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Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Amit Shah
@AmitShah



The NIA stands as a symbol of India's unwavering resolve and institutional strength in the fight against terrorism. At the Anti-Terror Conference, honored seven officers and the personnel of the NIA for meritorious service.

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Govt Committed To Dismantle Terror Ecosystem: LG

Pays Homage To Martyrs Rashpal Kumar, Babi Chand



LG reaffirmed an unwavering commitment to dismantling the terror ecosystem through decisive action

We remain unwavering in our commitment to eradicate the terror ecosystem through firm and resolute action

The security grid, along with road and communication infrastructure in Kiyar and adjoining remote areas, will be strengthened for the safety and well-being of the local residents

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday reiterated that his administration remains unwavering in its commitment to eradicate the "terror ecosystem" through firm and resolute action.

"The security grid, along with road and communication infrastructure in Kiyar and adjoining remote areas, will be strengthened for the safety and well-being of the local residents," he said while meeting a public delegation from Kiyar in Dachhan, Kishtwar, at Lok Bhavan.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to J&K Police brave hearts, Shri Rashpal Kumar and Shri Babi Chand. He assured that the administration will extend all possible support to the families of the martyrs.

The delegation was led by Member of Legislative Assembly from Kishtwar Shagun Parihar. The delegation apprised the Lieutenant Governor of key issues pertaining to the prevailing security situation in Kiyar and other areas of Dachhan, Kishtwar. She also highlighted the concerns of residents living in remote and vulnerable pockets of Dachhan.

The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed an • P-06

Kashmir Free Of India-Born Terrorists Now: Amit Shah

Says Elimination Of Lashkar Terrorist Marks Major Milestone After 35 Years

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday described Kashmir becoming free of India-born terrorists, following the killing of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Latif Bhat, as a historic milestone in the country's 35-year-long fight against terrorism.

Addressing the inaugural session of a two-day counter-terrorism conference in New Delhi, Shah, said. "The elimination of Bhat is significant achievement in the government's efforts to combat terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir."

"With the elimination of Lashkar terrorist Latif Bhat, the entire Kashmir has become free from the presence of India-born terrorists," Shah said, adding that such a situation had emerged after 35 years.

He said the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and was achieving positive results through sustained efforts.



Shah said India was moving towards establishing a uniform counter-terrorism strategy across the country, ensuring coordinated action from the national level down to every police station.

He noted that although police forces in different states had undertaken several operations against terrorism over the years, a lack of coordination had remained a major challenge. Successive governments had made efforts to address these shortcomings, he said.

The Home Minister said the hallmark of a successful security agency was its ability to identify and apprehend terrorists before they could execute attacks, urging state police forces to study and implement such preventive models.

Highlighting action against terror networks, Shah said the Shahzad Bhatti network had been designated a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). More than 40 of its modules had been dismantled across the country, while over 100 cases had been registered and more than 271 people arrested.

Referring to the government's efforts to bring fugitives back to India, Shah said 303 fugitives had been brought back from 36 countries since 2019 through coordinated efforts by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and intelligence agencies.

He said bringing back criminals and masterminds hiding abroad was essential to completely eliminate terrorism, organised crime and drug-related activities.

Shah said the government had undertaken several institutional and legal reforms to strengthen the country's counter-terrorism framework.

He said the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act was amended on August 2, 2019, bringing additional offences under the agency's jurisdiction and expanding • P-06

WITH THE ELIMINATION OF LASHKAR TERRORIST LATIF BHAT, THE ENTIRE KASHMIR has become free from the presence of India-born terrorists," Shah said, adding that such a situation had emerged after 35 years.

Kashmir Shivers As Gulmarg Records Sub-Zero Night

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Night temperatures dropped below the freezing point at several places across Kashmir, with Shopian recording the coldest night in the Valley at minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, while Leh in Ladakh registered a minimum of minus 7.2 degrees Celsius.

According to temperature data, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.2 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund settled at minus 0.8 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Pulwama at minus 2.5 degrees Celsius. Budgam recorded minus 1.5 degrees Celsius, Anantnag minus 1.4 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 1.3 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg, Konibal Pampore and Srinagar Airport recorded minus 1.0 degrees Celsius each, while Sonamarg settled at minus 1.2 degrees Celsius and Awantipora at minus 0.6 degrees Celsius.

Among other places, Bandipora recorded a minimum of 0.1 degrees Celsius, while • P-06

J&K Govt Begins Reconstitution Of CWCs



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: After amending the Juvenile Justice Rules, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has initiated the process for the reconstitution of Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) across the Union Territory.

The government has invited applications from eligible candidates for the posts of Chairperson and Members of the CWCs.

"The Government of Jammu and Kashmir intends to constitute Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) in every district for exercising the powers and discharging the functions assigned to them in relation to children in need of care and protection under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, read with Rule 15(3) of the Jammu and Kashmir Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2021, as amended in 2026 vide S.O. 246 dated September 22, 2026," reads a notification issued by the Social Welfare Department.

Each CWC comprises of a chairperson and four members, who are appointed on recommendations of a selection-cum-oversight committee.

The Child Welfare Committees are mandated under the Juvenile • P-06

India, Japan Vow Stronger Action Against Cross-Border Terrorism

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: India and Japan have condemned cross-border terrorism and called for concerted action against terrorist organisations, specifically naming Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), in a joint statement issued after the fourth India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo on Thursday.

According to details available, the ministers "unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism".

They called for concerted action against all UN-listed terrorist groups and entities, including Al Qaeda, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and their proxies.



The joint statement also called for resolute action to dismantle terrorist safe havens, disrupt financing channels and their links with transnational crime, and prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists.

The meeting was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu and Defence Minister Koizumi Shinjiro.

The two sides agreed to expand defence cooperation through more advanced military exercises, greater integration of unmanned systems and short-notice joint drills.

They also welcomed an agreement allowing Japan's Self-Defence Forces • P-06

CM Omar Abdullah Reviews Functioning Of IT Deptt

Calls For Timely Completion Of Projects, Stronger Cybersecurity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired a review meeting of the Information Technology Department to assess the progress of various e-governance initiatives, digital infrastructure projects, cybersecurity measures and delivery of online services across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the department's key achievements and ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening digital governance and improving citizen access to government services.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Finance



Shailendra Kumar Secretary Information Technology Rahul Yadav, DG BISAG-N and other officers attended the meeting.

During the presentation Secretary IT informed the meeting that Jammu and Kashmir currently has 1,718 government services integrated on digital platforms, with 368 new services added during the last • P-06

Power Puzzle.....

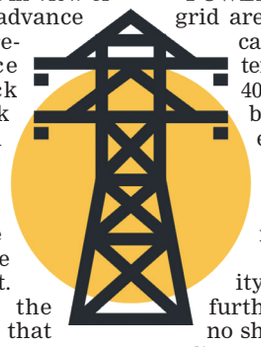
Why Is J&K Projecting Lower Peak Demand Than Last Year's 3.3 GW?

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Even as Jammu and Kashmir recorded a peak power demand of around 3.3 GW last year, authorities have projected a peak of just 2.8 GW for the upcoming period, prompting the electricity regulatory authority to seek an urgent review amid warnings of a 665 MW non-solar power deficit.

According to the official documents available, J&K has been requested to review its submitted demand forecast stating that the projected peak demand of 2.8 GW is lower than the previous year's peak of around 3.3 GW.

"Further, a peak deficit of approximately 665 MW is projected during non-solar hours from 5pm to 8am, widening after mid-month," the documents read.



It also said that in view of the absence of advance bilateral procurement, advance Round-the-Clock (RTC) and peak hour bilateral tie-ups are recommended to address the deficit and minimise dependence on the short-term market.

Furthermore, the documents said that POWERGRID may ensure that all maintenance work of SVC at New Wanpoh is carried out now on priority as it would be difficult to provide any shutdown for New Wanpoh SVC in the December-February period.

"POWERGRID and Indigrid are both advised to carry out any maintenance activities of 400kV lines in J&K before November end so that all the transmission lines are available from Dec-Mar period," it reads.

The electricity regulators have further informed that no shutdown of 400kV lines shall be facilitated during the Dec-Mar period.

As already reported, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness a power deficiency of over 16 percent during the peak solar and non-solar hours in the month of December.

An official in this regard has said that the regions may face power deficiency of nearly 16.3 percent during the peak solar and non-solar hours. "Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to face power paucity of 623 MWs against the available power position during the peak solar and non-solar hours in the month of December."

Stating the revised anticipated power supply position for December-2026 for both the Union Territories, the official said that there will likely be a peak availability • P-06

No Need To Wait For Results

DSEK Opens Provisional Admissions To Classes 11, 12

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has allowed students appearing in the Class 10 and Class 11 Annual Regular examinations of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) 2026 to seek provisional admission to Classes 11 and 12, respectively, without waiting for the declaration of results.

In a notification issued on Thursday, the Directorate directed all government and recognised private higher secondary institutions to initiate the admission process immediately after students complete their final examination papers and begin regular classroom teaching for the newly admitted batches without waiting for the formal announcement of results. • P-06

'Tourist Arrivals Swelling In Kashmir'

'Jashn-e-Chinar Launched To Showcase Valley's Golden Autumn



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Director Tourism Kashmir Qammar Sajad on Thursday said that tourist arrivals in Kashmir have increased, with the overall footfall remaining broadly at par with previous years.

Talking to reporters at the sidelines of launch ceremony of a 15-day 'Jashn-e-Chinar' festival to promote autumn tourism in the Valley, Sajad said, "Tourists are in Kashmir to experience autumn and snowfall according to their schedules. Their number is also increasing gradually."

He said 'Jashn-e-Chinar' will showcase Kashmir's distinctive autumn season. "During autumn, the Chinar leaves fall, and the entire environment changes. The vegetation in gardens takes on golden colours, making the surroundings a magical sight. That is why it is also called the golden season," he said. • P-06

'Stories Without Borders' to Come Alive as 57th IFFI Opens Today in Goa

GMK NEWS NETWORK



GOA: Goa is all set to welcome filmmakers, artists, delegates and cinema enthusiasts from India and across the world as the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) commences today, bringing together the world of cinema for nine days of films, cultural exchange and creative engagement.

Organized under the theme 'Stories Without Borders', this year's festival will bring together films and creative voices from different countries, cultures and cinematic traditions, celebrating the universal language of cinema.

The opening ceremony at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium, Goa, will feature musical presentations, cultural performances and ceremonial proceedings, marking the commencement of the nine-day festival.

The ceremony will begin with a sound and light presentation, followed by the National Song and National Anthem. The ceremonial opening will include the lighting of the lamp and watering of the Tulsi plant, symbolising light, life and new beginnings.

The ceremony will feature addresses by the Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant, and senior dignitaries from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The opening ceremony will also bring together prominent personalities from Indian cinema, including Member of Parliament Ravi Kishan, filmmaker and Festival Director Ashutosh Gowariker, filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar and filmmaker Aanand L. Rai, among other distinguished members of the Indian and international film fraternity.

A major highlight of the evening will be a symphonic orchestra presentation by three-time Grammy Award-winning composer and environmentalist Ricky Kej, titled 'A World of Cinema Through Music'. The performance will bring alive the universal language of cinema through a musical journey across cultures and storytelling traditions.

The musical presentation will be followed by 'Music Without Borders', bringing together musicians from different countries in a celebration of musical traditions, harmony and cultural exchange, reflecting the festival's theme.

The peacock motif associated with IFFI will come alive through 'Beyond the Frame', a special dance presentation, bringing the festival's iconic emblem to life through movement and artistic expression.

The ceremony will also feature the felicitation of the Indian Panorama and International Competition juries, recognising the filmmakers and cinema professionals entrusted with selecting films for the festival's competitive sections.

The International Competition Jury will be chaired by filmmaker Aanand L. Rai and will comprise distinguished cinema professionals from across the world, including Sol Berruezo Pichon-Rivière (Argentina), Bogdan Muresanu (Romania), María Alejandra Rojas (Colombia) and Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke (Thailand). The jury will be felicitated during the opening ceremony.

The Feature Film Jury is chaired by National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, while the Non-Feature Film Jury is chaired by filmmaker and former Director of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Himansu Sekhar Khatua.

A special presentation marking two decades of WAVES Film Bazaar will showcase its evolution as a platform connecting Indian filmmakers with the international film industry and facilitating creative and business collaborations.

From acclaimed international films to emerging voices and diverse Indian stories, IFFI 2026 will offer audiences a wide-ranging cinematic experience. The festival will screen over 150 international films from 86 countries, bringing diverse storytelling traditions and perspectives to Goa.

The festival will open with Fatherland, directed by acclaimed Polish filmmaker Paweł Pawlikowski, whose work received the Best Director Award at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival. The Mid-Fest Film will be I Matter, directed by Alina Şerban, a Romania-Germany-Belgium co-production featuring dialogues in Romanian and Romani. The festival will conclude with We Are All Strangers, directed by Singaporean filmmaker Anthony Chen, bringing the nine-day celebration of world cinema to a close on 28th November. The festival will also spotlight international cinema through competitions, curated showcases and country presentations, with Spain as the Country of Honour and Russia as the Partner Country.

Indian cinema will find a prominent place through Indian Panorama, featuring 76 films in 18 languages. A special focus on BRICS cinema will further bring films from member and partner countries into the spotlight.

The festival will celebrate emerging filmmakers through the Best Debut Feature Films Competition, alongside other competitive sections, including the International Competition and ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal, recognising cinematic excellence across diverse categories.

This year's festival introduces two new segments to broaden its cinematic offerings and celebrate diverse forms of storytelling. The first segment, Animation, will feature five outstanding films, showcasing creativity and innovation in animated cinema. The second segment, Films About Films, presents five films with the objective of bringing the art and craft of filmmaking to the forefront.

"World Heritage Week-2026"

DC Sgr Flags Off Culture Department's Heritage Walk from Old SPS Museum

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: To mark "World Heritage Week-2026", Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Tuesday flagged off a "Heritage Walk" from the Old SPS Museum, Lal Mandi, aimed at creating mass awareness about Kashmir's rich historical, architectural and cultural heritage and encouraging greater public participation in its preservation and conservation of heritage monuments and sites.

The "Heritage Walk" organised by the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums witnessed participation from various stakeholders, students and members of the community, highlighting the importance of collective efforts in safeguarding Srinagar's invaluable historical legacy.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance of preserving the rich heritage and cultural legacy, stating that historical monuments and heritage sites are not merely remnants of the past but valuable repositories of our history, traditions, architectural excellence and cultural identity.

The DC stressed the need for sustained awareness campaigns and active community involvement to ensure the protection and conservation of these invaluable assets for future generations while fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards protecting heritage monuments, structures and sites.

The DC also underscored that heritage conservation requires collective responsibility and active participation from all sections of society, including local communities, educational institutions, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. He expressed hope that the initiative would help connect people, particularly the younger generation with Kashmir's rich historical and cultural roots while fostering a deeper appreciation of its heritage.

Following the flag-off from the Old SPS Museum, Lal Mandi, participants carrying placards and banners and raising awareness slogans as part of the Heritage Walk, proceeded towards the Old Assembly Complex, where the walk culminated.

The programme was also attended by Assistant Directors of Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, including Shaheena Yassen and Dr Sarfaraz, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah, Deputy SP Traffic, Suhail Ahmad, besides other Officers of the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums.

Dir Agri reviews departmental preparations for Jhiri Mela 2026



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu, Anil Gupta Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting here in Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, to assess the departmental preparations for the Jhiri Mela 2026, scheduled to be held from November 23 to December 3 at Jhiri.

The department's participation shall primarily focus on farmers' welfare, awareness and dissemination of modern agricultural technologies, keeping in view the legacy of Baba Jitto, a symbol of farmers' rights and dignity.

The Director directed the sectoral heads to put up attractive, innovative and informative stalls with uniform presentation, proper labelling and high standards of cleanliness. He also stressed that the department, which has secured top positions in previous exhibitions, should make every effort to retain the distinction this year.

The departmental exhibition will showcase improved varieties of seeds, cereals, vegetables, niche crops, medicinal and aromatic plants, agricultural machinery and implements, along with live demonstrations of mushroom cultivation, apiculture, soil testing and other farmer-oriented technologies.

Special displays will include button and Dhingri mushrooms, Cordyceps and Shiitake cultivation blocks, hybrid vegetable seedlings, diverse honey varieties, millet restaurant, plant health services and Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) activities. The stalls will also highlight achievements under HADP, JKCIP, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other departmental initiatives through informative literature, digital displays, photographs and videos.

The Director assigned specific responsibilities to the officers and constituted committees for stall preparation, registration, reception, transport, refreshments, stage management, media and other arrangements to ensure smooth conduct of departmental activities.

Joint Director (Extension) will coordinate the departmental arrangements as the nodal officer, while Joint Director (Inputs), Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu and his team will facilitate the overall organization and venue management. Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms), Aman Jyoti Sharma and other sectoral heads were directed to ensure timely completion of their respective assignments.

DC Shopian chairs review meeting on Forest Rights Act

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Thursday chaired a meeting regarding the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and examination of claims and complaints received under the Act at the Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner held detailed deliberations on various aspects related to the implementation of the Act, with particular focus on the status of claims, complaints and issues raised by the concerned stakeholders. He emphasised the need for a systematic, transparent and time-bound approach while dealing with the claims to ensure that all genuine cases are examined strictly in accordance with the provisions and guidelines of the Forest Rights Act.

The DC stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure proper coordination among the departments and undertake due verification of claims and complaints so that genuine grievances are addressed in a fair and transparent manner.

The DC further underscored the importance of creating awareness among the eligible beneficiaries about the provisions of the Act and ensuring that the process is carried out in a transparent and accountable manner.

KPDCL annpunces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Thursday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Ahmadpora Beerwah line and 33 kV Budgam Kremshore line will be observed due to which power supply to Sail, Gondipora, Old Berwah, Arwah, Najan, Chewdara, Berwa town, Sonpah, Hospital Zanigam, Arizal, Raiyar, Doodipatri, Khag, Poshker, Old Kremshore, Arigam, Nuner, Shamsabad, Dreygaam, Arwa, Branwar, Sursyar, Raithan, Yarikahh, essential and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 21 & 24 November 2026.

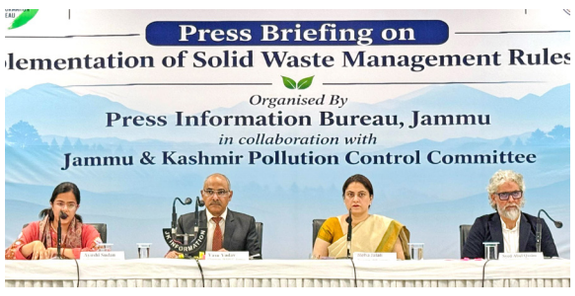
Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Budgam Khansahib tap line will be observed due to which power supply to Branwar, Sursyar, Khansahib, Sheenipora, Yarikah, Gurweth, Essential, Raithan Watred and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 25 November 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Budgam-SIDCO line will be observed due to which power supply to Ompora, SIDCO, Housing Colony, Railway Station Budgam, NIFT and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 21 November 2026.

Meanwhile, the Chief Engineer has informed that the proposed shutdown of 33 kV Shareefabad Wadwan Line on 23 & 27 November will be on 24 & 28 November 2026.

PIB, JKPCC organise press briefing on implementation of Solid Waste Management

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: The Press Information Bureau (PIB), Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), Thursday organised a press briefing on the implementation of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, to highlight their key provisions and sensitise the media and public about the responsibilities of various stakeholders. The speakers emphasised that source segregation, scientific processing, recycling and active public participation are essential for effective waste management and achieving the objectives of Swachh Bharat.

Chairman, JKPCC, Shri Vasu Yadav, highlighted the major provisions of the new Rules, which place greater emphasis on segregation of waste at source into four categories—wet, dry, sanitary and special care waste. He said the framework seeks to strengthen scientific waste processing, recycling, resource recovery and remediation of legacy dumpsites while ensuring greater accountability among waste generators.

Shri Yadav said the Rules provide for measures such as user fees, spot fines and environmental compensation to ensure compliance. Stressing the need for coordinated action, he called for greater involvement of government agencies, institutions, commercial establishments and citizens in adopting responsible waste management practices.

In her opening remarks, Director, PIB Jammu, Ms. Neha Jalali, said the press briefing was organised to familiarise media organisations and the public with the provisions of the Rules and promote awareness about responsible waste disposal. She emphasised that effective implementation would require behavioural change and active participation of citizens, institutions and local authorities. Ms Jalali also highlighted the important role of the media in disseminating information, encouraging source segregation and taking the message of cleanliness and sustainable waste management to the grassroots to achieve Swachh Bharat.

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Ms. Ayushi Sudan, highlighted the Corporation's initiatives to strengthen waste management and improve accountability among bulk waste generators. She said bulk waste generators have to mandatorily register through a dedicated online portal, adding that this facilitates monitoring and ensures compliance with prescribed norms. She stressed the need to promote recycling, reuse and scientific processing, adding that waste should be viewed as a resource rather than merely a disposal burden.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of VB-G RAM G

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Thursday chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, to review the implementation of VB-G RAM G and explore convergence of activities under various Agriculture and allied sectors.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the implementation framework of the programme, identification of eligible works and convergence opportunities across various departments.

The meeting discussed various categories of permissible works under the programme, including construction and upgradation of rural roads, culverts, cross-drainage structures, Panchayat Ghars, Anganwadi Centres, rural libraries, public buildings and school infrastructure. Other works discussed included community infrastructure, solid and liquid waste management, solar lighting, village parking facilities, transport sheds, rural housing and repair and maintenance of water supply infrastructure under Jal Jeevan Mission.

The DC stressed the need to identify works permissible under the scheme for effective convergence.He also emphasised undertaking landscaping of Government buildings, Government schools and Panchayat Ghars wherever such facilities are presently lacking. The concerned departments were asked to identify suitable locations and take necessary steps in this regard.

The DC further stressed the need for the constitution of a supervision committee to monitor the execution of identified works and ensure proper implementation, quality and timely completion. The committee shall oversee the progress of works and ensure that the identified activities are taken up on the ground.

Emphasis was laid on coordinated planning, optimal utilisation of departmental resources and close coordination between line departments and block-level functionaries for effective implementation of the programme.

The meeting was attended by ACD Kulgam, BDOs, CAO, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, AD Fisheries, AD Sericulture and Executive Engineers, Jal Shakti (PHE) Divisions, Kulgam and Qazigund, besides other concerned officers.

ADDC B'pora reviews progress of works under CDF

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir, Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the status and progress of works under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in District Bandipora.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the status of CDF works was undertaken, with particular emphasis on their scrutiny, feasibility, progress and timely implementation through the e-Nigrani Portal.

The ADDC directed all Block Development Officers to monitor the e-Nigrani Portal on a daily basis and submit regular updates and progress reports to the ACD as well as the ADDC Office. He further directed that all works found to be non-feasible shall be reverted through the portal to the concerned MLAs for necessary reconsideration.

Emphasising the need for expeditious processing, the ADDC instructed all concerned officers to expedite the scrutiny and processing of pending works and ensure that no unnecessary delays occur at any stage. He further directed that the progress of all CDF-related works shall be monitored on a daily basis, with clear accountability at the field level.

DC Pulwama reviews progress under National Saffron Mission

GMK NEWS NETWORK



PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of various interventions under the National Saffron Mission in District Pulwama.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised of the overall objectives of the Mission, its major components and the status of interventions undertaken for the promotion and development of saffron cultivation in the district.

The review covered key components including rejuvenation and replanting of existing saffron areas, soil health improvement, mechanization, post-harvest handling, quality testing and marketing, strengthening of irrigation infrastructure and transfer of technology.

While reviewing the progress, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for a comprehensive and farmer-centric approach to address the challenges faced by saffron growers. He stressed the importance of preparing Soil Health Cards for all saffron farmers, wherever not already covered, and highlighted the need to adopt modern post-harvest handling technologies, improved harvesting practices and mechanization. He also highlighted the importance of identifying issues faced by farmers and addressing them through practical and coordinated interventions by the concerned departments.

Reviewing the irrigation infrastructure, the DC expressed serious concern over the reported high number of non-functional borewells and stressed the need for a comprehensive irrigation audit to assess their operational status and explore possibilities for restoration. He emphasized that proper aquifer mapping and scientific assessment of groundwater potential must precede any fresh borewell drilling to prevent unsuccessful drilling and avoid wastage of public funds.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the importance of identifying beneficiary farmers, assessing irrigation requirements and restoring all feasible non-functional borewells. He also reviewed the progress of borewell construction and transfer of infrastructure between MED and the Agriculture Department, including connectivity with sprinkler irrigation systems and establishment of vermicompost units. He emphasized timely resolution of bottlenecks and optimum utilization of the infrastructure created under the Mission.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, Aashiq Khandey; Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers and other concerned officers.

Several legislators call on CM Omar Abdullah

Discuss developmental issues pertaining their constituencies

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Several legislators Thursday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, and apprised him of various developmental issues and public welfare concerns pertaining to their respective constituencies.

The legislators included MLA Hiranagar Vijay Kumar, MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat, MLA Bishnah Rajeev Kumar and MLA Shopian Shabir Ahmad Kullay.

During the meetings, the legislators raised issues relating to development, public infrastructure, welfare and other matters requiring the Government's attention in their respective Assembly constituencies.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the visiting public representatives and assured them that all genuine issues raised by them would be addressed on priority. He reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring equitable development and responsive governance across Jammu and Kashmir.

Newly appointed CS calls on CM Omar at Civil Secretariat, Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Newly appointed Chief Secretary Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav Thursday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The Chief Minister congratulated him on assuming charge as the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister discussed key developmental priorities with the newly appointed Chief Secretary, emphasising the need to accelerate development, strengthen governance and ensure effective and timebound delivery of public services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The discussions focused on advancing the Government's developmental agenda and ensuring coordinated efforts towards addressing key priorities and improving public service delivery.

Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav assumed charge as Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir on November 18.

Insurance Ombudsman Day

Mumbai Centre Brings Insurers, Policyholders Together for Open Dialogue

GMK NEWS NETWORK



MUMBAI: The Office of the Insurance Ombudsman, Mumbai, celebrated Insurance Ombudsman Day with a special event at Vishal Hall, Andheri (East), Mumbai. The occasion, which commemorates the establishment of the institution of the Insurance Ombudsman every year on November 11, saw active interaction among nodal officers of insurance companies, policyholders, complainants and distinguished guests.

Nilesh Bhaskar Sathe, Former Member (Life), IRDAI, was the Chief Guest. Aditya Gupta, Secretary General, Life Insurance Council, and Kasturi Sengupta, Secretary General, General Insurance Council, were Guests of Honour. Representatives of health, general and life insurance companies, along with complainants and policyholders, participated in the discussions.

Sarojini Dikhale, Hon'ble Insurance Ombudsman, Mumbai Centre, greeted all present and said that Insurance Ombudsman Day is not merely a celebration of an institution but a reaffirmation of the enduring commitment to the policyholders served. She emphasized that the occasion reminds the office of its responsibility to be the voice of the voiceless, to ensure that every policyholder's voice is heard, every complaint and grievance receives fair, impartial and thoughtful consideration, and justice remains accessible to the ordinary citizen.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Nilesh Sathe emphasized the importance of ensuring free, speedy and impartial resolution of insurance disputes with a view to minimizing the hardships faced by policyholders. He also highlighted the crucial role and collective responsibility of all stakeholders in strengthening the insurance grievance redressal mechanism and ensuring timely and effective resolution of policyholders' grievances.

Representatives of various insurance companies made valuable contributions during the highly interactive open forum session. The event concluded on a positive note, with insurers expressing their firm commitment to strengthening trust in the insurance sector and playing their part in further strengthening the institution of the Insurance Ombudsman.

Traffic snarls continue across Srinagar, DIG flags rising vehicle numbers

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: Traffic congestion continues to plague Srinagar, with commuters facing long delays and struggling to cover even short distances during peak hours as rising vehicle numbers put increasing pressure on the city's roads.

From Lal Chowk and Residency Road to MA Road, Hyderpora and Tengpora, traffic jams have become a daily occurrence, frustrating motorists and commuters alike.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Traffic, Haseeb Ur Rehman, said the rising number of vehicles is the primary reason for increasing congestion in Kashmir.

"Unlike previous years, when traffic volume declined during winter, pressure on roads remains high even during morning and evening peak hours," he said.

Commuters blamed roadside parking, encroachments and the movement of different categories of vehicles on already congested roads for worsening the situation.

Muzaffar Ahmad, a resident of Soura, said he prefers using a scooter instead of his car to pick up his child from school in Lal Chowk because of the area's heavy traffic.

"Taking a car through Lal Chowk during peak hours is difficult. I try to avoid adding to the congestion," he said. Sauleha, a resident of Lal Bazar, said even short journeys within the city now take much longer than before.

"Travelling across Srinagar has become frustrating. School buses, dumpers and private vehicles share the same congested stretches, causing frequent delays," she said.

The DIG said the government is undertaking several measures to improve road infrastructure, including road widening and the construction of flyovers. He added that enforcement has been intensified, with traffic personnel conducting checks during evening and night hours. —(KNO)

CS undertakes maiden early morning field visit to Jammu city

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: A day after assuming charge as the Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav undertook his first field tour of Jammu city in the early hours of Thursday, taking a first-hand appraisal of the city's developmental landscape, urban infrastructure, sanitation arrangements and ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing civic amenities and improving the overall quality of urban life.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Vikas Kundal; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Minga Sherpa; Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Ayushi Sudan; Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Joginder Singh; Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority (JDA), besides other senior officers of the Divisional and District Administrations and the Municipal Corporation.

During the tour, Dr Yadav visited several prominent commercial and public spaces to assess the progress and impact of developmental and beautification initiatives undertaken under the Jammu Smart City Mission and other urban development programmes. He also enquired about the sanitation infrastructure, waste management arrangements and civic amenities put in place for the convenience of the city's residents and visitors.

The Chief Secretary began his tour with a visit to Raghunath Bazaar, where he reviewed the development and beautification works executed under the Jammu Smart City Corporation Limited (JSCL). He took stock of the improvements brought about in the market and their impact on public convenience and the overall experience of traders, visitors and shoppers.

He subsequently visited Bahu Plaza and its adjoining areas, where he assessed the existing civic arrangements and took an overview of the developmental projects in the pipeline for this important commercial and administrative hub. He was briefed about the proposed interventions aimed at further augmenting public amenities and improving the area's urban infrastructure.

At Apsara Road High Street, Gandhi Nagar, the Chief Secretary inspected the development and beautification works undertaken to enhance the commercial stretch and its surrounding public spaces. He also took stock of the facilities created and the scope for further improvements to make the area more accessible, organised and aesthetically appealing.

The Chief Secretary later visited the Tawi Riverfront Development Project, one of Jammu's flagship urban transformation initiatives, to assess the progress of the project and the facilities being created there. He was apprised of its comprehensive development plan, including the proposed expansion of infrastructure and creation of additional public amenities under subsequent phases, envisaging the transformation of the riverfront into a major recreational and public attraction for the city.

During the tour, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Vikas Kundal, gave a broad overview of Jammu city's geographical spread, developmental trajectory, ongoing projects and major initiatives envisaged for its further transformation.

Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Minga Sherpa, briefed the Chief Secretary on the beautification and developmental interventions undertaken in the areas visited, besides outlining the plans for further augmentation of civic infrastructure, improvement of urban living standards and creation of additional facilities for the convenience of citizens.

Commissioner, JMC, Ayushi Sudan, gave a detailed appraisal of the various Smart City projects, the expenditure incurred on these interventions and the progress of major initiatives, including the Tawi Riverfront Development Project and Apsara Road High Street. She also apprised him of the Corporation's comprehensive sanitation and solid waste management framework.

JKPD secures dismissal of Bail pleas in Narcotics, terror-linked cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Ld. Prosecutor of the Jammu & Kashmir Prosecution Department have successfully opposed two bail applications before the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara, both dismissed on 17 November 2026.

The Hon'ble Court of the Principal Sessions Judge, Kupwara (I/c Designated NIA/FTC Court, Kupwara), presided over by Sh. Manjit Singh Manhas, dismissed the bail application of accused Mohd Iqbal Ganie in FIR No. 256/2022 of Police Station Kupwara, registered under Sections 8/20/29 of the NDPS Act. The Addl. Public Prosecutor Mohsin Hassan Khan opposed the accused's second bail plea. He demonstrated that there had been no change in circumstances since the earlier rejection on 28.04.2026, that the disclosure requirements laid down in Zeba Khan v. State of U.P. had not been met, and that the twin conditions of Section 37 of the NDPS Act were not satisfied. The Court accepted these submissions and dismissed the bail application.

In another matter, the Hon'ble Court of the Principal Sessions Judge, Kupwara, presided over by Sh. Manjit Singh Manhas, dismissed the bail application of accused Sajid Ahmad Khan and Majid Ahmad Khan in FIR No. 08/2023 of Police Station Karnah, registered under Sections 7/25 of the Arms Act, Sections 8/21/29 of the NDPS Act, and Sections 13, 18, 23 and 39 of the UA(P) Act. The Addl. Public Prosecutor filed written objections and argued the statutory embargoes under Section 43-D (5) of the UA(P) Act and Section 37 of the NDPS Act. The Court found the accusation prima facie true and held that prolonged custody was not a ground for bail, noting that no delay was attributable to the prosecution.

The Department said that these outcomes reflect the commitment of its Learned Prosecutors, who study case diaries, master the law and assist courts with precision. Their dedication protects society from the drug menace and terror-linked crime.



SED announces provisional admission for Classes 11, 12

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: School Education Department (SED) on Thursday announced provisional admission for Class 11th and Class 12th for the students who have appeared in the Annual Regular board examinations-2026.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in a notification said, "All students who have appeared in the Class 10th and Class 11th annual regular JKBOSE examinations are eligible to seek provisional admission to Class 11th and Class 12th, respectively, immediately after the conclusion of their final examination paper."

The directorate said that the move is aimed to ensure academic continuity and prevent any loss of instructional time for the students.

All Heads of government and recognized private schools are informed that they shall initiate the admission process immediately without waiting for the formal declaration of results and commence regular classwork for the newly admitted batches at the earliest.

"The admission so granted shall be strictly provisional and subject to the condition that the candidate successfully qualifies the respective Class 10th or Class 11th examination upon the declaration of results by the JKBOSE," it reads.

DSEK however clarified that in the event a student fails to qualify the qualifying examination, the provisional admission shall stand cancelled automatically, and no claim for continuation in the higher class shall be entertained.

"Institutions shall obtain a written undertaking from the parents or guardians of the students acknowledging the provisional nature of the admission, along with a copy of the JKBOSE Examination Admit Card or Roll Number Slip as proof of appearance," it reads.

DSEK instructed all Chief Education Officers (CEOS) and Principals of Higher Secondary Schools are to ensure strict compliance with these directions in letter and spirit—(KNO)

Sagar takes stock of new High Court Complex at Bemina

Directs revised DPR, realistic cost assessment, accelerated execution



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for PDD, Revenue, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, DMRRR and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Thursday undertook an extensive review of the ongoing construction of the new High Court Complex at Rakh-Arth, Bemina Bypass here, and directed the concerned officers to take all necessary measures to ensure its timely completion through effective planning, close monitoring and coordinated execution.

During his visit to the project site, the Minister personally assessed the pace of construction, reviewed the physical and financial progress and took detailed feedback from the executing agencies regarding the status of various components and the requirements for completing the project within the stipulated timeframe.

The Minister was accompanied by the Chief Engineer, R&B Central, Director Litigation Kashmir, Executive Engineer concerned and Assistant Executive Engineers.

During the review, Sagar was informed that the project, which commenced in April 2022, has an approved estimated cost of ₹908.20 crore, against which an expenditure of ₹213.50 crore has been incurred so far. The main building has achieved approximately 65 per cent physical progress, with an estimated cost of around ₹450 crore, while the road component accounts for approximately ₹90 crore.

The Minister was apprised that Phase-I of the project is targeted for completion by November 2027, with the first block expected to be completed within the next six months. The tender for air-conditioning and heating systems has been allotted, while the electrical works have also been tendered.

Taking a detailed assessment of the financial requirements, Sagar was informed that approximately ₹290 crore would be required to meet the project expenditure up to November 2027. The budget provision for 2026-27 includes ₹87 crore under SASCI and ₹5.30 crore under UT Capex, while an additional requirement of ₹41 crore has been proposed under Budget Estimates 2027-28.

The Minister laid particular emphasis on reassessing the original Detailed Project Report (DPR), observing the need to factor in the time elapsed since the commencement of the project, prevailing market rates, technical requirements and the financial implications of the balance works.

Shamim Firdous inaugurates maiden J&K Women Science Congress



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground, Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), is organising its maiden three-day J&K Women Science Congress-2026 from November 19 to 21, 2026.

The inaugural session of Congress was inaugurated today by Minister for Education and Jal Shakti, Shamim Firdous at Conventional Centre, here.

Being organised for the first time in the Union Territory, the Congress is centred on the theme "Women Leading Scientific Innovation for a Sustainable and Inclusive Future", with a focus on promoting women's leadership in science, technology, research and innovation besides inspiring young women to pursue careers in scientific fields.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister expressed immense pride over the enthusiasm and scientific spirit displayed by young women at the Congress. She said that participation of nearly 500 delegates and presentation of over 250 research papers reflected the talent, curiosity and innovative potential of young researchers in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister said that despite remarkable progress made by women in education, challenges such as societal expectations, family responsibilities, safety concerns and limited opportunities continue to affect their participation in science and research.

She reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthen the colleges and universities as centres of research and innovation through improved infrastructure, mentorship, academic collaboration and supportive learning environments, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Encouraging young women to pursue their aspirations with determination, the Minister said that no subject or profession was beyond the capabilities of women. She also urged the parents and teachers to encourage girls to explore, innovate and excel in their chosen fields.

Emphasising the importance of confidence and courage, she called upon women to believe in themselves, overcome societal barriers and extend a helping hand to others as they achieve success. "Be courageous," she exhorted, encouraging young women to make their mark in science, research and innovation and contribute meaningfully towards the progress of society.

Good Morning Kashmir
EDITORIAL

Winning The Peace

There are moments in a nation's long struggle against a persistent threat when a single event is elevated to the status of a milestone. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's declaration that the killing of Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Latif Bhat has rendered Kashmir free of India-born terrorists is one such moment. It is, without a doubt, a significant operational success and a symbolic victory in a conflict that has scarred the nation for 35 years.

For decades, the ecosystem of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir was fueled by a toxic blend of Pakistani terrorists and radicalised local youth. The elimination of the last known India-born operative in the LeT's ranks suggests a critical breakdown in that local recruitment and facilitation network. This is a testament to the relentless pressure applied by security forces and intelligence agencies.

The most promising takeaway from the Home Minister's address is not just the tally of terrorists eliminated, but the blueprint for a more coordinated future. The move towards a uniform counter-terrorism strategy, from the national level down to every police station, is a much-needed institutional reform. The September 2022 crackdown on the Popular Front of India (PFI), involving 11 states and multiple central agencies in a single, synchronized night of action, stands as a powerful case study. It demonstrated that when the state's machinery works in concert, it can dismantle even deeply entrenched networks.

Yet, we must be clear-eyed about the nature of the threat. It is evolving. The government's focus on strengthening the National Investigation Agency (NIA), amending the UAPA to seize terrorist assets, and establishing a National Memory Bank for intelligence sharing are all necessary upgrades to arsenal. The emphasis on preventing attacks by identifying and apprehending terrorists before they strike is a crucial shift from a reactive to a proactive posture.

The elimination of Latif Bhat is a moment to acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of our security personnel. It is a moment of justifiable national satisfaction. But it is not a moment for complacency. The fight against terrorism is a marathon, not a sprint. The architecture being built, coordinated action, legal empowerment, international cooperation, and a focus on prevention, is the right one. The challenge now is to ensure it functions with the speed, precision, and unwavering determination that this generational conflict demands. The milestone has been reached; the long road ahead must still be travelled.

Good Morning Kashmir

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Bridging The Gender Digital Divide For Inclusive Financial Growth



DR. ANJUM NAZIR QURESHI



In low- and middle-income countries, women are less likely than men to own smartphones, purchase mobile data, and access digital financial services. These services include online payments, internet banking, e-commerce, digital insurance, and savings platforms. Financial inclusion refers to ensuring that everyone, irrespective of gender, race, or nationality, has access to useful, affordable, and appropriate financial products and services.

Mobile money has expanded rapidly, with registered mobile money accounts reaching two billion globally. However, a significant gender gap persists in digital access and usage. In low- and middle-income countries, women are 15% less likely than men to use mobile internet. Approximately 1.4 billion adults across 81 low- and middle-income countries remain offline, of whom 800 million are women. Women are disproportionately affected by affordability constraints, limited digital confidence, and social barriers.

Access remains one of the biggest obstacles to digital financial inclusion. Women often have limited ownership of smartphones and other internet-enabled devices. In rural areas, inadequate internet connectivity and unreliable electricity further restrict access. The high cost of digital devices and mobile data also discourages many women from using online platforms.

Digital literacy and confidence are equally important. Many women have limited awareness of mobile banking, online transactions, and other digital financial services. A lack of familiarity with these platforms creates fear of making mistakes or falling victim to online scams. Social and cultural barriers further restrict women's control over mobile phones and financial resources.

Online safety is another critical concern. Women are frequently advised to use the internet cautiously or avoid certain digital platforms because of the risks of cybercrime and online harassment. However, the responsibility for digital safety should not rest solely on women. Greater emphasis must be placed on creating safer online spaces through collective awareness, stronger accountability, and responsible digital behavior. Promoting empathy, humility, and respect in digital interactions is equally important in addressing gender-based discrimination and building an inclusive digital environment.

The gender digital divide has serious economic consequences. Women with limited access to digital financial services face difficulties saving money, transferring funds, and making digital payments. Women entrepreneurs, particularly those running small home-based businesses, struggle to reach customers, promote their products, and receive payments online. Their financial dependence on male family members may increase, while limited digital access can prevent them from benefiting from government subsidies and emergency cash transfers delivered through digital platforms.

Bridging this divide can unlock significant opportunities. Digital inclusion enables women entrepreneurs to expand their businesses through e-commerce platforms and social media. Digital payments improve transparency and make it easier to monitor savings, transactions, and financial transfers. They also offer convenience by reducing the need to travel to make or receive payments, saving both time and resources.

Access remains one of the biggest obstacles to digital financial inclusion. Women often have limited ownership of smartphones and other internet-enabled devices. In rural areas, inadequate internet connectivity and unreliable electricity further restrict access.

The first step towards digital financial inclusion is to improve women's awareness of mobile technology, internet usage, and digital transactions. Financial and digital literacy should be integrated into academic curricula and strengthened through community-based programs, enabling girls to develop these skills from an early age. Financial institutions must collect sex-disaggregated data and develop gender-responsive financial products. Alongside cyber awareness programs, stronger online safety laws and effective protection mechanisms are essential to ensure that women can use digital platforms with confidence.

Bridging the gender digital divide is fundamental to achieving inclusive financial growth. When women have access to affordable devices, reliable connectivity, digital skills, financial resources, and safe online environments, they can participate more actively in the economy. Closing this gap can strengthen financial resilience, encourage entrepreneurship, reduce poverty, and advance gender equality. True digital inclusion is not merely about connecting women to technology; it is about empowering them to participate, progress, and prosper in a digitally connected world.

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Politics, Power And The Need For Reform

FIZA AIJAZ RESHI



Politics is the process through which society makes collective decisions, distributes resources, creates laws, and exercises power. In a constitutional democracy, however, political power is not absolute. It must remain within the framework of the Constitution, the rule of law, and the rights of citizens. The purpose of politics should ultimately be public welfare. Yet, politics can sometimes become more concerned with power, personal interests, and party calculations than with the needs of ordinary citizens. When this happens, the relationship between the representative and the people begins to weaken.

Political representatives are elected because citizens place their trust in them. An election is therefore more than a competition between political parties; it is a transfer of public responsibility. Citizens vote with expectations of better governance, employment, education, healthcare, infrastructure, justice, and dignity.

Political manifestos are an important part of this process, but they should be understood as policy commitments rather than substitutes for constitutional governance. A responsible political leader should clearly distinguish between what can realistically be achieved, what requires legislative or constitutional approval, and what lies beyond the authority of a particular government.

This issue has particular relevance in Jammu and Kashmir. Following the 2024 Assembly elections, an elected government was formed after a prolonged period without an elected Assembly. During the election campaign, issues surrounding the restoration of the region's former constitutional position, including demands concerning Articles 370 and 35A, received considerable political attention. However, questions subsequently arose regarding the extent of the elected government's authority to fulfil such promises.

Regardless of one's political position on these questions, the broader democratic lesson is important: political promises should be accompanied by constitutional clarity, institutional realism and accountability. Citizens deserve to know not only what their leaders promise, but also what those leaders actually have the power to deliver. Political leaders are public representatives, not masters of the people. Public office is temporary, while the institutions of the state are meant to endure. Leadership therefore requires humility, competence, honesty and a commitment to public welfare.

Another important concern is the criminalisation of politics. Candidates facing criminal cases can contest elections, while ordinary citizens may face serious social or professional consequences from criminal proceedings. At the same time, an allegation or FIR cannot be treated as proof of guilt; every accused person is entitled to due process and the presumption of innocence. Nevertheless, greater transparency about candidates, faster judicial processes and stronger institutional safeguards can contribute to public confidence.

Corruption presents another major challenge. For an ordinary citizen, corruption is not an abstract political concept. It can appear as unnecessary delays, complicated administrative procedures, lack of accountability, or difficulty obtaining services to which one is legally entitled. When citizens lose faith in public institutions, democracy itself suffers. At the same time, citizens must develop the ability to distinguish between verified information, political opinion, propaganda and misinformation. Democracy requires not only freedom of expression but also an informed public.

However, our media sometimes appears more interested in entertaining the public than in providing accurate and meaningful information. At times, even issues such as pollution are presented in ways that can be misleading. For example, some media reports have highlighted claims about the supposed advantages of pollution, suggesting that pollution can protect people from direct sunlight or reduce the effects of heat. Such claims, when presented without proper scientific context, can confuse the public and divert attention from the serious health and environmental consequences of pollution.

Another disturbing concern is the use of sensational headlines, thumbnails and reports that can portray innocent people as criminals before the facts have been properly established. Such practices can damage reputations, create fear and disturb social harmony. Whether such a report results from negligence, inadequate verification or sensationalism, the larger principle remains the same: serious allegations should not be presented as established facts without proper verification. A person's reputation cannot be treated as collateral damage in the race for television ratings or online attention.

These concerns become even more significant when considered in the wider context. Therefore, a greater accountability and an effective legal and institutional framework to discourage the publication or broadcasting of false, misleading or unverified claims, while at the same time protecting legitimate journalism and freedom of expression. Democratic reform must therefore extend beyond elections. Civic education should help citizens understand the Constitution, their rights, the functioning of legislatures and the actual powers and limitations of elected representatives. Political parties can also strengthen democracy through greater internal transparency, responsible candidate selection and ethical leadership.

Most importantly, citizens must understand that democracy does not end on election day. The public has the right to question elected representatives, demand transparency and evaluate their performance. Political loyalty should never become blind loyalty. A mature democracy requires citizens to support good governance while questioning wrongdoing, regardless of which political party is responsible. Political power is temporary. Governments change, leaders change and public opinion changes. What must remain constant is the principle that no individual, political party or government is above the Constitution and the law.

The real question, therefore, is not simply who wins an election, but what happens after the election. Are we using politics to serve the people, or are we using the people to serve politics? The strength of a democracy depends not only on the Constitution written on paper, but on the integrity of those who govern, the independence of its institutions, and the courage of citizens to hold power accountable.

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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

Behind The Provider

Making Gender Equality Truly Inclusive

Recognising Men's Contributions, Understanding Their Struggles And Building A Society Where Men And Women, Boys And Girls Can Grow Together.



SHOIAB MOHMMAD BHAT

Every year, 19 November is celebrated as International Men's Day to acknowledge men's contribution to the family, community and society, and raise awareness about the problems that men encounter. The day will be a time to raise awareness about men's health, emotional health, social responsibilities, discrimination, gender relations and the significance of positive male role models. The theme for 2026 is "The Future Is Everyone," which is a significant message for this occasion.

The theme is based on the idea of equal opportunities, dignity and respect for all, no matter their gender, in the future. Undoubtedly, the focus on gender equality has rightly been on the empowerment of women and girls, tackling discrimination, and providing opportunities for development for women and girls for a very long time. These efforts need to be continued. But boys' and men's experiences should be included as well. Equality is realised if the concerns of all parts of society are recognised.

As a reminder that creating a better society should not be a competition between men and women, the theme "The Future Is Everyone" has been introduced. The issue of women's empowerment has been emphasized for years through slogans like "The Future Is Female". History-based messages had been prophetic, but an inclusive vision must also acknowledge the important role boys and men will play in the future.

The message does not seek to take away the achievements of women or reduce the importance of their empowerment. Instead, it requires a greater awareness of equality where both men and women can advance together. A society can't reach its potential if half of its population is not engaged in key discussions on development and wellbeing. Men and women work together as a team to create families, build communities and form future generations. A good relationship, co-operation and mutual responsibility is vital for social progress.

International Men's Day has six main objectives which communicate the Day's broader message. The first is to promote positive male role models. They should not be celebrities, actors or sports personalities, but ordinary working men – who live honest, responsible and decent lives themselves. A hardworking father, a dedicated teacher, a responsible son or man serving his community will be just as inspirational. The second main goal is to honour men's positive roles in society, family, marriage and parenting, and the environment. Men make an impact in a variety of ways, including tasks that are seldom talked about. The third pillar is dedicated to men's health and wellbeing, which encompasses all four aspects of their health: physical, emotional, social and spiritual. The fourth highlights discrimination against men in social services, social attitudes, expectations and the law.

"The Future Is Everyone" has been introduced. The issue of women's empowerment has been emphasized for years through slogans like "The Future Is Female". History-based messages had been prophetic, but an inclusive vision must also acknowledge the important role boys and men will play in the future.

The fifth goal is to strengthen the role of women and promote gender equality in all aspects and the sixth to build a peaceful, just and sustainable world in which everyone can live in peace and dignity. These six pillars, taken as a whole, offer a broader perspective of men's lives, their roles and difficulties. Celebrating the contributions of men who play a role behind the scenes.



So many families have a man with a responsibility that isn't spoken about. As a husband, he often puts his family's needs before his personal ambitions. He is concerned about the safety of his home, tries to assure his family of a better future and often hides his own problems from his family to maintain peace.

He is responsible as a father to his children in the areas of education, health and future. He may sacrifice his personal comforts, postpone his dreams and work long hours to provide opportunities for the next generation. Children's happiness can be his highest driving force. He acts as a brother to be a protector, guide and supporter. He is a son and therefore is obligated to care for his parents and adhere to their values and teachings. As a friend, he provides comfort, understanding and encouragement during challenging times.

It's the emotional side of men that is not noticed and these roles embody that. When men are having trouble, society expects them to be strong, financially secure, and emotionally stable. They're appreciated for their sacrifices, but their emotions get lost at times. Remember that men need care, encouragement, appreciation and opportunities to express emotions without fear of judgement, too.

International Men's Day also highlights some major issues of concern to men and boys globally. Males have a shorter lifespan than females and life expectancy varies with country and region. In many countries, the suicide rate among men is higher than among women. The UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2026 shows that in 2021, the number of males who committed suicide was about twice that of females. In many countries, homicide is more common among men and boys, and men are more likely than women to be a victim of homicide, especially in some higher-risk professions and other settings. Another topic area of discussion is education. Girls' performance is improving relative to boys' in many countries on several educational measures. In several education systems, male students are less likely to obtain a university education. The patterns need to be noticed as they have the potential to affect children's employment and their future economic independence.

Mental health matters too! Men often delay seeking help for stress, depression, loneliness or emotional issues due to the societal expectation that using emotions and talking about them is a sign of weakness and cowardice. A man's self-image of being strong may leave him with an inability to seek assistance when necessary. These concerns should drive improvements in support for men and boys by governments, educational institutions, families, and communities.

Steps towards a balanced gender distribution.

The debate on International Men's Day 2026 also involves the suggestion for increased international level of recognition of men's issues. The International Council for Men and Boys has called for three objectives in its campaign for reform of the United Nations. First, it calls for International Men's Day to be officially acknowledged on the UN calendar. The second is greater consistency in reporting outcomes on the gender aspect in UN programmes and Sustainable Development Goals for both boys and girls. This reporting may help determine progress for either gender and indicate the areas where more needs to be done.

According to the campaign, the third proposal involves support for the New York Declaration for Men and Boys, published in March 2025. Its preamble mentions the principles of dignity and equal opportunity for everyone, which are based on the principles expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The proposals bring up an important issue of how international institutions can include men's and women's experiences in gender equality. The use of better data, transparent reporting and inclusive policies can improve the ability of governments to grasp social issues more accurately and react appropriately. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was agreed in 1995, is a key international document on women's empowerment. The continuation of this progress, with due consideration of the concerns affecting boys and men, can help to achieve a more holistic strategy towards equality.

The issue of men's health is not out of the picture in Kashmir. For men of all ages, unemployment, financial obligations, stress at work and mental health issues, as well as changing family dynamics can cause problems. Young boys require positive guidance and education to build confidence, emotional awareness and responsible behavior as well. There is clearly a space for families, schools, colleges, civil society organisations and policy makers to help to respond to these concerns. To foster healthier communities, men should be encouraged to talk about their challenges, seek professional help if needed, and actively engage in family roles.

However, helping the man should never be at the expense of the woman's problems. Women's issues such as violence against women, unequal opportunities, discrimination and barriers to education and employment continue to be important issues which need to be addressed. The aim should be to tackle all forms of disadvantage fairly, with understanding and through the principle of equal opportunities. International Men's Day is therefore a time to celebrate men's contributions, consider the challenges that they face and foster more positive gender relationships. It reminds us that a father is a man with emotions, dreams and challenges; a husband is a man with emotions, dreams and challenges; a brother is a man with emotions, dreams and challenges; a son is a man with emotions, dreams and challenges; a friend is a man with emotions, dreams and challenges.

Finally, a spirit of equality should reunite, not divide. Women and men need to be acknowledged as partners in social development and their rights, responsibilities and contributions valued. It can't just be for one gender in the future. It must include everyone. When men and women march in tandem, families are stronger, communities are healthier and society is more balanced.

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Not Population Control, But Human Development Is The Solution



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

India's population has long been a major topic of public policy, political discourse, and economic planning. Calls for population control have periodically arisen, citing the growing population as a source of pressure on resources, unemployment, poverty, and environmental crises. However, today, India is undergoing a demographic transition, where, instead of a growing population, declining fertility rates, an aging population, and regional disparities are emerging as new challenges. Therefore, it is time to reconsider the need for population control laws.

India's total fertility rate (TFR) has reached approximately 1.9, which is below the stable population replacement level of 2.1. This means that on average, a woman is not giving birth to enough children in her lifetime to provide for natural replacement of the population in the next generation. Although India's total population is currently growing, this is driven by a large youth population and structural population dynamics. A continued decline in the fertility rate in the future could slow population growth and ultimately lead to a stabilization or decline in the population.

The decline in fertility rates is not a sudden phenomenon. Expansion of education, improved social status of women, availability of contraceptives, urbanization, rising marriageable age, and changing preferences regarding family size are the main reasons for this. Today, most families place greater importance on children's education, health, and quality of life rather than the number of children. Economic uncertainty, rising housing costs, and the expense of raising children are also reinforcing the trend toward smaller families.



Another significant change in India's population is the aging trend. The proportion of citizens aged 60 and above is expected to increase rapidly in the coming years. Various population studies estimate that the elderly population will reach approximately 15 percent by 2036. This change will have a profound impact on health services, pension systems, social security, and family care policies. In a society where a large youth population was once considered an economic force, ensuring the care and dignified lives of the elderly will become a significant public responsibility in the future.

Another important aspect of population change is regional disparities. Many states in South India have reached fertility rates well below replacement levels, while some states in North India experience relatively higher fertility rates. Differences in education, health services, women's employment participation, and socio-economic development are the main reasons for these variations. Therefore, implementing a uniform population policy for the entire country would be unreasonable. States with a larger youth population will have greater needs for employment, education, and skill development, while states with lower fertility rates will face challenges related to the welfare of the elderly and the future workforce.

In such circumstances, laws that limit the number of children to two, and measures that exclude individuals with more than two children from local body elections or government benefits, require serious reconsideration. Population policies must be consistent with citizens' rights, especially women's reproductive rights and personal liberty. Attempts to control family size through punitive laws, when families are naturally shrinking, may have consequences contrary to social justice and democratic values. This also risks placing disproportionate pressure on poor families, women, and disadvantaged communities.

The real challenge facing India is not population control, but rather the formulation of public policies in line with the changing demographic structure. A comprehensive pension system, affordable and accessible healthcare, geriatric care centers, and the expansion of social security for the elderly are essential. Furthermore, special attention must be paid to quality education, vocational training, skill development, and employment generation to make the working-age population productive. The demographic dividend can only be translated into real economic benefits when youth have access to employment and dignified life opportunities.

Women's economic participation is also central to this transformation. Providing women with access to education, employment, equal pay, maternity benefits, and freedom in reproductive decisions should be the cornerstone of any effective population policy. The aim of family planning should not be to control women, but to enable them to make informed and independent decisions. Similarly, denying political rights or public opportunities based on the number of children can undermine the broader objective of democratic representation. India should move beyond the outdated concept of population control and adopt a comprehensive policy of population management and human development. This should prioritize planning based on regional demographic needs, expanding reproductive health services, elderly welfare, labor market preparation, and social security. Population policies should be evaluated not solely on birth rate figures, but on the basis of citizens' quality of life, health, education, and social equality.

Ultimately, a nation's population is not just a number, but a reflection of its human potential and social structure. India's declining fertility rate provides us with an opportunity to move from punitive control to rights-based, scientific, and sensitive policies. The India of the future will be empowered only when its youth are educated and employed, women are independent, and the elderly can live with dignity and security. The need now is not population control, but the development of human potential and nation-building in accordance with changing demographics.

(The author is a social and political commentator. He is a PhD in Political Science)

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

Govt Committed To

unwavering commitment to dismantling the terror ecosystem through decisive action.

He reiterated the commitment to provide compensation, government employment, and comprehensive support to the Next of Kins of the Special Police Officers (SPOs), who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing local priorities in Kiyar, the Lieutenant Governor assured of installation of a mobile tower in the area and committed to pursuing forest clearance for the Kiyar road with the relevant authorities.

On establishing a Special Operations Group (SOG) picket, he said the issue will be discussed in the review meeting with Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police, scheduled for Friday.

The Lieutenant Governor assured the delegation that all other demands and grievances raised during the meeting would be addressed on priority.

The delegation consisted of residents from Kiyar including Shri Suresh Kumar, Shri Pradeep Kumar, Shri Ram Lal Thakur, Shri Roshan Lal Thakur, Shri Satish Kumar Parihar, Shri Rohit Parihar.

They were accompanied by District President, BJP Kishtwar, Shri Ravi Parihar, from Lopara Dachhan; BJP District Vice President Kishtwar, Shri Ashish Sharma from Berabhata, Shri Lokesh Parihar from Suid, Dachhan and J&K BJP Mahila Morcha General Secretary Ms Urvashi Gupta.

Kashmir Free

its powers. The UAPA was subsequently amended on August 14, 2019, empowering the NIA to seize properties belonging to terrorists and enabling individuals to be designated as terrorists.

He said a unified action plan to counter radicalisation was prepared in September 2019 and finalised in December that year following consultations with various ministries.

Shah described the September 2022 operation against the Popular Front of India (PFI) as a significant example of coordinated action by police forces across the country.

He said police forces from 11 states, along with central agencies, carried out simultaneous operations in a single night, dismantling the PFI network and breaking its backbone. He said the operation had become a case study of coordinated counter-terrorism action.

The Home Minister said the functioning of the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) had been reorganised, bringing cyber security, narcotics, organised crime networks and emerging radicalisation hotspots under its purview.

He said the MAC's operational methodology was restructured in 2023 using advanced technology, while a National Memory Bank was established to strengthen the centralised database and intelligence-sharing mechanism.

Shah said the national presence of the NIA had also been expanded, with approval granted for 16 new branch offices and two zonal offices. The agency had additionally been empowered to investigate cases aimed at protecting the interests of Indians residing abroad.

He said a ban had been imposed on the glorification of terrorism and a 25-point integrated action plan had been formulated to control terror financing, which was being monitored effectively.

The Home Minister said NIA officers were being provided international exposure through training, while 70 new NIA special courts had been established across the country.

He said peace had been established in three major terrorism-affected hotspots and networks such as PFI and Shahzad Bhatti had been dismantled. He also referred to a new mechanism for bringing fugitives back from abroad, a comprehensive approach to border security, removal of illegal religious structures along borders and improved coordination among agencies to strengthen economic security.

Calling for a more comprehensive approach, Shah said the Centre and states must work together to dismantle the entire terror ecosystem rather than targeting individual operatives.

He said better coordination was required between counter-terrorism agencies and financial investigation agencies to break the complete chain of terror financing.

"We will not achieve success unless we strike at the entire terrorist network in a coordinated and comprehensive manner," he said.

Shah stressed that the fight against terrorism required shared objectives and clearly defined accountability at every stage, adding that the two-day conference should be outcome-oriented.

He called for strengthening a proactive and offensive approach to counter-terrorism, with greater emphasis on improving the structural and operational capabilities of security agencies.

He said investigations should continue until the entire network behind a terrorist incident was dismantled, adding that Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS) had a crucial role in identifying and eliminating wider networks.

The Home Minister said every state's ATS should strengthen its cyber expert units as terrorists were increasingly using technology to carry out their activities.

He also stressed the need to establish a Quadrangular Regional Security Grid in border states and strengthen intelligence-sharing mechanisms from police station level to the offices of Directors General of Police (DGPs).

Shah said actionable intelligence gathered at the police station level should move through different institutional levels to enable timely preventive action.

On the occasion, Shah released the NIA publication 'Fail-Safe Investigation', laid the foundation stone of the agency's office complex in Chandigarh and inaugurated its residential complex at Maidan Garhi in New Delhi. He also e-launched the NIA's 'Pushti' portal and conferred decorations on seven NIA officers and personnel.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Director Mahesh Dikshit, Special Secretary (Internal Security) Anand Swarup and NIA Director General Rakesh Aggarwal were among those present.

Senior police officers from states and Union Territories, counter-terrorism agency officials and experts in law, forensics and technology are participating in the conference—(KNO)

Kashmir Shivers As

Baramulla and Kokernag settled at 1.0 degrees Celsius each. Ganderbal recorded 0.7 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, minimum temperatures remained above the freezing point, with Jammu recording 10.8 degrees Celsius and Jammu Airport 12.1 degrees Celsius.

Kathua recorded 11.2 degrees Celsius, Katra 10.9 degrees Celsius, Banihal 8.7 degrees Celsius, Batote 5.7 degrees Celsius and Bhadarwah 2.2 degrees Celsius.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded the lowest temperature at minus 7.2 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir from November 19 to 28, with partly cloudy conditions likely on November 20 and 21.

The MeT office said minimum temperatures are expected to rise by 1-2 degrees Celsius during November 20 and 21, before dropping again by 2-3 degrees Celsius from November 22 onwards—(KNO)

J&K Govt Begins

Justice Act to deal with cases involving children in need of care and protection, including orphaned, abandoned, abused and trafficked children.

The law empowers them to ensure the care, rehabilitation, restoration, and overall welfare of such children through appropriate interventions and support mechanisms—(KNO)

India, Japan Vow

to use firing ranges in India for live-fire training, including exercises involving surface-to-ship missiles, for the first time.

The ministers decided to hold the next India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Meeting in India at a mutually convenient date—(KNO)

CM Omar Abdullah

one year. The e-UNNAT platform continues to serve as the J&K's flagship unified e-governance platform, providing access to over 1,700 citizen-centric services through a single digital interface. The department also highlighted that J&K has secured the first position among Union Territories in the National e-Services Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) ranking.

The meeting was further informed that 38.68 lakh users from Jammu and Kashmir are registered on DigiLocker, with 240 services available online and over 93 lakh academic records accessible through the platform. The Mobile Dost application is providing 1,548 government services through smartphones, while the Common Service Centre network has served over 62 lakh citizens during the period under review.

Reviewing the progress of digital governance initiatives, the Chief Minister stressed the need to accelerate the transition towards paperless administration and directed the department to move from the existing paper-based system to a paperless e-Cabinet mechanism.

Emphasising cybersecurity as a critical component of digital governance, Omar Abdullah called for regular security audits of all government websites and applications. He directed that a systematic reminder mechanism be instituted, with the first reminder issued two months before the expiry of a security audit and a second reminder one month before its expiry, ensuring timely renewals and compliance.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need for fixing clear timelines for all ongoing and proposed projects, with regular monitoring of implementation to avoid unnecessary delays.

Directing that government websites and applications be made more user-friendly, accessible and convenient for citizens, he emphasised that digital platforms must simplify service delivery and provide a seamless experience to users.

He further underlined the need for greater ownership and accountability on the part of the IT Department and concerned departments in the regular maintenance, updating and smooth functioning of government websites, portals and applications.

The department also briefed the Chief Minister on major initiatives, including the integration of government services with WhatsApp, expansion of the State Data Centre, migration of government applications to the MeghRaj Cloud, strengthening of the J&K Security Operations Centre and implementation of BharatNet and 4G Saturation projects.

The meeting was informed that 54 of the 109 identified applications had been migrated to cloud infrastructure, while migration of other applications was at different stages, including security audits and user acceptance testing.

The department also presented progress on the AI Centre of Excellence inaugurated by the Chief Minister at IIT Jammu, alongside proposed AI applications across sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, transport and public governance.

The Chief Minister called for a coordinated and result-oriented approach to ensure that ongoing digital initiatives translate into improved governance, greater administrative efficiency and easier access to public services.

Why Is J&K

of 3190 MW against the requirement of 3813 MW—keeping a loophole of 623 MW during the peak solar and non-solar hours.

Earlier this week, KNO carried news that the onset of cold weather has pushed Kashmir into a daily power deficit of nearly 4,400 megawatt-hours (MWh)—leaving consumers to contend with scheduled curtailments amid plummeting temperatures.

An official had informed that "Over 24 hours, we face an actual power demand of 34,400 MWh. However, the power availability fluctuates from 29,000, 31000 MWh. There is a deficiency of nearly 4400 MWh."—(KNO)

DSEK Opens

The decision has been taken to ensure academic continuity and prevent any loss of instructional time following the conclusion of board examinations.

According to the notification, students who have appeared in the Class 10 Annual Regular examination will be eligible for provisional admission to Class 11, while those who have appeared in the Class 11 examination can seek provisional admission to Class 12.

However, the admissions will remain strictly provisional and subject to students successfully qualifying in their respective examinations when the results are declared by JKBOSE.

The Directorate has clarified that if a student fails to qualify the examination, the provisional admission will stand automatically cancelled, and no claim for continuation in the higher class will be entertained.

The notification further directs institutions to obtain written undertakings from parents or guardians acknowledging the provisional nature of the admission. Schools have also been asked to collect copies of the students' JKBOSE examination admit cards or roll number slips as proof of their appearance in the examinations.

All Chief Education Officers and principals of higher secondary schools have been directed to ensure strict compliance with the instructions.

'Tourist Arrivals

Sajad said autumn is also an important period for people associated with agriculture and horticulture, as harvesting activities keep them particularly busy during the season.

He said the 15-day festival is aimed at celebrating this seasonal transformation and presenting Kashmir's natural beauty and cultural heritage to visitors from across the world.

The department, he said, would also organise a separate three-day festival in Pahalgam to give tourists an opportunity to experience the region's local culture and music.

Sajad said the initiative was not limited to attracting visitors from outside Jammu and Kashmir but was also intended to encourage locals to explore and enjoy the Valley during autumn.

On winter tourism, he said Gulmarg continued to attract skiing enthusiasts from Europe and different parts of the country, including southern India. He said skiing remained a major attraction under adventure tourism, with enthusiasts often staying in Gulmarg for 15 days to a month to enjoy the sport.

Responding to a question about the impact of the ongoing Middle East conflict on foreign tourist arrivals, Sajad said there had been a decline initially, but the situation has now improved. "Foreign tourist arrivals have now come back on track. I think the numbers are broadly similar to what we have seen in the last few years," he said.

Sajad said that domestic tourists are mainstay of Kashmir tourism market, with visitors arriving from different parts of the country, including the South, East and West. He said the Middle East crisis had affected transportation and aviation, with the impact being felt across different sectors—(KNO)





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Javid Dar calls for sweeping reforms in mining sector

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Department of Geology and Mining, Jammu and Kashmir, to assess its overall functioning, operational efficiency, developmental initiatives and the progress of key reforms aimed at strengthening the mining sector.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh; Director, Geology and Mining, J&K, Pawan Kumar Sharma; Joint Directors of Geology and Mining for Jammu and Kashmir divisions; District Mineral Officers (DMOs) from across the Union Territory and other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Minister undertook an extensive review of the department's regulatory framework, revenue performance, auction processes, enforcement mechanisms and measures for ensuring the sustainable and scientific utilisation of mineral resources.

Emphasising the need for a fundamental shift towards a transparent, facilitative and technology-driven administrative framework, Javid Dar observed that cumbersome procedures and excessive administrative requirements had, in several cases, created unnecessary impediments for legitimate operators while leaving scope for illegal mining activities.

Reviewing the status of mining blocks, the Minister directed the department to expedite the identification, assessment and auctioning process, ensuring that all eligible blocks are made auction-ready within a stipulated timeframe. He stressed that avoidable procedural delays must be eliminated and all requisite preliminary assessments, site demarcation and interdepartmental consultations completed before initiating the auction process.

The Minister further directed that Environmental Clearance (EC) and Consent to Operate (CTO), wherever applicable, from the Pollution Control Committee or other competent authority, should be facilitated during the pre-auction process through the District Committee itself, rather than placing the entire responsibility on successful bidders after the issuance of the Letter of Intent (LOI).

Stressing the importance of evidence-based planning and scientific resource management, Javid Dar directed the department to prepare a comprehensive district-wise inventory of mineral resources, supported by systematic geological surveys, scientific mapping and reliable estimates of mineral reserves, quality and extraction potential. He said that scientific identification and assessment of mineral resources would facilitate informed decision-making, ensure realistic valuation of mining blocks, attract genuine investors and strengthen the government's revenue base.

Taking a serious view of revenue management, the Minister called for establishing a robust and integrated mechanism to reconcile actual mineral extraction, authorised dispatch, transportation, processing and sale with the royalty realised by the government. He observed that digitisation of challans alone could not ensure complete financial transparency and directed the department to develop an end-to-end digital monitoring mechanism capable of tracking the entire mineral supply chain and detecting discrepancies, underreporting and potential revenue leakages. He stressed that every unit of mineral extracted and transported must be properly accounted for to ensure that the government receives its legitimate revenue.

The Minister directed the department to identify vulnerable and sensitive locations across all districts and intensify enforcement through regular inspections, surprise checking and coordinated action involving the Mining Department, Police and District Administration. He emphasised that illegal extraction and transportation of minerals must be dealt with firmly, adding that effective field-level monitoring and accountability of enforcement agencies were essential to protect public resources and uphold the rule of law.

COPD poses serious respiratory health challenges in Kashmir: Doctors

Call for early diagnosis, timely treatment, preventive measures

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) continues to pose a significant respiratory health challenge in Kashmir, with doctors stressing the need for early diagnosis, timely treatment and preventive measures to reduce the growing burden of chronic lung diseases.

Medical experts have warned that prolonged exposure to tobacco smoke, indoor air pollution, traditional heating methods and other environmental pollutants can significantly increase the risk of developing COPD, a progressive lung disease that causes persistent breathing difficulties and can seriously affect the quality of life.

They said that although COPD is largely preventable and treatable, many patients approach healthcare facilities only after developing advanced symptoms, resulting in delayed diagnosis and increased chances of complications.

Dr Syed Mudasir Qadri, Professor of Internal and Pulmonary Medicine at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, said the theme for World COPD Day 2026 is "Early Diagnosis and Management for a Better Life", highlighting the importance of identifying the disease at an early stage and ensuring appropriate medical care.

He said people experiencing chronic respiratory symptoms or persistent breathing-related complaints should consult physicians without delay for proper assessment and diagnosis.

"People with chronic respiratory symptoms or complaints should consult their physicians at the earliest for proper assessment of their illness. Alongside early diagnosis and treatment, greater emphasis needs to be laid on preventing COPD and reducing the factors responsible for its progression," he said.

Dr Qadri said that avoiding tobacco smoke and other forms of smoke exposure is among the most important preventive measures against COPD.

"To prevent or delay the onset of COPD and its exacerbations, people should stop smoking, avoid exposure to smoke by switching to smokeless methods of indoor heating, eat healthy, stay warm and get regular vaccinations as advised by their doctors," he said.

Referring to the prevalence of COPD in Kashmir, Dr Qadri said several studies have been conducted to assess the burden of the disease, with an important study undertaken by the Department of Internal and Pulmonary Medicine at SKIMS Soura in 2016.

He said the study revealed a COPD prevalence of approximately 17 per cent among males and 15 per cent among females, indicating that the disease remains a significant respiratory health concern in the region.

Doctors explained that COPD is a chronic lung condition that includes diseases such as chronic bronchitis and emphysema. It causes narrowing of the airways and damage to the lung tissues, making it increasingly difficult for patients to breathe.

Unlike temporary respiratory infections, COPD develops gradually and its symptoms often worsen over time. Persistent cough, excessive mucus production, wheezing, chest tightness and breathlessness, particularly during physical activity, are among its common symptoms.

Experts said many people tend to dismiss a prolonged cough or breathing difficulty as a normal consequence of ageing, smoking or seasonal changes, delaying medical consultation until the disease has progressed considerably.

They said smoking remains one of the leading risk factors for COPD, but non-smokers are also vulnerable, particularly those exposed to indoor air pollution, biomass fuel smoke, dust, chemical fumes and other environmental pollutants over prolonged periods.

In Kashmir, doctors said, the use of traditional heating arrangements, including kangris, bukharis and coal- or wood-burning devices, can contribute to indoor air pollution, particularly when ventilation is inadequate.

They said prolonged exposure to smoke generated by these heating arrangements may aggravate existing respiratory conditions and increase the risk of chronic lung diseases, especially among elderly people, women and those spending extended periods indoors during winter.

People already suffering from asthma, COPD or other chronic lung conditions may experience worsening symptoms during the winter months, when cold air, respiratory infections and indoor smoke exposure can collectively aggravate their condition.

Dr Ghulam Hassan Khan, a chest disease specialist, said that spirometry, a simple pulmonary function test, plays an important role in confirming COPD by measuring how much air a person can breathe out and how quickly it can be expelled.

He said early diagnosis allows doctors to initiate appropriate treatment, including inhaled medicines, bronchodilators, pulmonary rehabilitation and lifestyle modifications, which can help control symptoms, improve lung function and reduce the frequency of disease exacerbations.

He added that patients diagnosed with COPD should strictly follow their prescribed treatment, avoid self-medication and undergo regular medical assessment.

Experts said vaccination against influenza, pneumococcal infections and other recommended respiratory infections is particularly important for COPD patients, as respiratory infections can trigger severe exacerbations and sometimes require hospitalisation.

Doctors advised patients to remain physically active according to their capacity, maintain a balanced diet, avoid tobacco in all forms and ensure adequate ventilation in their homes—(KNO)

JKSSB reaffirms integrity of Accounts Assistant Examination

Appreciates swift action by J&K Police

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) clarifies that the Accounts Assistant examination conducted on November 15, 2026, was successfully held across all 20 districts of the Union Territory and that the isolated incident involving an attempt to use unfair means did not compromise the examination process. The Examination was spread over 493 Examination Centres in which 1, 61,946 candidates were scheduled to appear for selection against 600 posts.

The Board places on record its appreciation of J&K Police for their swift, professional and decisive action in identifying and apprehending the elements allegedly involved in the nefarious attempt to undermine the sanctity of the examination. The Board acknowledges the integral role of J&K Police as a key component of the overall examination management and security apparatus, working in close coordination with JKSSB, District Administrations and other stakeholder agencies to ensure the secure and orderly conduct of examinations. The timely intervention of the Police, complemented by the multi-layered security arrangements put in place by the Government, ensured that the suspected elements could not compromise the examination process.

The Board recognizes that every recruitment examination represents years of preparation, aspiration and hard work on the part of candidates. The protection of their interests and preservation of a level playing field is an administrative responsibility as well as an institutional obligation. Every candidate must have the assurance that selection is determined solely by merit and prescribed eligibility and selection criteria, without any unfair advantage or extraneous consideration. JKSSB remains firmly committed to safeguarding the interests of genuine candidates and ensuring equal opportunity to all eligible aspirants.

JKSSB has put in place a comprehensive, multi-layered examination-security framework encompassing technological surveillance, identity authentication, access control and administrative supervision. CCTV surveillance and electronic jammers are complemented by biometric authentication of candidates, physical verification at entry points, surprise inspections through flying squads, and strict protocols governing the transportation, handling and custody of examination material. These preventive and monitoring mechanisms are aimed at deterring impersonation, unauthorised communication, use of prohibited electronic devices and other forms of examination malpractice. Strict adherence to prescribed Standard Operating Procedures is ensured through clearly defined responsibilities of all personnel deployed for examination-related duties.

The Board has taken cognisance of the 'Latest Modus Operandi' attempted to be used in the thwarted attempt by the unscrupulous elements. The Board has added additional preventive measures for the upcoming exams to the already existing gamut of preventive measures. These additional measures have been taken in view of the evolving modus operandi of the unscrupulous elements and to ensure that the upcoming examinations continue to be conducted in a fair and transparent manner while thwarting any new designs of the unscrupulous elements to use any kind of unfair means in future examinations. These include updating the existing comprehensive SOPs, stricter access controls & security of examination centres/halls and increasing technical surveillance and barriers against the use of technical gadgets as unfair means.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KELLER SHADIMARG

Subject:- Final selection List of candidates who have applied for the honorary post of Anganwadi Workers (Sangini's) against Advertisement No. CDPOS/Poshan/Kd/Adv/2026-27/92-103 Dated 17.06.2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In pursuance of Government Order No, 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated 28.04.2023 issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, and approvals accorded by the Mission Director Poshan J&K vide communication No. MD/Poshan/Estt/2026/22035-39 dated 16.06.2026 and Advertisement Notice was issued under notification No CDPOS/Poshan/Kel/Adv/2026-27/92-103 Dated 17.06.2026 followed by the corrigendum vide No. CDPOS/Poshan/Kel/Adv/2026-27/131 -43 dated 27.06.2026 for engagement of 02 Sanginis (Anganwadi workers) in 02 Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Keller (AWC Sonasamil A and Khyigam A) In response to the said advertisements, 14 (Fourteen) applications were received within the stipulated cut-off date against the notified vacancies. The merit of all eligible applicants has been determined strictly in accordance with the criteria prescribed under Government Order No. 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated 28.04.2023.

Accordingly, the tentative selection list was published by this office vide No . CDPO/Poshan/Kel/Adv/2026-27/205-13 dated 03.08.2026 for inviting of objections. In response to the tentative selection list , objections were received and disposed off. The final Selection List (Annexure "A") thus prepared is hereby published for the information of the general public and the concerned candidates.

No: CDPOS/POSHAN//Kel/Adv/2026-27/436-45
Dated:- 17-11-2026

Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Keller

ANNEXURE A

Selection List of candidates for the post of Anganwadi Worker (Sangini) against the Advertisement NO. CDPO/Poshan,/Kel/Adv/2026-27/92-103 dated 17M2026

S.No	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Residence	Name of Panchayat Halqa and Pach ward Number	Name of AWC	Marks obtained in 10+2 (out of)	%age	Remarks
1	Mehr un Nissa	Mohd Yousf Bhat	Sonasamil	Arigam A ward No. 05	Sonasamil A	446/500	89.20%	Selected
2	Hadiya Jan	Fayaz Ahmad Shah	Khyjgam	Khyigam ward No. 01	Khyigam A	374/500	74.80%	Selected

DIPK-7822-26
Dated:- 19-11-2026

Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Keller

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION (NORTH) SOPORE

E-TENDER

NIT No: PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-35 of 2026-27

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed e-tenders in two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturer/authorized distributors/ dealers/ workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender document	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Amount for which Work accorded (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest money	Time of completion	Programme Head	Positions of Funds	Technical Sanction No.	AAA No. and Date
1	Providing, fitting, testing and commissioning of MUG- 40 Starter along with 200A MCCB at WSS Gutiyar under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 50.00	0.95	0.95	02% of the estimated cost	45 Days	M and E Plan Capex	Partially available	39 of 11/2026	SE/PHE/ MCN/ Works/13 of 11/2026, Dated: 12-11-2026
2	Providing, fitting, testing and commissioning of 5000GPH, 30 Meter Head (1440 RPM) open well non clog pumping unit at Stage 1st at WSS Migrant Colony Veerwan under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 200.00	3.45	3.45					40 of 11/2026	
3	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 15000GPH, 30 Meter Head, Open Well (Non clog) Pumping Unit at Stage 1st of WSS Delina under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 100.00	1.60	1.60					41 of 11/2026	
4	Providing, fitting, installation, testing and commissioning of pumping equipment and allied equipment for WSS Atherpora Parraypora under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 600.00	11.80	11.80					42 of 11/2026	
5	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 5000 GPH, 40 Meter Head (1440 RPM) Open Well Non-Clog Pumping Unit at WSS Peernia under UT Capex	Rs 100.00	2.20	2.20					43 of 11/2026	
6	Providing, fitting, installation, testing and commissioning of M S Pantoon 17x10 along with Gantry with Open Well Submersible Pumping Unit 15000 GPH x 30 M Head for Raw Water at WSS Johama under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 400.00	8.65	8.65					44 of 11/2026	
7	Providing, fitting, installation, testing and commissioning of Pumping Equipment at WSS Ladoora under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 200.00	3.80	3.80					45 of 11/2026	
8	Providing fitting, installation, testing and successfully commissioning of NRV and Sluice of 300mm and 250mm dia 10 Nos. PN 16 at WSS Augmentation Baramulla with allied works under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 600.00	12.399	12.40					46 of 11/2026	
9	Providing, fitting, installation, testing and commissioning of pumping equipment at WSS Rebbon under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 200.00	2.50	2.50					47 of 11/2026	
10	Diesel backed Potable welding machine for PHE Mechanical Sub-Division Baramulla under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 200.00	4.00	4.00					48 of 11/2026	

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website https://jktenders.gov.in from 19-11-2026 (10:00 am).
The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website https://jktenders.gov.in from 19-11-2026 (10:00 am) to 09-12-2026 (6:55 pm).
Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore on 10-12-2026 at 12:30 pm after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day.
The complete bidding shall be online.
The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids.

No. PHE/MDNS/DB/5066-71
Dated: 18-11-2026
DIPK-7818-26
DT: 19/11/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore

Laura Harris smashes fastest-ever WBBL fifty as Sydney Thunder register record chase

IANS

BRISBANE: Laura Harris smashed the fastest-ever fifty in the Women's Big Bash League as her unbeaten 63 from 20 balls helped Sydney Thunder complete a record 226-run chase against Brisbane Heat at the Allan Border Field here on Thursday.

Harris put up a batting masterclass as she hit a 15-ball fifty during the chase in what was an epic knock in Brisbane, which helped her team bag a six-wicket win with four balls to spare. She beat the previous record for the fastest WBBL fifty by one ball, which belonged to Tess Flintoff, who had hit a 16-ball half-century in WBBL 08.

She finished the innings with a four and chased down the daunting total with four balls remaining. Her knock was laced with seven fours and five sixes as she batted at a whopping strike rate of 315.

This trumped Grace Harris, her younger sister's jaw-dropping first innings knock of an unbeaten 121, and made Thunder the first WBBL team to score more than 200 in a successful run chase.



Before this, Hobart Hurricanes' successful pursuit of 187 against the Perth Scorchers from 2025 was the record for the biggest WBBL chase. The win helped Thunder end their four-game losing streak and brought a halt to Heat's four-match winning run.

Laura came out to bat in the 15th over after Thunder were 145/4 in 14.4 overs during the chase. They still needed 81 from the final 32 balls as Laura went hammers and tongs.

She hit her younger sister for two fours off the first two balls she faced from her before putting Charli Knott to the sword in a 33-run 17th over. Laura brought up her 50 with a four towards third man in the 18th over and wrapped things up incredibly well with four balls and six wickets to spare.

Alongside her, Anika Learoyd also played a strong hand as she anchored the chase with an unbeaten 60 from 43 deliveries. Heather Knight also made an important 44 from 29 balls in the middle and partnered 83 runs along with Learoyd for the third wicket. Opener and captain Phoebe Litchfield had made 28 from 17 balls at the top.

This eclipsed Grace's masterful and unbeaten 121 from 67 balls of the first innings. Knott had also scored 62 from 34 balls, while India's Yastika Bhatia helped in the finish with an unbeaten 18-ball 29, but it went in vain in a historic night for Laura and Thunder.

ISL 2026-27: East Bengal face in-form Sporting Club Delhi in first home match of the season

IANS



KOLKATA: Defending champions East Bengal FC will look to bounce back from their recent defeat when they host an in-form Sporting Club Delhi in their first home fixture of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026/27 season at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Friday.

East Bengal have made an impressive start to their title defence, scoring 12 goals in their opening three matches. Antonio López Habas's side began their campaign with a 4-0 victory over Churchill Brothers FC Goa before registering a 5-1 win against Inter Kashi FC.

However, their winning momentum came to a halt in Chennai, where they suffered a 3-5 defeat against Chennaiyin FC after conceding five goals.

Habas described the performance as an "accident" and admitted that his team had moved away from its playing identity. "After the match against Chennai, we lost the idea, we lost the style, and for that we have to recover immediately," he said.

Despite the setback, East Bengal remain the highest-scoring team in the league. Ake Loba and Dani Ramirez have scored three goals each, with Loba also providing two assists, while Bipin Singh has contributed two goals.

With Anwar Ali unavailable, Habas believes the situation offers an opportunity for another player to step up. The East Bengal coach also highlighted the importance of having quality options across the squad. "We need one squad with good players in all positions on the pitch," he said.

Sporting Club Delhi, meanwhile, will enter the contest on the back of consecutive victories after recovering from a difficult start to their campaign.

Tomasz Tchorz's side suffered narrow defeats against Bengaluru FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant before drawing against FC Goa. However, they revived their campaign with a 3-2 comeback win over Mumbai City FC and followed it up with a convincing 3-0 victory against Inter Kashi FC.

Delhi are currently fourth in the standings with seven points from five matches, while East Bengal occupy sixth position, one point behind, but have played two fewer games.

Tchorz acknowledged East Bengal's stature but made it clear that his team would travel to Kolkata with the intention of securing all three points. "We are going to Kolkata to win the game," he said. "We want to be offensive. We want to create a lot of chances and score a lot of goals," he added.

WTC points table: South Africa go on top of standings after Jo'burg win

IANS



JOHANNESBURG: Reigning champions South Africa have taken the top spot in the World Test Championship 2025-27 points table after their strong nine-wicket win over Bangladesh in the opening Test match at The Wanderers Stadium here on Thursday.

The Proteas, who had pushed themselves from No.3 to No.2 after their 2-1 Australia series win, now moved past the previous pole-sitters and 2021 champions New Zealand in the latest championship standings.

The recent victory took Temba Bavuma's defending champions to a PCT of 75% as the Blackcaps, who are currently engaged with India in the first of the two Tests in Wellington, stay second with a PCT of 72.22%.

Before the Johannesburg opener of the two-match Bangladesh series, South Africa were placed at No.2 with a PCT of 71.43%, sandwiched between the Kiwis' 72.22% and Australia's 69.23%. But the World No.1 Test side and the current WTC winners now hold the top spot in the Test Championship table as well.

Behind the trio, India are placed fourth with a PCT of 51.52%, and they need to pull up their socks in bid for a third WTC final, having fallen short in their previous two attempts for the title in 2021 and 2023.

Bangladesh's defeat sees them lose more PCT as they find themselves just above the sixth-placed England side. Bangladesh's PCT before the Jo'burg Test was 45.83%, which has now slipped to 40.74% and is marginally above the Three Lions' 38.54%.

The West Indies follow in a distant seventh with a PCT of 27.38% and have completed their 2025-27 cycle by winning their last assignment in Bangladesh 1-0 in the two-match series earlier this month.

Sri Lanka and Pakistan wrap up the top nine with a PCT of 15.48% and 3.33%, respectively. The two teams are in action for the second Test in Rawalpindi but were recently hit with slow-over rates that saw them lose WTC points.

Rising Stars Asia Cup is a steppingstone for playing international cricket: Tilak Varma

IANS



DOHA: India 'A' captain Tilak Varma believes the upcoming Rising Stars Men's Asia Cup could open doors to the senior side for several players in his squad. With the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup less than a year away, Tilak added that the tournament had come at an important time.

Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Rinku Singh and Prabhsimran Singh, who are mostly known for their T20 heroics, are in the squad. Harshit Rana, who has been out of action due to hamstring and quadriceps injuries, will be staging a return to action in the competition.

Other prominent names in the India A squad are Prince Yadav, Ayush Badoni, Suryansh Shedge, Vipraj Nigam, Harsh Dubey and Tanush Kotian. "If you see, Harshit is coming back from injury, and Prince also is coming back from injury. Then Vaibhav and Abhishek, who have done really well in T20 cricket and are coming back into the one-day setup, it's really important for them to build on what they have done in T20 cricket.

"So I feel that's why they have got an opportunity here. If they do well here, hopefully, they will get a chance there as well. So this stage will be very crucial. In the next 10 months, we have the World Cup. So I feel it is important for every individual and at the same time, it's very important to win the tournament," Tilak said in a video posted on bcci.tv. on Thursday.

Tilak's own rise began with his first IPL season for Mumbai Indians in 2022, and from his experience, he explained how a breakthrough performance in the tournament can boost a player's confidence. "I myself have been in this situation in 2022 when I played my first year in the IPL. So it went really well, and from that time onwards, till now, I have been playing.

"I have played here and done well. This is a big stepping stone in terms of playing international cricket. There are senior players who are playing in opposite teams and in our team as well, including myself, who have played senior cricket and are coming back here. So the standards are really high here.

South Africa's Temba Bavuma out of second Bangladesh Test due to calf strain

IANS



NEW DELHI: South Africa are set to be without their captain Temba Bavuma for the second and final Test match of the series against Bangladesh, starting the coming Monday, as their skipper has been ruled out of the fixture due to a calf strain.

Bavuma picked up the injury during the first innings of South Africa's series opener against Bangladesh at The Wanderers in Johannesburg. He did not field in the second innings as the Proteas registered a strong nine-wicket win on Day 5.

As reported by Cricinfo, Bavuma will be missing the second game in Centurion as the Proteas push for a series sweep.

The skipper was forced to retire hurt on 49 when he picked up the blow during the first innings. He later came to bat when the hosts lost their eighth wicket and made another 19 runs to go unbeaten on 68. Bavuma shared crucial stands of 19 and 45 runs for the final two wickets with Kagiso Rabada and Dane Paterson, respectively, as the Proteas made 557 and took a healthy 157-run lead in the first innings.

He seemed to run unimpeded but did not take the field for the Proteas during the second innings, with Cricket South Africa confirming the same. "Subsequent scans have confirmed that Temba Bavuma has sustained a right calf strain. He will not take to the field in the second innings but will bat if required," CSA wrote in a release on Wednesday.

Nepal to face Bangladesh in historic T20I at Lord's during six-match England tour

IANS



NEW DELHI: Nepal are set to make history when they take on Bangladesh in a T20 International at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground on June 3, 2027, as part of their six-match tour of England.

The fixture will mark Nepal's first-ever appearance at the Home of Cricket against an ICC Full Member nation, offering the emerging cricketing side an opportunity to showcase its talent on one of the sport's most prestigious stages.

The match will also be significant for Bangladesh as their men's team will play their first T20 International at Lord's. The fixture comes after Bangladesh's scheduled return to the venue for a Test match against England, ending a 17-year gap since their previous Test appearance at the ground.

The tour, hosted by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), will also see Nepal face Ireland and Scotland in official international matches at Wormsley and Beckenham.

Three matches will be played at Wormsley as part of MCC's partnership with the Estate, while two fixtures are scheduled at The County Ground in Beckenham. All matches on the tour will be recognised as official international fixtures by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and have been sanctioned by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The tour follows Bangladesh's scheduled visit to Nepal in March 2027 and comes a few months after Nepal participates in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027 Qualifier Play-off.

MCC Chief Executive and Secretary Robert Lawson said the fixture reflected the growing relationship between the club and the Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN).

"The relationship between MCC and CAN has grown enormously in recent years, through visits, shared experiences and supporting the development of the game, as well as our work with the Nepal Premier League on the Spirit of Cricket," Lawson said.

CAN Secretary Paras Khadka described the opportunity to return to Lord's as a moment of immense pride and thanked MCC and the participating cricket boards for their continued support in creating international opportunities for Nepal.

"Initiatives like these provide invaluable international exposure, strengthen global partnerships and create new opportunities for collaboration. We look forward to building on these relationships and contributing to the continued growth of cricket in Nepal and beyond."

CAN President Chatur Bahadur Chand also expressed excitement about the historic encounter, saying the match would be Nepal's first against an ICC Full Member nation at the iconic venue.

"On behalf of the Cricket Association of Nepal, I extend our sincere gratitude to MCC, ECB, BCB, Cricket Scotland and Cricket Ireland for their continued support and collaboration," he said.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Tamim Iqbal said the fixture would be a special occasion for the Bangladesh team and supporters of both nations.

"Playing at Lord's, the Home of Cricket, is a special occasion for the Bangladesh team, and we are delighted to be part of this historic T20 International against Nepal in June 2027. It will be the first time our men's team has played a T20 International at this iconic venue, and following our return to Lord's for a Test match against England after 17 years, this fixture will make next summer even more memorable for Bangladesh cricket," he said.

