

Good Morning

Kashmir

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Cabinet Expansion On Agenda

CM Omar Likely To Meet LG Today



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is likely to meet Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today to discuss several important matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir, including the much-awaited expansion of the Council of Ministers, highly placed sources privy to the developments said on Friday.

Sources indicated that the proposed meeting could prove crucial in determining the timing of the cabinet expansion, which is likely to take place early next week if the anticipated discussions

proceed as expected.

"The Chief Minister is likely to meet the Lieutenant Governor tomorrow. Several important matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir are expected to come up for discussion, with cabinet expansion also likely to figure on the agenda," sources said.

They indicated that the expansion could follow within three to four days of the proposed meeting, subject to the completion of necessary consultations and formalities.

The anticipated meeting assumes significance amid heightened political speculation over the

CM Omar opens Chrysanthemum Show - 2026

Invites People To Experience Kashmir's Autumn Colours

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday opened the Chrysanthemum Show 2026 at the Botanical Garden, Chashma Shahi, Srinagar and the Chrysanthemum Theme Garden, popularly known as

Bagh-e-Gul-Dawood, was opened for the public, marking another step towards extending Kashmir's tourism season and establishing autumn as an equally attractive time to visit the Valley.

Titled 'Enriching Autumn with New Colours', the

IndiGo Extends Flight Curbs On Three Saudi Routes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: IndiGo has extended its suspension of flights to and from Saudi Arabia amid regional security concerns, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said Friday.

The extension comes as drone and missile strikes continue against Saudi airports, energy installations and other critical infrastructure. Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis have waged a prolonged campaign against the country.

"IndiGo flights to and from Riyadh will remain cancelled until 31 October 2026 (inclusive), while flights to and from Jeddah, Dammam and Madinah will remain cancelled until 27 October 2026 (inclusive)," the embassy said in a post on X.



The latest extension followed a Wednesday attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam that killed an Indian national and injured two others, PTI reported.

Another Indian national was injured in a separate attack that day at Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field.

Other Indian airlines have extended similar suspensions. Air India and Air India Express have suspended flights on all Saudi Arabia routes until Oct. 24, while Akasa Air has suspended flights on

'Plan For Next 20 To 30 Years'

Remain Prepared To Tackle Emerging Challenges: Rajnath To Army

Says 'Op Sindoor' Exhibited Synergy, Advanced Weaponry Of Indian Armed Forces

REHAN QAYOOM

NEW DELHI: Asking Army commanders to plan for the next 20 to 30 years and remain prepared to respond to emerging challenges, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said 'Operation Sindoor' demonstrated innovative thinking, better coordination and advanced weaponry of Indian armed forces.

Addressing the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi, Singh, stressed the need for a strategic vision spanning the next 20 to 30 years, while saying that military strategies must remain dynamic and flexible to adapt to changing geopolitical and regional circumstances.

"Operation Sindoor demonstrated innovative thinking, enhanced synergy & superior coordination complemented by advanced weaponry," the Defence Minister said.

He said the 'Operation Sindoor' sent a clear message that India would not hesitate to take necessary measures to safe-



guard its national interests.

Singh commended the armed forces for adapting to evolving operational circumstances and appreciated the Army's restructuring efforts, particularly the use of drones and modern technology.

He stressed the need to strengthen capabilities, assess performance continuously and introduce improvements in line with changing requirements.

Stressing the changing character of warfare, Singh said an integrated approach was essential, with success depending on multi-domain capabilities and seamless coordination in joint operations.

He said that while challenges across the air, maritime, space and cyber domains were gaining significance, land warfare and ground forces would continue to remain indispensable.

The Defence Minister called for accelerated efforts in arti-

OPERATION SINDOOR DEMONSTRATED INNOVATIVE THINKING, ENHANCED SYNERGY & superior coordination complemented by advanced weaponry," the Defence Minister said.

Over 30 Kashmiri Umrah Pilgrims Stranded In Saudi Amid Flight Suspensions

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: At least 34 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir who travelled to Saudi Arabia for Umrah have been stranded following the suspension of flights, prompting appeals for urgent government intervention to facilitate their safe and early return home.

According to the affected pilgrims, they were scheduled to return to Kashmir on October 13 but were unable to travel after airlines suspended services amid security concerns in the region.

The stranded pilgrims, have urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene and coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and airlines to arrange their return.

Some passengers have managed to return through alternative routes and connecting



flights, but the high cost of such travel has made it unaffordable for many, they said.

With their stay in Saudi Arabia extending beyond schedule, several pilgrims said their financial resources were running low, making it increasingly difficult to meet expenses related to accommodation, food and medicines.

The Indian Embassy in Riyadh

CS Sensitizes Departments On SDG-Aligned Budgeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired an interdepartmental coordination meeting to sensitise administrative departments about integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their budgetary proposals for the forthcoming financial year, while addressing issues and concerns relating to the implementation of the proposed SDG-aligned budgeting framework.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring; and other concerned administrative heads; SIO, NIC; and officers from various departments.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to expedite



the requisite formalities for operationalising the SDG-aligned budgeting framework ahead of the forthcoming budget exercise.

Emphasising the importance of technology-enabled financial monitoring, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for seamless integration of the proposed SDG Monitoring Dashboard with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and the Budget Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System (BEAMS). He observed that such integration would facilitate automated, real-time tracking of budgetary allocations and expenditure, thereby strengthening transparency and accountability in public spending.

The Chief Secretary also directed that the pilot exercise being

Actively Engaged To Facilitate Return Of Indian Pilgrims From Saudi: MEA

IANAS

NEW DELHI: The Indian Embassy and Consulate in Saudi Arabia continue to be actively engaged with concerned airlines and tour operators to facilitate the early return of Indian pilgrims who are stuck in Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that about 3,000 stranded Umrah pilgrims have returned to India from Saudi Arabia over the past week and over 10,000 normal Umrah pilgrims have also travelled back to India.

Asked whether India has plans to repatriate Indians pilgrims stranded in Saudi



Arabia amid the ongoing conflict, Jaiswal responded, "They (India's Embassy and Consulate in Saudi Arabia) remain actively engaged with concerned airlines and tour operators to facilitate the early return of Indian pilgrims who are stuck there. Over the past week, about

3,000 stranded Umrah pilgrims have travelled back home from Saudi Arabia on available flights. In addition, we've also had more than 10,000 normal Umrah pilgrims who were booked on the available flights, and they have also travelled back home."

"Arrangements are being under discussion to facilitate the return of other Umrah pilgrims at the earliest. Our Embassy and Consulate, they have been in touch with people who are stuck there. They are rendering support and service to them in collaboration with our volunteers, our community volunteers, and they are also running 24x7 control rooms both in Riyadh as also in Jeddah to assist Indian nationals who are there. And they are also issuing regular advisories so that they can be better informed of the situation on the ground," he added.

On Thursday, India condemned the continued attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including the attack

PIA-Marked Balloon Recovered In Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Pakistani balloon carrying 'PIA' marking was found lying near a resort in Ghou Manhasan area in Jammu on Friday morning.

Reports said that locals spotted the balloon with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) marking at RR Resort in Mahavir Basti, under the jurisdiction of Border Police Post (BPP) Sandwan, and immediately informed the police.

A police team rushed to the spot and took the balloon into custody. The area was thoroughly searched as a precautionary measure.

Officials said such balloons with PIA markings often drift across the International Border due to wind currents, but every such incident is being taken seriously in view of security concerns.

Police said an investigation has been initiated and all angles are being probed.

In recent months,

Power Relief On Horizon, Crisis May Not Wait

MoP Allocates 330 MW To J&K For Dec-Feb

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: With the onset of winters, the Ministry of Power (MoP) has allocated 330 Megawatts (MWs) power for Jammu and Kashmir for a period of three months beginning from December 2026. But officials warn the power crisis may hit earlier in November.

Top officials informed that "329 MWs of power from Central share have been allocated to Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday for the month of December-2026, January and February 2027."

"We may face the power deficit challenge for the months of November-2026 and March-2027," the official added.

The official further



informed that during the peak winters Jammu and Kashmir usually face a power shortage of 800-1000 MWs. "We meet these shortage with the centrally allocated share and power exchanges."

"As of now we have a power demand of nearly 2100-2200 MWs and during the peak winters the power demand touches nearly 2900 MWs," he said.

It also said that MoP has allocated over 870 Megawatts (MWs) of power for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh from the unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations (CGSs) of the northern region. "However, out of the total allocated power, we get only nearly 600 MWs in accordance with the Plant Load Factor (PLF)."

CM inaugurates, lays foundation of projects worth Rs 25 crore in Beerwah

Bridge over Nallah Sukhnag opened to public; Projects to strengthen power infra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a series of infrastructure projects worth ₹25 crore in Beerwah, Budgam, aimed at strengthening connectivity, improving electricity supply, enhancing civic amenities and boosting the area's tourism potential.

The Chief Minister inaugurated a two-span truss girder bridge over Nallah Sukhnag, with each span measuring 35 metres worth ₹8 crore. He also laid foundation stones for the beautification of Beerwah town at an estimated cost of around ₹6.33 crore.

Describing the bridge as a long-pending demand of the local population, the Chief Minister said its completion and opening to the public would improve connectivity and ease movement for residents. He added that the riverfront beautification project, featuring a walking track and decks, would enhance public spaces and make the area more attractive for visitors.

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a Transformer Repairing Workshop at Beerwah, approved at a cost of ₹4.85



crore under the UT Capex Budget 2026-27. The facility is envisaged as a dedicated centre for repairing and rebuilding damaged distribution transformers, helping reduce repair and replacement time and improve the reliability of electricity supply.

Once operational, the workshop is expected to reclaim around 1,000 damaged distribution transformers annually, reducing outages and providing relief to consumers, particularly during the winter months.

Another key project of construction of a 10 MVA Receiving Station at Sail, Beerwah, approved at a cost of ₹4.50 crore, is expected

to ease the load on neighbouring receiving stations, address winter overloading, improve voltage levels across Sail and adjoining villages, and reduce unscheduled power cuts and technical losses.

Speaking about the power infrastructure initiatives, the Chief Minister said the new receiving station was expected to become operational within four to five months. He also emphasised the importance of establishing a local transformer repair facility to address the difficulties faced by residents during winter. "God willing, we will complete the workshop as soon as possible," he said.

NIT Srinagar hosts global dialogue on sustainable energy

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Electrical Engineering at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Friday inaugurated the IEEE 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Technology for Energy and Power Systems (STEPS 2026), bringing together academicians, researchers and power-sector professionals to deliberate on emerging developments in sustainable energy technologies.

Centred on the theme "A Step Towards Green, Clean and Reliable Energy," the three-day conference aims to promote research, innovation and collaboration in sustainable energy and modern power systems.

The inaugural session commenced with an address by Prof. Shameem Ahmad Lone, Conference Chair, who welcomed the dignitaries and participants and highlighted the importance of academic collaboration and research in addressing emerging challenges in energy and



power systems.

Prof. Mairaj ud Din Mufti, Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering, emphasised the department's commitment to research, innovation and academic engagement in areas relevant to the evolving energy sector.

Prof. Roohie Naaz Mir, Dean Research & Consultancy, NIT Srinagar, highlighted the growing significance of renewable energy technologies, particularly solar energy and battery technology, in the present energy landscape. She underscored their role in accelerating the transition towards cleaner energy sources and strengthening energy sustainability.

Addressing the gathering, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, underscored the importance of

research and technological advancement in developing sustainable energy systems. He also acknowledged the distinguished contributions of Prof. Bhim Singh to electrical engineering and his standing in the field.

The inaugural occasion was graced by Prof. Bhim Singh, Guest of Honour, whose participation added significant academic value to the conference. Following the inaugural session, Prof. Singh delivered a keynote address on the pivotal role of power electronics in the renewable energy sector.

He discussed how advancements in power electronic technologies are transforming the integration and utilisation of renewable energy sources and shaping future developments in power and energy systems.

DC Budgam tours Beerwah, reviews functioning of revenue offices

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Friday conducted an extensive tour of Beerwah to review the functioning of key offices and assess the delivery of public services.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the SDM Office Complex, Sub-Registrar and Tehsil Office Beerwah, taking stock of administrative functioning, infrastructure, public amenities and the status of services being provided to the general public.

At the Tehsil Office, he inspected various sections, including the SQ Section, MM Section and Establishment Section, and reviewed the disposal of public cases, maintenance of official records and progress in revenue-related matters.

The DC reviewed key revenue services, including the issuance of revenue extracts and certificates, mutation cases, land record verification and demarcation-related



matters. He stressed the timely disposal of applications, expeditious processing of pending cases and proper maintenance and digitisation of revenue records.

At the SDM Office Complex, he assessed public facilities and reviewed the functioning of the concerned offices, including arrangements for the smooth processing of registration-related matters.

Emphasising transparency, accountability and efficiency, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to strengthen monitoring, ensure effective grievance redressal and provide prompt assistance to the public. He stressed that unnecessary delays in the disposal of

cases must be avoided and all services should be delivered within the prescribed timelines.

The DC also inspected the Sub-Registrar Office, Beerwah, and took stock of the registration services being provided to the public. He stressed the timely processing of registration cases, transparency in procedures and efficient delivery of services. He directed the concerned officials to ensure hassle-free public access and prompt redressal of issues related to registration services.

He also interacted with applicants to obtain feedback on the services being provided and directed the officers to address public grievances promptly.

Committee on Petitions reviews food adulteration; calls for state-of-the-art labs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Petitions of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Friday convened its meeting in the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Srinagar, under the Chairmanship of Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, to deliberate upon adulteration of essential food commodities within Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by legislators Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Dr. Sajjad Shafi.

Chairman Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah said that adulteration of essential food commodities is a grave public health concern linked to daily lives of citizens. He directed the



department to maintain zero tolerance, scale up inspections, ensure timely testing, fill up vacant posts, strengthen laboratories, expedite disposal of cases through Adjudicating Authorities and intensify IEC activities under Mission Safe Food. He called for establishment of a state of the art laboratory both in Jammu and Kash-

mir regions for effective enforcement and timely testing of food samples.

The Commissioner, Food and Drugs Authority J&K, Khalid Jahangir presented a comprehensive Status Report comprising overview of organization, staff strength, updated ATR on recommendations of the Committee, ATR on directions issued on 03.08.2026,

IEC activities and key highlights of enforcement as per FSSAI mandate.

On enforcement, it was informed that 11,720 inspections have been conducted with 6,259 enforcement and 2,508 surveillance samples lifted and 5,179 samples tested through MFTVs during 2026-27 till October. Besides, special enforcement drives from April

to October 2026 were conducted on fresh vegetables, packaged drinking water, nutraceuticals, edible oils and fats, ghee, honey, milk and milk products, spices, caffeinated drinks, meat products, bakery products and prepared food.

Regarding Petition number 2 about alleged encroachment of land at Khimber, Tehsil Hazratbal, Srinagar, the Committee directed the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar to verify the revenue records, examine the ground situation and furnish a comprehensive report on the alleged encroachments. It stressed the need to protect government and private land and take appropriate action as per law after due verification.

DC Kulgam reviews progress on installation of smart meters



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Friday reviewed the progress achieved in the installation of smart meters across the district during a meeting held at Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam, and directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to expedite pending works and ensure timely completion of the prescribed targets.

During the meeting, progress on smart meter installation, feeder-wise achievements, pending installations and issues requiring intervention were discussed. The DC directed RECPDCL and Techno Electric (AMISP) to expedite the execution of pending works on ongoing and completed feeders, covering a total of 51 feeders, with a focus on achieving feeder saturation across the district.

He further instructed the concerned agencies to include the Nillow feeder and take necessary measures to complete the pending works in a time-bound manner.

Representing RECPDCL, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) assured that all feasible works, including those pertaining to the newly included Nillow feeder, would be taken up within the scope, provisions and limitations of the project.

The meeting emphasized effective coordination among all stakeholders, expediting pending installations and achieving the prescribed targets under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to strengthen electricity distribution infrastructure and improve power supply services across Kulgam district.

ADC Sopore inspects ongoing repair Work on Sopore Bypass Bridge

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, S.A. Raina, Friday inspected the ongoing repair work on the Sopore Bypass Bridge to assess the progress of the work and review the measures being undertaken for its timely completion.

During the inspection, the ADC took stock of the ongoing repair activities and emphasised the need to ensure quality and timely completion of the work, keeping in view the importance of the bridge for daily commuters, transport operators and the movement of vehicles towards various destinations, including Sopore Fruit Mandi.

The ADC also issued an advisory for commuters and



transport operators, urging them to cooperate with the concerned authorities during the repair work and follow traffic advisories and instructions issued from time to time. Commuters were advised to plan their journeys accordingly, exercise caution while passing through the affected stretch and avoid unnecessary inconvenience by adhering to traffic regulations.

DDC Pulwama visits AIIMS Awantipora

Directs time-bound completion, early operationalisation of OPD

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Friday visited AIIMS Awantipora and took an on-site assessment of the ongoing construction, healthcare facilities, allied infrastructure and preparedness for commencement of services.

On arrival, the DDC was briefed through the site map by Administrative Officer AIIMS, XEN CPWD, XEN AIIMS awantipora, about the overall layout of the AIIMS campus, including the location and purpose of various blocks and facilities. He was apprised of the planned OPD, IPD, Emergency and Trauma Centre, besides the progress of construction and handover of different buildings.

The DDC was informed that AIIMS Awantipora is



a 750-bedded tertiary-care hospital. The project comprises 57 buildings, with 12 buildings which include two hostel buildings, four ESS buildings, a police station and other allied facilities. The four buildings under Phase-II are targeted for completion by the end of November 2026, while major works under Phase-III, including Blocks 3 and 5, are targeted for completion by June 2027. Final finishing and commissioning works are to follow, with the objective of having

all departments and facilities ready by next year.

The DDC stressed that the OPD should become functional before the onset of snowfall and that departments should be opened in a phased manner rather than waiting for completion of the entire campus. He also emphasised that laboratory and diagnostic services should be made functional alongside the OPD, so that patients have access to essential testing services from the beginning.

Future Forward

AI, Innovation & Entrepreneurship,' panel discussion held at KU

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir (KU) on Friday hosted a panel discussion on "Future Forward: AI, Innovation and Entrepreneurship" at the Main Campus bringing students, scholars and faculty members together to discuss the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of technology.

Held in collaboration with Intel India, the programme featured a fireside chat and a panel discussion with Gokul V. Subramaniam, President, Intel India, Vice President, Client Computing Group, and General Manager, Client Computing Platforms and Systems, Intel Corporation.

The event aimed to promote direct dialogue between academia and industry, familiarise students with developments in artificial intelligence, and encourage an innovation and entrepreneurial mindset. It also sought to inspire students to pursue research, start-ups and



technology careers.

In her keynote address, Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan highlighted the significance of AI in education and research. She said that engagement with industry can help bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry needs, particularly in a region facing geographical challenges.

During the panel discussion, Prof. Khan spoke about the University's efforts to integrate AI into academics, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, start-ups, administration and governance. She also referred to work in data science and robotics and stressed the need to keep students and scholars

abreast of technological change through skill development and capacity-building.

During his interaction Gokul V. Subramaniam advised students to keep learning and remain curious as technology changes rapidly. He emphasised the importance of strengthening the fundamentals of their disciplines, asking questions and developing the ability to adapt.

He also spoke about AI's potential to personalise learning and encouraged participants to use the technology ethically. He said that aspiration, ability and attitude are among the qualities industry looks for in prospective human resources.

DC Budgam inspects SDH Beerwah, reviews healthcare facilities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Friday visited Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Beerwah to assess healthcare infrastructure, review patient care arrangements and take stock of the availability of essential medical facilities.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various hospital wards and units, including the Emergency and Dental Units, gynaecology, along with other clinical and diagnostic sections. He reviewed their functioning, availability of medical equipment and arrange-



ments for efficient patient management.

The DC also inspected the hospital pharmacy and

reviewed the availability of essential medicines, directing the concerned authorities to maintain adequate

stocks and ensure timely availability of medicines to patients. He further assessed laboratory and diagnostic services, staffing arrangements and other essential healthcare facilities.

Interacting with the Block Medical Officer and other hospital officials, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to ensure quality healthcare, proper cleanliness and hygiene, functional medical equipment and improved patient facilitation.

He directed the hospital authorities to strengthen coordination among different units, ensure timely medical attention and main-

tain efficient patient management systems for the smooth delivery of essential healthcare services.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with patients and their attendants to obtain feedback on the availability and quality of medical facilities. He emphasised that patient welfare, accessibility and quality care must remain the foremost priorities of the hospital administration.

The DC was accompanied by Joint Director Planning, Javed Ahmad; SDM Beerwah, Taufeeq Ahmad Gazi; Chief Medical Officer and other senior officers.

CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates ‘Crafts Amongst Chrysanthemums’

Welcomes initiative to showcase Kashmir’s craft heritage



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday inaugurated the autumn edition of ‘Know Your Artisan’ at the Chrysanthemum Garden in Srinagar, bringing Kashmir’s rich handicraft heritage into the spotlight against the backdrop of the Valley’s autumn blooms.

Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs Shamim Firdous, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi) and Salman Sagar, Director Handloom & Handicrafts and other senior officers of the Department were present on the occasion.

During his visit to the exhibition, the Chief Minister evinced keen interest in live demonstrations of Kashmir’s traditional crafts, renowned for their intricate craftsmanship

and presence in niche global markets. He visited various stalls and interacted with artisans, who shared their experiences and spoke about the skill, dedication and painstaking effort that go into creating these exquisite handicrafts.

The Chief Minister welcomed the Handicrafts and Handloom Department’s initiative to showcase traditional crafts at prominent tourist destinations such as the Chrysanthemum Garden. He said the initiative offered visitors an opportunity to experience Kashmir’s rich artistic heritage alongside its natural beauty, while encouraging them to explore and purchase authentic handcrafted products.

‘Know Your Artisan’ is a brand promotion campaign of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department under the aegis of ‘Soulful Kashmir’. The initiative seeks to bring

Kashmir’s skilled artisans to the forefront by providing them a platform to showcase their work and share the stories behind their craft.

The department has set up 20 stalls showcasing Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged and languishing crafts. The exhibition will continue for 15 days alongside the Chrysanthemum Show.

A special ‘Try Your Hands’ corner has also been established to offer visitors a first-hand experience of traditional craft-making techniques.

Visitors can witness the intricate processes involved in creating some of Kashmir’s most celebrated handicrafts and handloom products, including Sozni-embroidered Pashmina shawls, Kani shawls woven using the traditional taleem technique, papier-mâché products, willow wickerwork and walnut wood carvings.

Rana calls for effective implementation of Forest Rights Act

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Friday inaugurated the 3rd Regional Review Conference on the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, in Srinagar.

Addressing the conference, Rana emphasised the need for effective and meaningful implementation of the Forest Rights Act to ensure that the rights and entitlements of tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers are protected.

He said the Act is an important legislation aimed at recognising the legitimate rights of forest-dependent communities, safeguarding their livelihoods and ensuring their dignity and socio-economic empowerment.

The Minister observed that strenuous efforts are required to strengthen the implementation mechanism and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the rights guaranteed under the legislation.

Rana said the Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has taken important steps towards strengthening implementation of the Act, includ-



ing designating the Tribal Affairs Department as the nodal department for its implementation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He stressed that the Forest Rights Act must be understood as a legal entitlement of eligible forest-dwelling communities

and that its benefits should reach every deserving family through a transparent and accessible process.

He said that while conferences at the national and regional levels provide valuable opportunities for reviewing progress and sharing experiences, their real pur-

pose can only be achieved when the knowledge, decisions and recommendations emerging from such deliberations reach the communities at the grassroots level.

The Minister also called for greater coordination among the Tribal Affairs, Revenue, Forest and Rural Development Departments, along with district administrations, to ensure smooth implementation and timely resolution of pending matters.

He underlined that the disposal of claims must be fair and transparent and that no eligible beneficiary should be deprived of legitimate rights due to procedural difficulties or lack of awareness.

Div Com reviews Preparations for J&K UT Foundation Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg Friday chaired a meeting of officers to review arrangements for the celebration of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Foundation Day and the conduct of the Run for Unity on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, scheduled to be held on October 31 at SKICC.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Information, SSP Traffic, Director School Education, Secretary JKAACL, and representatives of Police, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), colleges, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Roads and Buildings (R&B), and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the mobilisation plan for participants for the Run for Unity. Various departments and institutions, including Colleges, School Education, YSS, Sports Council, University of Kashmir, SKUAST-K, Skill Development Department, J&K Bank, NIT, R&B, Agriculture, Zila Sainik Welfare and ICDS, were assigned responsibilities for a smooth conduct



of the event.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all stakeholder departments to assess and communicate their transportation requirements at the earliest. Deputy Director Planning was tasked with coordinating the transport plan, while SSC and RTC were directed to ensure the availability of an adequate number of buses for ferrying participants to the venue.

Emphasising the need for effective interdepartmental coordination, the Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to nominate Nodal Officers for the event. ADC Srinagar and Joint Commissioner, SMC, were designated as Nodal Officers for overall coordination.

The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar was directed to oversee arrangements relating to invitation

cards, VVIP seating as per warrant of precedence, nameplates, deployment of duty magistrates, and sound and audio-visual facilities.

The Director Information was directed to ensure the installation of public address systems at the back lawns and auditorium, besides making arrangements for hoardings, standees, video display screens, backdrop design and documentary screening. The department was also tasked with nominating anchors for the respective programmes.

SMC was directed to install hoardings in the back lawns, from where the Run for Unity will be flagged off, and facilitate the advance distribution of theme-based T-shirts among participants. J&K Bank was assigned the responsibility of distributing caps among the participants.

Dy CM chairs 101st Board of Directors meeting of JKPC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The 101st meeting of the Board of Directors of Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Limited (JKPCC) was convened Friday under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, who is also Chairman of the JKPCC.

During the meeting, the Board deliberated upon various important matters concerning the Corporation with emphasis on pending cases under compassionate appointment.

After due consideration, all pending compassionate appointment cases placed before the Board were approved, providing much-needed relief to the concerned candidates and their families.

The Board directed that the financial implications arising from these approvals be examined and ascer-



tained to ensure proper assessment and necessary follow-up action.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the approval of all pending compassionate appointment cases reflects the government’s commitment to ensure timely support and addressing the concerns of affected families. He reiterated that the welfare of employees and their families remains a priority and that pending matters will continue to be addressed with due consideration and sensitivity.

The Board of Directors

expressed appreciation for the decisions taken during the meeting and thanked the Deputy Chief Minister for his positive approach towards resolving the long-pending matters.

Managing Director, JKPCC, Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, also appreciated the decisions taken by the Chairman and the Board of Directors. He said that the Corporation’s core purpose is to address the long-pending issues and safeguarding the legitimate interests of the concerned employees and their families.

South Kashmir upper reaches receive fresh snowfall

MeT predicts light rain, snow from Nov 1 to 5

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Peer Ki Gali, Sinthan Top and Ahrabal in South Kashmir received fresh snowfall on Friday.

An official of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said that brief spells of light rain are possible at a few places in Kashmir on Saturday afternoon.

According to the forecast shared by the MeT Centre weather is likely to remain generally dry from October 25 to 31, with cloudy conditions expected towards October 31.

It stated that generally cloudy weather, accompanied by light rain and light snowfall in higher reaches, is likely at a

few places from November 1 to 3. Similar conditions may prevail at a few to many places on November 4 and 5.

The MeT Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 21.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 4.9 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 14.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.8 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 19.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2 degrees Celsius, according to the IMD—(KNO)

Kidney stones can recur even after treatment, noted urologist warns

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Kidney stones can recur even after treatment, making regular medical follow-up and preventive care essential, senior urologist Dr Saleem Wani said here on Friday, urging people not to panic but to seek timely medical advice and avoid ignoring the condition.

Speaking about kidney stones, Dr Wani explained that the condition has been known for centuries, with evidence of kidney stones also found in ancient ‘Egyptian mummies’.

He said several factors contribute to stone formation, including dietary habits, while calcium-based stones, particularly calcium oxalate and calcium phosphate stones, are among the most common types. “Uric acid stones may also develop in association with dietary and metabolic factors, including high animal-protein intake,” he said.

The senior urologist said some stones are associated with urinary tract infections and are known as struvite or infection stones. He also referred to staghorn calculi, large stones that can occupy a substantial part of the kidney and require careful medical evaluation.

Explaining the symptoms, Dr Wani said kidney stones may cause pain in the back, side or

waist region, while some patients may experience urinary symptoms. However, stones can sometimes remain unnoticed and are detected during investigations, including ultrasound examinations.

“The formation of a kidney stone does not necessarily mean it will be the last episode, as recurrence is possible whether a previous stone was removed surgically or passed with medical management,” he said, adding that the risk of recurrence varies from patient to patient and depends on factors such as the type of stone, underlying causes and whether one or both kidneys are affected.

Patients should therefore remain under medical supervision even after treatment, he added.

Dr Wani said treatment depends on the size, location and type of stone, as well as the patient’s condition. “While some stones may pass without surgery under medical supervision, others may require a procedure or surgery,” he said, advising patients against deciding on treatment without consulting an expert doctor.

The doctor further stressed the importance of identifying why stones form in the first place, saying appropriate investigations and preventive measures can help reduce the risk of recurrence. —(KNO)

Speaker Rather inaugurates ₹9 cr development projects at Dreygam, Palpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather Friday inaugurated major development projects worth around ₹9 crore in Dreygam, Palpora.

The ambitious projects included a bridge at Shali Ganga Nallah in Dreygam and a road project at Palpora, marking a significant step towards strengthening the road connectivity and improving transportation facilities for people.

The newly inaugurated bridge is expected to provide a major relief to the residents of dozens of villages, as it will establish an important connectivity link and reduce the difficulties faced by the people while travelling between different areas. The project is also expected to facilitate the movement of students, patients, farmers, traders and daily commuters.



Similarly, the road project at Palpora is aimed at improving the accessibility and providing safer and smoother transportation facilities to the local population. The development of these vital infrastructure projects would immensely boost the economic activity and strengthen connectivity between rural and semi-urban areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker emphasised the importance of developing basic infrastructure and ensuring that people in rural areas receive better road and communication facilities. He said that connectivity plays a crucial role in over-

all development of an area.

The local residents and representatives of various villages expressed their gratitude to the Speaker and the concerned authorities for completing the projects. They said the bridge and road had been a long-standing demand of the people and their completion would benefit a large population across several villages.

The people also appreciated the efforts of the administration and engineering agencies involved in executing the projects and hoped that other pending development works in the area would also be taken up on priority.

RBI launches financial inclusion campaign in Jammu village

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu, on Friday launched a financial inclusion saturation campaign at Gurha Singh in Shamachak, Jammu, to facilitate re-KYC, access to social security schemes and raise awareness about digital frauds.

In a statement issued, the RBI said the campaign was inaugurated by Prabhakar Jha, Regional Director, RBI Jammu, on October 23 and will continue across the country till December 31, 2026.

The campaign, being undertaken in accordance with the directions of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, and the RBI, aims to facilitate re-KYC and C-KYC formalities, nomination facilities, access to social security schemes and awareness about digital frauds.

Addressing the gathering, Jha highlighted the importance of completing re-KYC formalities to ensure the continued availability of banking services and smooth operation of bank accounts. He also stressed the role of social security schemes in providing financial protection and improving the lives of beneficiaries.

The statement said Gurha Singh, which attracts lakhs of visitors and devotees during the annual Baba Jitto Jhiri Mela, offers an effective platform to spread financial awareness among a large number of people.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Dal Lake Cannot Be Saved By Punishing The Poor

Dal Lake is dying a slow death, and the tragedy is that its decline has been unfolding for decades in full public view. Once spread over nearly 25 square kilometres, this world-famous freshwater lake has reportedly shrunk to around 12.5 square kilometres. Pollution, encroachments and unchecked human activity continue to threaten its existence. Yet, when action is taken in the name of conservation, the immediate burden falls on poor motorboat owners whose families depend on the lake for survival.

This is where the real question of justice arises: why should the weakest bear the immediate cost of saving a lake while the larger threats to its existence demand equally urgent attention?

Following the Hon'ble High Court's order halting the operation of motorboats, hundreds of families have been pushed into uncertainty. For these people, a boat is not a luxury or a commercial asset alone; it is their bread and butter. With their work stopped, daily expenses have not stopped. Children still need education, families still need food, and medical bills still have to be paid.

The court's directions must be respected, and the ecological health of Dal Lake cannot be compromised. But conservation must be comprehensive, consistent and fair. If motorboat operations are considered a concern, pollution, untreated sewage, illegal encroachments and the shrinking water spread must also receive sustained attention. Protecting the lake cannot mean acting against one visible section of society while allowing other serious problems to remain unresolved.

There is little value in restricting the livelihood of poor residents if the lake continues to suffer from untreated waste and encroachment. Nor can conservation succeed by turning those who depend on Dal Lake into victims of the very process intended to protect it.

The government must therefore move beyond piecemeal action. It needs a time-bound plan to tackle pollution, prevent further encroachment, improve waste management and restore the lake's ecological balance. At the same time, the affected motorboat owners deserve a transparent assessment of their circumstances and appropriate livelihood support or alternatives, consistent with the court's directions and applicable law.

Dal Lake belongs to Kashmir's natural heritage, but the communities that have lived and worked around it are part of its human story. Saving one should not mean abandoning the other.

The real test of Dal Lake conservation is not how many boats are stopped, but how effectively the lake is restored. Unless the authorities confront the root causes of its decline while treating affected families fairly, conservation will remain incomplete and public confidence will continue to suffer.

Dal Lake needs protection, not selective action. Its people need justice, not silence. The two goals must go hand in hand.

UN at 80: Still Essential, Still Flawed, Still Needed

From Preventing Wars To Tackling Climate Change And Artificial Intelligence, Countries Need To Work Together To Address Problems That Affect The Whole World.



SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT

Every year on October 24, the world observes United Nations Day. It marks the United Nations' establishment in 1945, after the destruction caused by the Second World War. But is this day just an anniversary? Is it simply a date we remember every year? There is a much bigger reason behind it. The day reminds us that countries need each other to deal with problems that no nation can solve alone.

Today, we live in a connected world where events in one country can affect people thousands of kilometres away. Climate change, wars, disease, cybercrime and the rapid growth of artificial intelligence have made cooperation more important than ever. These issues affect our daily lives, even when they happen far away from us. Understanding the role of the United Nations is therefore important for everyone, not just diplomats and political leaders.

Born from Global Conflict

To know about the formation of the UN, we have to consider the first part of the twentieth century. The Second World War had brought death and destruction to many, and it was clear to countries that they had to do something new to avoid a third global war. The failure of the League of Nations, formed after the First World War, to prevent another world war was one of the reasons for forming a more powerful organization which would promote talks and keep peace in the world.

On June 26, 1945, representatives of 50 countries signed the United Nations Charter in San Francisco. The Charter came into effect on October 24 that year. Poland signed the Charter later and became the 51st founding member of the UN.

The aim of forming the United Nations was quite obvious: nations needed a common ground where they would be able to talk about the existing disagreements and find ways of resolving them peacefully. The UN did not manage to stop each and every conflict, but it provided the means to deal with international issues through talks and cooperation. More than eight decades later, the world faces different challenges, yet the need for countries to work together remains the same.



How the United Nations Works

The United Nations is not a world government. It is an international organisation where independent countries come together to discuss common problems and cooperate on global issues. It has six principal organs. The General Assembly provides a platform for all member states to discuss international matters. The Security Council deals with international peace and security. The Economic and Social Council works on economic, social and development issues. The International Court of Justice deals with legal disputes between states within its jurisdiction. The Secretariat manages the organisation's daily work under the Secretary-General. The Trusteeship Council, meanwhile, suspended its operations in 1994 after completing its original purpose.

The activities undertaken by the UN touch on peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. They are interrelated. When there is a conflict in a certain nation, for example, the schools are closed, the hospitals struggle, and the people have lost their homes and source of income. While peace has to be restored, other needs arise.

Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda

UN member states formulated 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) back in 2015. The SDGs include goals related to poverty, hunger, education, health care, equality between genders, water, energy, climate change, and others. What this all means is that there will be better lives and a saved planet. Every country has its own challenges and priorities. For some, the challenges may include poverty and unemployment, whereas others might find themselves dealing with issues of water scarcity, environmental pollution, or lack of access to education and healthcare services. The SDGs have made it easier for countries to move in the same direction, hence collaboration and exchange of experience in order to solve these problems.

It is easier said than done, because now governments need to follow through on their promises, fund and assess the effectiveness of their policies. With 2030 fast approaching, there should

be some serious movement towards this objective.

Navigating a Changing World

When the United Nations was established in 1945, much of the world's attention was focused on rebuilding countries and preventing another major war. Today, many challenges are more complex and can cross national borders within seconds. Climate change affects countries regardless of where emissions originate. Infectious diseases can spread through international travel, while cyberattacks can target systems across continents. False information can reach millions of people through social media in a short time.

The advent of artificial intelligence has opened up many possibilities in education, healthcare, and research. However, there are fears over privacy, human rights, misinformation and abuse of the technology. Nations have to ensure that they utilize these opportunities and, at the same time, protect themselves from any potential danger.

In September 2024, UN member states adopted the Pact for the Future at the Summit of the Future. It focuses on strengthening international cooperation, improving global governance, addressing emerging technologies and giving greater attention to young people and future generations. The agreement also includes commitments on sustainable development, peace and security.

Why Global Cooperation Matters

Take, for example, climate change, epidemics and cybersecurity issues. They have no boundaries, meaning that even an institutionally sound and technologically advanced country can suffer consequences of events happening elsewhere. Through cooperation, nations can share knowledge in science, exchange information, as well as coordinate action in cases of emergencies. Through this, nations can also be able to utilize their resources better and benefit from each other's experience. This can apply to humanitarian situations as well. Conflicts may lead to population displacement and disruption of education, among other vital services. International aid can offer necessities including food and medical care, among others.

Cooperation does not imply that every nation has to agree on every matter. There is diversity in terms of interests, political ideologies and priorities, among other things. What matters most is agreeing on common ground and ensuring that differences do not impede progress on mutual problems.

Challenges and the Need for Reform

It is no small task to bring together 193 member states of the UN and reach a consensus on anything. Every state has unique interests and economic and security concerns, which makes decision-making within international organizations quite difficult. Take the Security Council as an example. There are five permanent members with the right to veto substantive decisions made in this body: the USA, Great Britain, France, Russia and China. When there is disagreement between these parties, the work of the Security Council slows down even in cases of significant international events.

There are still questions regarding representation, funding and accountability in international organizations. Today, many states think international organizations should represent the world as it is now and give more influence to developing nations when it comes to decision-making. The UN80 initiative, initiated in March 2025, is one attempt to improve the performance of the organization. This process involves evaluation of the mandate, improvement of cooperation and finding effective means to utilize current resources.

Looking Towards the Future

As the United Nations marks its 81st anniversary in 2026, an important question remains: can countries overcome their differences to address the problems they share? A simple solution does not exist. Cooperation necessitates dialogue, trust, and a political will to cooperate. Cooperation also necessitates an understanding by governments that some issues can only be addressed in collaboration and not individually. The United Nations has had some criticism and disappointments in its history, and its shortcomings must be acknowledged openly. Nonetheless, it remains a forum for diplomacy, humanitarian aid, international law, and development cooperation. The theme for United Nations Day still holds; problems affecting humanity as a whole require cooperation on an international scale. Since the end of the Second World War, which saw the emergence of the UN, the world has changed dramatically, with new issues arising such as climate change, artificial intelligence, and digital security.

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Why Custodian Land In J&K Needs Public, Verifiable Record

Geotagging Every Parcel, Displaying Survey Numbers And Occupants, And Clearly Marking Revenue Records Can Strengthen Transparency And Protect Public Property



MOHD AMIN MIR

Custodian property in Jammu and Kashmir is a sensitive legal and administrative matter, involving the protection of evacuee property, the regulation of its occupation, the collection of authorised fees and the prevention of unauthorised use. Yet, the effective protection of such property requires more than legal provisions and departmental files. It requires an accurate inventory, transparent public information and a reliable system through which every parcel can be identified on the ground.

The Custodian Department should take the initiative to establish such a system across Jammu and Kashmir. Rather than leaving the identification of Custodian land to fragmented records and occasional field inspections, the department should prepare a comprehensive, village-wise digital inventory, geotag every verified parcel and ensure that the relevant survey numbers are prominently identified in revenue records.

The objective should be straightforward: every parcel of Custodian property must be identifiable, its recorded status must be verifiable, and its occupation must be traceable to an authorised legal or administrative basis. What constitutes Custodian property? The expression "Custodian land" is commonly used to describe land forming part of evacuee property administered by the Custodian under the applicable law. The relevant statutory framework includes the Jammu and Kashmir State Evacuees' (Administration of Property) Act, 2006, which is the renumbered form of the earlier Act of 1949.

Section 2(d) defines "evacuee property" broadly as property in which an evacuee has any right or interest, whether personally, as a trustee, as a beneficiary or in another capacity. It also covers property obtained from an evacuee after 14 August 1947 through a mode of

transfer, unless that transfer has been confirmed by the Custodian, subject to the exclusions specified in the Act. Section 2 also defines an evacuee, a Custodian and an unauthorised person. Section 5 addresses the vesting of evacuee property in the Custodian.

In practical terms, Custodian land is land that legally falls within the category of evacuee property administered by the Custodian under the applicable statutory framework. Its precise status, however, must be established from the relevant orders, notifications, title and revenue records, and other competent departmental or judicial determinations. This distinction is important. Not every parcel associated with a person who migrated, every vacant plot or every disputed piece of land automatically qualifies as Custodian property. Likewise, the mere presence of an occupant does not establish lawful ownership or authorised occupation. Each parcel must be verified on its own merits.

The first and most important reform should be the preparation of an authentic, village-wise digital inventory of all Custodian properties in Jammu and Kashmir. The Custodian Department should lead and supervise this exercise, coordinating with revenue authorities wherever field verification, demarcation or correction of records is required. Every verified parcel should be recorded with its district, tehsil, revenue village, survey or Khasra number, recorded area, geographical coordinates, nature of the property, recorded ownership or vesting status, and the name or category of the person occupying it. Where applicable, the inventory should also indicate the relevant allotment, lease or other authorisation, its validity, the prescribed rent or fee, and any pending dispute or litigation.

Geotagging would allow each parcel to be located through a digital map and compared with the corresponding revenue and Custodian records. Photographs, boundary details and the date of field verification could further strengthen the inventory. The exercise must not be treated as a mere technical formality. Survey numbers, areas and boundaries should be verified before a parcel is declared accurately mapped. Where records



conflict, the discrepancy should be flagged for examination rather than concealed behind a digital entry. The Custodian Department should also establish a system for updating the inventory whenever an allotment is made, a lease expires, possession changes lawfully, a dispute is decided or a competent authority corrects the record.

The second reform should bring essential information out of departmental files and into the public domain. The Custodian Department should issue appropriate instructions to all Tehsildars, in coordination with the relevant Custodian officers, to install clearly visible information boards in every tehsil office. These boards should provide village-wise details of verified Custodian properties within the tehsil. The information should include the name of each revenue village, the relevant survey or Khasra numbers, the recorded area, the nature of the property and the recorded status of occupation. Where a person occupies the property under an authorised allotment or lease, the board should indicate the applicable category of authorisation and the prescribed rent or fee, along with the relevant payment period.

The purpose is not to expose individuals to unnecessary publicity or to declare disputed claims as settled. Personal information should be handled in accordance with applicable law. Instead, the boards should provide sufficient property-related information for residents, officials and prospective applicants to understand which parcels are recorded as Custodian property and what rules govern their occupation.

A QR code linking to an official, regularly updated digital inventory would make the system more useful.

Citizens could scan the code to examine the relevant parcel details, applicable rates and departmental contact information without repeatedly visiting offices. Where the information board cannot accommodate every parcel, the complete village-wise list should be displayed through an attached schedule and made available at the tehsil office and on the department's official website.

A third practical measure concerns the maintenance of the Khasra Girdawari and other relevant revenue records. The Custodian Department should, in consultation with the competent Revenue Department authorities, establish a uniform procedure for prominently identifying verified Custodian survey numbers in the relevant records. Subject to approval under the applicable record-maintenance rules, such survey numbers could be entered or flagged in red ink in the Khasra Girdawari, with a corresponding notation in the remarks column and an appropriate reference to the Custodian register.

The aim would be immediate visibility. When a revenue official examines the record during a field inspection, mutation-related inquiry, demarcation or other lawful proceeding, the special status of the parcel should not be overlooked. However, colour coding must remain an identification aid, not a substitute for legal verification. It must never be used to alter the original record improperly, overwrite an existing entry or settle a disputed title administratively. Any marking should be authorised, authenticated, traceable and consistent with prescribed revenue-record procedures.

For this reform to succeed, responsibility must be clearly assigned. The Custodian Department should remain accountable for the authenticity and maintenance

of its property inventory, while Tehsildars and other designated revenue officers should perform the specific verification and record-related duties assigned to them through lawful orders. A time-bound programme could begin with a pilot project in selected tehsils, followed by an assessment of discrepancies, field-verification quality and public accessibility. The department could then extend the system to the remaining areas.

An annual verification exercise should compare the digital inventory with the relevant Custodian registers, revenue records and the actual position on the ground. Changes should be supported by documentary evidence and a traceable approval process. A mechanism for citizens to report discrepancies would provide an additional safeguard, although every complaint would require independent verification before any record was changed. The department should also publish progress reports indicating the number of villages surveyed, parcels geotagged, records reconciled and discrepancies resolved. Such reporting would make implementation measurable rather than leaving the reform as an announcement without an identifiable outcome.

Custodian property is a matter of public administration, legal responsibility and the protection of property rights. Its management should therefore be guided by reliable records, transparency and accountability. The Custodian Department should lead the preparation of a verified digital inventory, geotag each parcel, make village-wise property information accessible through tehsil signboards and official digital platforms, and introduce a legally approved system for identifying Custodian survey numbers in Khasra Girdawaris. These measures would not resolve every historical dispute or eliminate every instance of unauthorised occupation. They would, however, make the system easier to verify, monitor and administer.

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■ Teaching Or Data Entry?

The Identity Dilemma Of The Contemporary Teacher

FAROOQ AHMAD BAKLOO

A teacher walks into college in the morning carrying a lecture plan. He has spent the previous evening reading, preparing examples and deciding how to make the topic meaningful for his students. But before he enters the classroom, his phone starts buzzing. Student information has to be uploaded. A government portal needs updating. Some data has to be collected. A report has to be prepared. Another message asks for participation in an official programme. By afternoon, there is another instruction. By evening, the lecture he had carefully planned has become only one part of a day dominated by administrative responsibilities. He returns home, but the working day does not necessarily end. The phone continues to bring forms, deadlines, reminders and official messages.

The next morning, he walks into the classroom again. He is a teacher by appointment, but increasingly he finds himself functioning as a data manager, survey worker, registration coordinator, election-duty worker and administrative functionary. This is the emerging identity dilemma of the contemporary teacher. The problem is not that teachers are unwilling to work, nor that they should be exempted from every public responsibility. The problem is that a profession created primarily to teach is increasingly being asked to perform an expanding range of tasks that have little or no connection with teaching.

This contradiction deserves much more serious attention than it usually receives. We routinely describe teachers as nation-builders, custodians of knowledge and agents of social transformation, yet the same system often treats them as a convenient pool of manpower whenever an administrative requirement emerges. Student registration, data collection, surveys, government programmes, census-related work, election duties and routine reporting have increasingly entered the working lives of teachers. Last time on 11 December 2025 reported in Daily Excelsior that in Jammu and Kashmir district Poonch teachers were instructed to monitor the activity of stray dogs. The question is not whether stray-dog management is an important public issue; it certainly is.

The question is whether a teacher's professional expertise is actually required for such a task or whether the teacher is being assigned it simply because teachers are available, geographically dispersed and institutionally easy to mobilise. That distinction is crucial. Administrative convenience may explain why teachers are chosen, but convenience alone should not determine the boundaries of a profession.

A teacher is not simply an educated government employee who happens to be available whenever the administration needs additional manpower. Teaching is a specialised profession built around subject knowledge, pedagogy, assessment, mentoring, intellectual development and human interaction. In higher education, this responsibility becomes even broader because teaching is inseparable from research, reading, scholarship, academic discussion and knowledge production. A teacher has to prepare before entering the classroom, understand the changing nature of the discipline, assess students carefully, respond to their individual difficulties and continually improve his or her methods of teaching.

These activities require something that administrative systems often treat as expendable time. When teachers are repeatedly diverted towards unrelated administrative responsibilities, the consequence is therefore not simply an increase in workload. The deeper consequence is the gradual erosion of professional identity. The teacher begins to confront an uncomfortable question: I was recruited to teach, so why am I increasingly spending my professional time doing everything except teaching?

This does not mean that teachers should never perform duties outside the classroom. Such an argument would be both unrealistic and intellectually weak. Teachers are citizens, and public institutions sometimes require citizens and public employees to participate in collective responsibilities. Elections, census operations, disaster response and other exceptional circumstances may require the mobilisation of large numbers of trained personnel. Teachers cannot reasonably claim immunity from

every such responsibility. The real issue is one of proportion, frequency and institutional purpose. There is a fundamental difference between exceptional civic participation and permanent administrative dependence.

If a teacher is temporarily assigned election duty, the professional identity of teaching is not necessarily threatened. But when non-academic assignments become frequent and routine, the relationship changes. What begins as an exception gradually becomes an expectation, and what was once peripheral begins to compete with the principal function of the profession. The question, therefore, should not simply be, "Can teachers do this?" The more important question is, "What educational work will be displaced if teachers do this repeatedly?"

That second question is often missing from administrative decision-making. When a teacher is asked to complete a survey, update a database or perform some unrelated government assignment, the task itself is visible and measurable. Its completion can be recorded in a report. But the educational activity displaced by that task is largely invisible. Nobody necessarily records the lecture that received less preparation because the teacher was busy with administrative work. Nobody measures the student who did not receive individual attention because the teacher was completing an official assignment. Nobody records the research article that remained unfinished, the assignment that received hurried feedback or the academic discussion that never

be measured over what genuinely matters but is difficult to measure. Educational institutions can count attendance, registrations, uploaded documents, completed surveys and submitted reports. But they cannot so easily quantify curiosity, critical thinking, intellectual maturity, empathy or the ability of a student to question inherited assumptions. This creates a dangerous institutional bias. What is administratively visible begins to acquire greater importance than what is educationally meaningful. A teacher may therefore become highly successful at producing data while becoming increasingly constrained in producing knowledge. The irony is difficult to ignore: the system asks teachers to cultivate critical thinkers but often consumes the time they need to read, reflect and engage critically with their own disciplines.

The problem becomes particularly serious in higher education because a college or university teacher is not merely a classroom instructor. Academic teaching requires continuous intellectual renewal. A political science teacher, for example, cannot effectively teach democracy, constitutionalism, political theory or public policy while remaining disconnected from contemporary scholarship and political developments. A sociology teacher cannot teach social change meaningfully without engaging with changing social realities. A history teacher cannot teach historical interpretation without continuously revisiting evidence and scholarship. Teaching at this level requires intellectual preparation that happens both

responsibilities, but they also have a responsibility to ensure that such responsibilities do not systematically undermine the primary functions for which those employees were recruited. Professional accountability should therefore operate in both directions. Teachers should perform their legitimate duties sincerely, while institutions should avoid assigning unnecessary responsibilities merely because teachers are readily available.

Recently 16 September 2026 as reported by the Indian Express the concern has been visible in teacher protests in Punjab, where teachers have objected to the assignment of non-academic duties and argued that such responsibilities interfere with their core educational role. Whatever one's position on the particular demands of such protests, the larger question they raise is important: how much non-academic work can a teacher reasonably be expected to perform before the quality and meaning of teaching itself are affected? Such protests should not automatically be interpreted as an attempt by teachers to avoid work. In some circumstances, they can also be understood as attempts to defend the professional boundary that makes teaching a specialised occupation. At the same time, teachers must also distinguish between legitimate civic responsibilities and assignments that are genuinely unnecessary.

Professional autonomy cannot mean professional isolation. The challenge is to establish a reasonable boundary rather than to construct an absolute wall between teaching and public service.

The most sensible response is there-

There is also a danger in normalising the idea that teachers can simply "manage" ever-increasing responsibilities. Time management is useful when the problem is poor organisation. It cannot solve a structural problem in which institutional demands continually expand while available professional time remains fixed. Asking an already overloaded teacher to become more efficient can eventually become a way of shifting an institutional problem onto an individual. The question should instead be whether the work itself has been rationally distributed. An institution that continually adds responsibilities to teachers cannot then blame teachers for failing to perform every responsibility with equal quality. Sometimes the most efficient organisation is not the one that makes existing employees do more; it is the one that assigns the right work to the right people.

The contemporary teacher therefore finds himself in a peculiar contradiction. He is described as a nation-builder but is increasingly used as administrative manpower. He is expected to promote critical thinking but may have less time for reading and reflection. He is expected to conduct research but may spend significant hours completing routine documentation. He is expected to provide student-centred education while being repeatedly pulled away from sustained interaction with students. He is expected to improve educational outcomes while many of the institutional conditions necessary for achieving those outcomes remain outside his control. The danger is not merely fatigue. The deeper danger is professional dilution. When every government programme can potentially become a teacher's responsibility, teaching ceases to function as a clearly bounded profession. The teacher becomes the person who can be assigned almost anything because the system knows that the teacher is available.

This is where the search for identity becomes more than a metaphor. A teacher should certainly serve society, but the most important service a teacher can provide is not filling another spreadsheet, completing another form or solving every administrative problem that happens to cross the desk. It is teaching, preparing, questioning, mentoring, researching and creating the intellectual conditions in which a young person learns not merely what to think but how to think. That work requires time, attention and professional autonomy. If the teacher's time is continuously fragmented, the institution may eventually preserve the appearance of teaching while weakening its substance.

The critical question, therefore, is not whether teachers should work beyond the classroom. They inevitably will. The question is whether the education system is capable of recognising that the classroom is not one responsibility among many; it is the institutional centre around which the teaching profession exists. A government may successfully complete more surveys, collect more data, update more databases and implement more programmes by using teachers as administrative manpower. But administrative completion should not be confused with educational achievement. The number of forms completed by a teacher can be counted; the number of minds genuinely transformed by that teacher is far more difficult to measure. Yet it is the latter, not the former, that ultimately determines whether education has fulfilled its social purpose.

The teacher, therefore, is not merely asking for less work. The teacher is asking for the right work. The demand is not for exemption from society but for recognition of professional purpose. If the state wants teachers to build the minds that will build society, it must protect the time, autonomy and intellectual space required for them to teach. Otherwise, we risk creating a strange institutional paradox: a system that repeatedly removes teachers from the work of teaching and then asks why educational quality is not improving.

Perhaps the most uncomfortable question is also the simplest: if a teacher spends more time serving the administrative machinery than cultivating minds, has the system protected the teaching profession or merely exploited the teacher's availability? The answer should concern not only teachers but policymakers, administrators, students and society. Because when teachers lose their professional identity, the loss does not remain confined to the teaching community. It eventually reaches the classroom, and from the classroom, it reaches the society that education was supposed to transform.

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took place. This is the hidden opportunity cost of administrative overload. The system records what the teacher did, but rarely records what the teacher could not do because of it. An uploaded form is measurable; intellectual development is not. A completed database entry can be verified; the confidence gained by a student through a meaningful academic interaction cannot easily be quantified. Yet the latter is precisely what education is ultimately supposed to produce.

The expansion of digitalisation has made this contradiction even more complicated. Digital technology was expected to reduce paperwork, simplify administration and give teachers more time for students. In many circumstances, technology has indeed made administrative processes faster. But digitalisation does not automatically eliminate bureaucracy; sometimes it merely digitises it. A paper register becomes an online database, a physical form becomes an online form, a report becomes a dashboard and a signature becomes digital verification.

The administrative burden may change its appearance without disappearing. Teachers can consequently find themselves spending considerable time navigating multiple portals, entering information, verifying records and responding to digital reporting requirements. The problem is not technology itself. The problem is technological bureaucracy without administrative rationalisation. If every new platform creates another responsibility for the teacher, then digitalisation may end up reducing the teacher's time for education rather than increasing it. Technology should serve the teacher, not turn the teacher into an extension of the database.

There is also a deeper philosophical problem here: the growing tendency to value what can easily

inside and outside the classroom. When administrative work repeatedly consumes evenings, weekends and preparation time, the damage is not confined to the teacher's personal life. It eventually enters the classroom. Students receive less prepared lectures, less detailed feedback and less sustained academic engagement. The classroom pays the final price for administrative overload.

The situation also raises a question about how the state conceptualises its own administrative capacity. If a government requires people to collect data, conduct surveys, manage databases or implement programmes, why should teachers automatically become the preferred workforce? The answer is often that teachers are already present, trained, and accessible and distributed throughout society. But this is precisely where administrative convenience can become institutional weakness. A well designed public administration should allocate work according to expertise and institutional purpose, not merely according to availability. If an institution repeatedly uses teachers to compensate for shortages of administrative personnel, it may appear efficient in the short term while creating educational costs in the long term.

The concerned may save the cost of deploying additional administrative workers, but the education system absorbs the cost through reduced teaching time, weakened mentoring and diminished academic productivity. What looks like administrative efficiency at one level may therefore become educational inefficiency at another.

This is why the issue should not be framed as a conflict between teachers and the state. The more useful framing is a conflict between administrative convenience and professional purpose. Teachers have obligations, but institutions also have obligations towards teachers and students. Governments have the right to expect public servants to contribute to legitimate public

fore institutional rather than rhetorical. Educational systems should clearly distinguish between academic duties, essential institutional responsibilities and exceptional civic duties. Routine data-management tasks should, wherever possible, be assigned to dedicated administrative personnel or some expertise should be hired rather than becoming a permanent responsibility of teachers. New digital platforms should be evaluated not merely on whether they improve reporting but also on whether they reduce or increase the teacher's workload. Non-academic assignments should be distributed transparently and proportionately rather than repeatedly falling upon the same professional group. Most importantly, every new administrative responsibility should be subjected to a simple but powerful question: Does this task genuinely require a teacher's professional expertise, or is the teacher being used simply because the teacher is available? If the latter is the answer, the institution should reconsider the assignment.

The deeper issue is therefore not whether teachers are overworked. It is whether the education system understands what kind of work constitutes teaching. A teacher's most valuable resource is not merely physical presence; it is intellectual attention. A good lecture requires preparation. Good assessment requires concentration. Effective mentoring requires patience. Meaningful research requires uninterrupted intellectual space. Critical pedagogy requires the teacher to remain intellectually alive. These activities cannot simply be squeezed into whatever time remains after every other administrative obligation has been completed. If education policy genuinely values critical thinking, innovation, research, student-centred learning and improved learning outcomes, then protecting teachers' academic time is not a concession to teachers. It is an investment in students.

Ladakh Pashmina Conclave 2026 Brings World of Luxury Textiles to Leh

LG Saxena inaugurates the conclave; MoU signed between Ministry of Textiles and UT Admin

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: Set against the breathtaking landscape of the Himalayas, the Ladakh Pashmina Conclave 2026 opened in Leh Friday, bringing the spotlight to one of the world's most distinctive luxury fibres—Ladakh Pashmina. Inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, the two-day conclave brings together policymakers, textile experts, international delegates and industry stakeholders to explore how this centuries-old craft can find new expression in the global luxury fashion landscape.

Organised by the Department of Industries & Commerce, UT Ladakh, under the

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme, the conclave seeks to connect Ladakh's rich textile heritage with contemporary design, sustainable production, innovation and international markets.

A key highlight of the inaugural session was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Textiles and the UT Administration of Ladakh, marking an important step towards strengthening institutional cooperation for the development of the pashmina sector. A special postal cover celebrating GI-tagged Ladakh Pashmina textiles was also released in the presence of the Lieutenant

Governor and other dignitaries.

The inaugural programme featured a welcome address by Secretary, Industries, Himanshu Gupta, an introductory film on Ladakh Pashmina and addresses highlighting the sector's immense potential. The discussions underscored the importance of preserving traditional knowledge while creating new opportunities for artisans, herders, designers and entrepreneurs.

The first technical session, "Overview of Pashmina: India & Overseas," explored the evolution of Ladakh Pashmina, institutional interventions and opportunities in international luxury markets. G.S. Bhatti, Executive Director, Central Wool Board, outlined key inter-

ventions and the way forward for the sector.

International delegates brought perspectives from Mongolia's cashmere industry, luxury cashmere branding in Korea and potential collaboration with Japan in premium textiles, sustainable fashion and global brand development. Thinley of the All Changthang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Marketing Society presented an overview of Ladakh Pashmina, highlighting the region's distinctive contribution to the world of fine natural fibres.

These exchanges placed Ladakh Pashmina within a wider conversation about the future of luxury fashion—where provenance, authenticity, craftsmanship and sustain-

ability are increasingly central to a textile's identity and value.

As part of the programme, international delegates visited the Pashmina Dehairing Plant to understand the processing and value-addition initiatives supporting the sector. The visit highlighted the role of modern processing infrastructure in improving fibre quality, strengthening the supply chain and enhancing the marketability of Ladakh Pashmina.

At the exhibition, stalls showcasing pashmina products, handicrafts and handloom traditions were inaugurated by Director, Industries, UT Ladakh, Sonam Norboo. The displays offered a glimpse into the region's rich creative traditions, the skill of its artisan communities and the possibili-

ties of transforming traditional craftsmanship into contemporary, high-value products.

Behind every fine pashmina textile lies the knowledge of pastoral communities and artisans whose work sustains this remarkable heritage. Strengthening their livelihoods, improving access to markets and ensuring fair opportunities for producers remain integral to the sector's future.

The conclave aims to build stronger connections between traditional producers, government institutions, technical experts, designers and international industry stakeholders. Its focus extends beyond production to include quality assurance, processing, branding, skill development, sustain-

able resource management and market access.

The second day, scheduled for October 24, will continue discussions on strengthening the pashmina ecosystem and expanding opportunities across national and international markets.

As global fashion increasingly values textiles with a compelling story, cultural authenticity and a sustainable foundation, Ladakh Pashmina holds the promise of occupying a distinctive place in the world of luxury. The Ladakh Pashmina Conclave 2026 marks a step towards bringing the exceptional fibre of the Himalayas to a wider audience—while ensuring that the communities and craftsmanship behind it remain at the heart of its journey.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

CM Omar Likely

expansion of the Omar Abdullah-led ministry, which has remained pending for several months.

The National Conference leadership has repeatedly indicated that the exercise would be undertaken, but a formal announcement regarding its timing and the names of prospective ministers has yet to be made.

Earlier, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had indicated that the expansion would be taken up following consultations with National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah.

Farooq Abdullah had also indicated that the expansion would take place following the return of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to the Valley.

The Jammu and Kashmir Council of Ministers currently has six members, including the Chief Minister, against the maximum permissible strength of nine under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, leaving three ministerial berths vacant.

The proposed expansion has generated considerable political interest, particularly over the possible induction of new faces, regional representation and the allocation of portfolios.

The Congress, which supports the National Conference government from outside, has maintained that it will not join the ministry until Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is restored.

The Omar Abdullah government has been functioning with its existing ministerial strength since assuming office in October 2024, with several ministers holding multiple portfolios.

Sources indicated that while the proposed meeting is expected to cover broader administrative and governance-related matters, the cabinet expansion could emerge as one of its key discussions.

However, there has been no official confirmation of the meeting or the final schedule for the cabinet expansion.(KNS)

CM Omar opens

show showcases the beauty of chrysanthemums through an impressive display of 3.5 lakh locally produced plants representing more than 70 varieties and featuring nearly 12 million blossoms. Spread over 100 kanals, the theme garden has been developed by the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens as a major autumn attraction, adding vibrant shades of yellow, red, pink and purple to Kashmir's landscape.

The garden has been upgraded this year with more area brought under flower beds, colourful floral displays, water features, selfie points and modern visitor amenities, offering visitors an enhanced experience amid the natural beauty of mountains overlooking the theme garden.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said Baghe-Gul-Dawood was introduced last year with the objective of creating distinctive floral attractions to mark the beginning of every new season in Kashmir.

"This is the second year of bloom at Baghe-Gul-Dawood in Srinagar. This garden was started last year, and the purpose was to mark the beginning of our tourism season and to mark the end of the year in Srinagar. Both these gardens are special and unique to Srinagar," he said.

The Chief Minister observed that while the Tulip Garden attracts large numbers of visitors at the beginning of the year, there had previously been no comparable attraction to draw tourists during the autumn months.

"We have been trying to increase our tourism season. You must have seen that many people visit the Tulip Garden at the beginning of the year. But during autumn season, we have tried to add something special to show to people. That is why this Chrysanthemum Garden has been developed by the Department of Floriculture," he said.

Appreciating the improvements made since last year, Omar Abdullah said he had personally observed the difference in the garden's development and expressed confidence that it would continue to evolve as a distinctive attraction.

"I have seen the difference between last year and this year. We will continue to develop it in the same way," he said.

Highlighting the importance of local production and sustainable development, the Chief Minister noted that, unlike the Tulip Garden, which requires bulbs sourced from outside the country, the chrysanthemum garden relies on locally produced plant material that can be propagated and multiplied within Jammu and Kashmir.

"One big advantage of this garden is that the bulk of the plant material is indigenous and some quantity of bulbs is procured from outside the country to keep it running. Much of the plant material of this garden is our own. We propagate it and multiply it. We will try to do something new in this garden every year," he said.

The Chief Minister said the garden would be further developed in the coming years, with new features and attractions introduced annually to sustain public interest and enhance its appeal to visitors.

Inviting people from Srinagar, adjoining areas and across Jammu and Kashmir to visit the garden, he said the floral dis-

play offered an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of autumn and preserve the experience through photographs.

"On this occasion, I would like to invite the visitors and local people to come and take advantage of the beauty of this garden. Take some pictures and take them back as a souvenir," he said.

The initiative reflects the government's efforts to diversify Kashmir's tourism offerings beyond the spring tulip season and create more reasons for tourists to visit the Valley during autumn. With its extensive floral displays, landscaped beds and visitor-friendly facilities, Baghe-Gul-Dawood is envisioned as a signature seasonal attraction that will add a new dimension to Srinagar's tourism landscape.

The development of the garden also highlights the potential of local floriculture in creating distinctive tourism experiences while promoting the propagation of locally produced plants.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmed Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Habba Kadal Shamim Firdous, MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks and Gardens Zubair Ahmad and Director Floriculture Kashmir Mathoor Masoom, among other officers and officials.

Remain Prepared

India's global standing.

On the occasion, Singh released the Land Warfare Doctrine, which provides an overarching framework to prepare the Indian Army for the evolving nature of warfare and future conflicts.

He also unveiled the annual United Nations Journal and felicitated Army personnel for their notable contributions as UN peacekeepers, recognising their professionalism and service towards international peace and security.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, Chief of Defence Staff General NS Raja Subramani, Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and other senior officials attended the conference—(KNO)

LG Designates Special

of J&K and Ladakh, has designated the Court of the 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, and the Court of the 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, as Special Fast-Track Courts for the trial of offences under the Act.

As per the law, trials in such cases must be conducted on a day-to-day basis until all witnesses are examined. The Act further provides that trials must be completed within three months from the date the chargesheet is filed—(KNO)

LG Interacts With 2011-

global presence, focusing particularly on trade, tourism, and technology.

The deliberations also highlighted Jammu Kashmir's developmental initiatives, with a focused approach toward youth empowerment, sports advancement, and the facilitation of international events. The delegation consisted of Shri Sarvjeet Soodan, Vimarsh Aryan, and Ovessa Iqbal.

IndiGo Extends

all routes until Oct. 27.

"Indian nationals requiring urgent departure may consider transiting via Bahrain, Kuwait, or Qatar, subject to obtaining the necessary visas," the embassy said earlier.

The disruptions have also affected Indian Umrah pilgrims, prompting the External Affairs Ministry to coordinate with airlines and tour operators to help them return early.

Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah were working with airlines and tour operators to arrange the return of the remaining affected pilgrims as soon as possible, according to PTI.

The missions, supported by community volunteers, are providing welfare assistance and have set up 24-hour control rooms to help Indian nationals. They are also issuing regular advisories because of the security situation.

An earlier attack on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport on Oct. 10 killed an Indian national and injured several others, prompting the embassy to issue safety advisories for the Indian community.

The embassy urged Indian nationals to remain alert, follow instructions from Saudi authorities and move to a safe place inside a building during an aerial attack. It also warned against filming or sharing images and videos of interceptions or impact sites, citing possible legal consequences under Saudi law.

Saudi Arabia is home to about 2.74 million Indian nationals working across various sectors. With flight cancellations continu-

ing and Indian nationals affected by recent attacks, the embassy and consulate are assisting travelers and pilgrims while advising the community to follow local safety instructions.

Over 30 Kashmiri

cancelled flights on all Saudi routes until October 24, while Akasa Air has extended its suspension until October 27.

The flight disruptions have affected Indian nationals travelling to and from Saudi Arabia, including Umrah pilgrims, prompting Indian diplomatic missions to coordinate with airlines and tour operators for their return.

The MEA said the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah are working with airlines and tour operators to assist affected passengers. The missions are also providing welfare support through community volunteers and have set up round-the-clock control rooms for assistance.

The Indian mission has advised those requiring urgent travel to explore transit options through Bahrain, Kuwait or Qatar, subject to applicable visa requirements—(KNO)

CS Sensitizes

undertaken by the Higher Education Department be pursued in a systematic manner, with the lessons learnt and operational challenges addressed before extending the framework to other Administrative Departments.

He underscored the importance of ensuring that departments are adequately sensitised to the methodology and that their capacity is enhanced for enabling wider adoption of SDG-aligned budgeting in the forthcoming financial year.

The meeting focused on familiarising departments with the methodology for mapping their schemes against relevant SDG goals, targets and indicators, clarifying the process of budget tagging and facilitating coordinated action ahead of the preparation of departmental budgets. The interaction also provided an opportunity for departments to raise implementation-related concerns and seek necessary clarifications to ensure a common understanding of the proposed framework.

The initiative, being pursued by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aims to establish linkage between budgetary allocations and measurable development outcomes. It is intended to help departments assess how their schemes and expenditure contribute towards specific SDG targets and identify areas requiring focused interventions.

As part of the preparatory exercise, the Secretary PD&MD, Owais Ahmad, shared the National Indicator Framework (NIF)-aligned SDG goals, targets and indicators with all administrative departments and district administrations. Explaining that these will serve as the basis for mapping departmental schemes and aligning their budgetary provisions with the relevant development priorities.

Moreover the Secretary, PD&MD added that following the completion of Phase-I workshops for master trainers, regional-level Phase-II training sessions are also planned for departmental heads and district officers to familiarise them with the SDG mapping and budget-tagging methodology and facilitate its uniform adoption across the Union Territory.

Additionally the proposed institutional arrangements provide for a High-Level SDG Steering Committee to oversee the exercise, with the Finance and Planning Departments coordinating the reconciliation of departmental frameworks. Individual line departments will be responsible for identifying the SDG contributions of their ongoing and newly proposed schemes, while the dedicated SDG Cell will facilitate cross-referencing against the State Indicator Framework (SIF).

The framework distinguishes between Scheme-SDG Mapping, which assesses the alignment of scheme objectives and guidelines with specific SDG targets, and SDG Budget Tagging, which identifies the corresponding financial allocations. The exercise is envisaged to cover all five phases of the budget cycle including its preparation, approval, execution, accounting and oversight in order to strengthen transparency, accountability and outcome-based monitoring of public expenditure.

To support implementation, technical teams from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and UNDP are working towards integrating the SDG Monitoring Dashboard with the relevant financial management and budget monitoring systems, including the Budget Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System (BEAMS). The proposed integration is intended to improve the tracking of budgetary allocations and expenditure alongside physical outputs and relevant socio-economic indicators.

During this meeting it was revealed that the Higher Education Department has been selected to pilot the initiative during the Revised Estimates (RE) exercise for 2026-27. The pilot will involve mapping its ongoing schemes against the relevant

SDG targets and indicators, providing an operational model for extending the exercise to other departments.

The ongoing interdepartmental consultations are expected to facilitate smoother adoption of the framework in the forthcoming budget exercise, ensuring that departments are adequately sensitised, their concerns are addressed and budgetary proposals are increasingly aligned with clearly defined development priorities and measurable outcomes.

Actively Engaged

on King Fahd International Airport and Aramco's Shaybah oil field, while expressing hope that peace and normalcy would return to the region at the earliest.

"We strongly condemn the continued attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including the attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam and Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field in the Eastern Province on October 21. These attacks have unfortunately resulted in civilian deaths and injuries," the MEA said in a statement.

The MEA stated that one Indian was killed and two others were injured in the attack on Dammam airport, while another Indian national was injured in the attack on the Shaybah oil field. It offered condolences to the family of the deceased person and wished for the speedy recovery of those injured in the attack.

The MEA said that the Indian Embassy in Riyadh is in contact with the Saudi authorities and will provide all possible assistance. It expressed India's solidarity with Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty.

"We also reiterate that the attacks on civilian and critical infrastructure are completely unacceptable and must cease immediately. We stand in solidarity with the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty, and hope that peace and normalcy would return to the region at the earliest," it said.

PIA-Marked

several similar balloons with Pakistani flags, PIA markings and messages have been recovered from border areas of Jammu and Samba districts. (GNS)

Power Relief

In the meantime, the official documents accessed by KNO reads that J&K and Ladakh may receive 655 MWs unallocated power from the pool of northern region utilities from 01-11-2026 to 30-11-2026 or modified otherwise.

It also said that from 01-12-2026 to 31-12-2026, J&K and Ladakh may receive 845 MWs un-allocated power from the pool of northern region utilities followed by 845 MWs from 01-01-2027 to 31-01-2027 or modified otherwise and 655 MWs from 01-02-2027 to 28-02-2027 respectively.

As already reported by this news agency, Jammu and Kashmir is staring at a repeat of last winter's 'power crisis', with demand expected to match or exceed last year's peak while hydro generation stays lean. Officials warn that unless action is taken now, the same conditions will return.

The official documents in this regard said "Last winter, demand in the J&K control area rose to around 3,200 MW as heating load picked up in the early morning and night hours."

"Demand is expected to be similar or higher this winter, and hydro generation is likely to be lean again, so the same conditions are likely to return unless action is taken in advance," it reads—(KNO)



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KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Friday informed that the Shutdown of 132 kV Mirbazar-Mattan Transmission Line and 132 kV Mirbazar-Lissar Transmission line upto Tower no. 24 (Tapping point) will be observed due to which power supply to Achabal, Pahalgam, Mattan, Ashmuqam, Sallar, Gopalpora, Kawarigam, Shangus, Dooru, Kokernag, Hillar, Akingam, Dandipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 24 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Handwara Old line will be observed due to which power supply to Hangrah, Haril, Zachaldara, Wadipora, Chanjmulla, Wadder and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 28 & 31 October 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Kupwara Old line will be observed due to which power supply to Lolab, Diver, Madipora, Sogam, Hayatpora, SDH Sogam, Warnow, Lalpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 27 & 31 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Doolipora line will be observed due to which power supply to Doolipora, Magam, Vilgam, Tarathpora, Kenyl and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 27 October 2026.

Also shutdown of 33 kV Tarathpora line will be observed due to which power supply to Tarathpora, Kneyl, Kalsoona and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 29 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Sarnal Akhura Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Nambal, Akhura, Nanil, Anchidora, Aung and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 am to 03 pm on 31 October 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Mattan Iqbalabad line will be observed due to which power supply to Mattan, Krangsoo and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 am to 03 pm

on 02 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Nowbugh Nagam line, 33 kV Pampore BK Pora line, 33 kV Khanda Tapline, 33 kV Pampore Wagora line and 33 kV Nowbugh Chadoora line will be observed due to which power supply to Kakawring, Yousmarg, Charisharieh, Tilsera, Badipora, Nagam, Hayatpora, Hafroo, Bizgoo, Loolipora, BK Pora, Khanda, Chattergam, Kenihama, Summerbugh, Wagora, Aribagh, Checkpora, Wagora, Khanda, Sanzepora, Magrabpora, Kuzwara, Gowerhpora, Khanpora, Nalandar, Kultreh, Pharampora, Brarigund, Wadipora, Sogam, Repora, Chadoora, Wathoora, Bugam, Dowlatpora, Gudsathoo Panzan, Lalgam, Ranger, Kathairgund and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 24 October 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Shariefabad HMT & Narbal line will be observed due to which power supply to Narbal, Mazhama, Sanoor, Malpora, Kawoosa, Sozeith, Lawaypora, Zainakote, ICC, Industrial HMT, Shalteng, Mujgund and Bakshipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 25 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Bakshipora Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Bakshipora, Badiwudder, Palpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 31 October 2026.

Furthermore, shutdown of 33 kV SH Pora and Kawdara lines will be observed due to which power supply to MR Gunj, Nawa Bazar, Mughal Masjid, Zadibal, Sazgaripora, Nowhatta, Jamia Masjid, Rajouri Kadal, Gojwara, Nawakadal, Shreen Bagh, Nawakadal, Narwara and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 29 October 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Bemina JVC line will be observed due to which power supply to JVC Hospital, Children Hospital, State Motor Garage, Haji House, Forensic Lab, PC Depot,

Qammerwari, Baranpather and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 04 November 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Bemina I&II line will be observed due to which power supply to Hamdania Colony, HIG/MIG Colony, Nund Resh Colony, Hamza Colony, Gousia Colony, Sir Syed Abad, Qamarwari, Chattabal, SK Colony, Taushedabad Bemina, Court Complex, Mandi and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 07 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Bemina Karan Nagar line will be observed due to which power supply to Chattabal, Baggarden, Zaladagar, Police lines, Civil Secretariat, SMHS Hospital, Gole Market, Guru Bazar, Tankipora, Shaheed Gunj and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 31 October 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 kV Bemina Barbar Shah line, 33 kV Bemina Fatehkadal line, 33 kV Bemina KP Bagh line, 33 kV Bemina Exhibition line, 33 kV Bemina JVC/PC Depot line, 33 KV Bemina I & II line and 33 kV Bemina Karan Nagar line will be observed due to which power supply to Fatehkadal, Khayam, Barbarshah, Court Complex, GIS Batamaloo, JVC PC Depot, Children Hospital, JVC Hospital, Bemina, Shalstore, Karan Nagar, Batamaloo, Moominabad, Reshi Colony, Motor Garag, Haji House, Forensic Lab, Qammerwari, Baran Pather, Chatabal, Zaladagar, Baggarden, Police Line, Civil Secretariate, SMHS, Gole Market, Guru Bazar, Tankipora, Shaheedgunj, SK Colony, Hamdaniya Colony, HIG Colony, MIG Colony, Nund Resh Colony, Gousia Colony, Hamza Colony, Sir Syedabad, Tousheedabad, PDD Complex, Pinchi Mandi and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 15 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Safakadal line will be observed due to which power supply to Safakadal, Wagan-

pora, Saidpora, Noorbagh, Chaidoab, Baghwanpora, Eidgah and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 29 October 2026.

Furthermore, shutdown of 33 kV GIS Khanyar-BAMK line, 33 kV GIS-Kathidarwaza line and 33 kV GIS Khanyar-Lalbazar (backup line) will be observed due to which power supply to Raja Colony, Industries and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 01 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Zakura-Burzham line will be observed due to which power supply to Zakura, Habak Crossing, Industries, Batapora, Animal Husbandary, Zakura, Shopper Bagh, Gasso, Khimber, Danihama and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 01 November 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Khanyar-Rainawari line will be observed due to which power supply to Miskeen Bagh, Islamia College, Rainawari, JLNH Hospital, Rozabal, Jogilankar, Bacchi Darwaza, Khanyar and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 26 October 2026.

Meanwhile, the Chief Engineer has informed that the Shutdown for 33 kV Habbak Hazratbal line scheduled for 25 October stands cancelled.

Furthermore, the Chief Engineer has informed that the Shutdown of 132/33 KV Grid Station Pampore (132 & 33 KV Switchyard), 132 KV ICT Circuit-I & II, 175 MVA, 132/33 KV GSS Awantipora (132 & 33 KV Switchyard), 132 KV Pampore-Awantipora (Ckt-I&II), 75 MVA, 132/ 33 KV Grid Station Lassipora (132 KV Yard, 33 KV Yard and Transformer Yard), 33 KV Awantipora Tral-1st line, 33 KV Awantipora Tral-II line, 33 KV Awantipora-Awantipora line, 33 KV Balhama and Old TCI Tapline of Khanmoh-SIDCO-I line, 33 kV Pampore BK Pora line, 33 kV Khanda Tapline and 33 kV Pampore Wagora line scheduled for 24 October 2026 has been rescheduled to 27 October 2026 from 09 am to 03 pm

Location-mapped, data-backed accident records key to pinpointing causes, remedies: DC Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Minga Sherpa today said that location-mapped and data-backed records of road accidents must be maintained so that pinpoint remedies can be found and implemented and accident hotspots effectively identified for remedial action.

The Deputy Commissioner was speaking at a meeting convened to review the implementation of the Electronic Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) project and the PM RAHAT Scheme in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner was briefed on the eDAR framework, which brings all stakeholder departments onto a single digital platform for reporting and settlement of road



accident cases. A year-wise detailed breakdown of road accident data in the district was also shared with him.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure timely uploading of data on the eDAR portal and stressed a coordinated approach to reduce road accidents and save precious lives.

While reviewing the PM RAHAT Scheme, which provides cashless treat-

ment to road accident victims, the Deputy Commissioner underlined that Jammu, being a hub of tertiary treatment, receives a large share of accident cases and the coverage of victims under the scheme should be commensurate with this case load.

The process of TMS ID generation was also reviewed. The DC directed the Police and Health

Departments to work in close coordination so that no eligible victim is denied the benefit of the scheme.

The meeting was attended by District Informatics Officer (Director IT) Sanjeev Kapoor, Regional Transport Officer Jasmeet Singh, District Health Officer Dr Sophia Jan, besides officers from the Police Department and others concerned.

MSME-DFO Jammu organises entrepreneurship awareness programme at Government Polytechnic College, Udhampur

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: The MSME-Development and Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO), Jammu, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, organised an Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme on Self-Employment Opportu-

nities at Government Polytechnic College, Udhampur. The programme sought to sensitise aspiring entrepreneurs and students to avenues for entrepreneurship, government support schemes and financial assistance available for setting up micro and small enterprises, and to familiarise them with the institutional support available for starting and managing a business.

MSME-DFO Jammu Assistant Director Rajesh Kumar delivered the welcome address and briefed participants on the objectives of the programme. He spoke on the role of entrepreneurship and self-employment in generating livelihoods, promoting local enterprise and contributing to economic growth.

Jagdeep Singh of the District Industries Centre (DIC), Udhampur, spoke about the schemes of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Prime

Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), and explained how these initiatives help aspiring entrepreneurs set up new enterprises.

JKEDI Udhampur District Nodal Officer Mr Yash Pal outlined the role of the J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in promoting entrepreneurship and supporting micro, small and medium enterprises. He said entrepreneurship development, capacity building and institutional guidance help aspiring entrepreneurs convert business ideas into viable ventures.

Lead District Manager Udhampur Mr Bansil Lal briefed participants on financial assistance and credit facilities provided by banks and encouraged them to approach banks with viable business proposals.

RSETI Udhampur Director Amit Kumar discussed the role of the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) in providing skill development training, post-training support, handholding and motivation to aspiring entrepreneurs. He said appropriate skills, practical training and continued guidance are essential for sustainable self-employment ventures.

DC Reasi reviews winter preparedness, directs departments to ensure uninterrupted essential services

GMK NEWS NETWORK

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting to review winter preparedness, focussing on snow clearance, road connectivity, power and water supply, essential commodities and healthcare and emergency services.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Sushil Kesar, Assistant Commissioner (Development) Mukesh Sharma, Additional Superintendent of Police Iftekhar Ahmed, the Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers and other officers concerned.

The DC directed all departments concerned to keep manpower, machinery and emergency response teams ready and complete preparatory measures well in advance, particularly in snow-bound, remote and vulnerable areas.

He directed the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Public Works Department (PWD) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to formulate snow-clearance plans and deploy manpower and machinery at vulnerable, snow-bound and landslide-prone locations to restore roads promptly during snowfall and other weather-related disruptions.

The Jal Shakti Department was directed to protect water supply lines

from freezing, maintain stocks of repair materials and ensure safe drinking water throughout the winter; JPDCL to maintain stocks of transformers, electric poles and other repair materials and keep restoration teams on standby; and the Health Department to ensure the availability of doctors, paramedical staff, ambulances, essential medicines and emergency response arrangements, including timely evacuation of pregnant women and other vulnerable patients in the event of heavy snowfall or medical emergencies.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the establishment of 24x7 control rooms at the district and sub-divisional levels for prompt redressal of public grievances and coordination during emergencies. Sub-Divisional Magistrates were asked to coordinate with line departments, identify gaps in preparedness and take corrective measures without delay.

Telecom operators were directed to keep communication networks functional, particularly in remote and vulnerable areas, and restore services promptly in case of disruption. The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department was directed to ensure advance stocking and timely distribution of ration, LPG cylinders and petroleum products in remote areas likely to be cut off during snowfall.

Jammu & Kashmir among Top Three in North India for Contribution under Mission Karmayogi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has been adjudged among the top three States and Union Territories in North India for its contribution under Mission Karmayogi at the Regional Workshop of the Sadhana Series held in Lucknow.

Rehana Batool, Director General, Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD), received the Certificate

of Appreciation and a Memento.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh congratulated Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir IMPARD for being adjudged among the top three in North India for their contribution under Mission Karmayogi for capacity building. He also appreciated the efforts of government departments and States/Union Territories in strengthening a citizen-centric and future-ready civil service.

Mission Karmayogi, the

National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building, aims to transform public service delivery by enhancing the competencies of government officials through continuous learning, role-based training and a focus on improved governance outcomes.

The Sadhana Series workshops provide a platform for States and Union Territories to deliberate on strengthening Training Institutions, improving institutional governance, promot-

ing collaboration and leveraging digital platforms such as IGOT Karmayogi and UNNATI to build a connected and future-ready capacity-building ecosystem.

The initiative emphasises the need for Training Institutions to evolve into centres of excellence through improved training delivery, faculty development, resource sharing and the adoption of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, with appropriate safeguards and human oversight.



DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS SRINAGAR

Shergarhi, Opposite Iqbal Park Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir 190009
Email: dposrinagar@jkpolice.gov.in | Tele: 2311324 Fax: 2311322

Head Constable Imtiyaz Haneif Khan
Belt No. 1940/S PID No. EXK982130
S/O Shri Mohd Hanief Khan
R/o Ahtishampora Boniyar District Baramulla

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Whereas, you Head Constable Imtiyaz Hanief Khan No. 1940/S PIP No. EXK982130 were relieved from Police Station Shalteng on 14-07-2026 with the directions to report at DPL Srinagar for further duties. However, instead of reporting at DPL Srinagar, you left without authorization and have remained absent from duty. Accordingly, your unauthorized absence has been diarized in the daily diary of DPL Srinagar vide report No. 107 dated 22-09-2026 w.e.f 14-07-2026 i.e the date on which you were relieved from Police Station Shalteng, Srinagar

In view of your continued absence from duty, you were informed/directed through your native Police Station (P/S Boniyar) to report back for duty vide the following DPO Signals:

- Estt/CRC-III/2026/42275 dated 26-09-2026.
- Estt/CRC-III/2026/43678 dated 03-10-2026.

However, despite having 'been duly informed and directed to resume duty, you have failed to comply with the directions and have continued to remain absent from duty.

Whereas, a notice issued vide this office endstt. No. Estt/CRC-III/2026/44848-50 dated 08-10-2026 was served upon you through DYSP DAR Srinagar and SHO P/S Boniyar, where under you were directed to resume-your-duties-within a -period of seven days from the date of receipt of the notice but you have turned deaf ears and did not bother to resume your duty.

Whereas, perusal of your service records reveals that you have been previously inflicted 02 Major and 03 Minor punishments besides 387 days were treated as Diesnon from time to time. Your repeated absence from duty and previous acts of indiscipline indicated your failure to maintain the standard of conduct and discipline expected from a member of the Police Organization.

Whereas, your continued unauthorized absence from duty amounts to serious misconduct in terms of the applicable service rules, including Article 128, and renders you liable to appropriate disciplinary action under the rules.

Therefore I, Dr. G.V. Sundee Chakravarth-IPS, Sr. Superintendent of Police District Srinagar call upon you Head Constable Imtiyaz Hanief Khan No. 1940/S PID No. EXK982130 S/O Shri Mohd Hanief Khan R/O Ahishampora Boniyar District Baramulla to Show Cause as to why you should not be removed from service. Your reply should reach this office within a -period of seven days from the date of issuance of this Show Cause Notice, failing which it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defense and action as warranted under rules shall be taken accordingly.

No: Estt/CRC-III/2026/46949-51
Dated: 16.10.2026

DIPK-7013-26
DT: 23/10/2026

Senior Superintendent of Police,
District Srinagar



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG HQ AWANTIPORA

Gist of e-NIT No. 32 of 2026-27. dated: 23-10-2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Anantnag H/Q Awantipora, invites e-tenders on percentage rate basis from established and accredited Original Pump Manufacturers (OPM's) or their Authorized dealers or reputed firms or Joint Venture Consortiums having relevant Experience and other requisite pre-qualification criteria for the advertised work. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' consisting of Tender fee. Earnest Money Deposit, Prequalification criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particulars of the work	Tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost "Rs" in Lacs	EMD Amount (In Rs.)	50 % Exemption Allowed for SSI/MSME	Completion Period
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of intake/ supply channel, Sump/Pump House delivery tank anchor/ saddle blocks for rising main including installation, testing and commissioning of electromechanical components (LIS Adijin).	2500.00	206.16 (Civil works=74.36Lacs, Electro-mechanical works=131.80 Lacs)	Rs. 412338	No	12 months

The critical dates are as tabulated below:

i	Publish Date	23.10.2026 4:00 PM
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	23.10.2026 5:00 PM
iii	Clarification start date	23.10.2026 5:00 PM
iv	Bid submission start date	23.10.2026 5:00 PM
v	Clarification end date	29.10.2026 3:00 PM
vi	Pre bid meeting date	29.10.2026 11:00 AM
vii	Document Download/sale end date	13.11.2026 10:00 AM
viii	Bid submission end date	13.11.2026 11:00AM
ix	Date and time of Bid opening	14.11.2026 3:00 PM

Position of funds	Budgetary Provisions
Position of AAA	Accorded under Order No. SE/HYD/SPN/DB/56 of 09.2026-27 Dated 22.09.2026.
Position of Technical sanction	Sanctioned vide No. 22-DB of 2026-27, dated:15.10.2025

No. MI DA/3087-98
Date:23.10.2026
DIPK-7033-26
DT: 23/10/2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division,
Anantnag

70th National School Games

Aekita Kapoor Clinches Gold in Taekwondo

GMK SPORTS DESK

GANDERBAL: The 70th National School Games (NSG) Taekwondo Championship 2026 continued with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit on its second day at the Government College of Physical Education, Ganderbal, witnessing a total of 209 fights involving 199 players across different boys' and girls' weight categories.

The second day featured intense competition in several weight categories. In the boys' section, 30 fights were held in the -35 kg category and 35 fights in the -51 kg category. In the girls' section, 30 fights took place in the -35 kg category, 36 in the -46 kg category, 32 in the -59 kg category, and 30 in the -68 kg category.

The highlight of the day was the remarkable performance of Jammu and Kashmir's Aekita Kapoor, who clinched the gold medal in the girls' -68 kg category by defeating Chandigarh's Genesis James in the final bout.



Her victory brought another gold medal to Jammu and Kashmir, further strengthening the Union Territory's medal tally.

In another notable achievement for Jammu and Kashmir, Mantha Mohiuddin secured a silver medal in the -44 kg category, adding to the host UT's medal count.

In the boys' -51 kg category, Gujarat's Manesh Bhai emerged victorious, defeating Jharkhand's Sangram Raj in the final to claim the gold medal, while Sangram Raj secured the silver medal.

The 70th National School Games Taekwondo Championship is being hosted by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, Jammu & Kashmir, under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India (SGFI). The championship continues to provide young athletes from across the country with a platform to showcase their talent, determination and sportsmanship at the national level.

Cheque Bounce Case

Srinagar Court Sentences Man to One Year Jail

Senior Advocate Bashir Sidiq appeared for petitioners

GMK CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR: A court in Srinagar has sentenced a man to one year of simple imprisonment in a ₹46.50 lakh cheque bounce case and directed him to pay a fine equivalent to twice the cheque amount as compensation to the complainant. Senior lawyer Bashir Sidiq appeared for the petitioners in the case.

As per the judgment, the accused was convicted for an offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, which deals with cheque dishonour. The court directed that he serve his sentence at Central Jail Srinagar.



trai Jail Srinagar.

The accused was absent when the judgment was pronounced. Taking note of his absence, the court ordered the issuance of a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against him. It further directed that the judgment be communi-

cated to him once he is brought before the court. The matter has been listed for October 24, 2026.

According to the complaint, the complainant and the accused had been involved in the sale and purchase of land and properties for several years. Their business dealings had led to a relationship of trust between them.

The complainant alleged that after the accounts were settled, ₹46.50 lakh became payable by the accused. To clear the outstanding amount, the accused issued a cheque dated May 1, 2021, bearing No. 563644 and drawn on

J&K Bank's Brein Nishat branch in Srinagar.

However, when the cheque was presented for encashment, it was returned unpaid on July 28, 2021, with the bank citing the reason "Payment Stopped by Drawer". Following the dishonour, the complainant issued a legal demand notice on August 24, 2021, asking the accused to pay the amount within the stipulated 15-day period.

The complaint stated that despite receiving the notice, the accused failed to make the payment. The complainant maintained that the cheque had been issued against a legally enforceable liability, lead-

ing to the proceedings under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The court record also notes that the delay in filing the complaint had been condoned through an order dated March 9, 2022. After adjudicating the case, the court sentenced the accused to one year of simple imprisonment and imposed a fine equivalent to double the cheque amount, directing that the amount be paid as compensation to the complainant.

With the accused absent at the time of the judgment, the court ordered a non-bailable warrant and fixed October 24, 2026, as the next date in the matter.

Golf: Amateur Arin Ahuja wins final round of PGTI Qualifying School

IAN S

AHMEDABAD: The 22-year-old Indian amateur Arin Ahuja won the PGTI Qualifying School 2026-27 by a one-shot margin after returning a gritty even-par 72 in the fourth and final round of the Final Qualifying Stage played at the Kensville Golf & Country Club in Ahmedabad on Friday.

Noida-based Arin (70-73-70-72), appearing at the PGTI Qualifying School for the first time, totalled three-

under 285 for the week. India's Vedant Sirohi (71-71-73-71) and Bangladesh's Md Siddikur Rahman (69-73-71-73) finished joint runners-up at a total of two-under 286. The cut in the final round went at 15-over 203, with the top 48 players earning their full cards for the 2026-27 PGTI season. The top 48 players included four amateurs. There were also five foreigners (four Bangladeshis and one Sri Lankan) among the 48 players who earned their full cards.

Arin Ahuja, a winner of one title at

the junior level and ranked India No. 2 on the amateur circuit in 2024, fought back brilliantly after early troubles in round four.

Arin, who was overnight tied second, one shot off the lead, struggled with his irons early on day four, missing a few greens and dropping three bogeys on the first five holes. Ahuja, son of an Army Officer, kept himself in the hunt, with some crucial par saves from 10 to 15 feet on the seventh and eighth as his putting began to click.

JKAACL Under Fire Over Alleged Neglect of Kashmiri Artists

No go ahead to annual SHASHRANG despite reported LG's recommendation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) has come under scrutiny amid allegations that Kashmiri artists and cultural initiatives have faced neglect for over two years.

At the centre of the controversy is SHASHRANG, a prominent music festival in Jammu and Kashmir, which was reportedly denied support despite a recommendation from the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.

The development has raised questions about the criteria governing the Academy's support for cultural events and whether decisions are being taken transparently and fairly.

Those raising concerns have urged the Academy to clarify the reasons for withholding support to the festival and explain whether established criteria were followed. Allegations that artists critical of official decisions may



face unfair treatment have also prompted calls for an impartial review.

Artists play a vital role in preserving Kashmir's language, music, folklore and cultural identity. Cultural institutions, therefore, have a responsibility to ensure that support is guided by artistic merit and cultural significance rather than personal differences.

The administration has been urged to review the matter, ensure transparent procedures for cultural

patronage and establish an effective grievance-redressal mechanism for artists.

The Academy's response to the allegations would help clarify the circumstances surrounding the decision.

The controversy has renewed calls for greater accountability in cultural institutions, with artists and cultural initiatives seeking fair treatment and meaningful support for preserving Jammu and Kashmir's rich heritage.

'Special jersey for a special bowler': Arshdeep Singh honoured on 100th T20I appearance

IAN S

CHRISTCHURCH: Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh was presented a special jersey to mark his 100th T20I appearance for India, with captain Shreyas Iyer hailing the left-arm's hard work and dedication at a dressing-room ceremony after the team's four-wicket win over New Zealand in the series opener.

Arshdeep reached the milestone in the match held at the Hagley Oval, which India won by chasing 226 with two balls to spare. The celebrations were captured in a video posted by the BCCI on its social media accounts on Friday, with head coach Gautam Gambhir opening proceedings. "The first thing is, Arshdeep is playing his 100th T20I," he said.

Iyer then handed over the commemorative jersey to Arshdeep in the dressing room. "Special jersey for a special bowler who has completed 100 games in T20 Internationals – Arshdeep Singh. Another feather in your cap.

"We know that your hard work, dedication and all the brilliance that



you've shown off the field is the result of this jersey. So I hope that you keep continuing with this sort of mindset and your 100th game has finished in a victory. So many more to come," he said.

Arshdeep thanked his teammates and support staff for standing by him through the good days and the bad. "Thank you very much. Thank you so much everyone for supporting. Thank you for supporting and backing me always. No matter if it's a tough day or a good day or a bad day,

you have always supported me all.

"Keep supporting me and keep making sure the environment is nice in this room. We'll make sure we keep winning and even back home, keep supporting us. Thank you," he added.

Arshdeep finished with figures of 1-45 in a run-fest, but he had a notable contribution in the field. Showing a footballer's touch, he kicked the ball to run out New Zealand's Bevon Jacobs, who had raced to 31 off 16 balls and was looking dangerous.

India's record chase was built on a 93-run opening stand inside the powerplay between Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma, with the former top-scoring with a 33-ball 67. Iyer chipped in with 42 off 28 balls before Naman Dhir finished the chase with an unbeaten 42 off 15 deliveries.

The second T20I will also be played at Hagley Oval on Saturday, before the teams travel to Wellington, Auckland and Hamilton for the remaining three matches of the five-game series on October 27, October 30 and November 1 respectively.

DC Kulgam felicitates U-14 UT-level cricket champions

GMK SPORTS DESK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Friday felicitated U/14 Boys' Cricket Team Kulgam, for their remarkable achievement in winning the UT-level cricket championship held at Kishtwar, where teams from all 20 districts of the Union Territory of Jammu



and Kashmir participated.

The victory is a matter of immense pride and honour for the entire District Kulgam, as the young cricketers emerged champions at the UT level through their dedication, teamwork and outstanding sporting performance.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the young players for their remarkable success and appreciated the dedicated efforts of the Department of Youth Services and Sports in nurturing sporting talent and promoting a strong sports culture among the youth.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Kulgam, team coach and

officials from the DYSSO Office were also present on the occasion.

The felicitation served as a source of motivation for the young champions and an encouragement for aspiring sportspersons across the district to pursue excellence in sports and bring further laurels to District Kulgam.

Rohit, Kohli should be supported to play for India in 2027 WC: Pamment

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli should be fully supported to feature in the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup, as the two greats have earned the right to decide when to call time on their illustrious playing careers, said former New Zealand assistant coach James Pamment.

Pamment spent eight years with the Mumbai Indians as a fielding coach, where Rohit led the side to IPL 2019 and 2020 wins. "Well, I think with all top players, when the time is coming towards the end of the career, it's a conversation that is always had with them. Those guys have earned the right to make the decision on when they do want to move away.

"If they have decided that the ODI World Cup in South Africa is a pinnacle event that they want to be at, then they should be supported to be there. Then it becomes about performance and contribution to the group. Now, I've never worked closely with Virat.

"I've watched him, obviously, very closely when I've been with the New Zealand team or with Mumbai Indians. I've watched him and to me, he's just the ultimate pro-



fessional. So he's the sort of guy that I would want in my environment the whole time because he's the ultimate professional," Pamment told IANS in an exclusive interaction.

Since Rohit was removed as the captain despite leading India to the 2025 Champions Trophy title, every bilateral ODI series has turned into a verdict on the futures of the two batting veterans.

India last won an ODI series in New Zealand in 2018/19 and curiosity will again be on a high on whether Rohit and Kohli help India win the five-game series starting on Novem-

ber 4, especially when bilateral series wins have been hard to come and the Test team-bound players will be unavailable for the last two games.

"Rohit, I know obviously very well. He was captain at Mumbai when I was there for eight years. Once again, just the sort of guy that you want around the group. As long as their performances are warranting their selection and their contributions to the group, sharing their experiences and knowledge, I would love to have them in my group for sure.

"But as soon as that starts to wane a little bit, they'll

know more than anybody else. If the passion starts to wane and it becomes a drag to be travelling, training and playing, that's the time when you step aside.

"I hope that these guys make it all the way through to South Africa and can finish their careers in fine styles because both are incredible servants for the game, obviously for the BCCI and for Indian cricket and Indian fans. Amazing to have these guys playing for so long, but for world cricket as well. I don't think you find too many people who just don't hold them in the highest of regards," added Pamment.

He also felt the series would double up as an ideal platform for ODI World Cup preparation, with conditions closely resembling those in South Africa, and predicted packed stands for what could be the pair's farewell appearances in the country.

"I think so because the New Zealand conditions will be very similar to the conditions that the teams will get in South Africa, especially down on the coastal grounds. Grounds like Durban, Port Elizabeth (now Gqeberha) and Newlands will be very similar to the New Zealand conditions that they experience here for these five ODIs.

INOX

LIVE the MOVIE

SRINAGAR

MOVIES

SCHEDULE

24 OCTOBER 2026

SATURDAY

DRISHYAM: THE CONCLUSION

(HINDI) (UA 16+)

12:05 PM

06:15 PM

PEHLA PYAAR DOOSRI BAAR

(HINDI) (A)

11:05 AM

04:30 PM

UDTA TEER

(HINDI) (UA 13+)

10:45 AM

01:35 PM

03:15 PM

04:25 PM

07:15 PM

CLAYFACE

(ENG WITH ENG SUBTITLE) (A)

02:05 PM

07:30 PM

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