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# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

GK Srinagar • Saturday 21, November 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 275 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

**Manoj Sinha**
@manojsinha_



*The news of the passing of the revered mother of Uttar Pradesh's Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Yogi Adityanath ji, Smt. Savitri Devi ji, is deeply saddening. A mother's passing is an irreplaceable loss in life that time can never make up for. I pray to God to grant the departed soul a place at His divine feet and to give her grief-stricken family members strength and fortitude in this hour of sorrow. Om Shanti*

## Govt Committed To Regularising Daily Wagers: Dy CM



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Friday reiterated the government's commitment to regularising daily wagers working in different departments, while acknowledging financial constraints affecting the process.

Choudhary said the commitment was not limited to employees of the Jal Shakti Department but extended to daily wagers across government departments.

He, however, pointed to the financial difficulties confronting the government, saying the administration was facing challenges even in meeting the salary obligations of regular employees.

His remarks come amid continued demands by daily wagers for regularisation and a resolution of their long-pending service-related issues.

The Deputy Chief Minister's statement has renewed attention on the government's commitment and the financial challenges surrounding the regularization process. [KNT]

## Teardown Entire Terrorist, Separatist Ecosystem: LG Sinha Directs Officials

### Chairs High-Level Security And Administrative Review Meeting For Jammu Division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, on Friday directed the police officers to wipe out the terrorist and separatist ecosystem in Jammu division.

He said this during a security review meeting, which was held at Lok Bhawan. The meeting was attended by top officers of the civil administration and police, including Chief Secretary Sajjan Singh Yadav and Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat.

Addressing the meeting, the LG directed officials to look beyond traditional policing and work towards completely dismantling the terror and separatist ecosystem in the region. He called for stepping up surveillance, security preparedness, and ensuring complete operational control.

"Our goal cannot stop at neutralising terrorists. We must dismantle the entire terrorist, separatist ecosystem," he said.

"Attaching and forfeiting properties linked to terrorist and separatist elements must be treated as a top priority,"




LG Sinha said while chairing a high-level meeting with Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, and senior officials to review the security scenario, winter readiness, and key infrastructure projects across Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav; DGP Shri Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary Home Department Shri Chandraker Bharti; Special DG Coordination PHQ Shri S.J.M. Gillani; Commissioner Secretary GAD Shri M. Raju; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Shri Govind Jaiswal; IGP Jammu Shri Terjinder Singh; Divisional Commissioner Jammu Shri Vikas Kundal; Range DIGs, DCs, SSPs, and other senior officers.

During the meeting, the discussion focussed on strengthening security frameworks and implementing actionable roadmaps to ensure lasting peace and accelerate development process in the region.

Lauding the Administration and J&K Police for the peaceful conduct of the 'Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan,' the Lieutenant Governor stressed that the anti-drug drive must continue with the same intensity.

The Lieutenant Governor directed officials to look beyond traditional policing and work towards completely dismantling the terror and separatist ecosystem. He called for intensified winter surveillance, security preparedness and complete operational control.

"Our goal cannot stop at neutralising terrorists. We must tear down the entire terrorist, separatist ecosystem that sustains them," Lieutenant Governor directed the police official.

He instructed Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to appoint dedicated nodal officers and set district-specific targets for the seizure and forfeiture of properties linked to anti-national elements.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the officers • P-06

**"ENSURING THAT CITIZENS' GRIEVANCES RECEIVE A FAIR HEARING IS A CORE DUTY,** requiring a dedicated institutional mechanism for grievance redressal with zero tolerance for negligence at any level,"

## Mercury Rises Across J&K

### Srinagar Climbs Above Freezing Point



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Night temperatures improved marginally across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing slight relief from the prevailing cold conditions, with Srinagar recording a minimum temperature of 0.2 degrees Celsius and moving above the freezing point after several days.

A weather department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 0.2 degrees Celsius against minus 0.2 degrees Celsius on the previous night.

Tourist resort Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, up from minus 2.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier, while Gulmarg recorded minus 0.4 degrees Celsius against minus 1.0 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara in north Kashmir registered a minimum of minus 1.1 degrees Celsius compared to minus 1.3 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Qazigund recorded minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, unchanged • P-06

### India Condemns USCIRF Again

## 'Biased Organisation With Blatantly Political Agenda'

IANS



**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday reiterated India's criticism of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), describing it as a "biased organisation with a blatantly political agenda."

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Friday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that a "prejudiced" organisation should not be taken seriously at all.

When asked whether India plans to raise USCIRF's issue with the US government after it recently accused the Indian government of targeting minority citizens by removing them from electoral rolls, Jaiswal responded, "On USCIRF, I want to repeat what I have said earlier that we see it as a biased organisation with a blatantly political agenda, and I don't think an organisation which is so prejudiced needs to be taken seriously."

On November 10, India slammed the USCIRF as a "biased and ill-informed organisation" with a "blatantly political agenda", saying it has consistently kept silent on attacks on religious places and hate crimes targeting the Indian community in the US.

"The USCIRF (United States Commission on International Religious • P-06

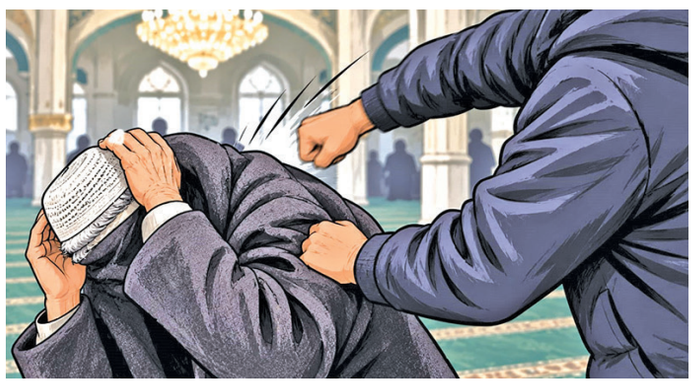
## Administrator Associated Hospitals Masrat Hashim's Father Attacked In Lalbazar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a spine-chilling incident that has sent shockwaves through Alamdar Colony in Lalbazar, a 75-year-old man, Haji Muhammad Hashim Khan, was brutally attacked with a sharp-edged weapon inside a mosque shortly before Friday prayers.

According to eyewitnesses who spoke to GMK, the alleged attacker, identified as Yasir Ahmad Fazili, described by locals as a habitual criminal and history-sheeter, allegedly entered the mosque when the elderly man was reciting Naat on the microphone. The victim was reportedly alone inside the mosque at the time.

In a horrifying turn of events, the accused allegedly locked the mosque door from inside, took out a sharp-edged weapon and repeatedly attacked the 75-year-old, leaving him seriously injured.



The brutality of the attack, particularly its location inside a place of worship and the vulnerability of the elderly victim, has shocked residents of the locality.

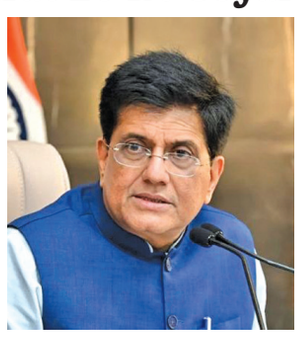
Locals have expressed serious concern over the alleged involvement of a habitual offender and are demanding stringent action against the perpetrator. They have also called for a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the attack.

The incident raises disturbing questions about public safety and the menace of repeat offenders. An elderly man reciting devotional verses inside a mosque should never have to face such violence in a place where people seek peace and security.

Residents are demanding exemplary action against the accused and strict measures to prevent such frightening incidents from recurring.

## Pursue Your Dreams, Help Build Viksit Bharat 2047: Goyal

IANS



**NEW DELHI:** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday called upon Delhi University (DU) graduates to become active contributors to India's development journey, saying the country's ambition of becoming a developed nation by 2047 will be driven by the aspirations and efforts of its youth.

Addressing the 103rd Annual Convocation of the University of Delhi, Goyal highlighted India's economic transformation over the last decade and said that around 50 crore people had moved out of extreme poverty.

He said the country's startup ecosystem had grown rapidly from a few hundred ventures a decade ago to around 2.5 lakh startups and more than 130 unicorns.

The new generation is increasingly emerging as job creators rather than job seekers, supported by a willingness to innovate, experiment and overcome failures, according to the minister.

Goyal said graduates have a responsibility not only towards their own careers but also towards improving opportunities for underprivileged sections of society.

He urged students to remain mindful of their social obligations and contribute towards inclusive growth.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, Goyal urged students to embrace the five national commitments outlined by • P-06

## Jhelum, Tributaries Record Low Water Levels Across Kashmir

### River Flowing Well Below Reference Levels, Wular Lake 4.10 Metres Below Benchmark

SAJID RAINA



**SRINAGAR:** Water levels in the Jhelum and its major tributaries remained low across Kashmir on Friday, with gauge readings showing the river flowing significantly below reference levels at all monitoring stations.

According to data available, the Jhelum was flowing at minus 0.64 feet at Sangam against the reference mark of 21 feet. At Munshi Bagh in Srinagar, the level was recorded at 3.81 feet against 18 feet, while at Asham it stood at 1.30 feet against 14 feet.

At Pampore, the river level was recorded at 1.01 metres, compared to the reference mark of 4.5 metres.

Wular Lake's water level stood at 1,573.90 metres, which is 4.10 metres below its reference level of 1,578 metres.

Among the tributaries, Vishow Nallah at Khudwani recorded 2.41 metres against a reference mark of 7.75 metres, while Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi stood at minus 0.44 metres against 5.4 metres.

Lidder Nallah at Batkoot recorded minus 0.66 metres against 1.5 metres, Doodhganga Nallah at Barzulla stood at 0.26 metres against 3.65 metres, and Sindh Nallah at • P-06

## Bhupender Singh Takes Over as IG BSF Kashmir Frontier



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Bhupender Singh on Friday took over as the Inspector General of the Border Security Force (BSF), Kashmir Frontier, succeeding Ashok Yadav, Additional Director General (ADG) and IPS officer.

According to the BSF, Singh formally assumed charge from Yadav, who was heading the Kashmir Frontier.

The BSF described Singh as a highly decorated officer with extensive operational and administrative experience.

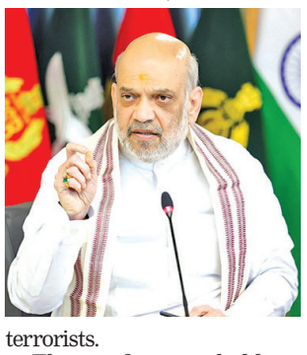
His appointment comes at a time when the BSF continues to oversee border security responsibilities in the Kashmir region.

### NIA Conference

## Terror, Organised Crime, Drugs Must Be Eliminated: HM Shah

### Calls For Stronger State ATS Units, Unified Anti-Terror Framework

SAJID RAINA



**SRINAGAR:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday called for strengthening state Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS) and integrating police stations into the country's counter-terror framework, stressing the need for coordinated action against cross-border terrorism and the wider terror ecosystem.

Addressing the two-day 6th Anti-Terror Conference organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi, Shah said terror networks, organised crime syndicates and drug trafficking operations must be tackled in a coordinated manner. He also credited security forces and investigative agencies for improving the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, claiming the Valley was now free of locally recruited terrorists.

The conference, held on November 19 and 20, brought together senior police officials, heads of central and state agencies, investigators and security experts to discuss emerging security challenges.

Shah, said counter-terror investigations must focus on dismantling entire networks, including handlers, financiers, organised crime links and local facilitators. He stressed that central and state agencies should work towards shared objectives with clearly defined responsibilities and accountability.

He also emphasised the need for strengthening financial investigations in terror cases and targeting the full chain of terror funding.

Calling for enhanced cyber capabilities, Shah urged states to strengthen ATS units on the prescribed model and establish specialised cyber cells to counter the growing use of technology by terrorist organisations.

He also advocated structural and operational uniformity under PRAHAAR, the national counter-terrorism framework, to improve coordination among agencies.

Reiterating the government's stand on fugitives operating from • P-06

# Govt accords ₹9.85 crore approval for Street Food Hubs at Tangmarg, Lakhanpur

GMK NEWS NETWORK



**JAMMU:** In a significant initiative to strengthen local livelihoods, promote tourism and improve public amenities, the Jammu and Kashmir Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has accorded administrative approval for the construction of two Street Food Hubs at Tangmarg and Lakhanpur at a combined cost of ₹9.85 crore.

The projects assume special significance in view of the strategic and tourism importance of the two locations. Lakhanpur, the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir and J&K's first town for visitors entering from Punjab, serves as the first point of entry for a large number of tourists, pilgrims and travellers. Similarly, Tangmarg is the first major tourist destination on the route to the world-famous ski resort of Gulmarg, welcoming visitors heading towards the popular tourist resort.

The projects include construction of a Street Food Hub at Tangmarg at an approved cost of ₹3.81 crore and a Clean Street Food Hub at Lakhanpur, near the State Tax Office Building and the bus stand, at a cost of ₹6.04 crore. The funding will be provided under PM SVANidhi and the Capex Budget (MRDA Sector).

The initiative aims to provide organised, hygienic and well-equipped spaces for street vendors, improve public amenities and ensure access to safe and quality food for residents, tourists and other visitors.

The development of these facilities is expected to enhance the overall visitor experience at two important entry and tourism points of Jammu and Kashmir, while providing better livelihood opportunities to street vendors and giving a boost to local economic activity.

The projects reflect Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led Government's focus on creating cleaner, better-organised and more visitor-friendly public spaces, reinforcing the importance of Lakhanpur and Tangmarg in the J&K's tourism and economic landscape.

# Chief Justice visits District Court Complex Budgam

## Emphasizes collective efforts to strengthen Justice System, cautious use of AI

GMK NEWS NETWORK



**BUDGAM:** Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, accompanied by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Administrative Judge for District Budgam Friday visited District Court Complex, Budgam.

Chief Justice was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour and was warmly welcomed by the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Budgam, O.P. Bhagat.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam Jatin Kishore, Senior Superintendent of Police Budgam Hariprasad KK, along with other Judicial and administrative officers were present on the occasion.

Judges from the Registry, M.K Sharma, Registrar General, Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, members of the District Judiciary, court staff, officials of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) were also present.

Chief Justice, in his address, emphasised the collective responsibility of the Bar, Bench and administration in strengthening the justice delivery system and upholding public trust. He highlighted the importance of adopting emerging technologies particularly Artificial Intelligence with due caution to enhance transparency, efficiency and speedy delivery of justice.

Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati stressed the need to strengthen the Bar and Bench, promote better facilities and opportunities for women lawyers and uphold the highest standards of professionalism and judicial accountability. Referring to the forthcoming centenary celebrations of the judicial institution on 28th March 2027, he called upon all members of the legal fraternity across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to actively participate in this historic milestone and reaffirm their commitment to justice and public service. He assured that suggestions for institutional improvement would be considered.

The presence of Justice Sindhu Sharma, was particularly significant in view of her administrative association with the district. The occasion provided an opportunity to acknowledge the role of the District Judiciary in ensuring effective judicial administration and the importance of coordinated efforts among all institutions associated with the justice delivery mechanism.

The District Bar Association Budgam, through its President, submitted a memorandum seeking urgent intervention for strengthening judicial infrastructure in the district. The key demands included construction of new Court Complex at Budgam, establishment of a separate NIA Court and additional judicial courts, construction of Court Complexes at Charar-i-Sharief and Beerwah and a Munsiff Court at Khansahib, provision of additional advocates' chambers, upgradation of the Ladies' Bar Room, development of parking facilities, and construction of separate photocopy and canteen facilities for advocates. The Association emphasized that these measures are essential for improving judicial efficiency, addressing infrastructural deficiencies, facilitating the legal fraternity and ensuring better access and convenience for litigants and the general public.

The programme was also attended by advocates from all four Tehsils of District Budgam, represented by their respective Bar Association Presidents.

A significant highlight of the occasion was release of the magazine published by the District Legal Services Authority, Budgam under the supervision and guidance of J&K Legal Services Authority by the Chief Justice, Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati (Parton in Chief J&K Legal Services Authority).

# DC Srinagar reviews status, disposal of various public welfare services

GMK NEWS NETWORK



**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday chaired a meeting of senior Officers at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, to review the status and progress of various public welfare-related cases to ensure their prompt and effective disposal.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, SDM West, Seerat Baji, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, all Tehsildars, representative of ADGP CID and R&B Department.

The meeting reviewed the status of various cases of public welfare nature including SRO-43, financial assistance under the Red Cross Fund, immediate relief to fire victims, compensation to road accident victims, rent assessment, and other related services.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for time-bound processing and efficient disposal of all pending cases, emphasising that unnecessary delays should not cause inconvenience to the public.

He directed the concerned Officers to take necessary measures to expedite the disposal of pending cases and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive assistance and benefits without undue delay.

The DC particularly emphasised the importance of extending timely relief to fire-affected families, providing compensation to road accident victims and facilitating eligible persons seeking assistance under the Red Cross Fund and SRO-43. He emphasized that all Departments must work in a coordinated and result-oriented manner to ensure transparency, accountability and prompt delivery of public services.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that addressing public grievances and ensuring timely delivery of benefits to deserving beneficiaries must remain a priority of the District Administration and other stakeholder Departments.

# Specially Abled Students explore Kashmir's Heritage



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** On Day 2nd of World Heritage Week 2026, the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir Division, organized a heritage exposure tour and exhibition visit for specially abled students of Abhinandan School, Solina, Srinagar.

The event was organized with the theme "Save Heritage, Save Identity". The participants included 60 students, besides officers and officials of the Directorate and other members of the public. The students visited protected monuments across Srinagar District and the Week-Long Heritage Exhibition at Exhibition Hall and Art Gallery, Shergarhi Complex (Old Secretariat), where they viewed rare manuscripts, archival records and historical documents.

Assistant Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir, ShaheenaYaseen, briefed the students on the objectives and significance of the Exhibition and the preservation of archival heritage, through their trainer/translator.

The students also witnessed a Live Calligraphy demonstration, which drew keen interest and enthusiasm.

# NDRF Trains Students in Life-Saving Skills at Wagoora

AAMIR WANI



**BARAMULLA:** Aiming to foster a culture of safety and quick response among youth, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted an interactive disaster preparedness workshop at Rainbow Public School, Wagoora, on Friday.

The initiative brought together the local administration and community leaders, with Tehsildar Wagoora, ZEO Wagoora, DO Wagoora, Civil Society members, and Provincial President JKTF Javid Ahmad Bhat gracing the occasion.

NDRF experts walked students and residents through practical survival strategies for high-risk emergencies including earthquakes, floods, and fire outbreaks. Through live demonstrations of basic rescue operations, participants learned how to remain composed under pressure, execute standard safety protocols, and safely aid victims in the crucial moments before professional help arrives.

Speakers at the event lauded the collaborative effort between the Tehsil Administration, the Education Department, and local representatives, noting that proactive community training remains the strongest defence against the loss of lives and property during unforeseen calamities.

# KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Friday informed that the Shutdown of 132/33 kV, 100 MVA Grid Station Khunmoh will be observed due to which power supply to Wuyen, Balhama, Munpora, Befina, Zafran Colony, Khonmoh Checksangri, JKAP, TCI Old Cement Plant, Industrial Area Khonmoh, SAIFCO Cement Plant, KHYBER Cement Plant, TCI MAX Cement Plant and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 22 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Wanpoh-Qaimoh line will be observed due to which power supply to Qaimoh, Khudwani, Redwani, Rehpora, Matalhama and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 am to 03 pm on 21, 25 & 28 November 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Wanpoh Ashajipora/ Malaknag DC Line will be observed due to which power supply to Ashajipora, Janglat Mandhi, Malaknag, Brakpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 am to 02 pm on 23 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kulgam DH- Pora Line will be observed due to which power supply to DH Pora, Aharibal, Rambhama, Gopalpora, Nillow, DK Marg and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 am to 02 pm on 25 November and 01 December 2026.

# DC Shopian conducts surprise inspection of various govt offices

GMK NEWS NETWORK



**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Friday conducted a surprise inspection of various government offices across the district to assess punctuality, attendance and the overall functioning of government establishments.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner visited the offices of the Block Medical Office Shopian, Tehsil Office Shopian, Roads and Buildings (R&B) Division Shopian and Block Development Office Shopian.

He inspected attendance registers and verified the presence of officers and employees. He also took stock of the day-to-day functioning of the offices and reviewed the status of official work to assess efficiency and ensure timely delivery of public services.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner took serious note of instances of unauthorized absence and dereliction of duty and directed the issuance of show-cause notices to the delinquent officers/ officials, seeking their explanation for the lapses observed.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining punctuality, discipline and accountability in government offices. He directed the concerned officers and officials to ensure regular attendance, timely disposal of official work and prompt delivery of public services.

# 2-day Nature Exploration event held at Manasbal concludes

GMK NEWS NETWORK



**MANASBAL:** The two-day Nature Exploration event organised by Wullar Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) in collaboration with Government Degree College(GDC), Ganderbal concluded here Friday.

The event drew enthusiastic response from students of GDC, Ganderbal, Nature lovers, visitors and local stakeholders alike.

As part of the event, today a painting competition was held on the twin themes of Nature conservation and drug abuse during which students put their varied thoughts on paper and canvas to convey their deep commitment for Nature conservation and against drug abuse.

Well known visual artist and calligrapher, Saiqa Rashid was the expert on the occasion to judge the art pieces.

The conclusion of the two-day event was marked by distribution of prizes and commendations among the students and volunteers.

Chief Executive Officer, WMDA, Dr Ahsanul Haq Chishti and head of Central Silk Board, Manasbal, Dr Rajesh Kumar gave away the prizes and commendations among the participant students and volunteers.

In his address the CEO said WMDA would continue to provide a platform to all the creative endeavours and art activities to strengthen our connection with Nature and firm up society's resolve to conserve Nature and fight drug abuse. He thanked the cooperation rendered by Government Degree College, Ganderbal in this regard.

Dr Rajesh Kumar in address on the occasion laid stress on collaborative efforts to conserve Nature and fight substance abuse. He also detailed the initiatives being taken by his organisation in this regard and also promoting the local artistry.

Programme Coordinator of GDC, Ganderbal, Dr Jamsheeda Akhter highlighted the role and activities of NSS unit in spreading awareness on nature conservation and drug abuse. She hoped that many more such events would be conducted in days to come.

Earlier, on the first day, NSS volunteers from GDC Ganderbal, joined by sanitation field staff and officials of WMDA undertook a massive day long cleanliness drive along the banks of Manasbal lake spreading through Kondabal, Jarokabal, Baghwan Mohalla and adjoining areas during which local residents also joined the cleanliness campaign.

During the drive, aimed to promote environmental conservation, cleanliness and awareness against drug abuse, participants and locals were also sensitised about the harmful effects of improper waste disposal and environmental pollution and encouraged to adopt responsible waste-management practices.

# SWD Srinagar celebrates Child Rights Day 2026 at Guzarbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), celebrated Child Rights Day, 2026 at Al Haleem Public School, Guzarbal Palpora, with the aim of sensitizing students about their rights, protection, welfare and overall development.

The programme focused on creating awareness among students regarding the fundamental rights of children, including the right to education, protection, participation, health and a safe environment. Students were sensitized about the importance of safeguarding themselves against abuse, exploitation, discrimination and other forms of violence, while encouraging them to speak up and seek help whenever required.

The programme also highlighted the importance of providing children with a supportive and inclusive environment where they can grow, learn and develop their potential without fear. Participants were informed about various child protection mechanisms and the role of institutions, parents, teachers and the community in ensuring the safety, dignity and well-being of children.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and school staff. The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of the Department's commitment towards promoting child rights, strengthening child protection measures and ensuring the welfare and holistic development of children through community-based awareness initiatives.

# Chupa Chups Brings More Fun to Every Chew with New Bubble Gum Sticks

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chupa Chups, the confectionery brand from the house of Perfetti Van Melle India, announced its entry into India's bubble gum category with the launch of Chupa Chups Bubble Gum Sticks. Available in two exciting flavours, Fruits and Cola Lemon, the new offering is designed to deliver a fun, flavour packed bubble gum experience with bigger bubbles, a softer chew. Priced at ₹10, Chupa Chups Bubble Gum Sticks are now available across retail outlets nationwide.

The launch is inspired by a simple yet compelling consumer insight, today's young consumers seek more from their confectionery than just great taste. They look for products that are exciting to chew, fun to play with and enjoyable to share with friends. Bubble blowing has always been at the heart of the category, and Chupa Chups Bubble Gum Sticks elevate this experience with a bigger gum format that makes creating bigger bubbles even more enjoyable.

Crafted to deliver a differentiated bubble gum experience, Chupa Chups Bubble Gum Sticks is the first brand in the category to feature a larger 4.2g gum, offering a softer chew and enhanced mouthfeel, while the bigger gum format enables bigger bubble making for more playful moments. Alongside the classic Fruits flavour, the range introduces Cola Lemon, a first of its kind flavour in the bubble gum category, bringing together two much loved tastes in one exciting stick.

Speaking on the launch, Gunjan Khetan, Marketing Director, Perfetti Van Melle India, said, "At Chupa Chups, we have always believed that confectionery should be as much fun as it is flavourful. With Chupa Chups' entry into the bubble gum category, we wanted to introduce an offering that delivers a more playful and engaging chewing experience for today's young consumers. Chupa Chups Bubble Gum Sticks combine bigger bubbles, exciting flavours and an innovative format to make every chewing moment more enjoyable. This launch reflects our continued focus on bringing meaningful product innovations that resonate with evolving consumer preferences while strengthening Chupa Chups' presence in the Indian confectionery market."

'Stories Without Borders'

# IFFI 57 to celebrate cinema beyond geographical and socio-cultural boundaries

GMK NEWS NETWORK




**GOA:** A media briefing was held Friday at the PIB Media Centre, Panaji, Goa on the sidelines of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The session brought together Ashutosh Gowariker, Festival Director, IFFI 57, and Dhiraj Singh, Managing Director, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). It was moderated by Smita Vats Sharma, Director General (West), Press Information Bureau (PIB).

Addressing the media, Shri Ashutosh Gowariker outlined his vision for the 57th edition of IFFI, centred on the theme 'Stories Without Borders'. He explained that the theme extends beyond geographical and territorial boundaries to explore divisions within families and societies, including those arising from caste, social differences and other socio-cultural realities. The festival seeks to bring together stories that transcend such boundaries and reflect shared human experiences across cultures.

Highlighting the festival's diverse cinematic offerings, Shri Gowariker announced the introduction of three new sections this year i.e. Animation, Documentary and Films about Films. He underscored the growing significance of documentaries and the need to provide greater visibility and opportunities to documentary filmmakers. As part of this initiative, IFFI will host a special gala presentation featuring films by winners of the recently concluded Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF).

Emphasising the significance of the festival's varied programming, he noted that every section, including retrospectives, curated showcases and special screenings, contributes to presenting the richness and diversity of cinema. He encouraged media professionals to explore the festival beyond their individual film preferences and attend gala screenings, red-carpet events, international press conferences and Panorama interactions. Such engagements, he observed, offer filmmakers and visiting delegates an opportunity to present their work while enabling audiences to discover diverse cinematic perspectives.

Underscoring the role of media in amplifying the festival's reach, Shri Gowariker urged media representatives to watch and cover films across different sections, including retrospectives, while retaining their independent judgement and critical perspectives. He emphasised that media engagement plays an important role in taking the stories and cinematic offerings of IFFI to audiences across the country.

He also expressed his willingness to facilitate meaningful and informal interactions between the festival team and media representatives throughout the event. Noting the professional commitments of media personnel, he said that the scheduling of interactions had been adjusted to provide greater flexibility and adequate time for coverage of festival activities.

During the briefing, Shri Ashutosh Gowariker also unveiled the official brochure of the 57th International Film Festival of India.

The media interaction provided an overview of the festival's vision and programming priorities, while highlighting the importance of media engagement and collective efforts in strengthening IFFI as an international platform for cinema and cross-cultural exchange.

# Sakeena Itoo calls for result-oriented, district-level action plan to combat Drug Abuse

GMK NEWS NETWORK




**JAMMU:** Minister for Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, has called for transforming the fight against drug abuse from a largely awareness-driven campaign into a comprehensive, measurable and outcome-orientated national mission, emphasising the need for coordinated action at the district, institutional and individual levels to effectively tackle the growing menace of substance abuse.

The Minister said this while addressing the second day of National Social Justice Summit 'Samaveshi Niti Sankalp' at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan here today.

While putting forth a practical framework for strengthening the national campaign against drug abuse, the Minister advocated an integrated model based on the principles of "One District, One Action Plan; One School, One Prevention Programme; One Patient, One Recovery Plan; and One Year of Follow-up".

She stressed that the proposed framework could be adopted by every district across the country to ensure effective prevention, early identification, timely medical intervention, sustained rehabilitation and long-term recovery of individuals affected by substance abuse.

Elaborating on the proposed approach, Sakeena Itoo said that every district must formulate a dedicated action plan after identifying vulnerable areas and high-risk groups, with close coordination among the Health, Education and Police Departments to ensure timely intervention and effective implementation of preventive measures.

She further emphasised that schools and colleges must emerge as important centres of prevention, with trained nodal teachers entrusted with the responsibility of educating students about the harmful consequences of drug abuse, identifying early warning signs and facilitating confidential counselling and professional support wherever required.

Highlighting the need to place individuals at the centre of the rehabilitation process, the Minister said that every person struggling with addiction must be provided an individualised recovery plan rather than limiting the intervention to admission in a de-addiction facility.

"Sending an individual to a de-addiction centre cannot be considered the end of our responsibility. Recovery is a continuous process which requires medical treatment, psychological counselling, family support, vocational training and opportunities for meaningful employment. We must ensure that every person who seeks help gets a genuine opportunity to rebuild his or her life," she said.

Citing the example of a young person identified with substance abuse in Kulgam, the Minister said the intervention must extend beyond medical treatment to include family involvement, counselling, skill development and livelihood support, enabling the individual to reintegrate into society with dignity and confidence.

She also underscored the importance of a structured one-year post-treatment follow-up mechanism, under which a designated counsellor or health worker would maintain regular contact with the recovered individual to monitor progress, provide emotional support and minimise the chances of relapse.

"Treatment must not end with discharge from a facility. The real test of our efforts lies in ensuring that the individual remains connected to the support system, regains confidence and does not return to substance abuse. A structured follow-up mechanism is essential to make recovery sustainable," she maintained.

Calling for a strong enforcement mechanism alongside preventive and rehabilitative interventions, the Minister said drug trafficking networks must be dismantled through coordinated, intelligence-led action by law enforcement agencies, with strict measures against those involved in drug peddling and distribution.

She emphasised that the approach towards the drug menace must be guided by compassion for victims, sensitivity towards affected families and zero tolerance towards drug traffickers and peddlers.

"Our approach must be compassionate towards the victim, supportive of the family and uncompromising towards the drug peddler. Addiction should be addressed as a serious health and social challenge, while those destroying the future of our youth through drug trafficking must face stringent action under law," she said.

The Minister stressed that the success of the national campaign against drugs should be assessed through tangible outcomes rather than being confined to the number of awareness rallies, seminars and other outreach activities organised.

# NFDC Partners with Svayam to Make 57th IFFI Accessible, Inclusive for All

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GOA:** The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has partnered with Svayam to make the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) more accessible and inclusive for all cine-goers, including persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility. This marks the third collaboration between the two organisations, following their partnerships at the 55th IFFI and the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF).

As the Accessibility Partner, Svayam is undertaking accessibility audits across festival venues to identify potential barriers and recommend measures to ensure safer, more comfortable and independent access for visitors.

The partnership also includes sensitisation workshops for festival volunteers on disability and accessibility. The sessions will focus on respectful communication, inclusive assistance and practical ways to support persons with diverse accessibility needs.

An Accessibility Simulation Zone will further provide visitors and festival stakeholders with an interactive opportunity to understand the everyday barriers faced by persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility. The initiative aims to foster greater awareness, empathy and understanding of the importance of accessible public spaces.

Speaking about the partnership, Ms. Sminu Jindal, Managing Director, Svayam, said, "Accessibility is not merely about creating ramps or making physical spaces barrier-free; it is about ensuring that every individual has the dignity, independence and opportunity to participate equally in society. Cinema is a powerful medium that brings people together, transcends boundaries and celebrates diverse human experiences. It is therefore essential that film festivals are equally welcoming and accessible to everyone. Our collaboration with NFDC for the 57th IFFI is an important step towards making inclusion an integral part of the festival experience. We envision an IFFI where reduced mobility, whether due to age, temporary injury or permanent disability, does not become a barrier to experiencing the joy of cinema."

Emphasising the importance of the initiative, Shri Dhiraj Singh, Managing Director, NFDC, said, "The International Film Festival of India celebrates the universal language of cinema, and it is important that this celebration is truly open to everyone. Our partnership with Svayam is a significant step towards making the 57th IFFI more accessible, inclusive and welcoming for all cine-goers. Through accessible venues and trained and sensitised volunteers, we aim to create an environment where everyone can participate in the festival with dignity, comfort and independence. We hope this initiative will set a meaningful benchmark for inclusive cultural and cinematic events in India."

The collaboration marks another step towards making India's premier film festival a truly inclusive celebration of cinema, ensuring that persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility can participate, connect and experience the power of storytelling with dignity and independence.

# FDA conducts 157 inspections, lifts 53 food samples across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK



**SRINAGAR:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir, has intensified food safety enforcement across the Union Territory, conducting 157 inspections of restaurants, hotels, cafes and other food establishments and lifting 53 samples for laboratory analysis.

During the enforcement drive, five cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with a total fine of Rs 5,000 imposed.

The department also initiated five cases under Section 56 of the Act for violations related to sanitary and hygienic requirements, which carry a penalty of up to Rs 1 lakh.

Besides, three cases were initiated under Section 58 over the use of non-food-grade utensils, attracting penalties of up to Rs 2 lakh.

The FDA said regular inspections, random sampling and enforcement proceedings are part of its efforts to ensure compliance with food safety standards across Jammu and Kashmir. Food business operators have been advised to maintain prescribed hygiene and sanitation standards, use food-grade utensils and equipment, and strictly adhere to statutory provisions.

Consumers have also been urged to report the sale or distribution of unsafe or adulterated food through the department's official email: cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in. (KNS)

# J&K unveils SOP for handing over revenue records to probe agencies

REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Government has issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for handing over original revenue records to investigating agencies for forensic analysis and examination.

In a move to protect the integrity of public records as well as ensure their safe return, the SOP lays down a detailed procedure to be followed before any original revenue record is handed over to an investigating agency.

Under the SOP, the concerned Deputy Commissioner or Regional Director, Survey and Land Records (RDSLR), must ensure that the complete scanning of original records is carried out before they are handed over. Authenticated copies of all scanned documents are to be prepared, certified and signed by the Deputy Commissioner, RDSLR, or an officer specifically authorized by them in writing.

The SOP, issued by the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) on October 30, 2026, directs that the complete scanned record be uploaded to the relevant e-Office file for future reference.

According to the guidelines, original records can be handed over only against a proper receipt signed by an authorized officer of the requisitioning investigating agency, bearing the date, designation and official seal. The handover must also form part of the inventory maintained in the Roznamcha Waqiati.

The SOP mandates quarterly follow-ups by the concerned Deputy Commissioner or RDSLR to ensure the timely return of records. Progress reports are to be submitted to the office of the Financial Commissioner every quarter.

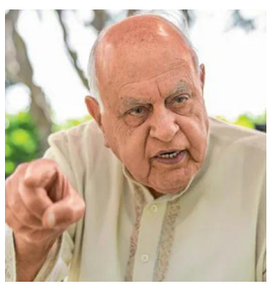
The directions further stipulate that original records must be sought back from the investigating agency within three months of their handover, unless an extension is specifically justified and recorded in writing by the agency concerned.

Upon return, the records are to be examined and verified against the authenticated scanned copies. Any discrepancy detected during verification must be immediately reported to the Financial Commissioner's office.

The government has also directed all Deputy Commissioners and Regional Directors, Survey and Land Records, to submit an annual inventory by December 31 detailing all original revenue records lying with investigating agencies or any person or office other than the lawful custodian, as prescribed under the rules—(KNO)

# Omar govt working on a planned roadmap for development of J&K: Farooq Abdullah

GMK NEWS NETWORK



**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah Friday said after assuming power in October 2024, Omar government had formulated a well-planned and effective roadmap for development and prosperity for five years.

In a statement issued, He said that although certain issues, including rationalisation of reservations and regularisation of daily wagers, remain unresolved due to the Union Territory system, development activities have been undertaken across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah made these remarks while addressing party leaders and office-bearers at his residence in Jammu.

He said that the BJP had merely exploited the people of Jammu and secured votes in the name of religion to serve its narrow political interests, while completely neglecting the region in terms of development.

He added that the BJP continues to pursue divisive politics and said it would be unfortunate if the people of Jammu still failed to recognise BJP's real political agenda.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah reiterated that the BJP had exploited the people of Jammu without delivering anything substantial, repeatedly seeking votes by creating Hindu-Muslim divisions during elections.

He said that immediately after coming to power, the National Conference government restored the Darbar Move. He described the Darbar Move as an important tradition that promotes harmony between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and serves as a backbone of Jammu's economy. "Jammu and Kashmir is a region with a diverse cultural identity, and the Darbar Move was introduced to promote unity in diversity. The primary objective of this annual tradition was not only to bring the two regions closer but also to strengthen trade and community relations," he said.

The NC government, he said, would continue working to eliminate distances between regions and communities. "Our government will not only promote development but will also focus on strengthening unity among people," he said.

Referring to the period between 2014 and 2024, Dr. Farooq said that inadequate road and infrastructure development, irregular electricity and water supply, unemployment, toll plazas, job outsourcing and mining activities reflected the BJP's alleged indifference towards the local population in the Jammu region.

He said that although the BJP directly governed Jammu and Kashmir during this period, people were largely given verbal assurances without substantial work on the ground.

CPCB reading much lower

# AQI.in ranks Srinagar world's most polluted city

354 on AQI.in, 59 in Central Pollution Control Board data

SAJID RAINA



**SRINAGAR:** Srinagar figured at the top of a global list of the most polluted cities on Friday, with its Air Quality Index (AQI) touching 354 on a real-time pollution tracking platform, even as official data recorded a significantly lower reading of 59.

According to AQI.in, Srinagar recorded an AQI of 354 at around 2:51 pm, placing it in the severe category and ahead of several Indian cities facing high pollution levels.

The platform's rankings placed Hisar in Haryana second with an AQI of 328, followed by Ludhiana at 309 and Amritsar at 302. Delhi, which frequently records high pollution levels during winter, stood ninth with an AQI of 277, while Gurugram recorded 240.

However, data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), presented a contrasting picture, placing Srinagar's AQI at 59, categorised as satisfactory.

The significant difference between the two readings has brought into focus the variations in air quality measurements reported by different monitoring platforms, making it important to distinguish between third-party real-time estimates and official monitoring data.

AQI.in's dashboard also showed elevated concentrations of particulate matter, with PM2.5 recorded at 191 micrograms per cubic metre and PM10 at 248 micrograms per cubic metre.

PM2.5 particles are considered particularly harmful as their small size allows them to penetrate deep into the respiratory system and potentially enter the bloodstream, increasing the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.

The deterioration in air quality comes as Kashmir enters the winter season, when low temperatures, weaker winds and atmospheric conditions can contribute to the accumulation of pollutants.

Srinagar's geographical setting, surrounded by mountains, can also restrict the movement of air during certain weather conditions. Temperature inversion, a phenomenon in which warmer air above prevents cooler air near the ground from rising, can further trap pollutants close to the surface.

The CPCB's revised action plan for Srinagar identifies vehicular emissions as a major contributor to the city's pollution burden. Road dust, construction activities, traffic congestion, biomass and municipal waste burning, diesel generators and fuel combustion are among the other sources.

Winter heating also adds to the pollution load as households increasingly depend on fuel-based heating arrangements during the colder months.

Seek service rules notification

# Non-gazetted employees of 5 new GMCs continue protest

JAHANGEER GANAIE




**SRINAGAR:** Non-gazetted employees of five newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Kashmir continued their protest for the fifth consecutive day on Friday, demanding immediate notification of long-pending Service Recruitment Rules (SRRs).

The protests, are being held at GMCs in Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Baramulla and Anantnag, with employees alleging that the absence of notified service rules for nearly seven years has adversely affected their seniority, promotions, career progression and other service benefits.

As part of the agitation, employees of GMC Rajouri held a peaceful march from the Associated Hospital premises to Gujjar Mandi Chowk after obtaining the necessary permissions from the authorities.

The employees said they resumed their protest on November 16 after the government failed to meet the September 30 deadline announced by Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo for finalising the recruitment rules.

According to the protesters, the delay has left hundreds of employees without a defined service framework and has also affected recruitment to non-gazetted posts in the medical colleges. They said no fresh recruitment advertisement has been issued for such posts since the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board's first notification in 2019.

The employees alleged that while gazetted officers have received multiple promotional advancements since 2019, non-gazetted staff continue to await a formal service structure.—(KNO)

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

## Daily Wagers Cannot Be Kept Waiting Forever

The statement by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary that the government is committed to regularising daily wagers across all departments is welcome, but it also brings an uncomfortable reality into focus. Thousands of workers in Jammu and Kashmir have spent years, and in many cases decades, serving government departments without the security, dignity and benefits enjoyed by regular employees. For them, regularisation is not merely a political promise; it is a long-pending demand for justice.

The Deputy Chief Minister has rightly pointed out that the financial position of Jammu and Kashmir is a major constraint. His admission that even meeting the salary obligations of regular employees has become difficult reflects the serious financial challenges confronting the Union Territory. There is little point in ignoring these realities. Any government must work within its available resources and ensure that its financial commitments are sustainable.

However, financial difficulties cannot become a permanent excuse for keeping thousands of workers in uncertainty. Many daily wagers have grown old in service, raised families on meagre wages and continued working without knowing whether they will ever receive the security of regular employment. Some have retired or are approaching retirement without the benefits that come with permanent government service. Their years of service cannot simply be brushed aside.

The National Conference made regularisation a commitment in its election manifesto. Having secured a mandate, the government must now demonstrate that its promises are more than words spoken during an election campaign. People understand that every promise cannot be fulfilled overnight, particularly when finances are tight. But they also expect a clear direction, a roadmap and a credible timeline.

The government must begin by preparing a comprehensive department-wise record of daily wagers, their length of service, nature of work and financial implications of regularisation. A phased approach, based on transparent criteria and available resources, could provide a practical way forward. Those who have served for decades should not be left competing endlessly with fresh cases or facing uncertainty over their future.

There is also a larger question of governance. Governments cannot continue depending on temporary workers for essential public services while denying them the stability that comes with regular employment. If their services are required year after year, their status and future must also receive serious consideration.

The Deputy Chief Minister's financial concerns deserve attention, but so does the plight of the workers. A government must balance fiscal responsibility with its moral and political obligations. The daily wagers of Jammu and Kashmir have waited long enough. They do not need another assurance; they need a policy, a time-bound process and visible action.

A promise made in a manifesto must eventually find its way into the lives of those who believed in it.

Good Morning Kashmir

*Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher*
**Javed Ashraf Shah**
*Associate Editors*
**Suhail Mir**
**Sulaiman Muhammed Shah**
*Legal Advisor*
**Bashir Sidiq**
*Bureau Chief Jammu:*
**Harbans Nagokay**
**R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998**
**Regd No: 109555**
*Office No:* **0194-3593724**
*Email:*
**goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com**
*Office Address:*
**B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001**
*Printed at:*
**Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar**
*Published From:*
**Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023**
**Layout Designer**
**Aijaz Ahmad Dar**

# From Silence To Strength

## The Transformation Of Kashmiri Women



SHAKEELA RAHMAN



For decades, the story of Kashmiri women was written for them, in the language of conflict, curfew, and quiet endurance. They were portrayed as victims to be pitied or symbols to be defended, rarely as architects of their own change. Yet across Jammu & Kashmir today, a different story is being written by the girl cycling to school in Sopore, the entrepreneur selling pashmina online from a village in Budgam, the constable directing traffic in Srinagar, the medical student, the first in her family to graduate. The transformation of Kashmiri women is not a headline; it is happening household by household, ambition by ambition.

**The Weight of the Past**

To understand the change, one must understand what came before. Decades of instability hit women hardest. When men were lost to violence, detained, or driven to migrate for work, women became the default breadwinners, but without the tools, mobility, or social permission to act like ones. Many carried grief silently while running households on shrinking incomes. Economic participation was narrow: handicrafts at home, small trade through family networks, farm labour at the edges. Education for daughters was treated as a gamble rather than an investment.

Yet even then, Kashmiri women were never passive. They held families together through years when the world looked away. The transformation now underway builds on that quiet strength, it is not a sudden awakening but a long-suppressed capability finally finding room.

**Education: The First Door**

Everything begins with schooling. Across J&K, girls now routinely outnumber boys in classrooms and examination halls, and the sight of a young woman heading to college is unremarkable in ways it was not a generation ago. Parents who once saved for a daughter's wedding now save for her coaching classes. The results are visible in every profession: women doctors serving remote blocks, teachers returning to their own villages, engineers, lawyers, and civil servants whose careers would have been unimaginable for their grandmothers.

Crucially, education has changed aspiration itself. A literate girl negotiates differently, with her family, her community, her future. She does not wait to be chosen; she chooses.

**New Livelihoods, New Confidence**

Economic change is following education. Self-help groups under the Umeed (JKRLM) programme have turned thousands of rural women into savers, borrowers, and business owners, running dairy units, tailoring shops, carpet and papier-mâché ventures. The J&K Women's Development Corporation offers concessional loans and education finance to women from every community, while the Mumkin scheme has helped young people, including women, into self-employment.

The digital economy has dissolved old barriers of geography. A weaver in Anantnag can sell to a customer in Mumbai without leaving her home; a baker in Baramulla takes orders on a phone. Home-based work, once a mark of confinement, has become a platform. Each rupee a woman earns quietly rearranges the power structure of her home.

**Breaking the Visible Barriers**

The most striking transformation is in public space. Women in the J&K Police and administration serve in numbers that would startle earlier generations. On playing fields, Kashmiri girls now play football, cricket, and volleyball competitively, sometimes in defiance of taunts, always in defiance of the idea that sport is not for them. Women cyclists, trekkers, and musicians have claimed streets and stages once closed to them. Each first- the first woman sarpanch, the first woman bus driver, the first from her village in uniform redraws what girls in her neighbourhood believe possible.

Health workers tell the same story at the grassroots. ASHAs and anganwadi workers, almost entirely women, are often the most trusted authority in a village — the person a family calls first, the woman whose advice on immunisation, nutrition, or a daughter's schooling carries weight. In distant hamlets, a trained woman with a medicine bag has become a quiet revolution on foot.

**The Work Remaining**

Transformation is real, but it is not complete. Women remain underrepresented in formal jobs and overrepresented in unpaid care work. Safety and mobility still shape and shrink daily choices, particularly after dark and in remote areas. The digital divide persists: connectivity is uneven, and a phone in every hand is not yet a skill in every hand. In conservative pockets, permission is still granted grudgingly, and every achievement is negotiated twice: once with the task itself, once with the family.

Nor should transformation be measured by how many women endure exceptional struggle to reach ordinary goals. True change will come when a Kashmiri woman's ambition requires no courage at all, only ability.

**The Generation Ahead**

Perhaps the surest sign of transformation is generational. Daughters of women who left school in Class 5 now finish college; daughters of women who whispered now speak on stages. In homes across the Valley, mothers who once said "adjust" now say "study." The vocabulary of girlhood has changed from protection to possibility.

*The author can be mailed at hakeelarehman43@gmail.com*

USCIRF's India Obsession

# When Advocacy Becomes A Campaign Of Accusation



RISHI SURI




The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has developed a familiar habit: issue sweeping allegations against India, present complex questions of law and national security as evidence of religious persecution, and then expect the world to accept its conclusions without examining the underlying facts. Its chairman, Dr Mahmood, has continued this approach with accusations that the Indian government is targeting Muslim citizens through electoral roll revisions, branding them foreigners and deporting them.

Such allegations are serious. Precisely for that reason, they demand serious evidence. Instead, the statement collapses three fundamentally different legal issues, voter eligibility, citizenship and illegal immigration into a single narrative of religious discrimination.

India is a constitutional democracy of extraordinary religious, linguistic and cultural diversity. Its Muslim population is among the largest in the world. Indian Muslims vote, contest elections, hold public office, serve in the armed forces, lead businesses, contribute to science and participate in every sphere of national life. Their citizenship is not conditional upon their religion. It is protected by the Constitution. That elementary distinction is conspicuously absent from the rhetoric directed at India.

The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls is a legitimate exercise within the Election Commission's constitutional responsibilities. Electoral rolls require periodic scrutiny to identify duplicate registrations, deceased voters, changes of residence and other questions of eligibility. Without such verification, the credibility of elections themselves would suffer.

More importantly, India's Supreme Court upheld the legal validity of the revision exercise in May 2026. The Court also established an essential distinction: removal from an electoral roll does not automatically extinguish citizenship. Questions of citizenship must be adjudicated by the competent authority under the law, with procedural safeguards and judicial review. This is not some minor technicality. It goes directly to the heart of Mahmood's allegation. A voter list is not a citizenship register. An electoral verification exercise is not a deportation order. And enforcing immigration laws is not synonymous with targeting a religious community.

Yet USCIRF's public messaging risks blurring precisely these distinctions.

There is another uncomfortable question for the commission: why does its criticism of India so frequently rely on the broadest possible interpretation of disputed events? USCIRF has repeatedly recommended that India be designated a Country of Particular Concern. Its own records demonstrate a sustained pattern of criticism involving citizenship legislation, religious conversion laws and the treatment of minorities. Mahmood himself raised similar allegations concerning deportations and citizenship enforcement during the commission's May 2026 hearing.

This repeated focus raises legitimate questions about the commission's analytical balance. Is it assessing India through a consistent international standard, or has India become a recurring subject around which its institutional messaging is organised? The distinction matters because USCIRF is not a court, an international tribunal or an elected global authority. It is an American federal advisory body. Its recommendations are not binding judgments, and they do not acquire greater legal authority through repetition.

Indeed, the United States government has not automatically adopted USCIRF's recommendations concerning India. That distinction between an advisory commission's assertions and official American policy deserves far more attention than it receives. India, meanwhile, has every right to protect the integrity of its borders and electoral institutions. These are ordinary responsibilities of sovereign governments. The United States itself maintains elaborate systems governing immigration, citizenship, voter registration and removal proceedings. It would be extraordinary to suggest that India alone should be denied the authority to enforce comparable legal distinctions.

There is also something profoundly reductive about treating India's Muslim citizens principally as subjects of an American commission's pronouncements. Indian Muslims are not an abstract constituency awaiting validation from Washington. They are participants in the world's largest democracy, with constitutional rights, political representation, established institutions and an enormous contribution to India's national development. Their place in the Republic is defined by Indian citizenship, not by the judgments of foreign advocacy bodies.

The larger issue is credibility. An institution claiming to defend universal principles must demonstrate intellectual discipline. It must distinguish law from allegation, individual cases from nationwide conclusions, and political rhetoric from judicially established facts. USCIRF and Mahmood have chosen to make serious accusations about India's democratic institutions. They should therefore be prepared to answer equally serious questions about their evidence, methodology and consistency. India does not require a certificate of democratic legitimacy from Washington. Its constitutional institutions, electoral processes and judicial system operate under Indian law, not the political preferences of an American advisory commission.

The fundamental principle is straightforward: scrutiny must be reciprocal, evidence must be rigorous, and no institution should enjoy immunity from criticism simply because it claims to speak in the language of human rights. USCIRF cannot demand accountability from India while treating its own conclusions as beyond challenge. If Mahmood wishes to lecture the world's largest democracy, the least he owes it is factual precision.

*Rishi Suri is a senior editor covering international affairs at The Daily Milap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper.*

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

Ecological Loss

# The River Remembers What We Forget



DR RIZWAN RUMI



There was a time when our rivers were full of fish. Their waters were alive, their banks were familiar gathering places, and the changing seasons brought their own excitement. Autumn, in particular, carried a special charm. As children, we would eagerly wait for this time of the year, when we could walk towards the nearest rivers and streams, hoping to catch fish. Those little adventures were among the simplest yet most beautiful memories of our childhood.

We did not need expensive toys, organised entertainment or elaborate plans to enjoy ourselves. A nearby river was enough. The excitement of spotting a fish, the thrill of trying to catch one, and the laughter shared with friends made ordinary autumn afternoons memorable. Sometimes we returned home with a few fish; sometimes we returned empty-handed. But the happiness was never measured by the size of our catch.

Today, when I look back at those memories, I cannot help but wonder where those rivers and their abundance have disappeared. The rivers still flow, but something essential seems to be missing. The fish that once made these waters lively are becoming increasingly difficult to find. The familiar excitement of childhood has gradually been replaced by concern over the condition of our water bodies. This is not merely a matter of nostalgia. It is a reflection of an environmental crisis that deserves serious attention.

Over the years, our rivers and streams have faced mounting pressure from human activities. The discharge of untreated sewage, household waste, plastic pollution, encroachment along riverbanks, unregulated extraction of sand and gravel, and the destruction of natural habitats have all contributed to the deterioration of aquatic ecosystems. In several places, water bodies that once supported diverse aquatic life are now struggling to maintain their ecological balance. The problem goes beyond the disappearance of fish. When aquatic life declines, it indicates that something is fundamentally wrong with the environment. Rivers are not simply channels through which water passes. They are living ecosystems that support fish, insects, plants, birds and countless other forms of life. Their health is directly connected to the health of the communities that depend on them.

Kashmir has been blessed with an extraordinary network of rivers, streams, springs and wetlands. The Jhelum, Lidder, Vishow, Rambiara and countless smaller water channels are not just geographical features. They are part of our history, culture, livelihood and collective identity. Generations have grown up alongside these waters. Farmers have depended on them, fishermen have earned their livelihoods from them, and children have built memories around their banks.

Yet, somewhere along the way, we began treating these natural resources as if their capacity to sustain life were unlimited. Waste found its way into water channels, construction increasingly occupied natural spaces, and ecological concerns often received less attention than immediate human demands.

We must also recognise that the decline of fish populations cannot be attributed to one factor alone. Water pollution, habitat degradation, changes in water flow, excessive fishing and the effects of climate change can collectively threaten aquatic biodiversity. Understanding the exact reasons requires regular scientific monitoring, but the visible deterioration of many water bodies should be enough to encourage immediate action. What makes this loss particularly painful is that future generations may never experience what we once considered ordinary. The children of today may grow up without knowing the excitement of visiting a nearby stream in autumn, watching fish move through clear water or spending an afternoon along a riverbank. They may inherit photographs and stories of rivers that were once full of life, without ever experiencing that reality themselves.

Environmental degradation does not always happen through one dramatic event. Sometimes it takes place quietly, year after year, until one day we realise that something we once took for granted is no longer there. Perhaps that is what is happening to our rivers. We need a serious and sustained approach to restoring their ecological health. Treatment of sewage before discharge, strict control of waste disposal, protection of riverbanks, regulation of fishing practices, restoration of aquatic habitats and regular monitoring of fish populations must become priorities. Local communities, educational institutions, environmental organisations and government departments all have a role to play.

More importantly, environmental protection must become a public responsibility rather than remain limited to official announcements and occasional cleanliness campaigns. People must understand that throwing waste into a stream or allowing untreated wastewater to enter a river is not a harmless act. It contributes to the gradual destruction of an ecosystem that belongs to everyone. Perhaps we should also take our children to the rivers, not just to show them what remains, but to teach them why these natural spaces deserve protection. They should know that rivers are not dumping grounds, and that the fish, plants and other forms of aquatic life are not separate from our own existence.

Sometimes, memories become the strongest reminders of what we are losing. When I remember those autumn afternoons, the excitement of reaching the river and the joy of catching fish, I realise that we have lost more than a childhood activity. We are losing a part of our natural heritage, a connection with our surroundings and a way of life that once brought people closer to nature. We often speak about development, progress and modernisation. But what kind of progress is it if our rivers become polluted, our fish disappear and our children inherit a natural environment poorer than the one we enjoyed? The rivers are still there, and perhaps there is still time to restore much of what has been damaged. But that requires more than nostalgia. It requires awareness, responsibility and action.

I wish our children could experience those same autumn afternoons, when a visit to the nearest river was an adventure and its waters were full of life. Nature gave us those memories. It is our responsibility to ensure that we do not deprive the next generation of the same experience.

*The author can be mailed at rizwanroomi2012@gmail.com*

The Patwari Paradox

# Demanding Accountability Without Destroying Morale

From Digitising Decades-Old Land Records To Delivering 57 Public Services, Patwaris Continue To Shoulder An Enormous Responsibility. Allegations Of Corruption Must Be Investigated, But Collective Condemnation Of An Entire Cadre Is Neither Fair Nor Justified.



MOHD AMIN MIR

A recent social media post alleging that corruption and collusion run deep throughout the Revenue Department, from the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) to the Patwari, has once again brought the functioning of the Revenue Department into public discussion. While every citizen has the democratic right to raise grievances and demand accountability from public institutions, it is equally important that allegations are based on facts and that an entire cadre is not condemned because of the alleged misconduct of a few individuals.

The Revenue Department is one of the most important public-facing departments in Jammu and Kashmir. At the heart of its administrative structure stands the Patwari, an official whose responsibilities extend far beyond maintaining land records. The Patwari is often the first point of contact for ordinary citizens seeking assistance in matters concerning land ownership, inheritance, cultivation, mutations, verification, demarcation and numerous other revenue-related services. Patwaris are the pillars of the Revenue Department. Without their field-level presence, knowledge of local land records and continuous interaction with the public, the functioning of the entire revenue administration would become extremely difficult.

This does not mean that corruption should be defended or that any official should be protected from accountability. If a Patwari, Girdawar, Naib Tehsildar, Tehsildar or any other official is found involved in corrupt practices, strict action must follow in accordance with law. But the principle of individual responsibility must not be replaced by collective blame.

**The forgotten contribution of Patwaris**

It is easy to make allegations against a department, but it is equally important to understand the nature of work performed by its employees. A Patwari is not merely a record keeper sitting in an office. He is a field functionary who must remain connected with his assigned villages, landholders, local representatives and administrative officers. From maintaining and updating Jamabandis to processing mutations, preparing revenue extracts, conducting field verifications, identifying land parcels, assisting in demarcation proceedings and responding to public grievances, the responsibilities of a Patwari are extensive.

Today, with the expansion of online public services, the workload has increased further. A substantial number of the 57 revenue-related public services depend upon the ground-level work, verification and reporting of Patwaris. Their role is essential in ensuring that applications submitted by citizens are processed on the basis of authentic field information and revenue records. People often approach a Patwari for matters that directly affect their property rights, agricultural activities, family inheritance and day-to-day requirements. A minor discrepancy in a land record can create years of difficulty for an ordinary family. It is the Patwari who is frequently required to trace the relevant record, examine the factual position and assist the administration in resolving such matters.

**The silent contribution behind digital transformation**

The ongoing digitisation of Jamabandis and other revenue records in Jammu and Kashmir is a major administrative transformation. However, this transformation did not happen merely because computers were introduced or portals were developed. Behind the digital records are thousands of hours of painstaking work performed by field-level revenue officials, particularly Patwaris.

They have worked tirelessly to examine old records, verify ownership particulars, reconcile discrepancies, identify missing information and facilitate the conversion of traditional land records into digital formats. Many of these records were handwritten decades ago and required considerable attention, patience and knowledge of revenue terminology. The challenge becomes even greater when dealing with inheritance cases, deceased landholders, incomplete mutations, variations in names, joint ownership and discrepancies between different revenue documents.

The introduction of digital platforms has not eliminated the need for field verification. Rather, it has made accurate field-level information more important than ever. The public sees the final digital record on a screen, but rarely sees the effort that goes into preparing it. The contribution of Patwaris in bringing revenue records online deserves recognition, not generalised accusations.

Do Patwaris enjoy holidays like other employees? Another reality that often goes unnoticed is the demanding working schedule of Patwaris. Their responsibilities do not always end with official office hours. Public grievances, urgent verification reports, administrative assignments, elec-



tion-related duties, disaster management work, digital surveys and time-bound government programmes frequently require their attention beyond regular working hours.

There are occasions when a Patwari has to attend to public requirements on holidays and remain available even when other offices are closed. The nature of the job demands continuous coordination between the field and the administrative establishment. This does not mean that public services should be delayed or that citizens should be made to suffer because of staff shortages or excessive workload. Citizens have every right to receive services within the prescribed timelines. However, the administrative system must also recognise that an overburdened employee cannot always deliver instant results, particularly when a matter involves old records, multiple stakeholders, field verification or legal complications.

Sometimes, what appears to be an unnecessary delay is actually the result of procedural requirements, incomplete documentation, unresolved mutations or the need to verify facts on the ground. A citizen's grievance deserves attention, but the circumstances surrounding the grievance must also be examined before fixing responsibility.

**Every grievance deserves a hearing**

If any person has a genuine complaint against a Patwari or any other revenue official, there are established administrative channels through which the matter can be brought to the notice of higher authorities. The concerned Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and other competent authorities can examine complaints according to their jurisdiction. Citizens should never hesitate to approach these authorities when they face harassment, demand for illegal gratification, deliberate delay or denial of legitimate services. Similarly, the administration must ensure that complaints are investigated impartially, evidence is examined and responsibility is fixed wherever misconduct is established.

But a social media allegation should not become a verdict against an entire department. The difference between raising a genuine concern and making an unsubstantiated generalisation must be respected. If an individual is corrupt, identify the individual and establish the facts. If there is an institutional weakness, recommend institutional reform. But do not undermine the reputation of every honest employee who continues to perform his duties under difficult circumstances.

**Accountability must be accompanied by recognition**

There is no doubt that the Revenue Department needs greater transparency, stronger monitoring and citizen-friendly service delivery. Technology, public grievance mechanisms and administrative supervision must be used to eliminate corruption and improve efficiency. At the same time, the government must address the genuine concerns of field-level employees. Shortage of staff, expanding digital responsibilities, inadequate infrastructure, outdated service conditions and the absence of sufficient support can affect the quality and speed of public service delivery.

A system that expects a Patwari to perform traditional revenue duties, handle digital land records, facilitate AgriStack and Farmer ID-related work, participate in surveys and fulfil additional administrative assignments must also provide the necessary resources, training and institutional support. The contribution of Patwaris should be recognised through better working conditions, appropriate incentives, technological facilities and a rational distribution of duties. An employee who works beyond regular hours to meet public requirements should not be treated as an easy target whenever a grievance arises. Equally, no employee should consider himself above the law merely because of the responsibilities attached to his position. Both sides must understand their responsibilities.

**Do not judge an entire system by individual misconduct**

The Revenue Department belongs to the people, and its credibility depends upon public trust. That trust can only be strengthened when citizens receive timely services, officials perform their duties honestly and complaints are dealt with fairly. However, public criticism should be constructive rather than sweeping. It is unfair to place an honest Patwari and an allegedly corrupt official in the same category without examining their individual conduct.

There are countless revenue officials who work sincerely, remain available to people and make genuine efforts to resolve complicated land-related matters. Their contribution should not be erased by allegations directed at others. The Patwari is the grassroots face of the Revenue Department. He is often the person who knows the village, its land, its records and the people whose interests are connected with them. The administration must strengthen this institution rather than allow its credibility to be weakened through indiscriminate criticism.

The message is simple: Fight corruption, but do not condemn honesty. Demand accountability, but also recognise hard work. Question the system where necessary, but never treat every individual within that system as guilty. A healthy administration is not built by protecting the corrupt or by humiliating the honest. It is built by identifying wrongdoing, rewarding sincerity and ensuring justice for both the citizen and the public servant. The Patwaris who have worked tirelessly to bring the traditional revenue record system into the digital era deserve to be heard, understood and respected. Do not paint every Patwari with the same brush. One individual's alleged misconduct cannot become the identity of an entire cadre.

*Mohd Amin Mir is a columnist and legal affairs writer who focuses on governance, land reforms, and institutional accountability in Jammu & Kashmir. He can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com*

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

# Tourism Deptt holds stakeholders meeting to plan Patnitop Carnival 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** The Department of Tourism Jammu & Kashmir Friday convened a stakeholders meeting in the Conference Hall of the Director Tourism Office Jammu, to deliberate on preparations for the upcoming Patnitop Carnival 2026 and discuss broader tourism development issues concerning Patnitop and its adjoining destinations.

The meeting was chaired by MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia and Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta.

Joint Director Tourism, CEO Patnitop Development Authority (PDA), Deputy Director Tourism, other officers and officials of the Tourism Department, representatives from E&Y, members of the hotel industry, Mr. Sathe, President of the Hotel Association, representatives from Hotel Association Patnitop and other tourism stakeholders attended the meeting.

Detailed deliberations were held on the proposed venue, dates, programme schedule, activities and overall arrangements for Patnitop Carnival 2026. The stakeholders exchanged views on making the carnival an attractive tourism event, with a focus on increasing tourist footfall, promoting local culture, showcasing the region's tourism potential and providing greater participation opportunities to local businesses and tourism operators.

The meeting also discussed several important issues relating to tourism development, including the Master Plan for Patnitop and its effective implementation, destination planning, development of Mantalai as a potential tourism destination, besides various regional and local issues concerning tourism stakeholders.

The participants emphasised the need for coordinated efforts among the Tourism Department, Tourism Development Authorities, industry representatives and local stakeholders to strengthen tourism infrastructure, improve destination management and develop Patnitop and its surrounding areas as attractive, sustainable and globally recognised tourism destinations.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on collaborative planning, stakeholder engagement and coordinated action to ensure the successful organisation of Patnitop Carnival 2026 and further strengthen the tourism ecosystem in the region.

# Students of GGHS Pul Doda explore emerging technologies at ATL Lab

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**DODA:** An informative, innovative and interactive exposure session was organised for the students of Government Girls High School Pul Doda at the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL). The students explored emerging fields of modern technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics and Informatics Science.

Lecturer in Physics and Incharge ATL Lab Government High School Boys Doda Uttam Singh familiarised the students with various technological advancements and their applications in daily life. He highlighted the importance of scientific temper, innovation, creativity and practical learning, while encouraging students to develop curiosity and explore new ideas through technology-based education.

During the session, students actively participated in hands-on activities and explored innovative projects, including the making of LED lights, traffic light models and other science-based prototypes. They were also introduced to 3D printing and its applications in designing and developing innovative models. The practical demonstrations helped students understand scientific concepts, develop problem-solving abilities and gain insight into the functioning of modern technological systems.

# ICDS Bandipora holds AMC Meetings across district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, ICDS Bandipora Friday organised Anganwadi Management Committee (AMC) and Panchayat Mahila Samiti meetings at Anganwadi Centres across the district.

The meetings focused on strengthening community participation in combating malnutrition, monitoring service delivery, improving hygiene and ensuring holistic development of children aged 0–6 years.

Discussions covered growth monitoring, supplementary nutrition, early childhood education, VHSND activities, Poshan Tracker updates and identification and referral of malnourished children.

Emphasis was laid on monthly conduct of VHSND and ECCE Day, active participation in Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada, display of SNP menu at AWCs, regular updation of Poshan Tracker, enrolment of children with special needs, and management and referral of malnourished children.

The Committees also resolved to promote community participation through celebration of birthdays and local festivals, mobilization of donations of toys and low-cost TLMs, and establishment of Poshan Vatikas in convergence with Anganwadi Management Committees and Panchayat / Ward Mahila Samitis.

In an initiative to strengthen communication, ICDS Bandipora launched sector-wise WhatsApp groups connecting Anganwadi functionaries with CDPOs and the DPO for awareness generation, information sharing and timely grievance redressal.

Anganwadi Workers also sensitised women about Farmer ID registration and its benefits, including PM-KISAN assistance.

District Programme Officer, ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan, appreciated community participation and directed CDPOs to ensure regular meetings and effective follow-up.

# Career defence school signs MoU with Army, announces fee waiver

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Career Defence School has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army to provide tuition fee concessions of up to 100 per cent to children of serving, retired and martyred Army personnel.

In a statement issued, the institution said the MoU was signed by Brigadier Rajkumar on behalf of the Indian Army and Er. Vinay Kumar Rai, Chief Operating Officer of Career Defence School.

Under the agreement, children of martyred Army personnel will receive a 100 per cent tuition fee waiver without any seat restrictions. Children of serving Army personnel will get a 35 per cent concession for 50 seats, while those of retired personnel will receive a 25 per cent concession for 50 seats.

Speaking on the occasion, Er. Vinay Kumar Rai expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for its trust and support, reaffirming the institution's commitment to providing quality education, personality development, leadership skills, discipline and career guidance to students.

He said the initiative reflects the institution's commitment to supporting defence families and providing better educational opportunities to their children.

Khan Jahangeer and Amir Suhail, Jammu and Kashmir coordinators of Career Defence School, also welcomed the agreement, describing it as a significant step towards recognising the sacrifices and services of armed forces personnel. The institution had earlier signed a similar MoU with the Indian Navy to promote defence awareness, discipline and career opportunities among students.

# Driver killed after vehicle skids off road in Bandipora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** A tipper driver was killed after the vehicle he was driving skidded off the road at Turkpora in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday, trapping him underneath, officials said.

An official said that the tipper driver sustained injuries after the vehicle he was driving skidded off the road and turned turtle, leaving him trapped underneath.

He was then shifted to a hospital, from where he was referred to SKIMS Soura, where he was declared brought dead. The driver was later identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad, a resident of Qazipora.

Meanwhile, cognizance of the incident has been taken.—(KNO)

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

## Teardown Entire

to make sure that grievances of common man are heard.

"Ensuring that citizens' grievances receive a fair hearing is a core duty, requiring a dedicated institutional mechanism for grievance redressal with zero tolerance for negligence at any level," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed for strict vigilance against encroachments along the Line of Control and the International Border (IB). He directed for crackdown against illegal mining, drugs and bovine smuggling and establishing joint social media cells to counter fake news.

"Operations against narco-terrorists must continue relentlessly. We must aim to completely dismantle the narco-terror ecosystem," he said.

The meeting also reviewed the progress achieved under the Vibrant Villages Programme across Jammu Division.

## Mercury Rises

from the previous night, while Kokernag registered 0.7 degrees Celsius against 1.0 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 11.7 degrees Celsius against 10.8 degrees Celsius the previous night. Katra recorded 11.0 degrees Celsius, Banihal 9.4 degrees Celsius, Batote 7.2 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 3.2 degrees Celsius.

The marginal rise in temperatures notwithstanding, signs of the prevailing cold conditions remained visible in parts of south Kashmir, where icicles were seen covering vegetation in the Kokernag area of Anantnag district.

A meteorologist said dry weather was expected to prevail across Jammu and Kashmir until November 30, while temperatures could witness a further decline in the coming days.

The slight improvement in minimum temperatures comes amid the onset of winter conditions across the Valley, with several higher-altitude areas continuing to record sub-zero temperatures—(KNO)

## 'Biased Organisation

Freedom) is a biased and ill-informed organisation with a blatantly political agenda," MEA spokesperson said during a media briefing in New Delhi.

He pointed to the commission's silence on attacks targeting the Indian community in the United States.

"It is particularly telling, and you must note that the USCIRF and its commissioners have consistently kept silent on attacks on religious places in the United States, as well as on hate crimes and racial abuse that are targeted at the Indian community in the United States. Prejudiced entities like the USCIRF can hardly be taken seriously," Jaiswal said.

Last month, an alleged plot to attack a Hindu temple in the US state of Illinois was foiled. Prosecutors alleged that Alexandros Paporakis, 19, of Palatine, a self-identified neo-Nazi, tried to shoot a man outside the Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) Temple in Aurora on October 11, the first day of Navaratri, but his rifle jammed, and that he wrote an eight-page white supremacist manifesto describing violence against people of Indian descent at a Hindu house of worship.

As many as 105 US lawmakers had urged the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to investigate the alleged attempt to carry out a mass shooting at the temple as a possible federal hate crime, warning of growing threats against Indian-Americans and other South Asian communities.

## Pursue Your Dreams,

the Prime Minister, including building a developed India, taking pride in Indian heritage, strengthening national unity and fulfilling civic responsibilities.

He said India's future would be shaped by the energy, innovation and commitment of its young citizens, expressing confidence that the graduating class would play a significant role in strengthening the country's economy and global standing in the decades ahead.

Congratulating students and their families, he noted that only a small fraction of India's youth gain admission to institutions such as Delhi University and described their graduation as the outcome of years of hard work and perseverance.

The minister also outlined six principles for success: dreaming big, maintaining a positive outlook, staying focused, embracing lifelong learning, prioritising health and viewing challenges as opportunities for growth.

Highlighting the role of education in a rapidly changing world, Goyal said graduates must continuously learn and adapt, particularly as technologies such as artificial intelligence reshape industries and workplaces

## Jhelum, Tributaries

Doderhama was measured at minus 0.40 metres against a reference level of 3.65 metres.

The data indicates that water levels across the Jhelum and its tributaries continue to remain substantially below their respective reference marks—(KNO)

## Terror, Organised

abroad, Shah said every fugitive involved in terrorism, organised crime or narcotics offences would be brought back to face trial. He noted that 303 fugitives had been returned to India from 36 countries since 2019.

The conference deliberated on issues such as the organised crime-terror nexus, online radicalisation, cross-border smuggling of arms and narcotics, hawala transactions, trade-based money laundering, drone threats and the use of digital platforms by terrorist networks.

Discussions also focused on artificial intelligence, big data analytics, digital forensics, prosecution of terror cases, witness protection and legal provisions under anti-terror laws.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, in his concluding remarks, stressed the need to translate the PRAHAAR framework into coordinated action at the state, district and police station levels and called for stronger forensic and financial investigation capabilities.

During the conference, Shah released the NIA publication Fail-Safe Investigation, launched the agency's Pushti portal to help citizens verify fraudulent notices issued in the NIA's name, laid the foundation stone for the NIA office complex in Chandigarh and inaugurated its residential complex at Maidangarhi in Delhi—(KNO)







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# Patients flag staff shortages at JLNM Hospital, allege dependence on PG students

GMK NEWS NETWORK




**SRINAGAR:** Patients and attendants visiting Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) Hospital at Rainawari in Srinagar have raised concerns over the functioning of several departments, alleging that an acute shortage of qualified medical staff and inadequate manpower are affecting healthcare services at the government-run facility.

The patients, alleged that the hospital, which caters to a considerable number of people from Srinagar and adjoining areas, is facing a shortage of doctors, particularly in the Radiology Department, while the limited availability of medical officers is also putting additional pressure on the existing staff.

According to patients and attendants, the hospital presently has only one Radiologist available for five days a week, leaving the department under considerable pressure, particularly in view of the number of patients requiring ultrasound, CT scans and other diagnostic investigations. They alleged that the shortage of specialist doctors has raised questions about the timely availability of diagnostic services, with patients often having to wait for investigations and reports.

"The hospital receives a large number of patients every day, but the availability of specialist doctors is not proportionate to the patient load. Having only one Radiologist for five days a week is a matter of concern, particularly for patients who depend on the hospital for timely diagnosis," an attendant said.

Several patients also claimed that postgraduate students are involved in the reporting of CT scans, raising concerns about the extent of their responsibilities and the availability of senior specialists for reviewing diagnostic findings. They further alleged that students are also seen performing or assisting in X-ray-related work.

Attendants said that although medical students and postgraduate residents are part of the academic and practical training system, their involvement should not create an impression that essential diagnostic services are being managed without adequate availability of qualified professionals. "There should be sufficient senior doctors and technical staff to ensure that patients receive proper attention and that all investigations are conducted under adequate professional supervision," another patient said.

Concerns have also been raised over the availability of Medical Officers during night hours, with patients alleging that only a limited number of doctors are deployed on night duty, making it difficult to manage the patient load, particularly during emergencies. Some patients also claimed that certain departments are being headed or managed by doctors engaged under the National Health Mission, reflecting the shortage of regular medical personnel.

The attendants urged the Health and Medical Education Department and hospital administration to assess the existing manpower position, fill vacant specialist and Medical Officer posts and ensure adequate staffing across departments.

Responding to the concerns, an official acknowledged that the hospital was facing considerable manpower constraints, particularly in the Radiology and Ultrasound sections. The official said JLNM Hospital presently has only one Radiologist available for five days a week, resulting in a considerable workload.

Clarifying the concerns over CT scan reporting, the official said all CT scans are reviewed by the Radiologist himself, while preliminary documentation and reporting are undertaken by postgraduate residents under his direct supervision and guidance. "The final interpretation and supervision remain the responsibility of the Radiologist," the official said, adding that the arrangement was part of established academic practice in teaching hospitals.

On the shortage of Medical Officers in the Ultrasound Section, the official said the situation had worsened following the transfer of a senior Sonologist without a replacement, and another doctor being on maternity leave for the past two months.

On the allegations concerning X-ray services, the official clarified that postgraduate and undergraduate students visit the department for academic and practical learning, but all radiographic examinations are performed under the supervision of the senior radiographer or technologist.

The official said that despite the constraints, efforts were being made to ensure uninterrupted radiological services, while acknowledging that addressing staff shortages would significantly improve service delivery and reduce the burden on the existing workforce—(KNO)

# JKSSB reaffirms integrity of Accounts Assistant Examination

## Appreciates swift action by J&K Police

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** 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 appreciated 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 acknowledged 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 recognized 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, unauthorized 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 and security of examination centres/halls and increasing technical surveillance and barriers against the use of technical gadgets as unfair means.

JKSSB reiterates that the sanctity of the examination process and the interests of genuine candidates shall remain paramount. Every selection shall be governed by merit and notified criteria, and any established attempt to undermine the integrity of the recruitment process shall be dealt with strictly in accordance with law.

## Haj-2027

# First Phase of Orientation Programme for Pilgrims from Nov 23

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Haj Committee has announced the schedule for the first phase of the Orientation, Training Programme for selected Haj pilgrims of Kashmir Division, aimed at familiarising them with the Manasik-e-Haj (rituals and practices of Haj).

All selected pilgrims have been advised to attend the compulsory training programme at their respective designated venues as per the prescribed schedule.

The training programme for the pilgrims of Ganderbal will be held on November 23, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Markazia Hanfia Jamia Masjid, Beehama.

Similarly, the training programme for the pilgrims from Rajpora, Shahoora Litter, Pulwama and Kakapora will be held on November 23, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid Chattpora, Pulwama. Likewise, for the Pilgrims from Pampore, Awantipora, Tral and Aripal will be held on November 25, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid, Awantipora.

The training programme for the pilgrims from Drugmulla, Trehgam, Kralpora, Keran, Machil, Sogam, Lalpora and Karnah will be held on November 25, 2026, at 10:00 AM at Markazi Jamia Masjid, Kupwara. Likewise, for the pilgrims from Handwara, Langate, Kralgund, Qaziabad, Vilgam, Zachaldara, Qalamabad and Ramhall, the training will be held on November 28, 2026, at Jamia Masjid Jadeed, Handwara.

The training programme for the pilgrims of Budgam, Khan Sahib, Narbal, Magam, Khag and Beerwah will be held on November 25, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid, Ompora.

Likewise, for the pilgrims from Chadoora, Kanipora, Charari Sharief and BK Pora, the training will be held on November 28, 2026, at Hanfiya Jamia Masjid Raheema, Chadoora.

Similarly, the training session for all pilgrims of Bandipora will be held on November 26, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Masjid Peer, Plan Bandipora. Likewise, for the pilgrims of Kulgam, the training will be held on November 28, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Ziyarat Sharief Masjid, Kulgam.

## "Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyan"

# DLSA Budgam organises Awareness Programme on Child Rights, Protection

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, in collaboration with the Education Department, Budgam, Friday organised an awareness programme on Child Rights and Protection, with special emphasis on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Budgam, under the banner of "Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyan."

The programme was the second programme of the series of programmes being held by DLSA under the campaign.

The programme was organised under the directions of Chairman DLSA O.P Bhagat and under the guidance of Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Tabasum Qadir Parray, with the objective of sensitising students and the teaching fraternity about child rights, child protection mechanisms, and the legal safeguards available to children under the POCSO Act, 2012.

During the programme, Advocate Zahoor Ahmad Malik, Panel Lawyer Advocate Feroz Ahmad Khan and Advocate Showkat Ahmad, Resource Persons, deliberated on various aspects of child rights and POCSO Act,2012 . They highlighted the key provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012, recognising and reporting Child Sexual and abuse, importance of preventing child abuse and exploitation, legal remedies available to victims, and the role of educational institutions, teachers and society in ensuring a safe and protective environment for children. The students were also sensitised about the importance of recognising, reporting and responding appropriately to instances of abuse.

The programme witnessed the participation of teachers, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and a large number of students, who actively attended the awareness session.

The initiative reaffirmed the commitment of DLSA Budgam towards promoting legal awareness, safeguarding the rights and dignity of children, and strengthening community participation in creating a safe, secure and child-friendly environment.

# DC Baramulla presides over Block Diwas at Dangiwacha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, S.F. Hamid Friday presided over a Block Diwas programme at Degree College Dangiwacha, to address public grievances at grassroots-level.

The programme witnessed active participation from public representatives, civil society members, and a large number of local residents from across Block Dangiwacha, who projected various issues and demands pertaining to their areas.

During the interaction, several key issues were raised by the participants including issuance of ration cards to eligible families, macadamisation of the road leading to Hamam Markote, improvement of transport facilities up to Chatoosa, widening of roads connecting Dangiwacha to Yarbugh, Dangiwacha to Laiser, and Cherdaji to Pazalpora.

Other key demands included posting of a Tehsildar in Dangiwacha, adequate water supply to various villages of Dangiwacha block and availability of proper sanitation facilities.

The DC gave a patient hearing to all the grievances raised during the programme, resolving several issues on the spot, and assured the participants that all other genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for prompt and time-bound redressal.

Responding to the issues raised, S.F. Hamid issued strict directions to the concerned departments that there should be no compromise in the delivery of essential public services, particularly revenue-related services, issuance of ration cards to eligible families, availability of safe drinking water and uninterrupted power supply.

He further directed the officers to prioritise matters falling within their jurisdiction and take immediate necessary measures for resolving issues that can be addressed at their level, while ensuring timely action on other demands through proper coordination with the concerned departments.

# DC Shopian reviews Mission YUVA, stresses effective implementation of Initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK




**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Friday chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review the progress achieved under Mission YUVA and assess the implementation of various initiatives being undertaken under the programme.

At the outset, Assistant Director Employment, Dr. Nida Yousuf, briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the applications received, approved, sanctioned and disbursed under the scheme. She also apprised the chair regarding the status of applications at various stages of processing and the measures being taken to facilitate aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to increase the number of applications, particularly from genuine and deserving applicants having viable business ideas. He directed the concerned officers to intensify outreach activities and organise special awareness and facilitation camps to mobilise eligible youth, expedite application processing and ensure timely delivery of benefits.

Emphasising interdepartmental coordination, the Deputy Commissioner called for regular monitoring of applications and prompt resolution of issues faced by prospective beneficiaries. He observed that Mission YUVA is a transformative initiative aimed at empowering youth to become self-reliant entrepreneurs through financial assistance, skill development, capacity building and sustained mentorship.

He directed all concerned departments, financial institutions and implementing agencies to ensure time-bound sanctioning of cases, hassle-free disbursement of financial assistance and elimination of unnecessary pendency.

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION CONSTRUCTION DIVISION,**

**GOGJI-BAGH, SRINAGAR.**

Email ID: exenmicdsrinagar@ifckashmir.com, Telefax 0194 – 2310876.

Subject: - Tender Cancellation

Reference: - This office e-NIT No: - MICD/32 of 2026-27 Dated: - 04.11.2026.

Due to technical reasons the following e-NITs are being Cancelled.

| S. No | Tender ID | Tender Title/Tender Ref No. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2026_IFC_330242_1 | Replacement of Worn-out 10000 GPH discharge, 150 Meters of dynamic head submersible pumping units at Tube Well Irrigation scheme Ghoom Ahmad Pora Baramulla / e NIT 32 of 2026-27 Dated 04-11-2026. |
| 2 | 2026_IFC_330242_2 | Replacement of Worn-out 8000 GPH discharge, 130 Meters of dynamic head submersible pumping units at Tube Well Irrigation scheme Renzipora Pulwama / e NIT 32 of 2026-27 Dated 04-11-2026. |
| 3 | 2026_IFC_330242_3 | Replacement of Worn-out 7000 GPH discharge, 175 Meters of dynamic head submersible pumping units at Tube Well Irrigation scheme Chichiloora Tangmarg / e NIT 32 of 2026-27 Dated 04-11-2026. |

Fresh e NIT for the said work shall be floated shortly.

No : MICD/1866-70
Dated: 20-11-2026.
DIPK-7862-26
DT: 20/11/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar.

از دفترِ تحصیلدار سمبل

اشتہارِ نیلامی

اس اشتہار کے ذریعے عوام الناس کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ کمیونٹی ہیلتھ سینٹر (CHC) سمبل کے احاطے میں واقع ایک خشک (مردہ) چنار کے درخت کی لکڑی کی نیلامی عام عمل میں لائی جا رہی ہے۔

تفصیلاتِ نیلامی درج ذیل ہیں:

- جگہِ نیلامی: دفترِ تحصیلدار سمبل (Tehsil Office Sumbal)
- تاریخِ نیلامی: 25 نومبر 2026 (25/11/2026)
- وقتِ نیلامی: دوپہر 2:00 بجے

شرائط و ضوابط:

1. نیلامی میں حصہ لینے والے خواہشمند حضرات کو بولی شروع ہونے سے قبل مبلغ 5000 روپے بطورِ زرِ ضمانت (CDR/نقد) دفترِ ہٰذا میں جمع کرانا لازمی ہوگا۔
2. کامیاب بولی دہندہ کو نیلامی کی کل رقم کا ایک چوتھائی (25%) حصہ موقع پر ہی جمع کرانا ہوگا، جبکہ بقیہ رقم تین یوم کے اندر سرکاری خزانے میں جمع کرانی ہوگی۔
3. نیلامی منظور یا مسترد کرنے کا مکمل اختیار تحصیلدار سمبل / مجاز کمیٹی کے پاس محفوظ رہے گا، جسے کسی بھی وجہ کے بغیر منسوخ کیا جا سکتا ہے۔

تحصیلدار سمبل
Tehsildar Sonawari
(Executive Magistrate)

DIPK-7860-26
DT: 20/11/2026

NO: The/Sbl/MM/2026/276
Dtd: 20-11-2026

# J&K wins prestigious India Sports Award for "Excellence in Promoting Sports"

GMK SPORTS DESK



**NEW DELHI:** In a moment of immense pride and recognition, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been selected for the prestigious India Sports Award 2026 under the category "Best State/UT Promoting Sports" by the FICCI India Sports Awards Jury.

The recognition acknowledges the Government's sustained efforts towards strengthening the sports ecosystem, promoting sporting culture and creating opportunities for young talent across Jammu & Kashmir.

The award is a testament to the Government's commitment to nurture sporting excellence through development of sports infrastructure, strengthening grassroots sports initiatives, encouraging youth participation and providing a platform for aspiring athletes to showcase their talent at national and international levels. Over the years, Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed a renewed momentum in the sports sector, with focused interventions aimed at making sports an integral part of youth development, discipline, confidence-building and nation-building.

The recognition assumes particular significance as it places Jammu and Kashmir among the leading states/UTs in the country in terms of promoting sports and institutionalising a vibrant sporting culture.

The India Sports Awards 2026 ceremony was held today, at FICCI Federation House, New Delhi, as part of FICCI TURF 2026, the 16th Global Sports Summit. The award stands as an encouragement to the sporting fraternity, young athletes, coaches, sports administrators and all stakeholders who have contributed to the growth of sports in the Union Territory of J&K.

This prestigious honour is not merely an award but a recognition of Jammu and Kashmir's growing sporting aspirations and its commitment to building a healthier, stronger and more empowered generation through sports.

Naila Zahoor, Director Finance, Youth Services & Sports Department J&K, received the prestigious award on behalf of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

# 'There's always one guy whose life changes...': Skipper Klaasen eyes hidden gems as Gulf Giants set for ILT20

IANS




**DUBAI:** As South African power-hitter Heinrich Klaasen is set to lead Gulf Giants in Season 5 of International League T20 (ILT20), the newly appointed skipper believes the tournament will play a career-changing role for the young talents waiting to seize the spotlight.

Klassen was named Gulf Giants captain ahead of Season 5, with the Adani Sportsline-owned franchise banking on his experience and leadership as they target the title.

"It's always exciting to play against players you don't know about. In all such tournaments around the world, there's always one guy whose life and career change after a strong performance. I know there will be plenty of such players in this season as well," Klassen said on a captain's day on Friday.

The ILT20 Season 5 is set to begin tomorrow when the defending champions Desert Vipers take on last season's runners-up MI Emirates in the opener at the Dubai International Stadium.

On the eve of the tournament opener, key players from all six franchises gathered at the DP World Office, Expo City, Dubai, expressing their anticipation and outlining their expectations for the season ahead.

New Zealand stalwart Colin Munro, who returns to the league after two seasons, this time with the Abu Dhabi Knight Riders, noted, "It would be rude not to say we want to go the whole way, but we also just want to have some fun and enjoy the tournament. It's not every day in the UAE that you can watch the calibre of players that are here right now."

Representing the reigning champions Desert Vipers, England pacer David Payne said, "We have a strong core with a few new faces, and we've tried to keep the consistency so that it translates onto the pitch again. Bringing in Shadab Khan as skipper is a great shout for us. Moreover, we all know what a world-class player Tom Curran is. Babar Azam is a world-class talent too, and I'm looking forward to picking his brains and working with him."

Former South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis, who will be making his DP World ILT20 debut with the Dubai Capitals, shared his excitement to finally play in the UAE: "It's always a nice place to play your cricket in such great facilities. South African players have always wanted to play in this tournament because the standard of the competition is quite good."

Afghanistan legend Rashid Khan, who has regularly turned out for MI Emirates, added, "Since this league started, UAE cricket has grown a lot. The youngsters get the opportunity to play with all the big superstars from around the world and learn from them. When you have your own league and all the professional players come and share the pavilion with the youngsters, they learn from it and keep improving. It's a great thing for the game, and we will see a lot of good times coming."

Zimbabwe all-rounder Sikandar Raza, who will lead the Sharjah Warriorz this time around, stated, "It's great that associate players have been included as must-play members, because I believe there are a lot of associate cricketers who are good enough to play in these leagues but unfortunately don't get looked at. It's nice to have one associate playing and two in the squad. It's going to be a nice mixture of players."

Ahead of the opening match at the Dubai International Stadium, there will be a glittering Opening Ceremony, blending cricketing tradition with entertainment.

# 'It is a very positive sign': Akash Deep praises Jaiswal-Rahul's attacking approach

IANS



**WELLINGTON:** India pacer Akash Deep has praised the aggressive batting approach of Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul, saying their quick scoring in the first innings against New Zealand has put the opposition bowlers under pressure and given the visitors a positive start in their reply.

Jaiswal smashed 85 off 89 deliveries, while Rahul remained unbeaten on 52 off 116 balls as India reached 159/1 in 39 overs at stumps on Day Two of the opening Test at the Basin Reserve on Friday. Their 130-run opening partnership provided India with a strong platform in response to New Zealand's first-innings total of 368.

Speaking at the post-day press conference, Akash, who claimed three wickets in New Zealand's first innings, said India's scoring rate was particularly encouraging given the conditions and the importance of getting a result in the Test.

"It is a very positive sign to score runs so quickly. On a wicket like this, if you want a result in a Test match, you have to score quickly, like how we have scored around 150 runs in about 35 to 40 overs (39 overs). This is very positive for our team, and against any opponent, if the batsmen attack like this, the bowlers get pushed onto the back foot," Akash said.

The Indian pacer also felt that the surface was gradually becoming more favourable for batting, with the fast bowlers finding it increasingly difficult to extract assistance. He stressed that India's priority would be to build a substantial first-innings total before putting pressure on the hosts.

"To me, it seems like the wicket is gradually becoming more batting-friendly because fast bowlers are not getting much assistance from it anymore. So it is simple: as we bat, we need to put up a good total, and after that, it becomes a game of patience. Right now, our batting is still underway," he added.

# SMAT 2026: Gaikwad leads Maharashtra to second group win; Bhuvi stars in UP's win

IANS



**NEW DELHI:** Ruturaj Gaikwad helped Maharashtra register their second win in the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy as he hit an unbeaten 44 from 35 balls to help his team chase down 173 against Assam at the Punjab Cricket Association IS Bindra Stadium in Mohali on Friday.

Wicketkeeper Rushikesh Sonawane scored a strong 54 from 32 balls, while Gaikwad made an unbeaten 44 to take the team over the line along with Siddhesh Veer, who scored an unbeaten 18 from 12 deliveries for a five-wicket win on the final ball of the innings.

Sonawane had put a strong platform for Maharashtra in the chase and partnered for an 81-run second-wicket stand with Prithvi Shaw, who scored 29 from 24 balls. His dismissal brought some jitters, but Gaikwad held the innings, and although the team lost Arshin Kulkarni and Ramakrishna Ghosh too, he and Veer completed the chase well. Sonawane was adjudged Player of the Match.

Elsewhere, Punjab edged past Tamil Nadu in a thriller while defending 165 and winning by five runs in Indore. Tamil Nadu were cruising well in the chase and were at 107/2 after 11 overs, needing only 58 runs in the final nine overs with half-centurion Balasubramaniam Sachin and Andre Siddarth in the middle.

However, leg-spinner Kartik Chadha flipped the script with a three-wicket haul to turn the tables. He first removed Andre in the 12th over before getting two wickets in the 14th over to put his team in the front seat. Kartik got the well-set Sachin for 70 and then Rithik Easwaran in the same over for five to bring his team back.

Harpreet Brar accounted for R Rajkumar in the 15th over as Tamil Nadu were left reeling at 135/6 after 15 overs. The bowlers kept striking and Shahrukh Khan was left to do the heavy lifting in the end. With eight runs needed off the last seven balls, Shahrukh was cleaned up by Sukhdeep Bajwa before Krish Bhagat got Gurjapneet Singh as Punjab celebrated a five-run come-from-behind win. This was Punjab's third win of the season as Kartik was named the Player of the Match for his game-changing spell.

# IPL 2027: Hardik's arrival gives Punjab Kings a 'very well-rounded squad', says Ponting

IANS



**NEW DELHI:** Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting believes Hardik Pandya's arrival has given the franchise a very well-rounded squad for IPL 2027, adding that the side's depth of all-rounders, in both pace and spin, would hold them in good stead.

PBKS brought in Hardik in one of the two biggest trades ahead of the auction happening on December 16, while sending left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh the other way. The all-rounder joins a group that already includes Marco Jansen, Suryansh Shedge, Marcus Stoinis and Cooper Connolly.

"I have been really happy with the squad that we put together a couple of years ago. I've been really conscious of trying to keep the majority of our players together through this three-year cycle, leading into another mega auction next year. So we've decided just to release the six players going into the IPL for this season and have retained 19.

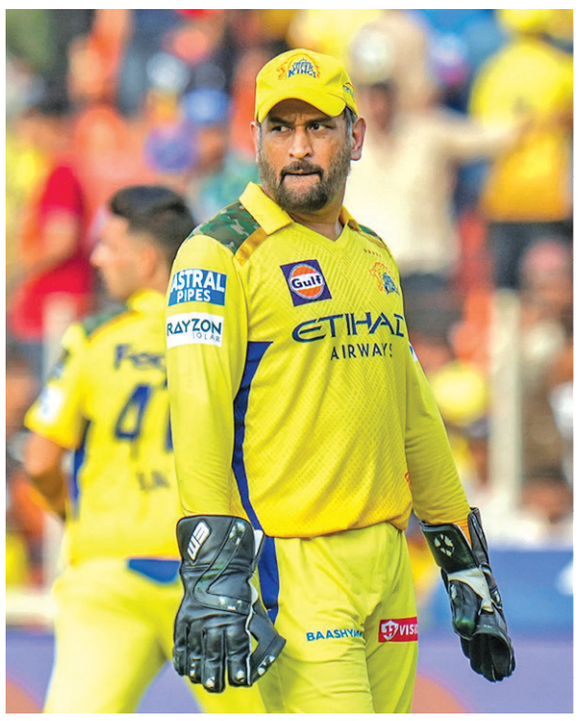
"We've obviously brought in, through trade, Hardik Pandya, and traded out Arshdeep Singh. So yeah, we've got a very well-rounded squad. Obviously, there's been a lot of talk about how many all-rounders we've got in our group.

"With Hardik coming in and Marco Jansen, Marcus Stoinis, Azmatullah, Shedge, Shashank, Cooper Connolly, there are a lot of all-rounders there, which I think will hold us in really good stead. We've got a lot of bases covered there as far as spin bowling all-rounders and fast bowling all-rounders are concerned," Ponting said to JioStar.

With the squad largely settled, Ponting said the first aim of PBKS at the auction, to be held in Goa on December 16, would be to strengthen their playing eleven, before looking at young Indian players they could retain in future.

# 'CSK's identity was made because of Dhoni': Danish Kaneria hails MSD's mentor role

IANS



**NEW DELHI:** Former Pakistan cricketer Danish Kaneria has hailed the decision by the Chennai Super Kings to name MS Dhoni as their mentor following the legend's retirement from the Indian Premier League.

CSK confirmed Dhoni's appointment as the mentor on Tuesday, continuing the 19-year-long association between the two parties, now in a different role.

Speaking on Dhoni's IPL retirement and his appointment to the mentor's role, the ex-Pakistan leg-spinner highlighted how crucial Dhoni has been for CSK. "CSK's identity was made because of MS Dhoni. This is a fact that you can't ignore. CSK's brand which spread all over the world, was because of MS Dhoni. He gave glory to India, won several ICC tournaments," Kaneria told IANS in an exclusive interaction.

"I think this is a very good decision. If it came from Dhoni, then it is very good. CSK was already thinking that if Dhoni won't play, we won't let him go anywhere. He is ours and will be with us as our brand. He will be our mentor," the former cricketer added.

He also emphasised that CSK will be benefiting from Dhoni's mentorship as he knows the team inside out. The former skipper has been associated with the franchise since the inaugural season in 2008 and has led them to glorious titles.

During his time, he has also played a role in developing the next generation of CSK stars. "Dhoni knows CSK from Day 1. Dhoni will be well aware of how CSK runs. He knows how to help the players and what feedback to give to the players. So he knows.

"I think this is a very good thing that Dhoni will be the mentor because the way we have seen him on TV, he flipped games on his own, be it international or IPL games.

"His plans have always clicked. There was a time when people used to call that Dhoni is a kind of guy that even if he puts his hand in the ashes, it becomes gold. It was his time," Kaneria added.

He likened Dhoni's brand to what Virat Kohli is for the RCB. "CSK will never leave Dhoni. Because CSK's brand is made because of Dhoni.

Like RCB's brand is made because of Virat Kohli. RCB is recognised all over the world because of Virat Kohli. If you take Virat Kohli out of RCB, then there is nothing left in RCB.

"So these players have made their image all over the world. It is not by playing franchise cricket but by proving it in international cricket. They have made their mark in international cricket by performing. Main thing is performer. If I am a captain of a team and I am not a performer, then my troops won't listen to me.

"If I am a mentor, then players will ask me, 'What did you do?' If I have done something in the world, people will say he is speaking as he has done it, then people will listen. Dhoni has also done the same. Dhoni has also proved himself on different occasions," he added.

