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

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Manoj Sinha
@manojsinha_



Chaired a meeting of Jammu Kashmir Higher Education Council at Lok Bhavan, Jammu. Held comprehensive discussions focused on strengthening the higher education ecosystem, fostering innovation, and aligning academic institutions with future challenges and emerging opportunities.

GK Srinagar • Thursday 05, November 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 261 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

LG Sinha Chairs Higher Education Council Meeting

Reviews Measures To Strengthen Academic Institutions



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting of Jammu Kashmir Higher Education Council (JKHEC), at Lok Bhavan.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah; Minister for School Education Department, Higher Education Department, Jal Shakti Department, Ms. Shamim Firdous; Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council, Prof. Dinesh Singh; Acting Chief Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shri Shailendra Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Shri Govind Jaiswal; Commissioner Secretary; Higher Education Department, Shri Ram Niwas Sharma; Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai; VC Kashmir University, Prof. Nilofer Khan; VC, IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo; VC SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar; VC SKUAST Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai; VC SKUAST Jammu, Prof. BN Tripathi; VC Central University of Kashmir, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath; VC Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain; VC BGSBU, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal; VC Cluster University Jammu, Dr. K. S. Chandrasekar; VC Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin; Director IIT Jammu, Prof Manoj Singh Gaur; Director IIM Jammu, Prof. B.S. Sahay; Director NIT Srinagar, Prof Anurag Misra; Prof Kavi Arya from IIT Bombay; Director, Cluster Innovation Centre Delhi University, Ms Shobha Bagai, and other members.

The Council met under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor to chart a forward-looking roadmap for higher education. Discussions focussed on • P-06

BJP Executed 'Operation Lotus' In Kashmir: NC On Ruhullah's Resignation

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: A day after Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi announced his exit from the National Conference, the party on Wednesday launched a scathing counterattack, with MLA Salman Ali Sagar claiming that BJP has succeeded in its "Operation Lotus" by pushing the Srinagar MP out of the party.

Questioning Ruhullah's decision to walk away instead of resolving differences within the organisation, Salman, said the NC's strength did not depend on any individual, as Banihal MLA Sajad Shaheen also accused the MP of betraying the party and the electorate that had elected him.

Addressing a joint press conference at Nawai Subah, party headquarters, the duo said Ruhullah had every democratic right to question the party leadership, express disagreement and take independent decisions, but should have raised his grievances through



the party's internal forums.

MLA Salman Sagar said the National Conference is a democratic organisation where every member had the right to speak and raise questions. He termed the language used by Ruhullah against the party leadership unfortunate, saying political differences should be expressed within the bounds of dignity and decorum.

"I feel the BJP has succeeded in its Operation Lotus, particularly in pushing Aga Ruhullah Sahib out of the National Conference," he said.

MLA Salman said the BJP had been attempting to weaken the National Conference for years and the latest developments had served its political interests in Kashmir.

Referring to BJP's earlier political gains in Jammu, he cited the exits of former NC leaders, including late Devender Singh Rana and Surjit Singh Salathia, saying the BJP had now succeeded in getting Ruhullah out of the party as well.

He said the developments needed to be viewed in the wider political context of attempts to weaken the National Conference and its political influence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Questioning Ruhullah's engagement with the party, Salman said the MP had not regularly visited the party headquarters or made sufficient efforts to reach out to party legislators and other stakeholders. He also asked how many times Ruhullah • P-06

NC Dissident MLAs Likely To Meet Party Top Brass On Friday

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The dissident group of National Conference MLAs is likely to meet the party top brass on Friday in Srinagar.

Sources said that all dissident MLAs are likely to meet the NC leadership on Friday morning in Srinagar. It could not be confirmed whether they would meet Dr. Farooq Abdullah or Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The National Conference is facing dissidence over the recent cabinet expansion-cum-reshuffle, with as many as two dozen legislators upset over the move.

The legislators have held three separate meetings in Srinagar over the past week. They have also submitted a memorandum to the party high command seeking a cabinet reshuffle.(KNO)

CM's Own MPs, MLAs Exposing His Govt's Incompetence: Chugh



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: BJP National Headquarters In-Charge and Rajya Sabha MP Tarun Chugh, reacting to National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's resignation, said that even MPs and MLAs from Omar Abdullah's own party are now questioning his government's competence and experience. This growing dissent within the National Conference is a clear reflection of the failure of Omar Abdullah's leadership.

Chugh said that the BJP has consistently maintained that the Omar Abdullah government has failed to deliver on its promises, particularly on providing employment opportunities to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. The commitments made to the people during the elections remain unfulfilled, with the government failing to take concrete steps towards implementing its manifesto. JammuKashmir travel

He stated that the most telling aspect of the situation is that the government's failures are now being exposed • P-06

Two Charred To Death As Fire Guts 80 Shelters In Bemina



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: A mother's desperate plea for help, a father's recollection of his son's last phone call and families left with nothing but the clothes they managed to escape in captured the tragedy after a fire gutted nearly 80 temporary shelters in Durbal area of Bemina in Srinagar, killing two people, including a 16-year-old boy.

The blaze broke out during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, leaving several families homeless, destroying their belongings and claiming the lives of two Delhi natives who were working as scrap collectors in the area.

One of the bereaved mothers, whose 16-year-old son died in the fire, said she received the heartbreaking news around 3 am. "I got the news at 3 in the night that my son was burnt," she said. She has appealed to the government for assistance.

Another family member said the boy had come to visit his relatives in the area just two days before the incident and had spoken to his father over the phone shortly before the tragedy.

"He called me in the middle of the night and said, 'I have come here, but I don't like it here. I will come to Kupwara in the morning.' That was the last thing he said to me," his father • P-06

JP Nadda To Visit AIIMS Awantipora Today, OPD Services Likely Soon

JAHANGEER GANAIE

AWANTIPORA: Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda will visit the under-construction All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district today (Thursday) to review the project's progress and preparedness for the start of healthcare services.

Officials said that Nadda will assess infrastructure, ongoing construction work and preparations for the phased rollout of services at the institute.

The visit is significant as the much-awaited project has missed multiple completion deadlines, with residents across Kashmir awaiting its operationalisation.

The Outpatient Department (OPD) is expected to become functional later this month, subject to the completion of pending works and operational formalities.

Officials said efforts are under-



way to expedite the remaining infrastructure, install medical equipment and secure mandatory clearances required for the commencement of patient services.

An October-end target for launching OPD services could not be met due to pending works and procedural requirements.

At a review meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Kuldeep Krishan Sidha on October 16, officials said the overall physical progress of the project had reached around 81 per cent, while financial progress stood at over 72 per cent.

Hospital Block-I has been completed, while Hospital Block-II is nearly complete.

The administration has directed executing agencies to resolve pending issues and ensure that ready facilities are made operational without further delay. During a visit to the institute on October 23, the Deputy Commissioner also stressed that departments ready for operations should be opened in phases instead of waiting for the entire campus to be completed.

Officials said electricity and water connections are in place, while heating systems, lift safety clearances, mandatory no-objection certificates and other operational requirements are being addressed on priority.

AIIMS Awantipora • P-06

Makes 7 Papers Mandatory

J&K Govt Replaces 2000 KAS Probation Rules

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has introduced a major revision in the probation and departmental examination framework for newly recruited Junior Scale officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS), replacing the existing two-decade-old rules and making all seven examination papers compulsory.

According to the details available, the General Administration Department (GAD), through Notification S.O. 278, has notified the Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Services (Probation and Examination) Rules, 2026, superseding the rules introduced in 2000.

Under the revised framework, probationers will have to qualify all seven papers, each carrying 100 marks, with a minimum of 50 per cent marks required separately in every paper.

The new arrangement removes the earlier provision allowing candidates to choose between optional papers. Under the previous system, probationers were required to clear five compulsory papers and one optional paper selected from two available choices.

THE REVISED framework retains three regular chances and one mercy chance for qualifying the examination.

Another significant change concerns the qualifying criteria. While the earlier rules left the determination of qualifying marks to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) • P-06

Winter Sets In

Temperatures Dip Across Kashmir, Fog Likely To Intensify

MeT Forecasts Brief Rain, Snowfall Over Higher Reaches Today

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to receive light rainfall at isolated places and snowfall over higher reaches on Thursday, while temperatures are expected to dip further and morning fog may become more frequent across the region.

Director Meteorological Department Mukhtar Ahmad said that another weather system is expected to affect Jammu and Kashmir on November 10 and 11, bringing the possibility of light rain in parts of both divisions and snowfall over higher-altitude areas.

Ahmad said weather conditions are likely to remain largely dry across the region after the November 5 spell until November 9.



He said isolated thunderstorms cannot be ruled out during November 10 and 11, although no significant weather activity is expected under the current forecast.

Meanwhile, minimum temperatures continued to remain low across several parts of Kashmir, with Kupwara and Gulmarg recording sub-zero temperatures on Wednesday.

According to the India Meteorological Department's evening bulletin, Kupwara recorded a minimum temperature of 1.8 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg settled at 1.6 degrees Celsius. Both stations recorded temperatures 0.1 degrees below their respective seasonal averages.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 4.1 degrees Celsius, 1.1 degrees above normal, while Qazigund registered 3.4 degrees Celsius and Pahalgam 3.1 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag recorded a low of 6 degrees Celsius, while Jammu city registered a minimum temperature of 15.1 degrees Celsius.

On the maximum temperature front, Kupwara was the warmest among the reported Kashmir stations at 23.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Srinagar and Qazigund, both recording 22 • P-06

Family Seeks Repatriation

Sopore MBBS Student Found Dead In Bangladesh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SOPORE: A medical student from Dangerpora area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district was found dead in Bangladesh, leaving his family in shock. JammuKashmir travel

The family said that Adnan had travelled to Bangladesh around 15 days ago along with his mother and was scheduled to appear in his first examination of the final semester.

The family said they lost contact with him two days ago and were subsequently informed that he was missing. "We were informed on Tuesday evening that our beloved family member had been found dead near a water body," a family member said.

The deceased was identified as Adnan Ahmed Rather, son of Mohammad Altaf Rather, who was pursuing MBBS in Bangladesh and was in the • P-06

Strait Of Hormuz

Iran Exempts Ships From India, Three Other Nations From Transit Restrictions



AGENCIES

DUBAI: Iran has exempted commercial ships from four countries, including India and China, from transit restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, a top Iranian official has said, amid continued attacks on vessels attempting to cross the strategic waterway.

Amir Hayat Moghadam, Deputy Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, made the announcement in an interview with the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) on Tuesday. Newsupdates service

"We have currently exempted four countries - India, China, Iraq and Qatar - from transit restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz. Ships from these countries pass freely, and the Americans do not intercept them either," he was quoted as saying by the semi-official news agency.

Moqaddam said the exemptions were based on specific considerations and mutual interests.

He said that facilitating the passage • P-06

MD NHM reviews setting up of UT Level Mental Health Authority

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: A meeting was held Wednesday under the chairmanship of Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, to review the establishment of the UT-Level Mental Health Authority.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Heads of Departments of Psychiatry from GMC Jammu and GMC Srinagar; and the Programme Management Unit for Mental Health, NHM J&K.

The discussion focused on expediting the formation of the authority for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in accordance with the provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.

During the meeting, the Mission Director led comprehensive deliberations on the statutory requirements, institutional framework, and operational modalities necessary for constituting and functionalizing the UT Level Mental Health Authority.

Discussions centered on strengthening the regulatory mechanism for mental healthcare services, ensuring the strict implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, safeguarding the rights of persons with mental illness, and fostering seamless coordination among all concerned departments and stakeholders.

In addition to the UT Level Mental Health Authority, the meeting featured a detailed review of the progress and functioning of Tele-MANAS services across Jammu & Kashmir. The evaluation covered critical aspects such as service delivery, call management, and referral mechanisms to enhance the accessibility and overall impact of telemental health services in the region. Special emphasis was laid by the Chair on securing timely counseling, appropriate referrals, and continuity of care for every individual seeking support through the platform.

Concluding the meeting, the Mission Director urged all stakeholders to ensure coordinated efforts and timely action to successfully operationalize the UT Level Mental Health Authority and further elevate the delivery of comprehensive mental healthcare services across Jammu & Kashmir.

Div Com, IGP Jammu review Diwali preparations

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal, along with Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone Tejinder Singh, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements made by district administrations and concerned departments for the smooth and peaceful celebration of the forthcoming festival of Diwali.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on various aspects of the festive arrangements, with a focus on the availability of essential civil supplies, security arrangements, traffic management, connectivity and civic amenities to facilitate the public.

Divisional Commissioner and Inspector General of Police sought detailed feedback from district administrations and Heads of Departments regarding the preparedness and arrangements being put in place for the festival.

Divisional Commissioner directed all officers to ensure visible presence of the administration on the ground and maintain close coordination among departments for prompt redressal of public issues.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department was directed to ensure the availability of fire tenders at designated locations, particularly near firecracker sale points, to deal with any emergency situation.

The Legal Metrology Department was directed to conduct regular checks in shops while ensuring that shopkeepers are not unnecessarily harassed.

Emphasising food safety during the festive season, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned department to maintain strict vigil against the sale of adulterated and substandard food items, reiterating zero tolerance towards fake and unsafe food products.

He stressed that all departments must work in close coordination and ensure that necessary arrangements are in place well in advance so that people can celebrate Diwali in a safe, peaceful and hassle-free atmosphere.

DC Anantnag highlights girls excellence across fields



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: District Social Welfare Office (DSWO), Anantnag, Wednesday organised a Career Counselling-cum-Distribution Camp under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative at Government Degree College (GDC), Uttersoo, Shangus, in collaboration with the college.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, presided the programme as the Chief Guest.

Adressing on the occasion, the DC emphasised the importance of girls' education, empowerment and equal opportunities. He encouraged students to pursue their academic goals with dedication, make informed career choices and take advantage of available opportunities to shape a bright future.

The DC added that girls are excelling and securing top positions in every field through their talent, hard work and determination. He also stressed the need to create awareness about various government welfare initiatives aimed at supporting and empowering girls.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner distributed study material among girl students to facilitate their preparation for various competitive examinations.

MLA Budgam reviews Developmentalal Works

Emphasises timely completion, quality execution

GMK NEWS NETWORK



BUDGAM: Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Budgam, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of various developmental works being executed under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) across Budgam Constituency.

During the meeting, the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Budgam, briefed the MLA on the physical and financial achievements registered by the Rural Development Department (RDD) under the CDF, presenting a detailed block-wise account of the works taken up, approved and completed across the constituency.

The ACD informed the chair that 96.41 percent of the proposed works have received Administrative Approval, while 95.03 percent of the works have been taken up for execution. He further apprised that 83.85 percent of the sanctioned works have been completed, reflecting the progress made by the department towards strengthening grassroots infrastructure and addressing local developmental needs.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of works being executed by other key departments.

The Power Development Department (PDD) informed the chair that out of a total of 13 works taken up under the CDF, 11 have been completed, while the remaining two are under progress.

Similarly, the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department apprised the meeting that out of five developmental works, three have been completed and two are currently under execution.

Officers from other concerned departments, including Irrigation, Roads and Buildings (R&B), and School Education, also briefed the chair about the status and progress of various CDF-funded projects being implemented in different areas of the constituency. They shared details regarding the works completed, those under execution, and the measures being undertaken to ensure timely implementation.

While reviewing the overall progress, the MLA appreciated the efforts of the officers and officials of the concerned departments for making significant progress and adhering to the prescribed timelines for completion of developmental works.

Sopore Law College, Army Join Hands to Raise Awareness Against Drug Abuse

IRFAN TILGAMI



BARAMULLA: Sopore Law College, in collaboration with the Indian Army's 52 Rashtriya Rifles, Wednesday organised an awareness programme on drug abuse, highlighting the harmful effects of substance addiction and the urgent need to sensitise young people about its consequences.

During the inaugural address, Principal Sopore Law College, Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq, spoke about the devastating effects of drug addiction on individuals, families and society. He highlighted how substance abuse damages physical and mental health, affects education and career prospects, creates family and social problems, and threatens the future of young people. He stressed the importance of awareness, education, proper guidance and collective responsibility in preventing drug abuse.

Major Karthik, the keynote speaker, delivered an informative lecture on the growing menace of drug addiction and its serious consequences for the younger generation. He explained how substance abuse is destroying the potential and future of youth, while emphasising the importance of preventive awareness, discipline and active participation of society in tackling this challenge.

The programme was organised with the encouragement and support of Chairperson Sopore Law College Ms. Maryam Bacha, Vice Chairperson Ms. Tamkeenah Naseem Bacha and Trustee Mr. Javaid Ahmad Bhat. Their continued commitment to academic excellence and student development provides students with valuable platforms to participate in educational programmes, awareness campaigns and socially relevant activities. Their vision and encouragement enable students to engage with important social issues beyond the classroom and develop a sense of responsibility towards society.

The event was organised under the guidance of Mr. Faheem Rasheed Shah, Course Coordinator, Sopore Law College.

The programme highlighted the importance of collaboration between educational institutions and the Indian Army in addressing pressing social challenges through awareness and education. It reinforced the message that preventing drug abuse requires continuous awareness, community participation and united efforts to safeguard the future of the younger generation.

The programme concluded with a call for collective efforts to build a drug-free society and protect youth from the devastating consequences of addiction.

MY Bharat Kupwara organises VBYP 2027 at GDC Kupwara



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: MY Bharat Kupwara successfully organised the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament (VBYP) 2027 at Government Degree College (GDC), Kupwara, on the theme "One Nation, One Election," providing an effective platform for young participants to express their views and engage in constructive parliamentary discussions.

The programme was graced by the Vice Principal of Government Degree College, Kupwara, as the Chief Guest, while the District Youth Officer (DYO), Kupwara, was also present on the occasion.

The initiative aimed at promoting democratic values, fostering leadership qualities, enhancing public awareness and encouraging active youth participation in the nation-building process. During the programme, participants shared their perspectives on the theme, demonstrating their understanding of democratic processes and the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament is being organised at District-Level, State-Level and National-Level rounds. The top-performing participants at the district level will qualify for the State-Level round, followed by the National-Level round, which will be held at the Parliament of India, New Delhi.

DC inaugurates District-Level National Youth Festival at GDC Boys Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK



PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Wednesday inaugurated the District-Level National Youth Festival under the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) at Government Degree College (Boys), Pulwama.

The festival was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Pulwama, with the objective of providing a platform to young talent and encouraging their active participation in nation-building.

The festival witnessed enthusiastic participation of boys and girls in the age group of 15 to 29 years from across the district, who showcased their artistic abilities, creativity and cultural expressions through various competitions.

A series of competitions were organised in different disciplines, including Folk Song, Folk Dance, Painting and Poetry. Participants displayed remarkable artistic talent, creativity and enthusiasm, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and vibrant spirit of the district.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the Department of Youth Services and Sports for organizing the festival in a well-coordinated and systematic manner. He also appreciated the impressive performances of the young participants and encouraged them to make optimum use of such platforms to nurture their skills, enhance their confidence and excel in their respective fields.

He emphasised the importance of providing meaningful opportunities to youth to identify, develop and showcase their potential. He also assured full support and encouragement to deserving and promising young talent, urging participants to remain dedicated and strive for excellence.

The festival continued throughout the day, with participants competing in various categories. To ensure its smooth, fair and transparent conduct, different committees were constituted, while a panel of experts evaluated the performances and identified the most deserving participants for the next level of competition.

The selected participants will represent District Pulwama in their respective categories at the upcoming Inter-District Youth Festival.

DC Shopian chairs District-Level Training Programme for Census-2027



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Shopian, Charandeep Singh Wednesday chaired the District-Level Training Programme for District and Charge Level Officers under Census-2027 (Phase-II), focusing on Population Enumeration (PE) at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Shopian.

The two-day training programme, scheduled for November 4 and 5, 2026, is being organised by the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Addressing the participating officers, the DC emphasised the importance of Census-2027 as a significant national exercise and stressed the need for meticulous planning, effective coordination and timely execution of all assigned responsibilities to ensure accurate and reliable population data.

The DC called upon all district and Charge Level Officers to actively participate in the training programme, understand the prescribed procedures and guidelines and ensure that the census- related activities are carried out with utmost dedication, accuracy and accountability.

The DC further stressed that proper understanding of the census methodology and effective coordination among all stakeholders are essential for the smooth and successful conduct of Population Enumeration exercise.

During the meeting, the Deputy commissioner emphasized the importance of proper awareness and capacity building among field functionaries regarding census operations. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary technical arrangements are put in place and that officials including Tehsildars and other field- level functionaries are adequately briefed about the procedures, digital tools and other essential aspects of census work to ensure accuracy, efficiency and timely completion of the exercise.

The training aims to familiarise officers with the procedures, technical aspects and operational requirements of Census-2027, thereby strengthening their preparedness for the forthcoming exercise.

ADDC Kulgam reviews JK Samadhan, online grievances



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess the status of grievances received through JK Samadhan and other online grievance redressal platforms.

During the meeting, the ADDC reviewed all pending grievances, particularly those having long pendency, and took stock of the progress made by various departments at their disposal.

The ADDC directed all concerned officers to accord top priority to grievance redressal and ensure that every grievance is resolved strictly within the stipulated time frame. He emphasized that no unnecessary delay should be allowed and that the general public must not suffer due to administrative lapses or delays.

He further stressed the need for prompt action, proper monitoring and effective coordination among departments to ensure transparent, responsive and citizen-centric governance.

DC Kulgam visits Devsar area, inspects ongoing development works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Wednesday visited Tehsil Devsar and inspected various ongoing development works to take stock of the progress and assess the quality of works being executed in the area.

During the visit, the DC inspected the renovation and improvement works at Primary School Agroo. He took stock of the ongoing works and stressed the importance of ensuring quality execution and timely completion. He also directed the concerned department to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of a kitchen shed and septic tank with soakage pit to further improve the basic facilities at the school.

The DC also visited Girls Middle School Devsar and reviewed the ongoing renovation works. Later, he inspected the upgradation works of the playground at Laiwani, Sopat, and reviewed the progress on site. He stressed the need for timely completion of the project so that improved sports and recreational facilities are made available to local youth and students.

During the visit, the DC emphasised that all ongoing development works must be executed with due attention to quality and adherence to approved specifications and timelines. He directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to maintain close monitoring of the works and ensure that the intended benefits reach the local population.

CM expresses grief, announces ₹2 lakh ex-gratia for families of Bemina fire victims

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday expressed profound grief over the tragic fire incident at Durbal, Bemina, Srinagar, which claimed two lives and gutted scores of temporary shelters during the intervening night of November 3 and 4.

Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of lives, the Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and announced ex-gratia relief of ₹2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased.

The Chief Minister also directed the concerned authorities to ensure immediate relief and all necessary assistance to the affected families. He stressed the need for prompt intervention to address their immediate needs and provide support in the aftermath of the devastating fire.

CM condoles demise of former legislator Ghulam Qadir Pardesi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday expressed heartfelt condolences to MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed Pardesi on the demise of his father, Ghulam Qadir Pardesi, a respected former Member of the Legislative Council and senior leader.

The Chief Minister expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Ghulam Qadir Pardesi, remembering his contributions as a former legislator and his distinguished service as a bureaucrat.

The Chief Minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and the highest place in Jannat, while seeking strength and patience for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Forests lifeline of J&K, must be conserved with human touch: Altaf Wani

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Minister for Forests, Ecology & Environment, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Altaf Ahmad Wani, Wednesday chaired a detailed sector-wise introductory meeting of the Forest Department at Jammu to take stock of its functioning, achievements and future roadmap.

The meeting was attended by Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Ecology & Environment; Sarvesh Rai, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, J&K; Dr. M.K. Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests, Central; Dr. V.S. Senthil Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu; Irfan Rasool, Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir and other senior officers of the department.

A comprehensive presentation was made before the Minister highlighting that J&K has a forest and tree cover of about 54% with 42 forest types, the highest growing stock of 172.46 cum per hectare in the country and per capita forest area of 0.16 ha. It was informed that the forest cover has increased from 20,948.27 sq km in 2013 to 21,346.39 sq km in 2023, registering a gain of 398.12 sq km.

While appreciating the efforts of the department in increasing the green cover and in taking e-governance initiatives like PARIVESH, CAMPA portal, National Transit Permit System, e-Behak Grazing Pass and Van Rakshak App, the Minister stressed that field reality must reflect on ground. He said forests are the lifeline of Jammu & Kashmir and need to be conserved with a human touch involving local communities.

The Minister laid special emphasis on demarcation of forests, terming it the most critical and basic activity. He directed that the remaining demarcation work be completed in a time-bound manner with the help of modern technology and Revenue Department.

Expressing concern over increasing incidents of forest fires, Wani directed the department to put in place a robust Forest Fire Response Mechanism. He asked to organize awareness camps in vulnerable villages with active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Biodiversity Management Committees and Village Forest Committees. He said local youth should be trained as first responders.

On staff welfare, the Minister issued clear directions that all DPCs at all levels must be expedited without any delay. He said career progression is the right of every employee and no file should remain pending. He also directed that a comprehensive inventory of movable and immovable assets of the department including forest huts, eco-parks, nurseries, buildings, vehicles and machinery be compiled and submitted within a fortnight to ensure optimum utilization.

Div Com reviews progress of Jhelum Water Transport Project

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress made in resolving various issues and bottlenecks affecting the progress of water transport facilities along River Jhelum.

The meeting was convened to assess the status of issues faced by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) project and to ensure coordinated efforts among the concerned departments for facilitating the smooth execution and timely advancement of the Jhelum Water Transport Project.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar and Bandipora, Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, representatives of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), and officers from the Public Health Engineering (PHE), Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC), Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner undertook a detailed review of the progress on several critical issues requiring inter-departmental coordination and timely intervention.

The matters discussed included road widening and removal of trees at Gund Parang, disposal of treated wastewater, and installation of electricity connections and provision of water supply at eight identified locations to facilitate the development of essential infrastructure for water transport operations.

He also reviewed the status of shifting electrical utilities at Maharaj Gunj and Pantha Chowk, emphasising the need for expediting the process to avoid any further delays in the execution of project-related works.

The meeting further deliberated on the development and improvement of approach roads at Sumbal and Sangam, removal of barricading at Amira Kadal, and shifting of houseboats wherever required to facilitate the smooth movement and operation of water transport facilities along the river.

LONDON

J&K Tourism Deptt takes region's natural treasures to London

Tourism Minister Shekhawat; Nasir Aslam Wani Join Ceremony

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department is showcasing the region's natural treasures and diverse tourism potential at the World Travel Market (WTM) London 2026, aiming to attract a larger number of foreign visitors and strengthen its presence in the international tourism market.

The Indian Pavilion was inaugurated by Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in the presence of Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, and Syed Qamar Sajjad, JKAS, Director Tourism Kashmir.

Several tourism stakeholders from J&K are also participating in the event, providing an opportunity to interact with international tour operators, travel professionals and industry representatives. The participation is expected to help explore new business opportunities, strengthen tourism networks and attract more international visitors to the region.

The J&K Tourism stalls have been receiving an encouraging response from visitors and industry stakeholders, reflecting growing interest in the Union Territory's tourism offerings.

Through its participation, J&K Tourism aims to expand its international outreach, promote its diverse destinations and establish new partnerships to strengthen the region's position in the global tourism market.

Speaking exclusively to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad said showcasing the region's tourism potential at international platforms is essential to attract visitors from foreign countries.

"We are exhibiting the potential of Jammu and Kashmir. It is necessary to showcase the treasures



and natural beauty of the region. Unless we exhibit our potential, how can we expect tourism from foreign countries?" he said.

He said Kashmir has unique potential to offer diverse tourism experiences, including adventure and winter tourism, besides its natural attractions.

"We have enough breathing space for different types of activities which are generally not found together under one umbrella. Kashmir and Jammu regions have unique potential, including religious tourism," he said.

Sajjad said the participation was aimed at making the international tourism community aware of Jammu and Kashmir's diverse offerings, adding that global visibility was important for boosting tourist arrivals.

"It has been impressed upon them that there is a place called Jammu and Kashmir which needs to be explored. This is absolutely going to boost tourism, as our presence matters," he said.

He said foreign tourist arrivals in Kashmir have continued despite the ongoing crisis in the Middle East, expressing hope that participation in international tourism events would further increase the number of overseas visitors.

Pertinently, the Indian Pavilion at the event was inaugurated by Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in the presence of Advisor to the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad.

Several tourism stakeholders from the region 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.

Madan Mantoo passes away, DIPR condoles demise

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: The Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) has condoled the demise of its former Deputy Director-Public Relations, Madan Lal Mantoo, popularly known as Madan Mantoo, who breathed his last here last night after suffering a massive cardiac arrest.

Originally hailing from Baramulla, Madan Mantoo, by dint of hard-work, served the Department in various capacities, including Press Officer to Chief Minister, Deputy Director-PR, Director PR-Raj Bhawan and other positions. Even after retirement he continued his passion for writing.

A condolence meeting, in this regard, was convened today in which Director Information, Mamta Yadav and other senior officers and officials of the Department paid rich tributes to him. They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Paying glowing tributes, the officers recalled the contribution of late Mantoo as an intelligent officer endowed with high professional acumen who discharged every assignment with highest degree of professional acumen. Colleagues and subordinates, equally, were fond of his capabilities and exceptional aptitude for work, the participants recalled.

The meeting observed that late Mantoo has left an indelible mark in the domain of skilled writing and public relations.

A two minutes silence was observed on the occasion as a mark of respect to the departed officer.

Beyond his official assignments, late Mantoo was regarded as an affable colleague to his peers and an inspiring mentor to his subordinates. A keen observer and a prolific writer, he remained deeply in touch with his colleagues and friends spread across Jammu and Kashmir till his death.

Surankote MLA Akram Reaffirms Support for Omar Abdullah Government

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Surankote MLA Chowdhary Mohammed Akram has reaffirmed his support for the Omar Abdullah-led government, dismissing reports suggesting differences with the ruling dispensation or any possibility of distancing himself from it.

Reacting to reports linking his name with alleged political disagreements within the government, Akram said he had no connection with the developments being reported and expressed displeasure over what he described as unnecessary attempts by certain media organisations to drag his name into unrelated matters.

"I stand with the government, and it is very unfortunate that some media houses are unnecessarily dragging my name into unrelated matters," Akram said.

He categorically ruled out any disagreement or disassociation with the Omar Abdullah-led government, asserting that there was no question of going back on his commitments.

Akram's clarification comes amid reports of alleged differences within the ruling dispensation, with the legislator seeking to put speculation about his political position to rest.

BJP misled Aga Ruhullah, trying to weaken NC: Dy CM Surinder Choudhary

YOGESH



JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Wednesday accused the BJP of trying to weaken the National Conference (NC), alleging that the party had misled Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi.

Reacting to Ruhullah's resignation from the NC, Choudhary, said the party had consistently maintained that the BJP was attempting to create divisions within it.

Referring to reported remarks by senior BJP leader Ram Madhav after Ruhullah's programme, Choudhary said Madhav had claimed that people attending the event were sent by the BJP.

"If Ram Madhav himself is saying that his people attended Aga Sahib's programme, then why are you questioning us? BJP should clarify its position," Choudhary told reporters.

Describing Ruhullah as a decent and honourable person, the Deputy Chief Minister alleged that the BJP had misled him and sought an explanation for Madhav's remarks. Choudhary also accused the BJP of creating confusion through contradictory statements.

Sagar calls for Time-Bound Relief, Rehabilitation Measures

Directs Officers to Ensure Welfare of Migrants, Disaster-Affected Families

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Minister for Revenue, Power Development Department (PDD), Law, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department (DMRRR), directing officers to ensure effective implementation of all welfare, relief and rehabilitation measures through a result-oriented and time-bound approach.

Taking a detailed assessment of the functioning of the department, the Minister underscored the need for greater administrative responsiveness, inter-departmental coordination and accountability, particularly in addressing issues concerning migrant families, disaster-affected households and other vulnerable sections of society.

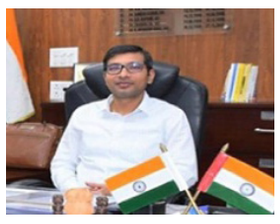
Reviewing matters pertaining to migrant properties, Sagar directed the officers to intensify efforts for retrieval and restoration of migrant properties, ensure payment of compensation wherever admissible and take stringent action against encroachments and illegal occupation. He stressed that all pending cases should be examined on priority and resolved in accordance with the prescribed rules and procedures.

With regard to migrant employees, the Minister called for expeditious resolution of service-related issues, assured career progression and timely release of admissible benefits. He also reviewed the implementation of migrant employment packages, noting that nearly 98 per cent of the positions had been covered, and directed the concerned officers to address the remaining cases without unnecessary delay.

Emphasising the need to improve the living conditions of migrant families, Sagar called for the establishment of community halls at every migrant location in Jammu and Srinagar. He also directed a comprehensive review of completed and ongoing community infrastructure projects, including the establishment of digital libraries to facilitate educational and social activities.

Secy reviews progress of key projects of Information Technology Deptt

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Secretary, Information Technology Department, Rahul Yadav, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of key projects and initiatives of the Department.

The meeting was attended by Rachna Sharma, Additional Secretary, IT; Jaskaran Modi, State Informatics Officer (SIO), NIC, along with the team and other officers of IT, SeMT and JaKeGA.

During the review, the Secretary stressed that the work relating the establishment and operationalisation of the IT Directorate needs to be expedited to ensure its timely progress. He also underscored the importance of augmentation of the State Data Centre, noting that the concerned teams are already working on the initiative. He directed that the augmentation work be taken forward in a coordinated manner and completed within the stipulated timelines.

Emphasizing the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in governance and public service delivery, the Secretary observed that AI is an important component of the Department's ongoing digital transformation efforts. He directed the concerned teams to expedite the development and implementation of identified AI use cases. He directed that the team constituted for AI initiatives be assigned specific departments for focused coordination and implementation of the use cases. He also stressed the need for close collaboration with IIT and BISAG to provide the required technical support and ensure timely implementation.

The Secretary was also apprised of the status of preparedness for implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act. He directed the Department to take all necessary steps in a time-bound manner and ensure coordinated action for its implementation within the prescribed timelines.

JKBOSE to distribute free textbooks for KG-8th by mid-November

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Wednesday said it will start distributing free textbooks for classes KG to 8th by mid-November.

JKBOSE Chairman, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh said, "We will start distributing free textbooks among students by mid-November."

He said that the Board has not received a consignment of revised textbooks of classes 3rd and 6th.

"The textbooks of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th classes have been revised as per the NEP-2020. As of now, we have received revised textbooks of only classes 1st and 2nd and the consignment of free textbooks of classes 3rd and 6th is supposed to arrive by November-12," he said.

JKBOSE Chairman further said that the free textbooks of other classes are available with the Board. "Therefore, we have decided to distribute the free textbooks when all the titles are available with us."

"The 80 percent of syllabi of revised textbooks have been framed by the NCERT and 20 percent by JKBOSE. The revision has been mostly done in science and social science subjects," he said.

Pertinently, the educational institutions across Kashmir Valley begin academic session 2026–27 from November-02 for KG to Class-10 students.

An official informed that the new academic session commenced after the schools completed annual assessments and declared results in line with the academic calendar.

Earlier, JKBOSE had said that the free textbooks among students will be distributed to various educational zones in the first week of November. Former Education Minister, Sakeena Itoo in this regard had directed the officials to ensure timely completion of preparation of textbooks, syllabus and other needs.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

When Senior Doctors Are Missing, Who Takes Responsibility?

A hospital is judged not by its buildings, machinery or official claims, but by how quickly it responds when a patient's life is at stake. The troubling allegations emerging from Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag raise an uncomfortable question: are patients getting the medical supervision they deserve during night hours, or are they being left at the mercy of junior doctors?

The experience narrated by Sameer Mushtaq of Aishmuqam is deeply concerning. His mother, suffering from acute abdominal pain, was taken to GMC Anantnag, where the family alleges that only junior doctors were available during the night. Despite treatment and discharge, her condition deteriorated soon after she reached home. A second ultrasound at a private clinic reportedly led to advice for immediate surgical consultation and an urgent CT scan. She was eventually shifted to SKIMS Soura, where emergency surgery was performed.

This is not a case that should be dismissed with routine explanations. Nor should allegations be treated as established medical negligence without an independent inquiry. But the circumstances demand answers. Why was the patient's condition not assessed adequately? Was the need for specialist intervention recognised in time? Was a senior consultant physically available when the patient needed one?

The Principal of GMC Anantnag has maintained that senior doctors remain available on call and has promised an inquiry. That assurance must now translate into action. Being available on call and being physically present in a hospital are two different things, particularly in a tertiary-care institution dealing with emergencies.

Junior doctors and postgraduate trainees are an essential part of the healthcare system, but they cannot be expected to shoulder responsibilities beyond their experience without effective senior supervision. An emergency department is not a training ground where critical decisions can be left to uncertainty.

The Health Department must also understand that night shifts are not a period of reduced medical responsibility. Patients do not schedule heart attacks, surgical emergencies or life-threatening complications according to office hours. A hospital that functions round the clock must have senior medical expertise available round the clock.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo has previously assured people of senior doctors' presence in hospitals during night hours. The people now have every right to ask whether that assurance is being implemented on the ground. Government orders and duty rosters mean little if patients continue to search for specialists when every passing minute matters.

GMC Anantnag must conduct a transparent inquiry into the specific complaint, examine night-duty rosters, attendance records and the treatment provided, and fix responsibility wherever lapses are established. The Health Minister should also order surprise inspections and ensure that senior consultants are physically available during designated night shifts.

Public hospitals cannot operate on the strength of assurances alone. A poor patient approaching a government medical college does not come seeking a favour; he or she comes with the expectation of competent and timely treatment. That expectation must not collapse after sunset.

The real test of a hospital is not how it functions when senior officers are watching, but how it responds when an ordinary patient knocks on its emergency door in the middle of the night.

Good Morning Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher
Javed Ashraf Shah
Associate Editors
Suhail Mir
Sulaiman Muhammed Shah
Legal Advisor
Bashir Sidiq
Bureau Chief Jammu:
Harbans Nagokay
R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998
Regd No: 109555
Office No: **0194-3593724**
Email:
goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com
Office Address:
B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001
Printed at:
Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar
Published From:
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023
Layout Designer
Aijaz Ahmad Dar

Road Ahead

Turning Kashmir's Connectivity Into Lasting Prosperity

The True Achievement Of Connectivity Will Not Be Measured Solely By The Height Of A Bridge, The Length Of A Tunnel Or The Cost Of A Highway. It Will Be Measured By Whether Farmers Transport Produce At Lower Costs, Patients Travel With Greater Certainty, Businesses Reach New Customers, And Remote Communities Remain Connected During Severe Weather.



SHOIAB MOHMMAD BHAT

Jammu and Kashmir's mountains, snowfall, landslides, and difficult terrain have long made connectivity a challenge. These conditions affect travel, trade, healthcare, education, and access to essential supplies, particularly in remote areas. Major projects such as the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), Chenab Rail Bridge, Anji Khad Bridge, Sonamarg Tunnel and the ongoing Zojila Tunnel project are changing the region's transport network. Airport expansion plans, improved railway services and cargo facilities are adding to this progress.

These initiatives need to be acknowledged for the engineering prowess displayed by them. But ultimately, their success can be gauged from the impact they make on the lives of common people and the reduction in the cost of business, along with creating livelihoods for locals. Jammu and Kashmir needs to translate its improved connectivity into economic prosperity.

Railways Transforming Regional Connectivity

The 272-kilometre USBRL project, inaugurated in June 2025 at a reported cost of 43,780 crore, marks a major milestone in connecting Kashmir with the national railway network. It includes 36 tunnels spanning approximately 119 kilometres and 943 bridges, overcoming some of the region's most difficult geographical barriers. The railway can make journeys more predictable and improve the movement of agricultural produce, handicrafts and other goods. It can also help students, patients, workers and families travel more conveniently.

Vande Bharat services between Katra and Srinagar began in June 2025 and were extended to Jammu Tawi in April 2026. Such services can strengthen passenger movement and support tourism and business activity. However, railway connectivity must serve ordinary passengers as well. Affordable fares, suitable schedules, reliable feeder transport and convenient station access are necessary to ensure that these facilities benefit a wider section of society.

Engineering Achievements Must Serve People

The Chenab Rail Bridge, rising 359 metres above the riverbed, and the Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, demonstrate how engineering can overcome difficult Himalayan terrain. The 12.77-kilometre T50 railway tunnel is another significant achievement. Such infrastructure facilities have been designed to minimize the impact of geographic barriers. However, their performance is influenced by the transport network that surrounds them. The approach roads to the station must be easily accessible; there should be public transport services, and passengers should be provided with information in case of disruption.

All-Weather Roads and Tunnels

The Sonamarg Tunnel, commissioned in January 2025, was built to ensure round-the-year connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg. By avoiding dangerous zones, it will help to boost tourism as well as facilitate connectivity in adverse weather conditions. The Zojila Tunnel, which is under construction between Baltal and Minamarg, is likely to enhance connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh. The main tunnel of the project broke through in June 2026; however, the project is still under construction. It is expected that this project will significantly cut down the travel time between these zones.

Other projects, including the Delhi–Amritsar–Katra Expressway, Shopian bypass and rural road schemes under PMGSY, can strengthen regional and local connectivity. However, road development must be measured by practical outcomes: fewer disruptions, reduced travel time, safer journeys and improved access to essential services. Regular maintenance and environmental protection are equally important in a region vulnerable to landslides, avalanches and earthquakes.

Connectivity Must Strengthen Kashmir's Economy

Horticulture, handicrafts, saffron, dry fruits and pashmina are important parts of Jammu and Kashmir's economy. Producers often face transport expenses, delays, and difficulties in reaching distant markets while maintaining product quality. Better roads and railway services can help address these challenges, but transportation alone cannot guarantee better returns for farmers. Perishable agricultural produce requires suitable packaging, grading facilities, cold storage where necessary, efficient loading arrangements and timely delivery. Modern warehouses and cargo facilities near production centres can reduce losses and improve market access.

Small growers and traders should be able to use these services at reasonable rates. Otherwise, the benefits of new infrastructure may remain concentrated among larger businesses. Handicraft producers also need digital marketing, reliable delivery services, quality certification and stronger connections with retailers and export markets. The objective should be to help Kashmir sell more of its products while earning greater value from local production.

Multimodal Logistics and Cargo Facilities

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan is the scheme through which coordination can take place amongst various modes of transport infrastructure.

The rail-connected terminals, warehouses, and cold storage facilities would facilitate linkage between the production hubs with the markets. Operational terminal at Samba and upcoming terminals in Kathua, Anantnag and Jammu provide scope in improving freight transport.

In the case of Kashmir, it is essential to link these terminals with the horticulture clusters, industries, wholesale markets, and other small business concerns.

Efficient logistics also require reasonable freight rates, transparent procedures and coordination between transport operators, traders and government departments. Physical connectivity will have limited economic value if handling charges and delays continue to make transportation expensive.

Airports and Regional Mobility

Air connectivity enables tourists and businesses to travel, particularly when road travel is lengthy or difficult. The proposed expansion project at Srinagar International Airport Civil Enclave that has been approved in February 2026, with an investment of 1,677 crores, will aid in improving passenger handling capacity. This involves the construction of a new terminal and more aircraft parking facilities. This expansion project will help the region in accommodating tourist activities and business. Better facilities at the airports should, however, go hand in hand with good ground transport facilities and proper traffic management systems.

Planned regional aviation facilities at Udhampur and Kishtwar could also improve access to remote areas. Their value will depend on timely completion, viable flight operations and actual passenger needs.

Development Must Reach Remote Communities

Large projects attract attention because of their cost and engineering scale. Yet, residents of remote villages and border settlements also need reliable roads, safe transport and access to healthcare and education. The development of infrastructure must include both major roadways and railway networks, along with local roads and bridges as well as reliable modes of transportation. The district administrations will have to determine areas that remain isolated seasonally and work on finding a solution.

Greater accessibility can enable young people to attend educational institutions, sick persons to get specialized medical attention, and entrepreneurs to expand their ventures. Even lesser-known tourist spots can benefit from improved connectivity along with adequate facilities. Environmental safeguards must remain central to this process. Construction in fragile mountain areas requires proper drainage, slope stabilisation and scientific monitoring to avoid creating new risks.

Accountability After Construction

The completion of a project is only the beginning of its operational life. Roads, tunnels, bridges and railway facilities require regular inspections, maintenance and emergency preparedness. Timelines for the projects, details of service interruptions, safety measures, and expenditures incurred should be published by the authorities. Infrastructure projects should also be measured in terms of the following measurable outputs: reduction in travel time, reduction in the cost of transportation, increased market access and improved services to disadvantaged communities.

Employment is another area where such measures should be taken. Employment is generated through construction, but sustainable economic development is dependent on the availability of local expertise in logistics, tourism, engineering, transport and maintenance.

From Connectivity to Inclusive Development

Jammu and Kashmir's infrastructure expansion offers an opportunity to reduce the disadvantages imposed by geography. However, infrastructure is a means of development, not its final goal. Farmers need efficient supply chains, artisans need wider markets, small businesses need affordable transport, and remote communities need dependable access to essential services. These needs must guide the next phase of investment.

Authorities must also communicate clearly about which projects are operational, under construction or still planned. Realistic timelines and transparent reporting can help maintain public confidence. The true achievement of connectivity will not be measured solely by the height of a bridge, the length of a tunnel or the cost of a highway. It will be measured by whether farmers transport produce at lower costs, patients travel with greater certainty, businesses reach new customers and remote communities remain connected during severe weather.

Connecting Kashmir is an important step. Ensuring that this connectivity delivers economic opportunity, resilience and a better quality of life for its people must remain the larger goal.

The Author is a writer, social educator, and researcher. He can be mailed at shoiabhat2018@gmail.com



Vande Bharat services between Katra and Srinagar began in June 2025 and were extended to Jammu Tawi in April 2026. Such services can strengthen passenger movement and support tourism and business activity. However, railway connectivity must serve ordinary passengers as well. Affordable fares, suitable schedules, reliable feeder transport and convenient station access are necessary to ensure that these facilities benefit a wider section of society.

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

The One Investment Every Family Must Make This Dhanteras

PRATAPRAO JADHAV

These familiar words from a Sanskrit prayer beautifully capture the connection between health, well-being and prosperity in our traditions. They remind us that true prosperity is not measured merely by material possessions, but also by the health and happiness of our loved ones. Every year, as Dhanteras approaches, our homes come alive with preparations for Diwali. Families clean and decorate their houses, markets fill with festive enthusiasm, and people welcome new possessions as symbols of prosperity. Amid these celebrations, I often reflect on a simple question: while we make so many preparations to secure a prosperous future for our families, how much attention do we give to protecting their health?

We plan our savings, insure our possessions and invest for the years ahead. Yet the habits that determine how we will live those years often receive the least attention. A missed meal becomes routine, inadequate sleep becomes a sign of a busy life, and a medical check-up is postponed until discomfort becomes difficult to ignore. Dhanteras offers an opportunity to reconsider these priorities.

The festival holds special significance for Ayurveda as it commemorates the appearance of Lord Dhanvantari, revered as the divine physician and associated with the origin of Ayurveda. His emergence during the Samudra Manthan, carrying the Amrit Kalash, represents humanity's enduring aspiration for health and longevity. This association gives Dhanteras a meaning beyond the purchase of gold, silver or household possessions. It reminds us that prosperity becomes meaningful when we have the health to experience it and share it with those we love.

As someone entrusted with responsibilities in both Ayush and Health & Family Welfare, I recognise the importance of this message in our everyday lives. Our healthcare conversations often begin when illness has already arrived. We discuss hospitals, medicines and treatment, all of which are essential. But an equally important conversation must begin much earlier, in our kitchens, daily routines, workplaces and homes.



What if we gave prevention the same attention that we give treatment? This question lies at the heart of Ayurveda's approach to health. Its emphasis on Swasthasya Swasthya Rakshanam, the preservation of health in a healthy individual, remains relevant to contemporary public health. It reminds us that health is influenced by what we eat, how we sleep, how physically active we remain and how consistently we care for ourselves. At a time when non-communicable diseases, sedentary lifestyles and stress present growing challenges, preventive healthcare deserves greater attention.

Consider something as ordinary as a family meal. It is an opportunity to encourage healthier eating habits among children and ensure that older family members receive the care they need. Similarly, a daily walk, regular Yoga practice or a consistent sleep schedule may appear modest, yet these habits can make a meaningful difference when sustained over time. The strength of preventive healthcare often lies in such simple, everyday choices.

India's Ayush systems have an important role in advancing this culture of prevention and well-being. Through initiatives such as Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Ayush), efforts are underway to expand access to Ayush-based healthcare services at the community level. Scientific research, quality standards and evidence-informed practice are equally important to ensuring that India's traditional medical knowledge contributes responsibly to contemporary healthcare.

However, no healthcare initiative can fully succeed without the participation of families and communities. A healthier India cannot be built through institutions alone. It must also be built through the choices people make each day. As India moves towards the centenary of its independence in 2047, our vision of a developed nation must include citizens who are healthier, more aware and better equipped to prevent avoidable illness.

This is where the spirit of Dhanteras can inspire meaningful change. We often associate the festival with bringing something new into our homes. This year, why not bring home a new habit? A commitment to eat more mindfully, practise Yoga regularly, prioritise sleep or encourage a family member to undergo an overdue health screening.

On this auspicious occasion, I appeal to every citizen to make a personal commitment to preventive healthcare. Let us begin with one positive change in our daily routine and encourage at least one member of our family to do the same. Let us give greater attention to the well-being of our elders and children, seek timely medical advice and make healthier living a shared family responsibility.

When we light a diya this Dhanteras, let it remind us of the responsibility we owe to ourselves and those who depend on us. The jewellery we purchase may be passed from one generation to another, but the healthy habits we nurture can become an equally valuable inheritance. This Dhanteras, let us bring home more than symbols of prosperity. Let us embrace healthier habits, care for our loved ones and make preventive health the foundation of our family's future.(PIB)

Families clean and decorate their houses, markets fill with festive enthusiasm, and people welcome new possessions as symbols of prosperity. Amid these celebrations, I often reflect on a simple question: while we make so many preparations to secure a prosperous future for our families, how much attention do we give to protecting their health?

(The author is Union Minister of State (IC) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare)

Educational Empowerment

Twelve Years Of Expanding Access And Opportunity

Ensuring Inclusive Development Of All Communities, Across The Country, To Make Bharat Viksit@2047

B L VERMA

Education is central to social empowerment. For students from socially and economically disadvantaged communities, financial assistance can help sustain schooling, open doors to higher education and support ambition in research and professional careers.

Between FY 2014–15 and FY 2025–26, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has pursued these objectives through scholarships, coaching assistance, overseas education support and research fellowships.

The Department's approach focuses on reducing financial barriers and strengthening educational continuity. Its interventions seek to improve access to opportunities for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), and Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs). Alongside financial support, reforms in scholarship administration have placed greater emphasis on transparency, beneficiary verification and direct delivery of assistance.



Supporting Education from the School Years

The Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for Scheduled Castes and others support education at an early stage. This Centrally Sponsored Scheme aims to promote literacy, reduce dropout rates and ensure continuity of schooling among Scheduled Caste children and children whose parents or guardians are engaged in unclean and hazardous occupations.

During FY 2014–15 to FY 2025–26, Central Assistance of Rs 4,893 Crore was released under the scheme, with approximately 3 Crore beneficiaries recorded across the period. In FY 2025–26 alone, Rs 562 Crore was released, benefiting nearly 27 lakh students. By addressing financial constraints during school education, the scheme seeks to help disadvantaged children continue their studies.

Support beyond the school stage is provided through the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste students. This flagship intervention aims to improve access to post-secondary education, strengthen retention and enhance the participation of SC students in higher education.

The scheme recorded Central Assistance of Rs 46,581 crore during FY 2014–15 to FY 2025–26, with nearly 6.13 crore beneficiaries over this period. In FY 2025–26, the scheme supported 47.53 lakh students.

Strengthening Transparency through Digital Reforms

A significant change in scholarship delivery came with the transition to a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) framework from FY 2021–22. Under this system, scholarship assistance is transferred directly into beneficiaries' Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts. The reform seeks to strengthen accountability, reduce delays, leakages and improve the delivery of assistance to students.

Digital verification has become another important part of this framework. De-duplication mechanisms help identify fake or duplicate beneficiaries, while biometric authentication and electronic 'Know Your Customer' verification strengthen identity checks. Integration with DigiLocker and API SETU supports digital verification of certificates and documents.

One-Time Registration enables the tracking of beneficiaries across schemes and academic years. Connections with educational databases help validate institutional and student records, while linkages with UIDAI, NPCI and the Public Financial Management System support payment processing. Together, these measures strengthen the administrative systems through which scholarship assistance reaches eligible students.

Opening Doors to Higher Education and Research

Beyond pre-matric and post-matric support, the Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme, or SHREYAS, addresses access to coaching, premier institutions, overseas study and research opportunities.

The Free Coaching Scheme for SC and OBC Students provides financial assistance for quality coaching to economically disadvantaged students preparing for competitive and professional examinations. In FY 2025–26, an expenditure of Rs 9.87 crore supported 854 beneficiaries. This assistance seeks to reduce the financial barriers students face when preparing for academic and professional opportunities.

The Top Class Education Scheme for SC Students supports meritorious students studying in premier institutions across the country. Expenditure under the scheme increased nearly 6 times from Rs 19 crore in FY 2014–15 to Rs 117 crore in FY 2025–26. Annual beneficiary coverage rose from 1,568 to 4,742 during the same period, reflecting an expanded support for access to quality higher education.

The National Overseas Scholarship Scheme extends assistance to eligible Scheduled Caste students pursuing higher studies in reputed international institutions. An expenditure of Rs 55 crore was done in FY 2025–26 and 67 beneficiaries went abroad for the corresponding selection year, as on date.

Research support is provided through the National Fellowship for SC Students. In FY 2025–26, expenditure of Rs 213 crore supported 4,218 scholars pursuing higher education and research programmes. Such assistance helps sustain participation in advanced academic study.

Sustaining Educational Opportunity

Across these interventions, educational empowerment is pursued as a continuous process—from supporting school attendance to enabling higher education, competitive examination preparation, overseas study and research. The combination of financial assistance and stronger delivery systems reflects the Department's focus on making educational opportunities more accessible to priority communities and helping students pursue their academic aspirations.

I assure my countrymen that under the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's unique doctrine 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', the Ministry shall leave no stone unturned to ensure inclusive development of all communities, across the country, to make Bharat Viksit@2047

Between FY 2014–15 and FY 2025–26, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has pursued these objectives through scholarships, coaching assistance, overseas education support and research fellowships.

(The Author is Union Minister of State of Social Justice & Empowerment. Courtesy: PIB)

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

LG Sinha Chairs

advancing academic excellence, fostering a culture of research and innovation, and strategically aligning institutions to meet future challenges and leverage emerging opportunities.

The key agendas included sharing of academic credit and resources and recasting UG and PG programmes in the light of Design Your Degree and National Education Policy 2020. The meeting further discussed the modalities to set up a Task Force for integrating AI (Machine Learning, Deep Learning) and Data science into UG and PG programmes.

To drive academic reform, the Lieutenant Governor set a six-month deadline for universities in Jammu Kashmir to roll out the "Design Your Degree" program. Emphasising a spirit of collaboration, he urged institutions to share academic credits, research laboratories, and resources.

"Transforming higher education in Jammu Kashmir into a comprehensive, holistic, and visionary system is a shared responsibility. The time has now come to translate Higher Education Council initiatives into tangible achievements, while ensuring that every student benefits from outcome-oriented asset utilization," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Stressing the need for stronger intra-university collaboration, the Lieutenant Governor noted that successful implementation relies on deep-rooted institutional reform and a solid long-term strategy.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the integration of artificial intelligence and modern technology into learning programmes, stressing the need to pioneer frontier technologies. He also highlighted that these programs must incorporate local languages and cultures.

Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, JKHEC called for policy directives to align undergraduate and postgraduate curricula with the 'Design Your Degree' framework.

Vice Chancellors and members of the Council shared their inputs for advancing the DYD program and NEP 2020 interventions.

The Council also reviewed the progress of ongoing Higher Education initiatives, Engineering Kitchens and Entrepreneurship programmes, and Budgetary outlay and Reform of the Fund Allocation Mechanism.

BJP Executed

had personally approached MLAs to discuss his grievances or mobilise them on issues concerning the party and the people.

Salman said differences could have been resolved through dialogue, adding that the party leadership had expected him to engage with its elected representatives rather than take such a major decision.

Rejecting suggestions that Ruhullah's departure reflected any weakness within the NC, Salman said the party's strength rested on its collective leadership, political ideology and the mandate given by the people, rather than any individual.

He said people have voted the National Conference to power to protect their political identity, representation and rights, and not because of any one leader. Referring to Articles 370 and 35A, Salman said the NC's core political agenda remained unchanged and could not be judged through the developments involving an individual leader.

He said the party had consistently shared its position on restoration of special status and statehood, adding that its political commitment had been reflected in the resolutions passed by the government and the Assembly.

On the reservation issue, Salman said the National Conference had acknowledged concerns over the existing reservation policy and had included corrective measures in its election manifesto.

He said a Cabinet sub-committee had examined the matter and submitted its report to the Cabinet in June 2025, after which it was forwarded to the Lieutenant Governor for further consideration.

Questioning Ruhullah's criticism of the party over the issue, Salman asked why he had not raised similar questions about the delay in the report's approval and the role of the Lieutenant Governor.

Salman further said the party's historical legacy and the sacrifices of martyrs should not be used for political purposes.

Referring to the July 13 martyrs and the 2010 unrest, he questioned Ruhullah's efforts to honour those who had lost their lives. He also said that personal differences or an ego clash could have contributed to the developments, adding that more details about the circumstances would emerge in the coming days.

Meanwhile, MLA Sajad Shaheen also termed Ruhullah's departure unfortunate and said he had betrayed not only the National Conference but also the electorate that had voted for him on the party ticket.

Shaheen said Ruhullah had won the Srinagar parliamentary constituency with a huge mandate on the NC ticket and questioned his performance during his nearly two-year tenure as an MP.

He said that apart from taking an initiative seeking the impeachment of Allahabad High Court judge Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, which involved mobilising signatures of MPs, Ruhullah had not taken any other significant initiative in Parliament that directly addressed the aspirations and concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shaheen also questioned why Ruhullah had chosen to target the National Conference leadership while remaining comparatively silent on other political parties, particularly the PDP, which he accused of having facilitated the BJP's entry into the erstwhile state through its alliance.

He said the National Conference had never compromised on its political position on Articles 370 and 35A and would continue its struggle for the restoration of the rights and special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the party's political history, Shaheen said the NC's struggle for the rights and identity of Jammu and Kashmir is much older than the present political developments and had continued despite several challenges. He said the party would neither compromise on its political agenda nor distance itself from the people it represented.

Shaheen also questioned the timing and manner in which Ruhullah had invoked the sacrifices of martyrs, particularly Tufail Mattoo, saying the issue should not be used for political positioning.

He said Ruhullah had held important positions in the government in the past and contested subsequent elections on the National Conference ticket, questioning why he had not raised these concerns in the same manner earlier.

Both the leaders said the NC's political strength could not be measured through the departure of one leader, asserting that the party's mandate came from the people.

On the possibility of further political exits, Sagar said anyone associating with the BJP or working to advance its political agenda would face the people's judgement—(KNO)

CM's Own MPs, MLAs

not merely by the Opposition but by leaders from within the National Conference itself. When a party's own MPs and MLAs begin questioning the competence and functioning of their government, it reflects the deepening crisis of leadership within the party.

Chugh further said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had voted for the National Conference with expectations of change, employment and development. However, the Omar Abdullah government has failed to live up to those expectations. The people deserve answers on when the promises made in the party's election manifesto will finally be fulfilled.

Two Charred To

Mohammad Rehmet Islam said.

He said the family received news of the tragedy around 2 am, when the entire area had already been engulfed in flames.

The bereaved mother said the deceased was the only earning member of the family, while another woman survivor recounted how she managed to escape with her children but could not save any belongings.

"We had money, jewellery and everything, but it was all burnt. We could not take even a single thing out. We somehow managed to escape with the children," she said, adding that the family had lost its clothes, household belongings and savings.

"We are sitting on the roadside. We don't know where to go. We are asking the government for help," she said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the loss of two lives and announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased.

The CM conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and directed the concerned authorities to ensure immediate relief and all necessary assistance to those affected, stressing the need for prompt intervention to address their urgent requirements.

An official said that the fire broke out around 12:23 am and rapidly spread through the cluster of temporary shelters, mostly made of tarpaulin and wood, engulfing nearly 80 structures.

An empty poultry farm and a tipper were also damaged in the blaze, while a residential house was among the properties affected.

Fire tenders from JVC and Rawalpora fire stations, along with additional reinforcements from Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Headquarters at Batamaloo, were rushed to the spot to douse the flames.

"By the time the Fire and Emergency Services were informed, the entire area was already engulfed in flames," an official said, adding that two bodies were recovered from the debris after the fire was brought under control.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Noor Alam (27), son of Abdul Wahab, a native of Delhi presently residing at Durbal, and Al Ameen (16), son of Mohammad Rafi, also a native of Delhi and presently residing in Kupwara.

Both were working as scrap collectors in the area, officials said.

Recounting the terrifying moments, another survivor, Mohammad Ramin, said he woke up suddenly to find the fire spreading through the area.

"I suddenly woke up and saw the fire. I don't know how it started," he said.

Ramin said the affected people had not received government relief at the time of his interview. He expressed gratitude to local residents who came forward to help them.

"Our Kashmiri brothers fed us breakfast this morning," he said.

Meanwhile, an official speaking on behalf of the district administration said around 20 families, 30 temporary structures and one residential house were affected in the incident.

He said police, Fire and Emergency Services and revenue officials immediately reached the spot, while the damage assessment was almost complete. The Deputy Commissioner had assured immediate relief, and cases were being processed for assistance under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

"Arrangements are being made for food, tents and blankets. We are doing all the necessary arrangements today," the official said.

Regarding the cause of the fire, he said police had taken cognisance of the incident and an investigation was underway to ascertain how the blaze started.

The bodies of the deceased were handed over to police after completion of FSL proceedings, officials said—(KNO)

JP Nadda To Visit

is being developed as a 750-bed tertiary care hospital comprising 57 buildings, with facilities for specialised treatment, medical education, research and advanced diagnostic services.

While the first phase is nearing operationalisation, several academic, administrative, residential and hospital facilities remain under development.

Officials said four buildings under Phase II are targeted for completion by the end of November 2026, while major Phase III works, including Hospital Blocks 3 and 5, are scheduled for completion by June 2027—(KNO)

J&K Govt Replaces

after evaluation, the revised framework has fixed the minimum passing requirement at 50% in each paper.

As per the notification, directly recruited officers will remain on probation for two years and will be required to appear in the departmental examination towards the completion of their training.

The JKPSC will conduct the examination twice a year, as far as practicable, at such places and times as may be determined by the Commission.

The revised rules also establish a direct link between departmental examination results, annual increments and confirmation of service.

A probationer will be entitled to the first annual increment after completing one year of probation, while the second increment will remain withheld until satisfactory completion of probation and qualification of the prescribed examination.

The rules further provide for withholding of annual increments where a probationer fails to perform assigned duties satisfactorily, does not adequately utilise the training opportunities or fails to clear the examination.

Successful qualification of the departmental examination has also been prescribed as a condition for confirmation in service. However, the Government retains the power to grant exemption in exceptional cases, provided good and sufficient reasons are recorded in writing.

On the number of opportunities, the revised framework retains three regular chances and one mercy chance for qualifying the examination. The Government may also allow probationers to avail of opportunities missed due to circumstances beyond their control.

Applications for the examination will have to be submitted through the concerned Administrative Department, while the JKPSC will separately notify the examination procedure.

The new rules also permit candidates to consult Bare Acts, Rules, Regulations and Manuals during the written examination. However, such reference material must contain only relevant legal provisions and cannot include annotations.

The prescribed syllabus comprises seven papers covering administration, governance, Jammu and Kashmir's socio-economic profile, service regulations, revenue laws, development policies, social welfare and the legal framework governing the Union Territory.

Paper-I covers, Management and Public Administration, including organisational behaviour, human resource management, leadership, communication, emerging technologies and administrative accountability.

Paper-II focuses on Jammu and Kashmir's geographical, demographic, economic and social profile, including agriculture, horticulture, tourism, culture, languages, ecology, environment and infrastructure.

Paper-III deals with Service Rules and Office Procedure, covering civil service regulations, conduct and leave rules, public service delivery, grievance redressal, e-Office, e-HRMS, financial procedures, artificial intelligence, cyber security and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

Paper-IV covers Revenue Laws and Land Administration, including property and registration laws, land revenue, agrarian reforms, migrant immovable property, land acquisition and modernisation of revenue records.

Paper-V focuses on Government Schemes and Policies for Development, Employment and Industrial Growth, while Paper-VI covers Social Welfare, Human Rights and Community Protection Laws and Schemes, including reservation, women's rights, child protection, social security, health and forest rights.

Paper-VII deals with the Legal and Regulatory Framework for Governance and Public Order in Jammu and Kashmir, including constitutional provisions, the J&K Reorganisation Act, criminal laws, taxation, public safety and statutory authorities.

The notification further provides exemption to probationers covered under the new rules from passing other departmental examinations prescribed for their respective feeder services.

The rules have been issued under the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution of India and have come into force with immediate effect—(KNO)

Temperatures Dip

degrees Celsius.

Ahmad said winter has almost set in across the region, with shallow fog is being witnessed over plains during morning hours. He cautioned that foggy conditions and reduced visibility could become more frequent as temperatures continue to fall.

He advised farmers to make use of the prevailing dry weather for harvesting, threshing, fresh sowing and other agricultural activities.

The MeT director also urged commuters to follow traffic advisories, particularly while travelling through higher reaches and vulnerable stretches of roads—(KNO)

Sopore MBBS

final semester of his course.

The family appealed to the Government of India to intervene, coordinate with the authorities in Bangladesh and ensure that Adnan's mortal remains are brought back home at the earliest.—(KNO)

Iran Exempts Ships

of Indian ships was intended to allow imports of medicines from India, while the exemption for Chinese vessels was intended to secure Beijing's political support. FollowPolitics

The Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, handles roughly 20 per cent of global energy supplies in normal times.

Shipping through the waterway has been severely disrupted since February 28, when the US and Israel launched joint attacks on Iran, triggering retaliatory strikes.

Iran moved to shut the waterway soon after the US-Israeli bombing began, and Washington responded weeks later with a naval blockade of Iranian ports.

Iran, which has imposed strict restrictions on traffic, allows only a few vessels to pass through the waterway while others undergo screening and, in some cases, pay transit fees.

At least 15 Indian seafarers have been killed in attacks on ships in the region since the conflict began in February.

In the latest incident, an Indian sailor was killed in an attack on the commercial vessel MSV Al Jusufi near Limah in Oman on Monday evening.

India, which has been consistently calling for finding a solution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, has termed the continuing incidents of attacks on commercial shipping in the region as "deeply concerning".

India has said that 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 keeping with international law, must be restored at the earliest.



ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL

+91- 9906230114- 6006600834

DAR MATTING SHOP

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

Srinagar generates 525 tonnes of waste daily, processes only 184.5: SMC tells NGT

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Srinagar produces nearly 525 metric tonnes of municipal solid waste daily, but existing infrastructure can process only 184.5 tonnes, leaving a daily shortfall of around 340.5 tonnes, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) told the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The disclosure was made in a status report submitted before the tribunal in Original Application No. 543 of 2024, titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat versus Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, detailing the progress made in managing legacy waste at Achan landfill and plans to strengthen the city's waste-processing infrastructure.

According to the SMC report, accessed, Achan landfill had accumulated approximately 11 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste. Of this, nearly 80,750 metric tonnes have so far been treated through bio-mining and remediation, while around 10.19 lakh metric tonnes remain to be processed.

The corporation said the remediation process involves excavation, mechanical screening and segregation of waste into different categories for recovery and disposal.

Combustible waste recovered during the process is being converted into Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) for use by cement industries. Recyclable materials are being separated for recovery, while inert waste is stored at designated locations and suitable soil-like material is being utilised for landscaping.

The SMC informed the tribunal that its present waste-processing infrastructure comprises a 100-tonne-per-day Material Recovery Facility and an 84.5-tonne-per-day window composting facility, with a combined capacity of 184.5 tonnes daily.

To overcome the substantial gap between waste generation and processing capacity, the corporation has proposed an 800-tonne-per-day Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility at Achan at an estimated cost of Rs 361 crore.

The Detailed Project Report for the proposed project has been vetted by the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar, while administrative approval has been obtained and the tendering process initiated, the report stated.

The proposed facility is expected to address the unprocessed portion of daily municipal waste and provide additional capacity to meet future requirements.

Regarding environmental safeguards at Achan, the corporation said the Effluent Treatment Plant has been made operational and leachate management measures have been incorporated into the bio-mining process.

Other mitigation measures include the development of a green buffer, plantation drives, regular water sprinkling and steps to control foul odour around the landfill.

The SMC further reported that around 3,200 trees had been planted, while more than 10,000 litres of herbal anti-odour solution had been procured and utilised as part of the mitigation measures.

Meanwhile, a 125-tonne-per-day construction and demolition waste processing facility is also being developed at Achan. Its physical progress has reached approximately 95 per cent, with October 15, 2026, set as the target date for completion.

The status report was submitted in compliance with the NGT's July 24, 2026, directions, asking the SMC Commissioner to furnish details of legacy waste cleared since September 2025, its treatment and utilisation, daily fresh waste generation, processing capacity and the existing gap in waste management—(KNO)

DC Sgr inspects progress of new State-of-the-Art School for Specially Abled

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Wednesday visited Abhinandan Home, Solina, inspected the progress of ongoing construction of a new State of the Art School Building complex at the institution, aimed to strengthen educational infrastructure and allied facilities for Kashmir's oldest institution catering specially abled children, particularly those with hearing and speech impairments.

The first-of-its-kind facility in the entire Kashmir Division being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 9.90 crore by R&B Department under the Social Welfare Department is envisaged to provide modern infrastructure and enhanced educational prospects, skill development avenues and employment opportunities for children with special needs, besides creating a more conducive, inclusive and accessible learning environment.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the progress of the ongoing construction works and took stock of various components of the project being undertaken for the welfare and educational advancement of enrolled specially-abled students.

The DC was informed that over 60 percent of the construction work has been completed on the project comprising modern classrooms, Principal's Office, Staff Room, Indoor Games Court, Gymnasium, Medical Room, Therapy Room, Washroom Blocks, Computer Lab, Library, Dormitory and Dining Hall, among other essential facilities.

Expressing satisfaction over the pace of progress, the Deputy Commissioner directed the R&B Engineers to further expedite the pace of work and ensure timely completion of the project by March 2027, while maintaining strict adherence to prescribed quality standards, so that the students and staff of Abhinandan Home can benefit from the upgraded infrastructure at the earliest.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner also handed over a dedicated special school bus for the students of Abhinandan Home to facilitate their transportation and ensure safe, comfortable and convenient commuting for children with special needs.

While interacting with the Students and Staff of Abhinandan Home, the DC assured them of continued support and assistance from the District Administration towards the overall development, welfare and educational empowerment of the children.

The DC also reiterated the District Administration's commitment to exploring avenues for expanding educational opportunities for specially-abled students, including access to higher education, introduction of vocational training and skill development programmes and offering trade diploma courses through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), with a view to strengthening the educational and skill development framework and creating better avenues for self-reliance and employment for children with special needs.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Executive Engineer R&B Khalid Mehmood, Executive Engineer Water Works, Aijaz Rafiq, Executive Engineer KPDCl, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah, Coordinator Abhinandan Home, Nilofar Sultan, Principal, Mudasir Ahmad and other concerned.

DDC Pulwama chairs Grievance Redressal Camp in Pampore

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Wednesday chaired a Public Outreach-cum-Grievance Redressal Camp at Eidgah Shar, Block Pampore, to address public grievances and assess developmental requirements of the area.

Prior to the programme, the DDC inspected departmental stalls set up by various departments, including Agriculture, Forest, Industries, Food and Civil Supplies, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Revenue, Urban Local Bodies, Education, ICDS, Jal Shakti and Horticulture. He interacted with the officers and reviewed the schemes, services and public welfare initiatives being provided to the people. A plantation drive was also organised, during which the DDC planted saplings.

During the interaction, the Chairman Auqaf Committee, local representatives and residents projected various developmental and public service-related issues concerning Eidgah Shar and adjoining areas. They highlighted the area's historical, religious and cultural significance and sought improved road connectivity, restoration of irrigation infrastructure, installation of borewells for saffron cultivation, restoration of traditional water springs and establishment of a saffron seed centre at Pampore.

Other demands included augmentation of healthcare facilities, availability of doctors and an ambulance, establishment of a Patwari Khana and veterinary centre, improvement of the local playground, construction of public conveniences at Eidgah Shar and better garbage collection and disposal facilities.

The representatives also raised concerns regarding human-wildlife conflict, particularly the intrusion of wild animals and monkeys into residential areas, crop damage caused by unattended horses, and damage to agricultural fields during the June 2026 hailstorm. They sought early disbursement of eligible compensation. The need to create employment opportunities for local youth in nearby industrial establishments and AIIMS Awantipora was also highlighted.

Responding to the grievances, the DDC sought detailed response from the concerned officers regarding the concerns and grievance to ensure on-spot redressal and assured the public that all issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action. He acknowledged the historical and religious importance of Eidgah Shar and thanked the residents for their participation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I, Sadiya Adil, W/o Adil Ahmad Shuloo, R/o Narwar Khaiwan, Srinagar, have lost the number plate of my Scooty TVS Jupiter bearing Registration No. JK01BB-6463.
I intend to apply for issuance of a duplicate number plate. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same with the RTO Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from JAVED IQBAL to JAVID IQBAL resident of . Henceforth, I shall be known as JAVID IQBAL resident of Mohammad Shafi Mattoo, 15, Exchange Lane, Near Telephone Exchange, Sanat Nagar, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir – 190005. Any person having any objection to the above name change may contact me within seven days of the publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Altaf Ahmad Mir, S/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir, R/o Sariwarpora, Pattan, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that I have lost the rear number plate of my vehicle (Truck), bearing Registration No. JK05G-4250, while travelling from Pattan to Banihal. I am now applying for a duplicate number plate. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Kashmir, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-1st (KPDCL), BEMINA, SRINAGAR

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. STD I / 26 of 2026-27 Dated 04/11/2026

For and on behalf of the Managing Director KPDCL, e-tender (In Single Cover system) are invited from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of CIVIL Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of Funds
1.	Renovation of Washrooms of Divisional /Sub-Divisional Offices under Face-lifting/Upgradation of Divisional/Sub-Divisional Offices of STD-I	500/-	15900.00	30 Days	D	CAPEX	50% Available.

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental websitewww .jktenders. gov .inas per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04.11.2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 05/11/2026 09.00A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	06 /11 /2026 from 09.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	20/11/2026 up to 3.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21 /11/2026 at 2.00P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar.
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Non-Refundable Demand Draft and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar The Date of Demand Draft and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.
2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar .The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids.
3. EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of the Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar.
4. The normal deposits (deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after total completion of the work.
5. The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.
6. The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.
7. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on web site http://jktenders.gov.in. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar.
8. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder' representative will be required to be produced.
9. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e- Bids/ the e- Bid process without assigning any reason thereof .The decision of department will be final and binding.
10. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for Department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working Day at the same time and place.

No:-STD-1/ 4897-4900
Dated:- 04/11/2026.
DIPK-NB-2027-26
DT: 04/11/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Sub-Transmission Division-I,
Bemina Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

Fresh NIT 123 (2nd Call) OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/9607-16, DATED 04-11-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders in 02 cover system are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc.(in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Revival And Restoration Of Vijeshwar Kedar Temple Salroo Mohalla Bijbehara.	196.67 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 166.67 + (18% GST Amount 30.00)	2600	393340/-	02 Working Seasons	Archaeology Capex Budget	AAY Class Only
2.	Revival & Restoration of Shiv Nath Temple, Naid Mohalla Bijbehara Anantnag.	29.31 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 24.84 + (18% GST Amount 4.47)	1100	58620/-	90 Days	Archaeology Capex Budget	AAY, BEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority : Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K.
Position of AAA : 1. Accorded vide Order No. DAA&M – 370 of 2026, Dated 10.07.2026.
2. Accorded vide Order No. DAA&M – 570 of 2026, Dated 25.08.2026.
Position of TS : 1. Accorded vide Order No. SEA(R&B) 68 of 2026-27, Dated 01.10.2026.
2. Accorded vide Order No. EE/TS/59/RnB/Ang/Capex/2026-27, Dated 25.08.2026.

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms-and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental websitewww.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		04-11-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	04-11-2026	(03:00 PM)
		To	10-11-2026	(04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	04-11-2026	(03:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	10-11-2026	(04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)		11-11-2026	(10:30 AM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.		

1. Bids must be accompanied with a Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and Receipt of EMD (2% of advertised Cost), also deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of receipt of EMD and Tender Fee should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date). The same EMD/Tender Fee receipt should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.
2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
3. The Bid security amount of the successful Bidder shall, upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HoD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be furnished by the Bidder in cash to the designated Authority. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag
5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
8. Scanned copy of Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and receipt of EMD deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original receipt of Cost of Tender Document, EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
10. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
12. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-7372-26
DT: 04/11/2026

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

Police Football Team lifts Titans Gold Cup Night Football Tournament Title

GMK SPORTS DESK



ANANTNAG: The final match of the Titans Gold Cup Edition-2 was played Wednesday at the Sports Stadium, Anantnag, between Jammu and Kashmir Police Football Team and Siddiqui FC Anantnag amid great enthusiasm and sporting fervour.

A total of 35 leading football teams participated in the tournament, making it an exciting sporting event marked by enthusiastic participation and competitive performances.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, witnessed the final match and later felicitated the winning and runners-up team by presenting the trophy.

Awards among the players, in recognition of their outstanding performances were also distributed.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that sports play a vital role in the overall development of personality by promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, discipline, teamwork and a spirit of healthy competition.

He urged the youth to actively engage in sports and other physical activities to maintain a healthy lifestyle and channel their energy towards constructive pursuits.

The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted various measures taken under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan and Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan across District and stated that a slew of initiatives have been rolled out across the district to combat the drug menace and generate awareness among the masses, particularly the youth.

He further added that IPD services at the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) are now fully functional, strengthening addiction treatment and rehabilitation facilities in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner stated that individuals affected by drug addiction should not be stigmatized but instead supported and encouraged to overcome addiction and reintegrate into society.

However, he made it clear that a strict approach is adopted against those involved in drug peddling, with no leniency towards drug traffickers.

The Deputy Commissioner also urged sportspersons to become ambassadors of the anti-drug campaign and play an active role in spreading awareness against drug abuse, while calling upon the youth to stay away from drugs and embrace sports and other positive activities.

He also appreciated all stakeholders for successfully conducting the tournament, stating that such sporting events provide an excellent platform for young and aspiring players to showcase their talent and enhance their skills.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed hope that more tournaments of this nature would be organised in the future to further promote a sporting culture in the district.

A large number of sports enthusiasts and football lovers were present at the stadium to witness the thrilling final match and cheer for the participating teams.

The Deputy Commissioner also appreciated all stakeholders for successfully organising the tournament.

Ranji Trophy

Qamran, Shubham slam centuries, J&K take 106-run lead against Puducherry



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Centuries from openers Qamran Iqbal and Shubham Khajuria powered Jammu and Kashmir to a 106-run first-innings lead against Puducherry on the third day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A encounter at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar on Wednesday.

As per the details collected, J&K reached 491 for five in 130 overs at stumps, taking a 106-run lead over Puducherry's first-innings total of 385.

Qamran and Shubham laid the foundation for the commanding position with a magnificent 344-run opening partnership, putting the hosts firmly in control of the contest.

Qamran scored 160 runs off 292 deliveries, while Shubham struck 190 off 330 balls. The duo dominated the Puducherry bowling attack with a composed batting display.

After the departure of both openers, Paras Dogra was dismissed for seven, while Abdul Samad contributed 37 runs and Sahil Lotra added 30.

Kawalpreet Singh remained unbeaten on 53, while Rydham Sharma was batting on two when stumps were drawn.

For Puducherry, Sagar Udeshi claimed two wickets, while Ankit Sharma, Sagar Trivedi and Gaurav Yadav picked up one wicket each.

Earlier, Puducherry posted 385 runs in their first innings, with Sunil Kumar emerging as the standout bowler for J&K, claiming six wickets for 98 runs.

The four-day encounter will enter its final day on Thursday, with J&K holding a 106-run first-innings advantage—(KNO)

Women's T20 World Cup 2026 sets viewership record, generates $93.8 million economic impact in UK



IANS

DUBAI: The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 set new benchmarks for women's cricket, generating a record 471 million global viewing hours and an estimated economic impact of $93.8 million in the United Kingdom, according to post-tournament reports released by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The 2026 edition, which featured 33 matches, became the most-watched ICC Women's T20 World Cup in history, recording a 156 per cent increase in viewing hours compared to the 184 million generated by the 2024 tournament.

India and Pakistan's group-stage clash in Birmingham emerged as the most-watched match in the tournament's history, attracting more than 77 million viewing hours globally. The ICC said current indications suggest it was also the most-watched women's T20 match ever.

Three other fixtures from the tournament surpassed the previous viewership benchmark, with Australia vs India recording 54 million viewing hours, South Africa vs India 51 million and Bangladesh vs India 42 million. The four matches, including India vs Pakistan, became the highest-viewed fixtures in the history of the competition.

In the host country, the tournament became the most-watched ICC Women's T20 World Cup on Sky Sports, generating 18.2 million viewing hours. England matches attracted an average audience of 381,000, a 69 per cent increase on the previous edition, while the final between England and Australia registered a peak audience of 678,000.

Oman qualifies for 2027 Men's ODI WC qualifier on Net Run Rate despite defeat to UAE

IANS



DUBAI: Oman sealed a place in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2027, despite losing to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by 42 runs in the final match of the World Cup League 2 at the ICC Academy Ground on Wednesday.

The defeat was Oman's seventh loss in a row, and it left them level with Namibia on 33 points. But their superior net run rate of -0.224 was enough for them to clinch the fourth and final direct qualifying spot from the league.

Sent in to bat first, the UAE posted 226/8 in their 50 overs. Captain Rahul Chopra and Adeeb Usmani made 47 each, while Basil Hameed chipped in with 43. Left-arm spinner Shakeel Ahmed was the pick of the Oman bowlers with figures of 3-42.

Oman's chase stumbled early when Muhammad Rohid struck twice to leave them at 28/3. Mujibur Ali fought back with 65, but Oman finished well short on 184/9 in their allotted 50 overs. Despite that setback, Oman joined League 2 champions the USA, Scotland and the Netherlands in the 10-team global qualifying tournament.

Namibia, Canada, Nepal and the UAE, the other four League 2 sides, now face the Qualifier Playoff for another shot. They will be joined there by Jersey and Kuwait from Challenge League A, and by Italy and Uganda from Challenge League B. Four spots in the global qualifier are on offer from the eight-team playoff.

The global qualifier will decide who will grab the last four places at the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup. The winner goes straight into the group stage of the main event, while the second, third and fourth-placed teams move into the newly created super series.

The 2027 Men's ODI World Cup will be co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia from October 2 to November 21. Fourteen teams will play 57 matches across 12 venues. It also marks the tournament's return to Africa for the first time since 2003 and Namibia hosting matches of a senior tournament for the first time.

A ticket ballot for watching matches of the tournament is open till November 21, with the International Cricket Council (ICC) saying more than 120 million ticket applications had been received as of November 1.

ISL 2026/27: Mohun Bagan look to guard home turf as Odisha eye breakthrough

IANS



KOLKATA: With nine points from four matches, former winners Mohun Bagan Super Giant will look to consolidate their position on top of the standings in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026/27 when they host Odisha FC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on Thursday.

While the Mariners have made a strong start, Odisha have managed two points from their opening three outings and are hoping to gain their first full points. Thus, both teams have a lot to play for in the early season clash.

The Mariners have shown ruthless efficiency in recent weeks, recovering from an early setback to string together three consecutive victories. Their latest 2-1 win over Punjab FC highlighted the quality of their attacking options, with Lee Erwin and Dejan Dražić both finding the back of the net.

Adding to Odisha FC's defensive concerns is the return of Australian striker Jamie Maclaren, who is back in the squad after recovering from injury. Maclaren famously dismantled the Juggernauts with a four-goal masterclass the last time these two sides met at the Salt Lake Stadium, in a 5-1 host victory.

Head coach Panagiotis Dilmperis wants his side to show intent from the opening whistle. "The team should start from the first second with more concentration and more aggressiveness," he said.

Dilmperis also acknowledged the responsibility that comes with being at the top of the table, adding, "I don't know if this is a fact that is going to give us confidence, but for sure it will make us more responsible."

Bagan will be without Sahal Abdul Samad, who suffered a knee injury against Punjab FC, and Miguel Figueira, who scored the winner against Sporting Club Delhi in the Mariners' first victory of the season.

Odisha FC, meanwhile, will look to build on consecutive draws against Inter Kashi and NorthEast United FC. Head coach TG Purushothaman has acknowledged the need for more creativity in midfield and a sharper attacking approach, but believes his side can take confidence from its defensive improvement.

After keeping a first clean sheet against North-East, Odisha will need to maintain that discipline against the league leaders. Purushothaman underlined the importance of the fixture, saying, "It is a survival match. We have to play like that to handle this match."

WPL 2027 to begin on January 14 with RCB-MI clash; Vadodara, Mumbai to host matches

IANS

NEW DELHI: Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will open the fifth season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) against two-time winners Mumbai Indians (MI) in Vadodara on January 14.

The tournament will run from January 14 to February 7, with Vadodara's BCA Stadium and Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium, home of the Cricket Club of India (CCI), sharing the 22 matches equally.

Both venues are familiar WPL hosting territories. The Brabourne Stadium hosted matches in the 2023 and 2025 seasons, including the finals of both editions won by MI. The Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) Stadium in Vadodara hosted WPL games in 2025 and 2026, and staged last season's final won by RCB.

The two grounds will also serve as venues for the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy, to be played from February 14 to 28, a week after the WPL final is held. Vadodara will stage the first 11 games, from January 14 to 24, before the competition moves to Mumbai.

After a rest day on January 25, the Brabourne Stadium will host the remaining nine league matches from January 26 to February 3, along with both playoff fixtures. Each of the five teams will play the others twice in the league stage. The team that finishes on top of the table will go straight into the final.

The second- and third-placed sides will meet in the Eliminator on February 5 for the other spot in the summit clash on February 7. A rest day sits before each of the two playoff matches. All matches, including the playoffs, will start at 7:30 pm IST, with no afternoon games on the calendar.

The opening weekend has a full slate. Gujarat Giants take on UP Warriorz on January 15, while RCB, the two-time winners, face four-time runners-up Delhi Capitals a day later, and MI meet UP Warriorz on January 17. The RCB-MI rematch will happen on January 26, when the two sides open the Mumbai leg in a repeat of the season opener.

Gujarat Giants are listed as the home side in four of their Vadodara matches, while Mumbai Indians are the designated hosts for four league fixtures at the Brabourne Stadium. The league stage ends on February 3 with Delhi Capitals taking on UP Warriorz.

- **WPL 2027 full schedule:**
- **Vadodara (BCA Stadium)**
- **January 14: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Mumbai Indians**
- **January 15: Gujarat Giants vs UP Warriorz**
- **January 16: Delhi Capitals vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru**
- **January 17: UP Warriorz vs Mumbai Indians**
- **January 18: Gujarat Giants vs Delhi Capitals**
- **January 19: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs UP Warriorz**
- **January 20: Gujarat Giants vs Mumbai Indians**
- **January 21: UP Warriorz vs Delhi Capitals**
- **January 22: Gujarat Giants vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru**
- **January 23: Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians**
- **January 24: UP Warriorz vs Gujarat Giants**
- **January 25: Rest day**
- **Mumbai (Brabourne Stadium, CCI)**
- **January 26: Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru**
- **January 27: Delhi Capitals vs Gujarat Giants**
- **January 28: Mumbai Indians vs UP Warriorz**
- **January 29: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Delhi Capitals**
- **January 30: Mumbai Indians vs Gujarat Giants**
- **January 31: UP Warriorz vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru**
- **February 1: Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals**
- **February 2: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Gujarat Giants**
- **February 3: Delhi Capitals vs UP Warriorz**
- **February 4: Rest day**
- **February 5: Eliminator**
- **February 6: Rest day**
- **February 7: Final**



