facebook.com/NewspaperGMK twitter.com/GMKashmir www.dailygoodmorningkashmir.com epaper.dailygoodmorningkashmir.com

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Distressed to learn about the loss of lives due to a tragic bus accident in Ramnagar, Udhampur. My condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Srinagar • Thursday 22, October 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 249 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Terrorism Curbed In J&K, Peace Taking Roots: Amit Shah



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Hailing the role of Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security forces in curbing terrorism in the Valley, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that Kashmir, the Northeast and Left-Wing Extremism-affected areas are now witnessing peace and development.

Addressing a ceremony on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day at the National Police Memorial here, Shah, said significant success has been achieved in curbing terrorism in Kashmir, while security forces have made major contributions towards restoring peace in regions that faced prolonged internal security challenges. • P-06

Police Commemoration Day

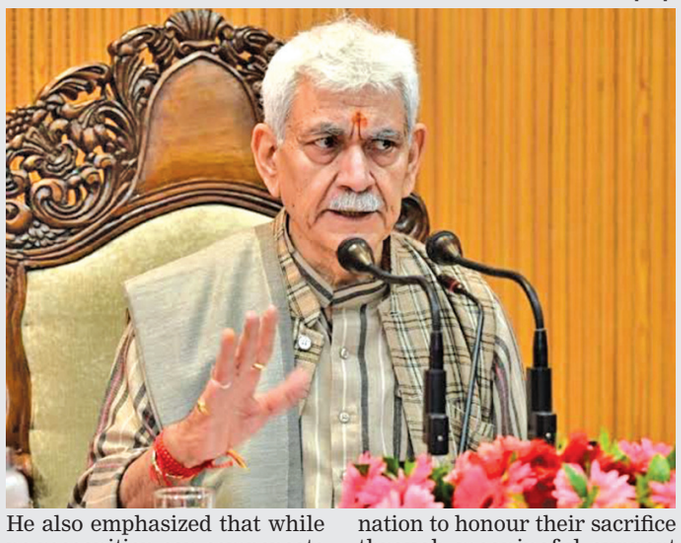
Valour Of Martyrs Inspires Us To Strengthen Peace: LG Sinha

Vows To Root Out Terrorism, Warns Terror Supporters

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha paid solemn tribute to police personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day. Remembering the courage, dedication and patriotism of the brave martyrs, the Lieutenant Governor said that their service and sacrifice remain an enduring source of inspiration for Jammu Kashmir and the nation.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to all police martyrs and conveyed deep respect and sympathy to their families. The Lieutenant Governor conveyed his prayers and best wishes for the health and well-being of the families of the brave personnel.



He also emphasized that while no recognition can compensate for the loss suffered by families, it is the responsibility of the nation to honour their sacrifice through meaningful support and care.

"I have always said that no honour or assistance can compensate a family for the pain of losing a loved one. Yet, it is the nation's duty to honour their sacrifice not merely in words, but also through its conduct and responsibilities. I assure the entire Jammu Kashmir Police family that every possible effort will continue to be made to ensure a dignified life, welfare, and necessary support for the families of the martyrs," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor acknowledged the contributions of the Jammu Kashmir Police force, describing its history as one marked by courage, discipline and an unwavering commitment to duty. He noted that from maintaining law and order and combating terrorism to assisting citizens during emergencies • P-06

CS Reviews Progress Of PM Ekta Malls In Srinagar, Jammu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday reviewed the status of the proposed PM Unity (Ekta) Malls at Jammu and Srinagar in a meeting convened to assess the progress of the projects being undertaken by the Department of Industries & Commerce through Public Works Department • P-06

CM Omar Reviews Winter Preparedness Across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review winter preparedness across Jammu and Kashmir, directing all concerned departments and agencies to ensure coordinated, timely and effective arrangements to minimise public inconvenience during the winter months.

Emphasising the need for close interdepartmental coordination, the Chief Minister called • P-06

PM Pays Tribute To Police Personnel On Commemoration Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid tribute to police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty, saying their courage, dedication and sacrifice would forever remain etched in the nation's memory. • P-06

LG Calls For Making Basohli Global Centre Of Art, Culture

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has congratulated the Department of Culture, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, the Vishwasthali NGO, the Divisional Commissioner • P-06

SEC Announces Panchayat Polls In Ladakh

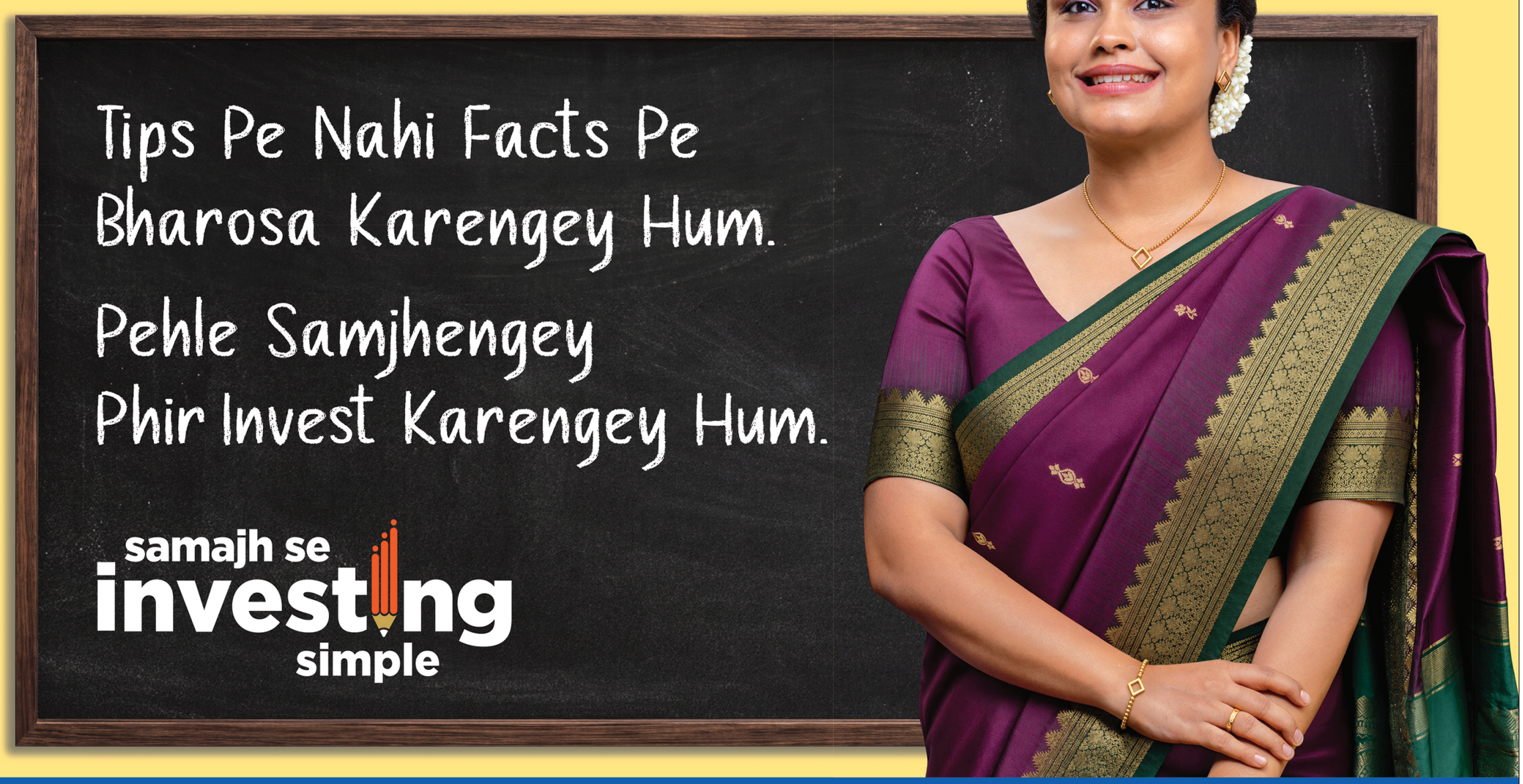
GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: The State Election Commission of Ladakh on Wednesday announced that elections to all Panchayat Halqas in the Union Territory will be held on November 21.

According to the schedule issued by State Election Commissioner Sudhanshu Pandey, the notification for the elections will be issued jointly by the UT administration and the State Election Commission on October 26.

As per the schedule, the last date for filing • P-06

An Investor Awareness Initiative by
SEBI
भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड
Securities and Exchange Board of India



Mutual Funds | Stocks | REITs | InvITs | Bonds | Commodities

Visit investor.sebi.gov.in/ssis

Download SEBI Saa₹thi App

Partners: AMFI | NSE IPFT | BSE Investors Protection Fund | MCX METAL & ENERGY Trade with Trust MCX INVESTOR PROTECTION FUND | CDSL INVESTOR PROTECTION FUND TRUST | NSDL INVESTOR PROTECTION FUND TRUST | NISM National Institute of Securities Markets A Capacity Building Initiative of SEBI

CBC 15204/13/0123/2627

J&K Proposes Enumeration of Vulnerable Households for Welfare Interventions



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has proposed a household-level enumeration of vulnerable families to identify multidimensional deprivations and improve the targeting of welfare schemes. The proposal was discussed at a meeting chaired by Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to Chief Minister.

The review highlighted a significant decline in multidimensional poverty in Jammu & Kashmir. The poverty headcount ratio decreased from 12.56% in 2015–16 to 4.80% in 2019–21, while the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) score fell from 0.055 to 0.020. The national poverty headcount ratio declined from 24.8% to 14.96% during the same period.

The proposed enumeration will initially cover Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and old-age pension beneficiaries under NSAP and ISSS. Other households will remain outside its scope at this stage.

The exercise aims to identify household-specific deprivations, assess access to welfare schemes and essential services, and determine gaps requiring targeted interventions. The proposed survey will assess deprivation across the three MPI dimensions—health, education and living standards—while gathering additional information on factors such as nutrition, healthcare, drinking water, electricity and connectivity.

The methodology, beneficiary lists, manpower requirements, digital data collection arrangements and financial estimates will be finalised before the enumeration begins, subject to the requisite approvals and availability of resources.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary ; Commissioner Secretaries of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Housing & Urban Development, Health & Medical Education, and School Education Departments; and the Secretaries of the PD&MD, Information Technology and Social Welfare Departments.

The proposed exercise is expected to strengthen evidence-based planning, improve inter-departmental coordination and facilitate more focused welfare delivery to vulnerable households.

JKHPMC clarifies position on Chowdrigund Pack House Project

'Reports on APEDA Refund Demand Do Not Present the Complete Picture'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In response to media reports regarding APEDA's demand for the refund of funds released for the Integrated Pack House and Cold Chamber Storage Project at Chowdrigund, Shopian, the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) has clarified that the matter needs to be viewed in the context of the proposed revival of the project.

The project, conceived in 2005 with assistance from the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), could not be completed despite repeated extensions, primarily due to the frequent site and project design changes and default of the executing contractor. Action was taken against the contractor, including blacklisting and legal proceedings.

Recognising the importance of the facility for apple growers in Shopian and adjoining areas.

JKHPMC has undertaken a fresh technical assessment and prepared a revival plan to complete the project with modern post-harvest infrastructure. Since the technology envisaged at the time of the project's conception has become outdated, the proposed plan incorporates facilities suited to current industry requirements. Given this fact, the revival plan had become inevitable.

The revival plan envisages a modern grading, packing and waxing line with a capacity of 5 metric tonnes per hour, along with a Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage facility of approximately 2,000 metric tonnes. The existing infrastructure of the original project will be utilised wherever technically feasible.

The project is proposed to be completed with an investment of around 20 crore from UT Government CAPEX for which the demand will be projected in budgetary estimates in the ensuing financial year.

Once operational, the facility will enable scientific storage, improve post-harvest handling, reduce losses and allow growers to market their produce beyond the peak harvesting season. This is expected to improve market realisation for growers and strengthen the horticulture sector in Shopian, one of the major apple-producing districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The project will also become a source for local employment.

Regarding APEDA's demand for a refund of the assistance released for the original project, the matter will be taken up with the Government of India interms clause 18 of the project MOU dated: 15th July 2005, for a considered view in light of the proposed revival and the commitment to complete the facility using J&K Government resources.

JKHPMC remains committed to reviving the stalled project, upgrading the infrastructure in line with present-day requirements and ensuring that the facility delivers its intended benefits to apple growers.

DC Kulgam chairs meeting on winter preparedness



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Wednesday chaired a preparatory meeting regarding winter preparedness at the Mini-Secretariat Kulgam to review the arrangements being put in place by various departments ahead of the upcoming winter season.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the preparedness of different departments and stressed the need for coordinated efforts to ensure uninterrupted essential services and timely response to any eventuality during the winter months.

He emphasized the need for adequate arrangements for snow clearance, road connectivity, power and water supply, healthcare facilities, availability of essential commodities and other public services. The concerned departments were directed to ensure adequate manpower, machinery and essential supplies to meet any exigency during the winter season.

The DC directed the constitution of tehsil-level committees to monitor snow clearance operations and certify, from time to time, the extent of areas cleared of snow to ensure effective monitoring and timely restoration of road connectivity.

He also directed the concerned departments to give special focus to far-flung and snow-bound areas for immediate rescue and rehabilitation mesites especially for expectant mothers, ailing person's and others requiring timely medical care, ensuring their safe stay and access to healthcare facilities during adverse weather conditions.

The DC stressed inter-departmental coordination among the frontline departments and directed all officers to remain prepared to address public grievances and ensure minimum inconvenience to the people during the winter months.v

DC Budgam stresses seamless winter preparedness

GMK NEWS NETWORK



BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Wednesday chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall to review winter preparedness across the district and assess the readiness of various departments to tackle snowfall and weather-related exigencies.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the advance stocking of ration and other essential commodities in all snow-bound areas and stressed effective inter-departmental coordination to minimise public inconvenience during the winter months.

The DC directed Municipal Committees to deploy adequate vehicles and machinery in priority areas, particularly near hospitals, on roads and at other essential locations.

The Mechanical Engineering Department was asked to keep trucks, snow cutters, tractors and other machinery ready, ensuring timely repairs and thorough testing.

Stressing the timely floating of stage contracts, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the R&B and PMGSY departments to distribute machinery across designated routes to ensure prompt snow clearance. He instructed the Additional Deputy Commissioner to devise a robust winter action plan and ensure that the contact details of drivers and information regarding the mobilisation of other resources remain readily available.

The Power Development Department was directed to maintain buffer stocks of transformers and transformer oil for the prompt restoration of electricity. The Jal Shakti Department was asked to ensure adequate stocks of pipes and uninterrupted water supply.

Cheque-Bounce Case

Tangdhar Court Issues Proclamation Against Budgam Man

NAVEED UL HAQ

TANGDHAR: A Judicial Magistrate First Class court in Tangdhar has issued a proclamation against a man from Budgam district in connection with a complaint under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, after repeated non-execution of non-bailable warrants and reports that the accused could not be traced at his residence.

According to the court order dated April 10, 2026, the complaint was filed by Mohd Ravees Khan, a resident of Konah Gabra in Kupwara district, against Farooq Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Falchhil, Khansahib, Budgam.

The order states that the court had previously issued process against the accused and subsequently issued non-bailable warrants on multiple occasions after he failed to appear before the court. However, the warrants remained unexecuted.

As per an execution report submitted through the police authorities, the concerned Station House Officer reported that the accused was not found at his residence and was allegedly staying at an unknown location.

Taking note of the repeated non-execution of warrants and the material placed on record, the court initiated proceedings under Section 84 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

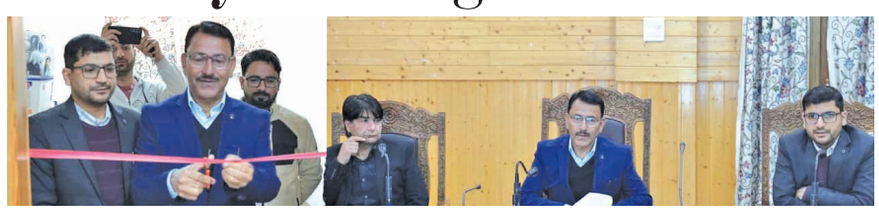
The court directed that the proclamation be published in accordance with the prescribed legal procedure, including public reading at a conspicuous place in the village or town where the accused ordinarily resides, affixation at specified locations, and publication in a daily newspaper circulating in the area.

The order also directed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam, to submit a compliance report along with photographic proof of affixation and publication.

The court had fixed May 16, 2026, for the accused to appear and for further proceedings.

The case concerns a complaint under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, which deals with the dishonour of cheques, and remains subject to further judicial proceedings.

District Treasury B'pora begins Four-Day Training on JKIFMS



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: District Treasury Bandipora Wednesday inaugurated a four-day training programme on the implementation of e-Bill and e-Sanction modules under the JKIFMS project of NIC J&K, on the directions of the J&K Accounts and Treasuries Organisation, Finance Department.

The programme was inaugurated by Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora, Rafeeq Ahmad Mir, in the presence of District Treasury Officer (DTO) Bandipora, Imtiyaz Ahmad, and Accounts Officer, DC Office Bandipora, Mohamed Akber.

The first-day session was attended by over 50 Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and Dealing Assistants (DAs) of the Education Department, including Principals, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) and Headmasters.

During the training, the DTO and officials of District Treasury Bandipora provided hands-on guidance on the technical aspects of the e-Bill system, with particular emphasis on three-tier authentication and e-signing mechanisms. An interactive question-and-answer session was also held to address participants' queries and clarify technical issues.

The training aims to facilitate the effective implementation of the e-Bill and e-Sanction modules and strengthen digital financial processes under JKIFMS. The project also encompasses e-Receipt, e-Payments and e-Accounting frameworks.

The DTO expressed gratitude to the District Administration Bandipora for its continued support and cooperation and appreciated the CEO Bandipora for his active participation in organising the programme. Participants also appreciated the arrangements and acknowledged the initiative of the Accounts and Treasuries Organisation in facilitating the training.

Police Martyrs remembered on Police Commemoration Day in Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, Anayat Ali Chowdhary, and other senior police and CAPFs officers Wednesday paid rich tributes to police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty, on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day at District Police Lines (DPL) Kulgam.

The occasion was marked by a solemn commemoration parade and a wreath-laying ceremony at the Martyrs' Monument, honouring the supreme sacrifices of police personnel who laid down their lives in the service of the nation.

The DC acknowledged the martyr's courage, dedication and unwavering commitment to safeguarding the lives and security of the people, stating that their sacrifices would always be remembered with pride and gratitude. He emphasised that the martyrs' dedication to duty and service to the nation would continue to inspire future generations. He also underscored the importance of standing by the families of the martyrs, recognising their immense sacrifices and ensuring that they receive due respect, care and support from the administration.

During the ceremony, SSP Kulgam remembered the valour and sacrifices of the martyred personnel and reiterated the commitment of Jammu and Kashmir Police to uphold peace, security and public service.

The SSP also interacted with the Next of Kin (NoKs) of the martyrs, listened to their grievances and assured them of all possible assistance and support from the police department. Gifts were also presented to the bereaved families as a token of respect and solidarity.

On the occasion, Kulgam Police, in collaboration with District Hospital Kulgam, organised a blood donation camp, reflecting the spirit of public service and the commitment to saving precious lives.

Preparations for Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Celebrations reviewed in Kupwara



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Ghulam Rasool Wednesday chaired a meeting of the concerned officers to review the preparations for the celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas (JJGD) 2026, scheduled to be observed from November 1 to November 15 across the district.

During the meeting, the ADDC emphasized the importance of celebrating Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas with active participation from all concerned departments and stakeholders to highlight the rich cultural heritage, traditions, achievements and invaluable contributions of tribal communities to the nation. He directed the officers to work in close coordination and ensure the timely completion of all preparatory arrangements for the successful conduct of the celebrations.

The ADDC stressed the need to organize meaningful and inclusive activities, particularly in educational institutions, hostels and residential institutions, to create awareness among students and the general public about the legacy of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and other tribal freedom fighters who played a significant role in India's freedom struggle.

As part of the proposed celebrations, the meeting discussed the organization of floral tribute ceremonies in honour of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and other tribal freedom fighters. It was also emphasized that age-appropriate training sessions and workshops be conducted to promote awareness about tribal art, dance, music, handicrafts, customs and cultural traditions, while highlighting the significant contributions of tribal communities to Indian society.

DC Shopian chairs Mega Block Diwas in Wachi



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Taking governance to the doorsteps of the people under the ongoing public outreach initiative, Mega Block Diwas was organised Wednesday at Public Park, Wachi, Zainapora, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh.

At the outset of the programme, a solemn pledge ceremony was administered under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), reaffirming a collective commitment towards building a drug-free Shopian/ drug-free India.

During the public outreach programme, local residents projected various basic issues and matters of public importance, including the introduction of bus services from Shopian, macadamisation of roads, smooth power supply, shifting of HT line passing through Public Park, construction of flood protection bunds, desilting of irrigation canals, augmentation of staff and machinery in hospitals, construction and development of a children's park, establishment of a library at Wachi, and other developmental requirements.

The DC listened patiently to the grievances and concerns raised by the public. Officers from various departments responded to the issues and demands raised by the people and shared the status of ongoing developmental works and projects.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC assured the public that their genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for timely and appropriate redressal, while some grievances were resolved on the spot.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to addressing public grievances on priority and ensuring responsive, transparent and people-centric governance. He also directed the officers to ensure prompt responses to public issues and grievances and take appropriate measures for their timely resolution.

Six-Day Management Development Programme concludes at WKC B'pora

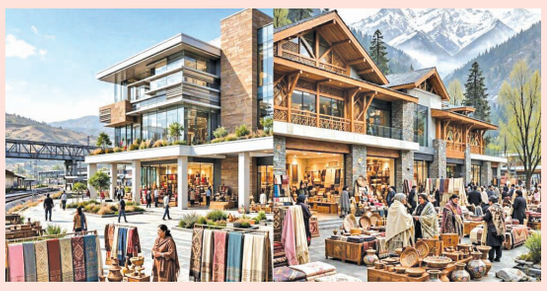
GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The six-day Management Development Programme (MDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative, conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), concluded Wednesday at Waqar Knowledge Centre, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

A total of 19 candidates successfully completed the programme. The participants are members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and are engaged in diverse business activities, including restaurants, handicrafts, manufacturing, agro-farming, free-range poultry and other enterprises.

The programme aimed at strengthening the entrepreneurial and managerial capabilities of the participants, equipping them with knowledge of various funding avenues and sensitising them about activity-specific compliances and registration requirements. It also focused on facilitating the transition of their enterprises towards organised business sectors while enabling them to pursue expansion and diversification plans.

J&K's Rs 255 crore Ekta Mall projects await contract awards



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is expected to issue Letters of Award for two PM Ekta Mall projects worth Rs 255 crore in Srinagar and Jammu by the third week of November, with both facilities planned to provide dedicated commercial spaces for handicrafts, handlooms and other locally produced goods.

The proposed malls, approved at Rs 130 crore for Srinagar and Rs 125 crore for Jammu, will together cover 39 kanals of land and offer approximately 3.95 lakh square feet of floor space.

The details emerged during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Wednesday to review the progress of the projects being executed by the Public Works Department for the Industries and Commerce Department.

Officials informed the meeting that the contract committee had considered both projects on October 19 and that Letters of Award were expected by the third week of November.

According to the project details, the Srinagar Ekta Mall will be constructed at the Kashmir Haat Complex on Jehangir Chowk–Batmaloo Road over 15 kanals of land.

The proposed six-level building, comprising a basement, ground floor and four upper floors, will have approximately 1.81 lakh square feet of floor space.

The Rs 130 crore project will include retail shops, a craft museum, exhibition hall, trade facilitation spaces, auditorium, indoor amphitheatre, food court, dining facilities and guest accommodation.

In Jammu, the Ekta Mall is proposed at the Rail Head Complex over 24 kanals, with an approved cost of Rs 125 crore.

The building will have two basement levels, a ground floor and three upper floors, providing approximately 2.14 lakh square feet of floor space.

Its proposed facilities include retail outlets, workspaces, a craft museum and art gallery, exhibition and trade facilitation areas, a food court and other public amenities.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh briefed the meeting about the project designs, facilities and approval status.

Officials said both malls are proposed to be operated and maintained under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, with private partners to be selected through competitive bidding.

The government will retain policy and strategic oversight of the facilities.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary said the malls should provide market access to local artisans, craftspeople, entrepreneurs and producers while showcasing products from Jammu and Kashmir alongside those from other states and Union Territories.

He stressed the importance of creating dedicated spaces for products under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative and those carrying Geographical Indication (GI) tags.

Dulloo said the proposed facilities could help local producers reach wider domestic and international markets and create additional opportunities linked to tourism and enterprise development.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Secretary Planning, heads of departments and other senior officials.

The government has not announced a construction completion deadline for either project. (KNS)

Dy CM chairs meeting to review construction of 50 bedded SDH Hazratbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Wednesday convened a meeting to review the ongoing construction of new 50 bedded building at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Habak, Hazratbal, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar and senior officers, including the Chief Engineer, R&B Central, Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer, Director Planning (R&B) Chief Town Planner and other officers.

Detailed deliberations were held on progress of the hospital building project, its implementation and coordination among the concerned departments. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the issues related to construction and the steps required for smooth execution of the project.

The hospital upgradation project, with a revised cost of ₹54.49 crore, envisages a modern four-storey facility with two basement levels and a capacity of 50 beds. The project, which had remained stalled for a considerable period, has recently resumed following the necessary relaxations approved by the Council of Ministers.

Emphasising the importance of strengthening the public healthcare infrastructure, the Deputy Chief Minister discussed the need for effective coordination among the concerned departments to facilitate the project's progress and ensure that the people of Hazratbal and adjoining areas benefit from improved healthcare facilities.

The meeting forms part of the government's efforts to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and improve access to quality medical services across Jammu and Kashmir.

3rd Edition of Kashmir Marathon

Div Com directs Joint Recce to finalise Preparations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, has stressed the need for a Joint Recce of the inaugural venue and marathon route to identify and address gaps in preparations for the successful conduct of the 3rd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon.

Chairing a meeting to review the arrangements, the Divisional Commissioner called for close coordination among all concerned departments to ensure that the necessary facilities and logistical arrangements are put in place well in advance of the event.

Garg directed the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department to fill potholes along the marathon route and ensure proper levelling of the road surface. The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department was instructed to repair leaking water pipelines.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) was directed to deploy an adequate number of mobile toilet vehicles at the inaugural venue and ensure the availability of sweeper buses to ferry participants who face issues during Marathon.

Emphasising the need for smooth movement of participants and the general public, the Divisional Commissioner called for a comprehensive traffic management plan and directed the concerned authorities to publish the marathon route plan in advance for public information.

To enhance the visual appeal of the event, the Floriculture Department was asked to decorate the stage, while the SMC was directed to beautify the road medians along the route.

Div Com reviews alignment of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-III

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers to review the cahnge in proposed realignments of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-III (Lasjan–Pandach) and the Parimpora–Dalgate Flyover.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC); Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; SSP Traffic; Vice Chairman, Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA); Project Director, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI); and officers from the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), and other concerned departments.

During the review of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-III (Lasjan–Pandach), the Divisional Commissioner directed NHAI officials to compile comprehensive details of structures and departmental utilities falling within the proposed alignments including religious structures to access impediments & challenges and cost expenditure.

He further directed the concerned authorities to explore modifications to the alignment to ensure that the road does not encroach upon the city's major water body.

Reviewing the proposed alignment of the Parimpora–Dalgate Flyover, the Divisional Commissioner directed the R&B Department to explore an alternative alignments from Qamarwari to Nalamar and onward to Karanagar.

He emphasized the need to ensure connectivity to key facilities, including SMHS Hospital, while minimizing traffic disruptions during the execution of the project.

Artisans, weavers get capsule training in branding, packaging by Handicraft Dept

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: In a bid to raise awareness regarding branding and packaging of high-value handmade products that hold sway in niche markets, the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir successfully concluded a series of 10 Capacity Building Programmes under RAMP, a flagship programme of the Ministry of MSME.

The programmes were held at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, benefiting more than 1000 artisans, weavers, cooperative societies and Self Help Groups.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the Department stated that the workshops were designed to inculcate the significance of proper branding, packaging and GI labelling of their high-end products so that they become market-ready. "Our focus revolves around promotion of GI crafts, ODOPs and other distinctive traditional crafts. The artisans and weavers represented a wide range of heritage crafts including Sozni, Crewel and Ari Staple embroidery, Walnut Wood Carving, Papier Mâché, Pashmina and Tweed/Pattoo Weaving," he said.

The spokesman further added that NIFT faculty members and domain experts led the interactive and practical sessions covering product identity, brand development, visual presentation and customised packaging. "The participants were also sensitised about the role of packaging in protecting products, facilitating transportation and effectively communicating product attributes and value to consumers," he added.

The programmes underscored that branding and packaging are not merely promotional tools but integral components of product development, market positioning and enterprise growth. By blending Kashmir's rich traditional craftsmanship and cultural identity with benchmark techniques, the initiative aims to improve visibility and marketability of the Kashmir's famed craft products, he added.

CRPF Pays Homage to Martyrs on Police Commemoration Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) solemnly observed Police Commemoration Day on Wednesday at the Group Centre (GC) in Humhama, Srinagar, paying heartfelt tributes to police personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

The commemorative programme was presided over by Rajesh Kumar, IPS, Special Director General (SDG), J&K Zone, CRPF. The event was attended by Pawan Kumar Sharma, IG, Srinagar Sector, along with DIGs Vivek Bhandral, Praveen Kumar Singh, Harvinder Singh Kales, and Swapna G. Meshram, IPS, alongside other officers and personnel of the Force.

The programme commenced with the SDG, J&K Zone, laying a wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial to pay homage to the brave hearts. Addressing the gathering, Sh. Rajesh Kumar highlighted the significance of the day, which marks the 1959 ambush at Hot Springs, Ladakh, where ten CRPF personnel laid down their lives. He paid tribute to the unwavering commitment and valour of police personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

As part of the solemn ceremony, the SDG read out the names of all 154 police personnel who attained martyrdom during the year 2026, honouring their selfless service. The ceremony also included a ceremonial 'Salami Shastra' at the Quarter Guard, reflecting the Force's deep respect for its martyrs and its enduring tradition of discipline.

The observance concluded with a renewed pledge by Force personnel to uphold the highest traditions of the CRPF and continue serving the nation with courage, integrity, and dedication. Commemorative roll calls and memorial gatherings were also organized across all CRPF units and formations nationwide.

In New Delhi, the Union Home Minister acknowledged the sacrifices of police personnel in safeguarding the country's borders, sovereignty, and internal security while addressing a gathering at the National Police Memorial.

Ladakh makes judicial history

Country's highest-altitude High Court Bench begins regular hearings at Leh

GMK NEWS NETWORK



LEH: A historic chapter in the Indian judicial history unfolded on Wednesday when Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Sanjay Parihar presided over the first regular division bench at Leh.

The newly established Ladakh Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh located at a breath-taking height of over 11,500 feet above sea level, began regular hearing of the cases from today.

The day began with the hearing by the Division Bench in which the Chief Justice heard the matters through virtual mode while Justice Sanjay Parihar was present physically at the Ladakh Bench. After the conclusion of the hearing of five listed Division Bench matters, Justice Sanjay Parihar sat singly and dealt with as many as 60 matters listed before the single bench. Today's proceedings made use of technology to facilitate a sort of hybrid hearing with the Chief Justice hearing through Virtual Mode and Justice Sanjay Parihar doing physical hearing.

Justice Parihar said that the identification of the 65 cases that were listed today reflects the initial effort to organise and facilitate the hearing of matters concerning litigants from Ladakh. He added that the successful commencement of regular judicial hearings today by the Chief Justice in such a high-altitude location is a landmark achievement in the country's judicial infrastructure and commitment to ensuring that geographical barriers do not become obstacles to justice.

The establishment of the Ladakh Bench is a significant step in strengthening the reach of constitutional institutions to remote and geographically challenging regions of the country.

Earlier, litigants from Leh, Kargil and other far-flung areas of Ladakh would undertake lengthy journeys to Srinagar or Jammu for proceedings before the High Court. The commencement of hearings here is also encouraging for the legal fraternity of Ladakh including advocates.

It may be mentioned that Ladakh Bench of J& K High court was formally inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kanton October 18, 2026, at Melongthang, Leh.

Sakeena Itoo leads J&K delegation at ITB Asia 2026

Invites global Travel stakeholders to explore tourism potential of J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SINGAPORE: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo led a high-level delegation of Jammu and Kashmir at ITB Asia 2026 in Singapore to showcase J&K's diverse tourism potential and invite global travel stakeholders to explore the region's rich tourism offerings.

The Minister is accompanied by Director Tourism, Jammu Dr. Vikas Gupta; Special Secretary Tourism J&K, Suraj Parkash Rukwal; and Director Finance, Rashim Deepika.

The Minister also jointly inaugurated the India Pavilion at ITB Asia 2026 alongside Minister for Tourism Goa, Rohan Khaunte; Minister for Tourism, Odhisa, Pravati Parida and Indian High Commissioner to Singapore, Dr. Shilpak Ambule, providing an important platform to promote Jammu and Kashmir as a premier destination for domestic and international tourists.

During the opening day of the grand international travel trade event, the Minister and the delegation held a series of business-to-business (B2B) interactions and strategic meetings with international tour operators, travel trade associations, government representatives and other key stakeholders from the global tourism industry.

The interactions focused on highlighting the diverse tourism experiences offered by Jammu and Kashmir, including its renowned leisure and pilgrimage destinations, adventure tourism circuits, winter sports, offbeat destinations and rich cultural and heritage attractions. The delegation also encouraged international travel operators and tourism partners to explore opportunities for collaboration and include Jammu and Kashmir in their travel packages and destination portfolios.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sakeena Itoo said that Jammu and Kashmir offers an exceptional blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, spiritual destinations and adventure experiences, making it an attractive destination for travellers with diverse interests.

"Jammu and Kashmir has immense tourism potential, and our endeavour is to showcase its diversity to the world. From its breathtaking landscapes and vibrant cultural traditions to pilgrimage tourism, adventure activities and winter sports, the Union Territory offers unique experiences for visitors throughout the year", the Minister said.

She further stated that international tourism platforms such as ITB Asia provide valuable opportunities to connect with global stakeholders, strengthen partnerships and expand the reach of Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector.

Leh Violence

Ladakh LG Approves Withdrawal of Cases Against 10 Individuals

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday approved the withdrawal of criminal cases against 10 individuals in connection with the violence that broke out in Leh on September 24 last year.

The decision follows a recommendation by the Ladakh Police to withdraw the cases against the 10 individuals, the Lieutenant Governor said in a statement.

The LG said the move was aimed at promoting peace, unity and social harmony in the region, adding that it would provide the individuals an opportunity to move forward with their lives and careers.

The decision prioritises justice, healing and recovery over prolonged litigation, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also thanked Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his "sympathetic and sensitive approach" towards the victims of the violence and their families. (KNS)

CM expresses grief over Udhampur bus accident, directs best medical care

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed profound grief over the tragic passenger bus accident at Gulli Gala in Latti area of Ramnagar tehsil in Udhampur district, which claimed two lives and left 15 others injured.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expressed solidarity with them in this hour of grief. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure the best possible medical treatment and all necessary assistance to the injured.

The Chief Minister's Office is in constant touch with the concerned authorities and is closely monitoring the situation to ensure that the injured receive timely medical attention and necessary support.

Good Morning Kashmir
EDITORIAL

EMRC

Four Decades Of Hype, Where Are The Results?

Established with great hopes and backed by substantial public funding, the Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC), University of Kashmir, was expected to produce a new generation of skilled media professionals and revolutionise educational communication. After more than four decades, however, its professional legacy demands serious scrutiny.

Where are the alumni who have made a mark in filmmaking, documentary production, multimedia and digital content creation? What tangible returns has the institution delivered on decades of investment?

If the five Ws and one H remain the mainstay of its curriculum, while practical training and electronic media production fail to keep pace with industry demands, EMRC must urgently rethink its approach. A postgraduate degree in multimedia should produce accomplished practitioners, not merely certificate holders.

The latest seminar on Artificial Intelligence may sound forward-looking, but new buzzwords cannot conceal old shortcomings. Seminars, speeches and workshops mean little without measurable outcomes.

The University of Kashmir must initiate an independent assessment of EMRC's expenditure, production record, curriculum and alumni achievements.

After four decades, the question is no longer what EMRC promises to do, but what it has actually delivered. Public funding demands public accountability, and institutional prestige cannot substitute for professional excellence.

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

From Silence To Subject

Women In The Archaeological Record Of Rakhigarhi



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

History is not just an account of kings, wars, empires, and political changes. It is also the story of the lives, labors, beliefs, relationships, and cultural contributions of countless men and women who built civilizations. Yet, for a long time, the role of women has been relatively limited in popular history books. They have been presented sometimes as protectors of the family, sometimes as bearers of traditions, and sometimes as silent participants in power struggles, while not enough questions have been raised to understand their true contribution to the formation of society and culture. The archaeological site of Rakhigarhi, located in Hisar district of Haryana, offers an opportunity to reread this incomplete history.

Rakhigarhi is one of the largest known archaeological sites of the Harappan or Indus Valley Civilization. The planned settlement, drainage system, mud and baked brick structures, seals, beads, pottery, artifacts, cemeteries, and human remains discovered here shed light on various aspects of contemporary society. According to the Haryana Archaeological Department, evidence of cultural phases ranging from the Early Harappan to the Advanced Harappan period has been found here. The significance of these discoveries is not limited to understanding ancient town planning or economic life; they also address questions related to women's social existence, burial rites, jewelry, craft traditions, and cultural identity.

Viewing Rakhigarhi from a woman-centered perspective does not mean declaring that society there was necessarily matriarchal. Its real purpose is to recognize women as independent historical subjects in the study of civilization, and to attempt to understand their lives and contributions through archaeological evidence.

Rakhigarhi: A Civilization's Memory Preserved in Soil

Rakhigarhi's identity has steadily expanded with modern archaeological research. Excavations here reveal that the Harappans lived in planned settlements. Residential structures, streets, drainage systems, craft products, and standardized weights and measures point to their technical proficiency and organized social life. Clay toys, beads, seals, metal objects, and various types of jewelry also reveal the artistic tastes and production skills of the time.

Among these remains, human burials hold special significance because they allow us to question the life and death rituals of those whose individual voices have not survived history. Pottery, jewelry, and other objects found in graves can help us understand the beliefs, social practices, and attitudes toward the dead of contemporary communities. However, it would be inappropriate to draw conclusions about the social structure of an entire society based on a single object or burial tradition.

The significance of Rakhigarhi lies in this broad perspective. Each archaeological site here opens the door to new questions rather than providing final answers about the past. These questions, which include topics such as the role of women, division of labor, family structure, craft production, and social status, can help make history more inclusive.

Conch shell bangles and the historical presence of women

The discovery of shell bangles and other objects along with the human remains of a woman from the Rakhigarhi cemetery is particularly noteworthy. Archaeological accounts mention shell bangles, gold jewelry, and semi-precious stones found with some female skeletons. These discoveries provide important material for studying the use of jewelry and the cultural practices associated with it in contemporary society.

Whether bangles were merely decorative objects or were also associated with marital status, social identity, religious beliefs, or community traditions—this question demands research. Bangles have many cultural meanings in modern Indian society, but those meanings cannot be applied to a society thousands of years old without additional evidence. Similarly, it would not be appropriate to draw direct conclusions about a woman's social status or rights from the presence of jewelry in a grave.

Yet these remains make one important point clear: ancient women were also part of the material culture of their time, and the objects associated with their lives are now forming the basis for the study of history. Their identities were not limited to those of a king's wife, a warrior's mother, or a character in a religious narrative. They were members of communities whose labor, family relationships, and cultural practices shaped civilization.

The aim of a woman-centered interpretation of history is not to interpret archaeological evidence as we see fit, but to seriously raise questions about it. The Rakhigarhi bangles inspire us to consider women's lives with greater sensitivity and scientific understanding in the interpretation of history.

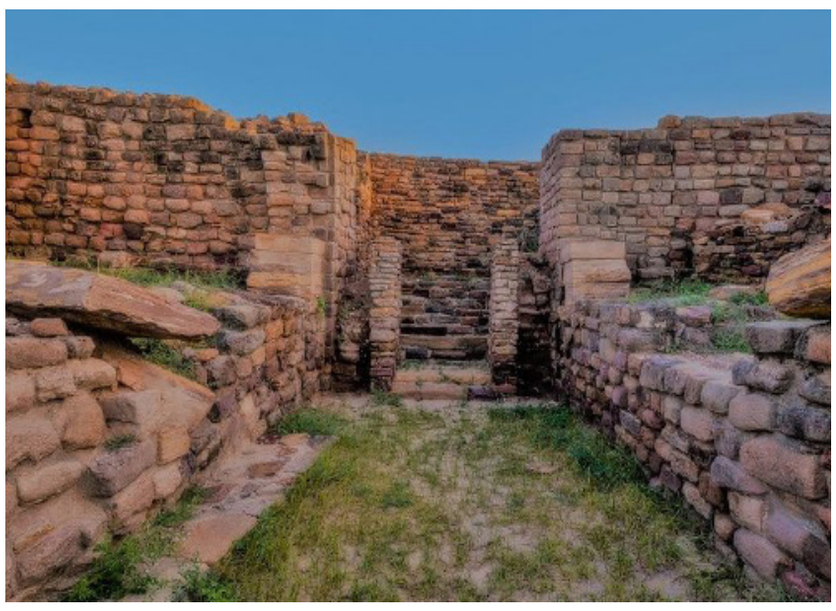
Women, crafts and cultural life

The arts and crafts traditions of the Harappan civilization reveal its developed cultural consciousness. Bead-making, metalwork, pottery, seal design, and the variety of jewelry reveal the development of a wide range of skills in contemporary society. The extent of women's participation in these activities, the economic significance of their labor, and whether they were involved in craft production—these are questions that require archaeology, anthropology, and comparative studies to answer.

A historical fact needs to be clarified here. The famous bronze statuette from Mohenjo-daro, commonly known as the "Dancing Girl," is a celebrated example of the artistic achievements of the Indus Valley Civilization. It would be inaccurate to attribute it to the statuette from Rakhigarhi. Similarly, a female statuette cannot be labeled a dancer, a goddess, or a woman from a specific social class solely on the basis of its appearance. Such interpretations require a comprehensive study of the statue's composition, archaeological context, and other evidence.

Yet the artistic traditions of the Harappan civilization challenge the notion that studying warfare and political power alone is sufficient to understand ancient societies. Art, craft, aesthetics, objects of daily use, and cultural symbols also shape a civilization's identity. Studying the potential role of women in these areas can illuminate aspects of history that have received relatively little attention in traditional accounts.

Genetic study of Rakhigarhi and new understanding of India's past



In 2019, a study published in the prestigious scientific journal Cell brought Rakhigarhi to the center of international scientific discussion. A team of researchers, including Vasant Shinde and his colleagues, attempted to obtain ancient DNA from Harappan human remains. After examining several samples, they succeeded in obtaining genetic information from the remains of a woman. The study found genetic affinities of this woman with populations belonging to ancient Iranian farming communities and with ancestry related to ancient hunter-gatherer communities of South Asia. No genetic component related to steppe pastoralists was detected in her genome.

To understand the significance of this finding, it is necessary to distinguish between scientific evidence and historical interpretation. The study shows that the steppe-related genetic component was not necessarily present in the populations of northwestern South Asia during the Mature Harappan period. This is an important contribution to understanding the genetic structure of ancient populations. However, a genetic study of a single individual cannot draw final conclusions about the population of the entire Harappan civilization, its language, religious beliefs, or overall cultural identity.

Similarly, this study does not, in itself, provide conclusive answers to all the historical debates concerning the Aryan invasion or Aryan migration. Genetic research, archaeology, linguistics, and literary sources address different questions. A combined study of all these evidences is essential to understand the process of arrival of various populations, their interactions, and cultural change in the Indian subcontinent.

Therefore, the Rakhigarhi DNA study should be viewed not as a confirmation of any single ideological conclusion but as important scientific evidence for understanding the ancient history of Indian populations. Its real achievement is that it has expanded our knowledge of the ancient human history of South Asia and opened new avenues for future research.

Connection between the Harappan and Vedic traditions

A significant question in Indian history is the relationship between the Harappan civilization and Vedic traditions. Ritual structures, fire pits, and other archaeological remains from various Harappan sites, including Rakhigarhi, have been interpreted in this context. Archaeological accounts from Rakhigarhi also mention structures such as fire altars or fire pits.

However, the mere size of a structure or its possible connection to fire is not sufficient to establish that the same Vedic sacrifices described in later Vedic literature were performed there. This requires an analysis of the structure's design, associated objects, the dating of the remains, and comparative archaeological evidence.

While studying the possible connections between the Harappan civilization and Vedic traditions is important, it must remain open to the possibilities of both continuity and change. Civilizations do not simply remain the same; they evolve through contact, exchange, local innovation, and changing social conditions over time. Therefore, to understand the historical journey of Indian civilization, it is neither appropriate to consider all traditions completely unrelated nor to declare them completely similar without sufficient evidence.

Dialogue between folk memory and history

Local memories and folklore associated with Rakhigarhi are also part of the site's cultural identity. Folktales associated with place names, ancient events, or historical figures are passed down from generation to generation. They reveal the local communities' collective memory, emotional attachments, and ways of understanding the past.

Interpretations linking Rakhigarhi's name to legends such as the widows of soldiers killed in the Mahabharata War settling here should also be viewed in this context. Such a story would require independent archaeological, epigraphic, or other reliable evidence to be historically substantiated. Until such evidence is available, it should be presented as local folklore rather than established historical fact.

This does not mean dismissing folklore as unimportant. Folk memory is an important means of understanding a society's cultural experiences and its relationship to the past. The only requirement is to clearly distinguish between historical evidence and folk belief. When both are studied in a balanced way, history becomes more comprehensive and more sensitive to society's experiences.

The need to bring women to the center of history writing

The most important question raised by the study of Rakhigarhi is how women should be placed in history. For a long time, the mainstream narrative of history focused primarily on dynasties, wars, rulers, and political institutions. Women's roles in daily life, domestic labor, craft production, childrearing, social relationships, and the formation of cultural traditions received relatively little attention.

Gender-centered historiography attempts to address this imbalance. Its aim is not simply to establish women in stories of glory, but to conduct an evidence-based study of their real-life conditions, rights, labor, social status, and cultural contributions. In this regard, the collaboration of archaeology with anthropology, sociology, genetics, art history, and environmental studies can be crucial.

The human remains, jewelry, residential structures, and artifacts found at sites like Rakhigarhi provide a useful basis in this direction. Future research can help understand the division of labor between men and women in ancient communities, the differences in their access to resources, and the foundations on which social identities were formed. Answering these questions requires ongoing research, but incorporating them into the study of history is a necessary step in itself.

Conservation, research and educational responsibilities

Rakhigarhi is not just a relic of the past, but an important source of knowledge for the present and the future. Its conservation, scientific excavation, and systematic documentation are essential. Archaeological sites should be integrated into research, education, and the participation of local communities, rather than simply being developed as tourist attractions.

To achieve this, scientific preservation of excavations, digital archiving, study facilities for researchers, and providing evidence-based information to the general public will be useful. Engaging local women, youth, teachers, and other community members in heritage conservation efforts can establish meaningful connections between archaeology and public life.

When teaching history in schools and universities, students should be taught to analyze evidence rather than simply memorizing ready-made conclusions. The example of Rakhigarhi can help explain how archaeological artifacts are interpreted, the limitations of scientific findings, and why historical assumptions need to be re-evaluated when new evidence is discovered. Including women's experiences, labor, and contributions in the curriculum should also be part of this process.

The aim of a woman-centered interpretation of history is not to interpret archaeological evidence as we see fit, but to seriously raise questions about it. The Rakhigarhi bangles inspire us to consider women's lives with greater sensitivity and scientific understanding in the interpretation of history.

Rakhigarhi is an important center for understanding the ancient history of the Indian subcontinent. The planned settlement, artifacts, jewelry, human remains, and genetic studies found here provide new insights into the social and cultural life of the Harappan civilization. In particular, the female remains and associated artifacts have expanded the possibilities for research into the lives of ancient women.

However, it would not be appropriate to definitively declare Harappan society to be matriarchal or entirely female-centered based on the available evidence. Nor can a single woman's DNA study definitively resolve all controversies related to Aryan migration, language, or cultural continuity. A scientific approach to history demands that we respect the available evidence, acknowledge its limitations, and allow room for new research.

Yet Rakhigarhi points us in an important direction. The story of civilization is not just about kings and cities; it is also about the women whose lives, labor, and cultural experiences are preserved in the soil today. Their bangles, objects associated with their burial rituals, and the artistic traditions of their time inspire us to view the past with a more humane and inclusive perspective.

The true significance of Rakhigarhi lies not in proving any predetermined historical conclusion, but in raising new questions and seeking answers based on evidence. Only when women are recognized in history writing not as mere symbols but as independent subjects of study will the picture of our civilization become more complete. Rakhigarhi is an opportunity for this rereading—an opportunity to explore the lives, culture, and contributions of women from among the layers of the past.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Connecting Kashmir

Building The Infrastructure For Growth

Jammu and Kashmir's mountainous terrain has long made connectivity a major infrastructure challenge. Over the years, this has been steadily changing, with a wave of infrastructure investment reshaping how the region connects with the rest of the country. The Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project is a major part of this expansion. It is one of the most challenging railway line projects undertaken in the country post-independence. Today it stands as one of India's engineering marvels, linking the Kashmir Valley to the rest of the country by rail.

The USBRL project has also been accompanied by sustained expansion of roads, tunnels and airport infrastructure. The network now includes new train services such as the Vande Bharat Express. It also includes major road corridors and tunnels. Airport capacity is being expanded at Srinagar, with regional airports planned under UDAN, increasing passenger movement. Multimodal cargo terminals and enhanced freight services support goods movement across the region. These developments have progressively expanded all-weather connectivity infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

Railways: Connecting Kashmir to the National Rail Network

The USBRL project was inaugurated in June 2025, improving connectivity infrastructure in the Himalayan region. Built at a cost of 43,780 crore, the USBRL project covers the districts of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir.

The project stretches 272 kilometres through the rugged Himalayas; it includes 36 tunnels that span 119 kilometres and 943 bridges. Designed to overcome the region's challenging terrain, it connects remote areas with the national rail network. It is opening new opportunities for mobility, trade and tourism. As part of the USBRL project, over 215 km (including a tunnel and 320 bridges) of roads have been constructed, which are useful for communities. Additionally, the USBRL project is fully electrified both in tunnels and in open stretches.

The USBRL project has made substantial socio-economic contributions to the region, with employment generation being a significant aspect of its impact. The project has generated more than 5 crore man-days of employment.

Vande Bharat Express

The Vande Bharat Express in Jammu and Kashmir first began operations in June 2025, between Katra and Srinagar. To further enhance railway connectivity, the Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express service was extended to Jammu Tawi Railway Station in April 2026.

The distance from Jammu to Srinagar is now covered in less than five hours. The trains have been augmented from 8 to 20 coaches. They are specially designed to operate in extreme weather conditions. The trains are equipped with advanced operating systems and electronics suited for high-altitude conditions.

Supporting this route is a snow removal train that moves ahead to clear the tracks, ensuring year-round services. Seismic dampers have also been installed to absorb tremors, offering a safer and smoother journey in this high-risk zone.

Engineering Marvels under the USBRL Project

The USBRL project includes several major engineering achievements, including the Chenab Rail Bridge, Anji Khad Bridge and Tunnel T50.

Chenab Rail Bridge

Under the USBRL project, the world's highest railway arch bridge has been built over the Chenab River in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. The Chenab bridge, inaugurated in June 2025, is 1,315 m long. It has an arch span of 467 metres and rises 359 metres above the riverbed, making it higher than the Eiffel Tower. The bridge is designed to withstand strong seismic and wind forces. With Vande Bharat services running over the bridge, connectivity has significantly improved between Jammu and Kashmir.

Anji Khad Bridge

The Anji Khad bridge is India's first cable-stayed railway bridge built above the Anji River gorge, a tributary of the Chenab River. The Anji Khad bridge is part of the USBRL project and was inaugurated in June 2025.

The bridge is located in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. It is supported by a single 193-metre-high tower shaped like an inverted 'Y', with cables supporting the bridge. The main bridge has a total length of 473.25 metres, designed for the region's challenging terrain and seismic conditions.



Tunnel T50

Tunnel T50, inaugurated in 2024, is a 12.77-km rail tunnel linking Khari and Sumber in Jammu and Kashmir. It is India's longest transportation tunnel, built under the USBRL project. The tunnel provides a vital rail link between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of India.

The New Austrian Tunnelling Method has been used to construct the tunnel through the challenging Himalayan geology. The tunnel engineering overcame the challenges of high-water ingress, landslides, shear zones, and jointed volcanic rocks. The tunnel features a main tube paired with a parallel escape tunnel, linked every 375 metres for safety. CCTV cameras are placed every 50 metres, which help monitor from a central control room.

Supporting Railway Infrastructure

Railway connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir is being strengthened through increased investment in supporting infrastructure and network development. The annual average budget of railways for Jammu and Kashmir has increased from 1,044 crore in 2009–14 to 1,086 crore in 2026–27.

Electrification

Indian Railways has pursued railway electrification in mission mode, with about 99.6% of the Broad Gauge (BG) network now electrified.



In Jammu and Kashmir, the entire existing BG network is electrified. All new-line and multi-tracking projects are being sanctioned and built with electrification from the outset.

Station Redevelopment

Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 1,340 stations have been identified for redevelopment across Indian Railways. Among them, four stations are in Jammu and Kashmir. The stations are Budgam, Jammu Tawi, Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan (Udhampur) and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station.

Other Regional Railway Initiatives

To strengthen railway connectivity in border areas and areas of strategic significance in Jammu and Kashmir, several projects are in the pipeline. These include

- A third line between Jalandhar Cantt. and Jammu Tawi (216 km).
- An additional line between Jammu and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (78 km).
- A new railway line between Jammu/Reasi and Poonch (190 km).

Roads as a complement to Rail

In Jammu and Kashmir, road infrastructure is expanding alongside railway infrastructure. Roads remain essential for last-mile access to places outside the railway network. In August 2026, foundation stones were laid for 110 road projects covering 598.455 km under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-IV. Costing more than 1,500 crore, the projects are expected to benefit 46,972 people across the Udhampur–Kathua–Doda–Kishtwar region. The projects also include the use of waste plastics in several road packages, supporting more sustainable road construction.

Tunnel construction has also become a key component of development in the Himalayan region to ensure all-weather connectivity, improve road safety, and enhance strategic mobility.

Sonamarg (Z-Morh) Tunnel

The Sonamarg tunnel project, also known as the Z-Morh, inaugurated in January 2025, is a 6.4 km bi-directional tunnel with a parallel escape tunnel of length 6.4 km and an approach road of length 5.5km. Constructed at a cost of over 2,700 crore, the tunnel sits at an altitude of 2634 meters above sea level. The tunnel provides all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg enroute to Leh. It bypasses parts of the road hit by major avalanches and landslides. It promotes tourism by transforming Sonamarg into a year-round destination, boosting winter tourism, adventure sports and local livelihoods. Along with the Zojila Tunnel, it will cut the NH-1 section of this project from 13 km to 11.98 km.

Zojila Tunnel

The Zojila Tunnel is a 13.153-kilometre-long bi-directional tunnel being constructed between Baltal and Minamarg on National Highway-1 by NHIDCL. Elevated at 2,900–3,310 metres, the 6,808-crore project will provide all-weather year-round road connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. With construction beginning in October 2020, the main tunnel achieved breakthrough in June 2026.

The tunnel will be equipped with modern ventilation systems, automatic fire detection and suppression systems, CCTV surveillance, a Variable Message Sign (VMS) system, SCADA system, and other advanced safety and traffic management systems. The project also includes two twin tube uni-directional Nilgari tunnels of total length 4.8 km, eight cut-and-cover sections with a total length of 2.350 km, four bridges with a total length of 810 m, 40 culverts, snow galleries, catch dams, deflector dams, air-blast walls, and other avalanche protection structures along the approach road of length 16.964 km.

Upon completion, the project is expected to reduce the travel time between Sonamarg and Minamarg from approximately two hours to around 30 minutes. The project will also reduce the risks of accidents and disruptions associated with the treacherous Zojila Pass, which remains vulnerable to heavy snowfall and avalanches during the winter months. The tunnel will boost tourism, trade, and access to remote and border areas. Year-round connectivity will strengthen defence logistics and strategic preparedness. It will also create employment opportunities, support economic growth, and improve livelihoods and quality of life for local communities.

Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel (earlier known as Chenani-Nashri Tunnel)

The 9 km tunnel, opened in 2017, is India's longest operating highway tunnel and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel. It connects Udhampur to Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir. Built at a cost of 2500 crore, it reduces travel distance by 31 km and cuts the travel time by two hours, saving fuel costs.

Expanding the Highway Network

- **Delhi–Amritsar–Katra Expressway:** The expressway is a 667-km greenfield highway connecting Delhi with Amritsar and Katra. It is designed to provide a faster road link, reduce congestion on NH-44, and improve access to major destinations, including the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine. In July 2026, key sections of the expressway were inaugurated, marking a major step towards improving connectivity between Delhi and Katra. The completed sections are expected to reduce travel time between Delhi and Katra from about 14 hours to nearly six hours. The corridor will also strengthen connectivity for pilgrims and facilitate industrial and logistics activity along the route.
- **Rafiabad–Kupwara Road (NH-701):** The foundation stone for the widening and strengthening of the Rafiabad–Kupwara section of NH-701 was laid in June 2025 to strengthen last-mile connectivity, particularly in border areas. The project forms part of the Rafiabad–Kupwara–Chowkibal–Tangdhar–Chamkot corridor under Project Beacon.
- **Shopian Bypass (NH-444):** Sanctioned in March 2024 at a cost of 224.44 crore, the 8.925-km Shopian bypass had its foundation stone laid in June 2025. The bypass will improve connectivity between Shopian, Pulwama and Kulgam and facilitate faster transportation of agricultural produce.

The USBRL project was inaugurated in June 2025, improving connectivity infrastructure in the Himalayan region. Built at a cost of 43,780 crore, the USBRL project covers the districts of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir.

Expansion of Srinagar International Airport

A 1,677 crore expansion of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport was approved in February 2026. The project is operated by the Airports Authority of India within Budgam Airbase of the Indian Air Force (IAF). It will strengthen aviation connectivity in the Kashmir Valley.

Spread over 73.18 acres, the development includes a new 71,500 square metre terminal building. The terminal will handle up to 2,900 passengers during peak hours and 10 million passengers annually. The airport will also have 15 aircraft parking bays, including space for one widebody aircraft. Its existing 3,658-metre runway will continue to be operated by the Indian Air Force. A new multi-level parking facility will also provide space for 1,000 cars. The project also includes barracks for security personnel.

The new terminal will combine modern airport facilities with elements of Kashmir's traditional architecture, including local woodwork and craftsmanship. Sustainability is a core part of the project. It includes water harvesting, greater use of natural light, and locally sourced eco-friendly materials. The project is targeted to achieve a 5-star Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) for sustainable building practices.

Extending Regional Air Connectivity

The Government is focusing on improving regional connectivity and providing affordable and secure travel options to residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

- Udhampur and Kishtwar reflect how regional aviation can extend access to areas beyond the region's major urban centres. The two airports are planned under the UDAN scheme to extend regional air connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir. Greater airport capacity is expected to support tourism, create employment, encourage investment and strengthen Srinagar's role as an economic destination.

Multimodal Logistics

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, launched in October 2021, brought railways, roads, ports, waterways, airports and logistics infrastructure onto a single, Geographic Information System (GIS) based planning platform. It spans 44 Central Ministries and 36 States and UTs. Building on this framework, the Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (GCT) policy, launched in December 2021, encourages the development of modern, rail-linked cargo terminals through private investment.

So far, 142 Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals have been commissioned in the country. In 2024, a Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (GCT) was commissioned in Samba in Jammu and Kashmir and is now fully operational. In addition, In-Principle Approvals have been granted for the development of GCTs at 310 more locations, including three at Kathua, Anantnag and Jammu districts in Jammu and Kashmir.

The GCT policy has benefited key sectors such as cement, steel, power, mining, agriculture, logistics and manufacturing. It has enabled modern multimodal cargo terminals with warehousing, silos, cold storage and other value-added logistics facilities. This has increased the competitiveness of local industries and farmers while generating employment and promoting regional economic development.

From Access to Opportunities

A region once defined by seasonal isolation is emerging as a connected part of India's economic geography. Rail, road and air projects are no longer separate initiatives; together, they now function as one integrated network. This convergence is reshaping daily life for residents, farmers, traders and tourism operators alike. The expansion is increasing the access of farmers and local businesses to markets beyond the region. Signature Kashmir products, including apples, dry fruits, pashmina shawls and handicrafts, are being sold at larger markets, promoting economic diversity. At the same time, improved connectivity is strengthening the region's strategic position, including border security and disaster response.

(Courtesy: PIB Research)

DISCLAIMER: IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Terrorism Curbed In

He said the three major hotspots of internal security challenges, Kashmir, the Northeast and areas affected by Left-Wing Extremism, were now on the path of peace and development.

The Union Home Minister also paid tributes to police personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty and said their sacrifices have laid the foundation for the country's progress and security.

"Police personnel constitute both the first and the last line of defence for internal security," he said, praising their role in maintaining law and order, securing borders and ensuring the smooth conduct of democratic processes.

The Home Minister said 2026 was a significant year for the Indian police, claiming that the country had achieved freedom from Naxalism on March 31 after decades of violence.

He said more than 3,600 security personnel and nearly 13,700 civilians lost their lives due to Naxalism between 1981 and March 2026.

Paying homage to the personnel who made the supreme sacrifice, Shah said the nation remained indebted to their families for their contribution to the country's security.

Recalling the history of Police Commemoration Day, he said October 21 is observed every year in memory of 10 CRPF personnel who were killed while resisting an attack by Chinese troops in the Hot Springs region of Ladakh in 1959.

He said the National Police Memorial, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018, honoured the sacrifices of police personnel across the country and had become a place of reverence for citizens.

HM Shah also called upon police force across the country to intensify efforts against drug abuse and trafficking, saying the Union Home Ministry had set a target of freeing the country from the drug menace by December 31, 2029.

He urged all police forces to implement the roadmap for a 'Nasha Mukt Bharat' prepared under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, warning that drug abuse threatened the future of young people and could also provide financial support to organisations with anti-national intentions.

On the occasion, HM Shah flagged off a nationwide motorcycle rally carrying the message 'Fight Against Drugs'. Around 90 riders from various states and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, as well as personnel from central armed police forces and other security organisations, are participating in the rally.

The riders will travel to Ekta Nagar in Gujarat to participate in the Ekta Parade-2026, according to the Union Home Ministry.

HM Shah also praised the role of the Central Armed Police Forces in conducting elections, managing security during public events and safeguarding the country's borders.

He said security personnel had ensured that the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly elections were conducted without a single fatality, describing it as a significant achievement in maintaining electoral security.

The Home Minister said police personnel continued to discharge their duties during festivals and other occasions, often remaining away from their families to ensure public safety and internal security.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials, including Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Director Mahesh Dixit, Indo-Tibetan Border Police Director General Shatrujeet Kapoor and heads of other central armed police forces—(KNO)

CM Omar Reviews

for a well-coordinated mechanism for snow clearance, particularly on roads maintained by different departments and agencies. He stressed that clear responsibilities and coordination between R&B, Mechanical, SMC, ULBs, PMGSY and other departments was essential to ensure the timely restoration of road connectivity during inclement weather and snowfall.

The Chief Minister directed that a nodal officers be designated to coordinate snow clearance operations among the different road-maintaining agencies, ensuring that the work is carried out in a synchronised manner and that no road is left unattended due to a lack of coordination.

He underscored the importance of advance planning, timely deployment of men and machinery, and effective monitoring of snow clearance operations, particularly in areas vulnerable to heavy snowfall and prolonged disruption of road connectivity.

Reviewing the power supply scenario, the Chief Minister directed the Power Development Department and the distribution companies to ensure strict adherence to the notified power curtailment schedules.

He observed that while technical faults and other exigencies could occasionally necessitate power interruptions beyond scheduled curtailments, consumers must be kept informed about such disruptions in advance wherever possible. He stressed that timely communication was essential to reduce public inconvenience and enable consumers to plan accordingly.

The Chief Minister directed that any deviation from the notified schedule on account of technical or other unavoidable reasons must be communicated promptly to consumers through appropriate channels. He emphasised that people should not be left uncertain about the duration or reasons for power interruptions.

He further made it clear that field staff must strictly implement the approved power curtailment schedules and should not be allowed to impose additional or unscheduled power cuts at their own discretion. Any changes to the notified schedules, he said, must be authorised at the appropriate level, with the prescribed arrangements for informing consumers followed in letter and spirit.

Stressing the need for accountability, the Chief Minister called for effective monitoring of power supply arrangements and directed the department to ensure that the notified schedules are implemented uniformly across the areas concerned.

During the meeting, detailed presentations were made by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg and Divisional Commissioner Jammu Vikas Kundal on the winter preparedness plans drawn up by their respective divisions.

The presentations covered arrangements for snow clearance, stocking of ration, LPG and other essential commodities in snowbound areas, preparedness for maintaining electricity and drinking water supplies, and the availability of healthcare services during periods of heavy snowfall.

Particular emphasis was laid on ensuring adequate medical facilities and emergency response mechanisms in areas that frequently remain cut off during winter. The arrangements included the availability of 4x4 ambulances, helicopter services wherever required and tracking of maternity cases in vulnerable who may need emergency medical assistance during prolonged periods of snowfall.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of identifying vulnerable populations in advance and putting in place appropriate arrangements to ensure that no patient is left without access to emergency medical care because of adverse weather conditions.

Areas including Gurez, Machhil and Karnah, besides parts of Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur and Kathua, were among the regions for which specific preparedness measures were reviewed in view of their vulnerability to heavy snowfall and disruption of connectivity.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the availability of essential commodities, healthcare services, electricity and drinking water must be ensured through advance planning, particularly in remote and snowbound areas where the movement of people and supplies can become difficult during winter.

He called upon all departments to maintain close coordination with the district administrations and ensure that contingency arrangements are in place to respond promptly to weather-related emergencies. He also stressed the need for effective communication between field formations and district authorities so that emerging challenges can be addressed without delay.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Ministers Javed Rana and Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwini Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Administrative Secretaries of various departments; all Deputy Commissioners; Director Information J&K, senior police officers; Managing Directors of the Jammu and Kashmir DISCOMs; Heads of Departments and other concerned officers.

Officers stationed outside Srinagar attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Valour Of Martyrs

and natural disasters, the Jammu Kashmir Police force has rendered distinguished service under challenging circumstances.

"Thousands of personnel of the Jammu Kashmir Police force have laid down their lives in the fight against terrorism. I believe Jammu Kashmir Police's courage is not confined to the borders of the Union Territory but it is a source of inspiration for the entire police system of the country. The nation will never forget the contribution of immortal martyrs, who dedicated everything to the honour, dignity and glory of the Tricolour," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that the police uniform symbolises service, responsibility and sacrifice. He stated that the true measure of policing lies in ensuring public safety, delivering justice to citizens and standing by society in times of need and crisis.

"In the 79 years since Independence, India has faced numerous challenges. The Jammu Kashmir Police, the Indian Army, and the Central Armed Police Forces have protected the nation's security and integrity in difficult circumstances. Today, India is moving resolutely towards its goal of becoming a developed nation. In this journey, peace, stability, and progress in Jammu Kashmir are of special importance, and the major responsibility of ensuring them rests on the shoulders of the Police, army and CAPFs," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment to strengthening peace and progress in Jammu Kashmir and called upon citizens to uphold unity, communal harmony and mutual trust, while remaining vigilant against forces seeking to disrupt peace and stability.

"Our goal is to identify and root out terrorism and every element associated with it in Jammu Kashmir. Today, we must resolve that we will not rest until this land is freed from separatist and terrorist elements. I warn those elements within Jammu Kashmir who support terrorism that your days are over. Even if you attempt to hide in Pataal, we will find you and ensure that you are punished under the law," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also stressed the need for continued efforts to protect women, children and vulnerable sections of society, strengthen measures against drug trafficking and firmly combat narco-terrorism and its support networks.

"The prevention of crimes against women and children, the protection of vulnerable sections and ensuring timely justice for victims must be among our highest priorities. It is necessary to continuously review the systems for monitoring and controlling such crimes and to make them more effective. Similarly, the commitment to a drug-free Jammu Kashmir must be our collective resolve.

I commend all the officers and personnel of the Jammu Kashmir Police, the Indian Army, and the Central Armed Police Forces for their spirit of service, courage, and sense of duty. I wish success in every one of their missions, safety in their lives and a bright future for them," the Lieutenant Governor said.

PM Pays Tribute

In a post on X on Police Commemoration Day, the Prime Minister, expressed gratitude to police personnel for serving the country with commitment, often under challenging circumstances.

He said the police played a vital role in maintaining law and order, combating crime, responding to emergencies and ensuring public safety.

PM Modi also paid homage to personnel who lost their lives while discharging their duties.

"Their courage, unwavering dedication and supreme sacrifice will forever remain etched in our nation's memory," he said—(KNO)

LG Calls For

and the District Administration on the successful organisation of the 4th edition of the Basohli Utsav. In a message on the occasion of the festival's culmination, the Lieutenant Governor appreciated the people of Basohli for their contribution in elevating the festival to new heights.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that Basohli is not only deeply rooted in its traditions but is also recognised for its imagination and creativity. He said that the Utsav seeks to establish Basohli among the cultural capitals of the country and envisioned its emergence as a vibrant centre of art and literature where artists, writers and scholars from across the world can engage in meaningful dialogue.

"Our objective is very clear that Basohli should secure its place among the cultural capitals of the country and that various genres, from literature to art, should take root here. I wish to see Basohli develop as a centre of art and literature where renowned artists, writers, and practitioners from across the world come together and engage in dialogue. We have taken steps in this direction, but there is still a long way to go," he said.

Highlighting the rich legacy of the renowned Basohli school of painting, the Lieutenant Governor observed that art preserves the memories of a civilisation and connects generations through a shared cultural heritage. He expressed confidence that the ongoing cultural renaissance in Basohli would inspire the present generation to create a lasting artistic legacy.

"It is a matter of pride for the entire nation that Basohli is once again witnessing a cultural renaissance. I am fully confident that the present generation will create an invaluable artistic heritage for the generations to come," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, artists and artisans are receiving growing recognition and support in line with the vision of 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi'. The Lieutenant Governor urged officials to ensure timely access to training, credit, modern tools, design support and market linkages for all eligible artisans under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

The Lieutenant Governor encouraged youth to blend traditional knowledge with innovation and leverage digital platforms and e-commerce to promote local heritage globally. He commended the focus on "Shakti Parampara" as the central theme of this year's Utsav and called upon all stakeholders to preserve, promote and take pride in India's rich cultural heritage while advancing towards a developed nation.

"Let us take a resolve as we conclude the Basohli Utsav that we will honour our artists and artisans, and teach the new generation to take pride in their heritage. Let us resolve that when the world speaks of Basohli, it will speak not only of its glorious past, but also of a present filled with confidence," the Lieutenant Governor said.

CS Reviews Progress

here.

The meeting besides the ACS, PWD and Commissioner Secretary, I&C; Secretary, Planning was attended by the HoDs of the Industries & Commerce Department and senior officers of the other concerned departments.

The Chief Secretary observed that the PM Ekta Malls would serve as integrated platforms for showcasing the rich handicrafts, handlooms, indigenous products and cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir alongside those of other States and Union Territories.

He underscored the significance of the initiative in strengthening market linkages for local artisans, craftspeople, entrepreneurs and producers, while creating new avenues for tourism promotion, enterprise development and sustainable livelihoods.

He further emphasised that these commercial hubs would provide greater visibility and market access to products under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative and those bearing Geographical Indication (GI) tags, connecting local producers with wider domestic and international markets and opening up new opportunities for growth and economic empowerment

While giving out the details the Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh highlighted that the Ekta Mall at Jammu is proposed to be constructed over 24 kanals at the Rail Head Complex. Designed with two basement levels, a ground floor and three upper floors, the facility will have approximately 2.14 lakh square feet of floor space.

Adding he gave out that the project has received administrative approval of 125 crore and its proposed facilities include retail outlets, workspaces, public cultural facilities, a craft museum/art gallery, exhibition and trade facilitation spaces, a food court and family amenities.

Similarly, the meeting was apprised that the Srinagar Ekta Mall is proposed at Kashmir Haat Complex on Jehangir Chowk–Batmaloo Road, over an area of 15 kanals. The six-level facility, comprising one basement, a ground floor and four upper floors, will have a total floor area of approximately 1.81 lakh square feet.

Its planned facilities include retail shops, a craft museum, an exhibition hall, trade facilitation spaces, an auditorium, an indoor amphitheatre, a food court, dining facilities and guest accommodation approved at a cost of 130 crore.

It was also divulged that the contract committee had considered both projects on October 19, 2026, and that the Letters of Award were expected by the third week of November 2026.

The projects are proposed to be operated and maintained through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, with a private partner to be selected through competitive bidding. The Government will retain policy and strategic oversight of the initiative.

Once developed, the two Ekta Malls are envisaged to provide a common platform for commerce, culture and tourism, while creating opportunities for local producers to enhance the visibility and market reach of their products and strengthening J&K's integration with the country's wider retail and cultural ecosystem.

SEC Announces

nominations is November 2, while scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on November 3. Candidates can withdraw their nominations till November 5.

The Commission said voting will take place on November 21, and the election process will be completed by November 30.

It added that the Model Code of Conduct for candidates and political parties has come into force with immediate effect and will remain applicable throughout the election process.

The Commission has directed all concerned to strictly adhere to the Model Code of Conduct and subsequent instructions issued in connection with the elections.

The last general elections to Panchayat Halqas in Ladakh were held in November 2018.

Meanwhile, the administration of the Union Territory has ordered the dissolution and de-constitution of the erstwhile Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, with immediate effect, citing the reorganisation of the administrative framework of the Union Territory and the creation of new districts.

The order cites the resignation of the Chief Executive Councillor, three Executive Councillors, and six other Councillors of the erstwhile LAHDC Kargil on October 20, 2026, as well as the reorganisation of the territorial boundaries of the erstwhile Kargil District following the creation of new districts, including Drass, Zanskar, and Sankoo.

As per the order, the erstwhile LAHDC Kargil stands dissolved and de-constituted with immediate effect. The Chief Executive Councillor, Executive Councillors, and all elected or nominated members of the erstwhile Council shall cease to hold office and exercise powers as members of the said Council.

The order further provides that all powers, duties, and functions hitherto vested in or exercised by the erstwhile LAHDC Kargil shall be vested in and administered by the Deputy Commissioner/Chief Executive Officer, Kargil, on an interim basis.

The administration of the UT has also notified the number of elected constituencies for the constitution of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils across all eight districts.

According to the notification, Leh district will have 22 seats, Kargil 21, Sankoo 13, Changthang 10, Nubra, Sham, and Zanskar nine seats each, and Drass seven seats, bringing the total to 100 elected constituencies across Ladakh—(KNO)





ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL

+91- 9906230114- 6006600834

DAR MATTING SHOP

DEALS IN:- BLANKETS, BED SHEETS, BED COVERS, PILLOW COVERS, DOOR MATS, ROOM SHEETS, GRAPHICS, LINING, ROTTERY & MUCH MORE

J&K Police observes Police Commemoration Day across Kashmir

REHAN QAYOOM



SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Police on Wednesday paid tribute to its personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty, as Police Commemoration Day was observed across the Kashmir Valley through wreath-laying ceremonies, blood donation camps, sports activities and interactions with families of martyrs.

The observances were held across all districts, where senior police officers, civil administration officials, Army and CRPF personnel and family members of the fallen personnel gathered to honour their sacrifice.

The ceremonies featured floral tributes at martyrs' memorials, two minutes of silence and the reading of the roll of honour of police personnel who attained martyrdom while serving the nation. Gifts were distributed among the next of kin (NoKs) of martyrs, while interactive sessions were held to address their concerns and reaffirm the department's commitment to their welfare.

In Anantnag, the ceremony at District Police Lines (DPL) was attended by DIG South Kashmir Range Javed Iqbal Matoo, SSP Anantnag Amod Ashok Nagpure, Deputy Commissioner Bilal Mohi-ud-Din and officers of the police, Army, CRPF and civil administration, besides martyrs' families. A blood donation camp was also organised.

In Kulgam, Deputy Commissioner Shahzad Alam and SSP Anayat Ali Chowdhary, along with senior security officers, police personnel and martyrs' families, paid floral tributes at the Martyrs' Monument at DPL Kulgam.

At Awantipora, SSP Irshad H. Rather led the tributes in the presence of police and CRPF officers, civil administration officials, members of civil society, retired police personnel and family members of martyrs.

In Shopian, SSP Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary, along with senior Army and CRPF officers, district police personnel and martyrs' families, paid homage at the Martyrs' Monument at DPL Shopian.

In Pulwama, Deputy Commissioner K.K. Sidha and SSP Sahil Sarangal led the ceremony by laying a wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial. A Police Martyrs' Memorial Volleyball Tournament was also inaugurated to promote sportsmanship and constructive engagement among youth.

In Ganderbal, SSP Harshal Rajesh Mahajan chaired the ceremony at Qamariya Stadium, where senior police officers, civil administration officials and family members of martyrs paid floral tributes.

In Budgam, the observance was held at District Police Lines under the supervision of SSP Hariprasad K K, with Deputy Commissioner Jatin Kishore also present.

In Baramulla, the ceremony at DPL was attended by the DIG North Kashmir Range, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, SSP Baramulla, senior Army and Central Armed Police Forces officers, and families of police martyrs.

In Bandipora, Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib attended the main ceremony at DPL Bandipora along with SSP Tahir Saleem, the Commandant of 45 Battalion CRPF and other senior officers. Families of the martyrs also participated in the observance.

In Kupwara, SSP Sudhanshu Dhama interacted with the next of kin of police martyrs during the ceremony at DPL Kupwara and reaffirmed the department's commitment to their welfare and dignity. A volleyball tournament was inaugurated and a plantation drive launched.

In Handwara, SSP Sajjad Khaliq Bhat led the tributes at DPL Handwara and assured martyrs' families of all possible assistance. A blood donation camp was organised in collaboration with Government Medical College Handwara.

In Sopore, SSP Neha Jain laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial in the presence of senior Army and CRPF officers, police personnel, civil society members and martyrs' families. The families were felicitated, and a volleyball tournament was organised at DPL Sopore.

Police Commemoration Day is observed annually on October 21 in memory of 10 CRPF personnel martyred in an ambush by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh on October 21, 1959. The day honours police personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty—(KNO)

Centre warns TV channels against live telecast of anti-terror ops

Says AI use must not compromise accuracy

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has issued a sweeping advisory to all private satellite television channels, directing strict adherence to the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, warning that violations will invite statutory action.

The advisory accessed follows observations by the Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) that recent telecasts—including the broadcast of similar visuals across multiple channels—have not conformed to the spirit of the Programme Code prescribed under Rule 6 of the CTN Rules, 1994. The Ministry also flagged that inappropriate behaviour and language are increasingly being normalized on air.

In a series of specific directives, the Ministry as per KNS has told broadcasters that live coverage of anti-terrorist operations by security forces is strictly prohibited. Coverage during such operations must be restricted to periodic briefings by authorized officers until the operation concludes, and visuals must be time-stamped to prevent any misleading impression of live coverage.

Channels have also been directed to exercise "due caution, responsibility, and editorial discretion" while telecasting violent, graphic, or disturbing visuals. The Ministry warned against sensational reporting that may glorify or normalize unlawful behaviour, and mandated the use of blurring or masking techniques, particularly in cases involving crimes against women and children.

Addressing the increasingly fraught nature of prime-time television, the advisory stated that programmes, including live debates and panel discussions, must not promote communal or anti-national attitudes. Broadcasters have been instructed to exercise adequate editorial control—including the careful selection and pre-sensitization of panellists—and to implement immediate remedial measures such as muting, disclaimers, or discontinuing the feed if derogatory or inflammatory content is aired.

The Ministry further reiterated that channels must strictly adhere to Supreme Court directions regarding the non-disclosure of the identity of victims of sexual offences, including refraining from revealing indirect particulars, photographs, or locality details that could lead to identification.

In a notable addition addressing emerging technology, the MIB as per KNS has advised channels to exercise caution while using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its tools, including Generative AI, for creating graphics or virtual news presentations. The Ministry stated that the use of AI tools must be limited to an "assistive capacity without compromising the accuracy, authenticity, or sensitivity of the news content."

Channels have also been directed to use only authentic maps of India, as published by the Survey of India, and to base disaster and accident reporting on verified facts to prevent public panic.

Broadcasters have now been instructed to strengthen their editorial and content-review mechanisms and conduct regular sensitization workshops for their production and transmission teams. The Ministry made it clear that adherence to these statutory obligations is mandatory. (KNS).

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Wednesday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Alasteng Nagbal line will be observed due to which power supply to Shuhama, Bakura, Darend, Fethapora, Gadoora, Tulbagh, Chundina, Saloora, Sherpathri and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 31 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Alasteng Zakura line will be observed due to which power supply to Pandach, Pathan Colony, Gulabagh, Mir Mohalla, Umarhair, Nowbugh, Ahmad Nagar, 90 ft road, Khalmullah and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 pm on 25 October 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Alasteng Power House line will be observed due to which power supply to Beehama, Arampora, Arch, Nunner, Manigam, Duderhama,Malshaibagh, Wayil, Gutlibagh and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 02 pm on 27 & 29 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kangan Wussan line will be observed due to which power supply to Wussan, Preng, Manigam, Haripora, Chattergul and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 27 & 29 October 2026

Also, shutdown of 33 kV Kangan Kangan line will be observed due to which power supply to Mammer, Wangath, Kangan, Akhal, Baba Nagri and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 22 & 24 October 2026

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kangan Surfraw line will be observed due to which power supply to Surfraw, Gund, Kullan, Gagangeer, Sonamarg, Fraw, Ganiwan and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 02 pm on 22 & 24 October 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Badampora Tulmulla Tap line will be observed due to which power supply to Tulmulla, Dangerpora, Larsun and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 pm on 22 & 27 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Alasteng Manigam Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Manigam, Gutlibagh, Wayil, Benhama, PTS and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 22 October 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Potushai Gurez line will be observed due to which power supply to Wanpora, Dawar, NHPC, Tragbal, Peerbaba, Kanzalwan, Bagtore, Koragbal, Razdantop and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 22 & 24 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Awantipora Tral-1st line, 33 kV Awantipora-Tral-II line, 33 kV Balhama and Old TCI Tapline of Khanmoh-SIDCO-I line will be observed due to which power supply to Tral, Devar, Pinglish, Dadsara, Chandrigam, Mandoora, Kahlil, Bajwani, Noorpora, Lurgam, Gulabagh and Aripal. 15MW Batagund, Lurgam, Nanar, Taki, Lam, Jawaharpora, Aripal, Khangund, Satoora, Wuyen, Balhama, Munpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 24 October 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Awantipora-Awantipora line will be observed due to which power supply to Awantipora, Jawbara, Barsoo, Malangpora, Padgampora, Beighpora, Midoora, Bohu and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 24 & 27 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Mattan Pahalgam line will be observed due to which power supply to Hutmurrah, Seer, Akad, Salia, Aishmuqam, Batkoot, Pahalgam, Sallar, Aru and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 26 & 29 October 2026.

Meanwhile, the Chief Engineer has informed that the power shutdown of 33 kV GSS Zainakote, earlier scheduled on 21 October 2026, has been rescheduled to 22 October 2016 from 09 am to 03 pm.

Furthermore, shutdown of 132/33 KV Grid Station Pampore (132 & 33 kV Switchyard), 132 KV ICT Circuit- I&II, 132/33 KV Grid Station Awantipora (132& 33 KV Switchyard), 132 kV Pampore-Awantipora (Ckt-I&II) and 132/33 KV Grid Station Lassipora (132 kV Yard, 33 kV Yard and Transformer Yard) has also been rescheduled to 24 October 2026 which was earlier scheduled on 22 October 2026.

Commissioner SMC inspects Achan Landfill Site







GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Wednesday inspected the Achan landfill site and took stock of ongoing solid waste management operations, including the bio-remediation of legacy waste, functioning of the Leachate Treatment Plant, operations at the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Processing Plant, and measures for fumigation and odour control management.

During the visit, the Commissioner reviewed the existing arrangements for waste handling, transportation, segregation and processing. He emphasised the need for better coordination among the concerned wings, efficient utilisation of available machinery and timely resolution of operational issues to ensure the smooth functioning of the facility and reduce the accumulation of unprocessed waste.

Dr. Basharat also inspected the bio-remediation project for legacy waste and reviewed the measures being undertaken for its scientific processing. He stressed the importance of ensuring the proper functioning and timely maintenance of machinery, streamlining waste transportation and strengthening processing arrangements to reduce the burden on the landfill.

Reviewing the functioning of the Leachate Treatment Plant and the C&D Waste Processing Plant, the Commissioner emphasised the need for their effective operation and proper management. He also reviewed the handling of refuse-derived fuel (RDF) and stressed the importance of systematic storage and disposal arrangements, wherever required, to maintain orderly operations at the site.

Taking note of the need to maintain hygienic conditions, the Commissioner directed the concerned officers to undertake fumigation and other appropriate measures to control odour emanating from the facility. He also stressed regular monitoring and the maintenance of cleanliness within and around the landfill site, in accordance with applicable solid waste management and environmental norms.

The inspection underscored the importance of coordinated efforts by the Corporation's sanitation, mechanical, transport, electrical and works wings in improving waste management operations. Effective legacy waste remediation, scientific processing and proper management of associated facilities remain essential to reducing pressure on the landfill, minimizing environmental risks and protecting public health.

SMC continues to focus on improving waste management operations through better coordination, efficient use of resources and environmentally responsible practices, with the aim of ensuring a cleaner and healthier Srinagar.

The Commissioner was accompanied by the Joint Commissioner, Works, SMC; Joint Commissioner, H&S, SMC; Solid Waste Management Officer and other officers of the Corporation.

JKBOSE bars supervisory staff from carrying phones during exams

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Wednesday banned supervisory staff from using mobile phones during examination hours in the ongoing board examinations.

JKBOSE Secretary in a circular impressed upon all centre superintendents not to permit their supervisory staff to keep mobile phones along with them during the examination hours.

"They will deposit the cell phones with the centre superintendents, who will be personally responsible for implementation of the circular instruction," it reads,

The board however said that the centre superintendents are exempted. "They can keep mobile phones for effective communication and to remain in constant touch with Divisional or Sub Branch offices of JKBOSE, besides, their own departmental hierarchical set up."

Furthermore, the board said that no candidate shall be allowed to move out of the examination centre with his question paper till at least half- time of the examination period is over.

On Tuesday, JKBOSE constituted a three-member committee to investigate the reported outage of the Mathematics question paper of annual regular exams of 10th standard shortly after the commencement in one of the Mahore centres.

Pertinently, the annual regular examination for 12th standard commences today and will culminate on November-21 and the board exams for 11th standard will commence from October-29 till November-30.

Earlier on October-19, nearly 97,000 students appeared for the Class 10th exams.

The officials said that the exam was held in 1,003 centres across Kashmir and a few districts of winter-zone areas of Jammu division.

JKBOSE has said that nearly 97500 students have been enrolled for the exams that includes 72,232 from Kashmir and 25,268 from winter zones of Jammu division.

The board had also informed that at least 2,70,000 students have registered to appear in board exams of 10th, 11th and 12th standard—(KNO)

Kupwara admin conducts extensive Field Inspections across Border Villages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, nominated senior Nodal Officers Wednesday commenced weeklong, comprehensive field visits across designated Vibrant Villages of the tehsil Karnah.

The special inspection drive, scheduled from October 19 to October 24, aims at conducting on-ground midline surveys, reviewing infrastructure delivery, and evaluating ongoing developmental interventions.

On the second consecutive day, SDM Karnah, Mohd Raiyaz visited Teetwal, Tehsildar Karnah, Mohd Amin Bhat inspected Gundi Gujran, and Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Manzoor Ahmad led the inspection team at Hajitra Karnah.

Working in close synergy with sectoral line departments, the inspecting officers took stock of basic amenities including all-weather road connectivity, piped drinking water, power supply, healthcare services, telecommunications, and educational facilities. The visiting teams also physically and financially verified various developmental works executed under Central and UT-sponsored schemes, while directly interacting with local residents, and beneficiaries to assess scheme saturation and grievance redressal on the ground.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my wards name from Parray Ghulam Dob 01/05/1953 to Ghulam Mohammad Parray Dob 08/06/1950. In future, he will be known Ghulam Mohammad Parray
If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION OFFICE OF THE, WILDLIFE WARDEN, WETLANDS DIVISION, KASHMIR. ZAINAKOOT, SRINAGAR.

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 03 OF 2026-27 Dated: 19/10/2026

(Please read the tender document carefully before submission of bid)

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis (in two cover system) from approved and eligible contractors registered with CPWD / PWD / MES / Forest / Wildlife Department / Central / State / UT Governments for execution of below work/s.

S No	Name of Work	Tentative Adv. Cost in lacs.	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Earnest Money / EMD	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	CGI sheet roofing and making of soakage and septic tank for existing of MAC Rooms/Garage at Hokersar WLCR 34.1119N, 74.7205E	3.00	Rs 100/- online submission. Wildlife Protection Department	2 % of advertised cost, online submission. Wildlife Protection Department	25	DEE
2	Raising / strengthening of existing embankments / Bunds at Hygam WLCR 34.2267N, 74.5217E	5.00			30	DEE
3	Raising / strengthening of existing embankments / Bunds at Mirgund WLCR 34.1266N, 74.6332E	5.00			30	DEE
4	Making of soakage and septic tank existing Range Office and Tiffin Shed Hygam WLCR (Range Office – Tiffin Shed)	0.75			20	DEE

Position of AA: Accorded.
Position of TS: Accorded.
Position of Funds: Partly Available.
Major Head of Account: CAMPA.

1. Schedule of Dates

No	Event	Date/ Time
1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	19/10/2026
2	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents (online)	20/10/2026 from 10:30 AM to 02/11/2026 upto 06:00 PM
3	Bid Submission – Start Date	20/10/2026 from 10:30 AM
4	Bid Submission – End Date	02/11/2026 upto 06:00 PM
5	Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	03/11/2026 at 03:00 PM (Office of the Regional Wildlife Warden, Rajbagh, Srinagar)
6.	Opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation (Office of the Regional Wildlife Warden, Rajbagh, Srinagar)
7	Clarifications / Q&A	02:00 PM – 04:00 PM on any day between Issue-Date and Closing-Date
8	Submission of Hard-Copy Documents by Lowest-First (L1) Bidder	Within 3 working days of Financial-Bid opening

All dates are subject to change by notice on the e-tender portal.

2. Tender & Bidding Documents

- e-NIT (qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms & Conditions, annexures) – download from http://jktenders.gov.in.
- Complete Bidding Package (drawings, detailed specifications, BOQ, etc.) – download from https://jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule above.

All scanned documents must be in English, black & white, 100 dpi.
Any violation of these conditions shall result in immediate stoppage of work, imposition of penalties as per rules, termination of contract, blacklisting of the contractor, and forfeiture of EMD and Performance Security.

No. WLW(WL)/Acctts/2026-27/178-80 Sd/-
Date: 19/10/2026 Wildlife Warden
DIPK-6951-26 Wetland Division, Kashmir,
DT: 21/10/2026 Srinagar

England players free to skip T20Is against Sri Lanka if WPL teams reach knockouts

IANS

NEW DELHI: England players, including skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt, will be free to skip the three-match T20I series in Sri Lanka if their respective franchises reach the knockout stage of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2027, which runs from January 14 to February 7 next year.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced the white-ball tour itinerary on Wednesday, with the T20Is in Pallekele on February 1, 3 and 5 as preparation for the inaugural Women's T20 Champions Trophy, to be played in India from February 14 to 28. After the tournament is over, England will return for three ODIs in Dambulla on March 4, 6 and 8 respectively.

"If the England players are in the knockouts of the WPL, then they can continue to play for their respective WPL team due to the late-changing nature of the itinerary for the Champions Trophy," a source in the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) told IANS on Wednesday.

The Champions Trophy was originally slated to happen in Sri Lanka in June-July 2027 before the ICC advanced the dates and moved it to India, after the island nation was stripped of hosting rights over government interference in the governing body's administration.

Apart from Sciver-Brunt, who plays for Mumbai Indians, Lauren Bell (Royal Challengers Bengaluru) and Sophie Ecclestone (UP Warriorz) have been retained for the 2027 WPL. Sophia Dunkley and Kira Chathli are the only England players registered for the WPL mini auction to be held on October 28 in Kochi.

This news agency had previously reported that the clash with matches in Sri Lanka was a major reason behind a majority of England players opting against registering for the auction and the subsequent WPL season.

CM Omar inaugurates Annual Sports Day at Doon School Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday inaugurated the Annual Sports Day of Doon School Srinagar, celebrating the sporting spirit, talent and achievements of students.

The Chief Minister formally declared the event open by releasing balloons, marking the commencement of the day's activities.

The event featured an impressive march past by schoolchildren, martial arts demonstrations, cultural performances and races for both boys and girls, showcasing the students' athletic abilities, discipline and enthusiasm.

The Chief Minister also presented awards to meritorious students and school houses for their achievements and participation. He appreciated the students for their performances and encouraged them to pursue sports alongside academics, emphasising the importance of discipline, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone, MLA Khan Sahib Saifuddin Bhat, Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmed Wani, Chairman Doon School Srinagar Showket Hussain Khan, the school Principal and other concerned persons were present on the occasion.

Ranji Trophy: Thyagarajan sets up Hyderabad's big win; Kerala, Mumbai, Punjab also register victories

IANS



NEW DELHI: Tanay Thyagarajan finished with 11 wickets, after hitting an unbeaten half-century as Hyderabad thrashed Andhra by 267 runs in an Elite Group B Ranji Trophy match in Mulapadu on Wednesday.

Thyagarajan, who had taken five wickets in Andhra's first innings, returned to claim six more as Andhra, set 398 to win, were dismissed for 130. He was named Player of the Match for the second game running, after having won the award against Tripura last week.

In Thiruvananthapuram, veteran off-spinner Jalaj Saxena's five-wicket haul helped Kerala beat Odisha by an innings and 36 runs in Elite Group C game. Following on, Odisha resumed on 102/4, and Kerala needed just 23.3 overs on the fourth morning to bowl them out for 143.

Mumbai completed their second successive bonus-point win, beating Himachal Pradesh by an innings and 97 runs in Elite Group D at the Luhnu Cricket Ground in Bilaspur, with pacer Mohit Avasthi taking 5-44.

Trailing by 388 on the first innings and made to follow on, Himachal resumed on 144/3 and dragged the contest into the second session of the final day. Vaibhav Kalta (63) and Pukhraj Mann (50) offered stout resistance, but Mumbai's experienced attack eventually bowled the hosts out for 291.

In New Chandigarh, Aayush Pandey's gritty 111 could not prevent Chhattisgarh from slipping to a seven-wicket defeat to Punjab. Forced to follow on, Chhattisgarh resumed on 123/3 and, on the back of Pandey's century and some handy lower-order runs, posted 335. That left Punjab a target of just 86, which they reached in 16.5 overs, with captain Uday Saharan unbeaten on 40.

In the Plate Group, Meghalaya edged Manipur by three runs in a nail-biting finish in Shillong. Chasing 276, Manipur were bowled out for 272 despite half-centuries from Karnajit Yumnam and Rex Rajkumar. Kevin Christopher (3-31), Abhishek Kumar (3-64) and Aryan Bora (2-59) shared the wickets for Meghalaya.

In Pune, Shikhar Mohan's 127 led a determined rearguard as Jharkhand batted out on the final day to draw with Maharashtra, who took the first-innings lead and three points. Resuming on 130/1 and still 228 runs behind, Jharkhand finished on 344/8. Utkarsh Singh (58 off 139 balls), Aditya Singh (50 off 159 balls) and Virat Singh (41 off 135 balls) all played long, patient knocks to deny the hosts a shot at victory.

Off-spinner Hrithik Shokeen picked up 5-143 as hosts Delhi settled for three points after securing a 169-run first-innings lead over Gujarat in a drawn Elite Group C contest at the Palam 'B' ground. Having won the toss and declared at 648/6, Delhi bowled Gujarat out for 479 after the visitors resumed on 363/5. Following on, Gujarat were 15/1 when the two sides agreed to call it a draw.

Min Sharma witnesses Grand Dangal at R.S. Pura; Hails Wrestling Tradition

GMK SPORTS DESK



R.S. PURA: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Wednesday attended the traditional Dangal organised by the Dangal Committee, R.S. Pura, at Bana Singh Stadium, here, on the eve of Dussehra, witnessing an impressive display of strength, skill and sporting spirit.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of wrestlers from different regions and attracted a large gathering of sports enthusiasts and local residents. More than 100 bouts were held during the Dangal, reflecting the enduring popularity of traditional wrestling and its deep cultural roots in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shera Gujjar of Haryana emerged as the winner of the main bout, while Bhupinder Ajnala of Punjab secured the runner-up position. The winner was awarded a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, while the runner-up received ₹80,000. A first maali carrying a prize of ₹1.80 lakh was also among the major attractions of the event. Overall, cash prizes exceeding ₹6 lakh were distributed among the participating wrestlers, recognising their talent, dedication and sporting excellence.

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma appreciated the Dangal Committee, R.S. Pura, for preserving and promoting the rich tradition of wrestling and providing a platform for wrestlers to showcase their abilities. He observed that traditional sports are an integral part of Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage and play an important role in nurturing discipline, physical fitness, courage and sportsmanship among young people.

The Minister emphasised that wrestling and other indigenous sporting disciplines deserve sustained encouragement alongside modern sports. He said that grassroots sporting events help identify emerging talent, provide opportunities to young athletes and strengthen community participation in sports.

Satish Sharma reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure, encouraging youth participation and creating opportunities for talented sportspersons to excel at district, national and international levels. He stressed that sporting activities can serve as a constructive channel for youth energy, fostering confidence, discipline and a spirit of healthy competition.

The Minister also appreciated the participation of wrestlers from Haryana, Punjab and other areas, noting that such sporting gatherings promote brotherhood, mutual respect and cultural exchange among people from different regions.

The Dangal was attended by former Minister Sham Choudhary, former Minister and President of Jatt Sabha Manjeet Singh, SSP J&K Police and international wrestler Dushayant Sharma among other dignitaries and sports enthusiasts.

The organisers expressed gratitude to the participating wrestlers, guests and spectators for making the event a success and reaffirmed their commitment to continuing the tradition of organising Dangal competitions in R.S. Pura.

The event concluded amid enthusiasm and appreciation for the wrestlers, highlighting the continuing relevance of traditional wrestling as both a sporting discipline and an important part of Jammu and Kashmir's cultural legacy.

Asian Para Games: Simran wins gold in women's 100m T12 with Games record

IANS



NAGOYA: Indian para sprinter Simran Sharma clinched her second gold medal of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games, winning the women's 100m T12 final with a Games-record time of 12.02 seconds on Wednesday, improving her own mark set in the heats.

Simran, supported by the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), bettered her previous Games record of 12.13 seconds to seal the gold medal. She had won silver in the same event at the 2022 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou with a timing of 12.68 seconds, improving her time by 0.66 seconds and upgrading her medal to gold.

Earlier, Simran set a new Games record with 24.80 seconds to win gold in women's 200m T12 category on Tuesday. Simran, a Paris Paralympic 2024 bronze medallist in the T12 category and a world champion in the 100m, improved from silver in Hangzhou 2022 (26.12 seconds) to gold in 2026, improving her time by 1.32 seconds. In the same event, debutante Tejalben Damor, a visually impaired T12 para-athlete from Gujarat, also delivered a commendable performance, securing third place with a time of 25.23 seconds and achieving a personal best (PB).

India added to its medal tally in para athletics with podium finishes across sprinting and javelin throw events on Day 6 of the competition.

Pranav Desai won bronze in the men's 100m T64 with a timing of 11.96 seconds. The Thane-based athlete had finished fourth in the event at the 2022 edition in Hangzhou with a time of 11.91 seconds, improving his finishing position by one place.

India also secured a one-two finish in the men's 100m T47, with Dilip Gavit Mahadu winning gold in 10.69 seconds and Mohammed Basil Morssinganakathi taking silver in 10.72 seconds, setting a new Games record. The duo replicated their one-two finish from the Commonwealth Games 2026.

In the men's javelin throw F55, Sukhchain claimed bronze with a personal best of 29.94 metres. He produced his best effort on his third attempt, improving on his opening throw of 27.35m. China's Feifei Zhou won gold with a world-record throw of 37.63m, while Iran's Zafar Zaker took silver with a personal best of 36.00m. Sukhchain had also won bronze in the event at the 2022 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou with a throw of 30.36m.

Gluten-free food and no 'kyon drop ho gaye' - inside Bhuvneshwar's quiet road back to T20I team

IANS



NEW DELHI: When Bhuvneshwar Kumar trudged off the field in Napier on November 22, 2022, little did anyone know that it would be his last T20I for India for nearly four years. Three captaincy changes and at least two selection committee overhauls later, his India career appeared consigned to the past tense.

On October 17, it was revived where it began. Arshdeep Singh took a blow to the shoulder in Hyderabad, and Bhuvneshwar was drafted into the squad for the fifth T20I against the West Indies in Bengaluru. When Shreyas Iyer took his name while revealing the changes to the playing eleven, the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium erupted.

Bhuvneshwar made his T20I debut at the same venue against Pakistan in December 2012 and wowed everyone with his swing. It is now his IPL home via Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). Though the heavens intervened to abandon the game, that game will also be remembered for Bhuvneshwar's first sight in Indian colours after 2022.

His selection for the five-match T20I series in New Zealand, which begins in Christchurch on Thursday, had come earlier. When that news reached Dr. Ramneesh Vohra, his physiotherapist since 2020 and who was in the middle of an appointment at his clinic in Noida, happiness was writ large on his face.

"When I got the news, I immediately called sir and congratulated him and he picked up the call and we then discussed about the journey and talked that 'aaj tak humne jitna kaam kiya, woh badiya nikla' (whatever work we have done till now has turned out very well)," Vohra recalled in a free-wheeling chat with IANS.

"Then all the emotions came out of happiness while talking, and there's no doubt about it. Although we were not expecting this thing to happen, I mean, we were not working together for this day particularly. But when something like this happens as a reward, emotions come up, right?' he added.

Vohra later joined him at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru, where Bhuvneshwar was preparing for New Zealand, and stayed until he was summoned to the fifth T20I squad. Bhuvneshwar was the fulcrum of RCB's back-to-back IPL titles in 2025 and 2026, including picking 28 wickets in 16 matches this year.

Yet Vohra insists a return to the Indian team was never the target. "In the past few years, he never targeted himself with, ' No, I have to go back to the team and really work hard.' He used to always say that I have to do my work and the selectors are doing their work, and I'm not going to do anything out of the box. He would say, 'No, I just love cricket. I have a passion for this game and I just really want to give 100 percent whenever I hit the ground.'

"He always played with this mindset in every tournament and any format. Whenever he got the opportunity to play, he never said no to anything. He always said that as long as I'm there, I have to give my 100 percent and I'll go and play whatever game is on the ground," he said.

Bhuvneshwar's partnership with Vohra was forged in mid-2020, after the first Covid-19 lockdown. Bhuvneshwar was then an India regular, and the brief for him to Vohra was refinement, not repair.

