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17th Year Of Publication

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Rajnath Singh
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India's pursuit of Self-Reliance is an opportunity to build stronger global partnerships. By moving beyond buyer-seller relationships towards co-development, co-production and shared innovation, we aim to make India a global hub for defence manufacturing and technology.

NC Hits Back

Ruhullah Quits LS Seat, NC

Madhav Says His Rally Has 'Blessings Of Our People'



NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: In a major setback to the National Conference, Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday announced his exit from the party and said he was relinquishing his parliamentary position, while calling for a new political movement centred on dignity, principles and the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a large gathering at Behisht-e-Zehra Park in Budgam, Ruhullah, made the announcement at 2:40 pm, coinciding with the martyrdom anniversary of his father, Aga Syed Mehdi.

During his speech, Ruhullah asked Muhammad Ashraf Mattoo, father of 2010 protest victim Tufail Mattoo, to hand over his resignation to NC president Farooq Abdullah.

"Till now I was with the National Conference. Right now, I have got freedom from this National Conference and as an MP," Ruhullah said, announcing his departure from the party and decision to step down from Parliament.

Launching a direct attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Ruhullah accused him of compromising on promises made to the people before the elections.

"I hope I never become so power-dependent that I have to sacrifice my • P-06

India Calls For Dialogue To End West Asia Conflict

Expresses Concern For One Crore Nationals In Gulf

IANS

NEW DELHI: Reiterating its call for an end to hostilities in West Asia to facilitate a return to normalcy, India on Tuesday said that the ongoing conflict has taken a heavy toll in terms of casualties, disrupted lives and affected global economic flows.

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the conflict had adversely affected the movement of food, fuel, fertilisers and financial flows worldwide.

He stated that India continues to advocate dialogue and diplomacy among the parties to restore peace and stability in the region.

"On the developments in West Asia, we have been keeping a close watch on the situation and following developments in the region. We continue to call for dialogue and diplomacy among the parties so that peace and stability can return to the region.



The conflict has, as you know, already taken a very heavy toll in terms of casualties and has been disrupting people's lives, not just in the region, but across the world. It has had a debilitating impact on global food, fuel, fertilizer and financial flows, and we urge cessation of hostilities so that normalcy can be restored in the region," said Jasiwal.

On the safety of Indian nationals in the region, the MEA spokesperson on Tuesday further said New Delhi remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of the Indian diaspora and seafarers in West Asia and beyond.

Jaiswal stated that Indian missions across the region remain in close contact with the Indian community, issuing advisories and extending assistance whenever required.

"As far as the Indian community is concerned, our embassies in all the countries there are in close touch with them. They have also issued several advisories, and we continue to help them and give them a helping hand as and when required," the MEA spokesperson said.

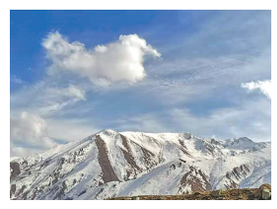
He also highlighted the Indian Navy's anti-piracy operation to rescue crew members aboard a commercial vessel operating in the Arabian Sea.

"As far as the safety and security of our ships and commercial vessels are concerned, yesterday also, you would have seen that our Indian Navy took anti-piracy action and saved crew members aboard a commercial vessel plying in the area. We continue to keep a close watch on developments there. On our side, we remain committed to ensuring the safety and security of our diaspora, as well as our seafarers, in the region and elsewhere," Jaiswal added.

The Indian Navy rescued all 20 Iranian crew members of the pirated fishing vessel Azini in a meticulously coordinated 48-hour operation, more than 3,000 km from Mumbai, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said.

The operation was • P-06

Light Rain, Snowfall Likely In J&K From Nov 5: MeT



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness light rainfall in parts of the region and snowfall over higher reaches around November 5, as a weak Western Disturbance is expected to affect the region, Meteorological Department Director Mukhtar Ahmad said on Tuesday.

Ahmad said that the weather system may cause light precipitation at isolated places, while most areas are expected to experience dry weather thereafter until November 9.

He said another Western Disturbance is likely to influence the region on November 10 and 11, with the possibility of light rain in some districts of Kashmir and Jammu divisions and light snowfall over higher-altitude areas.

Isolated thundershowers are also possible during the period, he said, adding that no major weather activity was anticipated under the prevailing forecast.

Meanwhile, temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir are gradually declining, with • P-06

23 Indian Nationals Have Died In West Asia Conflict: MEA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: As many as 23 Indian nationals, including 15 Indian seafarers, have lost their lives in the ongoing conflict in West Asia while five Indian nationals died in attacks on commercial shipping in the Black Sea region, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Tuesday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that one Indian national died after a ship which carried 14 Indian crew members came under attack on Monday. He thanked Omani authorities for rescuing 13 Indian nationals when the ship was attacked on November 2. • P-06

CM Inspects Construction Of New LA Complex In Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday inspected the ongoing construction of the New Legislative Assembly Complex in Jammu and reviewed the progress of the prestigious project, stressing the need for its timely • P-06

Battlefield Now Extends To Space And Cyberspace, Says Rajnath Singh

IANS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday noted that modern warfare has undergone a "fundamental transformation" with the battlefield now extending to "space and cyberspace".

Addressing the 'Delhi Defence Dialogue 2026', Rajnath Singh also stressed the need for reforms in the defence sector, saying: "Reforms represent our willingness to change. 'Atmanirbharata' (self-reliance) represents our determination to create. Collaborations represent our confidence to partner with the world, and exports represent our readiness to compete with the world."

While cautioning that self-reliance without reform may not deliver its full potential, he said: "Self-reliance without collaboration may limit our technological



horizons, and self-reliance without exports may not achieve the scale and competitiveness that a modern defence industry requires. Together, these four elements define the transformation we seek in India's defence ecosystem."

Rajnath Singh noted that recent conflicts across the world have demonstrated that the character of warfare is undergoing a "fundamental transformation".

"The battlefield is no longer confined to land, sea or air. It extends into space, cyberspace and the digital domain. The distinction between conventional and unconventional warfare is being increasingly blurred," he noted.

He further noted that the world is also witnessing a transformation in the economics of warfare.

"Relatively expensive drones and autonomous systems can challenge sophisticated and costly military platforms. The ability to innovate rapidly, manufacture at scale, and replenish capabilities has become as important as possessing advanced weapon systems," he said while emphasising that these developments underline an important reality. • P-06

Terror Funding Case

Er Rashid Influenced Witnesses; Doesn't Deserve Bail: NIA To Delhi HC

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency on Tuesday opposed a plea by Baramulla MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh alias Engineer Rashid in the Delhi High Court for bail in a terror funding case, alleging that he has influenced some of the prosecution witnesses.

The probe agency contended that two of the prosecution witnesses, who are also protected witnesses, have turned hostile.

The submissions were made before a bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Vikas Mahajan, which reserved its order on the bail plea.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing the National Investigation Agency (NIA), said the testimony of the witnesses, examined so far, would show that three particular witnesses have been influenced by Rashid.

He contended that at least two protected witnesses have turned hostile.

Luthra submitted that Rashid has given specific speeches against India and has been • P-06

Terror Funding Case

ED Conducts Searches At Four Srinagar Locations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at four premises in Srinagar city in connection with an ongoing investigation into alleged terror financing, officials said.

An official said that the investigation pertains to allegations that Umar Adil Dar was functioning as an Over Ground Worker (OGW) of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and was involved in activities linked to the outfit.

He said Dar, along with his associates, was earlier apprehended while allegedly carrying a substantial amount of cash and incriminating literature related to the banned organisation.

The official further said that Dar had previously remained in jail for around four years in connection with his alleged involvement in separatist and anti-India activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The searches, the official said, are aimed at tracing alleged proceeds of crime, identifying financial networks and funding channels, examining suspected links with handlers • P-06

Farmers Switch From Paddy To High-Density Apples For Better Returns

Paddy Cultivation Shrinks From 90 To 15% In Many Villages As Orchards Expand

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's traditional agricultural landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, with an increasing number of farmers abandoning paddy cultivation in favour of high-density apple orchards, driven by better returns, early fruit production and changing market preferences.

The shift is particularly visible in low-lying areas of Kashmir, where vast stretches of land once dominated by paddy are gradually being converted into apple orchards.

In several villages of Pulwama district, including Niloora and Nowpora in the Shahoora area of Litter Tehsil, farmers said the proportion of land under paddy cultivation has declined dramatically. According to local estimates, paddy cultivation, which once covered nearly 95 per cent of the agricultural land in these villages, has now been reduced to approximately 10 to 15 per cent in just a few years.



Growers said that the trend is largely influenced by the comparatively higher economic returns from high-density apple varieties, which begin producing fruit within a short period and allow farmers to recover their investment earlier than traditional plantations.

"Earlier, almost every household in our village was associated with paddy cultivation. The fields would remain covered with paddy crops during the summer and autumn. However, things have changed considerably. Today, only a small portion of the land is being used for paddy, while the remaining area has been converted into apple orchards," a grower from Niloora said.

Another farmer from Nowpora said the transformation was continuing at a rapid pace, with even • P-06

NC Facing Serious Internal Crisis: Ravinder Raina

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: BJP senior leader Ravinder Raina on Tuesday said Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's resignation as Srinagar MP was an internal matter of the National Conference (NC), but maintained that the developments within the ruling party had emerged as a serious challenge for its leadership.

Speaking to reporters, Raina said the issue had no connection with the BJP but described Ruhullah as a prominent and outspoken political leader with considerable political experience.

He noted that Ruhullah had been elected as an MLA three times, served as a minister and was currently a Member of Parliament.

Raina said the National Conference was facing serious internal difficulties, posing a challenge to party president Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.Follow Politics

Referring to the reported meetings of 25 NC legislators separately from the party leadership, he said • P-06

'J&K Hydro Power Generation Drops By Nearly 80%'



RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: With the onset of winters, Hydro power generation in Jammu and Kashmir declines by nearly 80 percent—thus raising a question on supply to consumers during the peak winter season.

An official informed that the hydel power generation from the J&K owned projects was fluctuating between 250-280 Megawatt (MW).

"During the past week, the average power generation from the local generation projects was fluctuating from 250-280 or 270-300 MW," the official said.

The official further said that the power generation usually declines in winters owing to the low water levels.

However, the official said that the Ministry of Power (MoP) is allocating some electricity from the central pool for J&K every year.

"Furthermore, from December-01 till February-2027, we are getting more 330 MW from the central pool that will compensate for the power demand to some extent during the peak season," the official said.

Earlier this news agency reported that Kashmir is reeling under power deficiency of • P-06+

Commissioner SMC orders intensified crackdown on Illegal Encroachments

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, has ordered an intensified enforcement drive against illegal encroachments, unauthorised constructions and violations of municipal regulations across Srinagar, making it clear that officials who fail to act against such violations will also be held accountable.

The directions were issued during a comprehensive review meeting of the Enforcement Wing, chaired by the Commissioner today, to assess enforcement activities and take stock of action against violations across the city.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, Administration, Zone East & South and Joint Commissioner, Revenue, Zone West & North, Assistant Legal Remembrancer, Chief Enforcement Officer, Zonal Enforcement Officers and all Ward Officers.

Taking stock of the enforcement measures undertaken so far, the Commissioner called for stepped-up field inspections and closer supervision to ensure that illegal encroachments, unauthorised constructions and violations of building permissions are dealt with promptly. He directed officers to act decisively on violations and ensure that complaints are not left unattended.

The Commissioner also directed the concerned Joint Commissioners to undertake a comprehensive verification of all ongoing and newly raised constructions within their respective jurisdictions to ascertain whether these conform to approved building permissions and municipal regulations. A definite timeline has been prescribed for completing the exercise, with the concerned officers directed to ensure thorough verification and submit compliance within the stipulated period.

Commissioner also directed for constitution of Enforcement cells under Joint Commissioners and formation of Flying Squads for quick response and verification of field reports. It was directed to develop an online platform for public to report grievances and violations.

The Commissioner made it clear that public spaces cannot be allowed to fall prey to encroachments and that no one would be permitted to undertake construction in violation of approved permissions. Enforcement, he stressed, must be uniform and impartial, irrespective of the individual or interests involved.

The Commissioner also took a firm view of accountability within the Enforcement Wing, directing supervisory officers to ensure that their respective jurisdictions remain under constant watch. He cautioned that any instance of negligence, dereliction of duty or deliberate failure to initiate action against violations would invite strict disciplinary action.

In a significant accountability measure, the Commissioner ordered withholding of the salaries of three Zonal Enforcement Officers over lapses in the discharge of their assigned responsibilities. The action underscores the Corporation's firm stance that supervisory and field-level officials will be held directly accountable for enforcement failures and any negligence in preventing or acting against illegal encroachments and unauthorised constructions.

Stressing the need to move beyond routine inspections, he called for sustained field-level enforcement, effective coordination among zonal and ward-level functionaries and visible action against violations on the ground.

DC Anantnag reviews functioning of Addiction Treatment Facility at GMC

GMK NEWS NETWORK



ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Tuesday visited the In-Patient Department (IPD) of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, to review the healthcare facilities and services being provided to patients.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the infrastructure, availability of essential medical facilities, deployment of doctors and specialists, patient flow, treatment procedures and overall functioning of the facility.

He also enquired about treatment outcomes and the measures in place to ensure effective and quality healthcare services.

It was informed that the 10-bedded ATF ward is functioning with requisite medical facilities to provide dedicated treatment and care to patients. Specialists have also been made available to ensure proper medical attention, diagnosis and treatment.

The DC stressed the importance of ensuring accessible, quality and patient-centric healthcare services. He emphasised that adequate medical staff, essential facilities and proper patient care mechanisms must be maintained for the effective functioning of the facility.

He assured that addiction treatment and rehabilitation services would be further strengthened, with a focus on timely medical intervention and providing a supportive environment for patients undergoing treatment.

The visit was aimed at assessing the ground-level functioning of the facility and ensuring that patients receive appropriate medical care and necessary healthcare support.

The DC was accompanied by ADDC Mahima madan, CPO Tawseef Ahmad, SE Hydraulic, Superintendent of GMC, Executive Engineer R&B , Field functioners of R&B and other staff of GMC.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Tuesday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Budgam SIDCO line will be observed due to which power supply to Ompora, SIDCO, Housing Colony, Railway Station Budgam, NIFT and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 10 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV GIS Theed-Shalimar & Cheshmashahi-Shalimar line will be observed due to which power supply to Deewan Colony, SKUAST, Arabal, Tailbal, Harwan and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 05 November 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Cheshmashahi-Shalimar & Chesmashahi-Brein-Nishat line will be observed due to which power supply to Brein, Tulip Garden, Pahloo, Kral Sangri, Taj Vivantaa, Nishat, Ishber, Handampora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 07 & 09 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Cheshmashahi-Centaur- Buchwara line will be observed due to which power supply to Nehru Park, Dalgate, Dal, Zabarvan Park and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 10 November 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 kV Cheshmashahi-O/H Double Circuit TRC, Centaur line will be observed due to which power supply to Zabarvan, Centaur Hotel, SKICC and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 11 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Khunmoh SIDCO-III line will be observed due to which power supply to Cement Plants viz Saifco, Khyber & TCI Max will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 15 November 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Pampore-Pampore line will be observed due to which power supply to Pampore, Khadermoh, Zewan, Tengan, Namblabal, Drangbal, Tulbagh, Railway Frestabal, ITBP, JKEDI and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 07 November 2026.

DDC Shopian reviews functioning of RDD&PR

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SHOPIAN: In a major push to accelerate grassroots2 development, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh Tuesday chaired a review meeting of the Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&P) institutions at the Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The session focused on evaluating the physical and financial progress of ongoing developmental schemes while prioritizing accountability, resource efficiency and the immediate clearance of pending liabilities.

The DDC conducted a detailed review of flagship programmes, including MGNREGA, PMAY-G, SBM-G, RGSA and PRI/UT Capex. Special emphasis was placed on social audits, convergence of schemes and ensuring that funds are utilized effectively for maximum ground-level impact.

The DDC urged officers to strengthen local governance, maintain transparency and work with dedication so that government scheme benefits reach deserving beneficiaries directly.

Directions were issued to officers to maintain close inter-departmental coordination, continuously monitor ongoing works and deliver visible developmental results across the district.

Emphasizing the vital role of rural development in transforming infrastructure, the DDC termed the Rural Development Department as the " Pillar and backbone" of the district's developmental landscape.

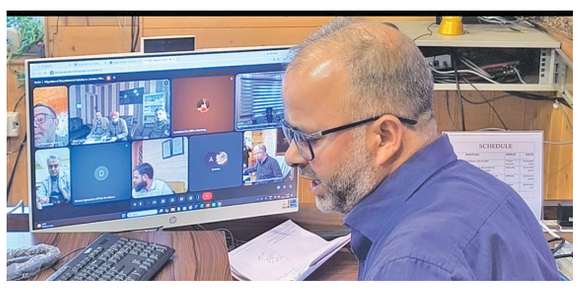
The DDC instructed officers and field staff to step up efforts and achieve 100% completion of all assigned developmental targets by November, 25, 2026.

Emphasizing that developmental achievements must be tangible, the DDC directed that Developmental work should be clearly visible on the ground.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mudasir Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Development, Muzaffar Ahmed, Exen REW, BDOs and other concerned.

Dir Agri reviews progress of Apiculture Sector

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Tuesday chaired a virtual meeting to review the progress of various activities and initiatives being implemented under the Apiculture sector.

The meeting focused on assessing the overall progress of apiculture-related activities, reviewing the status of ongoing initiatives and identifying measures to further strengthen and promote the beekeeping sector across Kashmir.

A key agenda item was the proposed migration of bee colonies from Kashmir to Jammu. Detailed deliberations were held on the arrangements and measures required to facilitate the smooth and timely migration of bee colonies, keeping in view seasonal requirements and the interests of the beekeeping community.

Various issues and challenges faced by beekeepers were also discussed, with particular emphasis on strengthening field-level coordination, providing timely technical guidance and ensuring effective implementation of departmental interventions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director, stressed the need for a coordinated and result-oriented approach towards strengthening the apiculture sector. He directed the concerned officers to work proactively, maintain close coordination with beekeepers and ensure that all necessary arrangements for the migration of bee colonies are made in a timely and systematic manner.

The Director reiterated the department's commitment to promoting scientific beekeeping practices, enhancing honey production and improving the economic prospects of the beekeeping community through sustained institutional support, technical guidance and effective field-level interventions.

The meeting was attended by Chief Agriculture Officers, Assistant Entomologist and concerned Apiculture Development Officers from across the Kashmir Division.

DC Pulwama flags off exposure visit for Children with Special Needs to IUST

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Tuesday flagged off a group of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) for a one-day exposure visit to the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, under the Inclusive Education component of Samagra Shiksha.



Prior to flagging off the group, the DC interacted with the children and encouraged them to actively engage in the educational and recreational activities planned for them. He emphasised the importance of inclusive education and providing equal opportunities to children with special needs to explore, learn and participate in various educational and social activities.

During the interaction, one of the children from the group requested for an electronic tablet, which was immediately provided by the DC on the spot.

The exposure visit is aimed at providing the children with opportunities beyond the classroom, broadening their learning experiences and providing them an opportunity to engage in and explore sports and recreational activities. Such initiatives also help promote confidence, social interaction and a sense of inclusion among children with special needs.

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 held at GDC Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK



KULGAM: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Kulgam, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, Tuesday organised the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 at Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam, with enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam; Principal GDC Kulgam, Prof. Mohd. Abbas Shah; Deputy Director, MY Bharat, Khushal Gupta, besides faculty members and students.

The programme featured deliberations by students on the theme "One Nation, One Election", providing young participants an opportunity to express their views, exchange ideas and engage in discussions on important democratic and governance-related issues.

Addressing the gathering, DC Kulgam appreciated the initiative, describing it as an important platform for young people to put forth their views and participate in meaningful discussions on issues of national importance. He highlighted that selected participants would get an opportunity to present their ideas and views at the Legislative Assembly level and subsequently before Parliament.

The DC emphasised that such initiatives provide positive direction to youth engagement and help nurture leadership qualities among young people. He encouraged students to remain informed about national issues and develop critical thinking, effective communication and teamwork skills, observing that the energy, ideas and commitment of youth are vital to nation-building and realising the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Deputy Director MY Bharat, highlighted the objectives of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 and stressed the importance of providing youth with platforms to express their views, engage in meaningful discussions and contribute to the country's developmental journey.

Principal GDC Kulgam underscored the role of educational institutions in enhancing students' awareness, confidence and leadership abilities while nurturing responsible citizens.

CIPMC Srinagar organizes "Khet Bachao Abhiyaan" at Bijbehara

GMK NEWS NETWORK



ANANTNAG: The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department, Anantnag, organized a "Khet Bachao Abhiyaan" at Zone Zirpara, Bijbehara, Anantnag, Tuesday.

During the programme, Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP), sensitized farmers about the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices for effective, safe and eco-friendly crop protection. He also demonstrated the functioning and use of the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) Mobile App to help farmers identify and monitor pest-related problems.

The farmers were educated about the importance of 100% seed treatment using Trichoderma to protect crops from soil-borne diseases. Practical demonstrations were also conducted on the use of sticky traps, delta traps and botanical pesticides such as Neem Oil for effective pest management. Special emphasis was laid on the conservation of beneficial insects and natural enemies of crop pests to maintain ecological balance.

Dr. Hakla also explained how farmers can identify genuine and quality pesticides by referring to the list of pesticides approved by the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC). He highlighted the importance of following recommended safety precautions while handling and applying pesticides to avoid harmful effects on human health and the environment.

The programme also included an interactive session in which farmers actively participated and raised various field-related issues and concerns. The resource persons addressed their queries through practical demonstrations and simple, easy-to-understand explanations.

The campaign aimed to promote scientific and sustainable pest management practices, discourage the use of spurious and unapproved pesticides, and encourage farmers to adopt safe, responsible and environmentally friendly methods of crop protection.

Mutation Camps organised at five locations in Villagam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, and the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner,(ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, mutation camps were organised Tuesday at five locations across Tehsil Villgam Handwara.



The camps were organised at Dahama, Woveripora, Paddergund, Sochalyari and Hangnikoot, under the supervision of Tehsildar Villagam, Dr. Kaisar Bashir Magray, for the disposal of pending inheritance mutations.

The camps were organised with the objective of expediting the settlement of pending inheritance mutation cases and ensuring timely updation of land records. The Tehsildar, along with the concerned revenue officials, facilitated the process and provided necessary assistance to the general public in resolving revenue-related issues.

The initiative reflects the commitment of the District Administration, towards ensuring transparent, efficient and time-bound delivery of revenue services at the grassroots level.

4th UTRC meeting of 2026 held at Mini Secretariat Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK



KULGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Kulgam, Aijaz Ahmed Khan, Tuesday convened the 4th Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting of 2026 at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Kulgam.

The meeting was held as per the approved schedule for conducting quarterly UTRC meetings for the year 2026 by the Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

The meeting was attended by Shahzad Alam, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Mir Sayeem Qayoom, Sub Judge/Secretary, DLSA Kulgam, Rafi Ahmad Mir, Chief Public Prosecutor, Dr. Shawkat Hussain, Chief Medical Officer, Mohammad Aftab Awan, Additional Superintendent of Police Kulgam, Mohd Arif Shah, Assistant Superintendent, District Jail Anantnag and other stakeholders.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the cases of under-trial prisoners lodged in different jails in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court of India and the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of NALSA. The data received from the concerned Jail Superintendents was thoroughly examined and analysed on various parameters, including age, gender and health/medical status of the inmates.

CM distributes appointment letters to 17 candidates in PWD (R&B) Deptt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday distributed appointment letters to 17 candidates appointed in the Public Works (Roads and Buildings) Department here at the Civil Secretariat.

The appointment letters were distributed in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Anil Kumar Singh, Director Finance, R&B, and other concerned officers.

The Chief Minister congratulated the newly appointed candidates and extended his best wishes for their future endeavours. He expressed hope that they would discharge their duties with dedication, sincerity and a strong sense of responsibility, contributing meaningfully to the functioning of the department and the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The appointees include eight Supervisors and eight Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) appointed under the RAS, while one candidate has been appointed under SRO-43.

J&K Tourism showcases its offerings at WTM London 2026

Indian Pavilion inaugurated by Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LONDON: Jammu and Kashmir Tourism is participating in the World Travel Market (WTM) London 2026, being held at ExCeL London from November 3 to 5, with two dedicated stalls showcasing the Union Territory's diverse tourism offerings and emerging opportunities.

The Indian Pavilion at WTM London was inaugurated by Union Minister of Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in the presence of Shri Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.



Jammu and Kashmir's participation at the prestigious international travel and tourism exhibition is aimed at showcasing its rich tourism potential, diverse destinations and unique visitor experiences to the global travel trade fraternity.

Several tourism stakeholders from Jammu and Kashmir are also participating in the event, providing an opportunity to engage with international tour operators, travel professionals and industry representatives, while exploring avenues for collaboration and expanding the region's presence in the global tourism market.

The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism stalls have been witnessing an encouraging response from visitors and industry stakeholders, reflecting sustained interest in the Union Territory as a tourism destination.

Through its participation in WTM London, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism seeks to strengthen its international outreach, promote its diverse tourism products and establish new partnerships to position the Union Territory more prominently on the global tourism map.

Director Colleges calls on Education Minister



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: With the Darbar Move marking reopening of the Civil Secretariat in the winter capital, Director Colleges, Professor Twinkle Sure, Tuesday called on Minister for Education, Shamim Firdous here.

The meeting provided an opportunity to deliberate on key developmental priorities and emerging challenges in the higher education sector, with emphasis on strengthening the academic ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, they discussed a range of issues concerning the development of government colleges, upgradation of educational infrastructure, enhancement of academic facilities and effective implementation of various developmental initiatives aimed at improving the quality of higher education.

Professor Twinkle Sure apprised the Minister of the progress of ongoing departmental initiatives. She highlighted important matters requiring focused attention and timely intervention to accelerate the growth and development of higher education institutions across the Union Territory.

The Minister underscored the importance of strengthening the higher education system. She reiterated the government's commitment to provide better academic infrastructure, improved institutional facilities and quality educational opportunities to the students.

Sagar emphasizes expeditious digitisation of land records

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Minister for Revenue, Power Development Department, Law, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Tuesday emphasised upon the Revenue Department to expedite the process of digitisation and verification of land records.

Sagar stressed on making the Settlement Wing fully functional and strengthening the revenue administration at the grassroots level. He directed for ensuring scientific preservation of historical revenue documents. He called for a time-bound action plan to address the infrastructure and manpower deficiencies, particularly in remote and far-flung areas. He directed the officers to ensure transparent, accessible and hassle-free delivery of revenue services to the public.

Speaking at a review meeting of the Revenue Department, the Minister stressed that digitisation must be backed by proper verification and authentication of records, adequate field-level infrastructure and effective monitoring so that the ongoing reforms translate into tangible benefits for the citizens. He directed the officers to strengthen coordination with elected representatives and establish an effective mechanism for addressing public grievances and area-specific problems.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Revenue, Avny Lavasa; Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners; Custodian General; Inspector General of Registration; Additional Deputy Commissioners; Assistant Commissioners Revenue (ACRs); Tehsildars and other senior and field-level officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Minister undertook a detailed assessment of various aspects of revenue administration, with focus on digitisation of land records, settlement operations, preservation of historical revenue documents, strengthening of field-level infrastructure, manpower requirements and streamlining of citizen services.

Emphasising that modernisation of the Revenue Department must translate into tangible benefits for the common people, Sagar stressed that digitisation should not be confined to mere conversion of physical records into electronic formats. Instead, it must ensure accuracy, authenticity, transparency and easy accessibility of land records thereby reducing procedural delays and eliminating unnecessary hardships for citizens.

He underscored the need to strengthen the grassroots revenue administration, particularly in remote and far-flung areas, where inadequate infrastructure, electricity supply, internet connectivity, computers and other essential technical facilities continue to impede the digitisation process. He stressed that every Patwar Halqa must be equipped with the requisite electronic infrastructure to ensure that people in even the remotest areas can access digital revenue services without difficulty.

The Minister also called for making the Settlement Wing fully functional and operational, observing that settlement activities must progress simultaneously with digitisation. He emphasised the importance of proper verification, authentication, updating and reconciliation of land records to ensure that digitised data is accurate and free from discrepancies.

Putting Customers First

J&K Bank Kickstarts Customer Care Town Hall Series in Baramulla



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Further, strengthening its sustained engagement with customers, J&K Bank Tuesday launched a series of Customer Care Town Hall Meetings, with the first interaction held at its Zonal Office, Baramulla. The initiative aims to provide customers a direct platform to engage with senior Bank officials, share feedback, seek resolution of service-related concerns and enhance awareness about safe banking practices.

The meeting was chaired by General Manager (Customer Care) Narjay Gupta in the presence of General Manager & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshid Qadri. Deputy General Manager (Customer Care) Parshotam Kumar, Zonal Head (Baramulla) Tanveer Ahmad Najar and In-Charge (Transaction Monitoring Cell) Bilal Ahmad Kuchay were also present, besides all four Cluster Heads of Baramulla Zone — Asif Sirwal, Tanveer Bashir, Iqbal Aziz and Mehboob Ilahi Khan — along with other senior Bank officials.

The interaction witnessed participation from over 150 customers, who shared their concerns, suggestions and expectations regarding the Bank's services. Key issues discussed included customer service delivery, mule accounts, cyber fraud prevention, safe banking practices and strengthening of the grievance redressal mechanism. The discussions also emphasised the importance of clearly defined Turnaround Times (TATs) for resolving customer complaints, ensuring timely redressal and greater accountability.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager (Customer Care) Narjay Gupta said, "Customer trust is strengthened through every interaction, every concern addressed and every commitment honoured. These Town Hall Meetings are an extension of our ongoing efforts to reach out and listen to our customers and incorporate their feedback to make our services better. By bringing customers and senior officials together, we seek to make grievance redressal more accessible, strengthen awareness and ensure that our customers feel heard, valued and supported."

He added, "As banking becomes increasingly digital, customer awareness must remain an integral part of customer care. Meaningful conversations on mule accounts, cyber frauds and safe banking practices can help customers recognise risks and use banking services with greater confidence."

Emphasising the importance of sustained engagement, General Manager & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshid Qadri said, "Our longstanding relationships with the people we serve carry a responsibility to remain accessible and responsive to their changing needs. Such interactions help us understand customer experiences firsthand and identify areas where we can improve. We will continue to deepen this engagement so that the trust customers place in J&K Bank is reflected in the quality and consistency of our services."

On the occasion, the Bank's Transaction Monitoring team delivered an informative presentation on mule accounts and fraud prevention, followed by an interactive session during which customers were encouraged to raise their concerns and offer suggestions.

Appreciating the initiative, customers called for regular awareness sessions on digital fraud prevention across all clusters to promote safer banking practices.

Rana reviews functioning of FCS&CA deptt

Stresses food security, transparency, consumer protection



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, tUESDAY chaired his maiden review meeting of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The meeting reviewed the overall functioning of the department, ongoing reforms and key initiatives including Public Distribution System (PDS) and Legal Metrology, with focus on strengthening food security, improving public service delivery and safeguarding consumer interests.

The officers presented a comprehensive overview of the department's functioning, highlighting the reforms undertaken to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS), enhance transparency and improve service delivery through technology-driven interventions. They apprised of the functioning, achievements and initiatives of the Legal Metrology wing, which plays a vital role in protecting consumer rights and promoting fair trade practices.

The Minister was apprised of various measures introduced to make the Public Distribution System more transparent, accessible and beneficiary-friendly. He was also informed about the initiatives being undertaken to strengthen consumer protection and promote fair trade practices through effective implementation of the Legal Metrology Act and its associated rules.

While reviewing the functioning of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Rana appreciated the efforts being made towards modernising and streamlining the Public Distribution System. He stressed the need for sustained coordination with the Government of India to further augment foodgrain allocations and address the requirements of the people, particularly vulnerable and economically weaker sections.

The Minister emphasised that every deserving beneficiary must be brought within the ambit of the Public Distribution System. He directed the department to take all necessary measures to ensure that no eligible household is left out of the welfare net. He said that the Government is committed to ensure food security for all sections of society and making the delivery mechanism more convenient, transparent and hassle-free for beneficiaries. He called for continued improvements in the system to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

Reviewing the functioning of the Legal Metrology Department, the Minister was apprised of its activities and achievements in protecting consumer rights, promoting fair trade practices and ensuring compliance with prescribed standards of weights and measures.

Finance Min convenes review meeting on fiscal position, revenue performance



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Finance, Agriculture Production, Mining and Cooperative Departments Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday chaired introductory cum review meeting on the fiscal position, revenue performance, expenditure management and ongoing financial reforms in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Finance, Shailendra Kumar, Director General, Accounts & Treasuries, Director General ,Resources, Director General Codes, Joint Director Codes, Deputy Director, Resources and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

The meeting undertook a detailed review of the overall financial position of the Union Territory with emphasis on revenue mobilisation, strengthening of own-resource generation, efficient financial management, expenditure monitoring, debt management, digitalisation of financial systems and implementation of key reform initiatives.

The Finance Minister took note of the positive growth in Jammu and Kashmir's own revenue collection, which has reached ₹13,628 crore up to October 2026, registering an increase of 14.8 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year. The tax revenue has recorded growth of 15.2 per cent while non-tax revenue has increased by 13 per cent, reflecting sustained improvement in revenue mobilisation. Overall, the own revenues increased by around ₹1,751 crore upto ending October, 2026.

The meeting also noticed the significant improvement in GST collections, with GST contributing substantially to the overall increase in revenue. Revenue augmentation measures, including improved GST return compliance, enhanced billing efficiency, increased dealer registration, e-stamping and transparent excise auctions, were appreciated as important initiatives towards strengthening the revenue base.

The meeting also reviewed initiatives for creating new sources of non-tax revenue, including the proposed Carbon Credit Trading Policy, which seeks to leverage Jammu & Kashmir's hydropower, forestry and clean-energy assets and is expected to generate an additional revenue stream.

Javid Dar appreciated various financial reforms undertaken by the Finance Department for improving the financial efficiency and optimising the cost of public borrowing. He lauded the positive impact of power-sector reforms, which are expected to improve the revenue realisation and generate savings in power-related expenditure. The initiatives undertaken for timely settlement of liabilities and improvement in financial liquidity with settlement of GPF claims and contractor liabilities within 10 days, facilitating faster payments and supporting economic activity were appreciated by the Minister.

The meeting took note of the accelerated processing and release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, with Mother Sanctions and the corresponding UT share being released within 48 hours, thereby facilitating timely implementation of development programmes.

Javid Dar assessed the progress on the ongoing digital transformation of financial management in Jammu and Kashmir for implementation of IFMIS 3.0 and Works Activity Monitoring System (WAMS. He directed the officers to reduce avoidable recurring expenditure, control committed liabilities and improve the quality of public spending. He stressed on the need to strengthen own tax and non-tax revenue, plug leakages and improve collection efficiency across departments.

Sakeena Itoo conducts surprise inspection of GMC Jammu

Calls for strengthening Emergency facilities, enhanced cleanliness

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday conducted surprise inspection of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to take first-hand assessment of the healthcare facilities, patient care arrangements and overall functioning of the premier healthcare institution.

During the inspection, the Minister visited various sections of the hospital, particularly the Emergency wing, and took stock of the availability of medical facilities, functioning of essential services, patient management arrangements and the overall cleanliness and sanitation measures.

She also interacted with the patients and their attendants, and took first hand appraisal from them about the services being provided at this health facility.

Emphasising on the critical importance of an efficient and responsive Emergency healthcare system, the Minister directed the hospital administration to further strengthen emergency facilities, ensure round-the-clock availability of essential medical services and maintain adequate deployment of doctors, paramedical staff and other supporting personnel.

She stressed that Emergency services constitute the most crucial component of any healthcare institution and must function with utmost efficiency, promptness and sensitivity, particularly in cases requiring immediate medical intervention.

"The first few minutes of a medical emergency can make the difference between life and death. Every patient reaching the hospital in an emergency must receive immediate attention, without any avoidable delay. Our priority should be to save precious lives through timely intervention, coordinated response and efficient utilisation of available resources", the Minister said.

The Minister also underscored the importance of effectively utilising the Golden Hour in emergency and trauma cases, calling for a coordinated mechanism to ensure prompt assessment, diagnosis and initiation of treatment.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Ruhullah's Exit

Political Rebellion Against Broken Promises

Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's decision to part ways with the National Conference and resign from the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat is more than an individual political departure. It is a serious indictment of a party that came to power riding on public expectations but is now facing uncomfortable questions over its commitment to the very promises that helped secure its mandate.

Ruhullah's rebellion has brought an uncomfortable truth to the forefront: political parties cannot demand public trust before elections and seek excuses after assuming power. The restoration of Article 370, protection of Jammu and Kashmir's political identity, release of political prisoners and reservation policy were not casual campaign slogans. They were issues on which people expected clarity, commitment and sustained political action. If these promises were made to secure votes, the electorate has every right to question their fate.

The manner in which Ruhullah announced his decision, in the presence of the family of Tufail Mattoo, added a deeply symbolic dimension to his political departure. It brought the memories of Kashmir's painful past into a moment of present-day political confrontation. Such gestures carry emotional weight, but they also remind political leadership that public memory cannot be managed through convenient statements.

The National Conference leadership must understand that electoral victories do not provide a permanent licence to govern without accountability. A mandate is a responsibility, not a political shield. The people who voted for change did not simply expect a change of faces in the corridors of power; they expected a change in the political approach towards their aspirations and grievances.

At the same time, Ruhullah's decision places a responsibility on him as well. Resignation and public dissent may communicate political dissatisfaction, but they must ultimately lead to a credible alternative rooted in principles, consistency and public service. Kashmir has witnessed enough political departures that generated headlines but failed to produce meaningful change.

The larger question is no longer about Ruhullah versus the National Conference. It is about the credibility of politics in Jammu and Kashmir. When a prominent parliamentarian feels compelled to walk away from his own party over unfulfilled commitments, the ruling leadership cannot dismiss the episode as merely an internal dispute.

Omar Abdullah and the National Conference leadership owe the people an honest explanation. What happened to the promises made during the 2024 elections? What concrete steps have been taken to pursue them? And how does the party intend to restore public confidence?

Power may silence dissent within a party, but it cannot erase the promises made to the people. Kashmir's electorate deserves answers, not explanations crafted after every political crisis.

Good Morning Kashmir

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From Enrolment To Excellence

The Road Ahead For Government Schools

"Bringing Child Into School Is The First Step; Ensuring That Every Child Receives Quality Education Is The Real Achievement."



HAROON RASHID BHAT



To sustain this momentum, the department must address several longstanding challenges. First, school infrastructure requires urgent attention. A school is not merely a building; it is an environment where children's abilities, confidence, and personalities develop.

The Mega-Enrollment Drive 2026–2027, received a warm welcome from the local population across Kashmir. The initiative generated hope and enthusiasm among teachers, parents, and other stakeholders, reflecting the department's commitment to bringing out-of-school children into the educational mainstream and strengthening government schools. Teachers have been visiting households, identifying out-of-school children, counselling parents, and facilitating fresh admissions, particularly in kindergarten classes. Posters, banners, social media campaigns, and enrolment rallies have further strengthened public awareness and encouraged parents to choose government schools, where education is provided free of cost.

Enrolment opens the door to education, but quality determines whether children receive meaningful learning and personal development. To sustain this momentum, the department must address several longstanding challenges. First, school infrastructure requires urgent attention. A school is not merely a building; it is an environment where children's abilities, confidence, and personalities develop. Adequate classrooms, proper seating, safe drinking water, functional toilets, playgrounds, and suitable teaching-learning materials are essential.

Unfortunately, some primary and middle schools lack sufficient accommodation, forcing teachers to accommodate multiple classes in a single room. Such arrangements complicate classroom management, restrict individual attention, and adversely affect learning. The department should prioritise the construction and renovation of school buildings and ensure that every institution provides a safe, comfortable, and stimulating environment. Parents will develop greater confidence in government schools when they witness visible improvements in their children's learning conditions. Second, the non-academic workload of teachers must be reduced.

Teachers are the backbone of education, yet their responsibilities have expanded through various departmental schemes and administrative programmes, including Samagra Shiksha and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Although these initiatives serve important purposes, their implementation often places additional burdens on teachers, particularly in schools without clerical or non-teaching staff. Teachers managing the Mid-Day Meal Scheme may have to procure food items, maintain records, supervise arrangements, and complete documentation, consuming valuable teaching time. Frequent meetings, audits, and official reporting further increase their workload. The situation becomes more difficult when schools already face staff shortages.

The department should consider providing dedicated support staff and streamlining scheme-related responsibilities through appropriate arrangements, wherever feasible and permissible under applicable rules. Teachers must be allowed to devote more time to lesson planning, classroom interaction, remedial teaching, and students' individual learning needs. Third, textbooks must be available from the beginning of the academic session. Delayed distribution disrupts lesson planning, affects students' participation, and places additional pressure on teachers attempting to complete the syllabus within limited time. The department should strengthen coordination between the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) and the School Education Department. District- and zonal-level book banks could also maintain reserve stocks to meet urgent requirements whenever regular supplies are delayed. Every child deserves timely access to essential learning materials; their availability is a fundamental requirement of effective educational planning. Fourth, the frequent deputation of teachers for unrelated duties should be minimised.

Election assignments, Booth Level Officer (BLO) responsibilities, census operations, and various health or social surveys can interrupt classroom teaching, particularly in schools already struggling with staff shortages. While such duties may be necessary for public administration, their frequent allocation to teachers affects academic continuity and the timely completion of the syllabus. Wherever feasible, suitable personnel from other departments or dedicated administrative teams should undertake these responsibilities. Protecting classroom time is essential because teachers' primary duty is to educate, guide, and prepare children for the future.

The Mega-Enrollment Drive has generated fresh enthusiasm among teachers and renewed public attention towards government schools. However, its success should not be measured merely by the number of admissions secured. Attendance, retention, classroom participation, academic progress, and overall development are equally important indicators. Parents must be encouraged to enrol their children, but their confidence can be sustained only through visible improvements in teaching quality, infrastructure, discipline, and learning outcomes. Teachers have demonstrated their commitment by reaching out to communities and motivating parents; the administration must complement these efforts with adequate resources, effective monitoring, sufficient staffing, timely textbooks, and reduced administrative burdens. T

he campaign should therefore be viewed not as an isolated exercise but as the beginning of a broader effort to restore public confidence in government schools. If its enthusiasm is matched by practical reforms and sustained administrative support, government institutions can become stronger, more inclusive, and more effective centres of learning. Ultimately, the objective must be not merely to bring more children into classrooms, but to ensure that every child receives an education that develops knowledge, builds character, nurtures confidence, and prepares them for a better future. Enrolment opens the door to education, but educational excellence gives that opportunity its true meaning.

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Recognising Gig Workers As Workers With Dignity

Along With Flexible Employment, Social Security Will Also Have To Be Ensured.

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

In a changing economy, employment patterns are rapidly changing. Digital technology and internet-based services have challenged traditional ways of working. Today, individuals can earn a living by delivering food through mobile apps, driving online taxis, delivering goods, providing domestic services, or doing freelance digital work. This form of employment is called the gig economy, and those working in it are identified as gig workers. The most significant characteristic of these workers is that they can choose work according to their convenience and availability, but this flexibility is accompanied by insecurity in their livelihoods. Unlike regular employees, they generally lack access to benefits such as salary, provident fund, pension, medical care, and paid leave. Therefore, social security for gig workers is no longer merely a matter of labor welfare, but has become an essential prerequisite for inclusive development and economic justice.

The expansion of the digital economy in India has given new impetus to gig employment. According to a NITI Aayog report, the number of gig workers in the country is projected to reach approximately 23.5 million by 2029-30. This number indicates that this sector of employment is poised to become a significant part of the Indian economy in the future. Millions of people working in food supply, transportation, e-commerce, domestic services, and various digital platforms are driving economic activity in cities. Despite this, their social and economic status remains relatively vulnerable. A delivery worker involved in a road accident can immediately lose their income. Missing work for several days due to illness makes it difficult to support their families. Women face challenges such as maternity leave and income continuity. The lack of a regular pension in old age further increases their worries.

The fundamental purpose of social security is to provide financial support to workers in the uncertain circumstances of life. This becomes even more important for gig workers, as their income depends on the availability of work, customer demand, weather, platform policies, and incentive schemes. Changes in payment rates or reductions in incentives by platforms often impact their actual income. In such circumstances, benefits like accident insurance, life insurance, health coverage, maternity benefits, and old-age pensions can protect them from financial crisis. Social security benefits are not limited to the worker, but provide protection to their entire family. This also helps reduce poverty, inequality, and economic instability.

Keeping this need in mind, gig workers and platform workers have been recognized as a separate category in the Social Security Code, 2020. This Code provides for the formulation and implementation of social security schemes for them. Institutional arrangements like the National Social Security Board aim to coordinate between workers, aggregators, and the government and determine the direction of welfare schemes. The provision for the participation of various stakeholders in the 22-member National Social Security Board is an important step in this direction. It is essential to ensure that such boards do not merely become institutions that recommend schemes, but also understand the real problems of workers and become effective means of resolving them.



The role of these boards is important on several levels. First, they can contribute to the formulation and prioritization of social security schemes. Second, they can oversee the expansion of benefits such as life insurance, accident insurance, disability assistance, maternity benefits, and old-age security. Third, they can ensure accountability by reviewing the expenditure on schemes and their implementation. Fourth, they can help develop a system to ensure that a worker's social security benefits are not lost when they move from one digital platform to another or work from one state to another.

The e-Shram portal can be an important tool in this direction. Aadhaar-linked registration can facilitate the identification of workers and their access to welfare benefits. However, mere registration is not enough. Real success will be achieved when registered workers also receive timely payments of accident assistance, insurance, health services, and other prescribed benefits. To achieve this, the digital system must be simplified, transparent, and worker-friendly.

However, this system faces several serious challenges. The most significant problem is the ambiguity of employment relationships. Gig workers are often treated as independent partners or service providers, while their working conditions, payment, task allocation, and performance evaluation are controlled by digital platforms. This makes it difficult to determine who is responsible for social security. Another problem is the gap between plans and actual benefits. Many workers are unaware of the plans, and the registration and claim process is complex for some. The third challenge is worker representation. Without their actual participation in policy decisions, the plans will not be tailored to the needs on the ground.

The availability of financial resources is also a major issue. The Social Security Code provides for contributions from aggregators, limiting their annual turnover to one to two percent, but not exceeding five percent of the total amount paid to workers. This system aims to create a sustainable financial foundation for social security. However, transparency in the calculation, collection, and use of contributions is essential. It must also be ensured that the financial burden is not indirectly transferred to workers' incomes.

The way forward is clear. The central and state governments must work together to ensure effective implementation of social security schemes. Simple registration of each gig worker, portable benefits across multiple platforms, regular social security audits, and effective grievance redressal mechanisms must be developed. Special attention should be paid to maternity assistance and safe working conditions, taking into account the specific needs of women workers. Furthermore, genuine and adequate participation of worker representatives on social security boards must be ensured.

The gig economy is India's new economic reality. It should be viewed as an opportunity for job creation and entrepreneurship, but simply increasing employment opportunities is not enough. Development will be meaningful only when the lives of the workers who drive that growth are also secure and dignified. The benefits of technological and market advancements must reach workers. Social security boards can be an important bridge in this direction. Their role must not be limited to paper recommendations but rather ensure that the benefits of schemes reach the last worker. Flexible employment can increase workers' independence, but in the absence of social security, this independence turns into economic insecurity. Therefore, the need of the hour is to recognise gig workers not just as part of the digital economy but as workers with rights and dignity.

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

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

School Rivalries And The Price Of A Divided Society



NAVEED QAZI

Bias does not always appear as open prejudice. Sometimes it hides behind humour, loyalty or harmless banter. A person may consider a joke innocent because it reflects an old school rivalry, without realising that it can hurt others or revive divisions that should have been left behind. This is how people can speak about social reform while behaving in ways that contradict the values they claim to uphold.

A recent dispute on X, involving a figure from Srinagar who describes himself as a proud Biscoite, philanthropist and social activist, has brought this contradiction into focus. He shared a rancorous video targeting Burn Hall School accompanied by posts mocking the institution where his peers from school also indulged in the act. The content drew criticism before he eventually deleted the video from his X profile. Whatever the intention behind it, the episode raises a question that goes beyond the individuals involved: why does school pride lead to public provocation, and who benefits from bringing old school rivalries in the valley back into public debate?

Schools are places where friendships begin, lasting memories are made, nostalgia is experienced and values are learnt. Former pupils naturally take pride in their institutions, their history and their traditions. However, pride becomes prejudice when it depends on putting another school down. The worth of one institution cannot be established by insulting another, just as a person's character cannot be judged solely by the school they attended.

Kashmir has far more serious concerns than arguments over which school is better. Unemployment, income inequality, limited job opportunities and the everyday struggles of ordinary families already place a heavy burden on society. At a time when people need greater cooperation and understanding, turning school identities into grounds for rivalry serves no meaningful purpose. Educational institutions and those associated with them should promote learning, confidence, mutual respect and public service, rather than encourage divisions that follow people into adult life. Those who use school identities as weapons on social media or elsewhere only add to unnecessary social tensions in a society that needs greater solidarity.

The contradiction is particularly evident when individuals, such as him, who present themselves as active philanthropists and social activists engage in behaviour that encourages division and ridicule. Philanthropy and public service are not measured merely by charitable activities or public appearances, but also by how one treats others and contributes to social harmony. Genuine activism must begin with personal responsibility, because those who advocate solidarity and social reform must ensure that their own conduct reflects the values they publicly promote. It must also be reflected in how people treat others, particularly when they disagree with them. That was not the case with this individual.



That is why words, online ridicule and personal attacks can cause genuine hurt, and those who advocate social responsibility should be conscious of their own behaviour. Otherwise they present themselves as men of lip service.

That is why words, online ridicule and personal attacks can cause genuine hurt, and those who advocate social responsibility should be conscious of their own behaviour. Otherwise they present themselves as men of lip service.

There is also a broader question about the principles guiding public activism. When an individual, such as this figure, regularly meets politicians from different political backgrounds, praises intellectuals with contrasting views and maintains relationships across various sections of society, it is reasonable to ask what connects these activities. There is nothing inherently wrong with engaging with people who hold different opinions. Indeed, the ability to build relationships across political and intellectual differences can be a valuable quality. This individual appears particularly adept at maintaining such connections. However, the real measure of an activist is not the number of influential people they know or meet, but the principles that guide their public conduct and social work. An activist must be able to demonstrate consistency in their values and philosophical orientations. Otherwise, activism risks becoming a superficial collection of public appearances, rather than a coherent commitment to bringing about change.

Social media often rewards visibility, controversy and confrontation, creating an environment in which public attention can become more important than the causes being promoted. This does not establish anyone's personal intentions, but an activist's credibility should rest on consistent conduct and meaningful contributions rather than social media photographs with politicians, intellectuals or influential people.

Another problem is the tendency to treat disagreement as a personal attack, shifting attention from the original criticism to accusations about the critic's intelligence, behaviour or state of mind. Public figures, such as him, who claim to promote social change should be willing to face questions and address criticism on its merits rather than turn every disagreement into a personal confrontation.

More broadly, people often identify so closely with their schools, professions, political groups or social circles that criticism of those associations feels like a personal insult. They defend among their own friends the behaviour they would condemn in others, demand respect when criticised and overlook the hurt caused by their own words. Such selective fairness is particularly damaging in Kashmir, where close social connections often make personal loyalties and institutional identities difficult to separate.

None of this means that schools should be beyond criticism. Every institution must remain open to fair questions about its standards, performance and responsibilities. If BHS, Biscoe or any other school in the Valley has shortcomings, these should be discussed with evidence and a clear purpose. But there is a fundamental difference between scrutinising an institution and encouraging people to ridicule its pupils and alumnus. The deleted video on X was not simply harmless banter. It amounted to ridiculing the values of an established and respected educational institution. Calling such behaviour humour does not remove its impact on those who feel emotionally targeted. Fair criticism can help institutions improve, whereas public ridicule only reinforces old divisions.

Burn Hall has educated generations of pupils, many of whom have gone on to serve in senior positions and upper echelons across different professions and fields. Their former pupils should be able to take pride in their educational backgrounds without feeling the need to diminish others.

Ultimately, the values schools seek to teach, including respect, honesty, fairness and kindness, should be universal and matter most when people encounter disagreement. Education should help individuals look beyond narrow loyalties and develop the ability to engage with others respectfully. What is the value of education if its lessons are forgotten once a person leaves the school gates?

This episode should also encourage wider reflection on the culture of X in Kashmir, where arguments, personal attacks and the desire to have the last word often receive more attention than reasoned discussion. People increasingly argue to defeat one another rather than understand different points of view. A minor disagreement can quickly become a public confrontation, leaving the original issue behind. Social media in Kashmir cannot become a more responsible space if its users continue to contribute to hostility.

School pride should never become an excuse for looking down on others. True maturity is not about proving that one's school is superior to someone else's. It is about showing respect, accepting mistakes and recognising that differences should not lead to ugly divisions. People who promote school rivalries, such as this figure, illustrate a certain immaturity and lack of basic decency. These school rivalries should have been long gone. Isn't it an important parable to ponder on?

The more important question for Kashmiri society is whether the education we received has taught us how to live with one another and whether we can use those lessons to build a more united and compassionate Kashmiri society.

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Mobile World And The Deteriorating Behavior Of Childhood

Before Giving Smartphones To Children, It Is Important To Instill Values, Communication And Sensitivity.



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The news of alleged brutality against a six-year-old girl by an eighth-grade student at a Panchkula school has shocked society. The events revealed in the news and the details of the violence on school campuses have raised serious questions about the safety of children, their behavior, and our upbringing. How are such violent tendencies developing in childhood? Are children losing sensitivity and empathy? Are the mobile world, violent content available on the internet, and changing family environments having any impact on their behavior? These questions are no longer evasive.

It would be unfair to conclude, based on a single incident, that mobile phones are the sole cause of increasing violence among children. Each incident can be influenced by numerous factors, including personal circumstances, family environment, peer influence, mental state, and social environment. Nevertheless, it is true that the digital world now at the disposal of children has increased the responsibilities of parents more than ever before. Monitoring children can no longer be limited to their behavior after returning from school. It is also essential to know what they watch on their mobile phones, who they interact with, what games they play, and what ideas they are absorbing from the internet.

Smartphones are becoming an integral part of children's lives today. Technology has opened up new learning opportunities through online learning, educational videos, and informative content. However, this same medium also provides easy access to violent images, abusive language, dangerous challenges, and harmful behavior. The problem lies not in the technology itself, but in its uncontrolled use, access to inappropriate content, and a lack of understanding of its effects. Children often view content in the name of entertainment, but are not mentally and emotionally mature enough to understand its consequences.



Childhood is a period of imitation. Children learn language, behavior, and reactions by observing those around them. They are influenced by their parents' conversations, family members' behavior, friends' behavior, and activities seen on digital media. If a child is repeatedly exposed to scenes that normalize violence, humiliation, revenge, and aggression, it is likely to influence their behavior. While not every child becomes violent after viewing such content, it is crucial to select age-appropriate content and discuss its implications.

In this context, the role of parents is paramount. Often, busy schedules lead to children being given mobile phones to keep them quiet. From feeding to keeping them occupied, screens have become a convenient solution. Gradually, this habit becomes a part of children's daily lives, and parents lose sight of what their children are actually watching. A child's sedentary mobile phone isn't a sign of their safety or healthy development. It's essential to stay informed about their activities in the digital world, set age-appropriate limits, and maintain regular communication with them.

Monitoring children doesn't mean constantly suspecting them or completely taking away their privacy. It means being vigilant about their safety and creating a trusting environment where they can talk openly about their problems, curiosities, and mistakes. Parents should ask children what games they play, what new things they see on the Internet, and what their understanding is of a video or event. If a child gets excited by watching a violent scene, talks about hurting someone, or has a sudden change in behavior, instead of simply scolding them to silence them, one should try to understand the reason.

Schools also have a responsibility no less. The purpose of education is not simply to complete the curriculum and achieve good exam scores. Schools also serve as a means to develop children into sensitive, responsible, and socially aware citizens. Teachers should pay attention to unusual changes in student behavior. Schools should promote counseling, emotional well-being, peaceful conflict resolution, and respect for the dignity of others. Dismissing incidents of physical violence, threats, insults, or targeting of vulnerable students as simple pranks can lead to serious problems in the future.

Furthermore, while it is essential to hold a child accountable for their behavior when they commit a serious offense, it is equally important that investigations and actions are based on facts. Rushing to label children as criminals, publicly humiliating them, or exposing their identities on social media is not appropriate. The safety, dignity, and mental health of the victimized child must be a top priority. If a child's behavior shows signs of violence, unusual aggression, or emotional distress, parents and schools should not hesitate to seek the assistance of a qualified child psychologist or counselor.

Each incident can be influenced by numerous factors, including personal circumstances, family environment, peer influence, mental state, and social environment.

The role of digital platforms and the government also needs to be considered. Continued efforts are needed to prevent children from accessing inappropriate content, simplify parental control tools, and ensure age-appropriate digital safety. Internet companies should also prioritize child safety. However, relying solely on a single technological feature will not be enough. Digital literacy means more than just learning to use a mobile phone, but also understanding that not everything you see on the internet is accurate, safe, or worth emulating.

The most important thing is that children are taught not only by rules but also by examples. If in the home, abusive language is used during anger, disputes are resolved through violence, and disrespectful behavior toward others is considered normal, it will be difficult to expect children to behave in a completely different way. An environment of communication, patience, empathy, and respect must be fostered in the family. It is also important to spend time with children, providing them with opportunities for sports, reading, creative activities, and social interaction.

The questions raised by the Panchkula incident aren't limited to just one school or one family. They serve as a warning to society as a whole. Instead of keeping children away from technology, we must teach them how to use it safely and responsibly. Besides knowing what they're viewing on their mobile phones, we also need to understand what's going on in their minds. Are they struggling with loneliness, stress, neglect, or some other unspoken problem?

The need of the hour is to empower children with discretion before handing them mobile phones, to teach them responsibility before granting them freedom, and to provide affection along with discipline. The responsibility to ensure a safe childhood lies not only with parents or teachers, but with society as a whole. If we want our children to become sensitive and responsible citizens, we must pay attention to their digital activities as well as their emotional world. After all, children's futures are shaped not just by screens, but by the values they learn from their families and society.

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

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Ruhullah Quits

dignity to retain a chair," he said.

He also accused the NC of using his popularity during elections and later failing to honour commitments made to voters.

Recalling the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Ruhullah said party leaders persuaded him to contest while he was abroad. He claimed Omar Abdullah later congratulated him on his victory and told him he had saved the party's honour after the NC leader's own electoral defeat.

Ruhullah accused the NC government of abandoning key election promises after coming to power, including commitments related to Article 370, reservation issues, release of prisoners, free electricity and removal of smart meters.

Questioning the party's approach towards the Centre, he asked: "Why are you afraid of the BJP? Why don't you fight for your people?"

Referring to reported remarks by Farooq Abdullah on Article 370, Ruhullah said the party should have been forthright with voters if it believed restoration of the provision was no longer possible.

Ruhullah also criticised the government's handling of issues concerning students, unemployment and youth welfare, alleging that public concerns had not received adequate attention.

He accused the Chief Minister of showing greater urgency in pursuing positions for associates than in addressing concerns related to prisoners, unemployment and other public issues.

In a key section of his address, Ruhullah appealed for the formation of a new political platform involving youth from both Jammu and Kashmir.

He said his aim was not to leave one party for another but to bring together people committed to protecting the dignity and interests of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of region, religion or community.

"I need honest people, youth from both Jammu and Kashmir," he said, urging families to encourage young people to participate in public life.

He said the initiative should represent all communities, including Kashmiris, Dogras, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and others, and suggested that participants themselves decide its future structure and name.

"The new journey has begun," he declared.

Ruhullah also criticised the BJP-led Union government, alleging that minority rights were being undermined and asserting that Jammu and Kashmir should determine its own political priorities.

"Now we will set the agenda, the Centre will not set it for us," he said.

He further criticised the Omar Abdullah-led government over its handling of the Waqf Bill, alleging that it had failed to pass a resolution against it in the Assembly.

The Lok Sabha seat will fall vacant only after the Speaker accepts the resignation. A by-election may subsequently be held. Ruhullah's future political course, including whether he contests again as an independent candidate, remains unclear.

His exit presents a political challenge for the National Conference, which now faces the prospect of losing a sitting MP who won the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat in 2024.

Terming Aga Ruhullah's speech as a "manifestation" of his "mental, moral bankruptcy," and an example of his "self-obsession," National Conference accused him of using "derogatory, abusive and unparliamentary" language against the party leadership.

Reacting to Ruhullah's resignation speech, the NC spokesman, posted on X: "While invoking the holy Quran and the divine message of dignity and respect for human beings, Ruhullah's speech was full of derogatory, abusive and unparliamentary language against NC leadership. The language used by him only reflects who he is!"

Accusing the former Member Parliament of being "selective about choosing the issue," the NC spokesman said: "Since Aga Ruhullah has chosen to use the issue of special status and reservation to resign from NC, it's important to keep the record straight. He only remembered to resign when he was told to by the party president. The same way he only remembered 2010 today when it suited him. He is a man who happily remained in office as a minister in 2010 until he was removed in a general reshuffle. He was happy to fight elections in 2014 on JKNC ticket and didn't remember 2010 then. In fact he conveniently forgot all about it until 2026, 16 years later."

The NC spokesman said, "Wasn't Aga Ruhullah the first to welcome the resolution demanding restoration of special status, passed by the J&K Assembly on November 6. Didn't he say that it was the promise that had been delivered?"

Questioning his performance in the Parliament, the NC spokesman asked what has Aga Ruhullah done in Parliament on special status. "Wasn't he elected to the parliament to represent the sentiment of people and garner support of secular parties and MPs in the parliament. Aga Ruhullah Mehdi was able to gather signatures of over 100 MPs from different parties in the parliament to move an impeachment motion against Allahabad High Court judge Shekar Kumar Yadav. Can he tell us if he ever made such an effort to gather signatures of MPs for the restoration of special status or statehood? Did he even try to move a resolution or bill in the parliament in this regard?"

He said, "Aga Ruhullah Mehdi was sent to parliament to speak about the dispossession and how people's will represented by the elected government has been undermined and belittled by the Central Government and its appointed Lt Governor in an attempt to delegitimise the vote and elected government. Did he speak even once - that even under the current UT arrangement, the departments which are technically under elected government are not allowed to function and LG continues to run them through remote control?"

The NC spokesman said, "Aga Ruhullah Mehdi started his opposition to elected government on the issue of reservation in jobs, a grave injustice to the open merit category. It's indeed a grave injustice committed during LGs rule. NC raised this issue made it an important part of its election manifesto and promised to change it.

Ironically, Aga and his ilk chose to blame the whistleblower for the problem. Did he ever utter a single word against LG and central government for snatching jobs of open merit category?"

The spokesman said, "In accordance with its election promise, NC government formed a cabinet subcommittee and made first significant changes in the reservations. The file has been stalled by the powers that be. Did Mr Mehdi, raise this issue in the parliament and ask the Centre why they have stalled the J&K cabinet decision on Reservation in jobs?"

"Aga sb was elected as MP six months before Assembly elections and formation of elected government in J&K. Did he organise a single protest against the LG and demanded justice for open merit? Did he raise the issue of multiple fraud recruitments and exams and how job aspirants of one region were systematically removed from the system and jobs?," the NC spokesman asked.

He said, "While the NC government knows its limitations given the present scheme of things, it has carefully chosen its roadmap on the issues which are directly linked to our existence and identity. Our thrust on restoration of statehood is not and will never be at the expense of the special status. If it was so, the first transition of business of this government would not have been the special status. And on August 15 the CM would not have reiterated it. Protection and preservation of our identity and constitutional rights form the foundation of NCs political ideology. Abandoning it means abandoning the party and the politics it has stood for last over 90 years."

The spokesman said, "Reclaiming and repossessing what was taken away from us needs a deft politics, not theatrics. Theatrics will not take us anywhere. It may temporarily grab some attention and social media likes, but in the long run it will not achieve anything for people."

"Aga Ruhullahs decision to resign as MP is too late. He should have done a year ago when he chose to join the forces who were rattled by the mandate to NC. While sitting in NC, he became instrumental in the defeat of the party in the assembly byelections of the Budgam seat. Where was his conscience then? Backstabbing the same party he owed his political existence," he added.

"Isn't it astonishing that someone who owes his whole political existence to NC, started his politics in the party, remained MLA for three terms, minister in the government and MP of the party is so brazenly showing his narcissistic conduct and finding all faults in the party after 25 years," the spokesman asked.

Meanwhile, BJP national vice-president Ram Madhav on Tuesday said Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, who resigned from the National Conference (NC) and announced his decision to relinquish his Lok Sabha seat, held his Budgam rally with the blessings of "our people".

Addressing a press conference during his day-long visit to Jammu, Madhav, was asked about Ruhullah's rally, where the Srinagar MP announced his resignation from the NC and Parliament.

"Aga Ruhullah has the full blessings and support of our people. That is why he held the rally today," Madhav said.

However, he declined to comment further on the developments within the National Conference, describing them as an internal matter of the ruling party.

"I would not like to comment on the matter, but the National Conference is visibly divided today," he said.

Aga Ruhullah announced his resignation from the National Conference and his decision to relinquish his Lok Sabha seat, citing differences with the party leadership.

Madhav maintained that the BJP had no role in the NC's internal affairs and said the party's leaders were dealing with their own differences.

Asked about speculation surrounding possible political realignments involving disgruntled NC legislators, he declined to speculate, saying the situation would have to unfold before any conclusions could be drawn.

Madhav was in Jammu to address issues related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Accusing the Congress of spreading misinformation about the exercise, he said the Election Commission had already explained the process and its rationale.

He said the revision was aimed at updating electoral rolls by removing duplicate, shifted, deceased and ineligible voters, and alleged that the Opposition was attempting to create unnecessary controversy around the exercise.

The BJP leader also accused the Congress of trying to undermine public confidence in constitutional institutions through what he described as misleading claims about the electoral roll revision process—(KNO)

CM Inspects

completion while ensuring the highest standards of quality.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister was briefed by the concerned officers on the status of construction and the measures being undertaken to accelerate the pace of work.

The Chief Minister emphasised the need for effective coordination among the concerned departments and executing agency, systematic execution of works and strict adherence to prescribed specifications. He underscored the importance of completing the project within the stipulated timeline, given its significance as a key institutional infrastructure for Jammu and Kashmir.

The New Legislative Assembly Complex, being constructed at a revised estimated cost of 208.53 crore, has a total built-up area of 22,165 square metres. The project was initially taken up in 2012, but construction remained stalled since 2018.

The long-pending project was revived following the grant of revised administrative approval by the present Government in 2025, paving the way for the resumption of construction.

Under the Omar Abdullah-led Government, work on the project resumed on February 15, 2026, with October 31, 2027, fixed as the scheduled date of completion. An expenditure of 5.97 crore had been incurred on the project up to October 31, 2026.

The six-level complex will house a modern Assembly Hall, Central Hall, visitor and press galleries, committee rooms and advanced building management systems.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned departments and executing agency to maintain close coordination and ensure expeditious execution of the project without compromising on quality or the stipulated completion timeline.

He reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening institutional infrastructure and ensuring the timely completion of projects of public importance.

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather; Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Anil Kumar Singh; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, M. Raju; Secretary, Law Department, Achal Sethi; and other senior officers accompanied the Chief Minister during the inspection.

India Calls For

successfully carried out on November 2, with the Navy locating and intercepting the vessel and securing the safe release of all crew members from heavily armed pirates.

The operation was successfully carried out on November 2, with the Indian Navy locating and intercepting the vessel and securing the safe release of all crew members from heavily armed pirates.

Congratulating the Indian Navy on the successful mission, the Defence Minister said that the operation demonstrated the force's high operational readiness and its ability to respond decisively to maritime threats across the region.

23 Indian Nationals

On the number of Indian nationals who lost their lives in West Asia conflict, Jaiswal said, "In so far as the number of people who have died, Indian nationals who have died, last time I told you there were 22 Indian nationals who we have lost in the conflict in West Asia. Out of those 22 Indian nationals, we have 14 Indian seafarers and today we have lost one more, yesterday that is, which means there are 23 Indian nationals which we have lost in the conflict in West Asia. Out of which 15 of them are Indian seafarers."

Jaiswal said that India is engaged in the process of ensuring that 13 Indian nationals who were rescued are repatriated to India soon. Arrangements are also being made to bring back the mortal remains of Indian national who died in the attack on the ship off the Oman coast on Monday.

"Yesterday we had an attack on an Indian ship. We have issued a statement; you would have seen the details. On that ship we had 14 Indian crew members. Of them, tragically, unfortunately, one of them has died. We are now in the process of ensuring that the 13 Indian nationals who are there, they are repatriated back to India. We also are working to see how best and when we can also have the mortal remains of the Indian national who has died, those remains to be transported back to India," the MEA spokesperson mentioned.

He reiterated India's call for dialogue and diplomacy for early return of peace to the region.

"I must say that we thank the Omani authorities for their swift action in which they were able to rescue 13 Indian nationals when the ship came under attack. We once again call upon parties that dialogue and diplomacy must be taken forward so that there can be an early return of peace to the region, and that freedom of navigation through international waterways must be restored and must be guaranteed," he added.

On the number of Indian nationals who lost their lives in attacks on commercial shipping in the Black Sea region, Jaiswal said, "There we have five Indian nationals who have been lost, and two continue to be missing."

Earlier in the day, India condemned the attack on a commercial vessel MSV AL JUSUFI near Oman's Limah, which claimed the life of an Indian national, and reiterated its call for de-escalation of tensions.

"We condemn the attack on a commercial vessel MSV AL JUSUFI, near Limah, Oman yesterday evening. Of the 14 Indian nationals on board, 13 have been rescued while 1 Indian national tragically lost his life after sustaining injuries. We convey our deepest condolences on the precious life lost. Our Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the Omani authorities for the early repatriation of the rescued Indian nationals and the mortal remains of the deceased," the ministry mentioned in a statement.

The MEA expressed concern over continuing attacks on commercial shipping in the region and called for immediate de-escalation of tensions, and the conclusion of ongoing negotiations for a diplomatic solution.

"The continuing incidents of attacks on commercial shipping in the region are deeply concerning. We reiterate our call for immediate de-escalation of tensions, and the conclusion of ongoing negotiations for a diplomatic solution so that peace and stability can return to the region. The targeting of commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region must end, and free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the international waterways in the region, in keeping with international law, must be restored at the earliest," the MEA said.

Light Rain, Snowfall

further drops expected in the coming days.

"Winter has almost set in," Ahmad said, noting that shallow fog was being observed over plains during morning hours.

He cautioned that reduced visibility due to fog could become more frequent in the coming days and weeks.

On agricultural operations, the MeT director advised farmers to continue harvesting and other field activities, including fresh sowing, threshing and preparation of fields, as weather conditions remained largely favourable.

He also urged people travelling across the region to adhere to traffic advisories, particularly while moving through vulnerable and higher-altitude areas—(KNO)

Er Rashid Influenced

supporting anti-India activities.

"In view of the influence that the appellant (Rashid) wields, he does not deserve to be granted bail," he contended while giving details of bail orders passed against Rashid.

He added that when Rashid was granted bail to meet his ailing father, he met certain witnesses.

In his rejoinder submissions, Rashid's counsel said the argument that Rashid influenced witnesses is completely untenable as during most of the period he was in custody.

The witnesses who Rashid is alleged to have influenced are extremely closely attached to him; that is, one is a driver and two others are personal assistants and they have been continuously working for Rashid for years, the counsel said.

He added that the appellant is a member of Parliament and has sworn his allegiance to the Constitution of India, and therefore this is a fit case for grant of bail.

The court had earlier noted that Rashid has been in custody for almost seven years and there are a total of 240 witnesses in the case and the trial would take a long time to conclude.

The court was hearing arguments on Rashid's plea seeking bail in the terror case lodged under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Rashid was earlier granted interim bail to attend the ceremonies related to his father's demise.

He faces allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir. He has been lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him in the 2017 case. JammuKashmir travel

After he was named in a chargesheet in October 2019, a special NIA court framed charges against Rashid and others in March 2022 under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging war against the government), and 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code and under relevant provisions of the stringent UAPA.

Battlefield Now

Rajnath Singh also highlighted that military preparedness in the 21st century cannot be separated from technological and industrial preparedness.

"A nation's defence strength must increasingly rest on its ability to develop technology, manufacture critical equipment, and sustain its capabilities independently. Such capabilities do not emerge merely through investments in technology and manufacturing," he said.

"They require the right institutional environment, enabling policies and responsive processes," he added, mentioning that this is where reforms in the defence sector become critical.

According to him, the purpose of reforms is to create and improve institutions, processes and capabilities that are responsive to the requirements of the nation.

The Defence Minister asserted that over the past decade, India has made considerable progress in strengthening its domestic defence industrial base through reforms.

"The government has established defence industrial corridors to expand domestic manufacturing capabilities. The corporatisation of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board into seven Defence Public Sector Undertakings was intended to improve autonomy, efficiency, and competitiveness in defence manufacturing," he said.

"We are also encouraging greater participation of private industry in the development and manufacturing of advanced defence platforms and systems."

Rajnath Singh further stated that opportunities from private participation in programmes such as the advanced medium combat aircraft, propulsion system, attacks, artillery ammunition, and shipbuilding will accelerate indigenous development, expand manufacturing capacity and strengthen India's position in the global defence market.

"These initiatives are creating opportunities for wider participation by private industry, MSMEs, start-ups, and academia. Building on these efforts, 2025 was observed as a year of reforms in the Ministry of Defence, with particular emphasis on jointness, integration, emerging technologies, innovation, and strengthening our domestic defence industrial ecosystem," he said.

The Union Minister also mentioned that the government has initiated reforms across policies, institutional structures, technology development, acquisition procedures, and ease of doing business.

ED Conducts Searches

across the border and gathering further evidence in connection with the alleged terror financing activities. Further details are awaited as the searches are underway—(KNO)

Farmers Switch

those who had initially hesitated now showing interest. "Once people saw that high-density orchards could produce quality apples within two to three years and fetch better prices, they started considering it a more profitable option. Gradually, paddy fields began disappearing, and the process has not stopped yet," he said.

Growers said declining demand and comparatively lower prices for several traditional apple varieties have also contributed to the shift, with high-density varieties fetching better prices owing to their uniform size, attractive colour and market preference.

High-density apple cultivation was introduced in Kashmir around 2015 to modernise the horticulture sector, increase productivity and improve produce quality. Unlike conventional trees, which take several years to reach commercial production, high-density plantations start yielding fruit within the first few years. The early harvesting window, generally between August and September, enables growers to bring produce to markets before the peak arrival of traditional varieties. Farmers also point to anti-hail nets and other protective measures that help reduce weather-related losses.

Mohammad Ali Dar, a grower from a low-lying area of Shopian who has established a high-density orchard on eight kanals, said, "People have witnessed the results of high-density cultivation and are now convinced about its potential. I have already planted eight kanals and have prepared another 12 kanals for conversion." He said the new system was easier to manage and produced apples with better grading and market appeal.

Among the varieties gaining popularity are Jeromine, King Roat, Gala Scarlet, Red Velox, Scarlet Spur-II, Super Chief, Redlum Gala, Auvi Fuji, RD 11, Syncho Gala, Terex Gala, Z1 and SS2.

Kashmir produces over 20 lakh metric tonnes of apples annually, and the industry remains a major contributor to the rural economy, providing livelihoods to thousands of families. However, the growing conversion of paddy land into orchards brings into focus concerns regarding the future of foodgrain production, particularly in a region that depends on outside supplies to meet a substantial portion of its rice requirements.

While farmers view the transition as an economically driven decision, the rapid disappearance of paddy fields raises questions about balancing horticultural expansion with the preservation of agricultural land used for food production, highlighting the need for a comprehensive assessment of land-use changes—(KNO)

NC Facing Serious

allegations of corruption and misconduct against certain ministers had also emerged from within the legislators' camp.

He said these developments were creating further difficulties for the ruling party and had become a serious political challenge for its leadership.

'J&K Hydro Power

nearly 300 MW.

An official had informed that "In Kashmir, the power demand during the third week of September remained around 1350 Megawatts (MW)."

He said, "During the peak hours, we generally had a power demand of 1300-1350 MWs in Kashmir division. However, the power availability was fluctuating between 1000-1150 MWs."

The official further said that the power supply keeps on fluctuating. "Thus, the power demand and availability also varies from time to time. During that period we enforce grid curtailment."

As already reported by KNO that Jammu and Kashmir imports nearly 84 percent of power from other states even as the Union Territory generates nearly 370 Megawatts (MWs) from its local stations.

The official figures in this regard reveal that the Union Territory was importing nearly 2000 MWs of power from other states and UTs.

Top officials have informed that out of the total power production capacity of 1197 MWs from the Jammu and Kashmir owned plants, the power generation fluctuated between 360-400 MWs.

The official had informed that the region was generating 298 MWs of power from the Baghilhar-1 hydroelectric power project, 49 MWs from other projects of Kashmir division and 20 MWs through the Independent Power Producers in Jammu division.

According to the official figures, The State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) had recorded a power load of 1170 MWs in Kashmir division and 1130 MWs in Jammu division respectively.

It also said that from the centrally owned hydel projects in Jammu and Kashmir that has a generation capacity of nearly 2200 MWs, the authorities were generating nearly 1100 MWs of power—(KNO)

Secy RDD reviews developmental progress in Jammu division

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD), and Panchayati Raj, Ramesh Kumar, Thursday chaired a high-level review meeting at Panchayat Bhawan, Jammu, to assess the progress and performance of various centrally sponsored schemes and developmental programmes being implemented across Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in RDD, Rachna Sharma; Director Rural Development Jammu, Shehnaz Akhtar; Director Panchayati Raj, Pankaj Raj Katoch; Chief Operating Officer, HIMAYAT, Rifat Kohli; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Joint Director Planning, Kr Kumar Sharma; Superintending Engineer, Jammu REW Wing, Zakir Hussain; Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs); Assistant Commissioners Panchayats (ACPs); and Executive Engineers of Jammu Division.

During the meeting, the Secretary emphasised the need for timely achievement of targets and directed ACDs and ACPs to ensure close monitoring of developmental works at every stage, from preparation of estimates and tendering to execution and completion. He instructed officers to undertake field visits at least twice a week to personally assess the quality and progress of works.

Ramesh Kumar further directed Executive Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) to regularly visit work sites and ensure effective supervision, accountability and adherence to prescribed quality standards.

Emphasising the need to address bottlenecks at the initial stage, the Secretary directed that projects should be planned only at locations where feasibility is established and land is readily available. He cautioned officers against initiating projects without resolving land-related and other administrative issues, observing that surrendering projects at the final stage reflects a failure on the part of the concerned officers and would not be acceptable.

He reiterated that public funds must translate into tangible benefits for people through timely execution of works, without unnecessary delays or impediments at any level.

The Secretary directed that all allotted works must be taken up within one week and made it clear that avoidable delays in execution would not be tolerated. He also stressed the need for rational and advance planning, advising officers against waiting until March to initiate the planning process. Special emphasis was laid on expediting works in snow-bound areas, where the working season is limited and execution becomes difficult during the coming months.

Ramesh Kumar further directed that payments against completed works be released promptly, ensuring that no unnecessary delays occur in processing and disbursement.

Reviewing the status of DDC and BDC buildings, the Secretary directed officers to resolve pending issues on the spot. He specifically called for immediate removal of bottlenecks affecting DDC buildings at Doda and Rajouri to facilitate commencement of work without further delay. He also directed expeditious completion and takeover of BDC buildings, besides ensuring the completion of DDC residential buildings.

Stressing the importance of punctuality and discipline, the Secretary directed all officers and officials to reach their offices on time and devote their full working hours to official duties.

Reviewing projects under the centrally sponsored SASCI scheme, Ramesh Kumar directed that all projects taken up under the scheme must be completed within the current financial year. He instructed officers to expedite tendering, preparation of estimates and other requisite formalities to ensure that work commences immediately after approval and is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Taking stock of the implementation of the VB-G RAM G programme, the Secretary called upon ACDs to work with greater commitment and focus on identified priority areas. He underlined that the programme aims to provide employment to eligible persons while creating durable assets in rural areas, and stressed that no eligible beneficiary should be deprived of its benefits.

Ramesh Kumar also emphasised the need to suitably modify the pause period in accordance with seasonal conditions to facilitate execution during the appropriate working season. Reviewing key components, including person-days generation, tendering of material components, Area Officer Monitoring Reports, Estimate Status Reports, SPARSH and other related issues, he directed officers to resolve all pending matters promptly.

The Secretary further directed that Block Development Officers (BDOs) be made fully accountable for discharging their assigned responsibilities within the prescribed timelines.

Reviewing the progress under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G), the Secretary expressed satisfaction over the achievement of nearly 98 per cent of the targets. However, he directed the concerned officers to expedite construction of the remaining houses to ensure 100 per cent achievement at the earliest.

With regard to Panchayat Ghars, he directed that all ongoing buildings be completed without delay and that land-related issues and other impediments be resolved on priority. He made it clear that non-completion of sanctioned Panchayat Ghars would not be tolerated and asked ACPs to personally review progress and strengthen the monitoring mechanism.

The Secretary called for accelerating the pace of developmental works, improving overall performance and ensuring effective engagement of BDOs in implementation. He stressed that all issues affecting execution must be resolved promptly, adding that officers demonstrating good performance would be duly appreciated, while those failing to discharge their responsibilities would face disciplinary action.

The meeting also reviewed manpower availability in the Department, during which the Secretary issued necessary directions for addressing related issues and improving overall administrative functioning.

During the meeting, it was informed that under the UT Capex, 594 out of 621 ongoing works have been physically completed. Under the Infrastructure Development component, 25 DDC/BDC buildings have been completed.

Under PMAY-G, Jammu Division has achieved 97.9 per cent physical progress, with 2,79,851 houses completed against the target of 2,86,569.

The newly launched VB-G RAM G programme has generated 31.07 lakh person-days, while 6,71,961 job cards have been issued and 88,892 households have availed employment under the programme. It was further informed that 201 Panchayat Ghars have been completed, while 153 are currently under construction.

SARAS Mela Kashmir concludes on High Note, records impressive Business

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: The 10-day SARAS Mela 2025 concluded Tuesday here at poloview Park celebrating India's unity in diversity and promoting women entrepreneurship nationwide.

The Mela which began here at the poloview park Srinagar on 25th October continued till today, offering the visitors a myriad collection of hand made products and cuisines from across the country.

More than 200 women artisans from different parts of rural India participated and showcased their products on 80 stalls provided by the JKRLM for exhibition and sale. women from self-help groups from 17 states /UTs displayed handicraft, handloom and natural food items from different rural areas in the vibrant stalls handled and managed by Women SHG members.

Some of the prominent items displayed at the stalls were the handmade cloth from Jammu-Kashmir with sozni and ariwork, Kutchi handloom from Gujurat ,Phulkari suits from Punjab ,Pickles from Lakshwadeep, Pochampalli Ikkat from Telengana, Sambhalpuri from odisha, Kantha from West Bengal and many more .

Addressing the gathering at the closing ceremony, Mission Director JKRLM, Dr Shubhra Sharma, expressed satisfaction over the successful culmination of the Mela, highlighting the encouraging sales, participation of women entrepreneurs from different States/UTs and the overall coordination of the event.

She remarked, "This year's SARAS Mela has recorded encouraging sales, while the participation of different States and UTs has made it a truly enriching experience. She added,"the very purpose of organising the SARAS Mela has been fulfilled. Beyond business and the showcasing of products, the Mela has provided a shared platform where SHG members from across the country have come together, built bonds of friendship, shared experiences and explored opportunities for mutual learning and economic gains."

Dr Shubhra Sharma also expressed her gratitude to the line departments for their active participation and support throughout the Mela. She particularly acknowledged the media for its coverage and for helping bring the stories, products and entrepreneurial efforts of rural women to a wider audience.

The Mela concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where SHG members were awarded certificates for their outstanding contributions. In the awards category, Rajashtan secured first position for best sales, while Srinagar district bagged the top honour in the best food category.

The closing ceremony was attended by Additional Mission Director JKRLM Syed Naseer Ahmad, State project Managers JKRLM besides other staff members of the Mission

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT & COUNSELLING CENTRE, ANANTNAG

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Subject: - Notice for inviting applications from the unemployed youth of the district Anantnag to undergo 3 months skill development course in "Certificate Course in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing"- Extension Notice

In continuation of the earlier notice vide no. No: DECC/ANG/ESTT/2026-27/761-64, Dated: 05.10.2026 issued by the undersigned regarding invitation of applications from interested unemployed youth of District Anantnag for undergoing a three-month skill development course titled **"Certificate Course in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing,"** it is hereby notified that the last date for submission of applications is extended up to **5th November, 2026 (4:00 PM).**

Eligible candidates having qualification of 10th with ITI Diploma or 10+2 and above are invited to apply through the Google Form mentioned below. The course will be conducted by the District Employment & Counselling Centre, Anantnag, free of cost. A monthly stipend of Rs.1,000/- shall be provided to the selected candidates through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

Apply Online via Google Form: https://forms.gle/FcYfSKaEnoScrynD9

For any other query kindly contact: dyeccans@gmail.com

No: DECC/ANG/ESTT/2026-27/829-32 Sd/

Dated: 02.11.2026 DIPK-7311-26 DT: 03/11/2026 Deputy Director Employment, Anantnag

Mission Shakti organises Awareness Programme on 'Domestic Violence Act'

GMK NEWS NETWORK



BUDGAM: SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti, Budgam, organised a Capacity Building and Awareness Programme on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, at Panchayat Ghar, Arizal, with the objective of sensitising participants about women's legal rights, protection mechanisms and support services available to women facing domestic violence.

At the outset, Asifa Manzoor, Gender Specialist, highlighted various schemes and initiatives being implemented under Mission Shakti.

Speaking on the occasion, Afroza, District Mission Coordinator (DMC), Sankalp-HEW, Budgam, elaborated on the objectives of Mission Shakti and briefed the participants about various livelihood-oriented schemes and financial assistance available for women to promote their economic empowerment, self-reliance and financial independence.

Advocate Bilal Ahmed from TLSA delivered an informative session on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, explaining its key provisions, legal rights and safeguards available to women experiencing domestic violence. He also emphasised the importance of legal awareness and timely access to justice.

Furthermore, Sub-Inspector Surjeet from the SSP Office sensitised the participants about the role and responsibilities of the police in addressing cases of domestic violence, receiving complaints, ensuring the safety and protection of affected women and facilitating appropriate legal intervention under the Act.

The programme served as an important platform for enhancing awareness about women's legal rights, institutional support mechanisms, available government schemes and avenues for economic empowerment. Participants were encouraged to seek assistance and report instances of domestic violence without hesitation.

Through such capacity-building and awareness initiatives, SANKALP-HEW, Mission Shakti, Budgam, continues its efforts towards promoting women's safety, dignity, legal awareness and empowerment.

Mission YUVA organises Udyam Jagriti programme for ex-servicemen

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Mission YUVA Kulgam organised an Udyam Jagriti Programme at the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC), Kulgam, to sensitise ex-servicemen, widows and their wards about entrepreneurship opportunities and support available under the scheme for establishing sustainable self-employment ventures.

The programme witnessed participation from representatives of the Sainik Welfare Department, Srinagar including Rashid War , Assistant Director Employment Kulgam, Rahil Amin, Career Counselling Officer, DE&CC Kulgam, Shazlia Qureshi, Employment Officer, Rozy Jan, SBDU team Mission YUVA and a large gathering of ex-servicemen and their families.

Addressing the participants, Shazlia Qureshi highlighted Mission YUVA's role in transforming aspiring youth from job-seekers into job-creators by facilitating enterprise establishment, livelihood generation and economic empowerment. A live demonstration of the Mission YUVA Portal and mobile application was conducted to familiarise participants with the registration and application process.

An interactive question-and-answer session was also held, during which participants' queries regarding eligibility, financial assistance and enterprise establishment were addressed by the officials.

Kupwara admin bids warm farewell to outgoing SDM Karnah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The District Administration Kupwara Tuesday accorded a warm send-off to outgoing SDM Karnah-Tanghdar, Reyaz Ahmad, in a ceremony held at the DC Office Complex.

Presiding over the function, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara praised the officer's promptness, alacrity, and calm demeanor in serving the border sub-division, urging him to continue sharing his insights and field experience with the district administration.

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara also lauded his leadership and seamless inter-departmental coordination during his tenure.

In response, Reyaz Ahmad expressed deep gratitude to the DC and the administration for their steadfast support while executing administrative tasks in a challenging border terrain.

The event was attended by ADC Kupwara, ADC Handwara, SDM Lolab, ACR Kupwara, CPO, District Information Officer (DIO), and other district officers, who extended their best wishes to the outgoing officer for his future postings.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO: T-1/EEA/9846-50 | Dated: 03/11/2026

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject: -

1. Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Awantipora on emergency basis by way of Snow clearance (Stage contract- 02) for the year 2026-27.
2. Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Awantipora on emergency basis by way of Snow clearance (Stage contract- 03) for the year 2026-27.
3. Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Awantipora on emergency basis by way of Snow clearance (Stage contract- 05) for the year 2026-27.

Reference: -

1. This office e-NIT No. Fresh-140/EEA/RNB of 2026-27/8956-66 Dated 14-10-2026.

The critical dates for the above noted Works are hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	07-11-2026 up to 12:00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	07-11-2026 up to 03:00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/- Sd/-

Technical officer DIPK-7314-26 DT: 03/11/2026 Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

Shopian readies for Vibrant Cultural Fiesta; DC reviews preparations

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review and finalize elaborate arrangements for the upcoming celebration of the vibrant "Jashn-e-Hurud" festival, scheduled to be held in the district on 7th November 2026.

Emphasizing the significance of the event, the DC stressed that all arrangements should be robust, well-coordinated and innovative to ensure the festival is a grand success.

All line departments have been directed to install interactive stalls to showcase and display their departmental activities, welfare schemes and achievements.

The Information Department and concerned agencies have been entrusted with organizing vibrant cultural programmes, traditional plays and folk songs to highlight the rich local heritage.

Comprehensive security and traffic arrangements were finalized, with strict directions issued to the police department to ensure smooth management and foolproof security on the occasion.

Since the event marks a major celebration, all district officers and sectoral heads were directed to ensure their active participation to make the event a grand success.

The chair urged all stakeholders to work in tandem to project the rich cultural ethos of the region and make "Jashn-e-Hurud 2026" a memorable event for the public.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the Death Certificate of Abdul Karim Rather, S/o Abdul Rehman Rather, R/o Kumar Mohalla, Pandach, Ganderbal, who passed away on 10-03-1978, and was the husband of Zooni, is required for official purposes. Any person having any objection or information regarding the issuance of the said Death Certificate may submit the same to the concerned authorities within the stipulated period.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE BARAMULLA

Email: baramullaindustries@gmail.com Telephone: 01952-234991

NOTICE

For the information of General Public, Government and Semi-government Institutions it is to convey that M/s Salmani Steel Industries, at Industrial Estate Sopore is formally registered with this office under No: 07/02/02/01324/PMT/SSI, dated: 20-04-1985 for the activity of "Manufacturing of Sheet metal items" as a sole proprietorship concern of Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Hajam S/o Ghulam Ahmad Hajam R/o Seer Jageer Sopore. The proprietor of the unit has applied in this office for transfer of lease hold rights of the unit in favour of Mr. Abdul Qayoom Matahani S/o Abdul Ahad Matahani R/o Ashtangoo Ghat, Ashtangoo Bandipora. The incoming promoter intends to establish a new unit in the existing premises under the Name & Style "M/s Matta Wood Products" for the activity of "Mnf. of wooden items using surface planner". However, before this office may affect the said changes in our records, anybody having any objection regarding the said Transfer of Lease hold rights of the unit, establishment of the new unit and de-registration of the existing unit may report to Office of General Manager District Industries Centre, Baramulla within 10 days from date of publication of this notice. The objections received after the due date shall not be entertained.

No.: DIC/Bla/Dev/724 General Manager,

Dated: 02-11-2026 District Industries Centre, Baramulla.

Usha supports Sqay martial arts event in Srinagar

Over 350 watched on as athletes showcased combat, artistic disciplines of Sqay

GMK SPORTS DESK



SRINAGAR: Usha International, one of India's most respected consumer durables brands, supported the Sqay martial arts event in Srinagar between the 29th and 31st of October, reinforcing its commitment to promoting indigenous sports and encouraging community participation in active living.

Sqay, an indigenous armed and unarmed combat style martial art using a bargula (shield) and tora (leather-covered bamboo sword), from Jammu & Kashmir, is deeply rooted in the region's cultural and warrior traditions. Rooted in ancient self-defense techniques, it has evolved into a structured modern sport, which is now recognized at national and international platforms. Supporting this initiative aligns with Usha Play's larger vision of nurturing grassroots talent, preserving indigenous sporting heritage, and creating accessible platforms for young athletes across regions.

Speaking about the initiative, Ms Komal Mehra, Head – Sports Initiatives and Associations, Usha International, said, "When indigenous sports like Sqay are practised, they keep alive a legacy that is deeply connected to a region's history, culture, and spirit of resilience. Rooted in history and revived as a modern competitive sport, Sqay was developed by ancient Kashmiris and indigenous groups for self-protection against invaders. This indigenous sport, which was used for survival is now a reason to come together and play. Usha Play's association with such sporting initiatives allows us to bring awareness and nurture local talent, preserving indigenous traditions, and helping these unique disciplines become aspirational."

Following the competitions across Combat/Fight (Loba), Artistic events Khawankay (preset artistic routines) & Aerosqay (performed to music) that saw a turnout of over 350 athletes, winners across categories were felicitated during a prize distribution ceremony adjudicated by a distinguished panel of judges.

The individual honours among the boys in the Cadet category (under 11) saw Mohammad Usman Rather secure top spot, while Mie Aalima Jan claimed the top spot for the girls in Artistic Aerosqay event. The Sub Junior categories (under 14) witnessed impressive performances, with Shanaya Gigoo finishing first in her Khawankay -1 performance among girls and Abid Ajaz delivering a winning performance in Loba among the boys in the same category. In the Junior open category (under 18) Rayyan Bin Rizwan secured top spot, while Maliya Zahoor claimed the top spot for the girls in the Loba event. In the Senior category (Above 18), Disha Pandith secured the Gold Medal for her performance in Khawankay -3, while Faizan Shabir secured the top spot among boys in the same age category for Loba.

One of the major attractions was the Best Fighter Bout (Champion of Champions), where outstanding athletes demonstrated exceptional fighting skills, confidence, technical ability and determination. Among boys the best fighter title went to Mr. Faizan from the district Shopian while Ms. Madeeha from the district of Ganderbal took the prize home for the girls.

The competition also celebrated a district-wise overall championship that saw District Ganderbal in first followed by Srinagar in second and Shopian in third.

Speaking about the event, Grandmaster Nazir Ahmad Mir, Founder of Sqay and Secretary General, International Council of Sqay; Jammu & Kashmir Sqay Association, said, "Sqay represents the spirit, resilience, and cultural legacy of Jammu & Kashmir. It is encouraging to see growing interest among young athletes who are keen to learn and carry this tradition forward. Support from organisations like Usha Play plays a crucial role in this journey, as it helps create platforms for talent to thrive while bringing greater visibility to indigenous sports like Sqay."

The event was attended by distinguished dignitaries including the Chief Guest Dr Tassaduq Hussain Mir, JKAS – Custodian General and Guests of Honour Mr Tariq Ahmad Wani – SSP Headquarters, Mr Ghazanfar Ali Butt – Territory Manager, Usha International, Mr Nisar Ahmad Qadri – Usha International Ltd, Mr Ghulam Hassan Rather – Chairman, HKMC Ganderbal, Dr Firdous Baba – Chief, Sewa Sangh, Mr Balbir Singh – Former Assistant Director, Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Ms Sheezana Rasool – Founder and CEO, Agaaz International and Mr Farooq Ahmad – Editor-in-Chief, Brighter Kashmir.

Usha is deeply invested in revitalizing indigenous/ancient Indian disciplines that bring communities together and foster active, joyful, and healthy living. Beyond indigenous sports, Usha supports a wide range of inclusive sporting initiatives across the country, including its association with the Mumbai Indians franchise, Ultimate Flying Disc, golf, cricket for the specially abled, athletics and martial arts for the visually challenged, as well as regional sports such as Mallakhamb, Siat Khnam, Yoga, Thang-Ta, Saz-Loung, Satoliya/Pithu, Kalarippayattu, and more.

Aaron Finch hails 'one of most destructive players' Glenn Maxwell after his retirement



IANS

NEW DELHI: Former Australian captain Aaron Finch has hailed Glenn Maxwell after the all-rounder announced his retirement from international cricket.

Finch, who led Australia to the 2022 T20 World Cup title, took to social media to congratulate the outgoing Aussie all-rounder for his stellar career. "What a career, Glenn Maxwell!! Without doubt, one of the most destructive players the game has ever seen and easily one of the most innovative of our generation.

"Some of the things you've done on a cricket field have been absolutely ridiculous. You've played innings that most of us could only dream of and produced some of the greatest moments this game has ever seen. You've changed the way the game is played and inspired so many along the way.

Finch also spoke about Maxwell's character beyond the boundary ropes, praising him for the teammate he has been in the Australian dressing room/ "But as good as you've been on the field, you've been an even better teammate and a great mate. I've loved sharing the dressing room with you, the wins, the challenges and everything in between. So many great memories that I'll always look back on.

"An incredible career for Australia, mate, and one you should be extremely proud of. Congratulations, legend," he ended his post with.

ICC Rankings: Vaishnavi Sharma rises 53 places to 94th in ODI bowling after five-wicket haul

IANS



DUBAI: India's young spinner Vaishnavi Sharma made a significant leap in the latest ICC Women's ODI rankings following her impressive performance in the three-match series against Zimbabwe, climbing 53 places to reach 94th position in the bowling charts.

The 20-year-old spinner emerged as the biggest gainer among Indian players after delivering an outstanding performance in the series, particularly in the third and final ODI, where she registered her maiden five-wicket haul in the format.

After picking up four wickets in the second ODI, Vaishnavi continued her impressive run with figures of 5/39 in the series finale. The performance, which came in only her third appearance in the 50-over format, earned her the Player of the Match award and helped India complete a 3-0 clean sweep.

Vaishnavi's rise was not the only positive development for India in the bowling rankings, with Sayali Satghare also making notable progress. The pacer climbed 18 places to 85th after an impressive display in the final ODI, where she returned figures of 2/11 in six overs and bowled 30 dot balls.

Meanwhile, left-arm spinner Kranti Gaud moved up one place to 24th after claiming two wickets in the third ODI. For Zimbabwe, Nomvelo Sibanda gained two places to reach 60th in the bowling rankings. She made an early impact in the final match by dismissing India's Yastika Bhatia off the first ball of the innings.

In the batting rankings, India opener Pratika Rawal climbed three places to 18th following another consistent performance against Zimbabwe. Rawal registered her third consecutive half-century of the series, continuing her impressive run with the bat.

Prasidh Krishna set to fly to New Zealand after getting fitness clearance from CoE

IANS



NEW DELHI: Indian fast bowler Prasidh Krishna is set to fly to New Zealand after getting fitness clearance from the medical team at the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru.

IANS understands that Prasidh was put through match-simulation sessions held on November 1 and 2 and got clearance.

"After getting fit, Prasidh Krishna was to leave for New Zealand late tonight or early tomorrow morning. But he's already gone from India to reach New Zealand in time," a source tracking the development told IANS on Tuesday.

Prasidh will now be available to turn out for India A in the third red-ball game against New Zealand A, happening at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval in Lincoln from November 7.

The tall right-arm pacer was kept out of the first three matches of the five-game ODI series against New Zealand, starting in Eden Park, Auckland, on Wednesday, to give his hamstring more time to heal and build up his bowling load for the two Tests that follow.

The clearance to Prasidh, who sustained the hamstring injury while bowling in the second ODI against the West Indies in Guwahati on September 30, comes as a timely boost for the Indian camp stretched on the fast-bowling front. Jasprit Bumrah has been rested for the entire ODI series with an eye to play both Tests in Wellington and Christchurch.

Seam-bowling all-rounder Harshit Rana was ruled out of the series due to a left quadriceps strain and will mark his return via India A games in the Rising Stars Asia Cup in Doha later this month.

Mohammed Siraj is expected to leave the ODI squad after the first three games to prepare for the two Tests, which will leave a raw attack led by Arshdeep Singh for the last two 50-over games against the Black Caps. Arshdeep has played 18 ODIs, while Gurnoor Brar, Anshul Kamboj, Auqib Nabi and Yash Thakur have just the experience of 11 games between them.

A game for India A should give Prasidh useful overs in New Zealand conditions before the Test series begins, which carry plenty of weight for India in the World Test Championship race. India are fourth in the standings behind New Zealand, current champions South Africa and Australia.

'Imagine Lanning walking out for toss and Molineux not in XI': Anjum on UPW's selection connundrum

IANS



NEW DELHI: UP Warriorz face a significant selection dilemma ahead of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2027 season, with former India captain Anjum Chopra questioning how the franchise will accommodate its overseas stars following the additions of Sophie Molineux and Grace Harris at the auction.

Anjum believes the presence of several established international players could leave the franchise struggling to settle on its preferred four overseas options, particularly with Meg Lanning, Phoebe Litchfield and Sophie Ecclestone already commanding important roles.

The Warriorz have attempted to strengthen their squad after another campaign in which finding the right overseas combination proved challenging. However, the latest additions have created a different selection question, with Molineux's arrival potentially complicating the competition for places alongside Ecclestone, who remains a key component of the side.

Anjum believes three overseas players are virtually assured of their places, leaving the franchise with a difficult decision over the remaining spot and the role of its other high-profile recruits.

"With Phoebe Litchfield and Meg Lanning both there, Sophie Ecclestone is another player who walks straight into the playing XI. Those three are automatic picks. The challenge for UP Warriorz was how to fit everyone in because they wanted to play Deandra Dottin. When she couldn't do well, they were going helter-skelter trying to find that balance," Anjum told JioStar.

The selection puzzle is particularly interesting given the contrasting skill sets available to the franchise. Ecclestone provides a frontline spin option, while Molineux brings another left-arm spin-bowling option alongside her batting contributions. Harris, meanwhile, offers an attacking middle-order presence.

Now, they have Sophie Molineux and Grace Harris, who has played for UP Warriorz earlier as well, when Alyssa Healy was there. But how will you combine Sophie Ecclestone and Sophie Molineux? If you look at Mumbai Indians, they don't change their core. They did everything they could to have Amelia Kerr back, to the extent that Harmanpreet was ready to take a pay cut. But if you look at UP Warriorz, they are unsure about what combination will actually work for them because imagine Meg Lanning walking out for the toss and Sophie Molineux not being in the playing XI. That would be very strange," she added.

Mohali set to make international hockey debut as Asian Champions Trophy enters knockout stage

IANS



MOHALI: With the successful completion of the league-stage matches in Punjab's Jalandhar city, the Asian Champions Trophy is now set to enter its decisive knockout phase, with Mohali preparing to make history by hosting its first-ever international hockey match on November 4.

The Olympian Balbir Singh Senior Hockey Stadium will step onto the international hockey map as it hosts two semi-finals and a classification match for the fifth position in the prestigious tournament. The development marks another milestone for Punjab, which is hosting an international hockey tournament on its soil for the first time.

The achievement has been made possible through the efforts of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, whose initiatives have helped bring international hockey to two prominent sporting cities of the state. The league stage, held at the Olympian Surjit Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar, concluded with India finishing at the top of the standings, followed by Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, China and Bangladesh.

Three crucial encounters are scheduled for November 4. China and Bangladesh will open the day's proceedings in the fifth-place classification match at 2 pm. The first semi-final will see Japan take on Malaysia at 4.30 pm, while hosts and defending champions India will face South Korea in the second semi-final at 7 pm.

All four semi-finalists will be looking to secure a place in the title clash, scheduled at the same venue in Mohali on November 5. The two losing semi-finalists will compete for the bronze medal. The tournament's history gives India a significant edge in terms of experience and achievements.

Across the eight previous editions of the Asian Champions Trophy, India have reached the final six times, winning the title on five occasions, including one shared championship, and finishing runners-up once. Japan have reached the final twice, while South Korea, Malaysia and China have each made one final appearance.

India will now be aiming for a record seventh final appearance, while Japan will look to reach their third. South Korea and Malaysia will be targeting their second appearances in the title clash. Among the four semi-finalists, India have won the trophy five times, while South Korea have lifted it once. Japan have finished runners-up twice and Malaysia once.

India have been in outstanding form throughout the ongoing edition, remaining unbeaten after winning all five of their league matches. Japan have registered three victories and one draw, while Malaysia have secured three wins. South Korea have won two matches. China have recorded two draws, while Bangladesh have managed one.

India have also dominated the attacking statistics, scoring an impressive 34 goals. Malaysia are next with 17 goals, followed by South Korea and China with 10 each. Japan have scored nine goals, while Bangladesh have netted twice. Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh has emerged as the tournament's leading goal-scorer with nine goals, underlining his importance to the team's campaign.

Malaysia's Abu Kamal Azrai occupies second place with five goals. India's Dilpreet Singh and Sukhjeet Singh, along with China's Benhai Chen, have scored four goals each. A group of players have registered three goals apiece, including India's Mandeep Singh, Abhishek and Jugraj Singh, South Korea's Dan Sun, Japan's Kentaro Fukuda and Malaysia's Azimuddin.

With India carrying an unbeaten record, Japan and Malaysia arriving with strong league-stage performances, and South Korea eager to challenge the tournament favourites, the knockout stage promises high-intensity action.

