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Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
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On Uttarakhand Foundation Day, my greetings to people of Devbhoomi. Blessed with rich cultural heritage, spiritual traditions & natural beauty, may Uttarakhand continue to scale new heights of progress. I wish the people of the state happiness, peace, prosperity & good health.

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64 Fires Across Jammu Region On Diwali Night

Nehru Market Blaze Guts A Dozen Shops



YOGESH

JAMMU: At least 64 fire incidents were reported across the Jammu region during Diwali celebrations, including 53 between 5 pm on Sunday and 3 am on Monday, officials of the Fire and Emergency Services Department said.

The blaze, erupted around 8.30 pm on Sunday in Block-C of the wholesale market and rapidly spread through adjoining establishments. Shops and godowns numbered 48 to 54 were among the worst affected.

The fire was reportedly fuelled by large quantities of edible oil, ghee and other combustible materials stored in the premises. While a spark from Diwali fireworks is suspected to have triggered the incident, the exact cause is yet to be officially established.

In protest against what they termed a delayed and inadequate response by the Fire and Emergency Services Department, traders across the Warehouse market and Bikram Chowk observed a complete shutdown on Monday.

Warehouse Traders Association president Deepak Gupta alleged that the delay in deploying fire • P-06

India, Saudi Arabia Sign Haj Pact; Quota Set At 1.75 Lakh For 2026

IANS

RIYADH: Union Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju and Saudi Arabia's Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah signed the Bilateral Haj Agreement for Haj 2027, securing a quota of 175,025 pilgrims for India, the Consulate General of India in Jeddah said.

"Strengthening India-Saudi Arabia cooperation for Haj 2027! Hon'ble Union Minister of Minority Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju held bilateral talks with H.E. Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, signed the Bilateral Haj Agreement for Haj 2027, securing a quota of 175,025 pilgrims for India," the Consulate General posted on X.

The two ministers also reviewed preparations for Haj 2027.

"The meeting provided an opportunity to review preparations for Haj 2027, discuss key operational priorities and strengthen coordination towards ensuring a safe, smooth and well-organised pilgrimage for Indian Haj pilgrims," it said.



Rijiju arrived in Jeddah on Friday to attend the 6th Haj Conference and Exhibition 2027, participate in signing the bilateral Haj agreement with Saudi Arabia, and review preparations to ensure a safe and comfortable Haj journey for Indian pilgrims next year.

During his visit, Rijiju conveyed India's appreciation for Saudi Arabia's continued commitment to the welfare of the Haj pilgrims and reaffirmed the strong India-Saudi partnership and their shared commitment to ensuring a successful Haj 2027.

"Strengthening the India–Saudi Arabia partnership with a shared commitment to the welfare of pilgrims and the successful conduct of Haj 2027. Along with the Consul General of India in Jeddah, Shri Fahad Suri and JS (Haj), Shri Mohd. Afzal, attended the inaugural ceremony of the 6th Haj Conference & Exhibition 2027 in Jeddah, KSA," Rijiju had posted on X.

On Saturday, Rijiju attended an official dinner reception hosted by Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah.

"Grateful for the warm hospitality and the • P-06

> **"THE MEETING PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW PREPARATIONS FOR HAJ** 2027, discuss key operational priorities and strengthen coordination towards ensuring a safe, smooth and well-organised pilgrimage for Indian Haj pilgrims," it said.

Lok Bhavan Celebrates Foundation Day Of Uttarakhand



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan Monday celebrated 26th Foundation Day of Uttarakhand. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Uttarakhand. He said that the day celebrates the rich cultural, spiritual and civilisational heritage of the State.

Paying homage to the former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Lieutenant Governor recalled his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment that led to the creation of Uttarakhand. He noted that Shri Vajpayee understood the long-standing aspirations of the people of the hill region and transformed them into reality.

Describing Uttarakhand as "Devbhoomi", the Lieutenant Governor said that the State embodies India's spiritual consciousness through the grandeur of the Himalayas, the sacred flow of the Ganga and the rich traditions of faith and devotion. Referring to the revered shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, he said the pilgrimage of faith represents India's cultural continuity and • P-06

LG, CM Express Grief Over Jammu Fire Incident

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Srinagar, Nov 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have expressed grief over the devastating fire incident at Warehouse Jammu that engulfed several business establishment and structure. The leaders have directed the district administration for immediate relief and necessary assistance to the affected persons. BuyMaps

"Deeply saddened by the devastating • P-06

Kashmir Wetlands

NGT Flags Gaps In Data, Seeks Updated Report

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a fresh and updated report from the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) on the condition of wetlands in the region, flagging the absence of crucial information about their actual existing area. JammuKashmir Travel

According to ANI, the tribunal observed that while the JKPCC had furnished details of the area of wetlands as recorded in revenue records, it had failed to provide their actual area on the ground.

The tribunal directed the committee to obtain the missing information and submit a comparative assessment of the recorded and existing areas of each wetland.

THE REPORT also highlighted concerns over water quality in several wetlands.

The directions came while the green tribunal was hearing a matter concerning the protection of wetlands in Kashmir, including a case taken up suo • P-06

Govt To Audit Private Schools Violating Fee, Other Norms: Edu Minister

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Amid growing complaints of financial exploitation by private institutions, Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister, Shamima Firdous Monday said that private schools cannot burden parents with unnecessary charges and the government will ensure audit and proper accountability against those violating fee and other norms.

Speaking to the reporters here in Srinagar, the Minister, Shamima, said, "We started supplying textbooks to the educational zones of Srinagar district today and the concerned officials in those zones will ensure distribution of free textbooks at earliest."

"There is no shortage of textbooks, in fact we have started distributing the free textbooks at the very appropriate time



in comparison to the previous years," she said.

About the miscellaneous charges by some private schools, the minister said, "There will be a proper audit and accountability will be enforced against those violating the government norms. We won't allow any private school to impose an unnecessary burden on parents."

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

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

The schools were expected to begin regular classes, issue textbooks and prepare a new curriculum in the first week of November.

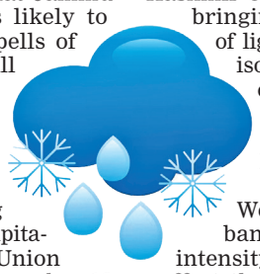
Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education had earlier said that the free textbooks among students will be distributed to various educational zones in the first week of November.

Former Education Minister, Sakeena Itoo had directed the officials to ensure timely completion of preparation • P-06

MeT Predicts Widespread Rain, Snowfall From Nov 12

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has predicted that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness fresh spells of rain and snowfall from November 10 onwards as a relatively intense Western Disturbance is expected to bring widespread precipitation across the Union Territory on November 12 and 13.



The latest forecast accessed revealed that the weather system is likely to bring light to moderate rain in the plains and snowfall over higher reaches, accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds at some places. "Day temperatures are expected to fall by 6-8 degrees Celsius during the period," the forecast added.

Director of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said an initial Western Disturbance would approach Jammu and Kashmir on November 10, bringing a possibility of light snowfall over isolated mountainous areas, particularly in North and Central Kashmir.

He said another Western Disturbance of moderate intensity is expected to affect the region around November 12, with the possibility of widespread snowfall across the higher reaches of North, Central and South Kashmir, as well as the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley regions.

Some higher-altitude areas could receive moderate snowfall, while thunderstorms and gusty winds are also possible during the period, Ahmad said.

He cautioned • P-06

Alarm Bells Ring

Apple Orchard Residue Burning Adds To Kashmir's Pollution Woes

Smoke From Fallen Leaves, Pruned Branches Pose Health Risks, Say Experts

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The burning of fallen leaves, dried branches and other orchard residue following the conclusion of the apple harvesting season has sent alarm bells ringing over deteriorating air quality across Kashmir.

Environmentalists and agricultural experts warned about possible impact of the air pollution on public health and soil fertility. They called for sustainable alternatives to open burning.

According to the details available, orchardists across the Valley are engaged in post-harvest activities, smoke



rising from orchards has become a common sight in several rural areas, particularly in the apple-producing districts of Kashmir.

The practice, which has been followed for generations, is largely associated with the collection of charcoal from dried branches and twigs for use in Kangris, the traditional firepots that remain an important source of warmth for households during the harsh winter months.

However, experts cautioned that burning agricultural residue in the open releases fine particulate matter and harmful gases, contribute to air pollution at a time when falling temperatures and stagnant atmospheric conditions make it difficult for pollutants to disperse.

The smoke can particularly affect people suffering from asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and other respiratory ailments, while children, elderly people and those with cardiovascular conditions are considered more vulnerable to prolonged exposure. • P-06

Min Itoo Conducts Surprise Inspection Of GMC A'nag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo Monday evening conducted surprise inspection of Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag to take first-hand stock of healthcare facilities, patient-care arrangements and the overall functioning of the institution.

During the inspection, the Minister visited various sections and departments of the hospital and took detailed feedback from doctors, paramedical staff and other officials regarding the availability of medical facilities, diagnostic services, essential medicines and the delivery of healthcare services.

She also interacted with patients and their attendants to ascertain the quality of treatment being provided to them and listened to their concerns and grievances.

Emphasising that • P-06

'JKBOSE Class 10, 11, 12 Results Expected By January 10'

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Monday said that it aims to declare results of annual regular exams of 10th, 11th and 12th by the second week of January.

Speaking to the reporters, JKBOSE Chairman, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh said, "Our exams are going very smoothly and in the coming two weeks we are going to culminate the exams. We hope that by the January-10, we will try to declare the results of all the classes."

About the distribution of textbooks, the Board Chairman said that, "The process of distributing free textbooks to educational zones will be completed in 8-10 days. We distribute the free textbooks to Zonal Education Offices and after that it is the job of the Directorate of School Education to provide it to the eligible students."

He said, "There are 8,20,000 students from classes 1st to 8th including 3,31,000 students of Kashmir division who are eligible for these free textbooks. This is the first time in years that we have started the work of book distribution along with the session."

"We have issued a distribution schedule to the zonal officers and have directed them to keep an eye on the schedule," he said.

Pertinently, JKBOSE has informed that at least 2,70,000 students were registered to appear in board exams of 10th, 11th and 12th standard.

JKBOSE • P-06

J&K Bank opens its 26th branch in Shopian at Mini Secretariat



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Strengthening its banking presence and institutional engagement in Shopian, J&K Bank Monday formally inaugurated its Mini Secretariat Branch, taking its branch network in the district to 26.

District Development Commissioner (Shopian) S. Charandeep Singh inaugurated the branch in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Nasir Ahmad Lone, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Zakir Hussain Fayaz, ACR Shakoor Ahmad Dar, CPO Mudasir Ahmad, ALC Nida Yousuf and Zonal Head (Pulwama) Masood Ahmad Lankar. Cluster Head, Lead District Manager, other senior officers of the district administration and valuable customers also attended the inauguration.

Congratulating the Bank, the DDC expressed hope that J&K Bank would further expand its outreach across Shopian to enhance customer convenience, strengthen financial inclusion and contribute towards the socio-economic upliftment of the district.

"The administration will extend its full cooperation to initiatives that support local enterprise and advance the district's prosperity, " he said.

He expressed hope that the new branch would serve as an important link between the district administration and the Bank, facilitating closer coordination and efficient delivery of banking services.

The inauguration was followed by an interaction with departmental heads, chaired by the DDC. The deliberations focused on strengthening institutional coordination and improving banking services for government departments, employees, entrepreneurs and the general public. Both sides agreed to work closely to address banking needs and support the district's development priorities.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head (Pulwama) Masood Ahmad Lankar highlighted the recent MoU between J&K Bank and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, besides outlining banking initiatives and schemes for various customer segments.

"Located within the Mini Secretariat, this institutional branch is strategically positioned to meet the banking requirements of government departments and employees while serving customers visiting the complex. Our focus will be on responsive service, convenient digital solutions and close coordination with the administration to address local banking needs," he said.

The new branch reinforces the Bank's commitment to bringing banking services closer to people and strengthening its enduring relationship with the institutions and communities of Shopian.

DC Anantnag reviews progress under SVAMITVA, AgriStack

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved under various flagship digital initiatives, including SVAMITVA, AgriStack and Farmer ID generation in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress under the SVAMITVA scheme and took stock of the status of data compilation, generation and distribution of property cards.

It was informed that 245 villages have completed the final data compilation, while approximately 9270 property cards have been generated, of which 7184 have been distributed among the beneficiaries.

The status of pending maps under Map 1.0 and Map 2.0 was also reviewed, with emphasis on expediting the completion of the remaining work.

The DC also reviewed the progress of AgriStack implementation and Farmer ID generation across the district.

Chair was informed that 335 out of 394 villages have been made active under the initiative, while the process of Farmer ID generation is currently underway.

The officers also apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the progress



achieved in data compilation, verification and registration of eligible farmers.

The Deputy Commissioner impressed the need to accelerate the pace of Farmer ID generation and directed the concerned officers to ensure time-bound completion of the remaining work.

He emphasised strengthening coordination among the concerned departments and field functionaries, addressing operational bottlenecks and ensuring comprehensive coverage of all eligible farmers under the initiative.

He further directed the officers to maintain accuracy and transparency in data compilation, verification and updation of records so that eligible beneficiaries are not left out and the intended benefits of various government schemes reach them effectively.

Emphasising the importance of these digital initiatives in improving governance, transparency and service delivery, the Deputy Commissioner called for concerted efforts from all concerned departments to achieve the prescribed targets within the stipulated timelines.

A detailed review of PM-KISAN-related farmer registration and Aadhaar-linked data was also undertaken.

DC G'bal chairs review meeting for upcoming JKSSB Examination



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, Monday chaired a review meeting in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal, to ensure the smooth, transparent, and successful conduct of the upcoming JKSSB OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant (Finance Department), scheduled for November 15, 2026.

The meeting was attended by the ADC Ganderbal, Dr. Syed Faheem A. Bihaqi, representatives from the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), Centre Superintendents, Observers, and appointed Magistrates.

During the meeting, the ADC Ganderbal briefed the DC in detail on the administrative, operational, and security arrangements put in place. He outlined the specific roles, duties, and responsibilities assigned to Magistrates, Observers, and Centre Superintendents to maintain absolute integrity throughout the examination process. As part of the proceedings, specialized training was also organized for Centre Superintendents, conducted by Principal Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Kangan.

Addressing the officers, the DC emphasized that although conducting such examinations is a regular administrative function, it remains an event of significant importance. She directed all deployed personnel to execute all guidelines and examination protocols in letter and spirit.

The DC stressed the importance of maintaining a supportive, compassionate, and considerate approach toward candidates appearing for the exam, ensuring they face no unnecessary hassle or discomfort at the examination venues.

TLSC, Sopore Law College Mark NLSD, NED

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Sopore, in collaboration with Sopore Law College, Monday organised a joint commemorative programme to mark National Legal Services Day and National Education Day. The event brought together legal experts, faculty members and students to highlight the critical intersection of legal awareness and education in driving social change.



The proceedings began with tributes to the founder of Sopore Law College, the late Prof. Ghulam Rasool Bacha, remembered as the "Sir Syed of Kashmir" for his pioneering contributions to education in the region.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants, Principal Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq underscored the constitutional mandate of Article 39-A and the significance of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. He said the primary objective of the day was to empower citizens with knowledge of their legal rights and ensure access to free legal aid for marginalised sections of society. Speaking on National Education Day, he paid homage to independent India's first Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, describing education as an indispensable foundation and the most effective tool for social transformation.

Representing TLSC Sopore, Advocate Khaleel-e-Shah delivered a comprehensive lecture on free legal services, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the broader purpose of education. Addressing students, he said true education extends far beyond academic learning and writing essays, and its real measure lies in the positive impact and reform it brings to society.

In concluding remarks, the programme anchor lauded the college administration for its consistent support in hosting awareness initiatives, specifically acknowledging Chairperson Maryam Bacha, Vice-Chairperson Tamkeena Naseem Bacha, Trustee Javaid Ahmad Bhat and Principal Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq. A special vote of thanks was extended to Course Coordinator Fahim Rashid Shah for ensuring the smooth and successful execution of the event.

DC Anantnag reviews Physical, Financial Progress of Dev Works



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Monday chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of ongoing development works being executed across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed sector-wise review was conducted regarding the status of various ongoing works, expenditure incurred, targets achieved and bottlenecks, if any, affecting the pace of execution.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the progress of works being implemented by different departments and executing agencies and directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the pace and quality of works on the ground.

He instructed all concerned to expedite the execution of ongoing works and ensure that the available working season is utilised to the maximum for completing works within the stipulated timelines.

The DC stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination, timely resolution of bottlenecks and regular field inspections to ensure that projects are executed as per approved specifications and timelines.

He further directed officers to maintain close monitoring of both physical and financial progress and ensure optimum utilisation of funds, while according due priority to projects having direct public benefit.

The Deputy Commissioner called for a result-oriented approach and directed the executing agencies to work with greater coordination and commitment to achieve the set targets within the prescribed timelines.

DLSA Shopian celebrates Legal Services Day 2026



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Shopian, Saturday celebrated Legal Services Day 2026 with a grand function at the Court Complex, Shopian.

The event started with the reading of Natinal Song and National Anthem and NALSA theme song. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all Judicial Officers, advocates, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), and a large number of litigants from across the district.

The programme was presided over by Mehmood Ahmad Chowdary, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Shopian, who graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, Chowdary highlighted the significant achievements of DLSA Shopian over the past year, particularly in the areas of legal aid, awareness campaigns, and the resolution of disputes through Lok Adalats and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. He reiterated the Authority's commitment to ensuring that justice reaches every section of society, especially the marginalized and underprivileged.

The Chairman also praised the dedicated work of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel in the district, commending their commitment to providing competent legal representation to undertrial prisoners and indigent litigants. He acknowledged their role in safeguarding the rights of the accused and ensuring that no person is denied justice due to poverty or lack of legal knowledge.

In his address, the Chairman made an earnest appeal to all participants, including litigants and advocates, to refer their cases to the DLSA for amicable settlement. He emphasized that mediation and conciliation not only reduce the burden on the courts but also provide parties with faster, cost-effective, and mutually satisfactory outcomes.

"The DLSA is not just a forum for legal aid; it is a bridge to justice. I urge every citizen to come forward and utilize our services for the peaceful resolution of their disputes," Chowdary said.

On the occasion Chief Judicial Magistrate, Rayaz Ahmad Chowdary and Principal Magistrate JJB Shopian, Mudasir Bashir also addressed the gathering.The event also featured interactive sessions where Judicial Officers and advocates shared their experiences and underscored the importance of legal services in strengthening the rule of law and promoting access to justice for all.

DC Shopian convenes Revenue Review

Enforces Zero-Tolerance against encroachments

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a major push toward transparent governance and robust public service delivery, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, chaired a comprehensive revenue meeting at the Mini-Secretariat, Shopian Monday.



The meeting focused on evaluating the functioning of the Revenue Department, tightening administrative accountability and accelerating key field-level initiatives across the district.

Taking a firm stance against land grabbing, the DC issued clear instructions to Tehsildars to initiate immediate, aggressive anti-encroachment drives targeting Khacharie and State land.

Emphasizing a strict zero-tolerance policy, the Deputy Commissioner directed that illegal encroachments be handled with utmost seriousness to guarantee the prompt retrieval of all occupied state and Kahcharie land.

The meeting also featured a thorough operational review of field personnel, including Lumberdars and Chowkidars. Directing these officials to execute their duties with unyielding dedication, the Deputy Commissioner ordered the immediate submission of comprehensive work verification and performance reports to ensure absolute accountability at the grassroots level.

Prioritizing public relief, the DC closely examined pending migrant grievances. He stressed the necessity for speedy, high-quality and priority disposal of all such cases to ensure fair and timely justice for affected individuals.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed all revenue officers to maintain seamless inter-departmental coordination, uphold complete transparency in land records management and treat the resolution of public grievances as a top administrative priority.

Among others the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, Tehsildars, Naib-Tehsildars, Girdawars, Partwaris, Numberdars and Chowkidars.

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrated with enthusiasm in Sukhnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas was celebrated with great enthusiasm and public participation at Ringzabal, Block Sukhnag, with the objective of honouring the rich heritage, culture and contributions of tribal communities while creating awareness about various government welfare schemes and initiatives.



The programme witnessed the presence of several senior officers and dignitaries, including Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam, Javaid Ahmad; Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Khansahib, Jahangir Ahmad Giri; and Project Officer ICDS Budgam, Samar Naik, besides various departmental heads and officials from different government departments.

During the programme, officers and representatives from various departments interacted with the general public and provided detailed information about different government-sponsored schemes, welfare initiatives and development programmes available for the benefit of the people. They also highlighted the eligibility criteria, benefits and procedures for availing these schemes, encouraging people to take maximum advantage of the opportunities provided by the government.

A large number of people from Ringzabal and adjoining areas participated in the programme, with particularly encouraging participation from members of the tribal community.

The event served as an important platform for strengthening public awareness, promoting government-public interaction and ensuring that the benefits of various welfare schemes reach deserving and eligible beneficiaries, especially those belonging to tribal and other underserved communities.

The celebration reaffirmed the importance of inclusive development, community participation and the preservation of the rich cultural heritage and identity of tribal communities.

Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas

Mega Gram Sabha held at Block Kanjiullar Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: On the eve of Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas, celebrated on the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda Ji, a Mega Gram Sabha was organized by the Tribal Affairs Department, District Shopian in collaboration with District Administration Shopian.

The Gram Sabha was held for awareness and disposal of claims of ST community including AKs/ASKs / Dajgua and others under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

Program Officer ICDS Shopian, Mohammad Imran Khan, who is also Nodal Officer for Tribal Department District Shopian, Block Development Officer Kanjiullar, Tariq Ahmad Padder, besides officials from Tribal Department and other line departments were also present on the occasion.

During the programme, detailed awareness was given regarding the highlights of the Forest Rights Act, including individual and community rights, procedure for filing claims, role of Gram Sabha and Forest Rights Committees, and the benefits accruing to the tribal community under the Act. Claims of the ST community were also taken up for disposal.

On the occasion, the locals projected several demands including check Shamshipora, establishment of a library, macadamization of link road, macadamization of main road from Jamia Masjid to house of Ab Rahim Sheikh, and provision of drinking water reservoir for the tribal community.

The people also demanded establishment of a Primary Health Centre for the said area and construction of bund of Nallah.

The officers gave a patient hearing to the demands and assured that all genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for early redressal.

Jammu warehouse fire

Union Minister Jitendra Singh flags alleged delay in fire brigade response



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday expressed concern over the massive fire that broke out in the warehouse area of Jammu city, causing extensive losses to traders and the business community.

Dr Jitendra Singh also flagged allegations of a delayed response by the fire brigade, saying it was disturbing to hear that emergency services were not prompt enough in responding to the blaze.

In a post on X, the Union Minister expressed solidarity with the affected business community and urged the authorities to take appropriate action and address the situation on priority.

The fire broke out in Jammu's warehouse area on Sunday night, causing extensive damage and triggering concern among local traders.

Sagar reviews Winter Power Preparedness in Srinagar

Zainkote Grid Station to be Augmented at a cost of Rs. 89.46 Crore

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Monday visited Zainkote and Bemina to review the power supply scenario, assess winter preparedness and inspect key power infrastructure in Srinagar.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, Managing Director JKPTCL, Managing Director KPDCL, Chief Engineers, Executive Engineers and other senior officers of the Power Development Department.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed the functioning of the existing power infrastructure and stressed the need for ensuring reliable, uninterrupted and quality power supply, particularly during the winter months when electricity demand witnesses a significant increase.

At Zainkote Grid Station, the Minister was informed about the proposed major augmentation of its capacity from the existing 450 MVA to 780 MVA at an estimated cost of Rs. 89.46 crore. The project is aimed at strengthening the transmission network and meeting the growing electricity requirements of Srinagar and its adjoining areas, including Shari-Khas.

The augmentation will also strengthen power supply to the 132/33 kV Grid Station at Waganpora and GIS Khanyar. It was informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been approved and the tendering process is scheduled to be initiated by November 10, 2026.

The Minister also inspected the 132/33 kV, 200 MVA Grid Station at Bemina, which caters to several densely populated areas of Srinagar, including Bemina, Qamarwari, Karanagar, Fatehkadal, Barbar Shah, PC Depot, JVC and adjoining localities through its associated receiving stations.

He directed the officers to ensure timely completion of all ongoing and proposed works, remove operational bottlenecks and maintain close coordination to minimise power disruptions during the winter season.

The Minister also visited the Overview Data Centre at Bemina and took stock of its functioning and related infrastructure.

Emphasising the importance of strengthening the power transmission and distribution network in view of Srinagar's expanding urban landscape and rising electricity demand, Sagar called for a proactive and coordinated approach to winter preparedness. He directed the concerned officers to remain responsive to public grievances and ensure prompt resolution of power-related issues.

'Deeply saddened'

Former CM Ghulam Nabi Azad on Jammu fire mishap

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday expressed deep sadness over the massive fire incident at Warehouse Jammu in which several business establishments have gutted.

He urged the government to access the damage immediately and provide adequate compensation to the affected businessmen.

Taking to micro-blogging site X, former chief minister Azad said: "Deeply saddened by the massive fire at Warehouse Market near Bikram Chowk, Jammu which gutted several shops and godowns, causing losses worth crores to local traders.

My sympathies are with all affected families and business owners.

I urge the government to immediately assess the damage and provide adequate compensation to the affected traders so they can rebuild their livelihoods."

Dy CM visits fire hit Bikram Chowk; assesses damage

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Monday visited the fire-affected area of Bikram Chowk, here, to assess the damage caused by the devastating fire incident and assured prompt relief measures for the affected people.

He expressed solidarity with the affected shopkeepers and traders.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister interacted with the affected traders and shopkeepers, listened to their concerns and took stock of the losses suffered by them due to the incident. He expressed deep concern over the destruction caused by the fire and conveyed his sympathies to all those whose businesses and livelihoods have been affected.

Surinder Choudhary assured prompt assistance and appropriate relief measures for the affected traders. He stressed that the concerns of those who have suffered losses would be addressed on priority and all necessary support will be extended to help them overcome this difficult situation. He also underscored the importance of strengthening emergency response mechanisms to ensure timely intervention during such unfortunate incidents.

Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC); Rakesh Singh Raka, Vice President, Central Zone Jammu, JKNC and Vijay Lochan, Chairman, SC Cell, JKNC also accompanied the Deputy CM.

Javid Dar assures JK NOPRUF delegation of examining teachers' service issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir National Old Pension Restoration United Front (JK NOPRUF) led by its General Secretary, Sakoon Manir Monday called on Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar and apprised him of a range of long-pending service related issues concerning the teachers and employees across Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation submitted a detailed memorandum seeking Minister's intervention for addressing the issues pertaining to pensionary benefits, career progression, transfer policy and other matters affecting the teaching fraternity.

During the interaction, the delegation sought extension of benefits of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to eligible Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers whose recruitment advertisements were issued on or before December 24, 2009, including those engaged subsequently, in accordance with Government Order No. 305-F of 2026.

The delegation highlighted the need for convening regular Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meetings to clear the long-pending promotion cases of eligible teachers to the post of Masters. They also urged for formulating a separate, transparent and comprehensive transfer policy for ReT teachers.

Other major issues brought to the Minister's attention included formulation of a suitable transfer policy for Reserved Category and PM Package employees serving in Kashmir, acceptance and onward submission of OPS-related cases of all eligible employees to the Finance Department and expeditious disposal of pending intra-district transfer cases of Reserved Category and PM Package employees.

The representatives emphasised that these issues have a direct bearing on the professional security, career advancement, pensionary entitlements and overall welfare of teachers and other employees, warranting their timely consideration and resolution.

Salman Sagar emerges as top contender for NC ticket for Srinagar parliamentary by-election

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The ruling National Conference (NC) is seriously considering fielding senior party leader Salman Sagar as its candidate for the by-election to the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, sources disclosed.

Sources said that the party leadership is considering nominating Salman, who is currently serving as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Hazratbal constituency, as its candidate for the Srinagar parliamentary seat.

"A final decision is yet to be taken, but Sagar has emerged as the frontrunner for the prestigious parliamentary seat," the sources said.

Known for his organisational skills, Salman enjoys significant support in parts of Srinagar. His family has a long-standing association with National Conference.

Salman,a former Mayor of Srinagar, won the 2024 Assembly election from the Hazratbal segment by defeating PDP's Asiea Naqash by a margin of 10295 votes. While Salman secured 18890 votes, Asiea polled 8595 votes.

The by-election to the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat has been necessitated by the resignation of Aga Ruhullah Mehdi on November 3, 2026.

The by-poll for the constituency will be held before May 2, 2027, as the Representation of the People Act, 1951, mandates that a casual vacancy in the Lok Sabha or a State Legislature shall be filled within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy—(KNO)

Public representatives, delegations, citizens call on CM in Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Several public representatives, delegations, professionals and citizens Monday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here and discussed a range of issues concerning public welfare, development and various sectors.

Former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues of public importance.

MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia met the Chief Minister and discussed developmental issues, public welfare concerns and other matters pertaining to his Assembly constituency.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. B. N. Tripathi, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed various matters related to the university.

A delegation of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), led by its Chairman Sanjay Aggarwal, met the Chief Minister and discussed issues concerning the automobile industry in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Abhinav Gupta of ASCOMS, Jammu, also called on the Chief Minister. The interaction provided an opportunity to acknowledge his professional accomplishments.

A delegation led by Principal of British International School, Sainik Colony, Jammu, accompanied by teachers and students, also called on the Chief Minister. The students interacted briefly with him during the meeting.

Several other individuals and citizens also called on the Chief Minister during the day.

Public pathway encroached in Kupwara village; residents seek DC's intervention

GMK NEWS NETWORK



KUPWARA: Residents of Allachizab village in north Kashmir's Kupwara district have alleged that a public pathway constructed by the Rural Development Department (RDD) at Pir Mohalla in Ward 5 has been encroached upon, severely restricting pedestrian movement.

The residents said the pathway, built around 15 years ago at a cost of approximately Rs 4 lakh, has been narrowed to nearly half its original width following the alleged construction of a wall by the family of Abdul Hameed Khan. They alleged that Javid Ahmad Khan, an Special Police Officer (SPO), Altaf Ahmad Khan and other family members were now attempting to encroach upon the remaining portion.

Following a complaint by the residents to the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Kupwara, Abdul Rashid Ganaie, the officer assured them that action would be taken and deputed a team to ascertain the ground situation, locals said.

The residents alleged that the encroachment had obstructed one of the main pedestrian routes connecting different parts of the village. "The pathway has existed for generations and was developed by the government around 15 years ago. The family has encroached upon it without any regard for the law," a local resident said.

Another resident said the pathway was an important link for villagers and its narrowing had made movement difficult.

The residents said they had first approached the then Block Development Officer (BDO) around six months ago. The BDO had subsequently deputed a Village Level Worker(VLW) to inspect the site, but no corrective action followed, they alleged.

Accusing the alleged encroachers of removing tiles and damaging the government-developed pathway, another resident termed the incident a misuse of public funds and taxpayers' money.

Some residents also alleged that attempts to question the encroachment had led to intimidation and threats from members of the family and their associates. These allegations could not be independently verified.

In their representation to the ACD, the residents sought immediate intervention to stop further encroachment, restore the pathway to its original dimensions in accordance with RDD records and initiate legal action against those responsible.

They also urged the administration to examine the role of the concerned officials and register a case against those involved in the alleged encroachment and obstruction of public movement.

The residents have appealed to Deputy Commissioner Kupwara to intervene and ensure that the public pathway is restored and strict action is taken against the culprits.

The ACD's office has assured action and sent a team to assess the situation on the ground.

Speaker expresses solidarity with fire-hit traders of Warehouse market

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, has expressed deep concern over the devastating fire incident at the historic Warehouse–Nehru Market near Bikram Chowk, Jammu, which gutted dozens of business establishments on Sunday night, causing extensive damage to property and huge financial losses to traders.

Describing the incident as deeply unfortunate, the Speaker extended his heartfelt sympathies to the affected traders and business owners, whose shops and livelihoods have suffered heavily in the blaze. He said that the Warehouse–Nehru Market, one of Jammu's oldest and most prominent wholesale trading hubs, has been serving traders, retailers and consumers since the 1950s and holds significant economic importance for the city.

The Speaker lauded the timely efforts of the Fire and Emergency Services Department, police and local administration in containing the massive blaze and preventing further damage to life and property. He appreciated the dedication and prompt response of the personnel who worked under challenging circumstances to bring the situation under control.

Expressing concern over the huge losses, reportedly running into crores of rupees, Rather urged the administration to undertake an immediate assessment of the damages and provide adequate ex-gratia relief to the affected traders at the earliest to help them overcome the financial distress caused by the tragedy.

The Speaker also stressed the need for appropriate measures to support the affected business community in restoring their livelihoods and resuming commercial activities at the earliest.

Javed Rana visits fire-ravaged Warehouse Nehru Market, Assesses damage

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Javed Ahmed Rana, Monday visited Warehouse Nehru Market at Bikram Chowk, Jammu, to assess the damage caused by the devastating fire that engulfed several shops in the historic commercial hub late Sunday night.

During the visit, the Minister conducted an on-ground assessment of the affected establishments and interacted with shop owners, traders and representatives of the Warehouse Association to understand the extent of losses, hear their grievances and discuss measures for their timely redressal.

Expressing deep concern over the incident, Rana sympathised with the affected traders and their families, assuring them of the Government's full support and all possible assistance. He stressed that the genuine concerns of those who have suffered losses must be addressed promptly and that no affected trader should be left without due consideration.

The Minister directed the concerned authorities to ensure close coordination among all departments for a comprehensive assessment of the losses and to facilitate necessary relief and rehabilitation measures.

Highlighting the commercial importance of Warehouse Nehru Market, Rana said that the market is one of Jammu's prominent and historic wholesale trading centres, dealing in foodgrains, edible oils and other essential commodities. He observed that the fire has not only caused substantial property losses but has also severely affected the livelihoods of traders, employees and families dependent on the market.

The Minister further stressed the need to strengthen fire safety infrastructure, preparedness and emergency response mechanisms in densely populated commercial areas to prevent such incidents and minimise potential losses in the future.

Rana also said that all circumstances and factors leading to the outbreak and spread of the fire would be thoroughly investigated and called to identify measures to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

AAWAAZ

Let Artists Be Heard

Artists in Jammu and Kashmir have entertained, inspired and preserved the region's cultural identity for generations. Yet, those who have kept our music, theatre, languages and traditions alive often struggle for recognition, financial security and a dignified place in the system. The proposed AAWAAZ 2026 convention offers an opportunity to bring these concerns into the open and give the artistic community a collective voice.

For too long, artists have largely remained on the margins of policymaking. Their contribution is celebrated on special occasions, but their everyday problems rarely receive the attention they deserve. Many struggle to find regular work, access government support or secure a platform where their talent can grow. Cultural institutions, which should have been their strongest support, have also failed to provide the space and encouragement needed to nurture local talent.

AAWAAZ should, therefore, be more than a gathering of artists or a day of speeches. It must become a serious movement to demand a comprehensive cultural policy, transparent grants and awards, better livelihood opportunities and meaningful representation of artists in cultural institutions and decision-making bodies.

The revival of institutions such as the J&K Cultural Academy, Radio Kashmir and Doordarshan also needs urgent attention. These institutions once provided a strong platform to local writers, musicians, performers and folk artists. Their declining role has left many talented people without the opportunities and exposure they deserve. A region as culturally rich as Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford to let these platforms weaken.

The government must understand that culture cannot survive on official functions and occasional celebrations alone. Artists need regular opportunities, institutional backing, financial protection and respect for their intellectual property. They should be treated as an important part of society, not merely invited to perform when an occasion demands it.

At the same time, artists must also look beyond personal differences and individual demands. AAWAAZ will have meaning only if it brings together people from different regions, languages and artistic disciplines. Their strength lies in unity, and their demands will carry greater weight when presented through one common platform.

The proposed declaration emerging from the convention must not end up as another memorandum submitted to government offices and forgotten thereafter. It should be followed by sustained engagement and a clear effort to secure action on the issues raised. Jammu and Kashmir does not lack talent; what it lacks is a system that consistently recognises, supports and protects that talent. AAWAAZ can be the beginning of a much-needed change. The voice of artists deserves to be heard not just on stage, but wherever decisions about the region's cultural future are made.

Good Morning Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher
Javed Ashraf Shah
Associate Editors
Suhail Mir
Sulaiman Muhammed Shah
Legal Advisor
Bashir Sidiq
Bureau Chief Jammu:
Harbans Nagokay
R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998
Regd No: 109555
Office No: **0194-3593724**
Email:
goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com
Office Address:
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Layout Designer
Aijaz Ahmad Dar

Harud

Beauty That Announces Its Own Departure



TAWHEED PARVAIZ BHAT



There are moments when nature does not merely change; it speaks. There are seasons that do not simply arrive and depart; they leave behind a feeling, a memory, and a message. Harud, the autumn of Kashmir, is one such season. The Almighty created this universe with countless colours. The flowers, the mountains, the skies, the forests and the waters—all seem to carry a divine palette.

The Chinar does not become less beautiful because its leaves are falling; rather, its farewell becomes part of its beauty. It reminds me of an old Kashmiri expression: The old man has grown handsome, but only after death.

Perhaps these colours are a glimpse of the beauty that awaits us beyond this temporary world. And if a small piece of this earth can hold such beauty, one can only wonder how magnificent the eternal paradise must be. It is rightly said: "If there is a paradise on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here."

Every year, Harud proves it once again. Nature seems to take out its finest colours and dress Kashmir like a bride preparing for a grand farewell. Spring arrives in green, summer paints the landscape with countless shades, but autumn, Harud, comes with a palette of crimson red, fiery orange, golden yellow, amber and rust. The mighty Chinar trees become the greatest artists of this season, changing their attire leaf by leaf until the entire landscape appears to be part of a living painting. The mountains turn golden. The fields change their appearance. The clear blue sky becomes a vast canvas, and at night the stars shine like pearls scattered across it.

For a moment, one feels that Kashmir is no longer merely a place, it has become a wonderland. But Harud is not only a season of colours. It is also a season of collection and preparation. Kashmiri farmers gather the treasures of their fields and orchards and carefully preserve them for the long, cold months ahead. Apples, walnuts, maize, rice and other harvests become symbols of hard work and hope. Every household seems busy preparing for winter. Interestingly, Harud does not change only the colours of nature; it changes the colours of our homes and our lives. Summer curtains are replaced with warmer ones. Light clothes disappear into cupboards and woollens come out. Shops begin displaying winter necessities. Homes start preparing for the cold. Even schools seem to acquire a different character as the landscape around them transforms.

Everywhere one looks, there is a subtle change. People love to sit in the gentle autumn sunshine, enjoying what may be the last warm embraces of the sun before winter arrives. The sunlight of Harud feels special, as if nature is deliberately asking us to pause, sit quietly and enjoy the moment. The lakes, rivers and springs also seem to participate in this transformation. Their waters become clearer, while colourful pebbles at their beds become visible. Migratory birds arrive from distant lands, turning Kashmir into their seasonal home. They seem to come here not merely to escape the cold elsewhere, but to celebrate the extraordinary beauty of this valley.

Yet, beneath all this beauty, Harud carries a quiet philosophy of life. There is something strangely emotional about autumn. The trees are at their most beautiful when they are preparing to lose their leaves. The Chinar does not become less beautiful because its leaves are falling; rather, its farewell becomes part of its beauty. It reminds me of an old Kashmiri expression: The old man has grown handsome, but only after death. Perhaps Harud carries the same paradox. It becomes most beautiful while announcing its own departure. The golden leaves glitter in the sunlight, but they also whisper that winter is approaching. The crimson landscape attracts every eye, yet it quietly tells us that this colourful chapter will soon close.

Soon, the white blanket of winter will cover the land. It may look like an ending, the way a white shroud covers a departed body. But Kashmir teaches us something deeper: nothing truly ends in nature. The fallen leaves become part of the soil. The soil nourishes new life. Winter rests over the valley, and then spring returns with fresh green leaves, new flowers and new colours. Perhaps that is the greatest lesson of Harud.

Life, too, is a cycle of colours. We arrive in this temporary world with our own colours. We experience childhood, youth, achievements, relationships, happiness, sorrow and old age. With time, our colours change. Like the leaves of a Chinar, we eventually have to let go. But the departure of one season prepares the way for another. Harud therefore is not merely autumn. It is a mirror of human life, beautiful, colourful, temporary and meaningful. As I look at Kashmir dressed in crimson, gold and amber, I feel that nature is telling us something very gently: "Enjoy my colours while they last. Nothing in this world remains the same forever."

And perhaps that is why Harud touches the heart differently. It does not simply say goodbye to summer.

It quietly reminds us that every beautiful thing has a time to arrive, a time to shine, and a time to depart. Yet, somewhere beyond the falling leaves, spring is already waiting.

The author is an educator, writer and columnist. He can be mailed at tawheed.biotech12@gmail.com

Chinar's Silent Sermon: Life, Loss And Letting Go

WASEEM AKHTER DAR

When the Chinar sheds its leaves, Kashmir witnesses not merely the arrival of autumn but also a beautiful reminder that nothing in this world is permanent.

Today, while performing my routine official duties, I suddenly found myself lost in the extraordinary beauty of nature. A gentle breeze was passing through the branches of a magnificent Chinar tree, and its leaves were slowly falling to the ground. Some were floating in the air, dancing gracefully with the breeze, while others were quietly settling on the earth. It was a mesmerising sight, one that compelled me to pause for a moment and appreciate the beauty that we often overlook in our busy daily lives.

For a while, I forgot everything around me. The falling leaves seemed to be telling a story of their own. Their slow descent, their changing colours and their final separation from the tree brought a strange sense of peace, mixed with a deep philosophical thought about human life. It reminded me of a universal truth: nothing in this world is permanent. Everything that comes into existence has to pass through the stages of change, and ultimately, every living being has to perish.

Perhaps autumn is nature's most beautiful way of teaching us the meaning of life, separation and acceptance.

Watching this transformation makes one reflect on the temporary nature of existence. The leaves that once formed an inseparable part of the tree eventually have to depart. The tree, despite its enormous strength and grandeur, cannot hold on to them forever. It has to let them go as part of nature's eternal cycle.

Human life is not very different. We arrive in this world, grow, experience happiness and sorrow, establish relationships, accumulate memories and develop attachments. Yet, time keeps moving, seasons keep changing, and nothing remains the same forever. People whom we love, moments that we cherish and places that hold special meaning eventually become memories.

The falling Chinar leaves silently remind us that change is inevitable and that accepting it is an essential part of life. Think of a tree that has witnessed the lives of countless generations! People who once rested beneath its branches are no longer alive, but the tree continues to stand, offering shade to those who come after them. It has witnessed childhoods, friendships, family gatherings, celebrations and countless untold stories.

Our ancestors enjoyed the shade of these trees, and today we continue to experience the same comfort. Perhaps our future generations will also find shelter beneath them, provided we preserve this precious natural heritage. The Chinar has a unique ability to add grandeur and character to the Kashmiri landscape. Whether standing in a school compound, a public garden, a village courtyard, a roadside avenue or beside a water



body, it enhances the beauty of its surroundings. Its presence gives Kashmir an identity that cannot easily be replicated.

There is something extraordinary about sitting beneath a Chinar. The natural shade, the gentle movement of its leaves and the cool atmosphere create an environment that refreshes both the body and mind. It becomes a place for informal conversations, moments of relaxation and a temporary escape from the pressures of daily responsibilities. Unlike artificial cooling systems, the Chinar offers its comfort without consuming electricity or producing harmful emissions. It is nature's own air-conditioning system, freely available to everyone.

Such trees also contribute to environmental balance by absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen, supporting biodiversity, providing habitats for birds and helping regulate local temperatures. Their importance extends far beyond their visual appeal. Unfortunately, in an age when people are increasingly concerned about modern infrastructure and artificial comforts, we often fail to recognise the extraordinary value of the natural resources that already surround us.

Therefore, protecting existing mature Chinar trees should be our first priority. Cutting down an old Chinar means destroying a living monument that has taken generations to grow.

At the same time, we must encourage the planting of new Chinar saplings in schools, government offices, public parks, village commons, roadsides and other suitable locations. Educational institutions, in particular, can play a significant role by involving students in plantation and tree-protection programmes.

Every school should consider adopting a tree-protection initiative. Students should be taught that trees are not merely objects of decoration but living assets that sustain our environment and connect us with our heritage. Government departments, local bodies, civil society organisations and ordinary citizens must work together to ensure that the Chinar continues to flourish in Kashmir.

The Chinar may shed its leaves every autumn, but it does not surrender its existence. It patiently waits for another spring, when fresh green leaves will once again emerge from its branches. This is perhaps another beautiful lesson: endings are not always final; they may simply prepare the way for new beginnings. Let us therefore protect our Chinars, plant more of them and preserve their legacy. Let us ensure that the magnificent trees which have added beauty, dignity and character to Kashmir for centuries continue to stand tall for centuries to come.

And the next time we see a Chinar leaf falling gently in the breeze, let us not merely watch it fall. Let us pause, appreciate its beauty and remember the priceless lessons it teaches us about life, time, change and the inevitability of departure.

Author is a librarian at the Department of School Education. He can be mailed at waseemakhterdars@gmail.com

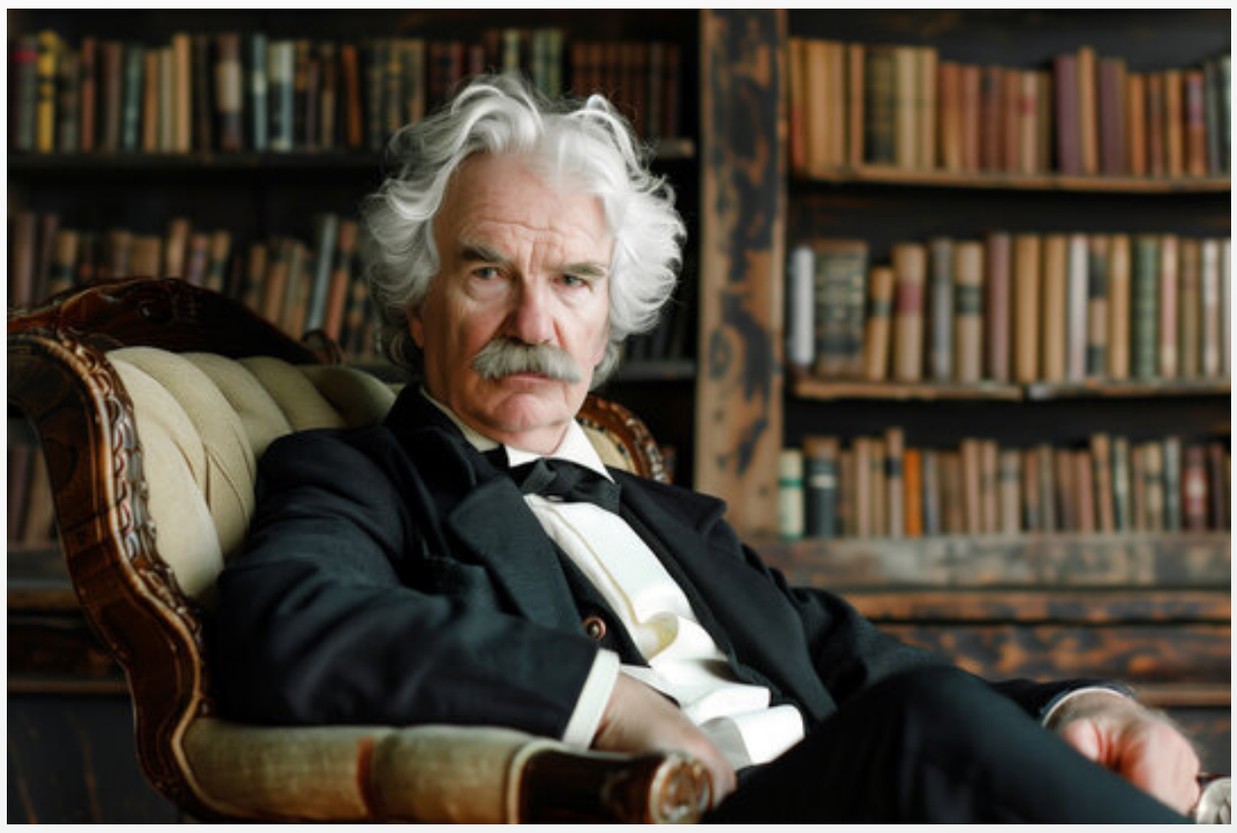
IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Mark Twain's Timeless Classics

The Enduring Legacy Of A Literary Giant



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE



When November sets in, nature wraps itself in a reflective melancholy. The fading sunlight, the rustling leaves, and the quiet approach of winter invite contemplation. Literature, too, finds its unique resonance during this season, and few writers accompany readers through reflective landscapes better than Mark Twain. His writings continue to illuminate the human condition with humour, irony, compassion, and wisdom. Though rooted in nineteenth-century America, Twain's fiction transcends time and geography, speaking to readers across generations and cultures. Born as Samuel Langhorne Clemens in 1835, Mark Twain emerged as one of America's greatest literary figures. He transformed ordinary experiences into extraordinary narratives and elevated regional storytelling into world literature. Through his novels, travel writings, essays, and short stories, Twain exposed hypocrisy, celebrated innocence, and questioned social conventions with remarkable wit. His works remain timeless because they are fundamentally concerned with universal human experiences.

The American humour tradition in fiction is rooted in vernacular speech, regional folklore, and the collision between grand ideals and mundane reality. Unlike the heavily understated, self-deprecating irony of British humour, American literary humour tends to be direct, observational, exaggerated, and deeply democratic—surfacing from the bottom up rather than trickling down from an elite class. Frontier Humour & Tall Tales: Emerging in the 19th century, writers like Washington Irving, the author of Rip Van Winkle; Thomas Chandler Haliburton; and Mark Twain blended tall tales, backwoods hyperbole, and regional dialects. It celebrated the resourceful, slightly slippery "common man" navigating a rough-and-tumble landscape.

As seen in Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, humour often arises through a seemingly innocent or unsophisticated narrator whose literal interpretation of a corrupt or hypocritical society exposes deep moral absurdities. In the 20th century, writers like Ring Lardner, James Thurber (the author of The Secret Life of Walter Mitty), and Dorothy Parker shifted the lens toward middle-class neuroses, domestic friction, and the quiet humiliation of modern life, contrasting daydream heroism against drab reality. Dark Humour and Satire: Post-WWII and contemporary fiction (such as Kurt Vonnegut's Harrison Bergeron or Philip Roth) embraced absurdist, dark, and black humour to cope with technological scale, existential dread, and political hypocrisy. Vernacular and Cultural Synthesis: As analysed in Constance Rourke's classic study American Humour, the tradition relies heavily on archetypes, the Yankee, the backwoodsman, and multicultural/immigrant voices—that constantly reinvent American speech and identity.

American humour refers collectively to the conventions and common threads that tie together humour in the United States. It is often defined in comparison to the humour of another country – for example, how it is different from British humour and Canadian humour. It is, however, difficult to say what makes a particular type or subject of humour particularly American. Humour usually concerns aspects of American culture and depends on the historical and current development of the country's culture. The extent to which an individual will personally find something humorous obviously depends on a host of absolute and relative variables, including, but not limited to, geographical location, culture, maturity, level of education, and context. People of different countries will therefore find different situations funny. Just as American culture has many aspects which differ from other nations, these cultural differences may be a barrier to how humour translates to other countries.

One leading analysis of American humour, the 1931 book American Humour: A Study of the National Character by Constance Rourke, identified the character of the "Yankee" as that first American comic figure, the first widely accepted American character that the nation could find funny, make fun of and even export for the amusement of the world – a gangly traveller who told stories, played elaborate practical jokes, was ingenuous, sly, perhaps uneducated. She reports that American comedy sprang forth after the American Revolution, when the country was "freed from the worry of self-preservation" and its citizens began to regard themselves as "works of art". American humour has more observational techniques. However, the style of observational humor is very much a staple of the American style of humour since it seeks to point out the aspects of American culture and social discourse which are obvious while at the same time highlighting their ridiculousness. Mark Twain set a literary tradition of its own. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is the celebration of childhood.

Among Twain's most beloved works, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer captures the spirit of childhood in a small Mississippi River town. The novel centres on Tom Sawyer, an imaginative and mischievous boy whose adventures range from harmless pranks to dangerous encounters.Tom represents youthful freedom and curiosity. Through him, Twain recreates the excitement, fears, and dreams that define childhood. The famous whitewashing episode remains one of literature's most entertaining illustrations of psychological ingenuity. Tom successfully persuades his friends to perform his work while making them believe they are privileged to do so.Beyond humour, the novel offers subtle social observations. Twain depicts the values and contradictions of American society through the eyes of children. Churches, schools, families, and community traditions become objects of both affection and gentle satire.

What continues to attract readers is the novel's warmth. While many literary works focus on adulthood and responsibility, Tom Sawyer celebrates imagination and adventure. It reminds readers of a period when the world seemed full of possibilities waiting to be discovered.Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884) can be called the' Great American Novel'. If Tom Sawyer is a celebration of childhood, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is a profound exploration of freedom and conscience. Often regarded as Twain's masterpiece, the novel follows Huck Finn and the runaway slave Jim as they journey along the Mississippi River.At first glance, the narrative appears simple. Beneath its adventurous surface, however, lies a powerful critique of racism, slavery, and social hypocrisy. Huck faces a moral conflict throughout the story.

Society teaches him that helping Jim escape is wrong. Yet his personal experience teaches him that Jim is a compassionate and dignified human being. Ultimately, Huck chooses loyalty to his friend over obedience to social convention.This moral struggle gives the novel extraordinary depth. Twain demonstrates that genuine morality often requires individuals to challenge accepted beliefs. The novel's critique of prejudice remains relevant in contemporary society.Equally significant is Twain's innovative use of language. Huck's authentic narrative voice brought a new realism to American fiction. The novel broke away from formal literary conventions and embraced the rhythms of everyday speech. More than a century later, Huckleberry Finn continues to provoke discussion about race, ethics, and the meaning of freedom.

His writings continue to illuminate the human condition with humour, irony, compassion, and wisdom. Though rooted in nineteenth-century America, Twain's fiction transcends time and geography, speaking to readers across generations and cultures. Born as Samuel Langhorne Clemens in 1835, Mark Twain emerged as one of America's greatest literary figures.

In The Prince and the Pauper, Twain turned to historical fiction while maintaining his commitment to social criticism. The novel tells the story of two boys who resemble each other physically but come from vastly different social backgrounds. One is Prince Edward of England; the other is a poor boy named Tom Canty.When they exchange identities, each experiences the realities of the other's world. The prince discovers the hardships of poverty, while Tom encounters the privileges and responsibilities of royalty.Through this imaginative premise, Twain highlights the arbitrary nature of social distinctions. Wealth and status, he suggests, do not determine human worth. Compassion, understanding, and character matter far more than inherited privilege.The novel appeals to readers because it combines entertainment with moral insight. Its adventurous plot and memorable characters serve a deeper purpose: encouraging empathy across social divisions.

One of Twain's most ambitious works, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court blends fantasy, science fiction, and satire. The protagonist, Hank Morgan, is transported from nineteenth-century America to the legendary court of King Arthur.Armed with modern knowledge, Hank attempts to transform medieval society through technology and rational thinking. Initially successful, his efforts eventually reveal the limitations of imposing progress without understanding cultural realities. Twain uses time travel not merely for amusement but for serious commentary. The novel satirises monarchy, organised religion, social hierarchy, and blind faith in technological advancement.

Remarkably, many of its themes remain contemporary. Questions regarding technological power, cultural intervention, and unintended consequences continue to occupy modern societies. Twain's vision demonstrates his extraordinary ability to anticipate future debates.Life on the Mississippi (1883) is part autobiography and part travel narrative, Life on the Mississippi reflects Twain's deep connection to the great river that shaped his imagination.Before becoming a famous author, Twain worked as a steamboat pilot. This experience provided material for many of his later writings. In Life on the Mississippi, he combines personal memories with historical observations and vivid descriptions of river culture.The Mississippi emerges not merely as a geographical feature but as a symbol of America itself. Through stories of towns, travellers, workers, and communities, Twain chronicles a changing nation.

The book reveals Twain's remarkable ability to transform personal experience into broader cultural commentary. It remains an invaluable portrait of nineteenth-century American life.Twain achieved early success with The Innocents Abroad, a travel account based on his journey through Europe and the Middle East.Unlike traditional travel writers, Twain approached foreign cultures with humour and scepticism. He questioned social pretensions, challenged romantic stereotypes, and exposed the absurdities of cultural tourism.His observations are often playful, occasionally irreverent, but consistently engaging. Readers encounter a narrator who refuses to accept conventional wisdom simply because it is widely accepted.The popularity of the book established Twain as a distinctive literary voice. More importantly, it demonstrated his talent for finding humour in the clash between expectations and reality.

Among Twain's most complex novels, Pudd'nhead Wilson explores race, identity, and social hierarchy in the American South.The story revolves around a child switched at birth, creating confusion about social status and racial identity. As the narrative unfolds, Twain exposes the irrational foundations of racial prejudice.The novel is noteworthy for its psychological sophistication and social analysis. It challenges readers to question assumptions about identity and belonging.Though darker in tone than many of Twain's other works, the novel demonstrates his growing concern with systemic injustice and moral responsibility.

Twain's Short Stories are marvels of world literature. Twain was equally gifted in the short-story form. Works such as The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County reveal his mastery of comic storytelling.These shorter pieces often rely on exaggeration, regional dialects, and unexpected conclusions. Yet beneath the humour lies a keen understanding of human behaviour.Twain recognised that people are often driven by vanity, ambition, greed, and self-deception. His stories expose these weaknesses without descending into cynicism. Instead, he invites readers to laugh at human folly while recognising their own imperfections.The accessibility of these stories has helped sustain Twain's popularity among readers of all ages.

Several qualities unite Twain's diverse body of work. Twain's humour is never merely decorative. He uses comedy to expose injustice, challenge authority, and reveal contradictions. Readers laugh, but they are also encouraged to think critically.His characters feel authentic because they possess recognisable strengths and weaknesses. Whether it is Huck Finn's moral uncertainty or Tom Sawyer's youthful exuberance, Twain creates individuals who remain memorable long after the story ends. Unlike many nineteenth-century writers, Twain avoids simplistic moral lessons. His characters often confront difficult choices without clear answers.

This complexity contributes to the enduring relevance of his fiction.Twain revolutionised American prose by embracing regional speech patterns and everyday language. His writing brought literary credibility to voices previously considered unsuitable for serious literature.The modern world differs greatly from the society Twain knew, yet his works continue to resonate. Readers still confront questions about prejudice, inequality, authority, technology, and personal freedom. Twain's fiction provides insight into these issues while remaining entertaining and emotionally engaging.

His novels also remind readers of literature's capacity to illuminate social realities without sacrificing narrative pleasure. Through humour and storytelling, Twain addresses profound concerns more effectively than many overtly political texts.In an era dominated by rapid technological change and information overload, his works encourage reflection, empathy, and critical thinking.As November sets in with its atmosphere of introspection, the writings of Mark Twain acquire special significance. His stories invite readers on journeys through rivers, kingdoms, villages, and distant lands, but they also guide them toward a deeper understanding of human nature.From the youthful adventures of Tom Sawyer to the moral courage of Huck Finn, from the social satire of The Prince and the Pauper to the technological warnings of A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, Twain's works remain astonishingly fresh. They entertain, challenge, and enlighten in equal measure.

More than a century after their publication, these classics continue to speak with clarity and force. Their humour remains delightful, their insights remain penetrating, and their humanity remains profound. In every season they offer companionship, but in the reflective quiet of November they seem especially alive, reminding us that great literature never grows old. That is the enduring miracle of Mark Twain: he wrote for his age, yet he belongs to all ages.

Author is International Tagore Awardee. He can be mailed at profratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

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

64 Fires Across Jammu

tenders allowed the blaze to spread to neighbouring shops and godowns.

He claimed only two fire tenders reached the spot nearly 90 minutes after the fire broke out despite the nearest fire station being just a few minutes away. He demanded accountability and action against officials if negligence was found.

Fire and Emergency Services officials, however, rejected the allegations, asserting that the distress call was attended to promptly. They said two fire tenders from the nearest station were dispatched immediately and additional vehicles from other stations were mobilised as the operation expanded.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the incident and directed officials to ensure immediate relief and assistance to affected traders. In a post on X, he said he had reviewed the situation and instructed officials to extend all necessary support.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed sympathy with the affected traders and directed the district administration to provide immediate relief. He ordered a comprehensive assessment of the losses and appropriate measures to assist affected businesses.

Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Dr Jitendra Singh said he was deeply shocked by the incident and expressed concern over allegations of a delayed firefighting response. He urged authorities to address the matter on priority.

Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, who visited the site, described the losses as enormous and called for a coordinated relief and rehabilitation package from both the Jammu and Kashmir Government and the Centre.

She noted that many traders operate with borrowed funds or life savings and that insurance coverage, where available, may not be sufficient to offset such extensive losses.

She also raised concerns over the alleged delay in the arrival of fire tenders and the adequacy of firefighting equipment, urging the government to provide financial assistance to help traders restart their businesses.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Jammu MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma and other political leaders visited the market and interacted with affected traders.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee demanded an inquiry into the alleged lapses in the firefighting response and sought an adequate relief package for those affected.

The party also called for a review of emergency preparedness during festivals such as Diwali, when the risk of fire incidents is higher—(KNO)

India, Saudi

opportunity to engage with dignitaries, reaffirming our shared commitment to serving pilgrims and enhancing the Haj experience," Rijiju had posted on X.

Rijiju also celebrated Diwali with members of the Indian diaspora and distinguished Saudi guests at a dinner hosted by Indian Consul General in Jeddah, Fahad Suri, at his residence.

"Great pleasure to be back in Jeddah as it's my third visit to Jeddah, and every visit has been memorable, meaningful, and full of purpose," the Union Minister had said, addressing the gathering.

Lok Bhavan CelebrateS

civilisational values.

"In the caves of the Himalayas, our sages and seers kindled the light of knowledge. On its peaks, the tradition of austerity flourished, and in its valleys flowed the streams of devotion, compassion, and humanity. The Ganga and Yamuna flowing from Gangotri and Yamunotri, Badrinath dedicated to Lord Vishnu, and Kedarnath, the sacred abode of Lord Shiva, all are invaluable symbols of our faith, our cultural continuity, and our civilisational identity," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the Ganga is not merely a river but a symbol of India's cultural heritage, spiritual traditions and life-giving values. He urged the younger generation to recognise the importance of preserving the purity and uninterrupted flow of the Ganga, describing it as both an environmental and moral responsibility.

Highlighting Uttarakhand's inclusive spiritual heritage, the Lieutenant Governor said Hemkund Sahib, Gurudwara Meetha Reetha Sahib and the Mindrolling Monastery are symbols of harmony, coexistence and mutual respect among diverse faiths. He observed that the State's fairs and festivals reflect the vibrancy of its cultural life and folk traditions.

"The proclamation of our ancient Vedic tradition is 'Ekam sad vipra bahudha vadanti', truth is one and the wise describe it in many ways. I believe that this diversity of Uttarakhand tells us that India's strength lies in the coexistence, mutual respect, and harmony of its diverse faiths. This is the distinctive character of our cultural heritage," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded Uttarakhand's contribution to literature, art, music and national service. Describing the State as both "Devbhoomi" and "Veerbhoomi", he expressed gratitude to the armed forces, veterans and families of brave soldiers from the region who have served the nation with distinction.

"In the field of painting, the Garhwal style, which developed in the seventeenth century, and the contribution of its great artists are invaluable chapters of our artistic heritage. In the world of music, Uttarakhand's folk songs are extremely popular both in India and abroad. It is our responsibility to make these traditions part of the creativity, innovation, and life of the new generation," he said.

Commending the developmental progress achieved under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted historic transformation in connectivity, education, healthcare, digital infrastructure and local economic activities such as homestays, organic farming, handicrafts, tourism and start-ups.

"Just as the Ganga and Yamuna, emerging from the soil of Uttarakhand, connect many regions and nourish India's public life, in the same way the cultural consciousness of "Devbhoomi" binds the entire nation in a thread of emotional unity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

LG, CM Express

fire incident at Warehouse, Jammu. I reviewed the situation last night and spoke with senior officials today, directing them to ensure immediate and comprehensive relief for all those affected," LG Manoj Sinha said.

He extended heartfelt sympathies to the business community and traders during this difficult time.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed deep grief over the massive fire incident at Bikram Chowk, Jammu, conveying his heartfelt sympathies to all those affected.

The Chief Minister directed the district administration to ensure immediate relief and extend all necessary assistance to the affected persons.

He also instructed the administration to undertake a thorough assessment of the damage and take appropriate measures to address the needs of those affected.

NGT Flags Gaps

motu over reports of shrinking and disappearing lakes and wetlands in Jammu and Kashmir. JammuKashmir Travel

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, along with Expert Members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, directed the JKPCC to file the fresh report at least a day before the next hearing, scheduled for February 26, 2027.

The tribunal noted that the JKPCC had submitted a report on October 1, 2026, identifying 27 wetlands measuring more than one hectare and located outside forest areas. However, the report was incomplete, with information from some districts still awaited.

The committee informed the tribunal that details from the Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Kupwara were pending and that an updated report would be submitted after receiving the information.

The report also highlighted concerns over water quality in several wetlands.

In Jammu, none of the three samples tested met the Class B primary water quality criteria for outdoor bathing. In Samba, only two of the nine samples met the prescribed standards, while the sample collected from Kathua complied with the criteria.

In Kashmir, four of the six wetlands tested in Kupwara failed to meet the Class B standards, mainly on account of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). The Rakhi Duslipora wetland in Baramulla also failed to meet the prescribed standards for BOD and dissolved oxygen. JammuKashmir Travel

The JKPCC had also sought details of individuals, agencies and departments responsible for violations of environmental norms in wetlands where water quality failed to meet prescribed standards, with a view to initiating corrective and punitive action.

The report further stated that the Rakh-i-Daslipora wetland was not found to exist at the site, while proprietary land in the area was being used for paddy cultivation.

Meanwhile, domestic effluent was identified as a source of pollution in the Mawasar wetland in Samba.

Govt To Audit

of textbooks, syllabus and other needs.

Moreover, a stake-holders meeting was held to ensure the clarity on fee, availability of textbooks in schools and coordination between government and private educational institutions in Kashmir—(KNO)

MeT Predicts Widespread

that fresh snowfall could disrupt traffic on important mountain passes and hilly roads, including Zojila, Sadhna Pass, Razdan Pass, Mughal Road and Sinthan Top.

Travellers, tourists, transporters and the general public have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly, check road and highway conditions before setting out and follow traffic advisories issued by the authorities.

The MeT Centre has also advised farmers to suspend harvesting activities during November 12 and 13 and ensure safe storage of crops that have already been harvested.

The Director MeT said temperatures could witness a significant decline following the precipitation, with daytime temperatures remaining around 5-8 degrees below normal during the subsequent period.

Meanwhile, weather conditions remained dry across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, with the Meteorological Centre recording no rainfall during the preceding 24 hours.

According to the department's station-wise data, Shopian recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.7 degrees Celsius, while Pulwama recorded minus 0.1 degrees Celsius. Srinagar recorded a minimum of 1 degree Celsius at the automatic weather station in the city.

The department has advised people, particularly those travelling through higher reaches, to exercise caution in view of the possibility of fresh snowfall and slippery road conditions—(KNO)

Apple Orchard

Residents in several areas said smoke from nearby orchards often spreads towards residential localities during evenings, causing discomfort to people with existing respiratory problems.

Sameer Ahmad, a resident of south Kashmir, said his father suffers from a pulmonary illness and experiences breathing difficulties whenever smoke from nearby orchards spreads across the area.

"When smoke covers the surroundings in the evening, it becomes difficult for him to breathe comfortably. People suffering from respiratory diseases are particularly affected," he said.

Apart from its impact on air quality, agricultural experts have also expressed concern over the damage caused to soil health by the burning of orchard residue.

An agricultural scientist associated with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) said open burning destroys beneficial microorganisms present in the soil and releases pollutants into the atmosphere.

He said orchard waste could instead be managed through environmentally friendly practices, which would help improve soil fertility while reducing pollution.

One of the suggested alternatives is composting fallen leaves and converting them into organic manure. Experts have also recommended introducing sheep grazing in orchards, explaining that animals feed on fallen leaves while their droppings enrich the soil with organic matter.

The scientist said the practice could be particularly useful in orchards where pruning is undertaken at an appropriate height, allowing sheep to move freely beneath the trees.

It is pertinent to mention here that in 2017, Tassaduq Mufti, the then coordinator of the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell, had called for an immediate ban on biomass burning in orchards. Subsequently, SKUAST-K and the Horticulture Department issued advisories encouraging growers to adopt scientific methods for managing agricultural residue.

Despite repeated concerns and recommendations, the practice remains prevalent, largely because orchard waste also serves as a source of fuel for rural households.

For many families, particularly in areas witnessing frequent electricity cuts during winter, Kangris remain an affordable and dependable heating arrangement.

Nawaaz Ahmad a resident of Aripal Tral in Pulwama, said unreliable electricity supply makes it difficult for households to completely depend on electric heating appliances.

"Electricity supply remains uncertain during winter. For many families, Kangris are the most dependable means of keeping warm, and charcoal is needed for them," he said.

Experts believe that discouraging open burning without providing practical alternatives may not bring the desired results, as the practice is closely linked to traditional heating requirements and rural household needs.

They have stressed the need for coordinated efforts by the Horticulture Department, agricultural institutions and environmental authorities to educate farmers about the consequences of open burning and facilitate the adoption of alternative methods.

They said farmers should be encouraged to convert orchard residue into compost and organic manure, while awareness campaigns should highlight the long-term benefits of maintaining orchard hygiene through scientific waste management.

Experts also emphasised that sustainable disposal of agricultural residue would not only help reduce seasonal pollution but also improve soil health and productivity.

They said a comprehensive approach involving farmers, government departments and agricultural scientists was necessary to address the problem, particularly as Kashmir enters the winter season, when air pollution can have more pronounced consequences for public health—(KNO)

Min Itoo Conducts

patient welfare must remain the foremost priority of every healthcare institution, Sakeena Itoo said that hospitals are meant to serve people with compassion, dedication and a strong sense of responsibility.

"Healthcare is not merely about infrastructure and medical equipment, it is equally about the quality of care, compassion and dignity with which patients are treated", the Minister said.

She stressed upon the hospital administration to ensure that all available facilities are optimally utilised and that no patient is made to suffer due to avoidable administrative delays or lack of coordination.

The Minister also underscored the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and sanitation across hospital premises, ensuring uninterrupted availability of essential medicines and strengthening emergency response mechanisms.

"Public healthcare institutions carry a huge responsibility towards society. There can be no compromise on patient care, hygiene, punctuality and accountability. Every doctor, paramedic and employee must perform their duties with utmost sincerity and dedication", she maintained.

The Minister directed the hospital administration to remain responsive to the needs of patients and their attendants and ensure that grievances brought to their notice are addressed promptly.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to strengthening the healthcare delivery system across Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister said that special attention is being accorded to upgrading medical infrastructure, improving institutional capacities and enhancing the quality of healthcare services, particularly in public medical institutions serving far-flung and rural areas.

"The objective is to make our public hospitals more accessible, efficient and patient-friendly. We will continue to review their functioning and take necessary measures to improve service delivery. The people must experience tangible improvements in the healthcare facilities available to them", she added.

The Minister reiterated that accountability, transparency and dedication would remain the guiding principles for improving the public healthcare system and directed the hospital administration to work towards ensuring better healthcare outcomes for the people.

'JKBOSE Class 10,

Chairman had informed that 2,70,000 students were enrolled for exams in all three classes. "There are 10 districts of the Kashmir region and six districts of winter zone areas of Jammu division," he said.

He also said that the Board has set up 2402 exam centres for all the three classes. "We have appointed the staff including superintendents, deputy superintendents and supervisors. So, that kind of process has already been completed."—(KNO)





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DLSA Budgam, TLSCs organise Week-long Legal Awareness Activities

GMK NEWS NETWORK



BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, in collaboration with all the Tehsil Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) of the district, organised a series of comprehensive legal awareness and outreach programmes across District Budgam during Legal Services Week 2026.

The week-long campaign was aimed at spreading awareness about the availability of free and competent legal aid, fundamental and statutory legal rights, access to justice and various welfare-oriented schemes launched by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

As part of the week-long observance, an extensive door-to-door awareness drive was also conducted through Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) deputed at various Legal Aid Clinics, Legal Literacy Clubs and other institutions across the district. The PLVs reached out to people at the grassroots level, particularly in rural and far-flung areas and sensitised them about their legal rights, the availability of free legal assistance and the role of Legal Services Institutions in ensuring that justice remains accessible to all irrespective of their social or economic background.

The week-long observance culminated in the celebration of Legal Services Day today, at the District Headquarter as well as at the headquarters of all Tehsil Legal Services Committees across District Budgam.

The occasion marked the successful conclusion of a series of awareness and outreach initiatives undertaken throughout the district to promote the objectives of the Legal Services Authorities Act and strengthen the delivery of legal aid services at the grassroots level.

On the occasion the programme held at ADR Centre DLSA BUdgam, resource persons including Advocate Mohammad Iqbal Wani, Aamir Hamid, Mehreen Zaffar and Advocate Feroz Ahmad Khan, addressed the gatherings and highlighted the significance of Legal Services Day, the objectives of the legal services movement and the vital role played by Legal Services Authorities in ensuring equal access to justice.

They further elaborated on the various provisions relating to free legal aid, the functioning of Legal Services Institutions and the different schemes and initiatives introduced by NALSA for the benefit of marginalised and weaker sections of society.

The resource persons emphasised that access to justice is a fundamental component of a just and equitable society and that lack of awareness, financial constraints or social barriers should never prevent any individual from seeking legal remedies. They also stressed the need to further strengthen legal awareness at the grassroots level and encouraged members of the public to approach DLSA Budgam and the concerned TLSCs for availing themselves of free legal services and assistance in appropriate cases.

Throughout the week, DLSA Budgam, in close coordination with the Tehsil Legal Services Committees at Magam, Chadoora, Charar-i-Sharief and Beerwah organised a range of awareness programmes, interactive sessions and outreach activities at different locations across the district. Special Legal Aid Desks were also established in the premises of all Subordinate Courts to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding legal aid services, guide litigants and members of the public and provide necessary assistance to eligible persons seeking legal support.

The awareness programmes primarily focused on the availability and benefits of free legal aid, various NALSA schemes, legal rights and entitlements of citizens, access to justice, the functioning of Legal Aid Clinics and the importance of Legal Literacy Clubs in promoting legal awareness among students and the general public. Special emphasis was laid on reaching out to rural and remote areas through door-to-door campaigns, public interactions and awareness sessions so that the benefits of legal services could reach the most deserving sections of society.

The initiatives also highlighted the important role of Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers in bridging the gap between legal institutions and the general public. Through their continued efforts, the participants were sensitised about the procedure for seeking free legal aid, the importance of timely legal assistance and the various avenues available for resolving disputes through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

The concluding programmes witnessed active participation from Panel Lawyers, DLSA staff members, Para Legal Volunteers, representatives of various institutions and members of the general public.

The participants appreciated the efforts made by DLSA Budgam and the concerned TLSCs in taking legal awareness initiatives to the doorsteps of the people and promoting a culture of legal awareness and accessibility.

All the activities organised across the district, were conducted under the guidance of Om Parkash Bhagat, Chairman, DLSA Budgam, and Tabasum Qadir Parray, Secretary, DLSA Budgam.

PMEGP loan fraud case

ED attaches properties worth Rs 10.63 crore

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it had provisionally attached 11 immovable properties worth Rs 10.63 crore in Srinagar and Bandipora districts in connection with the alleged misuse of the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). BuyMaps

In a statement, a spokesperson said the ED's Srinagar Zonal Office had attached the properties under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

He said the Provisional Attachment Order was issued in respect of 11 assets comprising land and buildings in Srinagar and Bandipora districts, which are allegedly in the possession of suppliers-cum-brokers, bank officials of J&K Bank and other persons involved in the alleged misuse of the PMEGP scheme.

"ED investigation was initiated on the basis of two FIRs registered by ACB and CBI, Srinagar, alleging misappropriation of PMEGP scheme loan amounts through criminal conspiracy between PMEGP borrowers, bank officials of Sumbal Branch and Gamud Gadhkhud Branch of J&K Bank and other unknown persons, who allegedly cheated the bank and misappropriated bank funds, causing wrongful loss to the bank and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves."

The spokesperson said the investigation revealed that PMEGP loans were availed by projecting dummy borrowers, using fake invoices of non-existent firms/companies and in criminal conspiracy with bank officials, including those of Sumbal and Gamud Gadhkhud branches of J&K Bank, and private persons-cum-brokers. The CBI and ACB had also registered separate FIRs in the matter in June 2026.



He said a survey conducted at the Sumbal and Gamud Gadhkhud branches of J&K Bank under Section 16 of the PMLA revealed 270 term loan accounts and an equal number of working capital accounts pertaining to PMEGP scheme loans. The non-performing assets (NPA) amount was found to be Rs 32 crore.

"The investigation further revealed that proceeds derived from the scheduled offences were diverted through bank accounts in multiple transactions and utilised for construction, renovation of assets and personal enrichment."

The investigation, carried out so far under the PMLA, revealed that Hilal Ahmad Wani and others played a major role in fraudulently availing PMEGP loans. Borrowers were allegedly induced to avail loans using KYC documents and other records, while fake invoices of non-existent firms registered in the names of suppliers-cum-brokers and/or their family members were used to secure loans in criminal conspiracy with J&K Bank officials.

The investigation traced the generation of proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 11.37 crore. These proceeds were diverted through multiple bank accounts, and part of the amount was utilised for the construction and renovation of assets held in the names of family members.

A substantial portion of the proceeds of crime was also siphoned off, establishing the accused persons' alleged involvement in their diversion, concealment, possession and use. Accordingly, 11 assets held under the control of suppliers-cum-brokers, bankers and one bank officer have been provisionally attached under Section 5(1) of the PMLA to safeguard the value of the proceeds of crime. Further investigation is underway.—(KNO)

BCS organises Training Programme on Eco-Friendly Construction Technologies

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A two-day training programme-cum-workshop on Cost-Effective, Eco-Friendly and Innovative Construction Technologies and Materials was organised at Building Centre Srinagar, functioning under the Housing and Urban Development Department.

The programme witnessed the participation of around 50 final-year Civil Engineering students from various technical institutions, providing them an opportunity to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical applications in the construction sector.

The primary objective of the training programme was to disseminate information about various low-cost, sustainable and innovative construction techniques developed by Building Centre Srinagar, while familiarising the participants with their practical applications and benefits.

During the workshop, demonstrations were conducted on low-cost housing technologies and alternative construction materials. The participants were also introduced to modular construction practices, standardisation techniques, and the development of testing and quality-control facilities to ensure the durability and reliability of construction materials.

Emphasis was laid on technology transfer and promoting the adoption of cost-effective and eco-friendly construction practices by taking innovations from the laboratory to the field, thereby encouraging future engineering professionals and construction stakeholders to adopt sustainable building solutions.

On the occasion, Project Manager, Building Centre Srinagar, Masroor Ahmad Shah, briefed the participants about the various benefits, structural viability and practical applications of cost-effective and eco-friendly construction materials.

In addition to technical briefings, detailed presentations on specialised structural aspects and hands-on practical sessions were conducted to provide students with comprehensive exposure to sustainable and hazard-resistant construction methodologies.

DLSA Srinagar celebrates Legal Services Day at ADR Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Under the directions of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman DLSA (Principal District Sessions Judge), Srinagar and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized week long celebration through PLVs at their respective Free Legal Aid Clinics and Legal Literacy Clubs, culminating with the concluding ceremony on the eve of Legal Services Day at the ADR Centre, Srinagar.

The concluding ceremony was attended by Secretary DLSA Srinagar, staff members and Para legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Srinagar.

The concluding ceremony was inaugurated by Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman DLSA Srinagar, who delivered the special address, interacted with the PLVs and highlighted their significance in the discharge of legal services duties, with emphasis on the importance of free legal aid and the vital role played by Legal Services Institutions in ensuring access to justice for all.

The Chairman also sensitized the participants about various modes of dispute resolution, including pre-litigation services, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.

The week long celebrations included organization of awareness programmes at Free Legal Aid Clinics and Legal Literacy Clubs, with the aim of sensitizing the general public about the legal aid services available to them through the distribution of pamphlets highlighting Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The Para Legal Volunteers along with Panel Lawyers also marked the day by organizing a rally from the ADR Centre to the Main Gate of the District Court Complex and also distributed pamphlets among the general public at the entrance of the court premises to create awareness about eligibility for free legal aid.

Email address: sohaibyou.79118@jk.gov.in Contact No: 0194-2480569

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
CITY DRAINAGE CIVIL DIVISION SMC
REGAL LANE SRINAGAR-190001

Gist of Short Term e-NIT_36_CDC_OF_2025-26
DATED:- 04-11-2026

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited Annual Rate Contract (percentage basis in accordance to the rate fixed by the Govt. from time to time) from Authorized Gas Distributors for below mentioned supply for the financial year 2026-27

S. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document (Non-refundable)	Time of Completion	Head of Account
1.	Rate contract for supply of commercial gas refilling-19 Kg cylinders for office use during the winter season 2026-27.	Rs.1000.00	Rs.100.00	31.03.27	2217

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ) , set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01.	Period of down loading of bidding documents.	05 -11-2026 from 10:00 A.M.
02.	Bid Submission Start Date	05 -11-2026 from 02:00 PM
03.	Bid Submission end Date	12 -11-2026 upto 4.00 PM
04.	Date & time of opening of online Bids	13 -11-2026 at 02.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer, City Drainage Civil Division, Regal Lane Srinagar OR any subsequent date convenient for the tender Opening Authority.

Documents to be uploaded		
a.	Tender Document Fee	Scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of Bank receipt. The amount should be deposited in the Municipal Account No: 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar . The tender document fee should be deposited between the date of issuance of NIT upto end date of submission of bid.
b.	Earnest Money Deposit	Earnest money deposit in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division Srinagar. The bidder has to upload documentary proof (scanned copy) of earnest money deposit pledged to Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division, Srinagar. In case of unsuccessful bidder, the EMD shall be released immediately after the opening of price bid. In case of successful bidder, EMD shall be released after submission of Performance Security.
c.	GST Registration	Valid scanned copy of GST Registration with latest return.
d.	Dealership of Gas Company	Scanned copy of authorized dealership of the Company.
e.	PAN	Valid scanned copy.

TERMS AND CODITIONS:-

I) The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of financial bids.
II) The Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division Srinagar reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders or any tender in part or whole without assigning any reasons thereof
III) Bidders are advised to read the NIT carefully before participate in the Bidding process.
IV) The earnest money deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be released only after the submission of performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG which will be released under rules after successful completion of the work, and incase of unbalanced bid, Additional Performance Security is required which shall also be released under rules after successful completion of work. However, the EMD of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released immediately after the opening of price bid.
V) In case of tie bids, the department shall identify the tied bidder and shall select the L1 based on the draw lots, in presence of tied bidders, if they chose to be present.
VI) reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders or any tender in part or whole without assigning any reasons thereof.
VII) All other terms and condition shall remain same as laid down in the PWD form No. 25.

For further details, terms and conditions log on www.jktenders.gov.in.

No.CDC/C/ 5206-08
Date:- 04-11-2026

C.Optr. C.C H.A JE/HD Tech. Officer

sd/-
(Er. Sohaib Yousuf)
Executive Engineer
City Drainage Civil Division
SMC Srinagar

DIPK-7491-26
DT: 09/11/2026

GRATITUDE

مَنْ لَمْ يَشْكُرِ النَّاسَ لَمْ يَشْكُرِ اللَّهَ

"He who does not thank people does not thank Allah." (Hadith)

With hearts full of gratitude, yet profoundly broken by an irreplacable loss, our family extends our deepest and most sincere thanks to every individual who stood by us during this time of immense grief following the sad demise of our beloved Mrs. Khurshid Ahmad Shah.

We are profoundly grateful to all our friends, relatives, well-wishers from our Mohalla, and distinguished dignitaries. In particular, we express our heartfelt thanks to:

The Hon'ble MLA, Pampore, Justice Hasnain Masoodi
Mirwaiz Molvi Riyaz Ahmad Hamdani
Qazi Abdul Qayoom (Darul Uloom Shahi Hamdan, Pampore)
The esteemed members of Darul Uloom Shahi Hamdan, Pampore
The Auqaf Islamia Trust, Pampore (through Mr. Mohd. Shafi Basu)

Whether you visited our residence to offer condolences, reached out telephonically to express your solidarity, or silently kept our family in your prayers, your kindness and deep sympathy have given us the strength to bear this monumental sorrow.

Since it is impossible to thank each sympathizer individually, please accept this as a personal expression of our core-felt appreciation for your boundless support, warmth, and solidarity during this difficult time.

May Allah Almighty bless every one of you with Khair-e-Baqat and reward your kindness abundantly.

Grieved
Haji Mohammad Muneer Ahmad Shah & Family

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVERNMENT B.SC. NURSING COLLEGE
SRINAGAR-190001

Subject: Selection list of Candidates for left over seats in B.Sc Nursing Programme in Govt. B.Sc Nursing College Dewan Bagh Srinagar.

SELECTION LIST NO. 02

Refl: Selection List No. 01 issued vide Endorsement No. CON/PMS/2703-11 Dated: 29-10-2026.
Ref 2: Extension Notice Issued vide Endorsement No. JKNC-26/157/1722-1727 Dated: 02-112026

In continuation to Selection list No 01 and in pursuance to Extension notice issued vide Endorsement No JKNC-26/157/1722-1727 Dated: 02-11-2026 regarding the extension of admission date against left over seats in respect of B.Sc Nursing Programme for the academic session 2026-27, the college has finalised the selection list No. 02 due to non -Joining of students at "Annexure A" as per the eligibility criteria and the availability of vacant seats. The selected candidates are hereby informed to report office of the Principal Govt. B.Sc Nursing College Dewan Bagh Sringar for completing admission Formalities . The necessary documents to be submitted for completing admission formalities are attached at Annexure "B".

The last date for admission is 14th November -2026 upto 01:00 PM.

NO: CON/PMS/ 2883-90
Dated: 09-11-2026

Vice Principal
GOVERNMENT B.Sc. NURSING COLLEGE
Srinagar

DIPK-7514-26
DT: 09/11/2026

'IPL does not need a window, it creates its own': Lalit Modi 'seriously' pushes for change

IANS



NEW DELHI: Lalit Modi, the Indian Premier League (IPL) founder, has again pushed for the tournament not to have an ICC-allocated window and to move it from the current window to either a January start or an October-April window.

The IPL is a domestic tournament, and therefore the BCCI can determine its own calendar, while coordinating international player availability, Modi has asserted.

Highlighting that the league is big on its own and needs to continue having "sustainable" growth, Modi stated that the tournament "does not need a window" and is capable enough to "create its own".

"There seems to be a fundamental misunderstanding about the IPL and the international cricket calendar. A lot of cricket journalists and cricket administrators have reached out to me either scared or giving me Gyan on the value chain. I thought it best to tell my views bluntly. The IPL does not need the ICC to give it a window.

"The IPL is a domestic tournament owned and operated by the BCCI. The BCCI can decide when to stage it. Of course, international commitments and player releases must be managed, but that is entirely different from seeking permission to exist in a particular part of the calendar," the IPL founder wrote in a social media post.

He further highlighted that the tournament is no longer one trying to find its feet but a major commercial platform for Indian cricket and for overseas players.

"And here is the bigger point. The IPL is no longer a tournament trying to find its place in world cricket. World cricket must recognise the place the IPL has already earned.

"I know this better than most. I created the IPL when many believed it would never work.

"In 2008, India's movie, television and entertainment industries initially thought they could compete with it. They learnt very quickly what happens when the IPL captures the attention of a nation. Film releases were postponed, prime-time television was disrupted, and entertainment schedules were rewritten. The IPL didn't ask Bollywood for a window. Bollywood adjusted to the IPL," he added.

He also compared the tournament to having similar importance to cricket as the Premier League has to football. "Now imagine the IPL choosing its own optimal calendar. Others may try to counter-programme it. They are free to do so. But commercial reality is a very unforgiving umpire.

"The world's leading cricketers understand where the financial opportunities are. For many international players, an IPL contract can represent a substantial proportion of their annual cricket earnings. That economic gravity is not going away.

"The IPL has become to cricket what the English Premier League is to football: a global sporting and commercial powerhouse with the ability to shape the wider ecosystem.

"And like the EPL, its strength comes from the product, the clubs, the supporters, the talent and the commercial model—not from asking competing competitions to clear the calendar," he added.

The now-discontinued Champions League T20 was also one of the most attractive franchise tournaments in the early 2010s. Over the years, there have been voices calling to revive the tournament, which pits top league teams from across the world to play a global club tournament, similar to the European Champions League in football. However, Modi was not in favour of its revival.

"Why don't I support reviving the Champions League T20? I was involved in creating the original Champions League concept. It made commercial sense in its time. But the world has changed.

"Today, IPL franchise ownership groups have expanded across several international T20 leagues. The prospect of teams under common ownership competing against each other creates obvious governance and conflict-of-interest questions.

Jemimah returns to India's squads for all-format tour of South Africa, Amanjot included in T20Is

IANS



NEW DELHI: After recovering from a hamstring injury and returning to action via the Senior Women's T20 Trophy, Jemimah Rodrigues has made a comeback to India's squads for next month's all-format tour of South Africa. Seam-bowling all-rounder Amanjot Kaur is included in the T20I side after recovering from a back injury.

The all-format tour, which includes one Test, three ODIs and three T20Is, will take place from December 9 to 30. The high-grade hamstring tear sustained in The Hundred led to Jemimah being ruled out of India winning the Asia Cup, retaining its gold medal in Asian Games and winning the white-ball home series against Zimbabwe.

Jemimah returned to competition action on November 2 via Mumbai's clash against Uttar Pradesh, where she hit an unbeaten 29. After smashing 58 against Delhi, Jemimah slammed a 47-ball 107 against Puducherry, as Mumbai qualified for knockout stage of the Senior Women's T20 Trophy, which commences later this week in Ahmedabad.

Jemimah's return strengthens India's batting group in the white-ball formats. Amanjot, meanwhile, has recovered from a back injury which ruled her out of action since the T20I series in South Africa earlier this year. After making a comeback for Punjab in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy, Amanjot is back in the India T20I side.

With Jemimah and Amanjot returning to the T20I side, Minnu Mani and Jintimani Kalita make way. Smriti Mandhana will captain India in Test cricket for the first time through the upcoming tour of South Africa. Deepti Sharma is vice-captain for the one-off Test, while Uma Chetry has been left out of the red-ball team and seam-bowling all-rounder Jintimani Kalita is included. Rest of India's squad largely remains the same for all three formats.

India's tour of South Africa starts with the one-off Test at St George's Park in Gqeberha from December 9. It is followed by three ODIs to be played at Boland Park in Paarl on December 16, Newlands in Cape Town on December 19 and Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein on December 22.

The T20I series begins at Willowmoore Park in Benoni on December 26, while the last two matches are at Senwes Park in Potchefstroom on December 29 and 30. The T20I series will be of immense importance to India and South Africa to fine-tune their preparations for the 2027 Women's Champions Trophy, to be played in Vadodara and Mumbai. Incidentally, the two venues will also host the 2027 Women's Premier League (WPL) from January 14 to February 7.

India's Test squad: Smriti Mandhana (C), Shafali Verma, Pratika Rawal, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh (WK), Yastika Bhatia (WK), Deepti Sharma (VC), Sree Charani, Sneh Rana, Kranti Gaud, Nandni Sharma, Jintimani Kalita, and Sayali Satghare

'India is ready for football': John Abraham backs Indian Super League's growing digital reach

IANS



NEW DELHI: Bollywood actor and NorthEast United FC owner John Abraham has expressed confidence in the growth of Indian football, pointing to the strong digital viewership figures of the ongoing 2026-27 Indian Super League (ISL) season as evidence of the sport's expanding audience in the country. Abraham believes the rise in online engagement will eventually translate into bigger crowds at stadiums, with the league currently in its fifth week of matches.

Abraham was present in Goa on Thursday to watch NorthEast United FC register a 2-0 victory over Churchill Brothers. Speaking about the league's early response, he highlighted its reach on YouTube, where the first five matches of the season's opening week attracted 65 million views and reached 52 million viewers.

"I've been watching all the games, and it's been a lot of fun. The ratings on YouTube are shattering records, and that just shows that India is ready for football. We're ready for Indian football, and I'm very excited. It's only a matter of time, and I'm saying this as a prophecy – the stands are going to be full. The stands are going to fill up completely. So, all credit to all of us who are partaking in this process," said Abraham.

The NorthEast United owner sees the viewership figures as an encouraging sign for a sport that has been working to widen its following beyond its established fan base. The early numbers suggest that digital platforms are helping the ISL reach a sizeable audience, even as clubs and organisers look to convert that interest into greater attendance at venues.

Khajuria to lead Jammu and Kashmir in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, Umran, Brijesh included

IANS

NEW DELHI: Opener Shubham Khajuria has been named the captain of Jammu and Kashmir for the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, with pacer Brijesh Sharma and speedster Umran Malik finding spots in the 15-member squad.

All of J&K's matches will be played in Indore, where the tournament's league stage runs from November 14 to 26. Brijesh played for J&K age-group teams before relocating to Delhi to train under coach Deepak Punia, a former pacer who played in the Ranji Trophy.

He earned his IPL 2026 contract with Rajasthan Royals (RR) on the back of a strong showing in the 2025 Bengal Pro T20 League, where he took 11 wickets in seven games for Smashers Malda.

In IPL 2026, Brijesh picked 14 wickets in 13 games in his debut season for Rajasthan Royals (RR), who got him for a base price of Rs 30 lakh. In August this year, Brijesh was named in J&K's list of players who played practice games against Uttarakhand from August 10-17 in Srinagar.

The selectors have also picked two specialist wicketkeepers in Dikshant Kundal and Rydham Sharma. The remaining members of the squad include Abdul Samad, Qamran Iqbal, Yawer Hassan, Kawalpreet Singh, Sahil Lotra, Vanshaj Sharma, Abid Mushtaq, Sunil Kumar and Lone Nasir Muzaffar.

Drawn in Elite Group B, J&K will begin their campaign against Delhi on November 14. It is followed by them taking on Tamil Nadu on November 16. J&K will then take on Saurashtra (November 18), Bihar (November 20), Punjab (November 22), Railways (November 24) and Haryana (November 26).

Craig Ervine becomes oldest Zimbabwean to hit Test hundred

IANS



SHARJAH: Craig Ervine achieved a significant milestone during the ongoing first Test against Afghanistan at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium here as he became the oldest player from Zimbabwe to score a Test hundred.

At 41y and 82d, Ervine broke the previous record of Brendan Taylor - which was also created during the same Test - when he hit his fifth Test hundred during the second innings of the opening Test against Afghanistan.

Ervine is the second oldest batter to hit a Test hundred in this century after Pakistan's Misbah-ul-Haq, who was 42 years and 47 days when he smashed 114 against England at Lord's in 2016

Earlier, Taylor created the record for being the oldest Zimbabwean Test centurion during the same match. He made 131 from 168 balls in the first innings of the Test as Zimbabwe made 504, with captain Brian Bennett also hitting a 128.

During the same Test, Ervine also completed his 2000 Test runs, making him the seventh batter from his nation to have reached the mark.

The ongoing Test between Zimbabwe and Afghanistan is heading to a draw as Zimbabwe were at 372/5 at tea break in the second innings on Day 5. With only one session remaining and one more innings left, a draw is on the wall.

The Chevrons made 504 in the first innings as Taylor and Bennett smashed centuries and Wessly Madhevere hit a fifty. In reply, Afghanistan put up 514 and took a 10-run lead. Sediqullah Atal (105), Rahmanullah Zadran (113) and captain Rahmat Shah (173) made centuries to lead the team in the reply.

Zimbabwe had another good show with the bat during the second innings as Taylor made 82, Bennett scored 58 before Ervine went on to hit a hundred and Antum Naqvi made 62.

3rd ODI: India eye series-clinching win against injury-hit NZ

IANS



HAMILTON: India will look to wrap up the five-match ODI series with two games to spare when they take on New Zealand in the third match here at Seddon Park on Tuesday. Leading 2-0 after back-to-back victories in rain-affected encounters in Auckland and Wellington, Shubman Gill's side will be keen to maintain their winning momentum, while Mitchell Santner's hosts face the prospect of another series defeat after also losing the preceding T20I contest 2-3.

India's bowling attack has been the defining factor in the series, with New Zealand struggling to negotiate the visitors' pace-heavy approach. After being restricted to 185 in the opening ODI, the hosts managed only 134 in Wellington, where Gurnoor Brar delivered a match-winning and his career-best spell of 4-30.

Anshul Kamboj and Axar Patel also made important contributions, leaving New Zealand's batting unit with plenty to address before the Hamilton encounter.

Daryl Mitchell has been one of the few positives for the hosts, scoring 55 in the second ODI, while Mitchell Santner contributed 31. However, the inability of the top order to provide a substantial platform has repeatedly exposed the middle order. With the series on the line, players such as Will Young, Henry Nicholls, Tom Latham and Glenn Phillips will need to shoulder greater responsibility against India's disciplined seamers.

New Zealand's preparations have also been disrupted by injuries. Lockie Ferguson has been ruled out of the final two ODIs with a right-calf tear, while Blair Tickner will miss the next two matches after sustaining a blow to his helmet in Wellington and being placed under the mandatory seven-day stand-down protocol.

Kristian Clarke has been brought into the squad as cover, adding another inexperienced option to the bowling group. As a result, New Zealand announced different squads for the third and fourth ODIs on Monday, while also mentioning that the squad for the fifth and final game will be named in due course.

For India, the challenge will be to translate their dominance with the ball into a more convincing batting performance. While Virat Kohli's 74 in the first ODI provided the foundation for victory, the top order has not consistently delivered in the second match, where the visitors were reduced to 113/7 before rain intervened. KL Rahul's unbeaten 26 proved crucial in ensuring India stayed just four runs ahead on the DLS par score.

Seddon Park offers India an opportunity to settle the contest, but New Zealand will draw confidence from playing at home and will be desperate to produce a more complete performance. A victory for the visitors would seal the series, while the hosts must win to keep their hopes alive.

When: November 10, Tuesday, 7:30 AM IST

Where: Seddon Park, Hamilton

Where to watch: The match will be shown live on the Sony Sports Network channels on TV, and live streaming is available on the Sony LIV app and website.

Squads:

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (captain), Michael Bracewell, Kristian Clarke, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher, Kyle Jamieson, Nick Kelly, Tom Latham (wk), Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Tim Seifert, Nathan Smith, Will Young

India: Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill (captain), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Anshul Kamboj, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh, Gurnoor Brar, Naman Dhir, Auqib Nabi, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan

