hussain

S/o Gh. Mohd. Ahinger

R/o Gumb Dachhan, Lohama, District Kishtwar.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE MECHANICAL

RURAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR KASHMIR

CORRIGENDUM

E-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/23 of 08/2026, published vide No: 2026_PHE_319214_1 is hereby cancelled.

No: PHE/MRD/2489-93

Dated: 19 -10-2026

DIPK-6913-26

DT: 19/10/2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

PHE Mechanical Rural Division,

Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.

FRESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (MACADAM WORKS)

Fresh NIT No: 96/R&B of 2026-27

Dated: 17-10-2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender Call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Up-gradation /Black topping of Badrakoot Ringawali road.	14.97	600/-	29940/-	10 days	CDF 2026-27	D/C/B	District Dev. Commissioner Baramulla	2 nd
2	Up-gradation/ Black-topping of Malwah-Gund Dalwash Road	15.00	600/-	30000/-	10 days	CDF 2026-27	D/C/B	District Dev. Commissioner Baramulla	2 nd

Position of AAA:-

Accorded

Position of T.S:-

Accorded

Position of funds:-

committed

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q),Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-10-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17-10-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	17-10-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	23-10-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	24-10-2026 11:00 AM

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. / name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority)(The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority)as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money Deposit@2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value

• the Ministry of Road transport and Highways publication" Specifications for road and bridge Works" and I.R.C.SP:20 read with revised guidelines as per I.R.C.SP:72 and amendments made till date of issuance of N.I.T.

• All the road materials for use shall conform to the specifications laid down in "Rural Roads manual" a publication of I.R.C.

• For items not covered in Rural Roads manual the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) Specifications for Road and Bridge works- Latest edition shall be followed.

• Physical properties of aggregates for bituminous works i.e Shape, Strength, durability and Stripping value should satisfy the requirements prescribed in I.R.C. SP: 20.

• Periodic sieve analysis of each type of aggregate and periodic check of aggregates at the gradation control unit shall be carried out to ensure that the proportion of the aggregates as specified is complied with. Conducting of mandatory quality control tests for various components of the advertised work like Thickness tests, tests for impact value, stripping, flakiness, gradation of aggregates, determination of Binder content in bituminous mix, tests for density and other tests as prescribed in I.R.C. SP : 20 as per frequency recommended therein, during and after execution of the work will be sole responsibility of the contractor as well as the Correctness of the test results whether performed in his laboratory or elsewhere.

• The location at the Hot mix plant of adequate capacity and capable of yielding a mix of proper and uniform quality. From which bituminous macadam is to be transported to the site in clean. tarpaulin covered vehicle shippers and shall be so placed that the manufacturing laving/spreading and rolling temperatures are within the specified limits as laid down in I.R.C.SP:20.

• The spreading of mix, compaction and quality control during these operations shall be done as per prescribed norms of I.R.C.

• The longitudinal profile of the finished surface shall be tested with a straight edge and the Transverse profile with a camber template. Any irregularity greater than 6mm shall be rectified.

• The defects noticed in the work during execution or maintenance period shall be corrected by the Contractor within the length of time specified by the Engineer. If the contractor does not correct the defects pertaining to maintenance period to the satisfaction of the Engineer within the time specified, the same shall be got rectified at his risk and cost.

40. The tender / bid is liable rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

41. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

42. As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/ contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

43. Any Typographical error in units or items shall be corrected and paid as per SSR of 2022 or as per Technical sanction.

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/6481-91

Dated: 17-10 -2026

Sd/-

Draftsman

Sd/-

Technical Officer

DIPK-6914-26

DT: 19/10/2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Tangmarg.

●●●●●

CMYK

●●●●●

Ranji Trophy: Sutar's historic 400 headlines day two; Badoni hits double ton, Sarfaraz, Patidar smash centuries

IAN S
NEW DELHI: Mizoram's Chinmay Sutar became only the second batter in Ranji Trophy history to hit a quadruple century, while Delhi captain Ayush Badoni struck a double hundred and India batters Sarfaraz Khan and Rajat Patidar notched up centuries on an eventful day two of the second round of the Ranji Trophy on Monday.

Playing in just his second first-class match, Sutar remained unbeaten on 400 against Nagaland in a Plate group game at the Nagaland Cricket Stadium in Sovima, and become only the second Indian to score a quadruple hundred in first-class cricket.

The left-hander went past Prithvi Shaw's 379 to post the second-highest individual score in the history of the competition. Only Bhausaheb Nimbalkar's unbeaten 443 for Maharashtra against Kathiawar in Pune in 1948-49 remains ahead of him.

Sutar was on 392 at tea and brought up his 400 in



the 155th over, prompting Mizoram to declare at 581/9. He faced 517 balls in all and struck 46 fours and seven sixes. Mizoram, who ended day one on 331/5, slipped to 391/9 and Sutar was on 231 when last man Lalrempuia Chhakchhuak joined him. The pair put on an unbroken 190-run stand to take the game away from Nagaland.

It has entered the record books as the third-highest last-wicket partnership in Ranji Trophy history, 43 runs short of the record 233 set by Ajay Sharma and Maninder Singh for Delhi against Mumbai in 1991-92. Sutar also became only the 10th batter to score 400 or more in a first-class innings, joining a list that features batting greats such as Brian Lara and Don Bradman.

Sutar made his Ranji debut for Mizoram in last week's season opener against Manipur after obtaining a no-objection certificate from the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA). He scored 35 and 99 in that game, as Mizoram recovered from a 68-run first-innings deficit before going down narrowly by three wickets.

Sutar had played for Mumbai in the Vijay Hazare Trophy last season on the back of strong showings in Mumbai's local leagues. By the time stumps were called in Sovima, Nagaland reached 50/1.

Elsewhere in the Plate group, Parth Palawat and Nilesh Lamichaney scored hundreds as Sikkim piled up 477/4 against Arunachal Pradesh's 121. Meanwhile, Karnajit Yumnam's unbeaten 93 led Manipur's strong reply of 173/2 to Meghalaya's 380, in which Pheirojam Jotin bagged five wickets in a 29-over spell.

In Elite Group A, Patidar's unbeaten 107, studded with 13 fours, took Madhya Pradesh to 302/5 and their lead swelling to 125 against Puducherry. Chanchal Rathore and Shubham Sharma also made half-centuries for Madhya Pradesh.

Ravikumar Samarth's 143 rescued Vidarbha in a sensational fashion and took them past Jammu and Kashmir's 260, with number nine Rajneesh Gurbani making an unbeaten 64. Umar Nazir and Sunil Kumar took four wickets each for the hosts and leave Vidarbha at 133/7, before Samarth bailed Vidarbha out of trouble.

Nachiket Bhute then

Shocked by Suthar's omission for Tests against NZ, has been the find of the season: Murali Kartik

IAN S
NEW DELHI: Former India left-arm spinner Murali Kartik said he was 'shocked' by Manav Suthar's exclusion from the Test squad for the tour of New Zealand, adding that the young left-arm spin bowling all-rounder was the side's best bowler in the longer format in recent times.

Suthar made a dream start to his Test career by picking 23 wickets in three matches – 16 of which came in India's 1-0 series win over Sri Lanka in August. But he was left out of the squad for the two-game Test series that forms part of India's multi-format tour of New Zealand starting on October 22.

India have instead gone with three spin options, with Kuldeep Yadav retaining his place as the only specialist spinner alongside all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar. Of the three, only Jadeja has bowled before in a Test match in New Zealand.



"Look, it's a tough one for me to be very honest because when I saw the squads, I was shocked myself. Because, as you rightly said, Manav Suthar has been the find of the season, especially post Ashwin. We have been searching for a Test match bowler, and the most important thing is the rationale which is used behind not picking Kuldeep sometimes is that he is not as good a bat as others."

"But Manav Suthar fits that bill too. More impor-

tantly, take the batting away. I don't even look at somebody as a batter. Yes, you do want to contribute handy runs, especially in the modern version of the game because you don't want any guys who cannot bat. But the most important thing is, Manav Suthar has been the best bowler on view in the Test matches that we have had of late," Kartik told IANS in a virtual interaction facilitated by Sony Sports Network on Monday.

Suthar will instead

travel to New Zealand with the India A squad for three red-ball matches, where he will have to find ways to be effective in windy conditions and on pitches that may not offer much help to spinners.

He also claimed 27 wickets in six County Championship matches for Warwickshire this year, which also sharpened his tactical nous on bowling in overseas conditions. Kartik added that Suthar, along with Kuldeep, gave India a genuine wicket-taking option in Tests.

"I was massively surprised that he has not been picked. So I don't know the logic. It's not as if you cannot take one extra player. Also, most importantly, he is your wicket-taking bowler. All the others have been - and Kuldeep Yadav is a wicket-taking bowler. But again, Kuldeep Yadav is a very different story. Think of the tour to Sri Lanka. He played the first Test match and the second Test match, he didn't play."

"Even in the first Test

President Murmu congratulates Mona Agarwal, Avani Lekhara on winning gold, silver medals



IAN S
NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Monday extended her wishes to shooters Mona Agarwal and Avani Lekhara for winning gold and silver medals, respectively, at the ongoing Asian Para Games 2026.

President Murmu congratulated Mona for winning the gold medal in the Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event with an Asian Para Games record of 250. "I extend my heartiest congratulations to Mona Agarwal on winning the Gold Medal in the Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event at the Asian Para Games 2026. By setting a new Asian Para Games record, you have made this victory even more special."

"Your achievement will inspire many to dream big and believe that with determination and hard work, even the most ambitious dreams can be realised," the President of India posted on X.

She further congratulated Avani for winning back-to-back medals at the continental showpiece. Having won the gold in the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2023, the Paris and Tokyo Paralympics gold medallist Avani won a silver for successive medals at the Asiad.

"My warmest congratulations to Avani Lekhara on winning the Silver Medal in the Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event at the Asian Para Games 2026. May your sporting journey continue to bring you new opportunities to excel and

fulfil your aspirations. I wish you the very best for the future," the President wrote in another post.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also congratulated both the shooters through a social media post.

Mona and Avani were placed closely in the final. Mona shot an Asian Para Games record score of 250 to bag the gold, while Avani shot 249.6 to win the silver in what were India's first medals at the ongoing Games.

Mona, a Paris Paralympics bronze winner, made a brilliant comeback in the final after she was reeling in fifth place to storm into the podium positions before fending off the challenge from others to win the coveted gold. Behind Mona and Avani, South Korea's Yunri Lee won the bronze with a score of 227.9.

Mona broke her compatriot Avani's Asiad Para Games record of 249.6 that the shooter had set while winning the gold in the previous Games in Hangzhou. However, she missed out on the world record of 252 held by Slovakia's Iryna Shchetnik.

With this performance,

DC G'bal felicitates winners at culmination of 70th National School Games

GMK SPORTS DESK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, Monday attended the culmination ceremony of the 70th National School Games 2026 at Physical College Gadodora, Ganderbal, where she interacted with participating players and congratulated the winners for their



outstanding performances.

During the event, the DC congratulated the winning teams and players for their dedication, discipline and sporting spirit. She also encouraged the runners up to remain motivated, continue working hard and view every competition as an opportunity to learn, improve and achieve greater success.

Emphasising the importance of sports in a student's life, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that participation in games

promotes physical fitness, mental well-being, discipline, teamwork and leadership. She observed that sports also instil values of perseverance, mutual respect and resilience, which are essential for success in all walks of life.

The DC appreciated the Department of Youth Services and Sports for its efforts in organising the event and

V Sports Club Jammu Clinches 12 Medals at UT-Level Judo Championship in Sgr



GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: V Sports Club Jammu delivered an impressive performance at the Inter-District UT-Level Judo Championship held at Polo Ground Stadium, Srinagar, winning a total of 12 medals, including seven gold, three silver and two bronze, across various age and weight categories.

The club's young judokas showcased their talent, discipline and competitive spirit, bringing laurels to Jammu through a series of strong performances at the championship.

The seven gold medal winners from V Sports Club Jammu were Moham-

mad Yasin (Under-14, -25 kg), Zairfali (Under-14, -30 kg), Anees Choudhary (Under-14, -45 kg), Anirudh Rana (Under-17, -45 kg), Shivam Gupta (Under-19, -60 kg), Shilpa Rajput (Under-19, -52 kg) and Arya Chhib (Under-19, -36 kg).

In addition to the seven gold medals, the club secured three silver and two bronze medals, taking its overall tally to 12 medals and underlining the strength of its young contingent.

The team competed under the guidance of Coach Manish Chatwal, a Judo Black Belt, whose coaching, dedication and efforts played an important

role in preparing the athletes for the competition.

The achievement reflects the hard work and commitment of the judokas, along with the club's continued efforts to nurture young sporting talent and promote judo in Jammu and Kashmir.

V Sports Club Jammu congratulated all the medal winners and Coach Manish Chatwal on their commendable achievement. The club expressed confidence that the athletes would continue to work hard, perform strongly at higher levels of competition and bring further recognition to the region.

Age shouldn't matter if you're good enough, says Kartik on Bhuvneshwar's recall

IAN S
NEW DELHI: Former Indian left-arm spinner Murali Kartik on Monday welcomed Bhuvneshwar Kumar's recall to the national T20I side, saying age should never be a barrier to selection as long as a player is good enough and not a liability on the field.

Bhuvneshwar initially earned a recall for India's five-match T20I series in New Zealand starting on October 22. But he was then drafted into the rain-outed fifth T20I against the West Indies in Bengaluru – first as a cover for Arshdeep Singh, before replacing Mayank Yadav in the playing eleven. Bhuvneshwar had played a key role in the Royal Challengers Bengaluru achieving consecutive IPL wins in 2025 and 2026.

"100 percent. I am so happy that he has made his comeback. I have never



reporters in a select virtual interaction facilitated by Sony Sports Network on Monday.

"Someone like Bhuvneshwar Kumar, he has showcased it throughout his life. He has been a quiet and exceptional performer. He is not somebody who is beating his chest and saying, 'Notice me'. He has never done that. Even this year too, in that cauldron called IPL, which is a tough gig for any bowler, he literally was simply the best or, in fact, one of the best in all conditions across all phases.

"I suppose there is a huge case for him, and there was a national clamour, so to speak, that Bhuvneshwar should be picked primarily based on those performances. So, I am very happy that he is back and so should be for anyone else," he added.

Kartik, however, cautioned that the comeback would put Bhuvneshwar under intense scrutiny, and that the outcome could shape how selectors view older players for future assignments.

"I don't know if you want to use the word litmus. But anyone who is on this side of 30 and making a comeback, it is not going to be easy. The spotlight is always going to be on you. If you do well, people will say, he has continued his form. If he doesn't do well, then people are going to say, we always knew he was on this side."

"All those things are part of it. From a Bhuvneshwar Kumar point of view, I don't think he is going to be looking at it that way. It is a new lease of life. Anybody who comes to play this game wants to play it for the right reason, and that is to play for the country at any stage at any age. So I am pretty sure that Bhuvneshwar Kumar is taking it that way."

"But yes, the pressure is on him because if he doesn't do well, if it doesn't go well for him, then obviously, it is like how you are looked at. Say, imagine a 36- or 37-year-old does well. If there is a reason to bring another 36- or 37-year-old at some other stage, people might use this as an example and say, look, he did well, so he can also do well."

But if somebody doesn't do well, then there are always going to be doubts about bringing that guy as well. So I hope it goes well for Bhuvneshwar Kumar. But it is definitely going to be a stern test. I don't know whether it is a litmus test," he elaborated.

On wrist spinner Varun Chakaravathy's return, after a side strain led to him being ruled out after the first T20I against Afghanistan in New Delhi last month, Kartik said fitness would be the key.

"You just hope that Varun Chakaravathy stays fit because he is also on the other side of 30 and he is not known for his exceptional fitness. So, he is basically a one-dimensional cricketer who has done exceedingly well with what he has got. That is exactly what Varun Chakaravathy is."

"That is an argument

BIGGER SCREEN
BRIGHTER EMOTIONS

INOX
LIVE the MOVIE
SRINAGAR

BLOCKBUSTER
TUESDAY

SHOW TIMINGS | 20 OCTOBER 2026
TUESDAY

**DRISHYAM:
THE CONCLUSION**
(HINDI) (UA 16+)
12:00 PM
03:00 PM
06:00 PM

**PRAHAAR:
THE UNTOLD STORY
OF UJJWAL NIKAM**
(HINDI) (UA 16+)
01:35 PM
07:00 PM

**NAYYI
NAVELLI**
(HINDI) (UA 16+)
12:30 PM
06:30 PM

**STREET
FIGHTER**
(HINDI) (UA 16+)
11:05 AM
04:30 PM

ANY MOVIE
ANY SHOW

TICKETS AT FLAT
₹99/199
ANY MOVIE ANY SHOW

CALL : 95416 13868
FOR ANY ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS