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Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

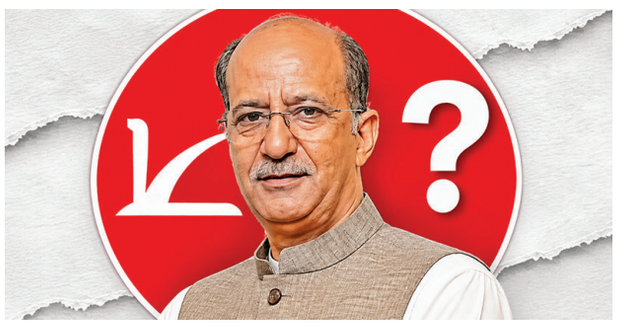
Manoj Sinha
@manojsinha_



Greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras. Heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all of you on the sacred festival of Dhanteras. May the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Dhanvantari remain in everyone's lives, and may all attain happiness, prosperity, and good health.

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Can NC Afford To Remove Nasir Sogami As Advisor?



SUHAIL MIR

SRINAGAR: The National Conference (NC) may have more to lose than gain if it decides to remove Nasir Sogami as an adviser to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, particularly at a time when the party is attempting to consolidate its political position in north Kashmir.

Sogami's importance to the party extends beyond his current position in the government. He represents an important political link between the NC leadership and Kupwara, a constituency where the party's electoral support has remained divided, partly because of the changes brought about by the delimitation exercise.

Kupwara has historically been one of the NC's strong political bastions in north Kashmir. However, the delimitation of constituencies altered the region's electoral arithmetic. Mir Saifullah, who had previously represented Kupwara as an NC legislator, contested from the newly constituted Trehgam constituency in the 2024 Assembly elections. He subsequently joined the Omar Abdullah-led government as a minister.

This political rearrangement left Sogami with the challenge of consolidating the NC's support base in Kupwara within a relatively short campaign • P-06

Dissenting MLAs, NC Top Brass Inch Closer To Reconciliation

After Meeting CM Omar, Dr. Farooq, Legislators Say Some Demands Would Be Addressed Immediately

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The dissenting MLAs of the National Conference appeared to have moved closer to reconciliation with the party leadership following a two-hour-long meeting with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and party president Dr Farooq Abdullah.

The meeting between the two sides was held at Farooq Abdullah's Gupkar residence in Srinagar on Friday morning.

Speaking to reporters after the two-hour-long meeting, Farooq Abdullah, who addressed the media in the presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the dissenting legislators, termed reports of a split within the National Conference as baseless.

"The baseless reports being spread that the National Conference is divided are completely false," he said, adding that the NC stands united.

He said those who believe they can break the NC should understand that it has never been broken and will never be broken.

The NC president said the issues raised by the MLAs were genuine and had been given due consideration.



"Some concerns will be addressed immediately, while others will be taken up gradually," he said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, NC MLA Abdul Majeed Bhat alias Larmi, said the leadership had acknowledged the concerns raised by the legislators and assured them that corrective measures would be taken gradually.

"Everything has been sorted out. Whatever differences were there have been resolved," Larmi said.

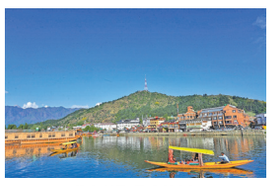
He said the meeting covered all issues raised by the legislators, including changes in ministerial portfolios, the removal of certain individuals, strengthening the party organisation, and improving coordination between elected representatives and the government.

Larmi said the implementation of the party's election manifesto and efforts for the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A were also discussed.

NC MLA Dr Bashir Ahmad Veeri said the • P-06

"SOME DEMANDS WILL BE ACCEPTED IMMEDIATELY, WHILE SOME MAY TAKE TIME," Veeri said, adding that the outcome of the discussions would become clear in the coming days.

Dry Weather Likely In J&K Till Nov 9: MeT



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till November 9, while light rain and snowfall over higher reaches are likely from November 10.

According to the latest weather advisory, accessed, generally cloudy conditions are expected on November 10 and 11, with a spell of light rain at scattered to many places and light snowfall over higher reaches, particularly towards late evening on November 10.

The Meteorological Centre said generally cloudy weather is likely to continue on November 12 and 13, with light to moderate rain and snowfall over higher reaches at many places from the evening or night of November 12. Partly cloudy conditions are expected on November 14 and 15.

Meanwhile, the temperature data issued by the department showed that Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 21.4 degrees Celsius against the normal of 19.3 degrees, while the minimum settled at 3.4 degrees Celsius against • P-06

J&K Bank Announces 1,356 Vacancies

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank on Friday announced a major recruitment drive for 1,356 posts of Probationary Officers and Banking Associates, opening fresh employment opportunities for educated youth across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to two detailed notifications issued by the Bank's Corporate • P-06

Kashmir's Rich Historical, Literary Heritage Receives International Recognition

Kalhana's Rajatarangini Enters UNESCO Memory Of The World Register

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's rich historical and literary heritage has received international recognition with the 12th-century Sanskrit chronicle Rajatarangini, authored by Kalhana, being included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.

According to the details available, the manuscript, preserved at the Oriental Research Library in the Sri Pratap Singh Library Complex in Srinagar, was among three Indian documentary works selected during the 11th session of UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Union Ministry of Culture announced the inscription through the Press Information Bureau on Thursday. The other



two works recognised alongside Rajatarangini are the Mahabharata manuscript preserved at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune and Kautilya's Arthashastra, housed at the Oriental Research Institute in Mysuru.

Written in Sanskrit in the 12th century, Rajatarangini is regarded as one of the most significant historical accounts of Kashmir. Authored by Kalhana, the chronicle documents the region's rulers, successive dynasties, political developments and social conditions across centuries, offering an extensive account of Kashmir's past.

The work is particularly noted for its historical approach, with Kalhana drawing upon earlier accounts and available sources while examining the rise and fall of rulers and political developments. Its narrative extends from Kashmir's legendary origins to the reign of King Jayasimha during Kalhana's lifetime.

The recognition also brings international attention to the Oriental Research Library in Srinagar, which has preserved the historic • P-06

NC 'Sinking Ship', Says BJP's Sat Sharma

YOGESH

JAMMU: BJP's Jammu and Kashmir president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma on Friday described the National Conference (NC) as a "sinking ship", citing its recent electoral setbacks and reports of internal discontent within the ruling party.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Sharma, said the NC's performance over the past two years reflected growing public dissatisfaction.

"The fact that the National Conference has failed to deliver over the past two years is, in itself, an indication that it is a sinking ship. The party has lost two by-elections. In Budgam, the Chief Minister vacated his seat, but another political party won the election. In Nagrota, the National Conference forfeited its deposit. This itself indicates that the party is a sinking ship and



nobody would want to board a sinking ship," he said.

Calling the differences within the NC an internal matter, Sharma said the resentment among some legislators was understandable as, according to him, the government had failed to address public grievances and meet expectations.

"Even the MLAs feel that by remaining part of a political party that has failed • P-06

As Diwali Comes Near

Security Forces Raise Guard To Ensure Peaceful Festivities

SAJID RAINA



SRINAGAR: To ensure peaceful Diwali celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir, authorities have beefed up the security with Special Operations Group (SOG) and other security forces personnel maintaining heightened vigil at important locations, highways and sensitive points.

An official said that tight security arrangements have been put in place at Udhampur, Jammu, Srinagar, Qazigund, Kautha, Samba and other parts of the Union Territory.

He said special checkpoints and nakas stand established at important junctions, entry and exit points and other vulnerable locations, while patrolling has also been intensified to keep a close watch on suspicious movement.

SOG personnel are maintaining vigil and monitoring the movement of vehicles on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) as part of the beefed up security arrangements ahead of the festival.

The official said • P-06

Keran Draws 55,000 Tourists, Eyes 1 Lakh Footfall This Year

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: The border village of Keran in north Kashmir's Kupwara district has recorded more than 55,000 tourist arrivals till November this year, with the administration targeting over one lakh visitors, including foreign tourists, in the near future.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, that tourist footfall in the scenic Line of Control (LoC) village has been rising steadily year after year, reflecting its growing popularity as an emerging tourism destination.

Speaking at the inauguration of a heritage cafe and flag site in Keran, Sharma said the administration is focused on strengthening tourism infrastructure while preserving the village's natural beauty and unique character.



"Keran has already crossed 55,000 tourist arrivals till November this year, and we are aiming for a footfall of over one lakh, including foreign tourists. The increasing number of visitors every year is encouraging," he said.

The DC said the goal was not only to attract tourists but also to create an experience that encourages them to return and share their memories with others.

Highlighting the Indian Army's contribution to promoting tourism in the border area, Sharma said it has consistently supported efforts to develop Keran and improve visitor facilities.

"Facilities are being created so that tourists leave with beautiful memories. This requires collective effort, and the Indian Army has always played its role in that direction," he said.

Sharma said Kupwara's border areas hold immense tourism potential, which can be fully realised through coordinated efforts by civil society, the Indian Army, local entrepreneurs and the administration.

"We have tremendous potential and numerous opportunities. With a joint effort, we can make Keran one of the world's finest tourism destinations," he said.

He also urged travel enthusiasts to visit Keran and experience its scenic beauty, heritage and distinctive border-village charm—(KNO)

Terror Recruitment Case

CIK Raids Multiple Locations Across Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday carried out searches at around 10 locations across the Valley in connection with a terror recruitment case involving an alleged module accused of radicalising and recruiting youth through social media platforms.

An official said that searches were conducted at multiple residential premises in Budgam, Safakadal and Zainakote areas of Srinagar, Bijbehara and Mattan in Anantnag district, and parts of Pulwama.

The raids were carried out by CIK teams in coordination with local police and revenue officials in the presence of executive magistrates, he said.

"The case, registered as FIR No. 07/2023 at Police Station CIK Srinagar, pertains to an alleged terror • P-06

J&K, Ladakh Overdraw Power 57 Times

Central Dispatchers Report Repeated Violations Of Grid Discipline By UT

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Unauthorized power 'overdrawal' by Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has raised serious grid security concerns in the region, with central load dispatchers issuing 57 warnings, including three extreme emergency alerts.

The central control room that manages the northern electricity grid had to issue 57 official warnings to J&K and Ladakh during September because the region repeatedly drew more power than its assigned quota, putting stress on the power network.

Overall, the Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre (NRLDC) issued 612 messages to the over-drawing States including 438 alert, 147 emergency, and 27 extreme emergency. "In 340 cases over-drawl was not reduced by 50 percent in the next block, and in 180 cases not at all."

The official documents of Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) said, "Even after repeated verbal as well as written messages, when over drawl was not controlled by NR states, NRLDC was constrained to open 9 identified radial feeders on five days during evening peaks."

"Several states sold power in Day-Ahead Market and Real-Time Market while over-drawing from the grid. J&K and Ladakh, • P-06

Jammu Expo 2.0 Concludes on Successful Note; Provides Boost to Entrepreneurs

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: The five-day "Jammu Expo 2.0 – A Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine", organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, successfully concluded at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, with an encouraging response from exhibitors, visitors and stakeholders.

Jammu Expo 2.0 celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit, cultural identity and culinary heritage of Jammu The enthusiastic participation of the public translated into impressive and strong consumer engagement, providing exhibitors with valuable market exposure and direct customer interaction.

The concluding ceremony was graced by Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Department, besides other senior government officials.

The Expo witnessed participation of 60 exhibitors representing local entrepreneurs, artisans, MSMEs, start-ups, women-led enterprises, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and emerging brands from across Jammu & Kashmir. The exhibition provided a vibrant platform for showcasing the region's rich handicrafts, handloom, traditional products, agriculture and horticulture produce, food products, while facilitating direct consumer engagement and business networking.

A significant highlight of this edition was its emphasis on promoting women entrepreneurship and providing greater market visibility to women-led enterprises. Out of the 60 participating stalls, 40 were represented by women entrepreneurs, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the total participation. Through dedicated spaces for HAUSLA women entrepreneurs, rural women SHGs and emerging business owners, JKTPO continued its efforts towards creating meaningful opportunities for women to showcase their products, access markets, strengthen business networks and expand their entrepreneurial activities.

In a significant step towards connecting local enterprises with digital marketplaces, the Expo facilitated linkages with leading e-commerce platforms to promote digital adoption among MSMEs. As part of this initiative, 20 participating MSMEs were enrolled under the Walmart Vriddhi Programme, while 07 out of the 20 registered MSMEs were successfully onboarded onto Flipkart, enabling local businesses to explore digital commerce opportunities, expand their customer base, enhance market access and strengthen their online presence.

DC Anantnag reviews arrangements for Accounts Assistant Examination

GMK NEWS NETWORK



ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness and finalise arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant in the Finance Department, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026.

During the meeting, it was informed that 43 designated examination centres have been established across the district, where approximately 12,500 candidates are expected to appear in the examination.

The DC reviewed the arrangements being made by various departments and instructed the concerned officers to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination for the peaceful and hassle-free conduct of the examination.

He took stock of the availability of essential facilities at examination centres, including proper seating arrangements, furniture, drinking water, electricity, heating facilities, sanitation, security, transportation, traffic regulation and medical assistance.

The DC directed the concerned education authorities and Centre Superintendents to personally inspect all designated examination centres and ensure that the venues are fully equipped and all necessary facilities are put in place well in advance.

He instructed to ensure strict adherence to the examination guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) prescribed by JKSSB, particularly regarding candidate verification, frisking, entry procedures and the secure handling of examination material and OMR answer sheets. He also directed the supervisory staff to remain fully conversant with their assigned duties and responsibilities.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed the designated Nodal Officers to maintain close coordination with their respective departments, regularly monitor the arrangements and ensure timely redressal of any shortcomings.

Emphasising collective responsibility, he instructed all concerned officers to work in close coordination and ensure that the examination is conducted in a peaceful, fair and transparent manner.

DC Shopian chairs Consultative Meet for Maiden 'Jashn-e-Hurud' Festival



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a landmark initiative to foster community engagement and promote local heritage, the District Administration Shopian, led by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Charandeep Singh, held a high-level interactive meeting Friday at the Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

The meeting was convened for celebrating 'Jashn-e-Hurud', a first-of-its-kind festival planned for the district.

The comprehensive consultative interaction brought together key stakeholders, including prominent members of civil society, traders associations, youth representatives and the media fraternity.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that 'Jashn-e-Hurud' will mark a new dawn for Shopian by celebrating its unique identity, promoting local talent and bringing the community together in a festive environment. He stated that the festival is envisioned as a catalyst to spotlight Shopian's tourism potential and support local vendors, artisans and businesses.

The District Administration assured full administrative backing for the event, emphasizing structured setups, robust media outreach and comprehensive security arrangements to make the maiden celebration a resounding success.

Deliberations focused on collaborative planning to ensure the event serves as a vibrant platform showcasing Shopian's rich cultural ethos, scenic beauty and local enterprise.

Community-driven insights and suggestions were gathered during discussions with civil society members and trade unions.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, members of the Traders Federation, Civil Society representatives, Fruit Growers and media personnel.

DC Kupwara visits Machil Valley

Reviews Winter Preparedness, availability of Essential Supplies

GMK NEWS NETWORK



KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, Friday undertook an extensive tour of the remote and border Machil Valley to review winter preparedness, availability of essential commodities and delivery of public services ahead of the approaching winter season.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a comprehensive review meeting with sectoral and field officers at the Tehsil Office, Machil, to assess department-wise preparedness, including advance stocking of food grains, fuel, LPG, firewood and medicines, besides the status of power and water supply and readiness of snow-clearance machinery.

Emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts, the DC directed all departments to ensure adequate arrangements well in advance, remain stationed at their respective headquarters and maintain round-the-clock emergency response mechanisms. He stressed that no resident of the remote valley should face hardship due to heavy snowfall or disruption of road connectivity.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected Food and Civil Supplies stores to assess the availability and quality of essential commodities. He directed the concerned officers to maintain adequate buffer stocks to meet the requirements of the local population during prolonged winter road closures.

During the tour, the DC visited AGS Chountiwari Payeen, where he interacted with students and took stock of the facilities and academic environment. He also interacted with local residents, who shared their concerns and requirements. He issued on-the-spot directions for redressal of several grievances and instructed the concerned officers to resolve the remaining issues within stipulated timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner also expressed his appreciation to the Indian Army for its continued cooperation and support in the region, particularly in facilitating essential services and extending assistance to the local population.

The DC reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring effective governance and uninterrupted delivery of essential services to residents of far-flung and border areas.

Senior district and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the tour.

DC Pulwama visits CSIR-IIIM Field Station Bonera

GMK NEWS NETWORK



PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Friday visited the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Field Station at Bonera, Pulwama, to take stock of its research initiatives, technological interventions and contribution towards agricultural diversification, scientific innovation and farmers' livelihood enhancement.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Dr. Shahid Rasool, Principal Scientist and Scientist In-charge, CSIR-IIIM Field Station Bonera, who gave a detailed briefing on the various research activities, ongoing projects and achievements of the institution. Dr Shahid informed that research endevours pursued at the Field Station are in conformity with agrarian landscape of the region and the challenges faced by the farming community in light of depleting natural resources, climate change and weather extremes and post harvest risks.

During the visit, the DC took a detailed overview of the station's work in development of crop models and agro-technologies of medicinal and aromatic crops, saffron, floriculture, apiculture, essential oil extraction and advanced processing techniques for value addition.

He was apprised of the station's initiatives in promoting scientific bee keeping and effective pollination practices and diversified honey production, including lavender honey, apple honey and other monofloral varieties, thereby creating an additional income opportunity for farmers and enhanced livelihood generation.

The Deputy Commissioner also took stock of the institution's pioneering work in tulip cultivation and indigenous bulb production. He was informed that the station has increased its tulip bulb production from around 25,000 to nearly 1.5 lakh bulbs, with further expansion underway. The initiative, besides promoting indigenous production of tulips, holds potential for developing a dedicated tulip garden and strengthening the district's floriculture landscape.

The DC also reviewed the facilities and technological interventions related to plant biotechnology and varietal development of region-specific high value industrial crops including MAPs, essential oil extraction, research and value addition in aromatic crops, particularly lavender and appreciated the role of CSIR-IIIM in translating scientific technologies with practical agricultural applications.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated CSIR-IIIM's contribution towards promoting indigenous agricultural innovations and developing locally suited varieties and technologies. He said that the institution has demonstrated immense potential in transforming traditional agriculture into a high-value, knowledge driven enterprises.

DC Ganderbal visits old Age Home Pandach



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, Friday conducted a visit to the Old Age Home at Pandach, Ganderbal, to review the facilities and interact with the elderly residents.

The DC was accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Ganderbal and other concerned officials.

The DSWO briefed the DC on the overall functioning of the institution and detailed the various welfare measures being implemented by the department for the care and well-being of senior citizens in the district.

During the visit, the DC inspected various sections of the facility, including accommodation, sanitation, healthcare services, and other essential amenities being provided to the senior citizens.

Interacting with the senior citizens, the DC enquired about their health, daily routines, and specific requirements. She emphasized the administration's responsibility to ensure a safe and dignified living environment for senior citizens.

DH G'bal gets Licence for PRBC to enhance availability of blood component services

GMK NEWS NETWORK



GANDERBAL: In order to strengthen the healthcare services and improving access to safe and quality blood transfusion facilities, the Drug Control Organization, J&K has granted a licence to the District Hospital Ganderbal for additional blood component facility viz Packed Red Blood Cells (PRBC), Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP), Platelet Concentrates, Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) and Cryoprecipitated Anti-Haemophilic Factor.

The license marks an important milestone in enhancing the availability of blood component services in the district Ganderbal and will facilitate better patient care particularly for patients requiring specific blood components during medical emergencies, surgeries and other critical treatments.

The initiative reflects the department's commitment to ensuring the availability of safe, effective and quality-assured blood and blood components through a robust regulatory framework and strict adherence to prescribed standards.

This development is expected to provide considerable relief to patients and their attendants in Ganderbal by strengthening local blood transfusion support and reducing dependence on facilities outside the district wherever services are available locally.

The Drug Department, J&K reiterated its commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure, ensuring compliance with statutory requirements and facilitating improved access to essential healthcare services for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Arrangements reviewed for SSB Accounts Assistant Examination in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK



KULGAM: Arrangements for the smooth, transparent and fair conduct of the J&K Services Selection Board (SSB) Examination for the post of Accounts Assistant, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026, were reviewed today at Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

A detailed review meeting was chaired by Member JKSSB and District Coordinator for Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather, wherein comprehensive arrangements to be put in place by the District Administration for conducting the examination at 25 centres across the district were discussed.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, who is also the Chief Inspector for the examination, briefed the chair about the district administration's preparedness and presented a detailed overview of the centre-wise arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the examination.

On the occasion, District Coordinator briefed the officers concerned about the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed during the examination. He stressed upon strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines, ensuring transparency, fairness and foolproof arrangements at all examination centres. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that no laxity is allowed and all instructions issued by the SSB are followed in letter and spirit.

The meeting also held detailed deliberations on various arrangements, including seating capacity and infrastructure, electricity, security, videography and CCTV surveillance, strong room arrangements, transportation, deployment of medical teams, staff deployment and other requisite facilities.

The meeting was attended by ACR Kulgam, ASP Kulgam, Principals of Government Degree Colleges, District Information Officer, District Treasury Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer and other concerned officers and officials.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Friday informed that the Shutdown of 132 kV IRCON Budgam Transmission line will be observed due to which power supply to Traction Substation Budgam (Railway) will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 07 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Habbak-Zakura Burzhama line and 33 kV Habbak-Hazratbal line will be observed due to which power supply to Zakura, Batpora, Gulabagh, Burzhama, Chatterhama, Tailbal, Danihama, Khimber, Shuperbagh, Animal Husbandry, Hazratbal, Umar Colony, Rangpora, BARC, Habbak, KU, Nigeen, Kanitar, NIT, Shrine and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 22 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Arampora-Kupwara Old line will be observed due to which power supply to whole Machil valley will be affected from 10 am to 03 pm on 07 November 2026.

DC Shopian presides over training programme for JKSSB exams

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Friday presided over a training programme for officials deployed on examination duties in connection with the upcoming JKSSB Accounts Assistant (Finance) Examination, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026, at Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all officials to discharge their assigned duties with utmost dedication, sincerity and responsibility, while ensuring strict adherence to the prescribed instructions and guidelines. He emphasised that all necessary arrangements must be put in place well in advance to ensure the smooth conduct of the examination in a free, fair and transparent manner.

The DC briefed the participating officials about their respective roles and responsibilities and highlighted the importance of effective coordination among all stakeholders involved in the conduct of the JKSSB examination.

The training programme was organised to familiarise Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Centre Observers and Invigilators with examination-related guidelines, procedures and responsibilities to ensure the smooth and impartial conduct of the examination.

Master Trainers imparted detailed training to the participating officials, highlighting various aspects of examination management, adherence to prescribed guidelines, maintenance of discipline and observance of confidentiality and fairness throughout the examination process.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, Principal GDC Shopian, Tariq Ahmed, and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

J&K Bank inaugurates Premium Branch at Barzulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Friday inaugurated its Premium Branch at Barzulla in Srinagar, which will primarily serve high-net-worth individuals, with an emphasis on personalised service and deeper banking relationships.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee inaugurated the Premium Branch and e-inaugurated an extension counter at the Police Control Room, Srinagar, in the presence of GM & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri, General Manager (BSD) Khursheed Muzaffar amid a gathering of Bank's valuable HNI clients. Zonal Head (Srinagar), Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar, Cluster Heads Syed Tasaduq Madni, Zahoor Ahmad Qanoongo, Subuhi Yaseen and other senior officers of the Bank were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "The opening of our new Premium Branch marks a step in our commitment to delivering exceptional, relationship-driven banking to High Net Worth Individuals, who seek personalized attention, expertise, and hassle-free solutions tailored to meet their unique aspirations and financial requirements."

"Even as more customers bank digitally, our branches remain important places for personal guidance and support. By creating a space that prioritizes privacy, personalization, and long-term partnership, we reinforce our position as the trusted partner of choice for discerning clients who value both service and meaningful relationships," he added.

Highlighting the Bank's long-term expansion plans, MD & CEO announced a major scale-up of its retail presence. "Going forward, we plan to strengthen our footprint further and open over 60 new branches in different operational geographies by the end of 2027," he said, emphasizing that the physical expansion will run parallel to the Bank's ongoing digital transformation to better serve underserved markets.

In his Diwali greetings to the public on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee highlighted the festival as a time of new beginnings, wishing everyone a season filled with prosperity and well-being. "The good news is that the Bank will issue its recruitment notification today," he said.

Interacting with the staff led by Branch Head Saima Jan, the MD & CEO urged staff to serve every customer with courtesy, attentiveness and professionalism. He said the success of the Premium Branch would ultimately depend on how its staff conducted themselves in every customer interaction. The team assured him that they would work to make the premium branch a model of best customer service.

Notably, The Premium Branch will focus on Forex business, NRI services, gold loans, and safe custody facilities, alongside relationship-led banking. Through this premium branch, the Bank will provide high-net-worth clients with a single point of contact to ensure their financial needs are met more effectively. The extension counter at the Police Control Room, Srinagar, will bring routine banking services closer to police personnel, making it easier for them to attend to everyday banking needs at their workplace.

How many more deadlines?

Kashmir residents seek firm timeline for AIIMS Awantipora opening

JAHANGEER GANAIE



SRINAGAR: Despite fresh assurances from Union Health Minister J P Nadda regarding the commencement of services at the under-construction All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Awantipora, residents across Kashmir have sought a definite timeline for making the institution functional, questioning how many more deadlines people will have to wait for before the premier healthcare facility starts serving patients.

Residents said repeated revisions in project completion and operationalisation schedules had eroded public confidence, with people now seeking concrete action rather than another set of assurances.

Their demand gained renewed significance after Nadda, during his visit to AIIMS Awantipora a day before, announced that OPD services are targeted to commence before December 2026, while IPD services are proposed to begin in July 2027. He also directed the concerned agencies to complete the remaining construction works by March 2027.

While appreciating the latest announcement, residents said that the government must ensure that the new timelines are strictly adhered to, particularly when the project has already missed several deadlines.

"Every few months, a new date is announced, but people are still waiting for the hospital to become functional. First, we were told that OPD services would start in 2025, then August 2026. Now, the deadline has shifted to before December. How many more deadlines will people have to hear?" residents questioned.

They said the institution was sanctioned with the objective of strengthening tertiary healthcare facilities in Kashmir and reducing the dependence of patients on hospitals outside Jammu and Kashmir, but the prolonged delay had defeated the purpose to some extent.

Residents also questioned the difference in the pace of operationalisation of the two AIIMS projects sanctioned for Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 — one at Vijaypur in Jammu and another at Awantipora in south Kashmir. "AIIMS Jammu has already been functional for the past two years, while people in Kashmir are still waiting for comprehensive services at AIIMS Awantipora. Both projects were sanctioned together, and people here also deserve the same level of healthcare infrastructure and timely delivery," they said.

They said Kashmir's geographical distance from major healthcare institutions outside the Union Territory makes the operationalisation of AIIMS Awantipora particularly important. Patients suffering from cancer, cardiac ailments, neurological disorders and other serious diseases often have to travel to Delhi, Chandigarh and other cities for specialised treatment, adding to their financial and emotional burden.

"For an ordinary family, travelling outside Kashmir for treatment is not easy. Apart from medical expenses, there are transportation, accommodation and other costs. Many families are already struggling financially. Had AIIMS Awantipora been functional, a significant number of patients could have received specialised treatment closer to home," residents said.

They stressed that the commencement of OPD services should be treated as an immediate priority and should not be delayed on account of pending work in other parts of the campus. "If the OPD block and other essential facilities are ready, there should be no reason to keep patients waiting. The authorities should start services in the completed portions while simultaneously completing the remaining infrastructure," they said.

During his November 5 visit, Nadda reviewed infrastructure development, procurement of medical equipment, recruitment of faculty and staff and preparedness for launching healthcare and academic activities. Officials informed him that all major buildings had been completed, while Phase-I infrastructure, including the OPD Registration Block, OPD Block, residential buildings and designated hostels, had been completed, with inventory verification and handover formalities underway.

The meeting was also informed that procurement approvals had been issued for 180 medical equipment items worth ₹59.41 crore, with notices of award issued for 140 items. Besides, the Ministry has approved the engagement of 652 personnel for OPD and related services.

CM congratulates people on UNESCO recognition of Rajatarangini manuscript

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday congratulated the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the inscription of the 12th-century manuscript of Kalhana's Rajatarangini on the UNESCO Memory of the World Regional Register for Asia and the Pacific.

Preserved at the Oriental Research Library, Sri Pratap Singh Library Complex, Srinagar, the historic manuscript is an invaluable repository of Kashmir's history, offering a remarkable account of its rulers, society, traditions and cultural evolution. Kalhana's Rajatarangini, regarded as one of the earliest systematic historical chronicles of the Indian subcontinent, holds a special place in the region's literary and intellectual heritage.

The Chief Minister said the international recognition was a moment of immense pride for Jammu and Kashmir, as it brings global attention to its rich civilisational legacy and enduring contribution to history and literature.

He observed that the inscription on the UNESCO regional register also underscores the importance of safeguarding invaluable manuscripts and historical records for future generations.

Omar Abdullah said the recognition would further strengthen efforts to preserve, document and promote Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage, while enhancing its visibility on the international stage.

Man succumbs to injuries three days after falling from building in B'la

AGENCIES

BARAMULLA: A man succumbed to his injuries three days after falling from the second floor of a building in Palhalan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said.

An official said that the man sustained injuries after falling from the building in Raipora, Palhalan, three days ago while engaged in shuttering work.

He was shifted to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries today. The deceased was identified as Nazir Ahmed Bhat, son of Mohammad Ramzan Bhat, a resident of Raipora, Palhalan.

Meanwhile, cognizance of the incident has been taken and a probe is underway—(KNO)

Foetus found in Jammu's Bathindi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A dead foetus of a newborn baby was found in the Bathindi area of Jammu city on Friday morning, officials said.

An official said that the foetus referring to an unborn baby, was spotted by locals near Vidhata Nagar locality of Bathindi, Jammu, this morning.

He said police soon reached the spot and shifted it to Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, for medical examination, where doctors declared it brought dead.

The official said DNA analysis is being conducted to establish its identity and ascertain other relevant details, adding that an investigation into the matter is underway—(KNO)

Sagar Visits MLA Lal Chowk Ahsaan Pardesi, Expresses Condolences

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Revenue, Power Development Department (PDD), Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Friday visited MLA Lal Chowk, Ahsaan Pardesi, to express his heartfelt condolences over the bereavement in his family.

During the visit, the Minister conveyed his deepest sympathies to Ahsaan Pardesi and other bereaved family members, expressing solidarity with them in this hour of grief. He said that the loss of a loved one is deeply painful and that words often fall short in providing solace during such difficult times.

Sagar prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and sought strength, courage and patience for the bereaved family to overcome this irreparable loss.

The Minister also reaffirmed his solidarity with Ahsaan Pardesi and his family, extending his heartfelt condolences and support during this difficult period.

Pulwama farmer sets up solar-powered cold storage

Brings 29 growers under FIG to boost vegetable farming

JAHANGEER GANAIE



PULWAMA: In a significant push towards modernising agriculture and strengthening the local vegetable-growing sector, a progressive farmer from Tahab area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district has introduced a solar-powered mini cold storage facility, offering local growers an opportunity to preserve their produce and fetch better market prices.

Farooq Ahmad, a resident of Tahab, has taken a different approach from the growing trend of converting agricultural land into orchards, turning his horticultural land back into agricultural fields and venturing into large-scale vegetable cultivation.

By adopting modern farming techniques and cultivating organic as well as improved varieties of vegetables, he is attempting to demonstrate the economic potential of vegetable farming. His initiative has also inspired other local growers to explore vegetable cultivation as a sustainable source of income.

To expand the effort through collective participation, he has brought together 29 other farmers under a Farmers Interest Group (FIG), with the objective of increasing production, promoting improved agricultural practices and strengthening farmers' access to markets.

A key component of this initiative is the installation of a 10-metric-tonne-capacity mini vegetable cold storage unit at Farooq's farmland, provided free of cost by an organic foundation. The facility operates on solar energy and is being described as the first such facility in the area.

"The cold storage unit is expected to address a longstanding challenge confronting vegetable growers, who often have limited options to preserve their harvested produce and are compelled to sell it immediately, sometimes at lower prices due to market fluctuations and excess supply," Farooq said.

With the facility, members of the FIG will be able to store their vegetables and release them into the market according to demand, particularly during the off-season, when better prices can be secured.

Farooq said modern agricultural technology had become indispensable for improving farm productivity and ensuring better economic returns, and that farmers could significantly enhance production even with limited resources by adopting scientific cultivation methods and making effective use of available technological facilities.

"The mini cold storage facility will be a major support for local farmers. Instead of selling the entire produce immediately after harvesting, we will be able to preserve vegetables and supply them to markets when demand and prices are favourable. This will help improve farmers' earnings," he said.

He also called upon unemployed youth and fellow farmers to explore the potential of vegetable cultivation, saying agriculture could emerge as a viable source of employment if supported by modern technology, proper planning and market-oriented production. He urged farmers to take maximum advantage of government-sponsored schemes and agricultural support programmes.

The initiative assumes significance at a time when improving post-harvest management, reducing wastage and ensuring remunerative prices have emerged as important concerns for the farming community. —(KNO)

Secy Tourism tours PDA jurisdiction, reviews key projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK



UDHAMPUR: Secretary, Tourism, Avny Lavasa, Friday undertook an extensive tour of the Patnitop Development Authority (PDA) jurisdiction, covering Kud, Patnitop and Sanasar to review the functioning of the Authority and assess the progress of various ongoing works.

Chief Executive Officer, PDA, Rakesh Dubey, briefed the Secretary about the overall functioning of the Authority, its administrative framework, ongoing developmental initiatives. He also informed about the key challenges and future roadmap for transforming Patnitop and its adjoining destinations into leading sustainable tourism destinations.

The Secretary chaired a detailed review meeting with the officers and held an interaction with the staff of the Authority. She issued necessary directions for improving the functioning of the Authority and ensuring effective implementation of tourism development initiatives.

During the review meeting, comprehensive deliberations were held on major tourism infrastructure projects and initiatives, including implementation of the Master Plan, Tulip Garden at Sanasar, eco-tourism initiatives, promotion of community events, tourist attractions, waste management, cleanliness and revenue generation.

The Secretary reviewed several important infrastructure projects, including upgradation of the existing stone pathway from Sanasar Bus Stand towards Sanasar Lake, pathways at Children's Park, Patnitop, drainage solid waste management at Patnitop, Sanasar Golf Course, beautification of Sanasar Lake and Bus Stand, installation of solar streetlights, upgradation of high-mast and streetlights and widening and strengthening of the Circular Road at Patnitop.

Emphasising the need for timely execution and quality development, Avny Lavasa directed the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of ongoing works by mobilising adequate manpower and machinery for completion within the stipulated timelines. She stressed effective monitoring and proper maintenance of all tourism assets being created.

Taking serious note of encroachments within the PDA jurisdiction, the Secretary directed the concerned authorities to undertake regular monitoring and daily inspections to prevent and check illegal encroachments.

ACB books former revenue officials in Jammu over wrong Khasra, state land case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an FIR against a then Naib Tehsildar, a Patwari and two private persons for facilitating the wrongful occupation of State land in Gurha Brahmana village of Jammu, officials said.

In a statement issued, an ACB spokesperson said the FIR was registered against the then Naib Tehsildar, Patwari and certain private persons for their alleged involvement in facilitating the wrongful occupation of State land at Gurha Brahmana.

He said the FIR was registered on the basis of Verification No. 02/2024, conducted into a complaint lodged by Sohan Singh. The verification prima facie revealed that the accused public servants had allegedly abused and misused their official positions and failed to discharge their duties in accordance with the law, thereby facilitating wrongful gain to private persons and causing consequential wrongful loss to the complainant as well as the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The spokesperson said the complainant had alleged that he had purchased one kanal of land falling under Khasra No. 65-min through a registered sale deed dated 17.01.2005, followed by the attestation of Mutation No. 2229 dated 18.02.2005.

However, during verification, it was revealed that the land actually delivered to and occupied by the complainant fell under Khasra No. 96, which is recorded as State land.

He said the verification further revealed that the then Patwari Babu Ram and the then Naib Tehsildar Ram Lal Sharma, allegedly in connivance with private persons Chaman Lal and Ram Chand, facilitated the preparation and issuance of revenue documents on the basis of an unauthenticated Dasti Khaka, without properly verifying the authentic revenue records and the actual position of the land on the spot.

The spokesperson further said that the private persons, through their respective attorney holders, namely Ram Pal and Kasturi Lal, allegedly executed the sale deed and delivered possession of land falling under Khasra No. 96 instead of the land covered under Khasra No. 65-min.

The report submitted by the Tehsildar, Jammu North, dated 10.07.2026, further confirmed that the complainant was not in possession of land falling under Khasra No. 65-min but was occupying land under Khasra No. 96, which stands recorded as State land, he said.

Kashmir maps 30,000 Chinar trees in digital conservation drive

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has geo-tagged nearly 30,000 Chinar trees and created a digital database to document the iconic species, marking a major step towards digitally recording the region's natural heritage.

An official said that the exercise is part of a wider initiative to identify and document prominent trees across the Union Territory, with QR-enabled metal identification plates being installed to make information about individual trees accessible through digital technology.

He said 13,500 such plates have been installed so far, including 10,000 on prominent Chinar trees in Kashmir and another 3,500 on Peepal and Bargad trees in Jammu region.

The official said that the progress was reviewed at a meeting chaired by Forests, Ecology and Environment Minister Altaf Ahmad Wani at the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force in Jammu.

During the meeting, officials informed the minister that geo-tagging of approximately 30,000 Chinar trees had been completed and their details incorporated into a digital database.

The second phase of the initiative will cover the remaining Chinar, Bargad and Peepal trees across Jammu and Kashmir.

The digital documentation is expected to provide a systematic record of the trees, helping authorities identify their locations and maintain information about individual specimens. The QR-enabled plates also introduce a digital identification system for trees that hold ecological, historical and cultural significance.

The Chinar, known for its distinctive broad canopy and changing colours during autumn, occupies a special place in Kashmir's landscape. Found in public gardens, university campuses, village commons and along roadsides, the trees have remained an integral part of the region's cultural identity for generations.

Beyond their visual and cultural significance, mature Chinars contribute to the local ecosystem by providing shade, supporting biodiversity and absorbing carbon dioxide.

The initiative also extends to Jammu, where Peepal and Bargad trees are being included in the identification exercise, bringing three prominent tree species under a common documentation programme.

Appreciating the initiative, Wani said the protection of Jammu and Kashmir's natural heritage was a collective responsibility of the government and the people.

He also directed officials to involve concerned legislators in development works undertaken in their respective districts, saying their participation would help improve transparency and ensure that local realities were taken into account.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

NC's Test of Leadership

The National Conference may have managed to prevent an immediate political embarrassment, but the discontent simmering within its ranks is far from over. The recent meetings between dissatisfied legislators and the party leadership have exposed cracks that cannot be sealed merely through assurances and carefully worded statements.

Farooq Abdullah's acknowledgement that the grievances of legislators are genuine is significant. However, accepting concerns is one thing; addressing them is another. The legislators have reportedly raised serious questions about the functioning of the government, including demands for a Cabinet reshuffle and the removal of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's adviser, Nasir Aslam Wani. These are not minor organisational complaints that can be brushed aside with promises of gradual resolution.

The leadership's attempt to dismiss speculation about a possible split may have calmed the immediate political atmosphere, but it has not answered the central question: what exactly is the party prepared to change? Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi and other legislators have made it clear that they are not seeking a separate political platform. They want their voices heard within the party. That itself should be a warning to the leadership that internal dissent, if ignored, can eventually become a much bigger political problem.

The National Conference cannot afford to treat elected representatives merely as numbers needed to sustain a government. Legislators are the party's political strength and their concerns deserve serious consideration. A government that expects loyalty must also demonstrate accountability, accessibility and respect for its own representatives.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, too, must recognise that political stability cannot be maintained through assurances alone. The expectations of party legislators and the electorate are closely linked. If elected representatives feel sidelined, public confidence in the government's functioning may also suffer.

Farooq Abdullah has played the role of a mediator, but the responsibility now lies with the party leadership to translate assurances into decisions. A Cabinet reshuffle, if genuinely required, should be based on performance and administrative efficiency rather than political pressure. Similarly, questions surrounding the role of advisers must be addressed transparently.

The National Conference secured its mandate on promises of change, governance and the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's political rights. It cannot afford to become consumed by internal power struggles while public expectations remain unfulfilled.

The message from the disgruntled legislators is clear: they want a voice, not a split. The leadership must understand that unity cannot be imposed or maintained through statements. It has to be earned through dialogue, fairness and corrective action. For the National Conference, the real test is no longer whether the party will split, but whether its leadership has the courage to listen and act.

Good Morning Kashmir

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Let Diwali Become New Light Of Developed, Prosperous India



LALIT GARGG



Diwali is not merely a festival celebrating the victory of light over darkness; it is an opportunity to awaken the dormant consciousness within us, to give direction to a life that may have lost its way, and to reassess our values at the present stage of civilisation. Today, India is moving rapidly on the path of becoming a developed, prosperous, capable and self-reliant nation. The world is looking at India with renewed confidence because of its economic strength, technological capabilities, cultural heritage and spiritual vision. At such a time, the lamp of Diwali should not remain confined to the doorstep of our homes; it must also illuminate the vast sky of our national consciousness. A profound question confronts us: when the number of lamps around us is increasing, why is the inner light of human beings growing dimmer? Homes are glowing, markets are illuminated, cities are shining with electric lights and technology is filling life with conveniences. Yet stress, insecurity, violence, selfishness, intolerance and attachment continue to deepen within the human mind. Is it possible that we have lit countless lamps outside but forgotten to place a wick within ourselves?

The roots of terrorism, violence, war, hatred and hostility do not lie merely in machines or weapons; they originate in distorted human consciousness. Therefore, a lasting solution to terrorism cannot come only through security arrangements. Humanity must resolve to abandon unnecessary violence. As long as the fire of revenge continues to burn within the human heart, the lamp of peace cannot shine completely across the world. Non-violence is not merely a principle of Jain philosophy; it is a necessity for the future of human civilisation. There is a beautiful spiritual anecdote. Darkness once complained to Brahma that the Sun was constantly pursuing it and wanted to destroy it. The Sun replied, "I don't even know what darkness is, let alone having any desire to destroy it. First, bring darkness before me." When darkness was asked to appear before the Sun, it replied, "How can I come before him? The moment I stand before him; my very existence will disappear."

This is precisely the relationship between spiritual wisdom and ignorance. Where the Sun of knowledge rises, the darkness of ignorance cannot survive. Where the lamp of compassion burns, the shadows of violence cannot remain. Where the flame of self-restraint is kindled, the dominion of attachment and delusion gradually begins to collapse. That is why the true significance of Diwali lies not merely in cleaning our homes but in cleansing our inner selves. For months, we remove dust from every corner of our homes, organise old belongings, decorate our walls and give our houses a new appearance. But do we ever sweep away the dust of jealousy accumulated in the corners of our minds? Do we cleanse the soot of anger? Do we remove the webs of ego? Do we throw away the old baggage of greed and attachment? If, this Diwali, we are able to undertake such an inner cleansing, the festival will become the greatest celebration of our lives.

Acharya Shri Mahapragya, the great Jain philosopher and saint, regarded introspection as a pathway to inner illumination. His message was clear: our habit of looking outward has become very strong, while the discipline of looking within has weakened considerably. Today, human beings possess countless means to see the world, but hardly any time to see themselves. The mobile screen is glowing, but the screen of the mind is becoming blurred. The reservoir of information is expanding, but the lamp of self-awareness is gradually becoming faint. This is perhaps one of the greatest paradoxes of our times: we are preparing to reach the Moon, yet we hesitate to enter the dark corners within ourselves.

A New India will not be created merely through towering buildings, a rapidly growing economy, advanced technology and world-class infrastructure. The true identity of a developed India will emerge from the evolved consciousness of its citizens. Prosperity becomes meaningful only when compassion remains alive. Power becomes constructive only when accompanied by restraint. Science becomes beneficial only when guided by wisdom. And development becomes complete only when both human beings and nature remain at its centre. India's timeless cultural tradition gave humanity this profound message centuries ago: "Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya" — Lead me from darkness to light. To move from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge, from indiscipline to self-restraint, and from selfishness to selflessness—that is the enduring spirit of Indian civilisation.

As India moves towards establishing itself as a global leader and a guiding force for humanity, its greatest strength will not be merely its economy or technological prowess. Its greatest capital will be its timeless civilisational wisdom and humane worldview. Diwali can become an occasion to give this eternal wisdom a new horizon. We must not merely tell the world that India is progressing economically; we must also demonstrate that India knows how to pursue development while remaining rooted in human values. It must be a development in which nature has a rightful place, the deprived receive compassion, the elderly receive respect, young people receive opportunities, women receive dignity, and every individual has the right to a safe, peaceful and meaningful life.

Today, there is a need to transform the Diwali lamp into a symbol of national resolve. One lamp for self-restraint. One lamp for non-violence. One lamp for environmental protection. One lamp for social harmony. One lamp for the dignity of women. One lamp for integrity. And one lamp for devotion to the nation. When millions of homes light millions of lamps together with these values, India's radiance will no longer remain confined to homes and marketplaces; it will illuminate the path of humanity. A lamp has a unique quality: it burns itself while giving light to others. This is the essential character of Indian culture. A civilisation inspired by the ideal of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world is one family—cannot view its own progress as separate from the welfare of the world. If India aspires to become a guiding force for humanity, it must offer the world not merely knowledge, but also the wisdom of balance; not merely a model of prosperity, but also a pathway to peace.

This Diwali, let us ask ourselves one question: What darkness still remains within me? Is it anger, greed, ego, jealousy, fear, insensitivity or indifference? For darkness does not disappear merely by condemning it. A small lamp has to be lit. The lamp teaches us another profound lesson: life does not demand escape from circumstances; it demands transformation. No matter how difficult the circumstances may be, human beings must never allow the inner flame to be extinguished. This Diwali, let us decorate not only our homes but also our hearts; let us beautify not only our doorsteps but also our consciousness; and along with the lights that rise into the sky, let us kindle the flame of inner illumination within ourselves. Because the greatest identity of a developed India will not be its shining roads or magnificent buildings, but its awakened citizens.

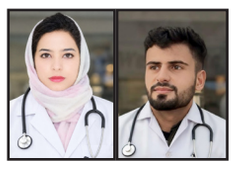
India is taking a new turn today. Its economy is touching new heights, its scientific achievements are crossing new frontiers, its young generation is opening doors to new possibilities, and India is establishing its role on the global stage with renewed confidence. In this transformative journey, the message of Diwali must also acquire a new meaning: Let the India outside become illuminated, and let the India within become awakened. Only then will Diwali cease to be merely a festival. It will become the new light of a New India, a renewed radiance of India's timeless civilisation, and India's declaration of a path of light for humanity. Let us, therefore, light one lamp in our homes and another within ourselves.

One lamp for prosperity and one for compassion. One lamp for development and one for wisdom. One lamp for progress and one for peace. One lamp for a stronger India and one for a more sensitive India. Because when the inner lamp is lit, only then does the outer light acquire its true meaning. And on the day when this inner light is kindled in the hearts of millions of Indians, India will not merely become developed—it will become a nation capable of showing the world how development can walk with wisdom, power can coexist with peace, and prosperity can flourish alongside compassion. That will be the true spirit of Diwali.

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Kashmir Then And Now

The Changing Realities Catching Our Eye



DR BATULA RASHID
WANI ARFAT



The way of life in Kashmir was quite different in the past. People lacked many facilities, but there used to be a sense of affection and brotherhood. People used to sit together, neighbours would come to each other's places and children would play outdoors for long periods of time. People didn't need any invitation to go to someone's place; they could just visit them, have tea and spend time together. However, things have changed today; education, transport, technology and career prospects have advanced, but many of our old values are disappearing.

The biggest change that has taken place is the change in our language. Kashmiri was spoken in almost all homes, markets and areas in the past. In the present times, many parents feel like speaking English to their kids because they think it will help them in their studies and careers in the future. English is important, but we shouldn't forget our mother tongue. Many kids understand what their grandparents say in Kashmiri but cannot respond in Kashmiri.

Family life has changed as well. In the past, it was common to find grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts and cousins living together in one house. Children learned respect, sharing and patience from their seniors. Nowadays, small families have become common due to work, education and migration. Children today spend most of their time playing with their cellphones rather than being with their grandparents. In many cases, children continue playing with their cellphones even when their parents are sitting beside them. At times, they do not pay attention to what their seniors say. Dressing and behaviour have also changed among some of the younger generation. It is not the new dress and freedom of choice that are the issue, but decency and respect for family members.

The neighbourhood used to be close-knit. There used to be assistance among people during marriages, illness and tough times. When there was a marriage in any family, people from the neighbourhood used to help out. Now, when we have hundreds of people stored in our mobile phones, we don't even know about the things happening in the neighbouring house. It seems that now we have lost patience with each other. Minor disagreements turn into quarrels, and people tend to forget the importance of forgiveness and understanding.

Childhood too has undergone a lot of changes. Children used to play traditional games in the open fields and return home in the evenings. Nowadays, children use most of their free time watching videos and playing games on mobile phones. Social media is also making young children compare their clothing, mobile phones and lifestyles with others. We should also consider the absence of playgrounds and outdoor activities for children. Children need books, sports, friends and family life.

Our food, dress and hospitality reflect the Kashmiri culture. The kandur waan with fresh girda, lavasa, tsot and kulcha hold an important place in our life. In winter, the pheran and kangri are part of our household items. To sit together drinking noon chai or kehwa from a samovar is yet another tradition. The Wazwan brings families and friends together for marriages and other festivals. Rouf, Wanwun, Chakri, Bhand Pather and Sufiana music are other aspects of our culture. The poetry of Lal Ded and Sheikh-ul-Alam and sayings like 'Ann poshi teli yeli wan poshi' tell us about our history and our relationship with nature. Our culture should be taught to children in our homes and schools.

Marriage celebrations have also changed. Some people spend money beyond their means on clothes, decorations and food. Some even take loans out of fear of criticism from others. Marriage is a happy occasion, not a money-making one. Simplicity can also be beautiful. Relationships are more important than showing off.

Ramadan and Eid continue to be gatherings of people. People organize iftar parties, visit each other and help needy families. These kinds of events educate children about kindness, generosity and thankfulness. But these qualities should not be restricted only to such festivals. They should be followed throughout the year.

Education has brought many good things. Many young people have gone to colleges and universities, and women are showing their talents in fields like medicine, nursing, teaching and administration. Girls from villages are also getting chances to build their careers. But the stress of examinations, family pressures and uncertainty about the future put pressure on students. Stress, anxiety and loneliness should not be considered signs of weakness. Young people require understanding and professional assistance whenever required. Unemployment is yet another major issue that compels many people to migrate from Kashmir in search of jobs.

Drug abuse is yet another problem affecting the family and society. Instead of ignoring the problem and pointing fingers at those affected by it, what is needed is awareness, counselling, treatment and assistance. The youth should be motivated in sports, education and other constructive activities.

Village life has also seen some changes. Agriculture, horticulture and handicrafts have sustained Kashmiri families for years. Apple orchards, rice fields and walnut gardens are an important part of the rural life of Kashmiris. However, farmers find it difficult to cope with low prices or insufficient transportation and marketing facilities. Nevertheless, the good thing is that improved road transport, mobile phones and internet facilities have made things much easier. But traffic rule violations, roadside littering, plastic littering, water wastage and the cutting of trees are still major issues. The Jhelum River, Dal Lake, forests and mountains need protection.

There has been a change in our reading and spending habits as well. A lot of young people these days spend more time on social media than reading newspapers, books and magazines. Some feel sad because they cannot buy the costly items shown on social media. Information is shared without verification. We should promote reading, encourage local authors and educate our children about verifying information. Technology can help us preserve our culture by recording our old Kashmiri tales, folk songs and the experiences of our elders.

We cannot go back to our past, but neither should we ignore modern development. Education, employment, transportation and technology are required in Kashmir. But at the same time, we should not ignore our language, family relations, reverence for parents and teachers, respect for elders and proper conduct with others. We usually demand good manners from others but fail to practise them ourselves.

Kashmir will continue to change with time. What matters is that we do not lose the things that make our society special. Real progress is not only about better roads, buildings and jobs. It is also about caring for one another, respecting our traditions, helping those in need and protecting the land we call home.

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

When Peace Meets Prosperity

A Promising Season For Kashmir's Apple Economy



DR. RIZWAN RUMI

For Kashmir, the apple season is much more than an annual agricultural activity. It is the economic foundation of thousands of families, the source of livelihood for rural communities and an important contributor to the region's overall economy. From orchard labourers and fruit growers to transporters, traders, packaging businesses and commission agents, an entire economic chain depends on the success of this season.

This year, Kashmir's apple industry has witnessed several encouraging developments. The market response has been relatively positive, growers have received better opportunities to sell their produce, and buyers from different parts of the country have shown considerable interest in procuring apples directly from orchards. For many orchardists, this has brought a sense of relief and renewed confidence after experiencing difficult market conditions in the previous season.

One of the most noticeable developments has been the arrival of buyers directly at the doorsteps of fruit growers. Traders from different states have been visiting apple-producing areas to purchase produce at its source. This has given growers an opportunity to negotiate prices, reduce unnecessary transportation expenses and explore direct commercial relationships with buyers.

Such developments are significant because the traditional marketing system has often involved several intermediaries between the orchardist and the final market. While intermediaries have their own role in the supply chain, greater direct participation by outside buyers can improve competition and provide growers with additional choices. It can also help establish longer-term business relationships between Kashmir's fruit growers and traders across the country.

The positive market environment also brings into focus the importance of peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir. Economic development cannot take place in isolation from the overall environment in which people live and conduct their businesses. Agriculture, tourism, trade and investment all require confidence, predictability and stability.

The LG Administration deserves appreciation for its efforts towards maintaining peace and administrative stability in the region. The benefits of a peaceful atmosphere are not limited to public life or tourism. They extend to the agricultural economy as well. When traders can travel to fruit-growing areas, transporters can operate with greater confidence and commercial activities can continue without unnecessary disruption, the entire economic chain benefits.

For an orchardist who invests an entire year in nurturing his crop, an uninterrupted market and reliable transportation are as important as a good harvest. Peace, therefore, should also be understood through its economic dividends. Its real significance becomes visible when ordinary people find better opportunities to earn, trade and improve their livelihoods.

Another encouraging development is the growing importance of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage and cold-chain infrastructure. These facilities have gradually changed the dynamics of Kashmir's apple economy. Traditionally, many growers were compelled to sell their entire produce during the peak harvesting period. When large quantities of apples arrived in the market simultaneously, prices often came under pressure, leaving growers with limited bargaining power.

The availability of modern storage facilities has provided an alternative. Growers can now preserve suitable portions of their produce and release them into the market according to demand and prevailing prices. This flexibility can help reduce distress sales and improve the management of market fluctuations.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Economic Survey 2025-26, the Union Territory's CA storage capacity has reached approximately 2.92 lakh metric tonnes. This is an encouraging development, although the growing demand for storage indicates that considerably more capacity is required.

However, storage infrastructure must be accompanied by scientific grading, sorting, pre-cooling, quality packaging and proper post-harvest



management. Cold storage cannot compensate for damaged or poorly handled fruit. The focus should therefore be on developing an integrated cold-chain system that protects quality from the orchard to the final consumer.

Transportation is another area where encouraging progress deserves attention. Kashmir's apple economy has historically remained heavily dependent on road connectivity, particularly the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway. Any disruption caused by adverse weather, landslides or other circumstances can affect the movement of fruit and create uncertainty for growers and traders.

The increasing use of railway freight offers an additional opportunity. Around 25,000 metric tonnes of apples were transported by rail during the previous season, demonstrating the potential of this alternative. Greater use of railway services, improved loading facilities and coordination between the Horticulture Department and railway authorities can make transportation more reliable and economical.

Similarly, the integration of wholesale fruit markets with the electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is a welcome step towards improving market connectivity and transparency. According to the Economic Survey, 17 of the Union Territory's 19 wholesale mandis are connected with the platform. Such initiatives can gradually expand growers' access to buyers and provide greater opportunities for transparent price discovery.

Yet, while appreciating these developments, it is equally important to recognise that the benefits of a good market season are not distributed equally among all growers. Those producing premium-quality apples may receive attractive prices, while orchardists whose fruit has suffered from pest attacks, diseases or adverse weather conditions often struggle to recover even their cultivation expenses.

This year's concerns regarding diseases and pest attacks underline the need for stronger agricultural extension services, timely scientific guidance and effective monitoring of pesticides and other agricultural inputs. Orchardists frequently invest substantial amounts in fertilisers, pesticides and labour, yet the availability of genuine and standard-quality products remains an important concern.

The government must ensure that growers have access to reliable agricultural inputs, expert advice and timely information about disease management. Crop insurance also needs to become more accessible and responsive to the actual risks faced by orchardists. After investing an entire year in their orchards, farmers should not be left alone to bear the financial consequences of crop damage.

Another area that deserves greater attention is fruit processing. A significant quantity of apples that do not meet the required standards for fresh markets is sold at considerably lower prices or goes to waste. Developing modern processing units for juice, concentrate, pulp and other apple-based products can create additional income opportunities.

Such facilities would also generate employment for local youth and help diversify Kashmir's horticulture economy. Instead of treating lower-grade fruit as an economic burden, it should be viewed as a resource that can support a value-added processing industry.

The wider economic contribution of the apple industry must also be recognised. When orchardists earn better returns, the benefits reach far beyond their households. They spend on construction, education, healthcare, transportation, agricultural equipment and local businesses. Carton manufacturers, labourers, drivers, shopkeepers and traders all benefit from a healthy horticulture economy. In this sense, a successful apple season stimulates economic activity across rural Kashmir.

The encouraging experience of this year should therefore be converted into a long-term strategy. Better market linkages, modern storage facilities, reliable transportation, scientific orchard management, quality control and processing infrastructure must remain central to the horticulture development agenda.

Kashmir's apple industry does not merely need a good market for one season. It needs a dependable system that protects growers against uncertainty and ensures that the benefits of economic progress reach even the smallest orchardist.

This year's positive developments offer a message worth recognising. Peace and stability create an environment in which economic activities can flourish, while improved infrastructure and market access provide people with opportunities to translate their hard work into better returns.

The real measure of success will be whether these gains can be sustained in the years ahead. The orchardist who spends twelve months nurturing a crop deserves more than seasonal appreciation. He deserves a fair price, a reliable market, quality agricultural support and the confidence that his hard work will be rewarded.

A prosperous apple economy is not simply the success of a particular agricultural sector. It is a reflection of a healthier rural economy, greater public confidence and a more secure economic future for Jammu and Kashmir. Ultimately, when peace reaches the orchard and prosperity reaches the grower's household, the entire region benefits.

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Diwali: The Festival Of Inner Light



OMKAR DATTATRAY

Yes, cleanliness is next to godliness, and it is not without a valid and true basis. In fact, cleanliness is very much needed to elevate on the path of divinity and, in the ultimate analysis, reach godhood. Diwali is not only the occasion but rather the pious occasion to illumine our houses, shops and our surroundings, but it is in reality the time to illumine our inner selves, our minds, our souls and, of course, our bodies. However, we err and give overemphasis on cleaning out; without that, we clean our bodies, homes, and surroundings and fail to cleanse and illumine our inner selves. To be more specific and clear, we should cleanse and illumine our minds, thoughts and our souls, and then and only then will we be celebrating Diwali in true spirit and real meaning; otherwise, not. People need to do soul-searching and introspection and ensure that they cleanse and illumine their body, houses and surroundings and give due emphasis on cleaning their minds and thoughts.

Deepawali should, while being a festival of lights, become the festival of cleaning, purifying and illuminating our minds, thoughts and even our souls so that it becomes a festival of inner lights and so that the real meaning of celebrating Deepawali is acted upon and followed so that we go from darkness and that is the aim and objective of Sanatan Dharma. People have burnt more than enough firecrackers, and the time has come that they should no more pollute the atmosphere by burning firecrackers but instead illumine our minds and thoughts and purify inner pollution along with fighting visible worldly pollution, which is rising in society, and that is a serious cause of concern, as it leads to several health



risks and hazards.

Deepawali is not only the festival of lights in the conventional and traditional use of the term, but on this important festival people should resolve and pledge to purify and clean inner pollution, which is more dangerous, and we will feel real light, and our lives will glitter and shine when we attach true meaning to the festival of lights by making it the festival of illuminating the inner self, which will then spread real light in our country, and then only we can claim to celebrate Deepawali in true sense and spirit. We have to burn vices instead of firecrackers, which only pollute our environment and cause disease and inconvenience to all people. Diwali is popularly known as the Festival of Lights, celebrated by illuminating homes, streets and places of worship. Before the festival, people clean and decorate their houses, discard unwanted things and welcome new hopes and happiness.

However, the deeper message of Diwali goes far beyond external cleanliness and the lighting of lamps. The mind too needs cleansing. Throughout life, we often accumulate negative emotions such as anger, jealousy, hatred, bitterness, greed, ego and prejudice. These negative thoughts can become like dust and darkness within us, affecting not only our own peace of mind but also our relationships with others and the outer world. Diwali offers an opportunity to pause, look within and remove these impurities and mud from our hearts and minds. Just as a lamp dispels darkness from a room, positive thoughts and noble actions can remove the darkness within us. The festival reminds us to replace hatred with love, anger with patience, jealousy with goodwill and selfishness with compassion. Forgiveness can cleanse the heart of old bitterness, while kindness and understanding can bring peace to the mind. The rows of lamps lit on Diwali also carry a powerful symbolic message—one small lamp can dispel a great deal of darkness. Similarly, one good thought, one act of kindness or one gesture of forgiveness can bring light into another person's life. True illumination, therefore, is not merely the brightness created by electric lights and lamps; it is the awakening of the human conscience.

In today's fast-paced and often stressful world, the inner message of Diwali has become even more relevant. Material prosperity alone cannot guarantee happiness. A person may live in a brightly decorated house but still experience darkness in the form of anxiety, hatred, or dissatisfaction. Real celebration begins when the mind is peaceful, the heart is compassionate and the soul is enlightened. This, Diwali, therefore, lets us make a meaningful resolution – clean our homes, but also ignite the lamp of wisdom within. Let us remove the darkness of prejudice and intolerance and spread the light of harmony and human understanding. The brightest Diwali is not the one with the most lamps outside but the one in which the human mind is purified and the inner self is illuminated. May this Diwali inspire us to become better human beings and spread light through

People need to do soul-searching and introspection and ensure that they cleanse and illumine their body, houses and surroundings and give due emphasis on cleaning their minds and thoughts.

our thoughts, words and deeds.

We should remember that Diwali is not only a festival of lights and decorating homes; it is also an occasion to purify and illuminate our inner selves. Just as we clean every corner of our homes before Diwali, we should also cleanse our minds of anger, hatred, jealousy, greed and all negative thoughts and replace them with all positive ones, which will spread true light by illuminating our minds and inner selves. The lamps we light outside should inspire us to kindle the lamp of wisdom, compassion, love and peace within our hearts. The true spirit of Diwali lies in the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and goodness over evil. A beautifully illuminated house has little meaning if the mind remains filled with darkness and prejudice. Therefore, let Diwali be an opportunity for self-reflection, forgiveness and renewal.

In short, this Diwali, clean your home—but also cleanse your heart. Light lamps around you – but more importantly, illuminate your mind and soul. A pure heart and an enlightened mind are the brightest lamps we can offer to ourselves and to society. Let the light of Diwali shine not only in our homes but also in our thoughts, words and actions. But are the people listening? Is that the million-dollar question? We should celebrate Diwali with the resolve and pledge to cleanse our minds, thoughts and souls so that the real light of Diwali will illumine not only India but humanity in the ultimate analysis. This Deepawali, let us illumine our minds for the higher objective of illumining inner and outer self and the world as well because the beauty of Diwali rests not on lighting lamps only but in cleansing our mind, thoughts and soul so that the real light and shine of Diwali will dispel the darkness of vices in our life and the true meaning of Diwali will be understood. Deepawali greetings to the countrymen. Let this year's Diwali celebration become worthy of emulation so that the shine and light of Diwali will, in a real sense, illumine inner and outer life and the world as well.

The young people have a responsibility to conduct themselves in such a way so that the celebration of Diwali becomes purposeful and meaningful in its true sense. Otherwise, irresponsible behaviour will land us in trouble. Diwali should be celebrated in a befitting manner so that light shines in inner and outer life. May this year's Deepawali bring light prosperity, health and happiness in our lives.

The author is a columnist, social, and KP activist

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Can NC Afford

period. The party's traditional support base, which had earlier been associated with different political constituencies, could not be transferred or consolidated automatically following delimitation.

Despite these challenges, Sogami remains an important political face for the NC in Kupwara. His position as an adviser provides the party with a representative who can maintain communication with the government, address local concerns and sustain the confidence of voters who supported the party despite the changed electoral circumstances.

Removing him could therefore have consequences beyond an administrative reshuffle.

The People's Democratic Party's Mir Fayaz, who currently represents Kupwara, could benefit politically if the NC weakens its local organisational structure or alienates an important section of its support base. The NC does not presently have an equally strong alternative political face in the constituency who can command comparable influence and consolidate its traditional voters.

The People's Conference (PC), which has a significant political base in Kupwara, presents another challenge that the NC cannot afford to overlook. The party has the organisational presence and political network to capitalise on any weakening of the NC's position in the region.

If Sogami is removed from his advisory position, it could create additional political space for the People's Conference to strengthen its roots in Kupwara and expand its influence across north Kashmir. A weakened NC support base could provide the PC with an opportunity to attract dissatisfied party workers and voters, further complicating the National Conference's electoral calculations.

For the NC, the challenge is not limited to retaining Kupwara. It is also about preventing rival parties from using internal political developments to expand their influence in a region where electoral competition has traditionally been intense.

There is also a potential electoral advantage for the NC in having both Sogami and Saifullah occupying important positions within the government's political structure. While Saifullah's ministerial position gives him an opportunity to strengthen his political influence in Trehgam and the surrounding areas, Sogami can continue working to consolidate the party's support in Kupwara.

Together, the two leaders could help the NC rebuild its organisational presence across the region rather than compete for influence within a fragmented support base.

Sogami's continuation as adviser could also serve several other political purposes for the ruling party. It would signal that the leadership recognises the electoral challenges faced by its candidates in constituencies affected by delimitation. It could reassure local party workers that their political interests remain represented in the government and prevent disgruntled supporters from drifting towards rival parties.

At a time when the NC is already navigating internal political differences and demands for greater representation, removing a leader with a constituency-level political stake could send an unintended message to the party's grassroots workers.

The adviser position also offers an institutional channel through which local grievances concerning development, public services, employment and administrative functioning can be communicated to the chief minister's office. Maintaining that channel could be particularly important in a politically significant border district such as Kupwara.

For Omar Abdullah and the NC leadership, the question is therefore not simply whether Sogami should continue as an adviser. It is whether the party can afford the potential electoral cost of weakening one of its important political links in a traditional stronghold.

In a constituency where the NC's electoral arithmetic remains complicated by delimitation, and where both the PDP and People's Conference have the potential to consolidate their positions, retaining Sogami could be a strategic investment in the party's future rather than merely a matter of political accommodation.

Fear of Precedent: The reported demands by a group of dissident National Conference (NC) MLAs also present a test of the party leadership's ability to maintain internal discipline while addressing grievances within its ranks.

If the leadership concedes demands involving changes to political appointments, including the reported demand concerning Sogami, it could set a precedent that collective pressure from groups of legislators can influence decisions on government positions and party representation.

Such a move could encourage other dissatisfied legislators to organise similar efforts and seek concessions, potentially making it more difficult for the leadership to manage internal differences in the future.

For Omar Abdullah, the challenge lies in balancing the concerns of legislators with the interests of the party as a whole. While addressing genuine grievances is part of managing a political organisation, accommodating demands without a broader organisational consensus could raise questions about the leadership's authority and the party's ability to maintain cohesion.

The issue also has implications for grassroots workers, particularly in constituencies such as Kupwara, where political representation in the government is closely linked to the party's local organisational interests.

Dissenting MLAs,

leadership had listened to the legislators' demands and expressed hope that some issues would be addressed immediately, while others might require more time.

"Some demands will be accepted immediately, while some may take time," Veeri said, adding that the outcome of the discussions would become clear in the coming days.

On the restoration of Article 370, Veeri said the party leadership remained committed to pursuing the issue.

He also expressed hope that concerns regarding legislators' access to ministers and difficulties in getting constituency-related work done would be addressed.

NC MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi said the party leadership had listened to their concerns and that some demands would be addressed immediately, while others would be taken up gradually—(KNO)

Dry Weather Likely In

the normal of 3.0 degrees.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 21.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.7 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 16.6 degrees and a minimum of 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 23.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 1.6 degrees, while Kokernag recorded 18.9 degrees as the maximum and 4.7 degrees as the minimum.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 13.0 degrees Celsius, while the minimum settled at 0.0 degrees. The normal minimum temperature for the destination is 1.7 degrees below zero.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 29.0 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 14.0 degrees, while Banihal recorded 22.4 and 5.7 degrees, respectively.

Bhaderwah recorded a maximum of 22.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 4.6 degrees, while Batote recorded 22.7 and 9.5 degrees, respectively.

The department advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations till November 10 and ensure safe storage of harvested crops.

Travellers and transporters have also been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow traffic advisories.

The maximum temperature in Kupwara was 23.2 degrees Celsius, followed by Qazigund and Srinagar at 21.4 degrees each. Pahalgam recorded 16.6 degrees, Kokernag 18.9 degrees and Gulmarg 13.0 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded the highest maximum temperature of 29.0 degrees Celsius, followed by Katra at 27.0 degrees, Batote at 22.7 degrees, Banihal at 22.4 degrees and Bhaderwah at 22.1 degrees Celsius.

No rainfall was recorded at the listed weather stations during the 24 hours ending at 8:30 am on Friday, the department's data showed.

The department has advised farmers to complete harvesting and other agricultural operations by November 10 and ensure the safe storage of harvested crops. Travellers and transporters have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow traffic advisories—(KNO)

J&K Bank Announces

Headquarters in Srinagar, the recruitment includes 323 posts of Probationary Officers (POs) and 1,033 posts of Banking Associates.

The online application process will commence on November 7 and continue until November 26, 2026, while examinations will be conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

The Bank has restricted eligibility to domiciles of Jammu and Kashmir, making possession of a valid domicile certificate mandatory for selected candidates.

In a significant condition, selected candidates will be required to serve for a minimum of five years within the zone initially allotted to them. No transfer outside the allotted zone will be permitted before completion of the prescribed period.

Candidates applying for either post must possess a graduation degree in any discipline from a recognised university or an equivalent qualification recognised by the competent authority.

The age limit has been fixed between 20 and 30 years as on January 1, 2026, with relaxation available to reserved-category candidates under the applicable rules.

For Banking Associate posts, candidates who have successfully completed apprenticeship training with J&K Bank will receive an additional one-year age relaxation and extra marks equivalent to 2.5 per cent of the maximum marks in the online examination.

The selection process for Probationary Officers will comprise three stages — preliminary examination, mains examination and interview.

Candidates numbering ten times the vacancies in each category will be shortlisted for the mains examination, while three times the vacancies will subsequently be called for interviews based on their performance in the mains examination.

Recruitment for Banking Associates will be conducted through an online examination administered by IBPS.

The notifications state that reservation will be implemented in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules, 2005, as amended from time to time, including the provisions notified under S.O. 176 of March 15, 2024.

The recruitment provides reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, residents of backward areas, Economically Weaker Sections and other eligible categories.

Horizontal reservation has also been provided for persons with benchmark disabilities, while the Banking Associate notification includes provisions for ex-servicemen.

The Bank has made verification of educational qualifications, age, domicile and category certificates mandatory before appointment.

Applicants will also be required to submit a self-declaration regarding their character and antecedents. The Bank has reserved the right to cancel candidature or appointment in cases involving material misrepresentation or specified criminal convictions.

Eligible candidates can apply through the Careers section of the Bank's official website, jkb.bank.in. The dates for examinations, issuance of admit cards and declaration of results will be announced separately.

Pertinently, the recruitment notifications were issued hours after the Bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, in an exclusive interaction with KNS earlier in the day, confirmed that the much-awaited recruitment notification would be released on Friday. (KNS)

Security Forces

vehicles are being stopped at designated nakas for checking, while frisking of commuters and verification of documents are being carried out wherever required. Security personnel are also keeping a close watch on vehicles and individuals moving through sensitive stretches.

He said additional deployment has been made at important locations, with security agencies coordinating with one another to strengthen surveillance and ensure that no untoward incident takes place during the festive period.

Patrolling teams have also been directed to maintain round-the-clock vigilance, particularly around crowded places, major roads, markets and other locations witnessing increased public movement during the festival, the official said, adding that the arrangements are part of routine security measures undertaken during important festivals to maintain law and order and prevent any attempt to disturb peace.

Security personnel have also been keeping watch over highway movement and other strategic locations, while checking and surveillance measures have been strengthened in different districts.

The security arrangements come ahead of Diwali, when markets and public places generally witness increased movement of people—(KNO)

Kashmir's Rich

manuscript as part of Kashmir's documentary heritage.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) assisted in preparing the nomination dossiers for all three Indian works, officials said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha welcomed the inscription of Kalhana's Rajatarangini, the Mahabharata and the Arthasastra in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, describing it as a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir and the nation.

In a post on X, LG Sinha said the inclusion of Rajatarangini celebrated Jammu and Kashmir's rich intellectual heritage.

He said the global recognition reaffirmed the timeless value of India's civilisational traditions and their contribution to humanity.

The Lieutenant Governor said the recognition also highlighted the collective responsibility to preserve and promote this invaluable wisdom for future generations.

Welcoming the recognition, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated the people of the Union Territory, saying the inscription of the manuscript on UNESCO's regional register was a matter of pride.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister said the manuscript, preserved at the Oriental Research Library in Srinagar, was an invaluable repository of Kashmir's historical and cultural traditions.

He said the international recognition celebrated Jammu and Kashmir's historical legacy and underlined the importance of preserving its rich heritage.

Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat also described the inscriptions as a significant recognition of India's documentary and intellectual heritage.

With the latest additions, India's total number of inscriptions on UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register has increased to six.

The three earlier entries, recognised in 2024, include illustrated manuscripts of Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas, a rare manuscript of the Panchatantra and Sahrdayaloka-Locana, a significant work on Indian poetics.

The latest inscription places Kalhana's chronicle among the region's important historical and intellectual works, recognising its contribution to documenting Kashmir's past—(KNO)

NC 'Sinking Ship',

to live up to people's expectations and address their grievances, they risk being sidelined. People have faced difficulties and hardships, and their concerns have not been addressed. They know the party could be pushed to the margins and, therefore, their anger is justified," he said.

Sharma also targeted NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah over his recent remarks on Pakistan and Kashmir, accusing him of making such statements to remain politically relevant and appeal to his vote bank.

"Dr Farooq Abdullah always tries to remain in the limelight. He knows that Article 370 has been buried and Article 35A has been abolished, but for the sake of vote-bank politics, he continues to make such statements," Sharma said.

He reiterated that the BJP-led Centre would not restore Articles 370 and 35A and claimed that people had understood the political intent behind such remarks and would respond accordingly—(KNO)

CIK Raids Multiple

recruitment module operating through social media platforms to radicalise and recruit youth into proscribed terrorist organisations," the official said.

According to the official, the investigation was launched following inputs indicating that Pakistan-based operatives, allegedly working in coordination with handlers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and other banned outfits, were attempting to lure Kashmiri youth into terrorist activities.

Further investigation is underway—(KNO)

J&K, Ladakh Overdraw

Delhi and Chandigarh were net sellers on most days, and Haryana sold about 13 percent in

RTM on 27 September. Punjab bought 5–16 percent of consumption from RTM yet overdrew every day, showing its procurement fell short," it reads.

The Committee said that during a meeting, an NRLDC representative highlighted that they had already requested to take a proactive approach and do sufficient tie-ups. "Still number of states were seen overdrawing."—(KNO)





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DC Pulwama reviews progress of AIIMS Awantipora

Calls for strengthening biomedical waste disposal mechanism

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Friday chaired a meeting at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the progress of the AIIMS Awantipora project, assess the status of essential infrastructure and address issues requiring inter-departmental coordination for its operationalisation.

During the meeting, the Executive Director, AIIMS Awantipora, briefed the chair about the progress achieved and highlighted various issues requiring intervention and coordination. The meeting discussed the additional land requirement for the project, power and water supply, CCTV installation, operationalisation of lifts and other vital installations, besides transport and road connectivity arrangements.

Regarding the additional land requirement, ADC Awantipora informed the meeting that approximately 300 kanals of land have already been identified and the case forwarded to the



competent authority for necessary action.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for seamless vehicular movement from the National Highway to the AIIMS main gate, internal transportation and adequate parking facilities.

It was apprised that arrangements for transport facilities had been finalised, while internal transportation arrangements are being made by the executing agency. The DC advised the executing agency to explore the provision of two buses under its CSR initiative to facilitate internal transport within the campus. He also stressed the need for effective traffic regulation and prevention of indiscriminate parking along the approach road. The issue of macadamisation of the approach road leading to the electricity receiving station was also taken up with the executing agency for necessary action.

The chair was further informed that the police station within the AIIMS premises is ready for handover. The meeting decided that the police station would be formally taken over next week.

Reviewing the arrangements for commencement of healthcare services, the DC directed the executing agency to put in place a well-structured biomedical waste management and disposal mechanism. He also advised exploring the feasibility of constructing an emergency helipad within the premises to facilitate emergency medical response.

Emphasising the project's potential to strengthen the local economy, the DC called upon the AIIMS authorities to provide employment opportunities to local educated unemployed youth, wherever feasible. He also stressed wide publicity of recruitment notifications to ensure that eligible local candidates are adequately informed and get sufficient time to apply.

Taking note of the sloping terrain and challenging winter conditions in the area, the DC sought details of the snow-clearance plan and measures proposed to prevent slippery road conditions. He directed the Mechanical Engineering Department to formulate a coordinated plan for the procurement and deployment of adequate machinery to ensure timely snow clearance and uninterrupted connectivity.

The meeting also deliberated on drainage, water harvesting and water inundation mitigation measures in view of the area's topography and the possibility of heavy rainfall and cloudbursts. The chair was apprised that a comprehensive plan had been devised to prevent waterlogging and inundation of the AIIMS campus and adjoining areas. The DC directed the concerned authorities to revisit and strengthen the plan to ensure effective management of surface runoff, particularly during extreme weather events. He further stressed the need for adequate retaining walls along the hillside to safeguard the campus and its infrastructure.

Concluding the meeting, the DC called for close coordination among all concerned departments and the executing agency, directing them to address pending issues in a time-bound manner to facilitate the timely operationalisation of AIIMS Awantipora.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday; Executive Director, AIIMS Awantipora; SE PWD; SE Hydraulics; SE KPDCL; Exen KPDCL and representatives of executing agency.

B'pora terror module case: Police arrest 2 more accused

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Bandipora Police have arrested two more persons in connection with an alleged prison-linked terror module case involving a banned organisation accused of targeting women for separatist ideology and propaganda, taking the total number of arrests to eight.

A Police officer said that the arrests were made during the ongoing investigation into the case registered under FIR No. 168/2026 under Sections 10 and 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The arrested persons were identified as Irshad Ahmed Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, of Chakloo, Baramulla, and Showkat Ahmed Reshi, son of Ghulam Mohammad Reshi, of Watlab, Sopore.

According to police, both accused were allegedly associated with the module and have been taken into custody for questioning and further investigation.

With these arrests, the total number of persons arrested in the case has reached eight. Police said the investigation is continuing to establish the extent of the accused persons' involvement and identify other individuals and possible links connected with the module.

Pertinently, the case relates to an alleged network linked to a banned organisation, which police had earlier claimed was involved in attempts to promote separatist ideology and propaganda among women.

Police said further arrests could not be ruled out as investigators continue to examine the network and its activities.

Bandipora Police reiterated its commitment to identifying and dismantling networks involved in activities prejudicial to the security and peace of the region, adding that legal action would be taken against all those found involved.

Further investigation in the case is underway—(KNO)

Bandipora

Blaze renders 3 families homeless, turns wedding dreams into ashes

SAJID RAINA



BANDIPORA: A massive fire rendered three families homeless at Quilmuqam village in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday.

According to the details available, the blaze caused extensive damage to the houses, leaving the affected families with little of their belongings. "Among victims was a family preparing for their daughter's wedding. Fire destroyed clothes, household items and other arrangements that were made for the occasion," said a resident.

"What was meant to be a joyous occasion for the family has now turned into a period of distress, as the wedding preparations they had made over time were reduced to ashes along with their home," he added.

The blaze also engulfed a cowshed, causing further losses to the affected households.

Soon after the fire broke out, local residents rushed to the spot and joined Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel and Indian Army soldiers in efforts to bring the flames under control and prevent them from spreading to nearby structures.

The incident left the affected families devastated, with residents expressing concern over the loss of shelter and household belongings, particularly for the family whose daughter's wedding is approaching.

Locals have appealed to the district administration to assess the losses and provide immediate financial assistance, temporary shelter and rehabilitation support to the affected families.

They said the family facing the upcoming wedding needed urgent assistance to overcome the losses and make arrangements for the occasion.

The cause of the fire and the exact extent of the damage were not immediately known—(KNO)

Commissioner Secretary HUDD chairs High-Level Multi-Departmental Task Force meeting on RDF utilisation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur, today chaired a meeting of the High-Level Multi-Departmental Task Force on Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Utilization under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, to review the challenges faced by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Jammu and Kashmir regarding scientific disposal and utilization of RDF generated at waste processing facilities, besides addressing issues related to the bioremediation of legacy waste.



The meeting was attended by Chairman, CPCB, J&K; Member Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC); Mission Director, SBM (U)-2.0, J&K; Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC); Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu; and Director Planning, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K, besides other concerned officials.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary emphasised on the need for coordinated and time-bound action on the matter. She directed all concerned departments to ensure strict compliance with the directions issued in view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's observations and compliance requirements in case CA No. 6174/2023 concerning implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed on the need for exploring all possible avenues for the scientific disposal and productive utilization of RDF generated by ULBs across J&K. She asked the members of the Task Force to actively identify and engage potential industrial units within the Union Territory that could utilize RDF as an alternative fuel.

The Commissioner Secretary also directed the Industries and Commerce department to provide a comprehensive list of cement industries and paper mills operating in the Union Territory to facilitate their participation in the Expression of Interest (EOI), which will be floated afresh by the Mission Directorate, SBM (U)-2.0, for identification of suitable RDF utilization partners.

She also directed the Urban Local Bodies to expedite the implementation of on-site waste segregation and ensure effective segregation of waste at source. She observed that the upcoming Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) projects would further strengthen the waste processing ecosystem and facilitate the production of quality RDF through improved segregation practices.

During the meeting, Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0, J&K, Ayushi Sudan, apprised the meeting about the action taken on the decisions and directions issued during the first meeting of the Task Force.

Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), J&K, Vasu Dev Yadav, informed the meeting about the status of registration of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) on the CPCB portal and highlighted the progress made in this regard.

During the deliberations, Waseem Trumboo of M/s Trumboo Cement Industries, J&K, an external member of the Task Force, assured the Commissioner Secretary of his industry's willingness to utilize RDF generated by the Urban Local Bodies of J&K.

He informed the meeting that the industry is adopting German technology and developing a facility with an RDF intake capacity of 1,000 tonnes per day. The proposed facility, he said, would have the potential to cater to RDF requirements not only of Jammu and Kashmir but also of other States and Union Territories.

Pertinently, with the Government's consistent efforts and proposed initiatives as well as active participation of the industrial sector, Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards achieving 100 percent scientific disposal and utilization of RDF generated by its Urban Local Bodies.

Secretary revenue reviews Agristack, farmer ID generation and Revenue schemes in Udhampur

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Secretary, Revenue, Avny Lavasa, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of Agristack and the implementation of various revenue-related schemes in District Udhampur.

Secretary conducted a detailed review of the status of Farmer ID generation, PM-KISAN, digitisation of land records, geo-referencing of cadastral maps/ Mussavis and tehsil-wise implementation of the SVAMITVA scheme.

While addressing the meeting, Avny Lavasa directed the concerned officers to ensure comprehensive coverage of all eligible beneficiaries under Agristack and accelerate the generation of Farmer IDs. She also instructed them to organise special camps in their respective jurisdictions to facilitate farmer registration and ensure maximum coverage.

Emphasising the need for coordinated efforts, she directed the officers to expedite the implementation of various initiatives and ensure timely completion of assigned targets.

Avny Lavasa stressed that all eligible farmers must be facilitated and the benefits of various government schemes should reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, briefed the Administrative Secretary on the functioning of the Revenue Department and the progress achieved in the generation of Farmer IDs, implementation of Agristack and other key initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan, SDMs and Tehsildars other concerned officers.

Janjatiya Gourav Pakhwada

Community Outreach, awareness activities held across 31 Panchayats of Kathua

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwara 2026 (November 1–15), a series of community outreach and awareness activities were organised across 31 Panchayats of Kathua district, today.

The events were held in tribal habitations, focusing on education, healthcare, nutrition, livelihood opportunities and various government welfare schemes aimed at the socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities.

The activities focused on sensitising tribal residents about the importance of education, school enrolment, regular attendance and girls' education. Awareness was also imparted on preventive healthcare, personal hygiene, sanitation, maternal and child health, balanced nutrition and healthy dietary practices.

Special emphasis was laid on creating awareness about livelihood generation through skill development, self-employment, entrepreneurship, sustainable agriculture and allied activities. Community members were also informed about various government welfare schemes pertaining to education, healthcare, social security, employment, housing and financial assistance, along with the procedures for availing benefits under eligible schemes.

Two significant books by Prem Nath Pandita 'Prem' released at K.L. Saigal Hall Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages today organised a literary function here at K.L. Saigal Hall to release two significant books authored by noted Kashmiri writer Prem Nath Pandita 'Prem'.

The books released on the occasion were "Kamraz Sondar Buthraath", a historical work described as the first of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir and "Yali Yaad Pyavaan", a collection of Kashmiri Shayri reflecting the depth, beauty and emotional richness of Kashmiri poetry.

The function was graced by Syed G.M. Andrabi, (Retd) SSP, J&K Police; Manoj Pandita Sheri, (Retd SSP) and Additional Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Lal Chand as Special Guests. The programme was presided over by eminent story writer and novelist M.L. Pandita.

The literary session featured scholarly presentations on both books. Piarey Hatash presented a paper on "Kamraz Sondar Buthraath", highlighting its historical significance and contribution towards documenting the cultural and literary heritage of the Kamraz region. A paper on "Yali Yaad Pyavaan" was presented by Vijay Wali, who dwelt upon the richness and literary significance of Kashmiri poetry.

Speaking on the occasion, the author, Prem Nath Pandita 'Prem', shared his experiences and inspiration behind the two publications. He emphasised the importance of preserving and documenting Kashmiri language, literature, history and cultural traditions for future generations.

Mementos were presented to the distinguished guests as a token of appreciation. The programme was conducted by Smt. Seema Pandita Kaw, while Kashvi Pandita delivered the closing remarks. A special musical presentation by Rishab Dorgee and his group added a cultural dimension to the literary gathering.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by the author, who expressed gratitude to the guests, scholars, writers, poets and all those present for their encouragement and support.

The event was attended by a large gathering of eminent poets, writers, intellectuals and literary personalities, including Dr. Rattan Talash, Tej Sagar, Sham Bihari, Ashok Gavhar, Ashok Dilbar, Santosh Shah Nadan, B.N. Abash, Rajinder Agosh, M.K. Bhat, Dulari Pandita Durga, Babli Bhat, Rajinder Bhat, C.L. Pandita, Vinay Pandita, Naveen Chander Pandita, Deep Kumar Pandita, Ashok Pandita, Pawan Pandita, Meenakshi Pandita, Monika Pandita, Nisha Pandita Tickoo and Ishan Pandita, among others.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

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

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO: T-1/EEA/9979-83 | Dated: 06/11/2026

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject: - 1. Upgradation and construction of road from zahoor ahmad ganie , chandhara,pampore.

Reference: - 1. This office e-NIT No. 135/EEA/RNB of 2026-27/8435-45 Dated 01-10-2026.

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

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

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

Sd/-
Technical officer

DIPK-7423-26
DT; 06/11/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer R&B Division
Awantipora

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER VILLGAM

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE FOR THE YEAR 2026-27

Sealed Tenders affixed with Rs. 10/- revenue stamp along with CDR worth Rs. 2,000/- pledged to Block Medical Officer Villgam are invited from authorized/registered dealers for supply of filled commercial gas LPG cylinders, preferably from Villgam and adjacent areas, under certain terms and conditions.

1. Cylinders should be sealed with requisite weight.
2. Supply in all weather conditions at short direction notice.
3. Rates should be maintained along with carriage.
4. The tender should reach this office within five days after publication of this tender notice in the newspapers and will be opened on the same day at 2.00 p.m. or any subsequent day, as may be convenient by the purchasing committee nominated for the purpose in presence of renderers, who may like to be present.
5. The purchasing committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning reason thereof.
6. Complete mail address and phone number be also given on the tenders.

No.: BMOV/Acctt/1109-16
Dated: 06/11/2026

DIPK-7431-26
DT: 06/11/2026

BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER
VILLGAM

'There have to be sufficient games': Nayar on Kohli's chances of reaching 100 centuries

IANS



NEW DELHI: Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar believes Virat Kohli may not have enough matches left before the 2027 ODI World Cup to reach the landmark of 100 international centuries, despite expressing his wish to see the batting great achieve the milestone.

Nayar and former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara discussed Kohli's chances of reaching the century mark, India's search for an all-rounder beyond Hardik Pandya in ODIs and the need to revive the 50-over format through multi-nation tournaments.

Kohli holds the record for the most centuries in men's ODI cricket, with 55 hundreds to his name, having surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's previous mark of 49. He reached his 50th ODI century during the 2023 World Cup semi-final against New Zealand at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, becoming the first batter to achieve the milestone in the format.

"I don't think there are enough games for him to reach that milestone. As much as I want him to, there have to be sufficient games for you to scale also. It's possible that he may continue to play after the World Cup as well, but I am considering the period till the World Cup. After the World Cup, his motivation might not be the same either. So I don't think there's enough time till the World Cup for him to get to that," Nayar told JioStar.

The discussion also turned to India's plans to build depth in the ODI all-rounder department, with Nayar suggesting that the team should groom another option alongside Hardik Pandya.

"India should look at the future, where alongside Hardik Pandya, another all-rounder could play. When you go to New Zealand, it's possible that you have two such all-round options because Gautam Gambhir likes batters. If you groom another all-rounder, they can play together. And if India can play with two proper fast bowlers and two seam-bowling all-rounders, then the team balance looks completely different because you get depth. The second thing is, when you go to South Africa, that will come in handy because now you have more batting options," he said.

"It's fun because watching those series where you're playing the final to win the trophy is a very different feeling. Also, it builds you up and prepares you for big tournaments, and often, fan engagement increases. When you play for a trophy involving three or four nations, you can go up and down in the standings and every game matters. So, I feel there's nothing like tri-nation or quadrangular tournaments. Going back to Sharjah, when Sachin Tendulkar hit that shot against Australia to qualify, those are epic memories that get etched in your mind," Nayar added.

2nd ODI: India aim to extend lead as inexperienced pace attack faces another test

IANS



WELLINGTON: India's inexperienced but promising pace attack will look to build on its impressive performance in the series opener and keep New Zealand's batters under pressure when the two sides meet in the second ODI at Hnry Stadium in Wellington on Saturday.

India hold a 1-0 lead in the five-match series after their five-wicket win in the rain-affected first ODI in Auckland, with their fast bowlers providing the platform with a disciplined bowling effort.

Pre-series doubts over India's comparatively unproven bowling stocks had been troubling, but Gurnoor Brar, Anshul Kamboj and Arshdeep Singh announced their presence in the first game. Brar, Kamboj and Singh's showing also indicated a marginal change in head coach Gautam Gambhir's reliance on all-rounders, with the team packing a four-prong pace attack.

Although Arshdeep took the most wickets, Kamboj was India's best bowler, with 46 dot balls in his 10 overs. Though the other pacers mostly bowled into the pitch, Kamboj kept hitting Test match lengths and managing swing in his deliveries to challenge the New Zealand batsmen.

He may also be thrown the ball next to Arshdeep, as he did in the first match with Auqib Nabi. The other four pacers were not able to take a single wicket, and if Siraj was fit to play, it would make room for the more experienced fast bowler. The Indian team, however, has been tight-lipped about its choices.

In addition to the quicks having to adapt to a change of venue, their lengths may need to readjust as well. While Eden Park's shorter straight boundaries had called for the short ball, the dimensions of Hnry Stadium – a particularly short square boundary – may mean the fuller is better.

His own team's batting will also be hoping for more from Rohit Sharma, who was dismissed for a duck in the first over of the series opener shortly after arriving in New Zealand on the back of a successful home series versus the West Indies.

The other half of the thing was sitting in Auckland, scoring fluently to arrive at 74 runs off 51 balls. While Virat Kohli is at ease with an additional bounce, the same cannot be said of a few of his teammates.

Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel had a dismal time against the short-ball barrage, with Iyer eventually nicking one to keep out a rising delivery. Both these batsmen will want to address these concerns soon enough.

The New Zealand batters also looked to counter the quicks from India in the first game with a pull shot, but were largely unsuccessful – skipper Mitchell Santner admitted after the game that his side had been short of feet against the extra bounce from the Indian bowlers.

The hosts will be without key batsman Devon Conway after he was ruled out of the rest of the series following a blow to the head during a collision in fielding practice.

It could also become something of a lottery if the weather plays ball on Saturday. Low-level drizzle in Wellington on Friday was enough to see both teams change their training plans. New Zealand trained at the indoor facilities at Wellington College, while India cancelled theirs altogether.

There will be more rain on match day, according to AccuWeather, with a 60 per cent chance of showers in the first half and a 55 per cent chance in the second.

As well as the tour opener, it was also rain-hit, with a 10-minute delay to the start time and India's target being reduced from 186 in 50 overs to 143 in 32 as the chase was interrupted twice. India then achieved the job, seven down – Kohli's 74 and Kamboj's 2-22 earning him the Player of the Match award.

Flying Man Kolkata Tigers win inaugural IGPL X-Golf title



IANS

VISAKHAPATNAM: With its owner and tennis legend Leander Paes watching the action from the sidelines, Flying Man Kolkata Tigers won the inaugural edition of IGPL X-Golf at the Vizag Golf Club in Visakhapatnam on Friday.

The IGPL X-Golf competition came at the end of the four-day golfing fiesta, the Maritime Invitational 2026 presented by Vizag Dolphins. The IGPL X-Golf was held over a specially designed area at the iconic Vizag Golf Club.

The team comprised Syed Saqib Ahmed, Sukhman Singh, southpaw Kartik Sharma and Ravi Kumar, who stepped in for Varun Parikh, who had to leave soon after the main competition for personal reasons. Kolkata Tigers edged past Unico Gurugram Tuskers, led by Asian Tour-bound Pukhraj Singh, his brother Digraj Singh Gills, Shaurya Binu and Shat Mishra.

GolfKonnekt Bengaluru Stallions GC, which had young Veer Ganapathy, watched by his father, former pro Rahul Ganapathy, Trishul Chinappa, Sudhir Sharma and Sunhit Bishnoi, finished third.

Earlier, Vimtra Chennai Lions GC, the winners of the team competition in the main three-day event, were top-seeded, but they were eliminated in the semi-finals, leaving the other three to battle it out for the top honours.

A delighted Paes said, "It was wonderful to see the team rise to the occasion and grab the title at the inaugural edition of IGPL X-Golf. I watched the whole competition, and it was fun with the pros playing the designated holes at a furious pace."

'We want to be one of the fittest and strongest sides in the world': Brook

IANS



NEW DELHI: England captain Harry Brook has stressed the importance of improving the team's fitness and preparation standards as they begin their build-up towards next year's ODI World Cup, ahead of their three-match series against Australia.

"With the World Cup 12 months away, it's a good period now to really start to try and nestle down, hone in on the skills and the lessons that we've learned," Brook said, as quoted by Cricinfo.

"The key thing is to try and be one of the fittest and strongest sides in the world. To be able to try and dominate throughout that competition (World Cup)," he added.

England will begin their ODI series against Australia at Optus Stadium in Perth on November 13, with a preparatory one-day match against Western Australia scheduled at the revamped WACA ground.

Brook also underlined the need to improve England's preparations away from the field, while acknowledging that results cannot always be guaranteed.

"Obviously, whether you win or lose isn't always there. You can never guarantee that, but the off-field... you can guarantee the off-field preparation can be a lot better. Can really help towards winning games," he added.

England have also been weighing their options in the spin department, with Adil Rashid and Liam Dawson competing for a place in the playing eleven.

Speaking about Rashid's recent omission from the side during the Pakistan series, Brook said the decision was influenced by the conditions.

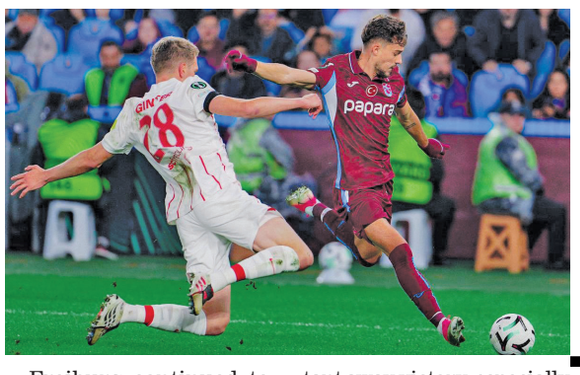
"He's been training the last few days. He's good. He's bowling nicely. The decisions to not play him have been typically condition-based. We felt that the left arm was more suitable to the conditions in Pakistan, as we saw throughout the series generally," he said.

The England skipper also praised Australia's emerging fast bowler Mahli Beardman, who is expected to feature against them in the upcoming fixtures. "He's got some pace behind him. He's got a nice action as well. Looking forward to seeing what he can do out here," Brook said.

"But at the end of the day, we've got to go out there and trust our skills against whoever we're playing. This is a great opportunity to play against a strong Western Australian side. It's a great challenge for us."

Kubler lifts Freiburg past Trabzonspor as Lugano take Conference League lead

IANS



TURKEY: Lukas Kubler struck early as Freiburg claimed a hard-fought 1-0 victory away to Trabzonspor in the UEFA Conference League on Thursday, while Lugano moved to the top of the standings after maintaining its perfect record.

Julian Schuster's side made the brighter start, pressing aggressively and repeatedly forcing mistakes in the opposition half.

The visitors' early dominance paid off in the 14th minute when Vincenzo Grifo delivered a corner that Igor Matanovic headed toward goal. Goalkeeper Andre Onana saved the initial effort, but Kubler reacted quickest to fire home the rebound, reports Xinhua.

Trabzonspor gradually settled into the contest, with Mohamed Salah and Ernest Muci threatening as the host began finding space in Freiburg's half.

Salah wasted Trabzonspor's best first-half opportunity five minutes before the interval, sending a shot narrowly over from around 11 meters.

Freiburg continued to create chances, with Maximilian Eggestein twice denied by last-ditch blocks before Grifo curled an effort narrowly wide.

The host increased the pressure after halftime, forcing Freiburg deeper into its own half, but struggled to break down the visitors' disciplined defense.

Trabzonspor's clearest opportunity came in the 61st minute when Paul Onuachu redirected a corner toward Salah, whose close-range effort was kept out by Florian Backhaus.

Trabzonspor continued to push forward, but Freiburg remained compact and protected its narrow advantage.

"It was a great and important away victory, especially considering the opponents we still have to face," said Freiburg coach Julian Schuster.

The victory lifted Freiburg to 14th place with six points from three matches, while Trabzonspor slipped to 12th, also on six points.

Elsewhere, Lugano climbed to the top after beating Kauno Zalgiris 3-0, maintaining its perfect record alongside Panathinaikos, Twente and Monaco.

Panathinaikos edged CSKA Sofia 2-1, Twente defeated Pafos 3-1 and Monaco overcame Nordsjaelland 2-0. Ajax recorded the evening's biggest victory, thrashing Midtjylland 6-1 to climb to 11th.

Abu Dhabi T10: Captains gear up for new era as season starts with triple-header

IANS



ABU DHABI: The captains of the six franchises came together for the pre-tournament press conference. Setting out their ambitions for the season ahead in the 2026 Abu Dhabi T10 as 'cricket's fastest format' begins on Saturday.

Before the action begins, team captains Kieron Pollard, Jason Holder, Nicholas Pooran, Rovman Powell, Fakhar Zaman and Moeen Ali shared their thoughts on title defences, team identity and the demands of the 10-over game.

The season opens with a triple-header on Saturday as defending champions UAE Bulls take on Yas Lions in the opening match, and the Royal Desert Champions face the Emirates Eagles early in the evening. This will be followed by United Tigers meeting newcomers Arabian Aces in the night match to conclude the hectic day.

Kieron Pollard, whose UAE Bulls begin their title defence against the Yas Lions, said: "It's always tougher to defend a title. When you're the reigning champions, you're the team to beat. But everybody starts fresh tomorrow. It's a new season, and we're all excited to get our campaign going on the right note."

On the importance of setting the tone early, the Yas Lions' Jason Holder said: "It's crucial to start well, especially in a format like this, but we've seen how you can always turn things around in this format. We have a great group of guys, and we're all raring to go tomorrow."

On what makes the 10-over format particularly challenging for captains, the Royal Desert Champions' Nicholas Pooran said: "Things move very quickly in this format. It adds to the excitement, but it means you make judgement calls in a short span, and right or wrong, you don't have time to dwell. As a captain, it's important to support the team so they can execute their skills."

On balancing power-hitting and bowling, the Emirates Eagles' Rovman Powell said: "If you want to go all the way, which is undoubtedly our goal this season, you have to nail both departments. We've got the right balance in the squad. The senior players need to lead the way, and guys like Shimron Hetmyer and Trent Boult will play a huge role."

On what will be his team's biggest strength this season, the United Tigers' Fakhar Zaman said: "We have no shortage of talent in our team. We have multiple match-winners, and that's a factor that sets us apart. It helps that many of us are already familiar with each other, and the young guys are gelling well. We're thrilled for the new season."

On the identity the Arabian Aces want to establish as a new franchise, Moeen Ali said: "We want to be a franchise that players are proud to represent, built on a culture of excellence. Absolutely, we'll fight hard and look to showcase our skills, but we also want every player to grow during their stint with the team."

The 2026 Abu Dhabi T10 runs from 7–20 November at Abu Dhabi's celebrated Zayed Cricket Stadium. It is the first full tournament since Abu Dhabi Cricket & Sports Hub (ADCSH) took majority ownership of the event, supported by the Abu Dhabi Sports Council (ADSC) and the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB). The format stays the same: high-intensity 10-over matches, international star power and nail-biting finishes.

All 32 matches of the 2026 Abu Dhabi T10 will be broadcast live across Star Sports' extensive linear television network and streamed on JioHotstar, bringing 'Cricket's Fastest Format' to hundreds of millions of enthusiastic Indian cricket fans.

