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Manoj Sinha
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I spoke with senior officials, Director, SKIMS, and the Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal regarding the unfortunate road accident at Sumbal Bala, Ganderbal. 8 injured tourists from Gujarat and West Bengal have been referred to SKIMS. I have directed the officials and the Director, SKIMS to ensure the best possible treatment for the injured. Praying for their speedy recovery.

CM Omar Reviews Progress Of SASCI Works



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of works and projects taken up under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), taking stock of financial and physical performance, funds utilisation and plans for the coming financial years.

The review covered the physical and financial progress of projects undertaken during FY 2025-26, availability of funds and expenditure targets for FY 2026-27, besides steps taken for effective implementation of projects during FY 2027-28.

The Chief Minister reviewed progress across key sectors, including Public Works, Jal Shakti, Youth Services and Sports, Power Development, and Housing & Urban Development.

The Chief Minister called for special focus to be given to Disaster Management component, aimed at strengthening disaster mitigation and resilience, besides restoring infrastructure damaged in natural disasters.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Ministers Ali Mohammad Sagar, Javed Rana, Javid Dar, Mir Saifullah and Shamim Firdous; Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, senior officers of the Finance Department and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed expediting SASCI Part-I works and ensuring full utilisation of approved funds by March 2027 to qualify for the second instalment. He stressed strict adherence to revised deadlines for completion of works under the SASCI 2025-26 Disaster management Component and directed departments to achieve the prescribed financial targets within the stipulated period.

Emphasising financial discipline and transparency, the Chief Minister directed strict compliance with Public Financial Management System (PFMS) uploads and timely submission of action plans on BEAMS. He also called for the closure of all Single Nodal • P-06

Pampore's Saffron Fields Draw Tourists Despite Poor Bloom

Locals Seek Better Facilities To Boost Saffron Tourism

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Despite a relatively poor flowering this season, the saffron fields of Pampore in south Kashmir's Pulwama district are attracting tourists from different parts of the country, with hundreds of visitors arriving daily to witness the seasonal bloom and experience the fragrance of Kashmir's world-famous spice.

Known as the saffron capital of Kashmir, Pampore has witnessed a steady flow of tourists over the past few weeks, with visitors spending time in the fields, capturing photographs and purchasing saffron directly from local growers and young vendors.

Although the flowering has remained below expectations at several places, the flowers that have bloomed have added vibrant shades of purple, maroon and yellow to the fields, creating a picturesque landscape that has become a new attraction for tourists visiting the Valley.



"Tourists can be seen visiting the saffron fields throughout the day. The flowering has been late this year at several locations, and the number of visitors is increasing with each passing day," Ghulam Rasool Mir, a resident, said.

He said many tourists are particularly interested in witnessing saffron cultivation closely, as they usually hear about the famous Pampore saffron but rarely get an opportunity to see the flowers in their natural surroundings.

Nadeem Ahmad, another resident, said saffron fields are gradually emerging as an additional attraction alongside established tourist destinations such as Dal Lake, Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

"Tourists are fascinated by the unique fragrance of saffron flowers. Many of them also purchase the spice directly from local sellers, which provides an opportunity for people associated with saffron cultivation to earn additional income," he said.

During their interaction, several tourists said they had planned their Kashmir visits around the saffron flowering season to experience something different from conventional tourist destinations.

Krishna, a tourist from Gujarat, said visiting Pampore's saffron fields had been a long-standing wish.

"Visiting Kashmir and spending time in these fields was my dream, and I am happy that it has finally come true. I have visited Gulmarg and Sonamarg and am now heading towards Pahalgam. Kashmir is truly a paradise, but spending time among the saffron flowers will remain one of the most memorable experiences of my trip," he said.

Other tourists described the visit as a unique experience, saying witnessing saffron flowers in the fields and learning about the cultivation of one of the world's most expensive spices made their Kashmir trip more memorable. • P-06

VISITING KASHMIR AND SPENDING TIME IN THESE FIELDS WAS MY DREAM, AND I AM happy that it has finally come true. I have visited Gulmarg and Sonamarg and am now heading towards Pahalgam. Kashmir is truly a paradise, but spending time among the saffron flowers will remain one of the most memorable experiences of my trip,"

J&K To Witness Rain, Snowfall Over Next Three Days



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness widespread rain and snowfall from November 12, with heavy snowfall expected in higher reaches of north Kashmir, prompting authorities in Bandipora and Anantnag districts to issue weather and travel advisories on Tuesday.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather with brief spells of light rain or snow at isolated places on November 11. However, a fresh Western Disturbance is likely to affect the region from November 12, bringing light to moderate rain and snowfall at many places across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the forecast, higher reaches of Kupwara and Bandipora districts are likely to receive moderate to heavy snowfall from the forenoon or afternoon of November 12 till late night on November 13, the weather department said.

Popular tourist destinations, including Gulmarg and Sonamarg, may also witness the • P-06

'Azad Kashmir' Should Be Called 'PoK,' Says JAAC Leader



GMK NEWS NETWORK

MIRPUR: Sardar Umar Nazir Kashmiri, a leader of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), announced in that the term "Azad Kashmir" should no longer be used and that the territory should instead be referred to as "Pakistani-occupied Kashmir."

According to the announcement, Kashmiri said, "From today onward, the name Azad Kashmir should no longer be written or used. Instead, it should be written and referred to everywhere as Pakistani-occupied Kashmir."

The JAAC leader's call came amid heightened restrictions and warnings over the situation in the region.

The security situation in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) has deteriorated sharply after Pakistani security forces launched an operation against protesters in Rawalakot, reportedly killing several civilians and injuring scores of others.

The JAAC's agitation centres on demands for affordable electricity, employment opportunities, greater political representation and political autonomy. The movement has gained momentum amid longstanding complaints of economic neglect, • P-06

NC United, Opposition Spreading Canards: Sakeena Itoo

WARIS FAYAZ

GULMARG: Terming reports of differences within the National Conference as "exaggerated narratives" being propagated by the opposition, Health Minister Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday said that the party is united and its leaders are standing together.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the inauguration of the New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) building at Chukkar Kunzer, Itoo, said: "National Conference is intact. We are one family. Opposition has nothing to offer and they are spreading canards to create confusion."

Reiterating the party's commitment on the issues of Article 370, Article 35A and restoration of statehood, the Minister said these remained central to the



National Conference's political agenda.

She said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, herself and other party legislators have consistently raised these issues, adding that the Chief Minister had also highlighted them at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

Earlier, Itoo inaugurated the newly constructed NTPHC building at Chukkar Kunzer, stating that the facility had been completed after a delay of 13 years.

"Thank God, this project has finally been completed. Those responsible could not complete it during those years, but today, by the grace of Allah, we have completed it under the present government led by Omar Abdullah Sahab," she said.

The Minister said the government is also taking steps to shift public facilities operating from rented accommodations to government-owned buildings, particularly in the health and education sectors.

She said such initiatives would continue to improve infrastructure and ensure better patient care for the people—(KNO)

NC Begins Formation Of Ministerial Advisory Groups

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a move aimed at placating legislators upset over the recent cabinet reshuffle-cum-expansion, the ruling National Conference (NC) is set to constitute advisory groups of MLAs attached to ministers.

Initiating the process, NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah has written to all party legislators, asking them to submit their preferences regarding the ministers with whom they would like to be associated.

The decision to constitute informal advisory groups attached to ministers was taken during a meeting between the NC leadership and dissenting legislators held on November 6 at Dr Abdullah's residence here.

According to the letter, the legislators will act as a bridge between the party and the government. It states that ministers will be required to hold regular meetings with their advisory groups and keep them informed about policy initiatives and the progress being made in their respective departments.

The communication further states that each legislator can be a member of up to two advisory groups.

MLAs have been asked to submit, in writing, the names of three ministers in order of preference.

"The lists will be prepared and notified. Let us ensure that all legislators send in their preferences. Kindly complete this exercise within two weeks," the letter states—(KNO)

Developed Countries Must Fulfil Climate Finance Obligations: India At COP31

IANS

NEW DELHI: India has called on developed countries to fulfil their climate finance obligations under Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement and reaffirmed its commitment to climate multilateralism, seeking a fair, equitable and ambitious outcome at the UNFCCC COP31 being held in Antalya, Turkey, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said on Tuesday.

"On climate finance, India emphasised that public finance from developed countries remains central to catalysing climate action in developing countries and strengthening adaptation finance flows to address their vulnerabilities," the ministry said in a press release.



Delivering India's Opening Statement at COP31, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Narendra Bhooshan expressed gratitude to Turkey and Australia for their leadership of COP31 and stated that India aligns itself with the statements made by G77 and China, LMDC, and BASIC.

"It underscored the fundamental importance of Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, which establishes the obligation of developed countries to provide financial resources to developing countries," the ministry said.

India underlined that the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement remain the most inclusive platforms where every country has a voice, and reaffirmed its faith in the process, rooted in equity and the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).

"Highlighting the growing challenges posed by the prospect of crossing 1.5°C warming, India stressed that equity has become particularly urgent to ensure that no one is left behind in the collective effort to address climate change," the ministry said.

India also underscored that just transition and meeting adaptation needs remain significant • P-06

Polling For 8 Ladakh Hill Councils On Dec 4

AGENCIES

LEH: The Ladakh Administration on Tuesday announced the schedule for elections to the eight Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs), with polling scheduled to be held on December 4.

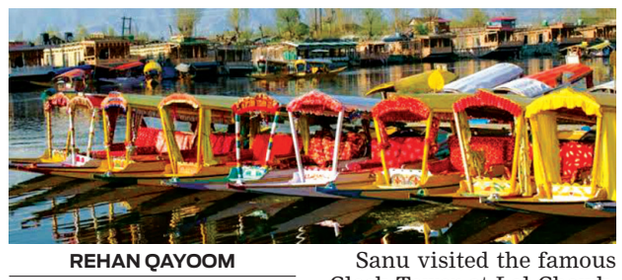
The election schedule was announced amid opposition from various groups in Ladakh, with Kargil observing a complete shutdown on Tuesday against holding the LAHDC elections during winter. Several groups, including the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, have demanded postponement of the polls until after the winter season.

According to a notification issued by the State Election Commission, Ladakh, the election process will begin with the filing of nominations.

The last date to file nomination papers was fixed on November 17. This will be followed by a scrutiny • P-06

Kumar Sanu In Valley, Calls Kashmir 'Heaven On Earth'

'King Of Melody' Enjoys Dal Lake Shikara Ride, Visits Lal Chowk



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Renowned Bollywood playback singer Kumar Sanu, popularly known as the 'King of Melody', was seen enjoying a shikara ride on the famous Dal Lake in Srinagar on Tuesday during his ongoing visit to Kashmir.

Appreciating the Valley's natural beauty and warm hospitality, the celebrated singer called Kashmir "Heaven on Earth" and praised its peaceful atmosphere.

Sanu visited the famous Clock Tower at Lal Chowk, where he called Kashmir "Heaven on Earth", appreciating its scenic surroundings and peaceful atmosphere.

He said that the situation in Kashmir was absolutely fine and encouraged people from across the country to visit the Valley and experience its natural beauty and hospitality.

The singer also expressed appreciation for the warmth and affection extended to him by the people of Kashmir.

Sanu was • P-06

Urs of Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RA) attracts thousands of devotees across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK



KISHTWAR: The 351st annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RHA) was observed with immense devotion here, drawing devotees from across district Kishtwar and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib, one of Kishtwar's most venerated saints, symbolizes the area's shared cultural heritage and interfaith harmony. Every year, thousands of people from diverse backgrounds and regions gather at his shrine to pay homage and seek blessings.

The district administration in collaboration with Auqaf Islamia Kishtwar, have made seamless arrangements to ensure the peaceful observation of the Urs. A significant number of devotees visited the shrine, with necessary provisions in place to facilitate the smooth movement of the Ziareens.

The district administration, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, ensured comprehensive arrangements for the provision of essential facilities to the devotees, including uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, essential supplies, security, transport and sanitation, thereby facilitating the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the Urs.

Additionally, a control room was established by the district administration in coordination with the Police Department and District Information Centre Kishtwar to assist pilgrims throughout the Urs. A help desk was also set up by the district administration for the convenience of the pilgrims.

Besides, duty magistrates were deployed at various locations and at the venue to ensure a hassle-free, smooth and safe celebration of the Urs.

Leopard Mauls 6-Year-Old to Death in Baramulla's Kreeri

Fourth attack in belt sparks massive outrage against Wildlife Dept

IRFAN TILGAMI



BARAMULLA: A pall of gloom descended on Kalantra- Kreeri belt of North Kashmir's Baramulla district after a six-year-old was mauled to death by a leopard inside an orchard.

The minor victim, identified as Kifayat Ramzan Bhat, son of Mohammad Ramzan Bhat, a resident of Kalantra, was the only brother among four sisters.

According to eye-witnesses, the tragic incident occurred when the boy had accompanied his mother to a nearby orchard. A leopard lurking in the bushes suddenly pounced on the child, inflicting critical neck and head injuries before escaping into the nearby area.

Hearing the mother's cries for help, locals rushed to the spot and immediately evacuated the profusely bleeding boy to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Kalantra. Doctors there provided initial aid and referred him to the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Kreeri in critical condition, where medical officers declared him brought dead on arrival.

Heart-wrenching scenes were witnessed in Kalantra as the body of the young boy reached home, with hundreds of mourners gathering to console the bereaved family.

The fatal mauling has triggered strong resentment against the Wildlife Protection Department, with residents accusing officials of gross negligence despite repeated SOS calls.

"When we informed the department about leopard sightings earlier, they sent just a single employee without any tranquilliser gun, net, or basic capturing gear," furious residents alleged, stating that their repeated pleas to set up cages were ignored.

This is the fourth wildlife attack in the Kreeri area in recent months, leaving villagers in a state of constant terror. Earlier, two attacks were reported in nearby Wagila where a minor was mauled and injured, and six sheep were killed in a separate incident while another minor girl was injured in an attack at Kokothal.

Following the tragedy, teams from the Wildlife Control Rooms in Kreeri and Tangmarg reached the village and launched an extensive combing operation to track down the animal.

Speaking to reporters, Range Officer Wildlife Tangmarg, Shahid Sultan, urged locals to remain vigilant and appealed to parents not to let children venture into or near orchards unattended.

"The terrain in this belt is hilly and three kilometers away from village making the presence of wild animals a constant possibility. While our teams are on the ground conducting searches, public caution is vital to prevent further loss of life," the Range Officer said.

Body of Sopore MBBS student found dead in Bangladesh laid to rest in Sopore

BILAL DAR



BARAMULLA: The mortal remains of a 26-year-old MBBS student from north Kashmir's Sopore, who was found dead in Bangladesh, reached his native village in Dangerpora on Tuesday, where he was laid to rest after funeral prayers, family members said.

The Nimaz-e-Janaza of Adnan Altaf Rather, a resident of Dangerpora in Sopore and son of Mohammad Altaf Rather, was offered at 11:30 am (Tuesday), following which he was buried, the family said.

Rather was pursuing his MBBS at Eastern Medical College in Cumilla, Bangladesh. He had reportedly gone missing on the night of November 2 after leaving his college premises. His body was recovered from a pond in Monipur village of Cumilla's Burichang upazila on November 4.

The circumstances surrounding his death remain unclear, and Bangladeshi authorities are investigating the case. The repatriation process involved coordination between Indian diplomatic officials and authorities in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Kashmiri students in Bangladesh had also offered Nimaz-e-Janaza in absentia on Monday for the deceased.

The news of his death has plunged his native village and adjoining areas into mourning, with relatives and residents gathering at his home.

DC G'bal inspects Regional Transformer Repair Workshop



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Dr. Syed Faheem A. Bihaqi, Tuesday visited the Regional Transformer Repair Workshop at the Old Power House premises, Ganderbal, to take stock of its functioning.

During the visit, the DC inspected various key sections of the facility, including the assembly unit as well as the winding and rewinding sections. She undertook a detailed review of the workshop's daily repairing capacity of damaged transformers, machinery performance, and technical staff deployment.

The Executive Engineer, KPDCL, Division Ganderbal, briefed the visiting officers on the operational capacity, available manpower, and machinery setup. The DC gave necessary instructions for augmenting the repairing capacity of the workshop.

Addressing the technical staff, the DC issued clear instructions to systematically augment the workshop's daily repair capacity by enhancing machinery efficiency and optimizing manpower.

KPDCL launches Digital Handbook on Winter Preparedness 2026–27

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of the prevailing weather advisory and ahead of the winter season, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Tuesday launched its Digital Handbook on Winter Preparedness 2026–27, placing its comprehensive winter action plan for Kashmir Division in the public domain.

The initiative, undertaken under the directions of the Minister for Power, J&K, aims to promote transparency, strengthen accountability and facilitate informed public participation in ensuring reliable and safe power supply during the winter months.

The Handbook, themed "Readiness, Restoration and Consumer Safety," serves as a comprehensive reference document outlining KPDCL's winter preparedness measures, buffer stocks, restoration mechanisms, grievance redressal channels and essential safety advisories for its 13.53 lakh consumers.

Among the key highlights of the Handbook is a detailed overview of the Corporation's power distribution network, comprising 353 Receiving Stations with a capacity of 5,021.65 MVA, 135 33 kV feeders, 1,334 11 kV feeders and 49,935 Distribution Transformers.

It also outlines the pre-winter preparedness measures undertaken by KPDCL, including clearance of power corridors through regular shutdowns, augmentation of overloaded distribution transformers, renovation and modernisation of receiving stations, and rectification of identified fault-prone hotspots to minimise power disruptions.

To ensure prompt replacement of damaged equipment and minimise restoration time, the Handbook provides division-wise details of buffer stocks, including 1,096 and 824 distribution transformers, along with buffer stocks of 33/11 kV power transformers and essential materials such as conductors, electric poles, transformer oil and AB cables. These materials have been positioned across divisions, including in areas vulnerable to floods and landslides.

The Corporation has also put in place Swift Restoration Teams (SRTs) at district and divisional levels, supported by dedicated teams and control rooms to ensure timely response to power outages and other emergencies. For the convenience of consumers, the Handbook provides the names and contact numbers of Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers of every Electric Division and Sub-Division, enabling the public to directly approach the concerned officials for assistance.

Emphasising consumer convenience, the Handbook also details the available 24×7 grievance redressal mechanisms. Consumers can register their complaints through the helpline 1912, toll-free number 18001807666, JK Samadhan 2.0, CPGRAMS, and KPDCL's official website and social media platforms. The document further explains the statutory grievance escalation mechanism through the Internal Grievance Redressal Forum (IGRF), Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum (CGRF) and Electricity Ombudsman.

DC Shopian chairs District-Level Telecom Committee Meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Shopian to review issues pertaining to telecom infrastructure, connectivity and delivery of uninterrupted telecommunication services across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed deliberations were held on various issues concerning the expansion and strengthening of telecom infrastructure, improvement of network connectivity and addressing challenges faced by telecom service providers in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for close coordination among all concerned departments and telecom service providers to ensure seamless connectivity and better telecommunication services, particularly in far-flung and remote areas of the district.

He underscored the importance of timely resolution of issues related to telecom infrastructure and directed the concerned departments to extend necessary cooperation and facilitate telecom service providers in strengthening network connectivity.

The DC further stressed that reliable telecommunication services are essential for public convenience, effective governance, emergency response and overall socio-economic development of the district. He called for coordinated and result-oriented efforts to ensure improved telecom services and uninterrupted connectivity for the people of Shopian.

GDC Shopian organises Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2027

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian, in collaboration with My Bharat Shopian, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, organised the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2027 under the banner of Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 at the College Auditorium.

The programme was attended by Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir, Principal GDC Shopian, as the Chief Guest, while Divyanshu Jaiswal, District Youth Officer, was the Guest of Honour.

The programme commenced with the rendition of the National Anthem and National Song. In his inaugural address, Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir highlighted the significant role of youth in nation-building and encouraged students to actively participate in democratic processes.

Prof. Irfan Jamila, Dr. Khursheed Ahmad, and Divyanshu Jaiswal also addressed the gathering, emphasising the importance of youth leadership, democratic values and active civic engagement in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Youth Parliament witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who deliberated on various issues of national importance and presented their perspectives, reflecting their awareness, confidence, critical thinking and public-speaking skills.

Karnah Admin organises Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK



KUPWARA: On the directions of the District Administration Kupwara, Karnah Administration organised a programme to commemorate Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas at Nechiyan village of Tangdar Block.

The programme was presided over by the Naib Tehsildar Tangdar and aimed at promoting awareness about tribal rights, community participation and the effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

On the occasion, the Revenue Department, under the supervision of Naib Tehsildar Tangdar, facilitated the attending people by providing various revenue-related certificates, including income certificates, Domicile certificate and other essential documents, ensuring convenient access to public services.

Meanwhile, various line departments set up stalls to disseminate information about their respective government schemes, welfare initiatives and departmental services. The stalls also served as a platform to educate the general public about the benefits of different government programmes and assist eligible beneficiaries in availing themselves of these services.

The celebration highlighted the importance of preserving tribal heritage, promoting awareness about government welfare

Sufi Tahir likely to quit Peoples Conference



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sufi Tahir, Provincial Youth President of Kashmir, Jammu Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) is likely to step away from active party politics and devote his time to social work and youth empowerment, people familiar with the matter said.

Tahir, who is associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference, is weighing the move to focus on public welfare and issues affecting local communities, the sources said.

He has previously stood alongside National Health Mission (NHM) employees, MBBS interns, and vocational trainers, raising his voice in support of their demands and highlighting their grievances.

His interventions on issues concerning these groups have been part of his wider engagement with public causes.

Sources said Tahir now wants to continue working on such issues beyond party politics, with a greater focus on young people and community welfare.

A formal announcement on his decision is awaited.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026

Health, ICDS conduct Child Health Screening, Awareness Activities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: As part of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, the Health and ICDS Departments of Bandipora organised a series of health screening, awareness and community outreach activities across the district, focusing on the health, nutrition and overall well-being of children and tribal communities.

Under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) conducted screening of children at Middle School Bakhshibal Baniyari, Government Middle School Aragam, Boys Middle School Tangath and various schools in Sudi, Kilshay and Tulail areas of Gurez. The teams carried out screening for the four Ds—Defects at Birth, Deficiencies, Diseases and Developmental Delays including Disability, besides general health check-ups.

Awareness sessions were also organised on Anaemia Mukt Bharat, National Deworming Day and other child health initiatives. At Middle School Bakhshibal Baniyari, children were provided deworming medication and Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplements as per their age.

Additionally, a special health camp was organised at Ayushman Arogya Mandir Ketsun, extending healthcare services and health awareness to the local community. ICDS activities also focused on promoting awareness regarding maternal and child health, nutrition, hygiene and various welfare services.

Orientation Programme on FAA Examination held in Bandipora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: District Administration Bandipora organised an orientation programme for officers and officials deployed for the conduct of the upcoming OMR-based examination for the post of Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) today at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The programme was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, and aimed at sensitising Centre Superintendents, invigilators, magistrates and other concerned officials about their duties, responsibilities and examination-related protocols ahead of the examination scheduled to be conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on November 15, 2026.

Coordinators from JKSSB sensitised the participants about the prescribed examination procedures, guidelines, protocols and responsibilities of the concerned functionaries.

During the orientation, detailed deliberations were held on examination management, coordination among concerned departments and the arrangements required for ensuring the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the examination.

The ADC interacted with the participating officers and officials, listened to their feedback and suggestions and assured them of all necessary support from the District Administration and JKSSB. He stressed that all concerned must discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost diligence and ensure that all requisite facilities are made available to candidates.

MP, Legislators call on CM Omar Abdullah

Discuss fire incidents, assistance for affected traders



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Member of Parliament from Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma and several Legislators from Jammu district Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed the recent fire incidents in Jammu city and the situation of the affected traders.

The public representatives apprised the Chief Minister of the damage caused by the fires at Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station, Warehouse near Nehru Market and Pahari Mohalla. They highlighted the difficulties being faced by the affected traders and shopkeepers and sought financial assistance for the affected traders and shopkeepers.

The Chief Minister reiterated that relief is being provided to those affected by the fire incidents. He assured the visiting representatives that all possible assistance would be extended to the affected traders.

It is pertinent to mention that the Chief Minister had taken prompt cognisance of the fire incidents. He had personally visited Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station to assess the damage and interact with the affected shopkeepers. He had also deputed the Deputy Chief Minister and a Cabinet Minister to visit the Warehouse near Nehru Market to take stock of the situation and assess the losses suffered by the traders.

Those who called on the Chief Minister included Member of Parliament from Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma, MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa, MLA RS Pura-Jammu South Narinder Singh Raina, MLA Jammu West Yudhvir Sethi and MLA Jammu East Arvind Gupta.

Meanwhile, MLA Surankote Choudhary Mohd. Akram also called on the Chief Minister and discussed developmental issues and public welfare concerns pertaining to his constituency.

Sakina Itoo inaugurates ₹1.88 cr NTPHC at Chukar

GMK NEWS NETWORK





BARAMULLA: Emphasizing the importance of accessible and quality healthcare facilities at the grassroots level, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo, Tuesday inaugurated the New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) at Chukar, Tangmarg constructed at a cost of ₹1.88 crore.

MLA Gulmarg, Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, was present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister underscored the importance of primary healthcare institutions in strengthening the public healthcare delivery system, particularly in rural and far-flung areas, by ensuring access to essential medical services. She said the newly inaugurated NTPHC would significantly improve the healthcare access for the residents of Chukar and adjoining areas, reducing the need to travel long distances for basic medical treatment and other essential health services.

Sakina Itoo also highlighted the achievements and key initiatives of the Omar Abdullah-led government, reiterating its commitment to public welfare, equitable development and strengthening essential services across Jammu and Kashmir. She said the government is adopting a people-centric approach to address the public concerns, upgrade infrastructure and improve the service delivery across various sectors, with particular emphasis on healthcare.

She stated that strengthening the healthcare sector remains a key priority, with focused efforts towards upgrading the health infrastructure, improving medical facilities and ensuring the availability of quality healthcare services, particularly in underserved areas.

The Minister urged the concerned health authorities and medical staff to ensure effective functioning of the newly inaugurated facility, adequate availability of essential medical services and dedicated patient care. She stressed that healthcare institutions must serve the public with commitment, compassion and professionalism.

MLA Gulmarg also addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in the constituency. He appreciated the ongoing efforts to improve public facilities and emphasized the need for continued development of essential services for the people.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Nighat Yasmeen, Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, Dr. A.G. Raina, and Block Medical Officer Pattan, Dr. Rumina Majeed besides other concerned officers, healthcare professionals and local residents were present on the occasion.

Delina flyover battles delays, now eyes May-2027 opening

'Bottlenecks largely cleared; compensation payments for remaining cases to follow'

WARIS FAYAZ

BARAMULLA: The 1.7-kilometre Delina Flyover, being constructed as part of the four-laning project of the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway, is nearing completion, with authorities setting May 2027 deadline to open it for the traffic.

According to the details available, the project faced delays due to land-related disputes and other bottlenecks. It had earlier been granted an extension, with its deadline pushed to May-June 2027. However, authorities are now making efforts to complete the work ahead of the extended timeline.

Project Manager Naveed Bashir told KNO that round-the-clock work is underway to ensure the flyover is completed and opened for commuters at the earliest. "The work is in its final stage, and by the end of May 2027, we will be all set to open it for traffic," he said.

Naveed said the first package, covering the Narbal-to-Delina stretch, is almost complete and has already been made through for traffic, while the focus is now on completing the Delina Flyover.

Naveed said: "We had around four to five cases pending, and the payment process for these has already been taken up. The payments will be released shortly. Almost all the bottlenecks have been cleared."

He said efforts are being intensified to complete the remaining work without further hurdles, keeping in view the importance of the project for commuters, particularly those travelling between Srinagar and North Kashmir.

Once completed, the flyover is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion at Delina, reduce travel time between Srinagar and Baramulla and ensure smoother movement of vehicles.

Locals have welcomed the progress, saying the long-awaited project would provide much needed relief to daily commuters while also giving a boost to economic activities through improved connectivity and faster transportation between Srinagar and Baramulla—(KNO)

Javid Dar exhorts officers to intensify field visits, redress farmers' concerns

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday convened a review meeting with senior officers of the Horticulture Department to assess the progress of ongoing projects and evaluate implementation of development schemes aimed at strengthening the horticulture sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Syed, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Vikas Anand, Managing Director JKHPMC Mohammad Farooq and others concerned officials.

During the meeting, the Minister called for a focused, outcome-oriented and farmer-centric approach to ensure that the benefits of government initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries, particularly small and marginal farmers. He stressed that effective implementation of welfare schemes must remain a key priority of the department, with due emphasis on transparency, accountability and timely delivery of benefits.

Underscoring the importance of strengthening the department's field-level outreach, Javid Dar directed the officers and field functionaries to undertake regular visits to horticulture areas to assess the ground realities, interact directly with the farmers and understand the challenges confronting them. He emphasised that field visits should serve as an effective mechanism for identifying the farmers' concerns, addressing the bottlenecks and ensuring prompt resolution of grievances.

The Minister also called for intensified awareness and extension activities to educate the farmers about various government schemes, financial assistance, technological interventions and support facilities available under different departmental programmes. He emphasised that no eligible farmer should be deprived of the benefits of government initiatives due to lack of awareness or procedural difficulties.

Stressing the need for a district-specific development strategy, the Minister directed the officers to identify the horticultural potential, production patterns and specific requirements of each district and accordingly formulate and implement need-based, crop-specific interventions.

Javid Dar emphasised the need to strengthen the entire horticulture value chain, including production, productivity, post-harvest management, processing and marketing, so that the farmers receive better returns for their produce. He called for coordinated efforts among the Horticulture Department, Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) and other allied agencies to ensure effective implementation of programmes and optimum utilisation of available resources.

Sakeena Itoo visits bereaved family of deceased MBBS student in Sopore



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SOPORE: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday visited the residence of 26-year-old Adnan Altaf Rather at Dangerpora, Sopore, who tragically passed away in Bangladesh, and expressed her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

During the visit, the Minister shared the grief of the family and conveyed her deepest sympathies over the demise of the young medical student. She prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength, courage and patience for the bereaved family to withstand this irreparable loss.

Expressing profound grief over the tragic incident, the Minister said that the loss of a young life, particularly of a student pursuing his dream of becoming a doctor, was deeply saddening.

"Words cannot adequately express the pain of a family that has lost its young son. May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bless the family with strength and patience to bear this immense loss", the Minister said.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah; MLA Pattan Javid Reyaz and MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, who also expressed their condolences and conveyed solidarity with the bereaved family.

SNF calls on Speaker; seeks attention towards development of Nilnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Save Nilnag Front Tuesday called on Speaker JKLA Abdul Rahim Rather and expressed appreciation for the developmental initiatives undertaken in the constituency over the years, particularly in strengthening the road connectivity, infrastructure, educational and healthcare facilities, electricity distribution and other essential public amenities.

In a Memorandum submitted to the Speaker, the Front acknowledged the efforts made towards addressing public concerns and improving the socio-economic conditions of the area. It, however, drew attention towards the need for focused intervention for the conservation, restoration and sustainable development of Nilnag, a historically and ecologically significant water body nestled in the Pir Panjal forests.

Highlighting the historical and tourism significance of Nilnag, the Front stated that the picturesque lake finds mention in historical accounts, including Rajtarangini. It has also been documented by the British historian Sir Walter Lawrence in his celebrated work The Valley of Kashmir. The lake has attracted the attention of several prominent personalities over the decades, reflecting its historical, cultural and natural importance.

The representation emphasised that Nilnag possesses immense potential as an eco-tourism destination, provided its development is undertaken in a planned and environmentally sustainable manner while preserving its pristine natural character and ecological balance.

Among its key suggestions, the Front has proposed the constitution of a dedicated Nilnag Development Authority, with a clearly defined mandate for conservation and planned development of the area. It has also called for preparation of a comprehensive five-year master plan based on proper field assessments and expert consultation.

The Front suggested constitution of a high-level committee involving all relevant departments, including Tourism, Forest and Ecology, Flood Control and Irrigation, Revenue, Gardens and Parks, Roads and Buildings, Floriculture, Fisheries, Jal Shakti and Soil Conservation, to ensure coordinated planning and execution of development initiatives.

The Save Nilnag Front urged to accord focused attention to the matter and put in place a time-bound mechanism for conservation, restoration and sustainable development of Nilnag. This will help in preserving this historically significant natural destination for future generations while creating new opportunities for tourism and livelihood generation in the area.

The Speaker heard the representatives of the Save Nilnag Front and appreciated their concerns and constructive proposals for the conservation and development of Nilnag.

Responding to the suggestions, he assured them that the matter would be taken up with the concerned higher authorities for due consideration. He said all possible efforts would be made to explore feasible measures for the preservation, restoration and planned development of this historically and ecologically significant destination.

World Immunization Day

Immunization acts as shield, protects everyone from fatal diseases: Experts

Say timely vaccination vital to shield children from life-threatening diseases

JAHANGEER GANAIE



SRINAGAR: On 'World Immunization Day' health experts reiterated that immunisation remains one of the most effective preventive measures to protect infants, children and adults from a range of potentially fatal infectious diseases.

Experts said that adherence to the prescribed immunisation schedule is essential, particularly during childhood, as timely administration of vaccines helps build immunity against several serious ailments before individuals are exposed to them.

Dr Tabassum Jan a general physician at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), told KNO that vaccination has played a transformative role in controlling and eliminating several infectious diseases across the world.

"Smallpox has been eradicated globally through sustained immunisation efforts, while diseases such as polio, measles, diphtheria and tetanus have witnessed a significant decline in cases due to widespread vaccination," she said.

Dr Tabassum said vaccines prevent millions of deaths every year and provide children with protection against infections that can otherwise result in serious complications, permanent disabilities or even loss of life.

"A child who receives all routine vaccines according to the recommended schedule gets protection against several potentially fatal illnesses. Parents must understand that vaccination is not merely a routine medical procedure but an important investment in their child's health and future," she added.

Dr Tabassum said immunisation offers protection beyond the individual, as widespread vaccination reduces the circulation of infectious diseases within communities.

Explaining the concept of herd immunity, she said when a sufficiently large proportion of the population is vaccinated, the transmission of infections declines, thereby offering indirect protection to vulnerable groups, including newborns, people with weakened immune systems and those who cannot receive certain vaccines.

Another health expert, Dr Shariz Ahmad posted in Anantnag said the government's routine immunisation programme covers protection against several major infectious diseases, including tuberculosis through BCG, polio, hepatitis-B, rotavirus, pneumococcal infections, measles-rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

He urged parents to ensure that children receive every recommended dose within the prescribed timeframe, warning that missing or delaying vaccinations can leave them vulnerable to preventable infections.

"Parents should not skip any vaccine dose or take delays lightly. Several infectious diseases continue to circulate, and children who are not fully immunised remain at risk. Vaccination provides protection before exposure to these infections, making prevention far better than dealing with complications after the disease develops," he said.

Experts also sought to dispel concerns surrounding vaccine safety, saying vaccines undergo extensive testing and safety assessments before being approved for public use.

They said most post-vaccination reactions, where they occur, are generally mild and temporary, including low-grade fever, slight discomfort or pain at the injection site.

KCCI welcomes J&K Bank's RAHAT OTS

Seeks broader SBI-Pattern scheme for larger business accounts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has welcomed J&K Bank's RAHAT Special One-Time Settlement Scheme (SOTS-2026), while seeking a broader settlement scheme on the lines of the State Bank of India (SBI) to address the accumulated legacy debt of businesses across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued, the Chamber said that while RAHAT provides relief to eligible borrowers with principal NPA outstanding of up to Rs 5 crore, a substantial section of the business community with liabilities beyond this limit remains outside its ambit.

KCCI said businesses in Jammu and Kashmir had faced prolonged financial distress due to years of economic disruptions, pushing several otherwise viable establishments into mounting liabilities, non-performing assets (NPAs) and recovery proceedings.

The Chamber urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take up the matter on priority and facilitate a dedicated SBI-pattern Special OTS for business borrowers through J&K Bank.

It said the J&K Government, being the majority shareholder in the Bank, had an important role in taking up the demand with its Board and management and facilitating a broader settlement scheme, subject to regulatory and governance requirements.

KCCI said the proposed scheme should cover eligible stressed business accounts beyond the existing Rs 5 crore ceiling and provide realistic settlement terms to traders, industrialists, MSMEs, hospitality establishments and other entrepreneurs carrying legacy debt.

Clarifying that the demand was not for a blanket loan waiver, the Chamber said it sought a fair, transparent and formula-based settlement mechanism to enable genuinely distressed borrowers to clear their liabilities, close long-pending accounts and make a fresh beginning.

It added that resolving legacy debt would help revive economic activity, protect employment, safeguard livelihoods and restore confidence in Jammu and Kashmir's business environment.

While appreciating J&K Bank's RAHAT initiative, KCCI reiterated that a separate and broader Special OTS was essential to ensure that businesses with larger outstanding liabilities were not left without a viable settlement opportunity.

The Chamber expressed hope that the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister and J&K Bank management would respond positively and initiate necessary consultations without further delay.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

The Erosion Of Moral Values

A society does not collapse overnight. Its decline begins quietly, when values lose their meaning, conscience becomes negotiable and morality is reduced to personal convenience. What is unfolding around us today is a worrying erosion of moral values that, if left unchecked, could become one of the biggest threats to our social fabric.

The disturbing part is that this decline knows no boundaries. Men and women, young and old, educated and uneducated alike appear to be caught in its grip. Education has increased, opportunities have expanded and material comforts have multiplied, but the question is whether we have become better human beings in the process. Respect, honesty, compassion, tolerance and a sense of responsibility are increasingly taking a back seat to selfish interests, personal gains and the desire to dominate others.

More worrying is the growing contradiction between religious identity and human conduct. Religion, which is meant to teach humility, patience, compassion and mutual respect, is increasingly being reduced to arguments over sectarian supremacy. Even those who claim to be deeply religious are often seen more concerned about establishing the superiority of their respective sects than practising the very values their faith teaches. When religious identity becomes a tool for division rather than a source of moral guidance, society loses an important pillar of its strength.

The problem is not confined to any particular section. It has seeped into families, institutions, workplaces and public life. Relationships are losing their sincerity, respect for elders is diminishing, responsibility towards the younger generation is weakening and the distinction between right and wrong is becoming increasingly blurred. We have become quick to judge others but reluctant to examine our own conduct.

A society cannot survive on laws, institutions and economic progress alone. It needs a moral foundation. Laws can punish wrongdoing, but they cannot manufacture conscience. Institutions can enforce discipline, but they cannot replace personal integrity. That responsibility begins at home, is strengthened through education and must be reflected in public conduct.

The greatest danger is that we are gradually becoming accustomed to this decline. When dishonesty is tolerated, arrogance is celebrated, intolerance is defended and wrongdoing is justified by personal or group interests, the abnormal begins to look normal. This is how social breakdown takes root.

There is still time to arrest this deterioration, but it requires more than sermons and public lectures on morality. Religious leaders must practise the values they preach, educational institutions must give character-building as much importance as academic achievement, parents must lead by example and individuals must develop the courage to question their own actions. The need of the hour is not to prove who is more religious, more educated or more powerful. It is to become more humane, responsible and honest. Unless society makes a conscious effort to restore its moral foundations, the prevailing free-for-all attitude could eventually destroy the very bonds that hold communities together.

The real crisis is not that we have stopped talking about values; it is that we have stopped living by them.

Good Morning Kashmir

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How An Old Mutation Haunts The Present

An Act Enacted To Protect Tillers Must Not Become A Source Of Injustice For Their Families. Historical Mutations Recorded Under The Agrarian Reforms Framework Require Systematic Scrutiny To Identify Overlooked Beneficiaries, Safeguard The Rights Of Legal Heirs And Prevent Avoidable Litigation.





MOHD AMIN MIR

Sometimes, a simple request to verify an old revenue record brings to light a much larger administrative problem. An entry in a Jamabandi dating back several decades can expose an injustice that may have remained unnoticed for generations. More importantly, it highlights the fact that maintaining accurate revenue records is not merely a matter of preserving government registers; it is directly connected with people's ownership rights, inheritance and the future of succeeding generations.

Recently, a person from a village approached me with a request to examine some old land records. Upon examining the Jamabandi for the year 1967–68, an interesting but disturbing case relating to the ownership of ten kanals of land came to light. Ramzan and Subhan, sons of Aziz Bhat, residents of Irote Samjan, Tehsil Qazigund, were recorded as Protected Tenants in respect of ten kanals of land. Following the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, the requisite legal proceedings resulted in both brothers being recorded in the revenue records as Prospective Owners.

However, when the question of conferring ownership rights under Section 8 subsequently arose, Ramzan reportedly submitted an application before the Revenue Department. Unfortunately, instead of examining the initial cultivation records and earlier mutations relating to both brothers in their entirety, a subsequent mutation was entered and attested exclusively in favour of Ramzan. Subhan's name, which also appeared in the original Jamabandi and earlier proceedings, was not included in that mutation.

This is not merely a minor clerical mistake or an ordinary administrative lapse. If the original records establish that both brothers were independently entitled to ownership rights, overlooking one of them could have serious consequences for his family and future generations. This raises a fundamental question: When the original records recognised two eligible persons, how could a subsequent mutation conferring ownership rights be attested in favour of only one person without properly examining the claim and entitlement of the other?

Understanding the Legal Position

The Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, was a historic piece of legislation intended to transform the agrarian structure and confer ownership rights upon eligible cultivators, subject to the conditions prescribed under the law. Section 4 of the Act provided for the vesting of rights in the Government in respect of persons who were not personally cultivating the land. Subsequently, the process of recording eligible cultivators as Prospective Owners was undertaken under the relevant provisions of the Act and the Agrarian Reforms Rules, 1977.

Section 8 deals with the conferment of ownership rights upon Prospective Owners. The relevant legal provisions also recognise the rights of eligible cultivators and, in specified circumstances provided under the law, their legal heirs. Therefore, attestation of a mutation under Section 8 cannot be treated as a routine office procedure. It requires a comprehensive examination of the original cultivation entries, previous mutations, eligibility of the concerned individuals, statutory conditions and, wherever necessary, their inheritance status.

Where two or more individuals have been recognised as Prospective Owners, the competent Revenue Officer must examine the rights and entitlements of all such persons before attesting a subsequent mutation. If any of them has passed away, the claims of their legal heirs must also be considered in accordance with the applicable law. Merely because one individual approaches the Revenue Department independently does not entitle him to have the entire land recorded in his name when the same revenue record also reflects the legal entitlement of another person.

An Administrative Lapse That Can Become a Generational Dispute

Let us consider the possible consequences of such an omission. Suppose Subhan passed away without knowing that his name had been excluded from the subsequent mutation conferring ownership rights. His children and other legal heirs continued to believe that their ancestral rights, reflected in the original revenue records, remained protected. Several years later, when they approach the Revenue Department for obtaining a Fard, seeking inheritance mutation, partition of land or verification of ownership, they may discover that the final ownership entry reflects only Ramzan's name.

At that stage, the matter may no longer be resolved through a simple application. The affected family may have to initiate appropriate legal proceedings, seek examination of the old proceedings and, wherever permitted by law, approach a competent judicial forum. This could result in prolonged litigation, substantial legal expenses, family disputes and an unnecessary burden on the administration. The unfortunate reality is that if the original records had been examined carefully several decades ago and all eligible persons had been given an opportunity to participate in the proceedings, such a dispute might have been prevented altogether.

This is not merely a minor clerical mistake or an ordinary administrative lapse. If the original records establish that both brothers were independently entitled to ownership rights, overlooking one of them could have serious consequences for his family and future generations.

Is This an Isolated Case?

This example raises a much broader question about the manner in which mutations under the Agrarian Reforms framework were attested in the past and subsequently maintained. There may be other cases where the original Jamabandis recorded two or more cultivators, but subsequent ownership mutations were entered in favour of only one individual without adequately examining the claims of the remaining eligible persons. In some cases, an individual initially recorded as a Prospective Owner may have passed away before ownership rights were formally conferred. In other instances, legal heirs may have been overlooked, or adequate steps may not have been taken to identify and include all persons whose rights were likely to be affected during the proceedings.

All these possibilities require serious examination

It would not be appropriate to presume that every such mutation resulted from deliberate manipulation. Some omissions may have occurred because of incomplete information, inadequate verification, procedural shortcomings or failure to examine the earlier records comprehensively. However, whether the omission of a legal right was deliberate or unintentional, its consequences for the affected family can be equally serious. The fundamental objective of agrarian reforms was to protect the interests of cultivators and establish fairness in matters relating to land. During the implementation of this legislation, an incomplete revenue proceeding should not result in the deprivation of an eligible individual or an entire branch of a family.

A Special Verification Drive Is the Need of the Hour

The Revenue Department should not wait until affected families discover such irregularities themselves after several decades. A systematic and special verification drive has become essential. The Government should consider issuing directions through Deputy Commissioners to the concerned Collectors and Tehsildars for a focused examination of historical mutations recorded under the Agrarian Reforms framework, particularly proceedings undertaken under Sections 4 and 8 of the Act.

The following aspects should receive priority during this exercise:

- Cross-verification of Original Records: The Jamabandi preceding the Agrarian Reforms proceedings, relevant Khasra Girdawari entries, initial mutations recording Prospective Ownership and subsequent mutations attested under Section 8 should be examined together.
- Identification of Overlooked Beneficiaries: Wherever two or more eligible persons were initially recorded as Prospective Owners, the subsequent mutations should be examined to determine whether the legal rights of all such individuals were duly considered.
- Verification of Legal Heirs: If any eligible Prospective Owner passed away before the conferment of ownership rights, their inheritance status and legal heirs should be identified in accordance with the applicable law.
- Examination of Original Mutation Orders: Wherever available, the original mutation files should be traced. Statements of the parties, notices issued, orders passed and reasons for excluding any previously recorded individual should be examined.
- Adequate Opportunity of Being Heard: No correction or alteration should be made merely on an administrative or office-based assessment. Existing recorded owners and the legal heirs claiming through persons whose rights may have been overlooked must all be given proper notice and a fair opportunity to present their respective cases.
- Reasoned and Speaking Orders: The competent Revenue Authority should not rely merely upon the existing digital entries. Instead, it should pass clear, reasoned and legally sustainable orders after considering all relevant facts and applicable legal provisions.
- Preservation of Historical Records: Old mutation registers, Jamabandis and supporting documents must be preserved and linked with the digital revenue database so that the complete historical details of every parcel of land remain accessible in the future.

Old Errors Must Not Find a Place in Digital Revenue Records

The Revenue Department in Jammu and Kashmir has made considerable progress in the digitisation of land records. This is an important reform that can promote transparency, accessibility and accountability in the revenue administration. However, digitisation alone cannot guarantee the accuracy of records. If an incomplete or legally questionable historical mutation is transferred into the digital database without proper scrutiny, the same old error acquires a new digital identity.

An incorrect entry in an old register is already a problem. But when that entry is reproduced in a modern digital revenue record without verification, its correction may become even more complicated in the future. Therefore, the digitisation process should also be utilised as an opportunity to cross-check historical records and identify discrepancies, particularly in cases involving multiple Prospective Owners, deceased individuals or legal heirs whose rights may have been overlooked. The Revenue Department should also consider maintaining a comprehensive historical mutation record through which the name of every individual appearing in the original records, subsequent changes and the legal basis for each alteration can be fully traced.

Accountability Is Necessary, But Unnecessary Harassment Must Be Avoided

The purpose of examining old mutations should not be to hold every officer who attested them in the past responsible. Many such officers may have retired, and the relevant files may be several decades old. The real objective should be to establish the correct legal position, safeguard genuine rights and identify cases where correction or further action is required under the law. Where evidence establishes deliberate manipulation, concealment of material facts or unlawful deprivation of an eligible person, responsibility should be determined in accordance with the applicable rules and legal provisions.

At the same time, innocent present-day owners should not be subjected to arbitrary changes in their revenue records or unnecessary harassment merely because an old discrepancy has come to light. Every case must be examined individually, with proper notice to the affected parties and a legally sustainable decision.

A Responsibility That Can No Longer Be Deferred

The Revenue Department must recognise that the consequences of a mutation do not remain confined to the date on which it is attested. An entry made today can determine the ownership and inheritance rights of children and grandchildren several decades later. The fundamental objective of the Agrarian Reforms Act was to deliver justice to cultivators. Its implementation must also reflect the same spirit of justice, equality and transparency. No eligible individual should be deprived of ownership rights merely because another person approached the Revenue Department first or because an important name was overlooked during the attestation of a mutation.

The Government should consider establishing a special district-level mechanism to examine doubtful and incomplete historical mutations under the Agrarian Reforms framework, ensuring that wherever evidence of an overlooked right is found, appropriate remedies can be pursued in accordance with the law. If Agrarian Reforms confer ownership rights upon one eligible individual while another equally entitled person, or their legal heirs, is excluded from the revenue records relating to the same land, such reforms cannot be considered fully successful. Justice is not achieved merely by enacting legislation; it must also be accurately reflected in the Jamabandi.

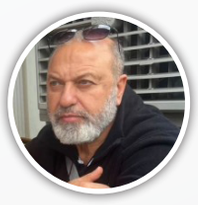
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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Vaccination Price Cap

Why The Disparity Demands Urgent Concession And Regulation

Why Should Parents Pay Two Or Three Times More To Protect Their Children In Private Hospitals When Essential Immunisation Is Available Free In Government Facilities? The Growing Commercialisation Of Preventive Healthcare Calls For Transparent Pricing, Meaningful Concessions And Decisive Government Intervention.



DR. FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI

Vaccination is not a luxury; it is one of the most important investments in public health. Yet, for thousands of parents, protecting their children against preventable diseases has become an increasingly expensive responsibility. The striking disparity between vaccination costs in government and private hospitals raises a fundamental question: should a child's protection depend on the financial capacity of his or her parents?The issue deserves particular attention in Kashmir, where many families rely on private hospitals and paediatric clinics for routine childhood immunisation. While government facilities provide essential vaccines under the National Immunisation Programme free of cost, private vaccination schedules can leave parents facing substantial bills. In some instances, the difference reportedly approaches 1,900 or more, depending on the vaccine, formulation and hospital charges. Such a difference warrants serious investigation.

A useful reference is BabyNama's article, Baby Vaccination Cost in India: How to Compare Prices. Its September 2026 price observations list Infanrix Hexa at 3,735, Hexaxim at 4,330 and Pentaxim at 3,350, among other products. These are retail observations from outside Kashmir, not hospital quotations from the Valley, but they demonstrate how expensive private childhood immunisation can become even before additional service charges are considered.

Why should private vaccination cost so much more?There are legitimate explanations for some price differences. Private hospitals may offer combination vaccines, imported products or alternative formulations. For instance, acellular pertussis vaccines, popularly described as painless DPT vaccines, generally cause fewer local and systemic reactions than whole-cell formulations commonly used in public programmes. Both offer protection, although their clinical characteristics are not identical.

Private paediatricians may also follow the Indian Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations, which include additional vaccines beyond the government immunisation schedule, such as vaccines against hepatitis A, chickenpox, typhoid and certain rotavirus infections.Hospital infrastructure, cold-chain maintenance, professional consultation and administration charges also contribute to the final bill.However, these explanations cannot justify every price difference. The central question is whether parents are being charged reasonably for the vaccine and services provided. A hospital must disclose the manufacturer's name, formulation, printed maximum retail price, consultation fee and administration charges. Medical necessity must never become a convenient justification for unexplained commercial margins.

Healthcare or an expanding business model?Private hospitals are commercial establishments, but healthcare cannot be governed by the same principles as ordinary retail trade. Patients approach doctors with trust, vulnerability and, frequently, considerable anxiety. Parents rarely question a paediatrician's recommendation because they fear compromising their child's health.This trust imposes a greater ethical responsibility on medical institutions.There are legitimate concerns about reports of commercial targets influencing hospital management and about allegations that certain appointments are driven by revenue-generation expectations rather than patient welfare. Such claims require evidence-based investigation. Nevertheless, healthcare authorities must ensure that professional decisions remain independent of commercial incentives. Another troubling practice reported by



patients concerns prescriptions carrying specific trade names that may be available only through the hospital's own pharmacy or an associated outlet. Where patients are not informed about equivalent alternatives or feel compelled to purchase medicines from a particular shop, transparency and professional ethics are called into question.The National Medical Commission's ethical framework emphasises prescribing generic names alongside proprietary names and prohibits doctors from receiving commissions for patient referrals. These safeguards must be enforced meaningfully. A patient's medical needs must take precedence over pharmacy sales and commercial arrangements.

The need for a price cap and meaningful concessions.A reasonable vaccination price cap is not an attack on private healthcare. It is an attempt to establish fairness. The government should examine procurement costs, manufacturer prices, distribution expenses, cold-chain requirements and legitimate professional service charges before determining appropriate pricing norms.Importantly, the price of the vaccine must be distinguished from the charge for administering it. Hospitals may legitimately charge for professional services, but these charges must be transparent, proportionate and properly itemised.The Jammu and Kashmir administration should initiate a hospital-wise vaccination price audit covering Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Pulwama, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Shopian and other districts.The exercise should compare identical vaccine brands, formulations and doses across private hospitals, nursing homes and paediatric clinics. It should establish the actual MRP, selling price, consultation charges, administration fees and any additional package costs.If the same vaccine and service cost substantially more in one institution than another, the difference must be explained.A publicly accessible price database would allow parents to make informed decisions instead of relying entirely on the recommendations and pricing policies of individual hospitals.

Remembering the importance of regulation.We remember Mrs Indira Gandhi for an era associated with assertive government intervention and a strong conception of public authority. Whatever one's political assessment of that period, an important principle remains relevant: essential services cannot be left entirely to market forces when their affordability affects the welfare of ordinary citizens.The government must not remain a silent spectator when preventive healthcare becomes increasingly expensive.It should consider targeted subsidies for economically weaker families, strengthen public vaccination facilities and explore regulated partnerships with private hospitals to improve access. Parents must also receive clear information about vaccines available free under the National Immunisation Programme and those recommended as additional protection under private schedules.

A child's health must not become a commercial privilege.The objective is not to undermine private hospitals, discourage innovation or compromise vaccine quality. It is to ensure that genuine differences in products and services are not used to justify arbitrary pricing.For an affluent household, an additional 1,900 may be manageable. For a daily-wage worker, a pensioner or a middle-class family struggling with education and household expenses, the same amount can represent a substantial burden. Public policy must recognise these economic realities. The administration should establish a time-bound committee to investigate vaccination prices, prescribing practices and possible conflicts of interest in private healthcare institutions. It should recommend transparent pricing, appropriate price ceilings and meaningful concessions.Ultimately, vaccination is a public-health necessity, not a commercial privilege. If society expects every parent to protect their child through immunisation, it must also ensure that financial constraints do not stand in the way.No parent should have to choose between protecting a child and managing the household budget. Healthcare institutions must earn public trust through ethical practice, not exploit it through excessive pricing. It is time to put patients before profits and affordability before commercial convenience.

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The First Computer

Reminiscences Of Those Wonderful Days



SYED MAJID GILANI

Some memories remain with us for a lifetime. We may get busy with our daily lives, but certain moments never really leave us. Sometimes, a small thought takes us years back, bringing before our eyes places, faces and incidents that once formed a part of our everyday lives. Yesterday, a memory suddenly took me back to 1997, when I had begun working in an office. Even after all these years, those days remain remarkably fresh in my memory.

I still remember the atmosphere of that office. Big steel almirahs stood against the walls, heavy registers occupied the tables, and files were piled up in different corners. The sound of typewriters was familiar throughout the day. The typists remained busy with papers, carbon sheets and handwritten drafts, while others moved between tables, exchanged files and discussed routine work.

There were busy moments, tea-break conversations and little incidents that made our working days memorable. Little did I know that these ordinary moments would one day become precious memories. In late 1998, the news reached us that computers were going to be installed in our office. I remember the curiosity I felt when I first heard about it. The word computer sounded new and rather mysterious. I had heard people talk about these machines, but I was



eager to see one with my own eyes and understand how it worked.

The news soon became a favourite topic during our tea breaks. "Have you ever seen a computer?" "Is it really so powerful that it can perform all our tasks?" "Does it work like a typewriter?" Although we had a few colleagues who were knowledgeable about computers, I cannot recall every conversation word for word. What I remember is the excitement surrounding those discussions. Sometimes, a colleague who knew something about computers would explain things, while the rest of us listened with interest.

A separate room was being prepared for the computers. We were told that the machines were expensive and delicate and needed protection from dust. The room was therefore kept particularly clean. But what I remember most vividly was something quite unusual. A few pairs of slippers were placed inside the room. Anyone entering had to leave their regular footwear outside and wear those slippers. Even today, this little detail brings a smile to my face. Imagine changing your footwear just to enter a room where computers were to be installed! The arrangement gave the place a special importance in our eyes. We began calling it the Computer Room, and I often wondered what it would look like once the machines arrived.

Finally, the day we had been waiting for arrived. The computers were brought into our office. I can still picture the bulky monitors, the large CPU boxes, the keyboards and the bundles of wires. The technicians unpacked the equipment and carefully placed everything on the desks. I watched with great interest as the machines were arranged. Several colleagues gathered around the room, eager to see what was happening. The monitor looked impressive, and the keyboard seemed familiar because of its resemblance to a typewriter. But the big box placed beneath the desk was a mystery to me. I wondered what it contained and how all those wires worked together to make the machine function.

When the computer experts finally switched on a computer, I fixed my eyes on the screen. And then, something appeared. I cannot recall every thought that crossed my mind at that moment, but I remember the feeling of wonder. Around me, colleagues were equally curious, sharing the excitement of seeing this new technology come to life before our eyes. Perhaps we were all wondering the same thing: How could this machine do all this?

In the days that followed, the computers gradually became an important part of our working routine. A few of our colleagues were already familiar with these machines and knew how to operate them. Their knowledge and experience proved valuable as others became acquainted with this new technology. They readily shared what they knew, guided their colleagues and made the learning process easier and more enjoyable. Colleagues exchanged ideas, asked questions and learned from one another. Those early days were not just about getting familiar with a new machine; they were also about cooperation, sharing knowledge and experiencing something new together.

Looking back, I remember that atmosphere of enthusiasm and mutual support with great fondness. I sometimes wish I had taken a few photographs of those moments. It would have been wonderful to see those pictures today and recognise the faces of the colleagues who shared that experience with me. When I think of that old office, I can almost picture it as it was in those days: the steel almirahs, the heavy registers, the files piled on the tables and the familiar faces of colleagues moving about. Then my thoughts return to that specially prepared room, the computers and, of course, the pairs of slippers waiting outside.

What a lovely memory it is! Time has moved on. Offices have changed, technology has advanced, and computers have become an ordinary part of our lives. Yet, for those of us who witnessed their arrival in those early days, there was something special about seeing a computer for the first time.

I often wonder whether my former colleagues remember those moments as I do. Perhaps some of them will recall the same room, the same machines and the excitement we shared. For me, the memory is not merely about the arrival of a computer. It is about the people with whom I shared those days, the colleagues who shared their knowledge and the little experiences that seemed ordinary at the time but have grown precious with the passage of years. Life moves quickly. We go about our work, share a laugh with colleagues and take part in everyday conversations without imagining that one day we will look back and miss those very moments.

Today, I cannot recreate those conversations. But I can revisit those days in my memory, and that, in itself, is a beautiful feeling. Sometimes, all it takes is the recollection of an old computer room and a few pairs of slippers to bring back a whole chapter of one's life. And I am grateful that this little memory has stayed with me.

Syed Majid Gilani writes personal essays and reminiscences drawn from life, personal observations and memories. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@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

Defence Production Deptt reviews 1 lakh files, frees 19.35 lakh sq ft space

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Department of Defence Production has successfully completed Special Campaign 6.0, conducted in two phases, with the objective of institutionalising Swachhata (cleanliness) and minimising pendency across its offices.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the campaign was conducted in two phases, with the preparatory phase from October 15 to 31, 2026, and the implementation phase from October 2 to 31, 2026.

In line with the Government-wide initiative, this year's campaign placed special emphasis on the effective collection, segregation and disposal of e-waste, alongside other key areas of administrative improvement.

Focused efforts were undertaken towards improving cleanliness and the overall upkeep of office premises, efficient utilisation of available space, and disposal of scrap and redundant materials. Special attention was also accorded to systematic record management and expeditious disposal of pending references, files and other matters. The initiatives also contributed towards better space management and workplace beautification.

As per the statement, the Department reviewed 45,000 physical files and weeded out 43,952 old files during Special Campaign 6.0, compared to 30,000 and 27,000, respectively, during Special Campaign 5.0.

It also reviewed 55,000 e-files and weeded out 51,230 e-files, against 2,000 and 1,890, respectively, during the previous campaign.

The Department freed up 19.35 lakh square feet of space through the disposal of scrap and unused items, compared to 17.42 lakh square feet during the previous campaign. It also earned Rs 22.19 crore through scrap and e-waste disposal against Rs 15.62 crore during Special Campaign 5.0.

The statement further said that 136 public grievances, 17 public grievance appeals, 11 VIP/MP references and three IMC references were disposed of during the campaign.

The Department said it remains committed to carrying forward the objectives of Special Campaign 6.0 through sustained efforts towards Swachhata, efficient disposal of pendency and an improved workplace environment—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

CM Omar Reviews

Agency (SNA) bank accounts relating to Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

In view of the forthcoming visit of the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) to assess damages, departments were asked to finalise comprehensive, sector-wise damage assessment reports to facilitate the assessment process.

The Chief Minister further directed all departments to identify and prepare a robust shelf of encumbrance-free projects by March 2027 to facilitate timely tendering and smooth execution during FY 2027-28. He stressed advance planning and close inter-departmental coordination to ensure that the next year's SASCI plan is finalised well in time.

Reviewing the performance for FY 2025-26, the meeting was informed that against an overall allocation of 5,166.46 crore, comprising untied funds, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) shares, incentive-based allocations and disaster management components, an expenditure of 3,367.64 crore had been incurred.

The meeting was also informed that the State Executive Committee (SEC) has approved 1,416 crore for the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) across social, infrastructure, productive and cross-cutting sectors, against the NDMA ceiling of 1,534.58 crore. An amount of 424.79 crore has been proposed for immediate release.

For FY 2026-27, 811 crore is available under SASCI Part-I Untied Funds, including 541 crore in current-year receipts and 270 crore carried forward as unutilised funds from the previous financial year. Departments have been assigned an expenditure target of 608 crore to qualify for the second instalment.

Under Part-II, relating to Centrally Sponsored Schemes, J&K has received 116 crore, constituting 66 per cent of the 176 crore SASCI loan assistance sought for 10 major schemes linked to J&K.

The meeting also reviewed the J&K Administration's efforts to leverage the incentive-based funding pool of 2,890.51 crore available for FY 2026-27, linked to governance reforms, improved financial management and sector-specific performance benchmarks.

Significant progress was reported under the Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture initiative (AgriStack), with 7.59 lakh Farmer IDs generated, representing 59 per cent of the target. The Digital Crop Survey (DCS) has been completed in 5,714 villages, covering 83.3 per cent of the target and more than 30.27 lakh land parcels.

The meeting was informed that the pilot distribution of AgriStack-enabled fertilisers through Farmer IDs commenced on November 5, 2026, in Jammu and Srinagar districts, marking another step towards strengthening technology-driven agricultural service delivery.

Progress was also reviewed under other incentive-linked reform areas, including Mining Reforms, with a target of 350 crore; Livestock Sector Reforms (150 crore); Efficiency in Financial Management (400 crore); implementation of Right of Way (RoW) Rules (50 crore); and achievement of Capital Expenditure targets (218 crore). Proposals in these areas have either been submitted or are at various stages of verification.

The Ministers also shared their inputs and suggestions during the meeting, highlighting key priorities and issues concerning their respective departments. They emphasised the need for coordinated efforts to accelerate the implementation of SASCI-funded projects and ensure optimal utilisation of available resources.

The Chief Minister emphasised that SASCI should be leveraged not merely as a special funding window but also as a strategic instrument for accelerating capital investment, strengthening public infrastructure and improving governance outcomes across Jammu and Kashmir.

He underscored the importance of timely execution, efficient financial management and sustained coordination among departments to maximise the benefits available under the scheme.

Pampore's Saffron

Meanwhile, local youth selling saffron in the fields said the seasonal flowering period provides them with an important opportunity to earn their livelihood.

They said the flowering season lasts for around a month, during which tourists not only visit the fields but also purchase saffron directly from them.

The youth said on-the-spot sales have helped them generate income while providing tourists an opportunity to buy the spice directly from local sellers.

However, they stressed the need for better tourism infrastructure to attract more visitors to Pampore's saffron belt.

They said although a Spice Park has been established in the area, its location away from the National Highway limits its visibility and accessibility for tourists travelling through the region.

"The government should establish a dedicated saffron tourism facility or promotional centre along the National Highway so that tourists travelling towards different destinations can easily visit the fields, learn about saffron cultivation and purchase authentic Kashmir saffron," they said.

Locals believe that promoting saffron tourism could provide an additional source of income to growers and unemployed youth while giving Pampore greater recognition on Kashmir's tourism map—(KNO)

J&K To Witness

season's first snowfall. Snowfall over the plains is unlikely, although it cannot be ruled out in some middle reaches, including parts of Shopian district.

The weather system is also likely to trigger thunderstorms and gusty winds at a few places, besides bringing down day temperatures by 6-8 degrees Celsius during November 12 and 13.

According to the IMD's daily weather parameters, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 19.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 4.9 degrees on Tuesday, against the normal maximum of 17.3 degrees and minimum of 1.9 degrees.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 28.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 14.2 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 18 degrees and a minimum of 1.4 degrees.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 12 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.5 degrees, while Qazigund registered 21.8 degrees as maximum and 2.8 degrees as minimum temperature.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 21.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.8 degrees, while Kokernag recorded 19.6 degrees and 5.4 degrees, respectively.

In view of the forecast, the Bandipora administration issued a weather advisory warning of possible snowfall and disruption of road connectivity in far-flung areas, particularly Gurez.

The administration advised candidates from these areas scheduled to appear in the Accounts Assistant examination of the Finance Department on November 15 to plan their journeys well in advance and reach nearby stations before the examination date, keeping in view the possibility of road closures.

Tourists currently staying in Gurez have been asked to plan their departure immediately in consultation with the District Control Room. The Gurez sector has also been temporarily declared out of bounds for tourists in view of the weather advisory.

Expectant mothers residing in upper reaches, whose delivery dates fall within the next month, have been advised to shift to nearby hospitals to ensure access to medical care. Residents have also been urged to avoid unnecessary travel towards Gurez and other higher reaches.

Meanwhile, Bandipora Police issued a separate travel advisory asking tourists and visitors currently in Gurez to leave the valley by November 10 and postpone fresh travel plans in view of the possibility of road blockages from November 11.

The advisory also covers examination candidates, patients requiring regular medical care, people travelling for scheduled weddings and other urgent engagements, and those having time-bound official duties outside the subdivision.

In Anantnag, the Deputy Commissioner's office also issued an advisory asking people to avoid unnecessary travel towards high-altitude passes and roads during the forecast period.

Various departments, including Public Works (R&B), Mechanical Engineering, Revenue, Flood Control, PMGSY, Urban Local Bodies, JKPDCL, Jal Shakti and Health and Medical Education, have been asked to take precautionary measures and activate their respective control rooms.

Farmers have been advised to safely store harvested crops ahead of the wet spell, while travellers and transporters have been asked to plan their journeys accordingly and follow official traffic advisories.

The weather department has forecast generally dry conditions from November 15 to 19, providing relief after the anticipated wet spell—(KNO)

'Azad Kashmir'

political marginalisation and inadequate public services in the region.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has also expressed concern over allegations of excessive and lethal force against protesters. It criticised the placement of at least 147 JAAC activists on the Fourth Schedule and the reported use of anti-terrorism laws against individuals involved in political dissent.

The commission further raised concerns over the arrests of activists and journalists, along with alleged pressure on the media from government authorities and JAAC supporters, saying these developments had further restricted civic space in the region.

Several journalists said they were summoned to court over their reporting on the region under a law criminalizing "false and fake information." Later, new rules were introduced to restrict access for journalists beyond Pakistan's three major cities of Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore. In addition, the government ordered all journalists working for foreign outlets to leave the territory immediately.

On Tuesday, the JAAC issued an "important statement" on the situation in Rawalakot, expressing grave concern over civilian deaths, injuries and the use of force. The group's Advisory Council demanded immediate action, saying that firing on civilians, the climate of fear and intimidation, and the unnecessary use of force must stop at once.

It also demanded that the injured receive medical treatment, that the bodies of those killed be handed over to their families, and that full details of those in custody be released.

The council called for internet services to be restored immediately and for an empowered, impartial fact-finding delegation to be sent to Rawalakot to issue a preliminary report within 48 hours.

It further demanded that empowered negotiations between the government and the Action Committee begin within 24 hours, and that there be independent investigations and accountability for all deaths, arrests and alleged unlawful use of force.

According to JAAC, the situation in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, is deteriorating rapidly. The group said security forces were firing live ammunition directly at protesters and using tear gas to disperse demonstrations. "CIVILIAN LIVES ARE AT IMMEDIATE RISK!" the statement said, adding that the latest developments following the reported killings and injuries in Rawalakot raised grave concerns about further bloodshed.

The JAAC called on the United Nations, international human rights organizations and the global media to urgently seek independent verification and to press the authorities to prevent further loss of life. "STOP THE FIRING. PROTECT CIVILIANS. ALLOW INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS NOW," the group said.

Developed Countries

challenges, particularly for the Global South, where these are closely intertwined with the challenge of development itself.

The two-week COP31 opened in Antalya on Monday with its President Murat Kurum calling on countries to turn climate promises into practical action, as the world confronts increasingly interconnected climate, economic and geopolitical challenges.

Kurum called for COP31 to become an "implementation COP", focused on closing the gap between commitments made in negotiating rooms and tangible improvements in people's lives.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) "2026 Adaptation Gap Report: Ready? Not", international public adaptation finance flows from developed to developing countries are far below estimated needs of $305 billion annually by 2035.

Polling For 8

of nomination papers on November 18 at the offices of the respective Returning Officers.

Candidates will be able to withdraw their candidature by November 20, with 3 pm fixed as the deadline.

Polling, if required, will be held on December 4 between 8 am and 5 pm, while the entire election process is to be completed by December 8, the notification said.

The schedule follows a notification issued by the Ladakh Administration's Revenue Department, calling upon all the 100 constituencies of the eight LAHDCs in the Union territory to constitute new councils.

The Union Territory of Ladakh is also scheduled to hold panchayat and municipal elections on November 21.

Kumar Sanu In Valley,

scheduled to travel to north Kashmir's Baramulla district. His visit comes ahead of the grand finale of the first-ever 'Kashmir Got Talent' event, scheduled to be held in Kupwara on November 11, in which the renowned playback singer is associated—(KNO)





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RBI calls for strengthening credit support, formalisation of MSMEs in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu, has called for strengthening credit support and promoting formalisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

In a statement issued, RBI said that its Jammu office held the 72nd meeting of the Empowered Committee on MSMEs for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for the quarter ended September 30, 2026.

The meeting was chaired by Prabhakar Jha, Regional Director, RBI, Jammu, and attended by representatives of various government departments, banks, financial institutions and industry associations.

In his inaugural address, the Regional Director highlighted the significant contribution of the MSME sector to India's economic growth and its potential for employment generation and entrepreneurship in the two Union Territories.

Stressing the opportunities in sectors such as handicrafts, handloom, food processing, horticulture and tourism, he stressed the need to enhance institutional credit, promote formalisation of enterprises and facilitate market access.

He also urged banks to strengthen efforts towards wider adoption of Udyam Registration, Udyam Assist and TReDS platforms and improve coverage under credit guarantee schemes.

The Committee reviewed the flow of credit to the MSME sector, district-wise credit deployment, achievement of targets under the MSME Annual Credit Plan 2026-27, availability of collateral-free loans, NPAs and coverage under CGTMSE.

Progress under Government-sponsored schemes, including PMEGP, PM-SVANidhi, PM-MUDRA and PM-Vishwakarma, was also reviewed. Other matters discussed included the implementation of the Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of stressed MSME units, pendency in credit decisions on loan applications up to Rs 25 lakh from MSE borrowers and availability of banking facilities in MSME clusters.

The participating banks and stakeholders assured the Committee of appropriate follow-up action on the issues and suggestions discussed during the meeting, with a view to improving credit flow and strengthening the MSME ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Kulgam gears up for Three-Day Veshow Festival 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: District Administration Kulgam is all set to host the three-day Veshow Festival 2026 from November 11 to 13 at Government Degree College (GDC), Kulgam, celebrating the district's rich heritage, art, culture, literature and traditional trade.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, reviewed the arrangements for the conduct of the annual festival and stressed upon the concerned departments to ensure proper coordination and make necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of all scheduled activities.

The festival aims to provide a common platform for artists, writers, poets, artisans, students, traders and cultural enthusiasts to showcase their talent, creativity and traditional knowledge while promoting the rich cultural identity of the region.

The three-day event will feature a series of literary and cultural programmes, including poetry sessions, Kashmiri literature discussions, mushairas, qawwali, ghazal performances, musical presentations and cultural performances by college and school students.

A major attraction of the festival will be the Trade Fair, featuring multiple pavilions showcasing traditional handicrafts, Kashmiri food, local products, art and craft, besides exhibitions highlighting the region's rich artistic and cultural traditions. Workshops, demonstrations by artisans and special activities for children will also form part of the festival.

The literary segment will bring together prominent writers, poets and literary personalities for interactive sessions and discussions, while dedicated programmes on Kashmiri language and literature will provide an opportunity to celebrate and promote the region's literary heritage.

The DC has invited people from all walks of life, particularly youth, students, artists and cultural enthusiasts, to participate in the festival in large numbers and make it a grand success. He said that Veshow Festival is an opportunity for people to reconnect with their roots, appreciate local talent and celebrate the rich cultural and literary traditions of the district.

A dedicated pavilion on Skill and Career Development will also be part of the festival, featuring interactive sessions and expert-led discussions to create awareness about skill development, emerging career opportunities, entrepreneurship and various avenues for professional growth, particularly among youth.

The festival is being organised under the theme 'Celebrating Our Heritage', reflecting the district's commitment to preserving and promoting its rich cultural, literary and traditional legacy.

DC Shopian reviews arrangements for Accounts Assistant Examination



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Charandeep Singh, Tuesday chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness and finalise arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant in the Finance Department, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026.

During the meeting, it was informed that 14 designated examination centres have been established across the district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The meeting was attended by SSP, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary, ADC, Dr.Zakir Hussain Faaz, Principal, GDC, Shopian, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Dy. SP Traffic and other concerned district officers.

Bandipora admin issues Weather Advisory

Tourists, FAA Aspirants advised to take Precautionary Measures

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In view of the prevailing weather advisory and the possibility of adverse weather conditions, including snowfall and disruption of road connectivity in the far-flung areas of Bandipora and Gurez, the District Administration Bandipora has issued a weather advisory for tourists, travellers, aspirants appearing in the upcoming Finance Accounts Assistant examination and the general public.

As per the advisory issued by District Administration Bandipora, candidates belonging to these areas who are scheduled to appear in the OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant (Finance Department) on November 15, 2026, have been advised to plan their journey well in advance and reach nearby stations or locations sufficiently ahead of the examination date, keeping in view the possibility of road closures and weather-related disruptions.

Tourists presently staying in Gurez have been advised to plan their departure immediately in consultation with the District Control Room.

Furthermore, Gurez Sector has temporarily been declared out of bounds for tourists in view of the prevailing weather advisory.

The advisory also requests expectant mothers residing in upper reaches, whose expected date of delivery falls within one month, to shift to nearby hospitals to ensure timely and appropriate medical care.

The general public has also been urged to avoid unnecessary travel towards Gurez and higher reaches and refrain from social gatherings in such areas.

For assistance and information, the public can contact the District Control Room, Bandipora, on 7006526985, 7006630771 and 7006328689.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Tuesday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Duderhama Tapline and 33 kV Wayil Tapline emanating from RS Power House will be observed due to which power supply to Arhama, PTS Manigam, Duderhama, Wayil Gutlibagh, Dursoo, Wahidpora, Harran, District Hospital Ganderbal, IE Ganderbal, Tawheed Chowk and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 11, 18 & 21 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Zirpora Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Veer, Nowbugh, Srigufwara, Kanalwan, Bewoora, Darigund, Thajiwara, Dupatyar and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 am to 02 pm on 12 November 2026.

DC G'bal inspects Snow Clearance Control Room at Tulbagh



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, accompanied by the ADC Ganderbal, Tuesday visited the Snow Clearance Control Room at Tulbagh, Ganderbal, to take stock of the operational preparedness and arrangements put in place for the ensuing winter season.

During the inspection, the AEE, Mechanical & Hospital Sub-Division 2nd, Ganderbal, briefed the DC regarding the availability of snow clearance machinery, the road network identified for mechanised snow clearance and the overall operational preparedness of the Control Room.

It was informed that a total of 12 snow clearance machines, including a snow cutter, are presently available. Out of these, three machines have been stationed at the Sub-Control Room, Kangan, to ensure prompt response to snowfall and snow clearance requirements in the area, while the remaining machines are stationed at the Main Control Room, Ganderbal.

The DC was apprised that a total road length of 284.18 kilometers has been identified for mechanised snow clearance across district Ganderbal. It was also apprised that the priority-wise categorisation has been made to facilitate systematic and phased snow clearance operations, with emphasis on ensuring connectivity on priority routes, particularly those essential for public movement and accessibility during the winter months.

Bihar: Maoist arms dump busted in Lakhisarai

IANS

KOLKATA: The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), in a joint operation with the Bihar Police, busted a naxal arms dump in Lakhisarai on Tuesday.

The operation was carried out by troops of the 29 Bn SSB and local police personnel. The arms dump was located at Simratri village.

Among the weapons seized was a carbine. Several rounds of ammunition and tactical equipment, including a binocular, were also recovered. The SSB has been part of similar operations in the past as well.

On October 7, troops of the same battalion, along with Bihar Police personnel, unearthed a hidden arms and ammunition dump in the Dhangai–Teletand forest area of Gaya Ji.

The recovered items then included a 9mm carbine, two country-made guns, pistol magazines, a 5-watt radio telephony set, 79 rounds of 9mm ammunition, and 13 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition.

"While the Maoists were active, cadres would carefully pack weapons, ammunition and other equipment and store them at strategic locations for use at short notice. This was done when the cadres moved out of the forested areas to interact with locals and gather intelligence. Now that the insurgency has been effectively countered, security agencies have to trace such dumps and seize the weapons," an official said. Similar seizures have been made in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Odisha. Even explosive substances have been recovered during some operations.

According to officials, while the top leadership has either surrendered or been eliminated or arrested, several lower-rung cadres may have escaped and returned to the mainstream without informing the authorities.

Such members of the outfit may know the locations of the arms and use them in future for criminal activities. Such arms dumps may also be located by criminal gangs. "The recovery of the weapons is crucial. Surrendered and arrested Naxalites are often urged to reveal their locations. Some of the stores are found during combing operations. Sometimes the dumps are found by locals who enter the forests. While a Naxal Mukt Bharat has been achieved, all weapons will also have to be accounted for," the official said.

Udyam Jagriti programme for Ex Servicemen held in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: An Udyam Jagriti programme under Mission YUVA was organised for Ex- Servicemen, Widows and their families of district Budgam to sensitise them about the scheme and apprise them of the opportunities available for establishing sustainable self-employment ventures.

The programme witnessed the participation of Team Sainik Welfare Srinagar, Lead District Manager (LDM) Budgam, Employment Officer, Career Counselling Officer Budgam and officials from the Employment Department along with huge gathering of Ex Servicemen and their families from district Budgam.

The initiative reflects the commitment of district Administration and Mission YUVA towards promoting entrepreneurship, encouraging self-employment and facilitating inclusive economic development by enabling Ex Servicemen and their wards to explore viable business opportunities and contribute to the local economy.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

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GIST OF E-TENDER

e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2026-27/82/e-tendering, Dated: 10.11.2026

(SHORT TERM)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: -

Name of Work	Est. Cost (in lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.	Time of completion (in days)	TS No	Earnest Money
1	2	3	4	5	6
Annual Maintenance of Central Heating System, 62.5 KVA DG Set, Engagement of Operational Staff and other allied works for smooth Operation of Central Heating System installed at IMPARD for the year 2026-27.	4.4035	300	15	SEMHK/TS-14/46 Dated:-07.11.2026	2% of the estimated cost

AA Accorded Vide No: IMPARD Order No:- 758 of 2026 Dated:30.10.2026
Position of Funds:- Available with intending Department.

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 10.11.2026 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 10.11.2026 (18.00 hrs)
2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 10.11.2026 (18.00 hrs) to 16.11.2026 (12:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
3. Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 16.11.2026 at 14.00(hrs)

No: M&HDS/TS/5308-12
Dated:10.11.2026

DIPK-7566-26
DT: 10/11/2026

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION BIJBEHARA.

e-mail : xenphe.bij@jk.gov.in

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e-NIT No. :- 46/PHE/BIJ of 2026-27 [e- Tendering]
Issued under endorsement No.PHE/BIJ/8819-35 Dated:- 10-11-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and registered Govt. contractors, for the works mentioned below: -

S. No.	Name of work	Class of contractor	Adver. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Cost of Tender doc. (in Rs)
1	Providing and Laying of pipes for water supply at main campus Govt. medical college, Anantnag (under CAPEX 2026-27)	CEE/DEE	6.30	18900	500

Position of Accord of Administrative Approval: - Accorded
Position of Accord of Technical Sanction: Accorded
Status of Funds: - Budgetary Provision 2026-27

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), 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.

S. No	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYY	
01	Publishing date of NIT	10	11	2026	5:00 PM
02	Download Start date	11	11	2026	10:00 PM
03	Bid Submission date	11	11	2026	10:00 PM
04	Bid Submission end date	19	11	2026	5:00 PM
05	Bid Opening date	20	11	2026	11:00 AM

Note: i) The Department shall not be responsible for any delay in the online submission of bids due to any reason whatsoever. Prospective bidders are advised to thoroughly read and understand the instructions and conditions provided in the NIT/SBD, prior to submitting their bids. Submission of the tender shall be deemed as confirmation that the bidder has read, understood, and accepted all terms and conditions stipulated therein.
All other terms & Conditions otherwise not mentioned in this SBD/e-NIT shall hold good and shall be the same as stated in CPWD works manual, Manual for Procurement of Works 2025, GFR 2017 updated , and other guidelines issued by the CVC Government, etc. from time to time.

No. PHB/Cors/
Dt:-

DIPK-7561-26
DT: 10/11/2026

Executive Engineer,
PHE Division Bijbehara .

Aaryavir Sehwag's 160 carnage powers India U19 to 70-run win over UAE and into Asia Cup SF

IANS

AL AMERAT: Aaryavir Sehwag, son of India icon Virender Sehwag, scored a masterful 160 from 168 balls to help India U19 beat UAE U19 by 70 runs in the U19 Asia Cup at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground (Ministry Turf 2) here on Tuesday.

The victory also helped India U19 confirm their place in the U19 Asia Cup semifinal as they have finished their Group A in second place behind Pakistan U19, who had edged past the Indian side earlier in the league stage.

India have two wins in three matches as they had earlier defeated the Nepal U19 side too. In the semifinal, the eight-time U19 champions India will be up against 2017 winner Afghanistan U19 on Thursday.

Coming to the match, the Indian U19 side made a strong total of 309/7 in



50 overs. Opener Aaryavir scored 160 with 17 fours and seven sixes to hold the team's innings together. No.3 VK Vineeth was the only other player with a notable score as he made 67 from 69 balls. The junior Sehwag and Vineeth put up a 193-run partnership for the third wicket and put India U19 on the door of a strong total.

The Indian side lost its way a bit in the death overs as, from 255/1 in 44.1 overs, they slipped to 299/7 in 49.1 overs and ended up making 309/7.

For UAE, medium-pace bowler Naseem Khan was the pick of the bowler for having taken 4-48 in his 10 overs.

Coming into the chase, India kept a lid on the UAE side with regular wickets. Right-arm fast bowler Ishan Sood stood out with 4-37 in his seven overs, while all of the other six bowlers also took a wicket each to bowl UAE for 239.

No.4 Ahmed Khudadad was the only saving grace for the UAE side as he made a run-a-ball 74 and did the damage control. Captain and opener Ayaan Misbah (27) and other opener Zainullah Rehmani (16) got starts but could not capitalise, as did Yayin Rai, who scored 29 but fell to Yashbardhan Chauhan.

While the wickets were falling, Khudadad held one end up to put up a lone fight, and despite Noorullah Ayobi coming with a 25-ball 39-run cameo, UAE were considerably short in the end.

While India U19 will meet Afghanistan U19 in the second semifinal, defending champions Pakistan U19 will lock horns against Bangladesh U19 in the first semifinal, which is also scheduled to take place on Thursday.

Brief Scores: India U19 309/7 in 50 overs (Aaryavir Sehwag 160, VK Vineeth 67; Naseem Khan 4-48, Noorullah Ayobi 1-59) beat UAE U19 239/10 (Ahmed Khudadad 74, Noorullah Ayobi 39; Ishan Sood 4-37, Aryan Savsani 1-21) by 70 runs

World Athletics announces two-way qualification system for LA28 Olympics

IANS



NEW DELHI: World Athletics has released the qualification system for the athletics events at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, outlining the entry standards, qualification periods and quota places for athletes competing at the global sporting event.

The athletics competitions at the LA28 Olympics will be held from July 15 to 30, 2028. The qualification framework, approved by the World Athletics Council, will follow a two-way system, with 40 per cent of the available places expected to be filled through entry standards and the remaining 60 per cent through world rankings.

The athletics programme will feature 48 events, including 23 men's and 23 women's competitions, along with two mixed events. The mixed 4x100m relay will make its debut at the Olympic Games, joining the mixed 4x400m relay.

World Athletics has clarified that achieving the entry standard will not automatically guarantee an Olympic place. If the number of athletes meeting the required mark exceeds the available quota in an event, only those with the best performances during the qualification period will secure places. In such cases, no additional athletes will qualify through world rankings.

The qualification windows will vary according to the events. For the marathon, the period will run from November 1, 2026, to April 30, 2028. The 10,000m, combined events, race walks, and relays will have a qualification window from December 19, 2026, to June 18, 2028. For all other track and field events, the period will begin on June 19, 2027, and end on June 18, 2028.

The entry standards include 9.93 seconds in the men's 100m and 10.96 seconds in the women's event. In the men's and women's 200m, the qualifying marks have been set at 19.95 and 22.25 seconds, respectively. For the men's marathon, the standard is 2:05:00, while women will need to achieve 2:22:20.

Special qualification rules have also been introduced for road races and relays. The top 56 athletes on the filtered marathon qualification list as of March 19, 2028, will be considered qualified. The first 12 finishers in the half marathon race walk events at the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships in China on April 9, 2028, will also earn automatic qualification.

Chris Gayle joins Venice Livewires in Italia T10 League

IANS

VENICE: The West Indies legend and former cricketer Chris Gayle has joined Venice Livewires in the Italia T10 League, giving the franchise a major shot in the arm.

Gayle, also known as 'Universe boss', is excited to have joined the franchise for the inaugural Italia T10 League. "I'm excited to be part of Venice Livewires for the Italia T10 League. It's always great to be involved in new cricketing opportunities and connect with fans around the world.

"T10 cricket is exciting, fast-paced and full of entertainment, and I'm looking forward to being part of this journey with Venice Livewires. Let's bring some entertainment and big energy to Italy!" Gayle said.

Former Indian cricketer and ex-chief selector MSK Prasad is the Team Director of the franchise. He was pleased to have Gayle with the franchise. "Chris Gayle's



arrival is a massive boost for Venice Livewires. His experience of playing at the highest level and across some of the biggest franchise leagues in the world brings tremendous value to our setup.

"Beyond his explosive batting, he brings an understanding of high-pressure situations and the ability to inspire teammates. His presence will strengthen our cricketing environment, and we are delighted to welcome a player of his stature to the franchise," Prasad said.

Chairman of Venice Livewires, Mohit, stated that bringing Gayle into the team was a proud moment. "Bringing Chris Gayle on board is a proud moment for Venice Livewires. Chris is a global cricketing icon whose contribution to the game goes far beyond statistics and records. His personality, experience and ability to entertain millions make him a tremendous addition to our franchise," he said.

The chairman added that the franchise is working towards building the identity and mindset of a winning team. "We are building a team with a strong international identity and a winning mindset, and Chris's association reflects our ambition to make Venice Livewires a major force in the Italia T10 League," Mohit added.

Gayle has played cricket even after his international retirement in 2021, as he has been seen in T20 leagues and exhibition cricket around the world. He was recently seen in action during the World Championship of Legends 2026, where his team won the tournament by beating England in the final.

No bilateral or tri-series, face-offs only in ICC events; insight into Cricket Scotland's new engagement with Afghanistan

IANS

EDINBURGH: Cricket Scotland has announced its future engagement with the Afghanistan Cricket Board, confirming that its men's team's ties with Afghanistan men will be limited to ICC events only, owing to Taliban government's treatment of women.

In a statement, Cricket Scotland confirmed that it "will not proactively schedule bilateral series or participate in tri-series involving Afghanistan Men" due to the Taliban government's treatment of women and girls. It added that their men's team "will continue to participate" against the Afghanistan men's team in only ICC events.

The Scottish board said it will also "not host or participate in pre-tour training camps, practice matches, or warm-up fixtures involving Afghanistan men outside ICC events."

"Cricket Scotland will



continue to participate in any fixtures against Afghanistan Men at ICC events which are determined by ICC competition regulations," Cricket Scotland said in a statement.

"Participation in these fixtures should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the current Afghan regime or its policies," it added.

The Board also stated that it will not play Afghanistan in bilateral and tri-series "unless there is a material change in the circumstances surrounding Afghanistan women's cricket and wider human rights considerations."

Moreover, the board opened up on its players' participation in the Afghanistan Premier League. George Munsey was the only Scottish player signed in last week's APL draft. The board highlighted that, pending the league being granted an ICC sanction, they would hand him an NOC.

3rd Unofficial Test: Rain-hit draw leaves Bumrah, Prasidh short of match practice ahead of NZ games

IANS



LINCOLN: Persistent rain brought an early end to the third unofficial Test between India A and New Zealand A at Bert Sutcliffe Oval on Tuesday, leaving the four-day contest drawn and denying India's returning fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna valuable match practice ahead of the senior team's upcoming Test series.

After the entire third day was lost, conditions offered little respite on the final morning. Although the covers were briefly removed, another spell of rain forced the abandonment of play at 1 pm local time, without a single delivery being bowled. The three-match unofficial Test series consequently finished without a winner, with all three games ending in draws.

India had put themselves in a commanding position before the weather intervened. Yashasvi Jaiswal's 102 laid the foundation for a first-innings total of 464/5 declared, with Sai Sudharsan contributing 88 and Tilak Varma remaining unbeaten on 81. Dhruv Jurel (71) and Washington Sundar (50 not out) also made half-centuries as the visitors dominated the batting effort.

New Zealand A were 36/2 when play ended on the second evening, with Prasidh Krishna accounting for both dismissals. However, the pacer and Bumrah managed only 11 overs between them, while Ravindra Jadeja did not get an opportunity to bowl. Bumrah, who last featured in a Test in November last year, was among the key players India wanted to give competitive red-ball exposure before the two-Test series beginning November 19.

The match nevertheless provided useful batting time for several players in India's Test plans. Jaiswal finished the three-match series with 279 runs in five innings at an average of 69.75, while Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal emerged among the leading run-scorers. Padikkal had struck 199 in the opening game, while Sudharsan registered scores of 91 and 88.

'It's about accuracy, perfect line and length': Kamboj on approach behind his success

IANS

HAMILTON: India fast bowler Anshul Kamboj has attributed his impressive performances to disciplined bowling and an ability to assess conditions, saying that identifying the right line and length according to the pitch and match situation remains central to his approach during the ongoing international assignment.

Speaking about his development as a cricketer, the Haryana pacer explained how his domestic experience has helped him adjust to different playing conditions. Having started playing cricket at the age of 13, Kamboj believes the similarities between conditions in Haryana and those he has encountered have offered a familiar foundation.

"I started playing when I was 13 years old. I play for Haryana. So it's like similar kind of weather and wickets as well in Haryana," Kamboj said ahead of the third ODI here at Seddon Park.

The opportunity to represent India has been another significant milestone for the young fast bowler, who described the experience of wearing the national colours as a



dream come true. He also spoke about the excitement of making the step up to the senior team and the reaction back home.

"Actually, I'm excited and very happy as well, as I'm playing for my national team. It's everyone's dream to play for their national team, so it's pretty much exciting," he added.

Kamboj has also drawn on his experience with Chennai Super Kings, where working under the guidance of Mahendra Singh Dhoni and head coach Stephen Fleming provided him with valuable learning opportunities. Rather than becoming preoccupied with outcomes, he said his priority has been to understand his responsibilities and keep improving his execution on the field.

"Actually, that was a good learning experience for me, and I'm still learning a lot. I'm just making sure that I'm learning in the right way, not thinking too much about the results, but focusing on what I need to do and what I need to do on the field as well," Kamboj stated.

Preparing for the conditions in New Zealand has required particular attention to the weather and the nature of the wickets. Recalling his experience in the India A series, Kamboj said getting accustomed to the conditions and figuring out the appropriate bowling areas were among his immediate priorities.

"Actually, it was just about acclimatising to the weather. The wicket was a bit nippy, and I just wanted to understand the right lengths and the right areas where I need to bowl. I'm just focusing on that," he said.

For Kamboj, the key to maintaining his current form is to keep things simple rather than overcomplicate his bowling plans. He believes consistency in execution, while taking the conditions and circumstances into account, has been particularly effective. "It's about accuracy and the perfect line and length, according to the wicket and the situation. It's working for me right now, so I'm just focusing on that."

