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Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

GK Srinagar • Wednesday 18, November 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 272 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

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Tomorrow, 18th November, I shall be in Tokyo for the India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue, alongside bilateral meetings with my Japanese counterparts. During this visit, we will review the steady progress in our defence and security cooperation and explore new avenues to deepen collaboration in technology, maritime security, and regional stability.

'Rs 601 Cr Ayushman Bharat Claims Pending In J&K'



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Claims worth Rs 601.38 crore under the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT scheme are pending for settlement in Jammu & Kashmir, official data submitted to the Estimates Committee of the J&K Assembly has revealed.

According to details accessed, public hospitals account for the major share of pending claims at Rs 376.67 crore, while claims worth Rs 224.71 crore submitted by private hospitals are also awaiting settlement.

The data shows that the pending amount includes Rs 217.01 crore for the original current policy period from April 17, 2025 to April 16, 2026, and Rs 384.37 crore for the extended policy period from April 17, 2026 to November 08, 2026.

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT provides free cashless health insurance cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family annually to all residents of Jammu & Kashmir at empanelled government and private hospitals across the country.

The figures placed before the Assembly panel reveal that empanelled hospitals have submitted 6.20 lakh claims amounting to Rs 1158.12 crore under the scheme from April 17, 2025 to November 08, 2026 .

Of these, claims worth Rs 755.69 crore were submitted by public hospitals and Rs 402.43 crore by private hospitals.

The data further shows that claims amounting to Rs 406.30 crore have been paid so far, including Rs 242.07 crore to public hospitals and Rs 164.23

The data also lays bare that claims worth Rs 106.11 crore have been rejected, including Rs 98.51 crore submitted by public hospitals and Rs 7.60 crore by private hospitals.

The records also show that deductions amounting to Rs 44.33 crore were made during claim processing, including Rs 38.44 crore for • P-06

Companies In J&K Must Prioritise Hiring Local Youth: CM Omar

Says UT Status No Excuse For Govt To Avoid Responsibilities, Announces Projects Worth Rs 30 Crore

YOGESH

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday warned companies setting up units in Jammu and Kashmir against citing a shortage of trained manpower as an excuse to hire people from outside, asserting that local youth must be given priority in recruitment and adequate opportunities to prove their capabilities.

He said companies could be given six months to a year to train local youngsters before employing them, maintaining that Jammu and Kashmir had no shortage of talent and had sufficient training facilities, academies, colleges and universities.

Addressing a public gathering in Kathua during his developmental outreach across Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts, the Chief Minister said the government would not tolerate excuses for overlooking local youth in recruitment.



"We will not tolerate the excuse that trained local youngsters are not available. We can give you six months or a year to train our youth. We have academies, training facilities, colleges and universities," Omar said.

"Our youngsters are only waiting for opportunities. The moment they get a chance, they leave their mark. Companies will have to employ our youngsters. Only when local youth are working in these companies will I consider that justice has been done to us," he added.

The Chief Minister said youngsters from Jammu and Kashmir had demonstrated their capabilities in different fields and were serving in various regiments and across different parts of the country.

Referring to sports achievements, he said football and hockey had traditionally received greater attention, but local youngsters had also shown their potential in running, rowing and other disciplines.

He also referred to Jammu and Kashmir's Ranji Trophy triumph and stressed the need to provide better facilities and opportunities to local sporting talent.

On the issue of Jammu and Kashmir's Union Territory status, CM Abdullah said the people had not become a UT by choice and that resolving the issue was not within the control of the elected government.

Responding to remarks by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on the UT status, he acknowledged the challenges associated with the present administrative arrangement but said it could not become an excuse for the government to avoid its responsibilities.

"It is a UT, and no one can deny that. We did not become a Union Territory by choice. Had it been in our hands, this situation would never have arisen. Unfortunately, • P-06

> **"IT IS A UT, AND NO ONE CAN DENY THAT. WE DID NOT BECOME A UNION TERRITORY BY** choice. Had it been in our hands, this situation would never have arisen. Unfortunately, resolving this issue is also not within our control. The Central Government is responsible for making us a UT and putting us in this difficult situation.

Srinagar Records Season's First Sub-Zero Night



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar recorded its first sub-zero night of the ongoing winter season on Tuesday, with the minimum temperature settling at minus 0.1 degrees Celsius, while the mercury dropped below the freezing point at several other places across Kashmir.

According to the details available, the tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam recorded minimum temperatures of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius and minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, respectively, marking some of the lowest readings across Jammu and Kashmir.

Director of the Meteorological Department Mukhtar Ahmed said Srinagar recorded minus 0.1 degrees Celsius during the night, the lowest minimum temperature registered in the city so far this season.

This was also the first occasion this season when the night temperature in Srinagar fell below the freezing point, indicating a further intensification of cold conditions across the Valley.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 11 degrees Celsius, • P-06

Dy CM Snubs MLA Kangan, Avoids Handshake

YOGESH

JAMMU: A video circulating on social media appears to show MLA Kangan, Mian Mehar Ali, being snubbed by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, who seemingly avoided a handshake with him during a function organized by a media group in Jammu on Monday evening.

In the video, Choudhary can be seen entering the venue and greeting several dignitaries, including Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and Minister for Consumer Affairs Javid Rana, who were seated in the front row.

As the Deputy Chief Minister moved ahead to greet other legislators, MLAs Nazir Gurezi and Mian Mehar Ali stood up from their seats to welcome him. Choudhary is seen shaking hands with Gurezi, while Mehar Ali simultaneously



extends his hand towards the Deputy Chief Minister, apparently expecting a handshake. However, Choudhary appears to move ahead without shaking hands with him.

The apparent snub comes at a time when a section of National Conference legislators, including some considered close to Mian Altaf Ahmad, are reportedly seeking the withdrawal of the Roads and Buildings (R&B) portfolio from the Deputy Chief Minister.

As many as 20 NC legislators have demanded that the R&B department be taken away from Choudhary—(KNO)

PM Modi Calls For Free, Open Indo-Pacific Region At ASEAN Summit

IANS

MANILA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday highlighted the importance of the India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, while emphasising the need to work for peace, stability and predictability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

In his address at the 23rd ASEAN Summit here, the Prime Minister said that India believes in a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific and that the future of the region depends on "cooperation and not competition".

Underlining that India remains firmly committed to ASEAN's unity and centrality, the Prime Minister stated that 'ASEAN Community Vision 2045' and 'VIKSIT BHARAT 2047' will help meet the shared aspira-



tions of the people of India and ASEAN.

PM Modi also said that at a time of global uncertainties, shared values, a common global outlook and deep cultural ties between India and ASEAN have given a new dimension to the partnership. He stated that India's ACT EAST policy has given new momentum to India-ASEAN ties.

Alluding to the importance of technology for the future of the world, he emphasised that India and ASEAN should not just be consumers of technologies, but should co-create them and work together to skill their people.

The Prime Minister noted that 2027 will be a special year for the India-ASEAN relationship as the two sides will be celebrating 35 years of their ties and 5 years of their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The Prime Minister suggested several proposals to strengthen India-ASEAN engagements, including a long-term ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation Plan on enhancing connectivity, scientific research, disaster management, Coast Guard cooperation, maritime domain • P-06

J&K Industrial Policy To Be Unveiled Soon: CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday announced that his government will bring Industrial Policy soon in Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming its commitment to revitalising the industrial sector and strengthening home-grown industries in the region.

He added that three new policies on mining, industry, and logistics and warehousing are in the offing before the Budget Session 2027-28,

Addressing the Bari Brahmana Industry Association (BBIA) Industry Conclave 2026 at Bari Brahmana, the Chief Minister emphasised that the Government's industrial policy must focus not only on attracting new investments but also on protecting, supporting and sustaining existing industries.

"Welcome the new, but protect the existing industries. There is no use of a policy which is only for new industry," he said, assuring industrial stakeholders that the Government would work towards creating a sustainable and supportive ecosystem for local industry.

The Chief Minister stressed that industrial

> **"WELCOME THE** new, but protect the existing industries. There is no use of a policy which is only for new industry,"

incentives must be realistic and linked to the long-term viability of businesses rather than perpetuating dependence on subsidies. He observed that industries which bring raw material from outside and take finished products out of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be sustained indefinitely through government support. • P-06

Census Soon

Migratory Birds Start Flocking To Kashmir Wetlands

Hokersar, Wular Among Key Habitats For Winter Visitors

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Marking the beginning of the winter migration season in Kashmir, birds from different countries have started arriving in the Valley.

An official of the Wildlife Department said migratory birds have started reaching at several wetlands, including Hokersar, Wular, Shallabugh, Hygam and Mirgund. "The numbers are expected to swell in the coming weeks," he said, adding, ""The department will conduct a census soon to assess the arrival and population of migratory birds in different wetlands of Kashmir. The exercise will help determine the number of species visiting the Valley and monitor their distribution across



various habitats."

It's in place to mention here that the annual arrival of migratory birds marks the beginning of the winter migration season in the Valley, as thousands of birds travel from colder regions, including Siberia, Central Asia, China and parts of Europe, to spend the winter in Kashmir's relatively milder climatic conditions.

Another official said the wetlands of Kashmir provide important winter habitats for several species of migratory birds, which travel thousands of kilometres during their seasonal migration. "Among the species commonly recorded in the Valley during winter are mallards, pintails, teals, coots, greylag geese, pochards, gadwalls, wigeons, shovellers and tufted ducks," he added.

The wetlands of Hokersar, Wular, Shallabugh, Hygam and Mirgund serve as important feeding and resting grounds for these birds during their stay in Kashmir.

Officials said the migratory birds also use different water bodies across the Valley for feeding, with many of them moving between wetlands during the day and night.

The department has undertaken management measures in several wetland reserves to maintain suitable habitats for the visiting species. These include maintaining water levels, improving water channels and creating • P-06

493 Fires In Srinagar Till Oct: F&ES

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Srinagar district has recorded 493 fire incidents till October this year, fewer than the corresponding period last year, with electrical faults accounting for more than 90 per cent of fire incidents, Deputy Director, Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Kashmir, Aqib Husain Mir, said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Mir, said the department had issued a detailed winter safety advisory as the use of heating appliances increases during the cold months, urging people to take precautions to prevent fire accidents and loss of life and property.

He said unsafe handling of heating appliances, electrical faults and poor maintenance of equipment were among the major causes of fire incidents.

The Deputy Director advised people to purchase • P-06

MEA Condemns Attack On LPG Tanker In Hormuz



IANS

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday strongly condemned the attack on Panama-flagged LPG tanker MT Tara Gas in Strait of Hormuz, with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stating that of the 24 Indian nationals on board, 21 have been safely evacuated ashore, two injured crew members admitted to a local hospital and one still missing.

"We condemn the attack on the Panama-flagged LPG tanker MT TARA GAS in the Strait of Hormuz on 16 November 2026. Of the 24 Indian nationals on board, 21 have been safely evacuated ashore at Khasab, two injured Indian crew members have been admitted to hospital, while one Indian national remains missing," the MEA said.

According to the ministry, the Indian Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring the ongoing search and rescue operations in coordination with the Omani authorities.

"We appreciate the timely assistance and support extended by the Government of Oman in the rescue efforts," the statement added.

Expressing concern over the continuing attacks on vessels, the MEA said, "The continuing incidents of attacks on shipping in the region are deeply worrisome and pose a serious threat to the safety of • P-06

DC Srinagar visits Mir Behri Dal, reviews developmental initiatives



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday visited the interior localities of Mir Behri Dal to take stock of developmental initiatives and assess public service delivery in the area.

The Deputy Commissioner also dedicated an ambulance to Medical Block Hazratbal to strengthen healthcare facilities and improve access to medical services for residents of the interior areas of Mir Behri Dal.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, BMO Hazratbal, Dr. Ab Majeed, Executive Engineer R&B Arif Hazari, Executive Engineer KPDCL, Syed Abrar , Executive Engineer KPDCL, Nissar Ahmad, Secretary LCMA, Muneer Ahmad, District Health Officer, Dr. Rubeena, and other senior officers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local residents and took feedback regarding their day-to-day concerns, particularly those related to healthcare and other essential civic amenities. He stressed the importance of ensuring effective implementation of developmental initiatives and strengthening public service delivery, especially in interior and relatively inaccessible areas of the district.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner formally handed over the ambulance to the Block Medical Office, Hazratbal, for the benefit of the local population, particularly residents of the interior and relatively inaccessible areas of Mir Behri Dal.

The DC underlined that the ambulance is expected to strengthen emergency healthcare services and facilitate timely transportation of patients to nearby healthcare facilities.

Belagavi Mayor-Led Delegation visits Srinagar to study Smart City Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A 48-member delegation comprising Councillors and senior officials of the City Corporation, Belagavi, Karnataka, led by Mayor, Preeti Kamakar and Deputy Mayor, Hanumant Kongali, visited Srinagar on a study tour to gain first-hand insights into the urban development initiatives undertaken by Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) under the Government of India's Smart Cities Mission.

The visit aimed to promote inter-city knowledge exchange, particularly in the areas of modern urban planning, sustainable infrastructure development, technology-driven governance, civic amenities and urban mobility.

The programme commenced with a briefing by Additional Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited, Suhail Ul Islam, who familiarised the delegation with Srinagar's urban governance initiatives and the role of various agencies in strengthening civic infrastructure and improving public service delivery.

The delegation visited the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at HMT, where officials briefed its members on its functioning and role in real-time city monitoring, traffic management, coordination of civic services and technology-enabled administration. The members were also apprised of how the facility integrates various urban operations to strengthen monitoring and improve the efficiency of civic service delivery.

The team also visited the Jhelum Riverfront at Raj Bagh, where members were briefed on the transformation of the riverbanks into accessible public spaces featuring pedestrian promenades, landscaped areas, illumination and recreational facilities. The project was highlighted as a significant intervention in revitalising Srinagar's



waterfront and enhancing public access to the riverfront.

The delegation subsequently visited the iconic Ghanta Ghar at Lal Chowk, where officials briefed the members on the redevelopment and beautification of the landmark and its adjoining public spaces, with particular emphasis on improving urban infrastructure while preserving the area's heritage character.

During the interaction, senior officials of Srinagar Smart City Limited, including the Additional Chief Executive Officer and Chief Engineer, highlighted the organisation's major achievements and ongoing projects. The briefing covered key interventions, including the redevelopment of Lal Chowk, upgradation of MA Road and Residency Road, development of the Jhelum Riverfront, improvement of pedestrian infrastructure, installation of energy-efficient street lighting and modernisation of traffic management systems.

A separate presentation on the Achan Landfill Site was delivered by the Joint Commissioner, Health & Sanitation, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC). The presentation provided an overview of the city's solid waste management infrastructure, landfill remediation initiatives and measures being undertaken to promote scientific and sustainable waste management practices. This was followed by an interactive session during which participants exchanged views on municipal sanitation and solid waste management.

Officials also highlighted Srinagar's initiatives in sustainable urban mobility, including pedestrian-friendly streets, cycling infrastructure and technology-driven traffic management. The ICCC was showcased as a key institutional mechanism for strengthening data-driven urban administration and improving coordination among various civic agencies.

The delegation was also apprised of the national recognition received by Srinagar Smart City Limited, particularly the Best Smart Urban Mobility Award at the Smart Cities India Expo 2024, in recognition of its contribution to innovative and sustainable urban mobility solutions.

Dir Agri reviews performance of sector heads, divisional officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Tuesday chaired a review meeting at Directorate of Agriculture Lalmandi to assess the physical and financial progress achieved by all the Sectoral heads and divisional officers under HADP, CSS, CAPEX, NABARD and Revex.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Kashmir, Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Joint Director Engineering, Floriculture development officer, Soil survey officer, Seed production Officer, Plant Pathologist, Seed Analyst, Agriculture chemist, Deputy Director Trainings and other officers of the department.

The director undertook a detailed assessment of sector wise expenditure achievements, financial progress and the implementation status of various schemes. He also reviewed the pace of execution of approved activities under each component of various schemes, and the progress achieved against the targets set for the current financial year.

Director Agriculture called for simplifying the procedure for procurement of different seeds from registered seed village growers and instructed the concerned officers to ensure timely processing of bills, to facilitate the seed village growers.

The Director called for minimising intervention of chemicals in agriculture fields and promoting natural farming and Agriculture Chemist Kashmir was instructed to take necessary measures in this regard. Shah directed Deputy Director Trainings FTEC Ganderbal to prepare a comprehensive Detailed Project report for establishment of training college for farmers, with all the modern technological facilities and infrastructure.

Shah stressed on achievement of all physical and financial targets earmarked for each sectoral and divisional officer under various schemes in time bound manner.

DC Anantnag chairs meeting on Title, Cadastral Verification of Limestone Mining Blocks

GMK NEWS NETWORK



ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive meeting to review and discuss issues pertaining to land title verification and cadastral verification of identified major mineral limestone mining blocks in the district.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on various issues concerning land ownership records, cadastral details and demarcation of boundaries of the identified mining blocks, with particular emphasis on resolving pending issues to facilitate the timely completion of the verification process.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to constitute special teams comprising relevant departmental officers and technical experts for undertaking the demarcation and verification of forest and revenue boundaries.

He stressed the need for close interdepartmental coordination to ensure accuracy in land records, resolve jurisdictional issues and expedite the verification process for the remaining mining blocks.

It was informed during the meeting that a total of 13 major mineral limestone blocks had been taken up for discussion, out of which six blocks have already been approved, while the remaining seven blocks are yet to be cleared following completion of the requisite verification and other formalities.

The DC emphasised that all concerned departments must work in a coordinated manner and accord priority to the pending cases so that the process is completed within the stipulated timeline. He further stressed that proper verification of land titles and clear demarcation of forest and revenue boundaries are essential to ensure transparency and avoid any future disputes.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Muzamil Ahmad Beigh, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), District Mineral Officer (DMO), Tehsildars of Mattan, Kokernag and Larnoo, Naib Tehsildar Doru and other concerned officers.

Info Deptt Kulgam organises Seminar on Social Media Ethics

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Information Department Kulgam, in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam, Tuesday organised a seminar on "Social Media Ethics" under the Youth Engagement/Empowerment Plan at GDC Kulgam to sensitise students about the responsible and ethical use of social media.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, was the Chief Guest at the event.

The programme commenced with a street play organised by the Information Department and performed by local artists, highlighting the importance of responsible online behaviour and awareness about the potential risks associated with social media.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, emphasized the constructive role of social media in education, awareness and public engagement. He urged students to use digital platforms judiciously, avoid fake news and online misconduct, and contribute positively to society through responsible digital participation. He also outlined the historical context of evolving social and communication technologies and underscored self correcting mechanism for consuming and sharing information for public good.

DC Shopian reviews Grievance Redressal Mechanism



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Tuesday telephonically interacted with people who had submitted their grievances through various public grievance redressal mechanisms and sought direct feedback on the promptness and effectiveness of grievance resolution.

During the telephonic interactions, the Deputy Commissioner enquired about the status of the grievances, the response received from the concerned departments and the time taken for their resolution. He also sought feedback from the complainants regarding the overall grievance redressal mechanism and the accessibility of the concerned offices.

The DC stressed the importance of maintaining a responsive and citizen-centric grievance redressal system, ensuring that public concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

He directed the concerned officers to closely monitor grievances received through various platforms and ensure their timely disposal, while keeping the complainants informed about the action taken.

The initiative is aimed at further strengthening the feedback mechanism and ensuring greater accountability, responsiveness and transparency in public service delivery.

DC Shopian presides over PM Vishwakarma Awareness Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SHOPIAN: An Awareness-cum-Capacity Building Programme under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, presided over by Depuy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, was organised Tuesday in collaboration with the MSME Development & Facilitation Office and the District Administration, Shopian, with the District Industries Centre, Shopian coordinating the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC exhorted upon strengthening the capabilities of traditional artisans and crafts people and facilitating their access to modern tools, digital platforms and institutional support.

The DC directed for adopting digital technologies, improving product packaging and branding and using e-commerce platforms to enhance the market reach and competitiveness of traditional products.

During the programme, speakers sensitised the participants about the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications for artisans, product packaging, QR Code generation, Udyam Registration, e-commerce onboarding and credit facilitation through Loan Melas.

They said that it is an opportunity to understand the various support mechanisms available under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme and interact with the concerned officials regarding registration, credit facilitation and other components of the scheme.

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme, launched by the Government of India, aims to provide comprehensive support to traditional artisans and craftspeople through skill development, toolkit support, credit facilitation, digital enablement, branding and market linkage.

Joint Director, MSME, GM, DIC, Shopian, AD, MSME, DFO, Jammu / Srinagar, LDM, Shopian, officials from concerned departments and agencies, besides Vishwakarma beneficiaries participated in the awareness programme.

Dir Sericulture reviews physical, financial progress under various schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Directorate of Sericulture Development Department, J&K, Tulsi Bagh, Srinagar, to assess the physical and financial progress of various departmental schemes and programmes and review the overall performance of the department.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the physical and financial achievements made during the financial year 2026–27 under CAPEX and HADP, besides examining proposals for the financial year 2027–28.

The meeting also reviewed the utilisation certificates (UCs), beneficiary lists and details of funds released and utilised under Silk Samagra-I and Silk Samagra-II for the financial years 2021–22, 2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26. The Director took stock of the status of silkworm rearing and cocoon production achievements during 2026–27, along with the progress of silkworm seed production and the proposed plan for 2027–28.

The Director stressed the importance of timely submission of updated progress reports, utilisation certificates and requisite documentation by the concerned officers to ensure effective monitoring, proper utilisation of funds and timely implementation of departmental programmes.

The concerned officers were directed to maintain close coordination and ensure that all targets and deliverables are achieved within the stipulated timelines.

INNOVATION MEETS ACTION

50 bright minds compete in Jammu as VBYLD 2027 sparks grassroots leadership

AZHAR HAJINI



JAMMU: Evaluated by a distinguished panel of jury headed by Sh Manu Hansa JKAS, Sub Divisional Magistrate South, the two-day District-Level PPT Presentation Round of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2027 concluded with remarkable enthusiasm and exceptional youth participation at the Government College for Women, Parade Ground here.

Organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and MY Bharat, the event served as a dynamic platform for the Jammu's brightest young minds to present forward-thinking solutions for national development.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Anuradha Gupta Director General of Youth Services and Sports J&K and the supervision of Tinna Mahajan Additional Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department, who serves as the Union Territory Level Nodal Officer for VBYLD 2027. The seamless execution of the district-level proceedings were coordinated by Verinder Kumar Sharma, Assistant Director of Youth Services and Sports & In-charge District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Jammu.

Visiting the venue, Tinna Mahajan interacted closely with the participants, lauding their innovative thinking and vibrant energy. She encouraged the young aspirants to translate their visionary concepts into practical, ground-level solutions that directly contribute to nation-building and the overarching national goal of realizing a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

A total of 50 shortlisted candidates from Jammu District, having successfully advanced through the rigorous Stage-II Essay Evaluation Round, took center stage to deliver compelling presentations centered on the vital regional theme of climate security, borders and sustainable mountain development.

The successful organization and smooth execution of legacy and district-level proceedings were ensured by a dedicated committee comprising Nirmal Singh, Harvinder Singh Sodhi, Jyoti Sharma, Harvinder Kour,Arjun and Akanksha.

The successful conclusion of this crucial district round marks yet another significant milestone in empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, offering them a premier platform to articulate their ideas, demonstrate leadership potential and play an active role in shaping the trajectory of a developed nation.

Kupwara schoolgirl's death

Education Minister assures justice, action against officials

Announces new school building to be named after Gaziya Parvaiz

WARIS FAYAZ



KUPWARA: Education Minister Shamim Firdous on Tuesday assured justice to the family of Class 3 student Gaziya Parvaiz, who died after a boundary wall collapsed at her government school in Drugmulla area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on November 14, saying action would be taken against all officials found responsible for the tragedy.

During her visit to the bereaved family, the minister, said the Head of Institution (HoI) was suspended soon after the incident, while the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) would also face action for failing to bring the matter to the government's notice.

"The ZEO too had a responsibility to inform and bring the matter to the notice of the government, but he did not. He too is responsible, and action will be taken against him. Anyone else found responsible will also be taken to task," she said.

Firdous said inquiry committees had been constituted and their reports were expected within two to three days. The government would examine both reports before deciding on further action, she added.

"Justice will be done," the minister assured.

She further announced that a new school building would be constructed and named after Gaziya Parvaiz.

Responding to a query on the safety of educational institutions, the minister said unsafe school buildings across Jammu and Kashmir would be identified and reconstructed on priority to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

On compensation, she said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had announced Rs 2 lakh from his relief fund, while the district administration had provided Rs 1 lakh. The Education Department would provide an additional Rs 5 lakh to the bereaved family, taking the total compensation to Rs 8 lakh.

Gaziya Parvaiz died on November 14 after a boundary wall collapsed at her government school in Drugmulla, Kupwara district—(KNO)

J&K to implement 25% reservation for EWS, disadvantaged children in Pvt schools: Edu Min

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is set to implement the provision of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, providing for 25 per cent reservation of entry-level seats in private schools for children belonging to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and disadvantaged groups.

The landmark initiative is aimed at promoting inclusive education, ensuring equitable access to quality schooling and extending greater educational opportunities to children from underprivileged backgrounds.

This was announced by Minister for Education and Jal Shakti, Shamim Firdous, during a detailed review meeting held with senior officers of the School Education Department, representatives of private school associations, parents' associations and members of civil society.

The Minister informed the meeting that the rules governing the implementation of Section 12(1)(c) are in the final stage of notification and will be issued shortly. Under this provision, 25 per cent of the prescribed entry-level seats in private schools will be reserved for eligible children belonging to EWS and disadvantaged groups. The Government will reimburse schools for admissible expenditure incurred on their free and compulsory education in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures.

The initiative is expected to strengthen social inclusion in education and enable children from economically weaker and disadvantaged backgrounds to access educational opportunities in private schools alongside the existing public education system.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, School Education, R. N. Sharma; Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), Sheikh Ghulam Hassan; Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), and Director, School Education Jammu, Naseem Javaid Chowdhary; Director, Samagra Shiksha, Bhawani Rakhwal; and Director, School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, besides other officers and stakeholder representatives.

Emphasising the need for collective efforts to improve educational standards across Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister said that the education system is evolving to deliver better learning outcomes and holistic development for students. She stressed that all stakeholders must work together to ensure quality education, protect the interests of parents and create a learning environment that encourages curiosity, creativity and independent thinking among children.

The issue of textbooks prescribed by private schools was discussed in detail. Following deliberations, it was decided that private schools affiliated with JKBOSE shall follow its curriculum and prescribe JKBOSE textbooks containing content aligned with the NCERT syllabus. Schools were directed to ensure that prescribed books are consistent with the applicable academic framework.

The Minister stressed that students must not be burdened with unnecessary additional or supplementary books, reiterating that the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 call for a balanced, flexible and child-centred approach to learning.

Shameem Firdous underlined that education should not become an excessive financial burden on parents or subject students to undue academic pressure. Private schools were accordingly advised to exercise utmost caution while prescribing additional books and learning materials. "Where supplementary educational resources are considered necessary, schools may facilitate access through libraries, book banks, e-books and other digital learning resources rather than compelling parents to purchase multiple additional books," she added.

The Minister also took note of complaints regarding the alleged sale of books at exorbitant prices and stressed that such concerns must be addressed seriously. She made it clear that unnecessary and excessive prescription of books would not be tolerated and that the focus must remain on meaningful learning and the overall development of students.

The meeting also deliberated on issues concerning school uniforms, notebooks, writing materials and other educational supplies.

J&K moving towards normalcy, but challenges remain: SDG CRPF

Visits Srinagar sector, interacts with officers, stresses coordination

REHAN QAYOOM



SRINAGAR: Special Director General (SDG), CRPF, J&K Zone, Sandeep Khirwar, on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir has made progress towards normalcy, but a few challenges still remain.

Interacting with the officers at Srinagar Sector headquarters SDG Khirwar, stressed on the importance of leadership, coordination, discipline and collective efforts in ensuring peace, security and stability in the Valley.

During SDG Khirwar's visit to the headquarters, Inspector General, Srinagar Sector, Pawan Kumar Sharma, gave a detailed presentation on the organisational structure, roles, responsibilities and operational mandate, besides its strategic objectives and operational priorities in the Kashmir Valley.

The Special Director General CRPF interacted with officers and discussed the Sector's functioning and operational preparedness.

The interaction, was followed by discussions on various aspects of the Sector's functioning and preparedness.

A day earlier, Khirwar had said that Jammu and Kashmir had made significant progress towards normalcy, but security challenges remained and would have to be addressed through coordinated efforts of security agencies, the administration and the people.

Pertinently, on Monday on the sidelines of a CRPF cricket tournament, Khirwar had told KNO, that security agencies have gathered vital leads in connection with the November 11 attack on CRPF personnel in Kulgam and that those responsible would be brought to justice—(KNO)

Sakeena Itoo reviews Food Safety measures across J&K

Calls for strict action against violators, action beyond cancelling licences of FBOs

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare Sakeena Itoo, Tuesday chaired a virtual meeting of senior officers of the Health and Food Safety department to review the prevailing food safety situation in Jammu and Kashmir and assess the measures being undertaken to ensure the availability of safe, hygienic and quality food products to the public.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Health and Medical Education, Saugat Biswas; Commissioner Food and Drug Administration, Khalid Jehangir; Assistant Commissioners Food Safety, Food Safety Officers and other concerned officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Minister took stock of the enforcement mechanism, ongoing inspection drives, sampling of food products, action against defaulters and the overall preparedness of the department to effectively deal with violations of food safety standards.

Emphasising that public health cannot be compromised under any circumstances, Sakeena Itoo directed the concerned officers to intensify inspections across markets, FBOs, food establishments, manufacturing units, restaurants, bakeries, eateries and other food business premises. She called for sustained and result-oriented enforcement, particularly against those found indulging in the sale, storage or distribution of unsafe, adulterated, substandard or expired food products.

The Minister categorically stressed that merely cancelling the licences of violators would not be sufficient and directed the department to initiate stringent legal and penal action against offenders under the relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act and other legal provisions. She called for identifying habitual offenders and ensuring that violations are dealt with firmly to create a strong deterrent against practices that endanger public health.

"Food safety is directly linked with the health and well-being of every citizen. There can be absolutely no compromise on the quality and safety of food being made available to the people. Those playing with public health must face strict consequences", the Minister maintained.

She further directed the officers to strengthen field-level surveillance and ensure that inspection and sampling activities are conducted regularly, rather than being confined to occasional enforcement drives.

"Cancellation of licences alone cannot be the final action against those who deliberately violate food safety norms. We need to ensure accountability through strict legal action, prosecution wherever warranted and effective follow-up so that offenders do not repeat such practices", she said.

The Minister also called for enhanced coordination between enforcement teams and other concerned agencies to ensure prompt detection of violations and timely action. She stressed the need for strengthening laboratory testing, expediting reports of collected samples and ensuring that unsafe food products are immediately removed from circulation in accordance with the law.

Rabi 2026

Agriculture Deptt intensifies Khet Bachao Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, District Bandipora, is intensifying its awareness and extension activities under the nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan - Rabi 2026, being implemented across the district from October 22 to November 30, 2026.

The campaign is aimed to protect agricultural land, restore soil health, promote balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilisers and encourage farmers to adopt scientific, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices.

As part of the ongoing campaign, awareness programmes, farmer interactions and field-level demonstrations are being conducted across various zones of the district to sensitise farmers about the importance of soil conservation and sustainable agricultural production.

Special emphasis is being laid on regular soil testing, integrated nutrient management, use of organic manure, biofertilisers and green manuring to improve soil fertility and reduce excessive dependence on chemical fertilisers.

The campaign also focuses on crop diversification, particularly the promotion of pulses and oilseeds, effective utilisation of paddy-fallow land, crop residue management, water conservation, natural farming and integrated farming systems.

Field functionaries, including Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officers, Zonal Heads, Subject Matter Specialists and Agricultural Extension Officers, are actively mobilising farmers through village-level awareness programmes and demonstrations.

The campaign also incorporates awareness regarding Farmer ID registration, crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and expansion of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) coverage to facilitate farmers' access to institutional benefits.

The Chief Agriculture Officer, Bandipora, has emphasised the need for active participation of all field functionaries and maximum mobilisation of farmers to ensure effective implementation of the campaign.

541 candidates file nominations for Dec 4 LAHDC elections

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH- A total of 541 candidates have filed their nomination papers for the upcoming Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections, scheduled to be held on December 4, officials said.

The nomination process concluded on Tuesday, witnessing participation from national and regional political parties as well as a large number of independent candidates. According to the nomination figures, independent candidates accounted for the highest number of nominations at 276, followed by the Indian National Congress (INC) with 126 and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with 125. The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) fielded 14 candidates.Buy Maps

The elections will witness contests across eight districts of Ladakh, with Kargil recording the highest number of candidates at 104 across 21 constituencies.

Sankoo recorded 98 candidates across 13 constituencies, followed by Zanskar with 56 candidates across nine constituencies and Drass with 53 candidates across seven constituencies. Sham recorded 50 candidates across nine constituencies, while Changthang and Nubra registered 38 candidates each across 16 and nine constituencies, respectively. Leh recorded 29 candidates across 22 constituencies.

The participation of a large number of independent and party-backed candidates is expected to make the December 4 elections a keenly contested electoral exercise.

Two leopard cubs found dead in Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Carcasses of two leopard cubs were found near agricultural fields in the Lolpora area of Tangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday evening, officials said.

A wildlife official said that a farmer spotted the carcasses near his fields and informed the Wildlife Department staff in Tangmarg.

He said a team of wildlife officials immediately rushed to the spot and took the carcasses into custody. Post-mortem examinations would be conducted on Wednesday to ascertain the cause of death, he added.

Meanwhile, the incident comes days after a six-year-old boy, Kifayat Bhat, was mauled to death by a leopard in Kalantra village of Kreeri on November 10—(KNO)

'PAYAAM – The Craft & Design Bazaar' Concludes 3-Day Showcase at Jhelum Waterfront

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: The Jhelum Waterfront came alive with three days of creativity, craftsmanship and dialogue as PAYAAM – The Craft & Design Bazaar, organised by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, concluded its three-day showcase on November 15, 16 and 17.

Bringing together artisans, designers, students and the wider creative community, Payaam emerged as a vibrant platform for celebrating Kashmir's rich craft heritage while exploring new possibilities through design, innovation and collaboration.

The three-day event featured curated design showcases, craft exhibitions, live demonstrations, interactive sessions, roundtable discussions and meaningful exchanges between students and master artisans. It witnessed the participation of several schools and colleges and attracted distinguished members of civil society, artists, academicians, journalists, entrepreneurs, cultural organisations and other stakeholders from across the region.

Through Payaam, NIFT Srinagar reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Kashmir's craft and design ecosystem. The event sought to create meaningful connections between traditional knowledge and contemporary design practices, positioning artisans not merely as custodians of heritage but as active participants in the evolving creative economy.

Addressing the occasion, the Director, NIFT Srinagar, expressed the hope that NIFT's expertise and institutional resources would contribute positively to the region's craft and design landscape. She emphasised that NIFT, through its multidisciplinary approach to world-class design education, research and innovation across Fashion Communication, Textile Design, Lifestyle Accessories and Fashion Design, has the potential to contribute to diverse sectors and emerging opportunities.

A distinctive feature of Payaam was its thoughtfully conceptualised event environment, curated and executed by Arshad Mushtaq, CIC, NIFT Srinagar, and his team. Designed around the theme of Earth and Soil, the exhibition space reflected a conscious design philosophy rooted in sustainability, nature and cultural identity. Guests were felicitated with plant saplings, turning a simple gesture of hospitality into a statement of environmental responsibility. The overall spatial design and presentation reflected NIFT's commitment to quality, thoughtful aesthetics and professional event design.

With the participation of numerous organisations and their representatives, Payaam became a melting pot of ideas, perspectives and possibilities. Its emphasis on meaningful engagement and a quality audience helped create an atmosphere of creative energy, professional networking and cross-disciplinary exchange.

JK Migrant Deputation, Several other delegations call on Sagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Reiterating the government's commitment to addressing public concerns through direct engagement and responsive governance, Minister for Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, Power Development Department, Department of law, justice and parliamentary affairs, Election department , Ali Mohammad Sagar, Tuesday met a deputation of JK migrants and several other delegations representing different areas and sections of society across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, the delegations apprised the Minister of various issues concerning public welfare, developmental requirements and other matters requiring government intervention. The JK migrant delegation specifically highlighted issues related to the welfare, rehabilitation and socio-economic concerns of migrant families.

Several other delegations from different areas also called on the Minister and projected issues pertaining to their respective localities, seeking his intervention for their early resolution.

Giving a patient hearing to the representatives, Sagar took note of the issues raised and assured them that their genuine concerns would be taken up with the concerned departments and authorities for appropriate and timely action.

The Minister emphasised the importance of maintaining accessible platforms for citizens to voice their concerns, stating that effective grievance redressal remains a key priority of the government.

He observed that regular interaction with people enables the government to better understand ground realities and address public issues in a focused and time-bound manner.

Sagar reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring transparent, responsive and people-oriented governance, with particular emphasis on resolving genuine public grievances and improving the delivery of essential services.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Rotten Meat Returns To Haunt Public

The disturbing reports of rotten and unhygienic meat finding its way back into the market in large quantities are a grim reminder of how little has changed despite the outrage and public concern witnessed barely a year and a half ago. What was once exposed as a serious public health menace appears to be returning with renewed vigour, raising uncomfortable questions about the effectiveness of the authorities responsible for keeping unsafe meat off our plates.

People have gradually lost faith in the system of inspections and enforcement. There is a growing perception that occasional raids and checks, often conducted after public outcry, do little beyond creating a temporary lull. Once the immediate attention fades, the illegal trade seems to find its way back, perhaps with even greater confidence and in larger quantities. A few inspections cannot substitute for a sustained and uncompromising enforcement mechanism.

What makes this menace particularly disturbing is the sheer disregard for human life displayed by those involved in such practices. For these unscrupulous traders, profit appears to matter more than the health and safety of the people they serve. They seem willing to compromise every moral obligation for a few extra rupees, treating food meant for human consumption as nothing more than an opportunity to make money. Such conduct is not merely commercial dishonesty; it is an assault on public health and human dignity.

But the responsibility does not rest with traders alone. The authorities entrusted with food safety, veterinary inspections and market regulation must also answer for the repeated recurrence of this menace. How does rotten meat continue to enter markets despite inspections? Who is responsible for monitoring slaughterhouses, storage facilities, transportation and retail outlets? And why do enforcement drives appear to lose momentum once the public's anger subsides?

The administration must understand that food safety is not an occasional exercise undertaken to satisfy public demand. It is a continuous responsibility. Inspections must be regular, surprise checks must become routine, and those found guilty must face stringent legal action. Licences of habitual offenders should be cancelled, supply chains thoroughly investigated and the officials whose negligence allows such practices to flourish held accountable.

More importantly, the authorities must restore public confidence through visible and consistent action rather than assurances and symbolic raids. People cannot be expected to remain uncertain about the safety of the meat they purchase for their families.

A society cannot afford to gamble with the health of its people. Those who knowingly sell rotten meat deserve no leniency, and those who allow the trade to flourish through negligence cannot escape responsibility. The health and lives of ordinary citizens must never become the price paid for somebody else's greed.

Good Morning Kashmir

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B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001
Printed at:
Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar
Published From:
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023
Layout Designer
Aijaz Ahmad Dar

Defining Chapter

How SKUAST-Kashmir Rewrote Its Developmental Story



DR. PARVEEZ A. SOFI



Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) has witnessed a remarkable phase of institutional transformation under the visionary leadership of its Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who assumed office on 16 December 2021. His tenure has been marked by significant academic reforms, improved national rankings, expansion of research infrastructure, promotion of entrepreneurship, enhanced extension outreach and a strong commitment to transforming the agricultural economy of Jammu and Kashmir.

Guided by a comprehensive vision encompassing education, research, innovation and rural development, the University has evolved into a dynamic, technology-driven and socially responsive institution, with growing emphasis on translating scientific knowledge into practical solutions and economic opportunities.

A Remarkable Rise in National Rankings

One of the most significant achievements has been SKUAST-Kashmir's remarkable rise in national rankings, advancing from 37th position in 2019 to 3rd position among State Agricultural Universities in 2025. This achievement reflects sustained efforts towards academic excellence, quality research, innovation, improved governance and institutional accountability, significantly enhancing the University's national stature.

Expansion and Diversification of Academic Programmes

Under Prof. Ganai's leadership, the University has undertaken major academic expansion and curricular reforms. Undergraduate programmes have increased from 4 to 15, while overall student enrolment has grown from approximately 2,100 to over 5,900.

The introduction of contemporary programmes such as B.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture, B.Sc. Microbiology and B.Sc. Economics and Data Science reflects the University's commitment to interdisciplinary and future-oriented education. Increasing participation of students from outside Jammu and Kashmir and growing international interest further demonstrate its expanding academic reputation.

Research Excellence, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Research and innovation have emerged as major pillars of the University's development. During the last four years, SKUAST-Kashmir has secured over 146 patents, established more than 20 Centres of Excellence, facilitated over 126 student- and faculty-led start-ups and launched 62 innovative products.

The establishment of specialized facilities, including the AI and Machine Learning Centre, has further strengthened research capabilities and promoted technology-driven solutions for agriculture and allied sectors.

The University has also emerged as an entrepreneurial institution through the SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIIE), which supports start-ups, innovation and technology commercialization. Eight promising ventures, popularly known as 'Babycorns', have collectively achieved an annual turnover exceeding Rs. 100 crore, reflecting the growing contribution of the University to enterprise development and employment generation.

Transforming Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods

SKUAST-Kashmir has played a significant scientific and technical role in major developmental initiatives, particularly the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), with an outlay of approximately Rs. 5,013 crore, and the Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP), involving initiatives worth over Rs. 1,800 crore.

These programmes aim to upskill approximately 2.5 lakh people and facilitate the establishment of over 18,000 agri-enterprises over five years. Through research support, capacity building, technology dissemination and implementation-related interventions, the University has strengthened its role as a key partner in agricultural transformation and rural economic development.

Strengthening Extension and Farmers' Outreach

Recognizing the importance of taking research from laboratories to farmers' fields, the University has strengthened its grassroots engagement. The Student Rural Entrepreneurship Programme (SREP) has engaged over 4,000 students, while more than 350 villages have been adopted for ten years.

These initiatives promote experiential learning, rural entrepreneurship, scientific interventions and direct engagement with farming communities, strengthening the University's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development.

Internationalization and Institutional Reforms

The University has also intensified its efforts towards international academic collaborations, student exchange and global engagement. International Education Fairs and academic partnerships have provided opportunities to enhance its global visibility and attract international students.

Significant institutional reforms were approved during the 36th University Council meeting in June 2026, including the upgradation of the Agricultural Research Information System into a Directorate of Information Technology, strengthening of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell as a Directorate of Quality Assurance and establishment of an International Students Cell.

Other proposed initiatives include a Centre for Agri-Innovation, Analytics and Certification, an Agri-Startup Park and a Global Veterinary School, aimed at strengthening the University's future research, innovation and academic capacities.

Vision 2030: Towards Global Recognition

Building upon these achievements, Prof. Ganai has articulated an ambitious Vision 2030 to position SKUAST-Kashmir among globally recognized universities in agricultural and allied sciences. The vision emphasizes academic excellence, internationally competitive research, innovation, technology commercialization, entrepreneurship, global collaborations and inclusive rural development.

A Legacy of Institutional Transformation

The period 2021–2026 marks a defining chapter in the history of SKUAST-Kashmir. Its remarkable rise in national rankings, expansion of academic programmes, growth in research and patents, establishment of Centres of Excellence, development of start-ups and strengthened farmer outreach collectively reflect a significant institutional transformation.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai's leadership has provided the University with a renewed developmental direction, placing innovation, excellence, accountability and societal impact at the centre of its institutional priorities. His emphasis on connecting scientific research with farmers' needs and nurturing students as future innovators and entrepreneurs has further strengthened the University's role in regional development.

These achievements represent the collective efforts of the University's faculty, scientists, officers, staff and students, with the continued support of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and other stakeholders.

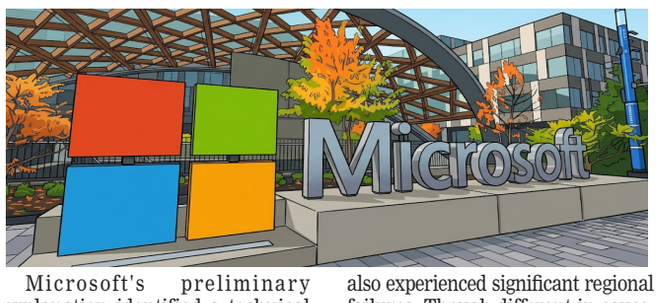
As SKUAST-Kashmir advances towards Vision 2030, the foundations laid during this transformative period are expected to propel the institution towards greater academic distinction, scientific innovation, agricultural prosperity and global recognition.

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A Day Without Microsoft Services



NAVEED QAZI



The modern office is no longer just desks and computers. It is a network of essential services, including email, meetings, documents, calendars and security tools. When Microsoft 365 failed worldwide in November 2026, it exposed how deeply ordinary life depends on systems most users rarely consider.

The outage began on 12 November and continued into 14 November, with services recovering at different times. Outlook, Exchange Online, Teams, SharePoint, Copilot and related services were affected, although not every feature failed for every user. The Associated Press reported complaints from 74 countries and territories within an hour, while Downdetector eventually recorded more than 7.4 million reports worldwide.

The consequences extended far beyond email. Businesses across Asia, Europe and North America struggled to communicate with customers, suppliers and employees. Reuters reported in November 2026 that shipping company Maersk, stock exchange operator Euronext and financial institutions in Taiwan were affected. Some Taiwanese firms struggled with transactions, with one resorting to fax machines to confirm trades. Euronext advised listed companies to communicate by telephone, while British insurer Aviva used alternative phone numbers and Bluetooth to transfer recordings. In India, IndiGo, Akasa Air and Air India reported problems with email support. Some companies delayed financial announcements, demonstrating how a technical failure could disrupt commercial activity thousands of miles away.

Public services also faced difficulties. Government agencies in Australia, Japan, Singapore, Greece and Norway reported operational disruption. In Britain, hospitals, general practitioner surgeries, pharmacies, police forces and courts experienced problems accessing digital services. Some pharmacies warned of prescription delays, police encouraged telephone crime reporting, and a Manchester court trial was temporarily halted. In the United States, a sheriff's office in Colorado reported problems with online bond payments. These were not merely technical inconveniences. They affected institutions responsible for health, safety and legal rights.

Education was similarly exposed. Teachers use online platforms to distribute work, monitor progress and contact families, while students depend on cloud documents for assignments. When these tools disappear, pupils without alternative devices or reliable connections are disadvantaged, particularly those from families unable to afford other services.

The outage revealed how interconnected digital dependence has become. Microsoft's products share common systems, so when Exchange Online struggled, services relying on its email, calendar or identity functions also suffered. Users could sometimes access documents but not connected features.

It also exposed an imbalance in the global digital economy. Much of the world depends on infrastructure controlled by a handful of American technology companies. Microsoft, Amazon and Google supply systems used by businesses, governments, universities and public institutions across continents. This concentration gives a few companies considerable influence over other societies' digital foundations. A disruption in one country can affect organisations thousands of miles away, raising questions about technological sovereignty, national security and whether countries can maintain essential services when foreign providers fail. The cloud may appear borderless, but its infrastructure remains concentrated in a few hands.

Microsoft's preliminary explanation identified a technical fault rather than a cyberattack. An issue introduced during an earlier network capacity upgrade resurfaced following a subsequent change. Some servers became unexpectedly unavailable during automated health checks, increasing pressure on the remaining infrastructure. Microsoft paused further changes, redistributed traffic and worked to restore affected servers. Recovery initially proved difficult, and services returned gradually. On 14 November, the company confirmed restoration for the remaining affected customers and regions. As of 15 November, a full post-incident report explaining the failure and preventive measures was still awaited. Customers needed to know why safeguards failed and what would change.

Was this one of the longest outages in recent times? The November incident disrupted Microsoft 365 globally for more than a day, making it one of the company's most serious recent interruptions. However, it was not the longest failure in the wider cloud industry.

Microsoft is not uniquely vulnerable. In July 2024, a faulty CrowdStrike software update crashed millions of Windows computers, disrupting airlines, hospitals, emergency services, financial institutions and retailers worldwide. The United States Congressional Research Service estimated that approximately 8.5 million devices were affected. In October 2025, Amazon Web Services suffered a major disruption in its Northern Virginia region. The Associated Press reported that Snapchat, Roblox, Signal, Robinhood and other services were affected. Microsoft's Azure has also experienced significant regional failures. Though different in cause, these incidents demonstrated how failures in widely shared technology spread across industries and national borders.

Having said that, Microsoft remains competitive because its products integrate closely with Windows, security systems and workplace software. Google Workspace offers similar popular services through Gmail, Drive, Docs and Meet. Amazon dominates cloud infrastructure but does not directly replace Microsoft's office suite, while Apple approaches devices and collaboration differently. All major providers have experienced outages.

Research on dependable computing by Algirdas Avizienis, Jean-Claude Laprie, Brian Randell and Carl Landwehr, published in IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing in March 2004, makes an important point. Reliable systems must withstand faults rather than assume they will never happen. Governments and companies need independent backups, alternative communication channels, offline procedures and tested recovery plans. Essential work should not depend on one provider or one route to a document.

Could returning to on-premises infrastructure provide a solution? Organisations using this model own and operate their servers and data centres instead of relying entirely on external cloud providers. This offers greater control over data, security and maintenance and can keep essential systems independent of cloud failures. However, ownership does not guarantee reliability. Hardware can still fail, electricity can be interrupted, cyberattacks can succeed and skilled professionals remain necessary.

The financial barrier for an on premises model is substantial though. Servers, storage, security systems, backup power and cooling facilities require investment, alongside maintenance, upgrades, electricity and specialist staff. Yet on-premises infrastructure is not always more expensive. Uptime Institute's December 2025 Data Center Spending Survey found that 46 per cent of respondents comparing costs considered their own data centres cheaper for provisioning workloads, against 19 per cent favouring public cloud. Ownership can therefore suit large organisations with predictable workloads, but may remain unaffordable for smaller businesses. Cloud services avoid substantial initial investment and allow capacity to expand when required.

A better answer may be hybrid infrastructure. Organisations can retain sensitive or essential systems on their premises while using cloud services for documents, collaboration and less critical operations. Independent backups and alternative providers further reduce the risk of a single failure. However, this approach requires not only investment but also careful management, though it avoids placing every responsibility on one company.

Beyond speed, cost savings and global collaboration, hyperscalers offer massive elasticity, enterprise-grade security, rapid innovation, productivity, and built-in disaster recovery. Pooling resources across millions of users gives client organisations computing power and advanced tools they could scarcely build independently. However, when technology companies lend their services, their responsibility extends beyond restoring servers. They must reduce outage risks, communicate transparently and help customers prepare for disruption. Equally, societies dependent on the cloud must develop the resilience and ways to keep operating when those services go down.

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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

The Untold Chapter Of Kashmir's Land Reforms

Understanding The Statutory Obligation Of Tillers To Pay Rent To The State, The Rights Of Former Landlords And The Historical Significance Of Section 9 In Jammu And Kashmir's Land Reform Movement.



MOHD AMIN MIR



The history of agrarian reforms in Jammu and Kashmir is a remarkable chapter in the social, economic and legal transformation of the region. For generations, the relationship between landowners and cultivators was shaped by an unequal agrarian structure in which those who actually cultivated the soil did not necessarily enjoy ownership rights over it. The land reform legislation introduced in Jammu and Kashmir sought to change this relationship by recognising the interests of actual tillers and gradually transforming the traditional system of landlordism.

The Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, was an important legislative step in this direction. It established a legal framework for vesting certain categories of land in the State, regulating the rights of tillers, providing for limited resumption by former owners and ultimately transferring ownership rights to eligible cultivators.

Among its important provisions, Section 9 occupies a distinctive position. While Section 4 deals with vesting of land in the State and Section 8 concerns acquisition of ownership rights by eligible tillers, Section 9 addresses an important transitional question: Who was entitled to receive rent from a tiller after the land had vested in the State, but before ownership rights were formally acquired?

The provision reflects the legislative intention to regulate the relationship between the State, the tiller and the former landlord during this transitional period.

The statutory framework: What does Section 9 provide?

Section 9 is not merely a provision for collecting agricultural rent. It establishes a statutory arrangement under which the State became the channel for collecting rent from tillers and paying the entitled former landlords during the interim period.

A reading of the provision reveals eight important aspects.

1. Rent becomes payable to the State — Sub-section (1)

The first sub-section provides that a tiller cultivating land vested in the State under Section 4 must pay rent to the State. The amount is linked to the rent that was payable by the tiller to the ex-landlord before 1 May 1973.

This arrangement was introduced to ensure that the change in ownership structure did not create uncertainty regarding the payment of rent. Instead of allowing the former landlord and the tiller to continue their previous relationship independently, the legislation placed the collection responsibility upon the Government.

The obligation continues until either of two events takes place:

- The land is resumed under Section 7 by an eligible ex-landlord in accordance with the statutory conditions.
- The tiller acquires ownership rights in the land under Section 8.

This is an important distinction. Section 9 regulates the interim period; it does not establish a permanent tenancy arrangement.

2. Payment to the former landlord after deduction of 10 per cent — Sub-section (2)

Sub-section (2) places a corresponding responsibility upon the Government. The rent collected from the tiller is to be paid to the ex-landlord or the person legally claiming through that landlord.

However, the Government is authorised to deduct 10 per cent of the cash equivalent of the rent as collection charges.

The provision represents a balance between the interests of the cultivator, the former landlord and the administrative machinery responsible for implementing the reforms.

The deduction is not an arbitrary reduction in the tiller's rent. It is a statutory collection charge deducted by the Government while disbursing the amount to the person entitled to receive it.

3. Government notification of agricultural produce rates — Sub-section (3)

In the traditional agricultural system, rent was not always paid in cash. In many cases, the cultivator paid a prescribed share of agricultural produce to the landlord.

The legislature recognised that such an arrangement could not be administered uniformly without determining the monetary equivalent of different agricultural commodities.

Therefore, sub-section (3) empowers the Government to notify, from time to time, the cash equivalent of different types of agricultural produce for the purposes of Section 9.

This provision is particularly significant in the agricultural history of Kashmir, where paddy cultivation and other forms of agricultural production were historically associated with rent payments in kind.

By providing for the conversion of agricultural produce into its cash equivalent, the law sought to bring uniformity and transparency to rent assessment and collection.

4. Protection of the rights of an intermediary — Sub-section (4)

One of the most important and comparatively less discussed provisions is sub-section (4).

The agrarian structure of Jammu and Kashmir was not always limited to a direct relationship between one landlord and one cultivator. In certain cases, an intermediary held land under an owner and received rent from the actual tiller.

The legislature recognised this layered relationship.

Where the ex-landlord mentioned in sub-section (1) was himself an intermediary holding land under another owner before 1 May 1973, his liability to pay rent to that superior owner was not extinguished merely because the agrarian reforms had changed the legal status of the land.

The intermediary must pay the rent due to the ex-owner after deducting the proportionate share of collection charges.

The provision further preserves the application of the relevant provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Act, Samvat 1980, relating to recovery of rent.

This is an important example of how the legislature attempted to protect legitimate financial interests arising from the pre-reform agrarian structure while implementing a new land ownership system.

5. Heritability and transferability of the right to recover rent — Sub-section (5)

Section 9 also recognises that the right to receive rent does not necessarily end with the death of the former landlord.

Under sub-section (5), the right of an ex-intermediary or ex-owner to recover rent from the Government or the relevant intermediary, as the case may be, is heritable according to the law of succession applicable to that person before the extinguishment of rights in the land.

The provision also recognises transferability of this right, subject to the statutory wording concerning Section 31, which has subsequently been omitted.

This provision is important because it distinguishes between ownership rights in agricultural land and the right to receive rent during the statutory interim period.

The former landlord may no longer possess the same proprietary rights in the land, but the law recognises the continuing financial entitlement created under Section 9.

Consequently, the legal heirs of an eligible former landlord may have a claim to rent, subject to the applicable law and proof of succession.

6. Liability towards land revenue, cesses and other dues — Sub-section (6)

Sub-section (6) deals with another important aspect: the continuing liability of the ex-owner towards land revenue, cesses and other government dues.

It provides that the liability of an ex-owner to pay land revenue, together with applicable cesses and dues, continues during the period in which that person remains entitled to recover rent under Section 9.

For the purposes of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act, Samvat 1996, such an ex-owner is deemed to be a landholder during that period.

The provision is significant because it establishes a corresponding financial responsibility. A person cannot simply claim the benefit of receiving rent without taking into account the statutory liabilities attached to that entitlement.

7. Recovery of arrears of rent — Sub-section (7)

Sub-section (7) is particularly important from the historical and administrative point of view.

It provides for the recovery of rent arrears accrued from 1 May 1973 up to the commencement of the Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976.

Such arrears were recoverable by the Government from the tillers in the prescribed manner and were payable to the ex-landlord after deducting 10 per cent as collection charges.

This provision demonstrates that the legislature did not confine its attention to future rent payments. It also addressed the transitional period between the date from which the relevant rights were deemed to have vested and the commencement of the 1976 legislation.

It was an attempt to settle the financial consequences of this transition through a statutory mechanism rather than leaving the matter entirely to private disputes between cultivators and former landlords.

8. Determination of rent where payment was made in kind — Sub-section (8)

The eighth sub-section is especially relevant to understanding the agricultural economy of old Jammu and Kashmir.

Where rent was previously recoverable in kind, the law provides four methods for determining the rates of produce for calculating the rent payable by the prospective owner.

These are:

1. Mutual agreement: Where the prospective owner and ex-owner agree on the rates of produce, their agreed rates are to be applied.
2. Chakla rates: Where no agreement exists, the prescribed chakla rates are to be used.
3. Determination by the Collector: If a complaint is made that chakla rates are higher than the actual rates of produce, the Collector may determine the appropriate rates after a summary inquiry.
4. Government notification: Where chakla rates are unavailable, the Government may notify rates after making the necessary inquiry.

This provision reflects the legislature's attempt to accommodate traditional agricultural practices within a modern statutory framework.

It also gives an important role to the Revenue Department in resolving disputes over the valuation of agricultural produce.

The Agrarian Reforms Rules, 1977: How was Section 9 to be implemented?

A statutory provision becomes meaningful only when an administrative mechanism exists for its implementation. In this regard, the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Rules, 1977, provide important procedural details.

Rules 23 to 27 deal with the recovery and payment of rent.

Under Rule 23, rent that was previously payable in kind is generally recoverable in kind for produce procured by the Government during the relevant year, and in cash for produce not procured by the Government. Where rent was previously payable in cash, it is recoverable in cash.

Rule 25 provides for conversion of rent in kind into its cash equivalent in accordance with the applicable notified rates.

Rule 26 assigns the responsibility of recovering rent to a Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar. The rent is to be recovered during the period fixed for payment of land revenue for the relevant harvest. Unpaid rent and arrears are recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

Rule 27 further provides that cash rent is to be paid to the Tehsildar, who must issue a receipt in Form 6. It also lays down the procedure for disbursement to the entitled person after deduction of the prescribed collection charges.

These rules demonstrate that the Tehsildar and the Revenue Department were central to the practical implementation of Section 9.

IndiaCode

The role of the Revenue Department in implementing Section 9

The implementation of Section 9 required proper coordination between the field-level Revenue establishment and the higher administrative authorities.

The Revenue Department had to ensure that:

- The land covered by Section 9 was correctly identified.
- The relationship between the tiller, ex-landlord and, where applicable, intermediary was established.
- The rent payable before 1 May 1973 was correctly determined.
- Payments made in cash or kind were properly accounted for.
- The prescribed collection charges were deducted.
- The entitled ex-landlord or legal successor received the amount due.
- The relevant records and receipts were maintained.

The role of the Patwari was particularly important in identifying land parcels, examining historical revenue entries and assisting in the verification of cultivation and tenancy particulars. The Girdawar and Tehsildar had corresponding supervisory and statutory responsibilities.

The accuracy of Jamabandis, Khasra Girdawaris and other historical revenue documents was therefore essential for implementing the provisions of this section.

A discrepancy in the identity of a cultivator, the extent of land or the recorded tenancy could potentially affect the determination of rent and the identification of the person entitled to receive it.

This illustrates why historical revenue records are not merely administrative documents. They are also instruments through which statutory rights and obligations are established.

Section 9 and the larger philosophy of land reforms

To understand the importance of Section 9, it must be read alongside Sections 4, 7 and 8 of the Act.

Provision Subject Legal significance

Section 4 Vesting of certain land rights in the State Establishes the foundation of the reform

Section 7 Resumption for bona fide personal cultivation Provides for limited resumption by eligible former landlords

Section 8 Vesting of ownership rights in the prospective owner Provides for acquisition of ownership by eligible tillers

Section 9 Payment of rent by the tiller Regulates rent during the transitional period

The relationship between these provisions reveals a carefully structured legislative arrangement.

Section 4 brought about the extinguishment and vesting of specified rights. Section 7 dealt with the limited circumstances in which land could be resumed. Section 8 provided for the vesting of ownership rights in eligible prospective owners, while Section 9 addressed the financial relationship during the interim period.

Thus, Section 9 acted as a bridge between the old agrarian arrangement and the new ownership structure envisaged by the legislation.

It ensured that the transformation of land rights did not leave the financial interests of the parties entirely unregulated.

Why Section 9 deserves greater public awareness

Today, discussions concerning land reforms in Jammu and Kashmir often focus on ownership mutations, digitisation of Jamabandis, land records, agricultural databases and the rights of landholders.

However, the historical provisions governing the transition from landlordism to ownership deserve equal attention.

Section 9 reminds us that agrarian reforms were not implemented through a single declaration or administrative order. They required a comprehensive legal framework addressing ownership, cultivation, rent, inheritance, government responsibilities and revenue administration.

For students of revenue law, Revenue Department officials, Patwaris, legal practitioners and landowners, understanding this section is particularly useful.

It also highlights the importance of preserving historical revenue records. Old rent arrangements, tenancy particulars and cultivation entries may help explain how rights and liabilities were determined under the legislation.

At the same time, any present-day claim concerning rent under Section 9 must be examined in light of the applicable statutory provisions, rules, subsequent amendments, relevant notifications and the facts of the particular case. The historical existence of a right does not, by itself, establish that a payment remains presently recoverable.

Conclusion: A transitional provision with lasting historical significance

The Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, represents one of the most significant legislative interventions in the agrarian history of the region. Its objective was not simply to redistribute land but to restructure the relationship between those who cultivated the soil and those who historically controlled it.

Section 9 formed an important part of this transformation. By prescribing the payment of rent to the State, providing for its disbursement to former landlords, recognising the rights of intermediaries and their successors, and establishing mechanisms for calculating rent in cash or kind, the legislature attempted to ensure an orderly transition.

Its eight sub-sections reveal the depth with which the law addressed the financial and administrative consequences of agrarian reform.

For the Revenue Department, Section 9 is also a reminder that every land reform must be supported by accurate records, transparent procedures and proper implementation of the law.

The history of Kashmir's land reforms cannot be fully understood without understanding the provisions that connected the old agrarian system with the new ownership regime.

Land reforms changed the ownership of the soil, but provisions like Section 9 ensured that the transition was governed by law, accountability and statutory responsibility.

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'Rs 601 Cr Ayushman

public hospitals and Rs 5.89 crore for private hospitals.

In its submission to the committee, the Health & Medical Education Department said the State Health Agency (SHA) has established a dedicated State Anti-Fraud Unit (SAFU) to detect and investigate cases of fraud, illegal out-of-pocket expenditure and denial of cashless treatment to eligible beneficiaries by empanelled hospitals.

"Claims submitted by hospitals are examined by medical officers. The Claims Review Committee conducts audit of hospital claims to identify suspicious cases, overbilling and other irregularities," the Department stated—(KNO)

Companies In J&K

resolving this issue is also not within our control. The Central Government is responsible for making us a UT and putting us in this difficult situation. Working under these circumstances is not easy," he said.

Omar said his government had contested the elections knowing fully well that Jammu and Kashmir was a Union Territory and that the road ahead would not be easy.

"I am not someone who makes excuses based on the prevailing circumstances. Before contesting the elections, we knew that we were a Union Territory. We knew the road ahead would not be easy, yet we chose to enter the fray. If we now claim that we cannot work because of the UT status, we would only be deceiving ourselves. That would not be true either," he said.

The Chief Minister also referred to the proposed international-standard cricket stadium in Kashmir, expressing satisfaction over the resolution of the long-pending land-related issue that had held up the project.

He said the resolution of the issue would pave the way for the project and help strengthen sports infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, besides creating more opportunities for local players.

Omar also highlighted Kathua's importance as a gateway to Jammu and Kashmir, saying the district played an important role in the movement of goods, tourists and pilgrims entering the Union Territory.

He stressed the need to improve urban infrastructure and public facilities in the district, adding that its importance as an entry point made its development significant.

The Chief Minister said development should not be restricted to areas represented by legislators from the ruling parties, asserting that his government represented the entire population of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said people had elected representatives from different political parties, but development and public welfare remained the government's responsibility across all constituencies.

The CM said the government did not belong only to those who had voted for the National Conference or Congress but to every resident of the Union Territory.

He said people across districts expected better governance, resolution of public grievances and visible development, adding that the government was committed to ensuring balanced development irrespective of political affiliations.

Earlier, as part of his developmental outreach, the Chief Minister laid foundation stones for six major development projects in Kathua district, including four bridges aimed at improving intra-city connectivity and a drinking water supply scheme for Lakhanpur.

He assured people that additional development works proposed by the local MLA would also be taken up in phases.

In Samba district, Omar laid the foundation stone for the Command Area Development project at Gagwal, which will provide irrigation facilities to around 400 hectares of agricultural land spread across seven villages.

The project, being implemented with support from the Central Government, aims to reduce farmers' dependence on rainfall and improve agricultural productivity and income.

Omar said unpredictable weather conditions remained a challenge for farmers and stressed the need to strengthen irrigation facilities.

He assured that the project would be completed within the stipulated timeframe and that contractors would be held accountable not only for completing the work but also for monitoring the infrastructure for a few years after its commissioning.

In Jammu district, the Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for strengthening the Central Artificial Breeding Station at Hakkal at an estimated cost of Rs 11.83 crore.

The development initiatives formed part of projects worth over Rs 30 crore being inaugurated and launched across Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts on Tuesday. Abdullah said his government was committed to strengthening infrastructure across sectors, improving basic facilities and ensuring that development benefits reached people across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

Srinagar Records

while Katra registered 10.6 degrees, Batote 6.9 degrees, Banihal 9.8 degrees and Bhaderwah 1.1 degrees Celsius.

According to the latest forecast issued by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, generally dry weather is expected across Jammu and Kashmir between November 17 and 21, although partly cloudy conditions are likely towards November 20 and 21.

The weather is likely to remain generally dry from November 22 to 27 as well, with no significant precipitation indicated during the forecast period.

The Meteorological Department has, however, predicted a further gradual fall in minimum temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir until November 19.

A slight improvement in night temperatures by 1-2 degrees Celsius is expected thereafter, the department said.

The continued fall in night temperatures is being attributed to prevailing dry weather conditions, with clear skies during the night allowing temperatures to drop across several parts of the region—(KNO)

PM Modi Calls For

awareness and seafarers' security.

A joint cyber forensics training programme for capacity building in the region, ASEAN-India Nuclear Energy Technical Exchanges, ASEAN-India Space Hackathon, cooperation in mining and critical minerals and a free e-visa for tourists from the ASEAN countries also figured in the proposals.

Besides, ASEAN-India Youth Connect through Youth Summit, Young Parliamentarian Exchanges and Start-up Hackathons, enhancing scholarships for ASEAN countries at Nalanda University, and ASEAN-India Creative Partnership Pavilion at the 'WAVES 2027' formed part of the proposals.

PM Modi thanked the President of Philippines for hosting the Summit and congratulated President Marcos for the successful Chairship of ASEAN under the theme 'Navigating Our Future, Together' and its support as a Country Coordinator for India.

PM Modi also conveyed good wishes to the Prime Minister of Singapore as the incoming chair of ASEAN.

J&K Industrial

"We should frame policies for industries whose raw material or markets are better placed here. We can handhold them and take them to a stage where the industry becomes sustainable. But how can I justify an industry that will need perpetual handholding?" he asked.

Acknowledging the concerns and difficulties expressed by industry representatives, Omar Abdullah called for a focused and structured engagement between the Government and industrial associations to identify practical solutions.

He directed the Industries and Finance Ministers to constitute a small working group comprising representatives of industrial associations to hold intensive discussions and identify concrete, realistic and implementable interventions beyond the proposed policy framework.

The working group, he said, should submit its recommendations to the task force, outlining a phased roadmap with clearly identified interventions and timelines.

"The wearer knows where the shoe pinches. We, who sit in the Secretariat, often frame policies in isolation, but their impact is felt by you. Therefore, policies must be shaped according to your needs. We should not indulge in theoretical exercises," he said.

The Chief Minister underlined the need to extend appropriate price and purchase preference to locally manufactured products, on the lines of practices adopted by several other states, to strengthen local industry and promote indigenous manufacturing.

He said there could be no objection to products being sourced from outside when they were not manufactured locally, but Jammu and Kashmir's own industries deserved preference when comparable products of similar quality and price were available locally.

Referring to the contribution of existing industrial units, the Chief Minister said many entrepreneurs had continued their operations despite challenges, reflecting their commitment to Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that local industrialists had a deep-rooted connection with the land and its people, and the Government must recognise and respect that commitment rather than take it for granted.

"Outsiders may come and go, but we cannot run away from ourselves. If we have to take care of someone, we have to take care of you," he said, assuring the industrial fraternity that the Government would make every possible effort to improve the industrial landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

On power-related concerns, Omar Abdullah said that although electricity rates had increased compared to two to three years ago, they remained lower than those in neighbouring states. He also pointed out that the Government continued to extend power subsidies to support industry.

Emphasising the need for a practical approach to addressing the sector's challenges, he said the Government was conscious of its limited financial resources and would work with industry representatives to identify interventions that were both affordable and capable of ensuring the sector's long-term sustainability.

"I want the despair that I have seen in this room to be removed, at least by 60 to 70 per cent. For that, we should sit together and identify five, six or ten concrete points and prepare a roadmap," he said.

The Chief Minister assured the industrial fraternity that the Government would not shy away from fulfilling its commitments and would extend all possible support to implement the agreed interventions.

The conclave opened with an interactive session during which several industry stakeholders shared their suggestions and feedback on the prevailing industrial scenario, highlighting key challenges and proposing measures to improve the business environment in the region.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister felicitated ten industrialists in recognition of their contribution to the industrial landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Finance Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq and MLA Channapora Mushtaq Guru were present on the occasion.

Director Industries, Jammu, Arun Manhas, other senior officers, President BBIA Tarun Singla, office-bearers of BBIA and representatives of the industrial sector also attended the conclave.

Migratory Birds

pools to facilitate feeding and movement.

However, officials said poaching remained a concern, particularly in water bodies and habitats that fall outside adequately protected wetland areas.

The Wildlife Department deploys field staff and watchers to monitor vulnerable areas and prevent illegal hunting of migratory birds, they said.

The annual migration of birds to Kashmir is also considered an important indicator of the ecological significance of the Valley's wetlands, which provide breeding, feeding and resting habitats for several resident and migratory species.

Officials said the upcoming census would provide a clearer picture of the seasonal arrival of birds and help the department assess the condition of their habitats—(KNO)

493 Fires In

only standard, ISI-marked heating appliances from authorised dealers and get old equipment inspected and serviced by qualified technicians before using it during winter.

He urged households to get electrical wiring checked, replace damaged or outdated wires and avoid overloading sockets and extension boards. He recommended installing suitable safety devices, including MCBs and RCCBs/ELCBs, with the help of qualified electricians.

On the use of LPG bukharis, Mir stressed the need for proper ventilation, warning that their improper use could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, which can cause serious health complications and even prove fatal. He also advised people to switch off LPG bukharis before going to sleep.

Regarding kangris, he urged residents to keep them away from curtains, bedding, clothes and other inflammable materials and avoid leaving them unattended.

The department also cautioned against placing electric blankets on wet surfaces or using them alongside hot water bottles, warning that electrical leakage could trigger short circuits and cause burn injuries. People were advised to switch off electric blankets before sleeping.

The officer further advised households against storing dry grass, fodder, charcoal and other combustible materials in residential attics or close to houses, as these could accelerate the spread of fire.

As a precautionary measure, the department recommended keeping at least one standard 5–6 kg dry chemical powder (DCP) fire extinguisher at home and ensuring that family members know how to operate it.

Mir urged motorists to give way to fire tenders during emergencies and avoid illegal parking that could obstruct their movement.

The Deputy Director said the department's control rooms remained in coordination with police and traffic authorities to facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles. He urged people to immediately dial 101 in case of a fire emergency or contact their nearest fire station for assistance. If 101 is unavailable, people can also dial 112—(KNO)

MEA Condemns Attack

civilian seafarers. The targeting of commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure must end, and free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through international waterways, in keeping with international law, must be restored at the earliest."

Earlier, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said that the tanker was subjected to a subsequent attack, forcing the entire crew to abandon the vessel.

"In a distressing development, the Panama-flagged LPG tanker TARA GAS was subjected to a subsequent attack, forcing the entire crew to abandon the vessel. While 24 crew members have been safely accounted for, one Indian seafarer remains missing," Sonowal posted on X.

The Union Minister said that efforts were underway to locate the missing seafarer and ensure the safety of the rescued crew.

"We are urgently coordinating with the ship management company and regional rescue authorities to locate our missing seafarer and ensure the immediate safety, welfare and logistical support of the rescued crew members," he said.

Sonowal had earlier on Tuesday confirmed that all 24 Indian seafarers aboard Tara Gas were safe after the vessel came under a missile attack in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday.

The incident comes days after another vessel carrying Indian seafarers was struck by a projectile in the Persian Gulf.

Last week, Sonowal said that a Liberia-flagged Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) MT Fujairah Energy, carrying six Indian seafarers, was hit by a projectile while transiting the Persian Gulf on November 10, leaving four crew members injured, including one Indian national.





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DAR MATTING SHOP

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

No region should face discrimination, every area must get its rightful share: Altaf Wani

Reviews RDD schemes, stresses accountability, transparency, field-level monitoring

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, and Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo), Tuesday emphasised the need for equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir, stating that, in accordance with the directions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, no area or region should face any form of discrimination and every region must receive its rightful share of development.

He directed the officers of the Rural Development Department to ensure that these directions are implemented in letter and spirit.

The Minister was chairing an exclusive review meeting of the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to assess the implementation and progress of various departmental schemes and programmes.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Ramesh Kumar; Secretary in RDD, Rachna Sharma; Managing Director, JKRLM, Shubra Sharma; Chief Operating Officer, Himayat, Rifat Kohli; Director, Rural Development, Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani; Director, Rural Development, Jammu, Shehnaz Akhtar; CEO, IWMP, Rajnish Sharma; Director, Panchayati Raj, Pankaj Raj Katoch; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Joint Director Planning, Munish Datta; Additional Secretary, Wasim Raja; Superintending Engineers of Jammu and Kashmir; Deputy Directors, SBM-G; Deputy Secretary; Under Secretaries and other senior officers.

Secretary, RDD, briefed the Minister on the overall functioning of the Department, implementation status of centrally sponsored and UT-sector schemes, financial and physical progress and key interventions being undertaken to strengthen rural infrastructure, employment generation, sanitation, livelihoods and Panchayati Raj institutions.

Reviewing the implementation of VB-G-RAM-G, the Minister stressed the need to rationalise the agricultural pause period in view of the distinct climatic and geographical conditions of Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that prolonged winters and heavy snowfall make execution of works difficult in Kashmir and the higher reaches of Jammu, particularly the Pir Panjal and Chenab regions.

He directed the department to review the pause-period arrangements and ensure that the working season is utilised optimally, with maximum public participation and employment generation. He emphasised that unnecessary interruptions during the feasible working season should be avoided, as these affect both livelihood opportunities for rural households and the overall performance of the Department.

The Minister directed that the list of permissible works under the scheme be prominently displayed in every Gram Panchayat to create awareness among the people and facilitate informed participation.

Emphasising the institutional importance of elected representatives, the Minister directed that all development plans and proposed works be prepared in consultation with the concerned MLAs. He said that elected representatives are well aware of the local needs and aspirations of the people and their involvement would prevent avoidable issues at the field level.

He called for addressing issues relating to job cards, face authentication, payment of the material component, person-days generation and delays in the processing of bills at treasuries. He directed that clear targets be assigned to Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs) while both Directors of Rural Development undertake daily reviews of progress. He stressed that the focus must remain on completion of works.

Reviewing the progress under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G), the Minister directed that any grievance or allegation of injustice faced by a beneficiary be addressed through the appropriate appellate mechanism at the district level, headed by the concerned Deputy Commissioner. He called for wider public awareness regarding the grievance redressal provisions of the scheme.

He directed the Department to conduct a survey to ascertain whether beneficiaries receiving houses under PMAY-G are also being provided with essential convergence benefits, including LPG connections, drinking water and electricity. He stressed that individual household toilets must be ensured in every eligible PMAY-G house under Swachh Bharat Mission–Grameen.

DC Pulwama chairs Monthly NCORD Meeting

Calls for Establishment of Nasha Mukt Clubs in Schools, Colleges

GMK NEWS NETWORK



PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, Tuesday chaired the monthly meeting of the Narcotics Coordination Centre (NCORD) at Circuit House, Pulwama, to review anti-drug initiatives, enforcement measures and inter-departmental coordination under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA).

The meeting was attended by SSP Pulwama, Sahil Sarangal, SSP Awantipora, Irshad Hussain Rather, ADC Pulwama, Dr. S.M. Ashraf, ADC Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, CMO Pulwama, CEO Pulwama and officers from various concerned departments.

At the outset, the chair was informed that the minutes, agendas and Action Taken Reports (ATRs) of all previous NCORD meetings had been uploaded on the designated portal. A review of the previous meeting's ATR was also undertaken to assess progress and ensure implementation of decisions.

The meeting discussed ongoing activities under NMBA, departmental responsibilities, IEC campaigns and the availability of addiction treatment facilities, including category-wise details of patients undergoing treatment. SSP Pulwama stressed the need for maintaining proper records of patients visiting hospitals and de-addiction centres, particularly regarding the types of substances consumed, to facilitate better monitoring, targeted interventions and counselling. He also emphasised counselling of parents and family members of affected individuals.

The meeting was briefed about the functioning of the Drug De-Addiction Centre in sub division Tral. The DC directed the Health and Drug Control Departments to jointly develop a mechanism for tracing the supply chain of narcotic and psychotropic substances, while calling for a comprehensive hotspot mapping of drug-affected areas to strengthen surveillance and enforcement.

Reviewing the activities of the Drugs Control Department during October, the meeting took stock of inspections, surveillance and action against medicinal sale establishments, including suspension of licences. The Deputy Commissioner stressed strict regulatory compliance, installation of CCTV surveillance systems and computerised billing facilities in all eligible establishments.

Civil Society Delegation calls on DC Shopian

Appreciates proactive efforts of District Administration

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: A delegation of Civil Society Shopian Tuesday called on Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Charandeep Singh, and held an interaction with him on various matters concerning the development and welfare of the district.

During the interaction, members of the civil society appreciated the dedication, commitment and proactive efforts of the Deputy Commissioner and the district administration towards the overall development of Shopian.

They acknowledged the initiatives undertaken by the administration for strengthening public service delivery, improving basic infrastructure, addressing public grievances and promoting developmental activities across the district.

The delegation also appreciated the administration's continued efforts towards ensuring responsive governance and addressing issues of public importance.

The Deputy Commissioner thanked the members of the civil society for their appreciation and constructive engagement. He reiterated that the district administration remains committed to the holistic development of Shopian and urged all stakeholders to extend their cooperation in achieving the district's developmental goals.

He also emphasized the importance of collective participation, public cooperation and coordination between the administration and civil society for effective governance and inclusive development.

JDI-K employees expresses condolences over demise of Father of FPA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, along with officers and officials of the Joint Directorate of Information (JDI), Kashmir, Tuesday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of the father of Sajad Mohammad Bhat, Field Publicity Assistant, JDI Kashmir.

In this regard, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, along with Deputy Director Information Headquarters Kashmir, Deputy Director Public Relations Kashmir and other officers and officials of the Department, visited the bereaved family to offer their heartfelt condolences and express solidarity with them in this hour of grief.

The officers conveyed their deepest sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. They also prayed for strength and courage to the family members to bear this irreparable loss.

Mission Vatsalya B'pora conducts Special Drive against Child Begging

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services), Bandipora, conducted a special drive against child begging in the main town and identified hotspots of Bandipora. During the drive, two minor children engaged in begging were identified and rescued by the team. The children were provided with all essential basic needs, and subsequently, their family was traced.

The parents were counselled regarding the adverse effects of child begging and made aware that engaging children in begging is a violation of the law and their rights. They were advised not to involve their children in such activities and to ensure their proper care, protection, and education.

After completing all necessary formalities under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, both children were safely handed over to their parents. Mission Vatsalya Bandipora remains committed to safeguarding the rights, safety and well-being of children and preventing child exploitation in the district.

FDA intensifies enforcement drive against meat establishments

95 Inspections Conducted, Five Registrations Suspended

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, has intensified its enforcement drive against establishments engaged in the processing, storage and sale of meat and meat products across all districts to ensure strict compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the regulations framed there under.

During the enforcement drive, 95 inspections were conducted, while registrations of five Food Business Operators (FBOs) were suspended for processing food under insanitary and unhygienic conditions.

Besides, five food samples were lifted for laboratory analysis, and expired food items worth approximately Rs 8,300 were destroyed.

The FDA reiterated that enforcement activities would continue and stringent action would be taken against Food Business Operators found violating the prescribed food safety, sanitary and hygienic standards.

Consumers have also been urged to remain vigilant and report any instance of the sale or distribution of unsafe or adulterated food through the official email: cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of

Syed Farooq Ahmad Andrabi

son of late **Muhammad Masood Andrabi**,
resident of Bismillah Colony, Zakura, Srinagar,
who passed away after a tragic road accident on Monday.

May Allah (SWT) grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannah and give strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Fatiha Khwani will be held on
Thursday at 10:30 am.

Bereaved Family

CLARIFICATION

I, Noor Mohammad Sofi, S/O Mohammad Rajab Sofi, resident of Baghi Sundar Payeen, Kaksarai, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, a retired Government official, wish to clarify that although I was formerly associated with Jamaat-e-Islami, I am no longer associated with the organisation in any capacity. I categorically state that, at present, I have no affiliation or association with Jamaat-e-Islami or any other political, religious or social organisation. Any reference to me as being associated with Jamaat-e-Islami or any other organisation is incorrect and should not be construed as my present position. This clarification is being issued for the information of the general public and to avoid any misunderstanding.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

DIRECTORATE OF LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH, J&K
SRINAGAR/JAMMU.

NOTICE

Subject: Invitation of objections regarding the proposed re-fixation of seniority and grant of consequential promotional benefits in favour of Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Orderly.

Whereas, the case of Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Orderly, regarding protection/re-fixation of his seniority and grant of consequential promotional benefits was examined by the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) in the light of the recommendations of the Deputy Director, Libraries and Research, Kashmir, and the opinion conveyed by the Administrative Department vide communication dated 03.01.2023;

Whereas, the DPC, after detailed examination of the relevant service records and in accordance with the provisions of Article 110-A of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations and the applicable Recruitment Rules, recommended the following:

1. Notional promotion to the post of Junior Assistant in favour of Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, with effect from 05.09.2006, i.e., the date on which his immediate junior, Mr. Mohd. Shaft Gani, was promoted, along with consequential re-fixation of his seniority.
2. Subsequent notional promotion to the post of Store Keeper (equivalent to Senior Assistant) against the available vacancy in the Kashmir Divisional Cadre, corresponding to Roster Point No. 07 (UR), in terms of SRO-294 of 2005, as amended from time to time, subject to fulfilment of the prescribed eligibility conditions.

Now, therefore, through the medium of this Notice, objections, if any, are hereby invited from all concerned stakeholders/officials who may be adversely affected by the proposed re-fixation of seniority and consequential promotional placement of the aforesaid official.

The objections, if any, shall be submitted along with relevant documentary evidence and must reach the office of the Director, Libraries and Research, J&K, within 15 days from the date of publication/issuance of this Notice, at either of the following addresses:

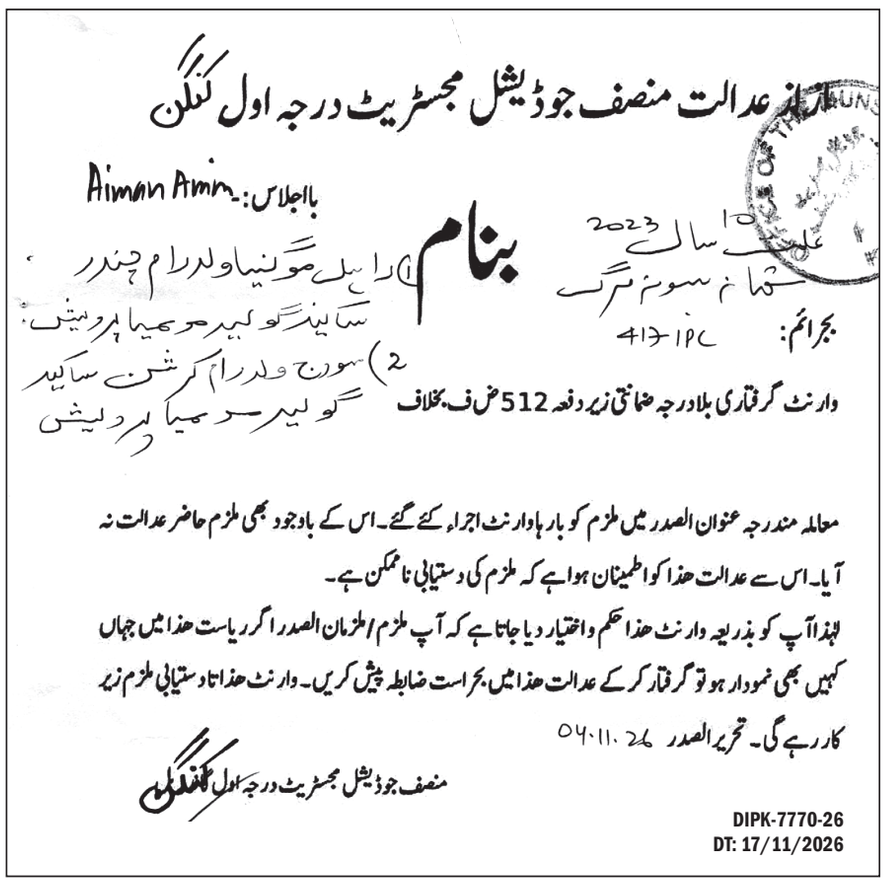
1. SPS Library Complex, M.A. Road, Srinagar.
2. SRS Library Complex, Kachi Chawani, Jammu.

It is further notified that, in case no objections are received within the stipulated period, the matter shall be processed further in accordance with the applicable rules, regulations and Government instructions.

No.: DL/Adm-DPC/(15)/2026/1302-05
Dated: 17-11-2026

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DIPK-7749-26
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DIPK-7770-26
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Dhoni's Playing Career Ends in IPL

AGENCIES

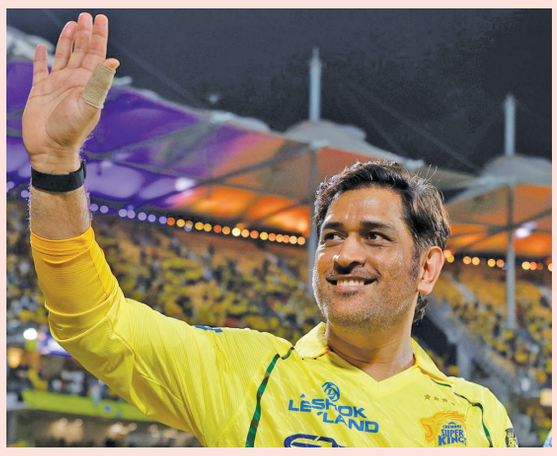
NEW DELHI- Talismanic former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni's playing career in the IPL ended on Tuesday after he was appointed the mentor of his franchise Chennai Super Kings with team owner Rupa Gurunath revealing that he expressed his desire to retire during a call to decide retained players for the upcoming season.

The writing was on the wall for the 45-year-old whose participation as a player had reduced over the years due to recurring injuries. He was not fit to play a single game in the 2026 edition.

The statement issued by CSK did not have any comment from the superstar wicketkeeper-batter, who announced retirement from international cricket in 2020 through an Instagram post.

"There is no CSK without MS Dhoni. For nearly two decades, we have walked and grown alongside each other, through triumphs, setbacks and everything in between," CSK owner N Srinivasan said in the franchise statement.

"MS will continue to be a part of the CSK family as a mentor. His experience and



expertise are invaluable to us, especially during this phase of transition. With many youngsters in the squad, his guidance will help shape the next generation of CSK," added Rupa Gurunath, Srinivasan's daughter and co-owner of the team.

There is speculation that Dhoni's iconic number 7 jersey could be retired by the franchise as a tribute to him. "We will take a call on that in due time. Naturally everyone is expecting that (jersey will be retired)," CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan told PTI.

The World Cup-winning captain led CSK to five IPL titles, was their second-highest scorer with 5,314 runs, and most-capped player with 272 appearances.

Dhoni also played for Rising Pune Supergiants for a couple of seasons when CSK were banned from the IPL following the 2013 spot-fixing scandal. The episode led to a life ban on the team's then CEO Gurunath Meiyappan for being involved in illegal betting. Dhoni was succeeded by Ruturaj Gaikwad as the captain of the franchise in 2024.

Conveyed decision via video call on Saturday

In a video posted by the franchise, Rupa revealed that Dhoni dropped the retirement bombshell when they were discussing player retention plans ahead of the auction next month.

"When I met him a few months ago, he told me that he wasn't sure if he would be able to play in this upcoming season. We were on a call on Saturday discussing our team releases," said Rupa.

"We had gone through a lot of cricket discussions. We were thinking about strategy for the next season, who we should think of picking. A lot of discussions went on and at the end of the call, Kasi (CEO) was just reading the list of releases and very quietly MS said, 'maybe you should add my name in'.

"You won't believe it, the video call just shut down at that moment. I called them back and told them, 'you know what, even the internet could not handle you not being able to play the next season'," she added.

Rupa also said that it was a very difficult day for her.

"I don't think you can ever be prepared for something like this. MS Dhoni is the kind of person that if he cannot give his 200 per cent to the team, he will not play," she added.

Viswanathan said Dhoni's contribution to CSK goes far beyond the field of play.

"What MS Dhoni achieved as a cricketer is etched in the memory of every fan. But what made Dhoni truly special is how completely he became a part of Chennai. He embraced the city, and the city embraced him as one of its own," he said in his tribute to the influential Ranchi-based player.

"When we look back, the trophies will be remembered but so will be the way we won them. That is his real legacy.

"While we will miss seeing him in yellow on the field, we are glad that he will keep guiding our players. The bond will continue to grow and shape this team for years to come," said the longstanding top official of the franchise.

Considering the special bond between Dhoni and CSK, it was a foregone conclusion that the charismatic cricketer would remain a part of the franchise well beyond his playing days.

"A player like MS Dhoni comes along once in a lifetime. We are fortunate, and deeply grateful, that he has been with CSK since its inception and has laid the foundation for everything this team is," Rupa said.

Besides the five IPL title, Dhoni also led CSK to two Champions League T20 titles, which is the most by any skipper. The CLT20 was last held in 2014.

India rout Palestine to move a step closer to U17 Asian Cup qualification

IANS

KUALA LUMPUR: Tied 1-1 at the break after Yazan Khalifah converted a penalty to equalise Kamgouhao Doungel's early strike in difficult conditions, India U17 came back strongly to score three goals in the second half to outplay Palestine 4-1 and inched closer to qualification for AFC U17 Asian Cup 2027 in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.



The Indian U17 men's team provided a lesson in tackling pressure as it trounced Palestine, overcoming heavy rain and underfoot conditions to remain perfect in Group E of the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers at the Kuala Lumpur Football Stadium in Malaysia.

India U17 now need a point from their last match against hosts Malaysia to qualify for the U17 Asian Cup for the 11th time in history.

Doungel gave Mehrajuddin Wadoo's side the lead in the eighth minute, while Mukundo Singh Ningthoujam (52'), skipper Dallalmoun Gangte (59') and Zoramdinthara Lalhunmawia (89') added three more in the rain-delayed second half. Palestine captain Khalifah converted the penalty in the 32nd minute as the teams trooped out at 1-1 at half time.

Played in heavy rain almost all through, the teams had to stay inside their dressing rooms for more than two hours before the second half commenced as the game stayed temporarily suspended.

India forged ahead in the eighth minute after impressive pressing. Palestine's Mohammed Jamhour's intended back pass to his goalkeeper was rather feeble after Gangte pressed him. Hrishikesh Manavathi took control, sprinted in and squared into the box. Kamgouhao Doungel came charging in to swipe home in a trice.

Jamhour was perturbed and frustrated for being responsible for the goal Palestine conceded. He lost his cool and brought down Raj Singh Wahengbam near the touchline on the left and then deliberately kicked him twice as he lay on the wet turf. Referee Ko Min-kuk of the Republic instantly pulled out his red card, and Palestine were reduced to 10.

But with a heavy turf and puddles of water to contend with, control was difficult. India tried to buttress the lead as Manavathi had a header turned over the crossbar and Doungel had his rising shot sail just wide of the top, far corner.

SAFF Championship: Mandi's late goal seals India's comeback win and historic title hat-trick

IANS

DHAKA: Suhail Ahmed Bhat and Sandip Mandi scored a goal each as India came back from a goal deficit to prevail 2-1 over Pakistan in the final of the SAFF Championship and completed a hat-trick of titles at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Mandi's header bounced off the turf, climbed beyond Yousuf Butt in the Pakistan goal and nestled in the top corner; with two minutes of regulation time remaining, India had found the moment that would turn a troubled evening into a historic one.

The defender's 88th-minute winner completed a dramatic 2-1 comeback victory for India over 10-man Pakistan, securing a record-extending 10th SAFF Championship crown.

Naushad Moosa's side was in deep trouble, stretched, unsettled and



eventually breached by Alamgir Ghazi's curling finish in first-half stoppage time. With Pakistan leading 1-0 approaching the hour-mark, the Blue Tigers were under a lot of pressure.

But Junaid Shah's dismissal following a VAR review changed the course of the final, Suhail Ahmad Bhat restored parity, and Mandi supplied the decisive blow just as extra time loomed.

For Pakistan, appearing in their first SAFF Championship final, it was a painful ending to a contest they had controlled for much of the opening half.

Moosa retained the starting XI that had beaten Bhutan in the semifinals, but India struggled to find cohesion in the first half. Bhat offered an early threat, almost intercepting a back pass before firing over after cutting inside from the left.

Pakistan attacked with pace and width, finding space to deliver into the Indian penalty area. Arsh Anwer Shaikh was drawn towards the edge of his box in the 17th minute, and Muhammad Ali Khan's attempt towards the exposed goal required a covering intervention.

Moments later, McKeal Abdullah met a cross with an acrobatic flick from close range, only for Shaikh to react sharply and keep it out. The Indian goalkeeper remained busy as Pakistan continued to threaten, producing another important save during a spell in which India struggled to escape their own half.

The cooling break offered Moosa's men some respite. India began to retain possession more effectively, and Butt was forced into a sharp save to his right by a fierce effort from the edge of the area. Yet the improvement was brief, and Pakistan's pressure eventually brought its reward.

'It's always a big blessing to talk to him,' says Suryansh Shedge on Hardik Pandya joining PBKS

IANS

NEW DELHI: Suryansh Shedge was recovering from a minor quadriceps injury at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in August-September when he first picked Hardik Pandya's brains. Now the seam-bowling all-rounder will be sharing a dressing room with the two-time T20 World Cup winner, and Shedge said the chance to learn from the premier all-rounder is something he does not take lightly.

As previously reported by IANS, Pandya officially joined Punjab Kings (PBKS) through a trade deal on November 11 ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027, at a revised fee of Rs 18 crore, up from the Rs 16.35 crore he earned while leading Mumbai Indians (MI) from 2024 to 2026. PBKS will be his third IPL team, after MI and Gujarat Titans (GT).

"So, obviously, at CoE,



the staff there, the coaches, the physios, the trainers, everyone wanted me to come back quickly because there was an A series (against Australia A) coming up (in October). Secondly, obviously, being around someone who has played for so many years for India and is in that position where you want to be, and he is doing what you want to do for the country, is a special experience."

"It's always a big blessing to talk to him, pick his brains, and I spent quite a bit of time with him. We spoke about bowling technique quite a bit. We sorted a few things out and then obviously the mentality as a bowler and as a batter. I think the kind of insights and the kind of enthusiasm he shows while talking to you, you are bound to learn something from the conversation," Shedge, who will turn out for India A in the upcoming Rising Stars Men's Asia Cup in Doha, told IANS in an exclusive conversation.

Pandya began his IPL career with MI in 2015. He moved to Gujarat Titans (GT) when the competition expanded to ten teams in 2022 and captained them for two seasons, including a title win in their debut year, before returning to MI ahead of IPL 2024. He has lifted the trophy five times, four of them with MI and one with GT.

Mumbai's results under his captaincy since 2024 have been uneven. They finished last in the points table in that year, qualified for the playoffs the next season, and ended up in ninth place in 2026. Across 39 matches with Pandya in charge, they won 15 games and lost 24 matches.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform all relatives, friends and well-wishers about the sad demise of

Janab Farooq Ahmad Sofi

who left for his heavenly abode on

17th November 2026

The Ijtemai Fateha Khawani will be held on

Thursday, 19th November 2026 11:00 am,
at moomin abad batamaloo near district court complex.

May Almighty Allah grant the deceased the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bless the bereaved family with Sabr-e-Jameel. Ameen.

Address:
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HINDI | 01:10 PM, 02:10 PM, 05:00 PM, 06:00 PM



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