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Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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On Constitution Day, I pay tribute to the vision and wisdom of our founding fathers and constitution-makers who gave India a strong democratic foundation. As we build a confident, innovative and developed India, let us uphold the ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity in our daily lives.

GK Srinagar • Friday 27, November 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 280 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Home Secy Reviews J&K Security

Calls For Decisive Blow To Terror



REHAN QAYOOM

JAMMU: With the focus of counter-terrorism operations shifting towards tracking down foreign terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Thursday chaired a high-level security review meeting at Police Headquarters in Jammu, with top security and intelligence officials deliberating on measures to prevent infiltration, dismantle remaining terror networks and deliver a decisive blow to terrorism in the Union Territory.

According to details available, the meeting was attended by Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) Mahesh Dixit, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, Chinar Corps Commander Lieutenant General Balbir Singh, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, Chief Secretary Dr Sajan Singh Yadav, IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar, IGP Jammu Tejinder Singh, and Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) G.P. Singh, along with chiefs of other Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), senior officials of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and representatives of various security and intelligence agencies.

The review focused on the prevailing security situation, particularly the presence of foreign terrorists in mountainous and forested areas, infiltration attempts from across the borders, intelligence coordination and measures to prevent local youth from joining terrorist ranks.

The meeting assumes significance as security agencies intensify their efforts against foreign terrorists following the killing of the last identified active local terrorist in the Kashmir Valley, Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Mohammad Lateef • P-06

Constitution Day Celebration

LG Urges Citizens To Uphold Constitutional Values, Strengthen Democratic Institutions

Says Constitution Gave Future Generations Foundation To Achieve Unimaginable

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Thursday attended the Constitution Day celebration and called upon the citizens of Jammu Kashmir to draw inspiration from the Constitution in the collective journey towards building a developed, inclusive and progressive India and self-reliant Union Territory.

Addressing citizens on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor noted that Constitution Day provides an opportunity to reconnect with the ideals that define the Republic and to renew commitment to the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

Recalling the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949, the Lieutenant Governor described it as a historic milestone that gave constitutional direction to independent India and laid the foundation for a democratic future based on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.



The Lieutenant Governor said that the Constitution is not merely a legal document but a living expression of India's collective aspirations and democratic commitment. Emphasising the achievements of the nation over the past 77 years, he observed that India is reaching new heights in areas such as space, semiconductors, digital technology, science and innovation, made possible by the strong constitutional foundation laid by the nation-builders.

Paying tribute to Baba Saheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar and other members of the Constituent Assembly, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of social democracy and fraternity in sustaining democratic institutions. The Lieutenant Governor underlined that legal and constitutional safeguards alone are not sufficient unless citizens recognise and respect the dignity, rights and aspirations of one another in everyday life.

Referring to rapid advances in artificial • P-06

India's Destiny Lies In Its Youth, Says LG Sinha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said India's destiny lies in its youth and called upon students to light the three lamps of knowledge, compassion and character.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth to play a leading role in realising the vision of a developed India by 2047. He urged them to combine knowledge with compassion, skill with values, and success with social responsibility.

"As you advance in your careers, do not forget that children in the villages who may not have access to coaching but whose dream is just as big as yours. When you succeed, turn back and hold that child's hand. I believe that true success is the success that returns to illuminate the paths of others," the Lieutenant Governor said while felicitating • P-06

Dry Spell To Continue In Kashmir Till Dec 3



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Kashmir is likely to experience continued cold and dry weather conditions until December 3, while two Western Disturbances are expected to affect Jammu and Kashmir between December 4 and 10, potentially bringing rain and snowfall to parts of the region.

Srinagar recorded the season's lowest minimum temperature of minus 1.9 degrees Celsius for the second consecutive day, as several other parts of the Valley also witnessed freezing or near-freezing night temperatures.

According to the latest weather data, Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, followed by Qazigund at minus 2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara at minus 1.6 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 1 degree Celsius, while Kokernag settled at 0 degrees Celsius. Shopian also continued to remain among the coldest areas of the Valley.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 10.6 degrees • P-06

India And Turkey Discuss Bilateral Ties



IANS

NEW DELHI: India and Turkey on Thursday held discussions on bilateral ties and also regional as well as global developments. The discussions were held during a meeting between Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Sibi George and Turkey's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Berris Ekinci in New Delhi on Thursday.

"Secretary (West) Sibi George met Ms. Berris Ekinci, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. They held discussions on regional and global developments along with India-Turkey relations in various areas," the MEA posted on X after the meeting.

Ekinci is currently on an official visit to India to attend 25th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) scheduled to be held in New Delhi on Friday. As a host, India will discuss future policy direction for IORA with an emphasis on reviewing regional cooperation frameworks and identifying new areas of collaboration.

The theme for India's IORA chairmanship 2025-2027 is 'Innovation, Openness, Resilience • P-06

Air Raid, Blackout Mock Drills Conducted Across J&K Districts

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Civil defence air raid and blackout mock drills were conducted across several districts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Bandipora, Anantnag, Shopian, Poonch and Rajouri, on Thursday to assess emergency preparedness and response mechanisms, officials said.

The exercises, were organised by the respective district administrations in coordination with police, health, fire and emergency services, SDRF, civil defence and other departments.

In Bandipora, an air raid mock drill was held at NM Boys Higher Secondary School to assess coordination among emergency response agencies during crisis situations.

Anantnag conducted an air raid exercise in the afternoon, followed by a blackout drill in the evening, during which residents switched off lights and covered windows after warning sirens were sounded.



In Shopian, a civil defence air raid and blackout drill at Government Degree College simulated evacuation, search-and-rescue operations and emergency response measures.

Similar exercises were also conducted in Poonch and Rajouri as part of the Union Territory-wide preparedness initiative.

Officials said the drills were conducted in accordance with directions issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Home Department for mock exercises across the Union Territory from November 23 to 27—(KNO)

HM Shah Remembers Victims Of 2008 Mumbai Attacks

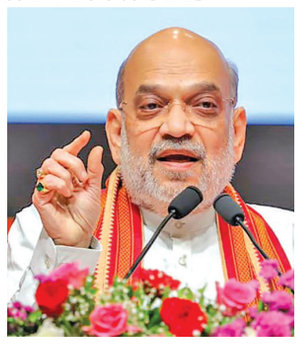
AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday hailed India's "leading role" in the global fight against terrorism, acting against its every form, as he paid tribute to the soldiers, police personnel and the innocent people killed in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

In a post on X on the anniversary of the attack, Shah said the terrorist attacks on Mumbai on this day in 2008 shook the entire nation.

He saluted the soldiers who laid down their lives while "giving a crushing response" to the terrorists and paid tribute to all the innocent people who lost their lives.

"Terrorism is the most heinous crime against humanity. The Modi government's 'zero tolerance' policy against terror is being praised worldwide. Today, India is playing a leading role in the global fight against terrorism, taking decisive action against every form



of terror and every conspiracy," he said.

On November 26, 2008, 10 heavily armed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists who sailed into Mumbai from Pakistan launched a gruesome coordinated terrorist attack on innocent citizens in the cosmopolitan city, leaving 166 people, including foreigners, dead and more than 300 injured, making it one of the deadliest terror strikes in an Indian city.

The attack, which continued until the morning of November 29, • P-06

August 5, 2019 Decision Corrected 'Historical Injustice': PM

Article 370, 35A Kept J&K Away From Full Constitutional Integration

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Asserting that the continued existence of Article 370 and Article 35A had kept several communities from enjoying certain rights, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the constitutional changes made in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 had corrected a "historical injustice."

In an opinion article on Constitution Day, PM Modi, said, "The provisions had prevented the full implementation of the Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir for decades."

He said Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and women had been deprived of certain rights.

The Prime Minister cited the changes as part of the NDA government's efforts to strengthen constitutional values and advance social and economic justice.



PM Modi also criticised the Congress, accusing it of undermining constitutional principles during its decades in power. He said the party had increasingly shifted from being a "Virodh Paksh" (opposition) to an "Avrodh Paksh" (obstructionist).

He said a constitutional democracy assigns an important responsibility to the Opposition, but disrupting democratic proceedings cannot substitute for fulfilling that role.

The article marked Constitution Day, observed on November 26 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. Modi paid tribute to Dr Rajendra Prasad, Dr B R Ambedkar and other members of the Assembly.

He said the Constitution had enabled people from modest backgrounds to aspire to positions of responsibility, describing it as an inseparable part of his own journey.

Highlighting the government's initiatives, PM Modi referred to constitutional amendments relating to the Goods and Services Tax, the National Commission for Backward Classes and reservation for Economically Weaker Sections.

He also cited welfare schemes, digital payments and the replacement of colonial-era • P-06

Essential Business

Parliament To Reconvene On Nov 30

IANS

NEW DELHI: Parliament is set to reconvene on Monday, with the government requesting the presiding officers of both Houses to resume proceedings for a brief sitting aimed at transacting essential government business, informed Parliamentary Affairs and Minister Kiren Rijiju.

"The Government has requested Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha to reconvene Lok Sabha on Monday, 30th November, 2026 and Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, 2nd December, 2026 respectively to transact essential Government Business. Subject to exigencies of the Business, the sitting of both Houses may conclude on 3rd December, 2026," he posted on X on Thursday.

The proposed sittings would be a continuation of the Monsoon Session, which was • P-06

NGT Orders Probe Near Pampore Fields

Can Kashmir's Saffron Survive The Garbage Menace?

Study Links Soil Degradation, Heavy Metals To Decline Of Prized Crop



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: A study linking depleted soil nutrients and higher heavy-metal levels with declining saffron growth in Kashmir has added to concerns over environmental damage to the region's prized crop, as the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered an inquiry into alleged municipal waste dumping near saffron fields in Pampore.

The NGT has formed a joint committee to investigate the allegations and submit a report within eight weeks. The order came during the first hearing of a petition filed by 37 farmers and environmentalist Raja Muzaffar Bhat, who have sought closure of the dumping site and compensation for affected farmers.

The study, accessed, examined soil samples from Pampore and Chandhara in Pulwama district and Chadoora in Budgam district. Researchers Syed Owais Mushtaq, Parshant Dahiya, Anjali Awasthi and Chandra Shekhar • P-06

DIPR observes Constitution Day in Jammu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) observed the Constitution Day Thursday with a solemn ceremony, marking the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India and reaffirming its commitment to the principles enshrined in the country's supreme law.

On the occasion, officers and officials of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations and the Joint Directorate of Information, Jammu, assembled to collectively read the Preamble to the Constitution, reiterating their faith in the ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

The gathering also witnessed the administration of a pledge, wherein the participants resolved to uphold the sanctity of the Constitution and perform their official responsibilities with sincerity, integrity and a strong sense of public service.

The observance served as an occasion to reflect upon the significance of constitutional values in strengthening democratic institutions, promoting social harmony and ensuring an inclusive and accountable system of governance.

Reiterating their commitment, the officers and officials resolved to let the constitutional principles guide their professional conduct and public responsibilities, while continuing to serve the people with dedication, transparency and impartiality.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Deputy Director Information (Hqrs) Jammu, Ashu Kumari; other officers and officials of DIPR were present on the occasion.

DC Sgr inspects newly built Neo-Natal ICU Block at JLNM Hospital

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Thursday visited JLNM Hospital, Rainawari and inspected the functioning of the newly built additional 10-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Block for new born babies established by the District Administration at a cost of Rs 1.20 crore using convergence of funds available at the District level.

The newly established NICU is equipped with two high-end mechanical ventilators, three Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machines and other advanced medical support equipment to provide specialised intensive care to critically ill newborns, ensuring timely and effective treatment at the hospital.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the newly created infrastructure, medical equipment and operational preparedness of the facility. He also assessed the arrangements put in place to ensure the effective functioning of the NICU and delivery of specialised healthcare services to newborns.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the newly established NICU Block would significantly strengthen the neonatal healthcare infrastructure at JLNM Hospital by expanding its capacity to provide specialised and critical care to newborns, while ensuring timely access to advanced medical facilities for infants requiring intensive treatment.

The DC further stated that the facility would strengthen the hospital's existing neonatal care infrastructure and enable timely treatment of critically ill newborns at JLNM Hospital, minimising the need for referrals to other healthcare institutions for specialised intensive care. He added that the facility would cater to the needs of newborns from Srinagar district as well as patients referred from various parts of the Kashmir Division, improving access to advanced neonatal healthcare services.

The DC stressed upon the medical and paramedical staff, particularly the Paediatric Department, to ensure optimal utilisation of the newly created facility and maintain the highest standards of patient care. He also underscored the importance of ensuring the proper functioning of all medical equipment and effective coordination among the concerned departments for providing timely and quality treatment to newborns.

Pertinent to mention that District Administration Srinagar using convergence of funds had earlier established Additional NICU Block at LD Hospital which has already become functional.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM West, Seerat Baji, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineer, Executive Engineer R&B, Arif Hazari, Medical Superintendent JLNM Hospital, Dr Tariq, Tehsildar Khanyar, Syed Shahid, Deputy MS JLNM, Dr Aasifa, besides other senior Officers of District Administration and Health Department were present on the occasion.

DIPR Shopian organises Awareness Programme on Cyber Security

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SHOPIAN: An awareness programme on Cyber Security and Digital Safety was organised Thursday at the Auditorium Hall of Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Shopian, in collaboration with the DIPR's Cultural Unit Kashmir.

Students from various schools participated in the programme and shared their perspectives on cyber security and digital safety. They highlighted the importance of password protection, data privacy, safe internet usage and avoiding suspicious links. Emphasising the principles of "Think Before You Click" and "Verify Before You Trust," the students also spoke about ways to prevent online fraud and cybercrime.

Cyber security experts and senior scientists also addressed the gathering, sensitising participants about emerging cyber threats, digital frauds and preventive measures. They stressed the need to remain vigilant while using social media and online platforms and to protect personal information and digital credentials.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Charandeep Singh, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, he underscored the growing importance of cyber security and digital safety in today's technology-driven world, particularly for the younger generation.

He observed that Gen Z remains extensively connected to social media and digital platforms, making it essential to understand the risks and responsibilities associated with the digital environment. He emphasised that being connected to a network does not necessarily ensure safety unless users are aware of and follow appropriate cyber security measures.

The DC advised students to exercise caution while clicking on links, sharing information or interacting online, and cautioned them against cyber frauds, including digital arrest scams. He also highlighted the increasing use of artificial intelligence and computer networks, stating that while technology has become indispensable, it must be adopted responsibly, with due care to ensure the safety of personal data and digital credentials.

Calling upon students to become master trainers, the DC urged them to disseminate cyber safety awareness among the wider community, particularly parents and senior citizens. He also stressed the need for regular dissemination of cyber safety advisories through social media by the District Administration.

The programme also featured cultural performances by the Cultural Unit Kashmir, adding an engaging and informative dimension to the awareness initiative.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, Principal GDC Shopian, Prof. Dr. Tariq Ahmad Mir, Deputy Director Information, Srinagar, Zubair Ahmad Latoo; Cultural Officer, Raqib Ahmad Bhat; District Information Officer Shopian, Sajad Ahmad Shah; officers and officials from the Cultural Unit Kashmir and other officers.

DDC Bandipora Chairs DCC-DLRC review

Directs Banks to accelerate Priority Sector Lending

GMK NEWS NETWORK



BANDIPORA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Consultative Committee (DCC) and District Level Review Committee (DLRC) to review the banking and credit performance of the district for the second quarter of FY 2026-27, ended September 30, 2026.

At the outset, the Lead District Manager briefed the committee on the sector-wise performance and achievements of banks during the first quarter. During the deliberations, banks were advised to step up credit flow, particularly under Agriculture, MSME, Education, and Housing, to strengthen overall lending under the Priority Sector.

Reviewing the financial figures, it was informed that banks operating in Bandipora disbursed ₹701 crore against the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) target of ₹1,655 crore, registering an achievement of 42 percent of the annual target. Of the total credit extended, ₹267 crore was disbursed under the Priority Sector and ₹434 crore under the Non-Priority Sector.

The DDC directed the concerned departments and banking institutions to cover the remaining Farm Operating Families (FOFs) within the next two quarters through dedicated awareness and saturation drives.

The committee also reviewed progress under Mission YUVA. It was informed that 1116 entrepreneurs have received finance under the flagship program amounting to ₹47 crores and J&K Bank was advised to expedite disbursements under Mission YUVA. Similarly, Banks were directed to significantly scale up fresh enrolments under the Social Security Schemes. The committee also took stock of the progress achieved under PMEGP, implemented through KVIB, DIC, and KVIC.

Addressing the sponsoring agencies, the Chair directed all Line Departments to improve the quality of cases sponsored under various Government Sponsored Schemes and ensure that viable and eligible applications are forwarded to banks for timely sanction and disbursement.

Bandipora joins UT-Level celebrations of Constitution Day 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The District Administration Bandipora Thursday joined the UT-level celebrations of Constitution Day, marking the adoption of the Constitution of India.

The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, led the Preamble reading ceremony at the UT level, with officers and officials across the Union Territory participating in the event.

In Bandipora, Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib, along with district officers and officials, participated in the Preamble reading ceremony. Similar programmes were also held at Sumbal and Gurez Sub-Divisions.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that ensuring equal opportunities for all is a shared responsibility, stressing that everyone should get the chance to grow and progress together.

Constitution Day celebrated in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) was celebrated across Kulgam district Thursday, to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and reaffirm the values and principles enshrined in it.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, administered the Constitution Day pledge to officers and officials at Conference Hall, Kulgam, reaffirming their commitment to uphold the constitutional values and democratic principles.

Meanwhile, a separate pledge ceremony was held at the Auditorium of the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, where the pledge was administered by ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan. The observance served as a reminder of the importance of the Constitution in guiding governance, safeguarding citizens' rights and promoting unity, integrity and democratic ideals.

Constitution Day celebrated by DLSA Srinagar at District Court Complex

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar in collaboration with District Judiciary Srinagar, celebrated Constitution Day at the District Court Complex, Srinagar, to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and to spread awareness about its significance, values and principles.

On the occasion, Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman, DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Srinagar, lead out the collective reading of the Preamble of the Constitution of India which was followed by the Judicial Officers, Staff Members and other participants posted at District Court Complex, Srinagar. The programme highlighted the importance of the Constitution, its fundamental principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, and the responsibility of every citizen to uphold constitutional values.

The Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, emphasized the importance of creating awareness about constitutional rights, duties and the fundamental values enshrined in the Constitution.

Similar programmes were also organised at various Legal Literacy Clubs (LLCs) including LLC Kothibagh, LLC SP Hr. Secondary, LLC Chanapora, LLC MPML, LLC CPS, LLC Bilaliya, etc. and Free Legal Aid Clinics (FLACs) including FLAC IMHANS, FLAC Bagh-e-Mehtab, FLAC JJB, FLAC Pantha Chowk, FLAC Dargah, FLAC GMC and Ahat-e-Waqar across Srinagar District by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) deputed at these centres, with the objective of spreading constitutional awareness among students and the general public.

Shopian conducts civil defence air raid mock drill

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SHOPIAN: In a proactive initiative to strengthen disaster preparedness and enhance emergency response mechanisms, the District Administration Shopian, under the aegis of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Thursday conducted a comprehensive Civil Defence Air Raid Mock Drill at Government Degree College Shopian.

The exercise was aimed at assessing the preparedness of various response agencies, familiarising personnel with emergency protocols and ensuring effective coordination during unforeseen situations.

The mock drill witnessed the active participation of Civil Defence personnel, SDRF, Jammu & Kashmir Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Health Department and trained volunteers. The exercise involved activation of early warning systems through sirens and public address mechanisms, evacuation procedures, emergency first aid, and coordinated deployment of rescue teams and vehicles.

Various specialised teams carried out search and rescue operations in a systematic manner. The AST Party conducted area sweeps, while search teams assessed the site for potential hazards. The cordon and control team secured the affected area, and the instruments party undertook debris clearance and victim rescue operations.

The tagging team, in coordination with medical personnel, carried out triage of simulated casualties according to the severity of injuries. Lifting and stretcher teams ensured the safe evacuation and transportation of injured persons, while the assessment team conducted a detailed survey of the affected area and documented the response.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Charandeep Singh, inspected the SDRF equipment and rescue tools deployed during the exercise. He interacted with SDRF personnel and sought detailed information about the utility, functioning and operational application of various equipment used in search, rescue and emergency response operations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of conducting such mock drills to build public awareness, improve preparedness and strengthen the response capacity of frontline agencies. He emphasised that regular exercises help identify gaps, familiarise personnel with standard operating procedures and ensure a swift, coordinated and effective response during emergencies.

Dir Agri inspects Seed Multiplication Farm Tapper

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Thursday conducted an extensive inspection of the Seed Multiplication Farm at Tapper, Baramulla to review the ongoing seed production activities and assess the overall functioning and performance of the farm.

During the inspection, the Director took a detailed appraisal of various agricultural operations, with particular focus on seed multiplication activities, crop health, field management practices and the progress of different crops. He also reviewed the measures being undertaken to ensure the production and availability of quality seeds for farmers. Shah also visited Seed processing plant at the farm to monitor its functioning.

Interacting with the concerned officers and technical staff, the Director stressed the importance of maintaining prescribed quality standards at every stage of seed production, from field preparation to harvesting and post-harvest management.

He emphasised that seed multiplication farms have a significant role in strengthening the departmental seed production infrastructure and ensuring timely availability of quality seeds to the farming community.

The Director directed the concerned officers to ensure proper monitoring of field activities, adopt improved scientific interventions and make optimum utilisation of available resources to achieve the desired production targets.

B'la celebrates Constitution Day with Preamble Oath, Awareness Exhibition

GMK NEWS NETWORK



BARAMULLA: District Administration Baramulla Thursday celebrated Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) with enthusiasm, reaffirming its commitment to the constitutional values and democratic principles enshrined in the Constitution of India.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, along with other officers and officials joined the UT-level Constitution Day function virtually from the DC Office Complex Baramulla. The UT-level function was organised at the Convention Centre, Jammu, and presided over by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha.

At the District level, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid, led the observance by administering the Preamble oath to officers, officials and other participants at the premises of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Baramulla

As part of the celebrations, the Information Department Baramulla established exhibition boards within the DC Office premises, showcasing informative displays on the Constitution of India. Students present at the venue apprised visitors about the Constitution, its significance, fundamental principles and various constitutional provisions, thereby spreading awareness among the participants and visitors.

Deadlock persists as non-gazetted GMC employees continue protest



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The deadlock over recruitment rules in five newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) of Jammu and Kashmir continued on Thursday, with non-gazetted employees refusing to call off their agitation despite an assurance from Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav that the rules would be notified within a month.

Employees associated with GMC Rajouri, GMC Doda, GMC Kathua, GMC Handwara and GMC Baramulla continued their protest and hunger strike, insisting that the agitation would end only after the government formally notifies the long-pending recruitment rules.

The Coordination Committee representing the employees said it had deliberated on the Chief Secretary's assurance but decided to continue the protest, citing similar commitments made over the past seven years that did not yield any concrete outcome.

The ongoing agitation has affected services at hospitals attached to the five medical colleges, causing inconvenience to patients and attendants.

The Chief Secretary had interacted with protesting employees on Tuesday during his visit to Rajouri after they stopped his cavalcade and sought his intervention in resolving the issue.

During the interaction, Dr Yadav assured them that the recruitment rules would be notified within a month after completion of the required formalities.

He said the draft rules had already been sent by the Health and Medical Education Department to the Finance Department for examination and would subsequently be processed by the Administrative Reforms, Inspections and Trainings Department before being placed before the Lieutenant Governor for approval.

The employees are demanding immediate notification of recruitment rules to establish a uniform service framework, including clear designations, seniority norms, promotional avenues and career progression for non-gazetted staff across the five medical colleges.

The Coordination Committee reiterated that the agitation would continue until the government issues a formal notification, keeping the stalemate unresolved despite the Chief Secretary's intervention—(KNO)

Javid Dar calls for upholding constitutional values in everyday governance

Lauds ministerial employees for backbone role in administration

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday attended the Constitution Day and Ministerial Employees Day celebrations as the chief guest at SKICC, Srinagar.

Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir All Departments Clerical Staff Association (Ministerial Cadre), the event recognised the vital contribution of ministerial employees to the effective functioning of Government administration.

Addressing a large gathering of employees, the Minister described ministerial employees as the backbone of the administrative system. He said their experience, dedication and professionalism are vital to the smooth functioning of every department and to the timely delivery of public services.

Highlighting the changing nature of governance, Javid Dar stressed the need for employees to adapt to digital technologies and emerging tools, including Artificial Intelligence, while firmly maintaining the values of human judgement, accountability and integrity. He said technology should be used to strengthen efficiency, not to replace responsibility.

The Minister also underscored the need to move beyond routine file processing towards a citizen-centric approach. He observed that the true purpose of administration is not merely to move files but to resolve people's problems and ensure timely delivery of services.

Acknowledging the concerns relating to promotions, career progression and workload, the Minister said these issues deserve due consideration through appropriate administrative channels. He added that continuous capacity building and professional development must remain a priority so that employees are equipped to meet the evolving demands of governance.

Referring to Constitution Day, Javid Dar said the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity must find expression in the everyday functioning of Government institutions. He called upon the employees to discharge their responsibilities with honesty, efficiency and a spirit of public service.

HoDs of Agri and Allied Departments, senior officers, office-bearers of the Employees Association, representatives of the ministerial cadre and employees from various government departments attended the programme.

JKEDI–Tally Startup Connect focuses on Building Sustainable Businesses



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), on Thursday organised JKEDI–Tally Startup Connect in collaboration with Tally Solutions Pvt. Ltd., as a one-day engagement aimed at empowering innovators and helping startups strengthen their businesses and accelerate growth at Main Campus Pampore.

The programme, titled "Building Beyond the Idea – From First Customer to a Business Built to Last," focused on practical aspects of building and managing sustainable enterprises. The session highlighted that a promising idea is only the starting point, and that startups need to develop a clear understanding of their finances, track business performance, adopt suitable technology and make informed decisions as they progress towards growth.

Representatives from Tally Solutions Pvt. Ltd., including Balaji S., General Manager, North Zone; Balwant Singh Chauhan, DGM, Product Excellence; and Ravneet Singh Pahuja, RSM, along with members of the company's marketing and business development teams, interacted with startup founders and shared industry insights and practical perspectives on business management.

The programme provided participants an opportunity to learn about the tools and approaches that can support efficient business operations, strengthen decision-making and help enterprises move from the initial customer stage towards sustainable growth.

The programme was coordinated by Irtif Mehraj, Incubation Manager, JKEDI, along with the JKEDI Startup Team, whose efforts and coordination played a vital role in facilitating the engagement and ensuring its smooth conduct.

Through such industry collaborations, JKEDI continues to connect startups with relevant expertise and practical knowledge, enabling entrepreneurs to build stronger, more resilient and growth-oriented businesses.

J&K Resident Commissioner's Office observes Constitution Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Office of the Resident Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir, Thursday observed Constitution Day with great enthusiasm and reverence, commemorating adoption of the Constitution of India.

On the occasion, all officers and officials of the office read out the Preamble to the Constitution in unison, reaffirming their commitment to the values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity enshrined in it. The participants also took a solemn pledge to uphold the Constitution and discharge their duties with honesty, integrity and dedication towards the nation and its citizens.

The ceremony was marked by a spirit of unity, patriotism and constitutional pride. The officers and officials reiterated their resolve to work in accordance with the constitutional ideals and to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir with transparency, accountability and compassion.

Among those present on the occasion were Additional Resident Commissioner, Anil Sharma, Additional Secretary Supriya Kohli, along with other officers and officials of the Resident Commissioner's Office.

The participants expressed that Constitution Day is not merely a day of remembrance but a day of rededication to the democratic values that form the foundation of the country.

Meanwhile, the Kashmir Bureau of Information also celebrated the national event with equal fervour. The officers and officials of the Bureau gathered to read out the Preamble and took the pledge to preserve and protect the Constitution.

HC of J&K and Ladakh Commemorates Constitution Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh commemorated the 77th Constitution Day with solemnity and reverence at its Jammu Wing Thursday, marking the adoption of the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949.

On the occasion, Chief Justice, Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, led the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of India, followed by Judges, Judicial Officers and Officers/officials of the Registry present on the occasion.

The ceremony was graced by the august presence of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice Yash Paul Bourney.

The event was attended by Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Mohinder Kumar Sharma; Registrar Vigilance and Director, J&K State Judicial Academy, Rajiv Gupta; Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum; Registrar Rules, Faizan-ul-Haq Iqbal; Registrar Judicial, Swati Gupta,; Registrar (IT), Umesh Sharma; Joint Registrar (Judicial/Protocol), Meyank Gupta; Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Sunil Kumar; Central Project Coordinator e-Courts, Faizan-I-Nazar; Registrar (Recruitment), Baldev Raj; Registrar (Personal Staff), Pankaj Kumar Gupta; Registrar (Estates), Ajay Kumar; besides other officers and officials of the High Court Registry.

The observance reaffirmed the institution's commitment to the constitutional ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, and its resolve to uphold constitutional values, judicial independence and the rule of law.

8th Edition of "Know Your Artisan" inaugurated at Polo Ground

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: The Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Thursday inaugurated the 8th Edition of "Know Your Artisan," programme, held under the aegis of Soulful Kashmir brand promotion campaign at Polo Ground Park, here.

The event, being held from November 26 to 28, shall showcase Kashmir's famed handmade products from high-value crafts like carpets, pashmina and kani shawls to papier mache, willow wicker and walnut wood carving in non-textile sector.

The three-day event aims to provide a vibrant platform for showcasing the rich and diverse craft heritage of Jammu & Kashmir while creating direct interaction between traditional artisans and the craft lovers, buyers and tourists. "It seeks to bridge the gap between the creators and potential buyers of handicraft products, enabling visitors to understand the skill, dedication and cultural legacy behind every handcrafted products," he said, adding as many as 21 stalls have been installed, with a 'Try Your Hands' corner to connect with youth and children.

With the onset of winter, this edition places special emphasis on Kashmir's traditional winter crafts and products, including Pashmina, woollen textiles, carpets and other indigenous crafts, highlighting their warmth, elegance and enduring cultural significance.

The spokesman emphasized the importance of preserving traditional craftsmanship while creating sustainable market opportunities and greater visibility for local artisans. "The event also reflects the Department's continued commitment towards promoting artisan-led entrepreneurship, strengthening market linkages and taking Kashmir's rich handicraft heritage to wider audiences," he added.

The participating artisans are showcasing their products and craftsmanship, offering visitors an opportunity to explore authentic handmade products and engage directly with the people who preserve these age-old traditions.

The Department has invited the general public, craft enthusiasts, tourists and stakeholders to visit the exhibition and extend their support to local artisans.

MLA Pampore, DC Pulwama review Sector-Wise Progress of Dev Works



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Member of Legislative Assembly, Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Thursday jointly chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI), Pampore, to assess the progress of developmental works and implementation of various schemes across the Pampore Assembly Constituency.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Joint Director Planning Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday; Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Executive Engineers of various departments, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers, Executive Officer and other concerned district and sectoral officers.

During the meeting, concerned officers from various departments presented detailed sector-wise progress reports and apprised the chair of the status of ongoing and completed developmental works being executed under District Capex, UT Capex, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Constituency Development Fund, NABARD and other flagship programmes. The physical and financial progress of projects, expenditure, implementation status and issues affecting execution were discussed in detail.

A comprehensive review of key sectors, including Jal Shakti, Irrigation and Flood Control, Roads and Buildings, PMGSY, Rural Development, Health, Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Power Development and Urban Local Bodies, was undertaken. The chair reviewed the status of water supply schemes, road connectivity projects, flood protection and restoration works, healthcare infrastructure, educational facilities, rural development initiatives and other public utility projects being implemented across the constituency.

The Rural Development sector was reviewed with particular focus on implementation of works under District Capex, CDF, MGNREGA, PMAY-G and other rural development schemes.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to accelerate the pace of execution, ensure optimal utilisation of available funds and maintain close field-level monitoring to ensure that developmental works are completed within the stipulated timelines.

They also reviewed progress in the Health and Education sectors, including ongoing healthcare infrastructure projects, upgradation of health facilities, school infrastructure and other initiatives aimed at improving public service delivery. The concerned officers were directed to address pending issues and ensure timely completion of ongoing projects.

Progress under Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry sectors was also assessed, with emphasis on effective implementation of beneficiary-oriented schemes and strengthening livelihood opportunities. The status of works and initiatives being undertaken by MC Pampore was also reviewed.

MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi, highlighted various developmental priorities and issues concerning the constituency, emphasising the need for coordinated efforts by all line departments to address public concerns and bridge infrastructure gaps.

The DC emphasised strict monitoring of developmental works, adherence to quality specifications and timely utilisation of funds under various budgetary heads. He also reviewed the winter preparedness and directed that all available machinery and manpower shall remain fully prepared to meet the winter related requirements.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed accountability, inter-departmental coordination and time-bound execution of developmental projects. He directed all concerned officers to maintain close monitoring of works, resolve pending bottlenecks on priority and ensure that the benefits of various developmental schemes reach the people in a timely and effective manner.

CM Omar extends greetings on Constitution Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Constitution Day.

Paying tribute to the framers of the Indian Constitution, the Chief Minister reaffirmed his commitment to upholding its foundational ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

He said these enduring constitutional values continue to guide the collective endeavour towards building a stronger, more inclusive and equitable Jammu and Kashmir.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Crafts Need Markets, Not Just Exhibitions

Kashmir's handicraft heritage is not merely a symbol of its cultural identity; it is the livelihood of thousands of families whose generations have kept traditional skills alive. From the intricate artistry of carpets and kani shawls to the elegance of Pashmina, papier-mâché, willow wicker and walnut wood carving, these crafts represent a legacy that deserves far greater attention and support.

The eighth edition of the 'Know Your Artisan' programme, being organised at Polo Ground Park under the Soulful Kashmir campaign, is a welcome initiative. By bringing artisans directly in touch with buyers, tourists and craft lovers, the three-day event offers an opportunity to showcase authentic handmade products and help consumers understand the skill and labour behind them.

However, Kashmir's handicraft sector needs much more than periodic exhibitions and promotional campaigns. Artisans are often the weakest link in a market where middlemen, rising production costs, changing consumer preferences and competition from machine-made products threaten their earnings. The people who spend weeks and months creating a single handcrafted product often receive only a fraction of its actual market value.

The real challenge before the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom is to convert such promotional events into sustainable economic opportunities. Artisans need regular market access, better prices, institutional support, digital platforms and protection against imitation products being sold as genuine Kashmiri crafts. The inclusion of a 'Try Your Hands' corner for children and young people is particularly encouraging. Traditional skills cannot survive merely through nostalgia. They must attract a new generation willing to learn, practise and carry these crafts forward. Without young artisans entering the sector, many traditional skills risk disappearing with the ageing generation of craftsmen.

Kashmir's winter crafts, particularly Pashmina, woollen textiles and carpets, also offer enormous economic potential. Their global appeal should be translated into stronger branding, quality assurance and wider market access.

The department deserves appreciation for providing artisans a platform, but the success of such initiatives should not be measured by the number of stalls or visitors. It should be measured by how much additional income reaches artisans, how many young people take up traditional crafts and how many sustainable markets are created.

Kashmir's artisans do not need sympathy or occasional applause. They need fair prices, reliable markets and policies that allow their skills to earn the dignity and income they deserve.

Good Morning Kashmir

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B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001
Printed at:
Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar
Published From:
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023
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A Commitment To Strengthen Our Constitution

For Crores Of Indians, Including Me, The Constitution Of India Is An Inseparable Part Of Our Life Journeys



NARENDRA MODI



On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted our Constitution. Today, we remember Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and every member of the Constituent Assembly. Their greatness lay in drawing extensively from the rich traditions and civilisational wisdom of Bharat while framing a modern Constitution.

For a nation as diverse as Bharat, with its numerous faiths, languages, customs and schools of thought, it is important that the Constitution have a resonance far beyond the precincts of Parliament and the courts. Our endeavour has been to deepen its connect with the collective consciousness of our people, especially our youth and strengthen the spirit of unity essential to India's bright future. That is why over a decade ago, our Government decided to mark 26th November as Constitution Day.

For crores of Indians, including me, the Constitution of India is an inseparable part of our life journeys. Whenever I look back at my childhood, the humble circumstances in which I grew up, the struggles that were a part of everyday life, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude towards our Constitution. That a child born into a family of modest means, with no privileges or advantages of birth, could one day be entrusted with the responsibility of serving the world's largest democracy speaks volumes about how extraordinary our Constitution is. It is due to our Constitution that circumstances of one's birth no longer determine the limits of one's future.

In our own humble way, we have sought to repay this debt of gratitude by strengthening our Constitution.

The distinguished constitutional scholar Granville Austin described our Constitution as "first and foremost a social document." The quest for social and economic justice runs through the very fabric of our Constitution. Thus, what can be more satisfying than working towards the realisation of this cherished vision of the makers of our Constitution?

A recent World Bank report highlights that nearly 50 crore Indians have moved out of poverty. Breaking free from generations of deprivation, crores of parents can now dream of a better future for their children.

When PM Awas Yojana ensures a family moves from a thatched roof to a pucca home, the constitutional promise of dignity acquires meaning.

When Ujjwala Yojana frees a mother from the hardships of a smoke-filled kitchen, we advance the ideals of equality and well-being.

When Ayushman Bharat enables a poor family to access quality healthcare without the fear of debt, social justice becomes a lived reality.

When MUDRA and PM-SVANidhi provide collateral-free credit to small entrepreneurs and street vendors, economic justice finds expression.

When digital technology and platforms like UPI transcend all divides and place opportunities once available to a privileged few within the reach of every citizen, we advance the constitutional ideal of inclusivity.

There are many more manifestations of this constitutional vision.

The list of amendments we brought can be viewed through the same prism. The 101st Amendment ushered in GST, a long-awaited reform. The 102nd Amendment granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, fulfilling a long-standing dream of the marginalised sections of society.

The 103rd Amendment received broad social acceptance. By providing reservation to Economically Weaker Sections, it addressed the long-overlooked aspirations of economically disadvantaged families from communities outside the existing reservation framework.

For the first time since 1950, an updated version of our Constitution is now available in all 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule. This has brought our Constitution closer to the people.

Even after our Constitution came into force in 1950, we continued to be governed by the colonial penal code dating back to the 1860s. With the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, we have sought to bring about a fundamental shift in our criminal justice system, moving from the colonial emphasis on punishment (Dand) to a citizen-centric pursuit of justice (Nyay).

Over the past decade, we have laid special emphasis on Kartavya, or the duties of a citizen. Our civilisation has always emphasised the responsibilities that accompany every role in society. The spirit of Kartavya has found expression in several mass movements, from Swachh Bharat to water conservation and environmental protection.

However, there is another reality that I feel compelled to share. There have been occasions in our history when those entrusted with upholding the Constitution chose to weaken it. Ironically, they are the same people who had the opportunity to govern India for five decades.

This year marks 75 years since the First Amendment of 1951, when a government that was not popularly elected used its majority in the Provisional Parliament to restrict fundamental freedoms. Its timing, barely months before India's first general election, proves that it was intended to influence the electoral process and stifle public opposition. It is also 50 years since the 42nd Amendment at the height of the Emergency. This curtailed judicial review and fundamentally altered the balance of institutional powers. I would also urge youngsters to study the 38th and 39th Amendments to know what a power-hungry and anti-constitutional leadership can do.

The repeated misuse of Article 356 to dismiss elected state governments presents another troubling chapter. One party has the dubious record of imposing Article 356 almost a hundred times and one former Prime Minister has scored a half-century in this field.

The makers of our Constitution had hoped that it would be implemented in letter and spirit across India. But, for over 70 years, Articles 370 and 35A did not allow the full Constitution to be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir, thus trampling over the rights of SC, ST, OBC communities and women. It was only in 2019 that this historical wrong was corrected.

For decades, in several parts of India, particularly in tribal areas, Naxalites used the might of the gun to deny the poorest people the rights guaranteed to them by our Constitution. The successful elimination of Naxalism this year is particularly heartwarming because it has ensured that the poorest of the poor can finally exercise their constitutional rights without fear. Now, we are left only with 'Dimagi Naxals', far removed from the realities of our times but persistent in their efforts to derail our growth trajectory.

It is most appalling that the biggest party in the Opposition wants to reduce OBC reservation and bring Muslim reservations, something the makers of our Constitution, notably Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, were totally against.

The journey of our Constitution would be incomplete without recognising the remarkable women who helped shape it. But what happened earlier this year should fill our hearts with shame. A legislation aimed at giving women adequate representation in legislative bodies was disallowed from being passed by the one Opposition party, once again showing its disdain for constitutional values. I assure the Nari Shakti of India that no force can prevent us from ensuring that justice is done to them.

Our constitutional democracy has a clearly defined role for the Opposition. Sadly, the leading Opposition party seems to have become more of an Avrodh Paksh (obstructionist) than a Virodh Paksh (opposition). They should know that disrupting democratic processes is no substitute for discharging constitutional responsibilities.

Today, India stands at a defining moment. As we work towards Viksit Bharat by 2047, two simple yet powerful principles can guide our collective endeavours: India First in our thinking and Kartavya (Duties) in our actions. With these as our guiding principles and the Constitution as our source of strength, we can secure a bright future for generations to come. Courtesy: PIB

(Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister of India.)

Democracy Triumphs At High Altitude

Ladakh Celebrates The Spirit Of Grassroots Democracy

TSERING DAWA



From remote Himalayan villages to emerging district headquarters, the enthusiastic participation in Panchayat and Municipal elections reflects the growing democratic consciousness of Ladakh. With the expansion of its district structure and the forthcoming LAHDC elections, the region is entering a significant new chapter of democratic decentralisation.

As the mountains of Ladakh embrace the winter chill, the people of this high-altitude region have sent a powerful message about the strength of democracy. The recently concluded Panchayat and Municipal elections witnessed encouraging public participation, reaffirming that geographical remoteness, difficult terrain and harsh climatic conditions cannot diminish people's faith in the democratic process. With an overall voter turnout of 70.03 per cent in Panchayat elections and 52.40 per cent in Municipal elections, Ladakh has demonstrated an impressive commitment to grassroots democracy. These elections were particularly significant as they were the first Panchayat and Municipal elections held since Ladakh became a Union Territory in 2019.

In a region where villages are scattered across vast mountain ranges, connectivity remains challenging and winter temperatures can be unforgiving, the act of reaching a polling station itself reflects the determination of citizens to participate in democratic governance. From the remote settlements of Changthang and Nubra to the villages of Zanskar, Sham and the urban centres of Leh and Kargil, people from different walks of life came forward to exercise their franchise. Women, youth, senior citizens and first-time voters contributed to this democratic exercise, demonstrating that the spirit of participation in Ladakh transcends geographical and climatic barriers. The election machinery also undertook challenging logistical arrangements, including helicopter deployment to reach inaccessible polling stations in Zanskar, ensuring that even the remotest communities could exercise their democratic rights.

The Panchayat elections covered 192 Panchayat Halqas across Ladakh, involving 192 Sarpanch positions and 1,428 Panch positions. The overall turnout of 70.03 per cent marks an improvement over the 67.8 per cent recorded in the 2018 Panchayat elections. Municipal participation was equally significant, with Kargil recording 74.75 per cent turnout and Leh recording 45.25 per cent. These figures represent more than electoral statistics; they reflect the willingness of people to participate in institutions that directly influence their everyday lives and local developmental priorities.

One of the most significant dimensions of Ladakh's evolving democratic landscape is the expansion of its administrative structure from two districts to eight districts. This transformation has the potential to redefine the relationship between citizens and governance institutions. For a geographically vast region like Ladakh, bringing administration closer to people is essential for ensuring accessibility, responsiveness and inclusive development. The creation of new districts provides an opportunity to strengthen local institutions, improve administrative outreach and give communities a more accessible platform to articulate their aspirations. The encouraging participation witnessed in the newly created districts, including the 80.87 per cent turnout recorded in Sankoo, reflects the importance of strengthening democratic engagement at the grassroots level.

The forthcoming Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council elections on December 4, 2026, will represent another important milestone in this democratic journey. With the expansion of the LAHDC constituency framework from 52 constituencies across the erstwhile two districts to 100 constituencies across the eight districts, the representative structure is being significantly widened. This expansion creates an opportunity for more communities and geographical regions to find representation within the democratic framework of Ladakh. The proposed institutional arrangement, including the strengthening of district-level responsibilities and the reservation of 36 seats for women, also provides an important opportunity to deepen inclusive and participatory governance.

The significance of this transformation lies in the development of a stronger democratic ecosystem in which Panchayats, Municipal Councils and Hill Development Councils complement one another. While Panchayats provide the foundation for village-level governance and address local priorities such as drinking water, sanitation, rural infrastructure and livelihoods, Municipal Councils focus on urban amenities, civic services and town development. The LAHDCs provide a broader institutional platform for addressing regional development priorities and representing the aspirations of communities across the districts. Together, these institutions can ensure that decision-making becomes more participatory and that development priorities are shaped by the people who understand their local needs best.

The expansion from two districts to eight, coupled with the widening of the LAHDC representative framework, therefore, represents an opportunity to move beyond administrative decentralisation towards meaningful democratic decentralisation. The real success of this transformation will depend on how effectively these institutions coordinate, how much decision-making responsibility reaches the grassroots and how efficiently public resources are translated into improved services and livelihood opportunities. The objective must be to ensure that every village, every community and every region of Ladakh has an effective voice in shaping its development trajectory.

The encouraging participation in the Panchayat and Municipal elections has set a positive foundation for the forthcoming LAHDC elections. The December 4 electoral exercise will provide another opportunity for people across all eight districts to participate in shaping the future of their respective regions. The responsibility will then rest with elected representatives to translate the confidence expressed through the ballot into accountable governance, inclusive development and stronger public institutions.

Ladakh's democratic journey is evolving alongside its administrative transformation. The region is demonstrating that democracy is not constrained by altitude, distance or climate. Rather, its strength lies in the determination of ordinary citizens who overcome difficult terrain, brave the cold and come forward to exercise their fundamental democratic rights. The recent elections have reaffirmed that even in one of India's most geographically challenging regions, the foundations of democracy remain vibrant and deeply rooted in public participation.

The mountains may be high, the villages may be distant and the winters may be harsh, but the spirit of democracy in Ladakh continues to rise above every geographical barrier. Democracy has not merely reached the high altitudes of Ladakh; it is finding new heights through the participation of its people.

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

Beyond The Letter Of Law

The Constitution And Our Responsibilities

How The Vision Of Dr. B.r. Ambedkar Transformed India From A Society Divided By Birth Into A Democracy Founded On Equality, Freedom, And Justice.



SHOIAB MOHMMAD BHAT

Imagine a society where our future is determined not by our hard work or abilities, but by caste, religion, or family. A society in which the son of a King automatically becomes a King, where women cannot study and make their own decisions because they are denied the opportunity, and one where an entire group of people is considered untouchable due to their birth.

All such disparities were a tough reality of Indian life for centuries. Political independence from British rule was a great accomplishment, but it was even greater because they were responsible for creating a nation in which all citizens should "live in dignity and equal rights. This new future became the reality of India with the adoption of the Constitution of India on 26 November 1949. It introduced democracy in which every citizen, irrespective of his caste, religion, gender or economic status, would have a place.

That is why, every year, Constitution Day is celebrated on 26 November. It takes us back to the great day India opted for equality, justice and democracy as the basic tenets of national life. But why is Dr. B.R. Ambedkar considered the chief architect of the Indian Constitution? What does this document imply for the average person? And over the past 70 years, are we really the kind of responsible citizens the Constitution envisioned us to be? 26 November 1949 changed India: Why 26 November 1949 Changed India?

On 15 August 1947, India became independent, but political independence would not bring about justice and equality. The nation required a new constitution that would regulate the functioning of its institutions, ensure individual rights, and rectify entrenched inequalities of society. The Constituent Assembly took 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days to draft the Constitution. It had wide discussions, looked at various proposals, and reviewed other countries' experiences before deciding on the final document. The Constituent Assembly formally adopted the Constitution on 26 November 1949. It was adopted on 26 January 1950, in memory of the declaration of Purna Swaraj of 1930.

To spread awareness about the Constitution and its values among the citizens, especially the young generation, the Government of India in 2015 declared 26 November as Constitution Day. Why is Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called the Chief Architect? About 300 members were on the Constituent Assembly, and several committees were formed during the process of Constitution-making. Then, why is Dr. Ambedkar accorded such a high status in this historic achievement?

His outstanding legal knowledge, intellect, diligence, and awareness of Indian society are the key. The Drafting Committee was constituted to draft the decisions and recommendations of various committees into a well-drafted document. It was driven by Dr. Ambedkar, who was appointed its chairman on 29 August 1947.

On 5 November 1948, member T.T. Krishnamachari explained that due to resignation, death, illness, or other factors, several members of the Drafting Committee were not able to fully participate in the debate. Thus, a significant portion of the drafting was done by Dr. Ambedkar. He was one of the key players in crafting the draft and making sure its provisions were explained and answered in the debating process, despite his ailments.

But it wasn't just his skill with the laws or his diligence that made his impact. Dr. Ambedkar realized that the political independence of India was not enough if the people of the nation were divided in the name of caste, casteism, and social inequality. He felt that any democratic country would not be able to survive if everyday equality and dignity of its people were not ensured. He wanted the Constitution to ensure the rights of those who have traditionally been denied education, opportunities, and basic human rights.

This vision is reflected in the abolition of untouchability in Article 17, equality before law in Article 14, and prohibition of political discrimination in Article 15. Another revolutionary



success was universal adult suffrage. Caste, religion, sex, or economic status were no barriers to voting for all adult citizens. The social and economic status of a poor labourer and the Prime Minister of India are different, but each citizen's vote has the same worth. This was an important shift in a society which had traditionally ranked people on the basis of birth.

Dr. Ambedkar's contribution to the Constitution was thus a legal one and also a social one. He contributed to the creation of a constitution which could undermine the inequalities of history and consolidate democratic institutions. What is the Constitution for a regular citizen? Most people think that the Constitution is of central importance only for lawyers, judges, and politicians. But in fact, it is linked to their daily lives.

Constitutional protection of freedom of expression, the right to practise religion, to select occupation and to move freely throughout the country. These freedoms can be reasonably restricted as provided for by law, but they allow citizens to make decisions about their lives without undue interference.

What would you do if someone illegally tried to take possession of your land? What if you were arrested without the right and if your basic rights were violated?

There are remedies prescribed by the Constitution. The citizens have the right to approach the Supreme Court for enforcing their fundamental rights as per Article 32. Dr. Ambedkar felt that this was a very significant provision and called it the soul and the heart of the Constitution. It guarantees the effectiveness of fundamental rights and gives citizens access to the courts to seek justice when their rights are breached. The Constitution also gives the basis for a number of protections which are relevant to women and children.

Article 39 of the Constitution of India, which calls for equal pay for equal work, and safeguards the health and strength of workers. The daughters' rights have gained increased impetus from laws like the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, which modified their rights in ancestral property under Hindu Law.

The Sixth to Fourteenth Amendments state that children must receive free and compulsory education. The provisions demonstrate that the Constitution is not merely a charter of government institutions. A code of conduct to protect citizens, opportunity to create a more just and equitable society.

Today, the Constitution is an interesting and significant document in our country. Why? India is a very diversified nation. It is a place of many languages, religions, cultures and traditions. However, equality, fraternity are at risk due to communal tension, caste discrimination, polarization and hate speech. In such circumstances, the Constitution becomes even more important. It reminds us how much our identity as Indians is superior to our differences. It makes it clear that all the citizens are equal and that no one or any institution is above the Constitution.

The citizens, when they speak against injustice, quote the words of the Preamble: “We, the People of India.” These words are filled with a powerful message: The ultimate source of democratic power is the people. The democratic system of Government of India is based on the fundamental principle of "Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity", which, although the government changes and political leaders come and go, continues to remain at the centre of the political system.

The Constitution also calls attention to the fact that rights are accompanied by duties. Citizens should respect the rights of others, reject discrimination, exercise their voting rights as responsible citizens, and contribute to the unity and integrity of the country.

Dr. Ambedkar gave his last speech on 25 November 1949 in the Constituent Assembly. His warning is still true today. A Constitution might be good, but if those in charge of running it are bad, then it could be bad as well, he said. In the same way, even a bad constitution might function well if the people who are to put it in force are good. His message was simple: the character and conduct of the people of a nation are as important as the quality of its Constitution in determining the future of a nation. On the occasion of Constitution Day, we need to ask some very pertinent questions.

The Constitution has provided us with basic rights, equality before the law, and the right to choose our representatives. But are we responsible citizens who know and respect these rights? Do we hold our elected officials to account when they do not do their duty, or do we sometimes become blindly loyal because of political or party affiliation? Respect the rights of individuals with different opinions, different religions or from different communities? Do we make democracy stronger by our actions or weaker by discrimination, intolerance and indifference?

Politicians are not the only ones who should answer these questions. They are of interest to all citizens. By the Constitution, we have become free and equal citizens. Now it is our duty to safeguard what makes this freedom worthwhile. What is the meaning of being a responsible citizen to you? Is the spirit of the Constitution understood, or are we still a long way off?

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Tribute

Beyond The Bench: The Intellectual Legacy Of B. L. Saraf

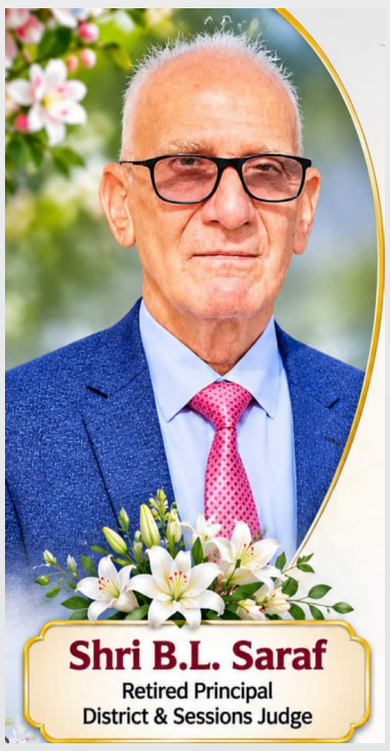


OMKAR DATTATRAY

Hazaaron saal nargis apni be-noori pe roti hai, badi mushkil se hota hai chaman mein deedawar paida. This Urdu couplet fits well with the passing of Lt B. L. Saraf. My pen trembles & my heart aches while writing this tribute to a legal luminary, a journalist of substance, an intellectual, a K. P. leader and, above all, a great human being. The passing away of Late B. L. Saraf, a distinguished retired Principal District and Sessions Judge and a columnist of considerable repute, marks the end of an illustrious chapter in the intellectual, judicial and journalistic life of Jammu and Kashmir. He breathed his last at his Lower Muthi, Jammu, residence on 22 November 2026 following a brief illness, leaving behind an enduring legacy of professional excellence, intellectual engagement and social commitment.

His demise has cast a pall of gloom over the legal fraternity, the journalistic community and, particularly, the Kashmiri Pandit society, which has lost an enlightened voice, a thoughtful observer and a person whose presence commanded respect. B. L. Saraf was among those individuals whose personality transcended the confines of their professional designation. His distinguished career in the judiciary reflected an association with the solemn principles of justice, constitutional morality, impartiality and the rule of law, while his literary and journalistic pursuits revealed the reflective dimensions of his personality, his intellectual curiosity and his abiding interest in the affairs of society. The judicial institution demands not merely an understanding of law but also discernment, patience, moral courage and an appreciation of the complexities of human existence. Having served as Principal District and Sessions Judge, he was well acquainted with the intricacies of the judicial system, the weight of responsibility borne by those entrusted with dispensing justice, and the delicate balance between legal provisions and the human circumstances that often unfold before the courts.

His professional journey was, therefore, not merely an exercise in the administration of law but a testament to the dignity and responsibility associated with judicial service. Yet, what made his personality particularly distinctive was his continued engagement with the world of ideas and public discourse beyond the courtroom. He cultivated a reputation as a columnist of repute, whose writings reflected his intellectual temperament, analytical perspective and keen interest in contemporary developments. Journalism, in its finest form, is not merely the chronicling of events but an exercise in interpretation, reflection and intellectual honesty. A columnist is expected to look beyond the immediate circumstances, examine the deeper implications of unfolding developments and articulate thoughts that stimulate the conscience of society. Saraf belonged to that fraternity of writers who regarded the written word as a medium of understanding, persuasion and public enlightenment. His columns were an extension of his intellectual engagement with society, allowing him to express his observations and reflections on matters that deserved attention and contemplation.



The loss of such a personality is particularly poignant for the Kashmiri Pandit community, whose social and intellectual landscape has been enriched over the decades by individuals who have remained committed to preserving its cultural consciousness, articulating its concerns and keeping alive the tradition of informed public discourse. The community has endured extraordinary upheavals in its history, and the displacement of 1990 profoundly altered its collective existence, leaving behind questions of identity, belonging, justice, cultural continuity and restoration that continue to resonate across generations. In such circumstances, the contribution of articulate, intellectually accomplished and socially conscious individuals assumes immense significance. Saraf's passing leaves a void that is not easily filled, for the loss of an individual of his stature is also the loss of experience, perspective and a voice shaped by years of professional engagement and intellectual maturity. The journalistic community, too, has lost a respected colleague whose association with writing and public affairs exemplified the enduring relationship between intellect and expression. The true significance of a columnist lies not merely in the words he writes but in the thoughts he leaves behind in the minds of his readers.

Writing becomes meaningful when it transcends the immediacy of an issue and invites reflection, when it challenges complacency, illuminates complex realities and encourages society to look at itself with greater honesty. The legacy of writers and commentators is often measured not by the volume of their writings but by the depth of their observations, the sincerity of their convictions and the intellectual resonance they leave behind. Saraf's association with the world of letters will, therefore, remain an important aspect of his enduring public legacy. His life also offers a reminder that the conclusion of a formal career does not necessarily signify the cessation of one's engagement with society. Retirement may bring relief from institutional responsibilities, but for intellectually vibrant individuals, it often opens new avenues of reflection, expression and contribution.

The pursuit of writing, the examination of contemporary issues and the sharing of one's experience with society are pursuits that transcend age, designation and professional boundaries. In this respect, his life embodies the spirit of continued intellectual engagement and the belief that one's experience can still serve as a source of enlightenment for others. The departure of B. L. Saraf is, therefore, more than the passing of a retired judicial officer or an accomplished columnist; it is the loss of a multifaceted personality whose life intersected the worlds of law, literature, journalism and community affairs. His memory will endure in the professional accomplishments he attained, the thoughts he expressed through his writings, the relationships he nurtured and the respect he earned among those who knew him.

At a time when public discourse is often overwhelmed by noise, polarisation and fleeting opinions, the loss of thoughtful voices that bring sobriety, wisdom and perspective is particularly grievous. The legal fraternity has lost a distinguished member, journalism has lost an accomplished columnist, and the Kashmiri Pandit community has lost a respected intellectual and a voice of considerable standing. He was associated with PNBMT, VBWWI, and other KP organisations. He also emphasised reconciliation between KPs and KM’s [Kashmiri Muslims]. Saraf Sahib has authored a book titled New Lexicon for Kashmiris. He was an inspiration and encouragement to the author of this tribute.

Though his physical presence is no longer among us, the imprint of his life and work will continue to linger in the collective memory of those who valued his contribution. His passing leaves behind a silence that speaks eloquently of the stature he commanded and the affection and esteem in which he was held. May his noble soul attain eternal peace, and may Almighty God grant fortitude, solace and strength to the bereaved family to endure this irreparable loss. His death is an irreparable loss to the journalistic fraternity and the Kashmiri Pandit community. Om Shanti.

Author is a retired Education Officer. He can be mailed at onkoul2019@gmail.com

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Home Secy Reviews

Bhat, in an encounter in Kulgam earlier this month.

A source prior to meeting, told KNO, with local recruitment remaining a key concern for the security establishment, the review meet also assessed measures to prevent fresh recruitment, dismantle support networks and sustain the gains made against terrorism.

The source said a major focus of the deliberations was the presence of foreign terrorists believed to be operating in the upper reaches and forest areas of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Jammu region. "Security agencies are understood to have reviewed ongoing operations to track down these terrorists, their possible movement routes and the networks allegedly providing them logistical support, shelter and other assistance," the source said.

Preventing infiltration from across the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) also figured prominently in the discussions. With winter approaching, agencies are expected to maintain heightened vigilance along vulnerable border stretches and infiltration routes, particularly amid concerns that fog, snowfall and difficult weather conditions could be exploited by infiltrators.

The meeting also reviewed intelligence inputs, surveillance mechanisms and coordination among the Army, Border Security Force (BSF), CAPFs, J&K Police and intelligence agencies to prevent any attempt to push terrorists into the Union Territory, the source said.

The security review assumed importance in view of the challenges posed by difficult terrain and harsh winter conditions, particularly in mountainous and forested areas where foreign terrorists are suspected to be hiding.

Operational preparedness, intelligence-based searches and coordination among forces were among the broader areas assessed during the meeting.

The role of overground workers (OGWs), who allegedly provide logistical support to terrorists, was also discussed, the source told KNO, adding that the participating officers deliberated on strengthening intelligence gathering, identifying support networks and preventing terrorists from receiving assistance in remote areas.

Pertinently, the meeting was held against the backdrop of recent terror-related incidents, including the killing of two Special Police Officers (SPOs) in the Dachhan area of Kishtwar district and the encounter in south Kashmir's Kulgam district in which Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Mohammad Lateef Bhat was killed. The incidents have brought renewed attention to the security situation in the mountainous areas of Jammu and the need for sustained intelligence-based operations—(KNO)

LG Urges Citizens

intelligence, quantum technology, biotechnology and space technology, the Lieutenant Governor stressed the need to protect liberty, privacy and human dignity in the digital age. The Lieutenant Governor said that technological progress must remain human-centric and aligned with constitutional values.

"Along with rapid technological change, our constitutional responsibilities are also growing. In the digital age, it is our responsibility to ensure that, amid technological progress, an individual's liberty, privacy and autonomy remain protected.

We must ensure that technology assists human beings, rather than making human beings subordinate to technology. At the same time, we must ensure that the spirit of mutual cooperation and coordination deepens in administrative processes at every level. Our goal should be that services and infrastructure reach every part of Jammu Kashmir with equal sensitivity and commitment, and that no person is left behind on the journey of development," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised the importance of equal opportunities for youth, education and empowerment of women, dignity for farmers and workers, and responsive public institutions. He said that true development must expand opportunities and improve the quality of life of every citizen.

"India is not waiting for the future but building it. The Constitution gave future generations the foundation to achieve the unimaginable. Now, we must focus on true development, which means expanding opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring dignity for every citizen," he said.

Calling upon citizens to contribute actively to nation-building, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to uphold constitutional propriety, practise digital ethics, promote equality, conserve the environment, encourage scientific temper, participate in local governance and strengthen public faith in constitutional institutions.

"India needs nothing more than a group of honest people who will place the country's interests above their own. Our Constitution-makers have given us a strong democratic foundation. It is now our responsibility to build, upon that foundation, an India that becomes a source of inspiration, confidence and pride for generations to come," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the collective resolve, dedication and hard work of citizens would enable India to emerge as a developed nation rooted in constitutional values and democratic ideals. He urged all citizens to make the Constitution a guide for their conduct.

"Let us all together build a developed India that is prosperous in capability, liberal in thought, compassionate in conduct, inclusive in opportunity, and unwavering in its commitment to justice. May our resolutions be great, our dreams big, our efforts continuous, and our unity forever unbreakable," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The UT-level event commemorating the adoption of the Constitution was organised by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in collaboration with the Department of Culture.

Hon'ble Speaker, Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Shri Abdul Rahim Rather; Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shri Shailendra Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Shri Anil Kumar Singh; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Shri Govind Jaiswal; Commissioner Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Achal Sethi; Secretary, Culture Department, Shri Ramesh Kumar; senior officials, prominent citizens and youth in large numbers attended the Constitution Day Celebration.

India's Destiny

the meritorious students at Amar Ujala Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the country's true destiny was reflected in its young achievers and expressed confidence that the students would contribute significantly to the nation's progress in the years ahead.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Amar Ujala Group for consistently organising the programme across different parts of the country and inspiring academic excellence among students. He observed that the light of education is eternal and continues to grow when shared with others.

The Lieutenant Governor said that education's first and most important outcome is humility. Referring to India's rich philosophical traditions, he noted that education builds character, nurtures worthiness, and ultimately leads to meaningful and fulfilling lives.

He reminded students that examination results do not define a person's life. The Lieutenant Governor said that life presents unexpected challenges for which character, patience and courage are often more important than academic scores.

"It is true that marks can take you to a door, but how you live beyond that door will be determined by your character. Defeat is only an Event, not your identity. Be resilient, confident, give your best, and then accept the outcome with equanimity. No defeat or failure can break someone who can do this. A Marksheet is not the marksheet of life. Dream big, stay humble and rise above failure," he said.

Emphasising holistic development, he called upon students to light three lamps in their lives- the lamp of knowledge, the lamp of compassion and the lamp of character.

"Machine can provide information, but it cannot provide wisdom. It can give answers, but it cannot tell you which question is the right one to ask. A machine can calculate, but it does not possess values such as compassion.

So always remember that, in the future, the most valuable thing will be what a machine cannot do and that is your wisdom, your ability to distinguish right from wrong, critical thinking, patience, compassion, sensitivity, courage, and curiosity. Always remember that ability gives you height, but character gives you the strength to remain standing at that height," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also encouraged students to strengthen these uniquely human qualities, which will continue to be invaluable in the future. The Lieutenant Governor spoke about emotional well-being and urged students not to hesitate in seeking support during difficult times.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that fear, anxiety and setbacks are natural experiences and that true courage lies in accepting help and moving forward with resilience. He appealed to parents to view their children beyond marks and rankings and to prioritise their happiness and well-being.

Underscoring the importance of character, the Lieutenant Governor said that success is not measured only by achievement but also by integrity, humility and a commitment to service. He encouraged students to contribute to society, particularly by supporting those who may have fewer opportunities.

Shri Bavinder Vashishth, Resident Editor, Amar Ujala Himachal Pradesh; Prof. B N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education; Shri Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Shri Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu; Shri Abhishek Raj, Editor, Amar Ujala Jammu, Editors and members of Amar Ujala Group; senior officials, heads of educational institutions, teachers, students and their parents attended the felicitation ceremony.

Padma Shri Balwant Thakur and other prominent citizens were also present on the occasion.

Dry Spell To

Celsius, Katra 9.8 degrees Celsius, Banihal 7.3 degrees Celsius, Batote 6.8 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 3 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather from November 26 to 30 and December 1 to 3, with cold conditions likely to persist across most districts of Kashmir division during this period.

However, a change in weather conditions is expected from December 4, when generally cloudy skies are likely to prevail across Jammu and Kashmir, with light rain or snowfall at scattered places between December 4 and 6.

Meanwhile, Kashmir Weather Forecast, citing the latest indications from various weather models, has indicated the possibility of two successive Western Disturbances affecting Jammu and Kashmir during December 4-10.

The first weather system is expected to influence the region between December 4 and 6, while the second system, which could be comparatively stronger, is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir from December 7 to 10.

Further updates regarding the intensity and impact of the two weather systems are expected in the coming days as forecast models become clearer.

The anticipated weather activity could bring the first significant change in the prevailing dry conditions after an extended period of largely precipitation-free weather across the region—(KNO)

India And Turkey

and Adaptability in the Indian Ocean Region'.

This high-level gathering of Ministers and Senior Officials from across the 23 Member States and 12 Dialogue Partners comes at a critical juncture for the Indo-Pacific region, a statement released by the MEA mentioned.

"The New Delhi Meeting will underscore the vital importance of the Indian Ocean Region as a region of peace, stability, predictability and sustainable development, thereby reaffirming India's commitment to the vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth for All in the Region) driving collective action for an open, inclusive, and rules-based maritime order," the MEA stated.

The 23 Member States of IORA are: India, Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Comoros, France, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE and Yemen.

The 12 Dialogue Partners of IORA are: China, Egypt, European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UK and the US.

The COM is the highest decision-making body of the Association and includes the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of IORA Member States. The COM provides the overall policy and strategic direction of IORA, and its key responsibilities include formulating policies, reviewing progress in cooperation among member states, and identifying and deciding on new areas of collaboration to further advance the objectives of the Association, according to the official statement.

HM Shah Remembers

targeted several iconic locations bustling with people, including the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, the Trident Hotel, Nariman House (Chabad House), Leopold Cafe and Cama and Albless Hospital.

The terrorists, guided by their handlers cocooned in Pakistan through satellite phones, launched coordinated attacks on unarmed civilians, taking hostages and engaging security personnel in prolonged gun battles in which several senior police officers of Mumbai Police, including Hemant Karkare, were killed.

The terrorists were neutralised by operations of Mumbai Police and NSG and the exemplary bravery of Constable Tukaram Omble, who made the supreme sacrifice while nabbing lone surviving Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Kasab, braving bullets from the terrorist's automatic gun.

Kasab was tried and hanged for his crimes.

August 5, 2019

criminal laws as steps towards social and economic justice.

PM Modi said India was working towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 and called on citizens to place national interests first and fulfil their duties—(KNO)

Parliament To

adjourned sine die in August but was not formally prorogued, observed some commentators.

Thursday's announcement triggered speculation over the agenda likely to be taken up in the brief session. Some reports suggested that issues such as delimitation and women's reservation may figure in the government's legislative plans, though no specific business was officially announced till the time of writing.

The announcement comes a day after reports indicated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked ministers to complete preparations for the next parliamentary session and remain available in the run-up to it.

With both Houses expected to meet for only a few days, attention will now focus on the legislative and policy measures the government intends to place before Parliament during the sitting.

An extended sitting within an ongoing parliamentary session requires at least two days' notice, while a fresh session must be convened with a minimum of 14 days' notice, say experts. Speculation continues over whether Parliament will hold a Winter Session this year.

The proposed delimitation exercise aims to increase Lok Sabha strength from 543 to a maximum of 850 seats, alongside implementing 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and state legislatures. The constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority in both Houses among members present and voting.

Can Kashmir's Saffron

Yadav assessed soil characteristics, including organic matter, available phosphorus and moisture, as well as heavy-metal concentrations.

The findings suggested that a decline in soil organic matter, available phosphorus and moisture, along with an increased heavy-metal load, may be associated with a fall in saffron quantity and quality. The researchers said soil characteristics and heavy-metal levels play an important role in saffron growth, while recommending further research.

The study did not examine the Pampore dumping site specifically. However, its findings have drawn attention to the vulnerability of saffron cultivation to soil degradation, amid allegations that waste is being dumped close to farms in the area.

According to the petitioners, municipal authorities have been dumping mixed waste on around eight acres of land near saffron fields in Patalbag village since 2022. They claim about 50 mini-truckloads of rubbish arrive from Pampore town every day.

The petitioners' lawyer Saurabh Sharma said their plea included an inspection report by the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), which confirmed the presence of mixed waste and leachate — contaminated liquid that seeps from accumulated waste.

The tribunal took note of the findings and observed that there was prima facie evidence of environmental damage, he said.

Residents say the dumping site has attracted rodents, stray dogs and birds, damaging crops and creating unsanitary conditions.

Some farmers have abandoned saffron cultivation because of rodent infestations, while others have shifted to apples and other horticultural crops but continue to face pest-related problems.

Bhat estimated that 200 to 250 acres of saffron fields had been destroyed and said an increase in stray dogs around the dumping site had made it difficult for farmers to access their land.

He said a scientist from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K) had been included in the joint committee. Residents allege that rodents burrow into fields, damaging saffron corms and affecting flowering. They have demanded the complete removal of the dumping yard.

JKPCC regional director Safir Hussain Shah said the landfill was illegal and that the committee was investigating it and taking action for environmental compensation.

The tribunal has listed the matter for February 3, 2027—(KNO)

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Democracy Triumphs at High Altitude

Ladakh Celebrates the Spirit of Grassroots Democracy

GMK NEWS NETWORK



LADAKH: From remote Himalayan villages to emerging district headquarters, the enthusiastic participation in Panchayat and Municipal elections reflects the growing democratic consciousness of Ladakh. With the expansion of its district structure and the forthcoming LAHDC elections, the region is entering a significant new chapter of democratic decentralisation.

As the mountains of Ladakh embrace the winter chill, the people of this high-altitude region have sent a powerful message about the strength of democracy. The recently concluded Panchayat and Municipal elections witnessed encouraging public participation, reaffirming that geographical remoteness, difficult terrain and harsh climatic conditions cannot diminish people's faith in the democratic process. With an overall voter turnout of 70.03 per cent in Panchayat elections and 52.40 per cent in Municipal elections, Ladakh has demonstrated an impressive commitment to grassroots democracy. These elections were particularly significant as they were the first Panchayat and Municipal elections held since Ladakh became a Union Territory in 2019.

In a region where villages are scattered across vast mountain ranges, connectivity remains challenging and winter temperatures can be unforgiving, the act of reaching a polling station itself reflects the determination of citizens to participate in democratic governance. From the remote settlements of Changthang and Nubra to the villages of Zanskar, Sham and the urban centres of Leh and Kargil, people from different walks of life came forward to exercise their franchise. Women, youth, senior citizens and first-time voters contributed to this democratic exercise, demonstrating that the spirit of participation in Ladakh transcends geographical and climatic barriers. The election machinery also undertook challenging logistical arrangements, including helicopter deployment to reach inaccessible polling stations in Zanskar, ensuring that even the remotest communities could exercise their democratic rights.

The Panchayat elections covered 192 Panchayat Halqas across Ladakh, involving 192 Sarpanch positions and 1,428 Panch positions. The overall turnout of 70.03 per cent marks an improvement over the 67.8 per cent recorded in the 2018 Panchayat elections. Municipal participation was equally significant, with Kargil recording 74.75 per cent turnout and Leh recording 45.25 per cent. These figures represent more than electoral statistics; they reflect the willingness of people to participate in institutions that directly influence their everyday lives and local developmental priorities.

One of the most significant dimensions of Ladakh's evolving democratic landscape is the expansion of its administrative structure from two districts to eight districts. This transformation has the potential to redefine the relationship between citizens and governance institutions. For a geographically vast region like Ladakh, bringing administration closer to people is essential for ensuring accessibility, responsiveness and inclusive development. The creation of new districts provides an opportunity to strengthen local institutions, improve administrative outreach and give communities a more accessible platform to articulate their aspirations. The encouraging participation witnessed in the newly created districts, including the 80.87 per cent turnout recorded in Sankoo, reflects the importance of strengthening democratic engagement at the grassroots level.

The forthcoming Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council elections on December 4, 2026, will represent another important milestone in this democratic journey. With the expansion of the LAHDC constituency framework from 52 constituencies across the erstwhile two districts to 100 constituencies across the eight districts, the representative structure is being significantly widened. This expansion creates an opportunity for more communities and geographical regions to find representation within the democratic framework of Ladakh. The proposed institutional arrangement, including the strengthening of district-level responsibilities and the reservation of 36 seats for women, also provides an important opportunity to deepen inclusive and participatory governance.

The significance of this transformation lies in the development of a stronger democratic ecosystem in which Panchayats, Municipal Councils and Hill Development Councils complement one another. While Panchayats provide the foundation for village-level governance and address local priorities such as drinking water, sanitation, rural infrastructure and livelihoods, Municipal Councils focus on urban amenities, civic services and town development. The LAHDCs provide a broader institutional platform for addressing regional development priorities and representing the aspirations of communities across the districts. Together, these institutions can ensure that decision-making becomes more participatory and that development priorities are shaped by the people who understand their local needs best.

The expansion from two districts to eight, coupled with the widening of the LAHDC representative framework, therefore, represents an opportunity to move beyond administrative decentralisation towards meaningful democratic decentralisation. The real success of this transformation will depend on how effectively these institutions coordinate, how much decision-making responsibility reaches the grassroots and how efficiently public resources are translated into improved services and livelihood opportunities. The objective must be to ensure that every village, every community and every region of Ladakh has an effective voice in shaping its development trajectory.

Jatin Kishore reviews proposed alternate airport road, other NHAI-related projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK



BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Thursday chaired a meeting at the DC Office Complex, Budgam, to review the status of the Ring Road Project, proposed Alternate Airport Road and other NHAI projects in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed various issues related to land acquisition, demarcation, shifting of structures, airport connectivity, compensation and pending cases related to the progress of the projects.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to conduct joint site visits and ground surveys to assess the status of the projects, verify land records and identify pending and left-out cases for necessary action.

He stressed close coordination among the Revenue Department, NHAI and other concerned departments to resolve issues and facilitate smooth execution of the projects.

He also directed the officers to examine feasible alternatives to enhance the Airport connectivity.

The Assistant Commissioner Revenue was directed to coordinate with BSF, Defence authorities, the Forest Department and other concerned agencies to address interdepartmental issues and facilitate necessary clearances.

Emphasising the importance of the Ring Road and proposed Alternate Airport Road in improving connectivity and easing traffic movement, the Deputy Commissioner called for timely resolution of all pending issues and expeditious progress on the projects.

The Project Director, NHAI, Srinagar, briefed the meeting on the status of the projects and related issues.

Director Airport Srinagar, senior officials from the Airports Authority of India, senior officials from BSF and Air Force also shared their views and suggestions on the proposed road development projects, particularly with regard to airport connectivity, operational requirements and coordination among the concerned agencies.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Budgam, Director Airport Srinagar, Group Captain/ Chief Administrative Officer, Air Force,

Deputy Commandant BSF, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Beerwah and Chadoora, Collector Land Acquisition Budgam, and concerned Tehsildars.

Crime Branch arrests man for duping G'bal family on pretext of govt jobs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir has arrested a man for allegedly duping a family from Ganderbal of Rs 12.20 lakh on the pretext of securing government jobs for their two sons and daughter, officials said on Thursday.

In a statement issued, Crime Branch said the accused, identified as Mohammad Abdullah Mir, son of Abdul Gaffar Mir, a resident of Shilvat, Sumbal, Bandipora, was arrested on November 25 in connection with FIR No. 09/2025 registered under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 IPC.

The statement said the investigation revealed that the accused had allegedly provided three forged appointment orders to the family, including two purportedly issued for appointments in J&K Bank and one in the Forest Department. "Verification from the respective departments confirmed that the said appointment orders were fake and had never been issued by the competent authorities," the statement said.

It further said that the accused was also named in several other criminal cases, including FIR No. 42/2026 of Police Station Kunzer, which has been charge-sheeted, FIR No. 100/2023 of Police Station Kokernag, FIR No. 49/2023 of Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir and FIR No. 73/2022 of Police Station Kothibagh, Srinagar.

According to the statement, investigators are examining possible common links, associates and the modus operandi, besides probing the possibility of similar fraudulent activities and identifying other potential victims. "Efforts are underway to recover electronic devices and other material allegedly used in preparing the forged appointment orders," it said.

The statement further said that the accused was produced before the Court of the City Judge, Srinagar, which granted nine days of police remand to Crime Branch's Special Crime Wing for further investigation, interrogation and recovery of crucial evidence.

Crime Branch J&K has also appealed to anyone who may have been similarly cheated by the accused on the pretext of arranging government jobs to come forward and share relevant information at Police Station Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir, Srinagar. Further investigation into the case is underway.

Constitution Day Celebrated across Shopian, DC leads Preamble Reading

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) was celebrated Thursday across District Shopian with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour to commemorate the historic adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949.

The main commemorative event was held at the Mini-Secretariat Complex, Arhama, Shopian, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh.

On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner administered the collective reading of the Preamble to district officers, sectoral heads, officials, students and civil society members, reaffirming their commitment to the core constitutional ideals of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Addressing the participants, the DC highlighted the enduring significance of the Indian Constitution as the supreme guiding framework and cornerstone of the nation's democracy and governance.

Paying rich tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the members of the Constituent Assembly, he urged all officers and public servants to uphold constitutional morality, transparency, and accountability in their everyday functioning. He further stressed that public officials must remain sensitive, accessible, and responsive toward citizens, listen to their grievances patiently, and ensure respectful, timely and inclusive public service delivery.

The celebration also featured a quiz programme, Essay writing and cultural performances by students from various educational institutions, underscoring the importance of constitutional awareness, national unity and democratic values among the younger generation.

DLSA Ganderbal, District Judiciary observe Constitution Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, in collaboration with the District Judiciary Ganderbal, celebrated Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) Thursday with solemnity and patriotic spirit.

The programme commenced at the District Court Complex, Ganderbal with the solemn reading of the Preamble of the Constitution of India by Abdul Nasir, Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Ganderbal, in the presence of the judicial officers, officers and officials of the District Court and District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal.

The occasion was graced by Fozia Paul, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ganderbal; Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, Rameen Rashid Khan, Munsiff Civil Judge (Jr. Division) Ganderbal; and Syed Sibtain Mehdi, Trainee Judge.

The programme was also attended by the Chief Administrative Officer, Moulvi Muzzaffar Hussain, members of the ministerial and other staff of the District Court and District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal, Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers of District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal.

Simultaneously, Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Kangan celebrated Constitution Day at the Munsiff Court Complex, Kangan, under the chairmanship of Aiman Amin, Chairperson, TLSC Kangan (Munsiff/JMIC Kangan).

The programme was attended by judicial officers, members of the Bar, advocates, court staff, panel lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers and other participants associated with the legal services framework. The Preamble of the Constitution of India was read collectively, reaffirming the commitment of the participants to the constitutional ideals of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

During the programme, participants were sensitised about the historical significance of the adoption of the Constitution on 26th November 1949 and its enforcement on 26th January 1950. Emphasis was laid on fundamental rights and duties, constitutional values, equality before law, respect for democratic institutions and the role of Legal Services Authorities in ensuring access to justice, particularly for weaker and marginalised sections of society, through free and competent legal aid and legal awareness initiatives.

VC LCMA reviews progress of ongoing revitalisation works of Dole Demb area

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Vice Chairman, J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Thursday undertook a follow-up visit to Dole Demb area of Dal Lake to review the progress of ongoing revitalisation works and take stock of dredging and development activities across various Dal Lake localities.

He was accompanied by senior officers of the Authority and other concerned officials, who briefed him on the progress of the ongoing works.

At Dole Demb, the Vice Chairman reviewed the removal of bushes, Petsi and other aquatic vegetation, along with clearance of the identified area for its proposed development as a recreational space. He also inspected the ongoing dredging operations at Khan Mohalla, aimed at improving water circulation, flushing and navigational connectivity. Besides, he reviewed other development and improvement works being undertaken at Karapora, Kabootar Khana, Kooli Mohalla, Moti Mohalla, Kati Mohalla and Out Kadal.

The Vice Chairman also directed the concerned officers to undertake dredging of Nishat Paw, particularly the channel leading from Nishat Basin towards the Vegetable Market and the Ashaibagh side of the lake, to improve navigational connectivity, facilitate water circulation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani, father of Syeda Injila, hereby declare that I have changed my ward's name from SYEDA INJELA to SYEDA INJILA. Henceforth, she shall be known and recognised as SYEDA INJILA for all purposes.

Anybody having any objection to the said change of name may submit their objection to the Passport Office, Srinagar, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani
Father of Syeda Injila

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.
GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR
BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
E- mail: - hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in | Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

SHORT TERM
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

GIST of Detailed e– NIT No: - 84/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27.

For and on of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Registered/Approved/DEE Class Civil having good experience in the relevant field /Joint Ventures etc having good experience in the relevant field as per details given below. The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S.No	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Major Head / Programme	Tender Call
1	Stage Contract for Towing the Air Compressor Machine Elgi 550cfm/200psi from Divisional Office Ground Water Srinagar to various sites in Kashmir Valley.	As per AMC ceiling	Rs. 24,000/-	Rs. 200/-	02 days (from the date of issuance of directions by the concerned AEE)	Registered for DEE Class Civil	M&R/ Contingency	1st

Position of Funds: - Available

- Circular issued by the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir Srinagar's Vide No. CE/PHE/DB/26798-832, Dated: 11-03-2026.
- Action Plan under M&R for the financial year 2026-27 forwarded to the Superintending Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Circle North Srinagar vide letter No. PHE/GWD/2026-27/TS-172-73, Dated: 07-04-2026.

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: https://www.jktenders.gov.in From 23.11.2026 (10:00 AM) UPTO 07.12.2026 (11:00 AM)
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: https://www.jktenders.gov.in
As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

Table-II

1.	Publishing Date	23.11.2026 (10:00 AM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	23.11.2026 (10:00 AM) UPTO 07.12.2026 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	23.11.2026 (10:00 AM) UPTO 07.12.2026 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	08.12.2026 (11:00 A.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011	
6.	Cost of Tender Document : Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/e-challan deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply) NOTE: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD/e-challan, the hard copies shall have be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT.	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in	

No instrument—such as an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Treasury Receipt, or Challan-generated prior to the publication of the tender document will be accepted. Any bid submitted contrary to this requirement is liable for summary rejection. In the event the tender is retendered due to government exigencies or otherwise, an instrument shall be considered valid only if generated after the date of the initial tender publication,

The cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 08.12.2026 (11:00 A.M)If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./ 19075-84.
Dated: 23-11-2026
DIPK-7967-26
DT: 26/11/2026

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Abhishek, Shahbaz, Tilak fifties power India A to 317/8 against Sri Lanka A in Rising Stars semi-final

IANS

DOHA: Abhishek Sharma's breezy 78, along with Shahbaz Ahmed's unbeaten 54 and captain Tilak Varma's 53, powered India A to 317/8 in their 50 overs against Sri Lanka A in the first semi-final of the Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament on Thursday.

India A managed to cross the 300-run mark, despite a mid-innings collapse against spin. Having elected to bat first, India A got off to a rapid start on a two-paced pitch where the ball often stopped on the batters. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, fresh from his record-breaking double hundred against the UAE, struck four fours and three sixes in a 27-ball 40.

His stay ended in the eighth over when seamer Janith Liyanage surprised him with a short ball and lost control of the pull and was caught by a back-pedalling mid-on. Garuka Sanketh, the right-arm seamer with a slingy action modelled on Lasith Malinga, struggled for control and sent down 11 wides on his way to conceding 64 runs in eight overs.



Abhishek, meanwhile, kept finding the gaps through the off-side and brought up his half-century in the 14th over with a drive through extra cover. He was given a life on 69 when Sri Lanka A skipper Pavan Rathnayake put down a simple chance at cover. Abhishek added 79 runs off 83 balls for the second wicket with Tilak before falling in the 22nd over when he slapped a wide delivery straight to long-off.

Abhishek's 63-ball knock contained 11 fours and a six. Tilak, who struck an early six off off-spinner Ravindu Fernando, took his time after that and reached his fifty off 63 balls in the 31st over. At 197/2 after 29 overs, India A were well placed.

That was when the Sri Lankan off-spinners took control - Nipun Dhananjaya had Kumar Kushagra (21) caught at short midwicket by Rathnayake, who held the ball at the second attempt, while Fernando trapped Tilak lbw when he attempted a sweep three overs later.

Rinku Singh (12) was then trapped lbw off Fernando despite replays suggesting a thick inside edge. With no DRS in use, Rinku had to go, and he made his unhappiness with the decision clear to the umpire before leaving the field.

Suryansh Shedge (10) followed in the 40th over, holing out to Fernando at deep mid-wicket off Dhananjaya after a lengthy check by the third umpire on whether the diving catch was clean. India A had lost four wickets for 38 runs in overs 30-40 and slipped to 235/6.

Shahbaz and Tanush Kotian then steadied the innings with sensible strike rotation before cutting loose in the final overs. Kotian was dropped by Dhananjaya at short cover in the 43rd over in one of several fielding errors by the Sri Lankans.

The pair put on 73 runs off 55 balls for the seventh wicket. Shahbaz cleared the ropes three times off Sanketh and left-arm spinner Wanuja Sahan, before pulling a slower bouncer from Liyanage for six to reach his fifty and take India A past 300.

FIFA confirms cyberattack, hackers gain access to personal and business data

IANS

NEW DELHI: Football's global governing body, FIFA, has confirmed that it suffered a cyberattack in which hackers gained unauthorised access to a limited amount of personal and business information after reportedly impersonating staff members to enter its systems.

The attackers are believed to have accessed confidential documents, including immigration records, financial information and personal files. However, the stolen material reportedly did not include information related to FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), a commercial proposal that attracted considerable attention earlier this year.

According to a report by The Athletic, the hackers gained access by posing as FIFA employees and managed to steal several sensitive documents.

A hacking group identifying itself as the Handsome Boy Hacking Club appeared to take responsibility for the incident. The group reportedly shared a screenshot of files connected to FIFA on social media platform X on November 19.



Confirming the incident, FIFA issued a statement acknowledging the security breach and said it was working with the relevant authorities to investigate the matter.

"FIFA can confirm that it has been the victim of a criminal cyber-attack resulting in unauthorised access to a limited set of personal and business information.FIFA is working closely with the relevant authorities, including law enforcement," the governing body said.

"FIFA condemns in the strongest possible terms the unlawful acquisition and publication of information, particularly personal data. Such actions constitute a serious and unacceptable violation of privacy and can have significant consequences for the individuals concerned," it added.

The cyberattack also highlights growing security concerns among football organisations, with FIFA becoming the latest body in the sport to face such an incident.

Earlier this month, Spanish football league LaLiga also came under a cyberattack. Its security teams reportedly identified the source of the breach and prevented the attacker from accessing additional information. Spanish police are continuing their investigation into the LaLiga incident.

Trust the journey, success takes time - Shami's advice to young cricketers

IANS

MUMBAI: Veteran Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami has urged young cricketers to be patient and keep faith in the process, saying success arrives only after a player has gone through the grind that every career demands.

Shami, who retired from Test cricket earlier this month, played through knee pain during the 2015 Men's ODI World Cup, where India reached the semifinals, before undergoing surgery. After an extended rehab, Shami was back to playing international cricket.

Shami also dealt with minor swelling in his left knee due to increased bowling loads in 2024, when he returned to action after undergoing right Achilles tendon surgery for an injury sustained while playing in India, securing a runners-up finish in the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup.

"Everything takes time, and you have to trust the journey. It is important



to stay committed, keep working with dedication, and remain loyal to your efforts. Keep putting in the hard work, and one day, you will get your platform," Shami said while attending KDAH APEX (Athlete Performance & Excellence), an annual educational conclave by Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital.

The right-arm fast bowler, who picked four wickets for Bengal in their recently concluded Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy group stage games, also spoke about how the support system for sportspersons in the country has changed over the years, with medical and fitness help now far easier to access than before for cricketers.

"The facilities available today have improved a lot, whether it is physiotherapists or training centres. Across India, there are several centres where athletes can reach out for consultation and guidance whenever they face a problem," he added.

Around 200 delegates from across the country took part in the inaugural edition of the two-day gathering titled 'The Sports Knee Conclave'. The delegates featured orthopaedic and sports orthopaedic surgeons, sports medicine specialists, sports physiotherapists and students.

Apart from Shami, prominent people included Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, Head – Centre for Sports Medicine, & Director -- Arthroscopy & Shoulder Service at the hospital, as well as the organising chairman of the conclave, Dr Shreyash Gajjar, Vaibhav Daga, Dr Mihir Dalal, Dr Santosh Shetty and Dharmendra Bhandari.

2nd Test: India seek clinical finish against NZ as WTC hopes hinge on decisive game

IANS

CHRISTCHURCH: India will look to overcome their inability to close out the opening Test and secure a series-winning victory when they face New Zealand in the second and final match at Hagley Oval, beginning Friday.

After a high-scoring draw in Wellington, Shubman Gill's side face the challenge of adapting to a potentially more bowler-friendly surface, with the result carrying significant implications for their World Test Championship (WTC) campaign. New Zealand, meanwhile, will aim to exploit home conditions and complete another successful assignment against the visitors.

The first Test at the Basin Reserve exposed contrasting strengths between the two teams. New Zealand recovered from 70/5 to post 368 in their first innings, courtesy of Henry Nicholls' unbeaten 175 and Glenn Phillips' 118. Their 216-run sixth-wicket partnership rescued the hosts from a



precarious position and prevented India from gaining an early advantage.

India responded with a mammoth 720/9 declared, their highest Test total in New Zealand, as six of their top seven batters registered half-centuries or better. KL Rahul led the scoring with 136, while Rishabh Pant struck 128. Yashasvi Jaiswal (85), Devdutt Padikkal (80), Shubman Gill (98) and Dhruv Jurel (78) also made substantial contributions.

However, India's batting dominance did not translate into victory. New Zealand displayed considerable resilience in their second innings, finishing at 239/5 after surviving 120 overs. Daryl Mitchell and Phillips were instrumental in frustrating the Indian attack during the final day's play, leaving the visitors without the five wickets required to force a result.

The conditions at Christchurch could offer India a better opportunity to make their bowling resources count. Hagley Oval traditionally assists seamers early in the match before becoming more conducive to batting. The presence of grass on the surface, combined with the possibility of favourable overhead conditions, could make the opening sessions particularly important for both sides.

'It has nothing to do with us': Gyokeres plays down Man City sanctions talk ahead of clash

IANS

NEW DELHI: Arsenal striker Viktor Gyokeres has said his team will not allow discussions surrounding possible sanctions against Manchester City to affect their preparations for Sunday's Premier League clash, insisting that the focus remains on securing three points.

Arsenal are at the top of the 2026-27 Premier League table with 28 points from 11 matches, having won nine games, drawn one and lost one. The Gunners, who lifted the title last season with 85 points, hold a six-point advantage at the summit.

Manchester City are third with 22 points from 11 matches, making Sunday's meeting an important contest in the title race.

Asked about the situation surrounding Manchester City and the possible consequences for the club after being found guilty of 114 charges, Gyokeres said Arsenal were concentrating only on their own preparations.

"We are focused on the game on Sunday. We can't control that. It has nothing to do with us. So, we don't put any energy into that," Gyokeres said, as quoted by ESPN.

The Swedish striker, however, warned that City remain a strong opponent despite their recent struggles and said Arsenal should not underestimate their quality.

"They still have a very good squad and very good players. Sometimes, you may have a period where you don't get the results all the time, which is normal for any club. It is going to be a difficult game on Sunday. But it is always fun with big games. It is going to be good," he added.

Arsenal head into the contest after playing out a 1-1 draw against Borussia Dortmund in the UEFA Champions League on Tuesday, with Gyokeres getting on the scoresheet.

Idolising Leclerc, Verstappen, F4 Indian Championship's history-maker Aaron Mehta looks to keep pushing

IANS

NEW DELHI: The 15-year-old Aaron Mehta has been setting records in the F4 Indian Championship 2026. Youngest-ever race winner, youngest front-row starter, youngest podium finisher, and youngest lap leader: these are some of the major milestones the Singaporean-born driver has achieved in his debut season.

The Kolkata Royal Tigers driver has the likes of Ferrari Formula 1 driver Charles Leclerc and four-time F1 world champion Max Verstappen as his idols in the sport. Although still early in his single-seater days, Aaron has the one-lap pace and the racecraft, the two factors which these F1 superstars have mastered.

These were on display when Aaron took the pole on his absolute debut in the F4 Indian series during round 1, race 1 at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore, and then again when he took a double pole in race 1 and race 3 at the Madras International Circuit in Chennai during round 3.

He seems to be learning from the best in the business. "I have a few idols; Charles Leclerc is one of them because of his one-lap qualifying pace. He's very strong, and I think in that way I'm very similar to him," he told IANS at the Buddh International Circuit, where he gears up for the fifth round of the season.



Then he has learnt racecraft from his karting days and looks to keep honing it. He has already impressed with his racecraft in the ongoing F4 Indian Championship, having become the youngest race winner in the series' history during his round 3 race 3 victory at the Madras International Circuit.

"I think Max Verstappen (my other idol), he's very, very strong with his race craft and his driving style is very aggressive which I think is similar to mine and yeah when he races his opponents on track I think he doesn't hold back and to be a racing driver, to be the best you have to not be scared, you can't hold back and yeah you have to just try and be as best as you can.

"I think Max is always on top of his game every time we see him race, every time he drives," he added.

The 15-year-old has had a mixed season in the F4 Indian series, highlighted by the highs of his heroics in round 3 in Chennai and by the challenging weekend at the Buddh International Circuit in round 4, where he had two DNFs and a P12 finish across the three races.

Peaks and Valleys in all sports are part and parcel of the game. But how an athlete stays in the zone and tries to bounce back is what matters the most. Just like his idols Leclerc and Verstappen, Aaron has a strong mindset and stays in the zone, knowing he has to bounce back.

"Buddh's been amazing; honestly, it's one of the best tracks I've driven. I've driven quite a few tracks in my career in cars; I think (I am) approaching 10-15 tracks now, and yeah, Buddh's amazing. It's definitely up there as one of the top three, just because of how wide it is and the high speed; obviously, the back straight is really good. You have a long braking zone, which is always amazing for racing; I think the fans will enjoy it as well. It's an amazing track to be a spectator at as well.

"Last round I think was not as fortunate for me; we had a few issues with the car that were out of my control, but ultimately at the end of the day we know we have the pace and we know that we're very strong and we're able to fight in the top three for the championship, so I think that it's honestly just, this is racing sometimes, sometimes things don't go your way, and it matters more how you bounce back from that, and I think that's what we intend to do this round," he says.

He raced at the Sepang International Circuit for the Evans GP during the Formula Trophy Malaysia early in October, the same weekend when the F1 Bahrain Grand Prix took place in Malaysia. He got to see his idols close on the track and raced his car on the same track that those F1 superstars were about to do. It was a surreal experience, he calls.

"Yeah, so obviously it was a surreal experience racing on a Formula 1 weekend, but not as a spectator but as a driver as well with Formula Trophy Malaysia. Yeah, I did see some of the drivers there; we got to spectate them as well when they were driving their sessions, and it's just so inspiring to be, you know, maybe an hour after I'm done driving, they're on track now and driving the same road, the piece of road that I drove very recently.

