



Western Disturbance To Bring Heavy Rain, Snow To J&K From Today

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is bracing for a fresh spell of inclement weather as a Western Disturbance is set to impact the region from Sunday onwards, bringing widespread rain in the plains and snowfall over higher reaches.

The advisory issued by the Indian Meteorological Department, states that from October 5 to 7, J&K is likely to experience generally cloudy conditions with intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at most places. "Light to moderate snowfall is expected over the higher reaches, with the possibility of heavy to very heavy rain at a few places in Jammu division and moderate to heavy rain at isolated places in Kashmir division on October 6," the advisory states, adding, "On October 8, a brief spell of light rain may occur at a few places, while October 9-14 is expected to remain generally dry across Jammu and Kashmir."

Meanwhile, Independent weatherman Faizan Keng while talking to KNO said the effect of the Western Disturbance will become noticeable from Sunday evening, intensifying from Monday onwards. "Plains are likely to receive light to moderate rain, while higher reaches will witness snowfall which may lead to closure of key mountain passes including Sinthan Top, Zojila Pass, Margan Top and Sahnna Top," Keng said.

He added that upper reaches of South

Kashmir may witness 6 inches to 1.5 feet of snowfall, while North Kashmir's upper reaches could record nearly a foot of snow.



The Meteorological Department has issued a detailed advisory for the people and has asked the farmers to suspend harvesting and other agricultural operations between October 5-7.

"There is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of Jammu division and moderate to heavy rainfall in isolated areas of Kashmir division, accompanied by thunder, lightning and gusty winds. Landslides and shooting stones are likely at vulnerable

stretches," reads the advisory.

"Light to moderate snowfall is expected over the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley, Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal

a state of full readiness to minimize possible damage to fruit crops, ensure uninterrupted supply of essential services and keep all major roads and highways functional during the weather disturbance.

Reviewing the arrangements, the



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Chief Minister had asked the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to issue timely advisories to farmers and orchardists and ensure the smooth transportation of fruit to terminal markets, particularly during peak harvesting season.

He asked the Public Works Department and national highway agencies, including NHIDCL, NHAI,

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Better Air Connectivity Vital For J&K's National Mainstream: Dr Jitendra

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that improving air connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir is crucial not only for passenger convenience but also for economic growth, tourism and greater integration of the region with national mainstream.

Reviewing aviation plans for the Union Territory, he underlined the importance of improving regional connectivity and providing affordable travel options to local residents.

At a meeting attended by Samir Kumar Sinha, Secretary of Civil Aviation Ministry, and Vipin Kumar, Chairman of Airports Authority of India, Singh called for fast-tracking necessary approvals and technical work.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, emphasised that the Udhampur airport could initially begin operations with ATR

72-seater aircraft under the Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAAN, which would cap ticket fares at nearly half the prevailing market rates.

This would not only make flights more



affordable but also bring Delhi-Udhampur fares substantially lower than the Delhi-Jammu route, thus offering a huge incentive to even Jammu-bound passengers to take the Delhi-Udhampur air route.

The step would be a major relief for students and young professionals

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BJP To Field 3 Candidates In RS Polls

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JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday announced that it will field three candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls.

BJP spokesperson Sunil Sethi said, "We have decided to contest all seats. We are



fielding three candidates." While the BJP will field one candidate each for the first two seats, for

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J&K Govt kicks off budget preparations for 2026-27



SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has initiated an exercise to prepare the annual budget for the next financial year.

To begin with, the Finance Department has asked all departments to start the budget preparation for 2026-27.

"All administrative departments, Heads of Departments (HODs), Budget Controlling Officers, and Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) are requested to start the budget preparation exercise for the year 2026-27 in right earnest, to enable examination, compilation, and consolidation of these estimates within the administrative departments for onward submission to the Finance Department," reads a circular issued by the Finance Department, a copy of which is in possession of

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PM Unveils Initiatives Worth Over ₹ 62,000 Cr For Youth

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled various youth-focused initiatives worth over 62 thousand crore



rupees, giving a decisive push to education, skilling and entrepreneurship across the country.

During the Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, the Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs- PM-SETU.

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Addressing the gathering after launching the various youth-focused initiatives, the Prime Minister said, skill plays an important role in nation-building.

He said, his government is preparing the Yuva Shakti to lead the future with a strong focus on skilling and innovation.

He highlighted that India is a country of knowledge and skill and intellectual strength is the greatest power of the country. He mentioned that ITIs are not only premier institutions of industrial education but are also the workshops of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The Prime Minister said that the PM-SETU scheme will benefit over one thousand ITIs across the country as they will be upgraded and modern machines will be introduced.

He emphasised that the PM-SETU will connect country's youth with the world's skill demands.

Recalling the contribution

IGP Reviews Jammu Policing, Stresses Alignment With India 2047 Vision

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti on Saturday reviewed the Action Taken Reports on various recommendations of



multi-sectoral policing in the Jammu region and emphasised aligning all initiatives with the national vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.

The review meeting, chaired by the IGP, was held in view of preparedness ahead of the

forthcoming 60th edition of the national conference of DGPs and IGPs to be held in Chhattisgarh next month.

"IGP chaired a meeting at the Zonal Police Headquarters in Jammu

to review the progress on recommendations from the previous DGPs and IGPs Conference," a police officer said.

The high-level meeting was attended by top police officials of the region, both in person and through video conferencing.

"During the session, the IGP reviewed the Action Taken Reports on various recommendations from earlier meetings, covering a wide range of contemporary policing

Officers Were Also Encouraged To Devise National-Level Strategies For Law Enforcement And To Innovate To Bring Measurable Improvements In Police Functioning, The Officer Said.

and internal security issues such as cybercrime, technology in policing, counter-terrorism challenges, and reforms

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Bottimline

J&K Govt Bans Sale of Unsafe Frozen, Chilled Meat Products

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has banned the trade of unsafe frozen meat after inspections revealed rotten and unlabelled stock being sold in



the market.

Assistant Commissioner of Food Safety, Hilal Ahmad Mir said, that the move is aimed at protecting public health and stopping those involved in unsafe practices.

He said the Food Safety Commissioner has ordered an immediate ban on the preparation, storage, transport, and sale of frozen meat that does not meet the standards set under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.

Celsius. Any product failing to meet these conditions will be seized and destroyed, he warned.

The officer added that all departments, including police, have been alerted. He urged people to report suspicious sales

He said the Food Safety Commissioner has ordered an immediate ban on the preparation, storage, transport, and sale of frozen meat that does not meet the standards set under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.

and warned traders that licences will be cancelled if they are found violating the ban.

"Only properly labelled and safely stored branded meat products will be

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Class 10 Exams From Nov 3 With 15% Syllabus Relaxation

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has notified the date-sheet for Class 10th Annual/Regular, 2025 (Oct-Nov session), scheduling the examination from November 3 from 11 am to 2 pm.

In all, nearly 95,000 students from Kashmir Division and winter zone areas of Jammu Division including students from Ladakh UT are expected to take up the exam, which the Government has restored back to October-November session.

As per the date-sheet, the exams will commence on November 3 for Mathematics subject followed by Social Science on November 7.

The examination for Science subject has been scheduled on November 11 while English paper will be held on November 14.

The Urdu/Hindi papers have been scheduled on November 17, Computer Science on November 19 while as

vocational subjects paper will be held on November 21. Subjects with smaller number of candidates like Home Science will be held on November 23, Music on November



25 and additional/optional subjects including Kashmiri/Dogri/Bhoti/Punjabi/Arabic/Urdu/Hindi/Persian/Sanskrit on November 24. The examination will conclude on November 27 with Painting/Art and Drawing subject papers scheduled on that day.

In consideration of the disruptions in the academic calendar caused due to heat wave, torrential rains/cloudbursts and floods, the

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Focus on issues of J&K: Tarun Chugh slams CM Omar on Ladakh remarks

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary Tarun Chug Saturday slammed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over his statements on Ladakh, stating that he failed to fulfil any promise made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir before the elections.

Speaking with reporters, Chugh asked, CM Omar to focus on addressing issues in J&K rather than diverting attention to Ladakh

He also said that whenever there is an atmosphere of joy in the country, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and the rest of the INDIA block parties start playing the tune of mourning.

He said that India's Gen-Z is engaged in making the country self-reliant and is being advanced by following PM Modi's policies.

"PM Modi has given a goal to Gen-Z and is continuously working for the welfare of the youth. The result of this is visible across the entire country," he said.

On Ladakh situation, Chugh said that the Central government

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DC Udhampur hands over sanction letters to beneficiaries under Mission YUVA



UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under the Mission YUVA scheme here at a brief function held in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The event was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh, General Manager JK Bank, Tariq Ali, DGM, Lalit Parkash and AGM, Naresh Kumar.

While interacting with the beneficiaries, the DC

congratulated them and informed them about various welfare schemes launched by the Government aimed at supporting unemployed youth. She emphasized that Mission YUVA is not merely a financial assistance programme, but a movement to promote self-reliance and entrepreneurship among the youth.

The DC urged the beneficiaries to utilize the financial assistance judiciously and work towards establishing sustainable

and dignified livelihoods. Appreciating the coordinated efforts of J&K Bank in processing and facilitating cases under the scheme, she stressed the need to expedite the disbursement of financial assistance in a smooth and hassle-free manner.

The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the government for launching the Mission YUVA initiative, which provides financial assistance and continuous handholding support for setting up their own business ventures.

Mission Yuva: Udyam Jagriti 4.0 campaign in swing across Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: The progress under Mission Yuva and the implementation of ongoing Udyam Jagriti 4.0 campaign in Kishtwar District was reviewed at meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal and attended by SBDU Members and BHD heads, resource persons from Government Degree Colleges, Polytechnic College, and ITI along with BPMs from NRLM. The ADC reviewed the coverage under Udyam Jagriti 4.0 campaign and directed the resource persons to reach out to each student of their respective institutions by next week.

The campaign aims to motivate students towards self-employment and raise awareness about the government schemes promoting entrepreneurship and youth empowerment.

The ADC also reviewed the performance of NRLM and instructed the BPMs to rope in each woman associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

He highlighted that women's participation is a key component of Mission Yuva and is essential for building a strong local entrepreneurial ecosystem. While reviewing the pendency of cases at the bank level, the ADC directed the concerned bank officials to monitor the sanctioning and disbursement processes regularly and ensure that all approved cases are finalized without delay. He further took stock of the verification status of business project proposals at the BHD level. He directed the ACR and all SDMs to fast-track the verification process, enabling timely processing at the SBDU level and subsequent DLIC approvals. The meeting was attended by ACR Kishtwar, Mohd Idrees Lone; SDM Paddar, Dr. Amit Bhagat; SDM Chatroo, Nayeem-ul-Rehman; AD Employment, Shafiqat Keen; officers from the Employment Department; representatives from NRLM and other concerned officials.

Mega Multi-Speciality Health Camp organised at Village Bheja-Bhaderwah

DODA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and Director Health Services Jammu Dr. A. H. Zargar, and under the overall guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar, and ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, a Mega Multi-Speciality Health Camp was organized at Village Bheja in Medical Block Bhaderwah.

The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Om Kumar, CMO Doda, in the presence of the Commanding Officer, 33 Bn CRPF, BMO Bhaderwah, Dr. Versha Sharma, and several other dignitaries and officials from the Health Department and local administration.

A wide range of health services were provided to the general public, including General Health Check-up, Orthopaedic, Physician, NCD, AYUSH, Dental, Eye Check-up, Laboratory Tests and USG facilities. Free medicines were distributed among the patients and Vay Vandhana Cards were generated for

senior citizens on the occasion. Additionally, teams delivered supporting departments for ensuring the successful conduct



health education and awareness sessions on various preventive and promotive health topics.

More than 250 patients were screened and treated at the camp by a team of dedicated doctors and paramedical staff from SDH Bhaderwah and GMC Doda.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Om Kumar highlighted that the camp was specially organized to provide comprehensive healthcare services to the flood-affected population of the area. He appreciated the tireless efforts of the medical teams and

of the event. BMO Bhaderwah Dr. Versha Sharma in her address expressed gratitude to the district administration, local administration and GMC Doda for their continued support and emphasized the importance of organizing such outreach programs to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all.

The local population expressed their heartfelt thanks to the Health Department and the district administration for bringing quality medical care to their doorstep.

Beekeepers awareness programme held at Tethar Banihal

DC Alyas Khan encourages local beekeepers to invest in world-famous Sulai Honey

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan presided over an awareness programme at Tethar Banihal organised by the Agriculture Department Ramban in collaboration with Sanglaab Valley Fed Honey Producer Company Limited.

The event witnessed the participation of nearly 250 stakeholders of the Sanglaab Valley FPO and the local officers including SDM Mohammad Naseeb Bajran; Chief Agriculture Officer Dr Vinay Kumar Jandial; District Agriculture Officer Kuldeep; Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Ilyas Ahmad.

Among others present at the camp, included representatives from NAFED's Cluster Based Business Organization Agriwatch, including Director (Finance & Compliances), Srimathi Bhaskar and Vice President Ashok Burman, besides State Coordinators FPO Project J&K Dr. Aaqib Hassan and Showkat Hussain attended the camp.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner inspected stalls set up to demonstrate modern beekeeping techniques.

He asked the experts to share their experiences and innovations with the local Beekeepers to help them overcome the challenges they face.

Appreciating the local beekeepers and the Agriculture Department for promoting the world-famous Sulai Honey, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged them to increase the production and engage more local youth in beekeeping to enhance livelihood opportunities.

He assured full cooperation from the administration in further strengthening the apiculture sector and making Ramban a hub of high-quality honey production.

The Beekeepers from different parts of the district shared their success stories and highlighted the growing popularity of Sulai Honey, which has earned a reputation for its premium quality and distinctive flavor.

They also expressed gratitude to the District Administration and Police Department for facilitating hassle-free transportation during their seasonal migration.

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Mega Public grievances redressal Camp held at Banihal

DC listens to public issues, passes on-spot directions to resolve grievances

RAMBAN: As part of the ongoing public outreach initiative, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan convened a mega Public Grievances Redressal Camp at Banihal. He interacted with people from different Panchayats and the Municipal area Banihal.

The camp witnessed active participation from public delegations and individual applicants who projected a wide range of demands seeking augmentation of public infrastructure, employment opportunities for local youth in National Projects. Most of the grievances were addressed on the spot as the DC passed specific directions to the concerned officers for their timely redressal.

Among those present included local SDM Mohammad Naseeb Bajran, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), SDPO and Executive Engineers of PMGSY, Jal Shakti and other

departments. The Deputy Commissioner directed the ALC to organize a weekly camp to concede the demands of labourers and scale up efforts to achieve maximum



coverage under Mission YUVA schemes to benefit local youth. He assured that the matter regarding employment opportunities for local youth in the companies associated with the execution of National Projects would be taken up with the concerned authorities. Responding to the demand or augmentation of road infrastructure, the DC asked

PMGSY and PWD Engineers to expedite the completion of ongoing road projects and renovation of damaged stretches to restore smooth connectivity. The Executive Officer MC



Banihal was instructed to install street lights in the town as per requirement within a stipulated time frame and to accommodate registered vendors in designated areas to decongest the main market and streets.

The CEO was directed to post adequate staff at Mahoo School, besides inspect the Krawa School building and land

for the construction of school at Sherbibi. The ADC was asked to clear pending payments of contractors, while the Executive Engineer REW was directed to hold a special camp at Banihal for the allotment of developmental works.

Regarding the health sector, the CMO was directed to ensure that the Hospital on Wheels visits Mahoo area on a weekly basis to provide healthcare to local people at their doorsteps. He also instructed the CMO to depute a health worker at Chapnari Health Centre to make it functional. The Agriculture Department was told to distribute quality seeds at the Panchayat level to increase local production.

Responding to demands related to the National Highway, the DC informed that the construction of the overhead bridge would soon be taken up by the NHAI in the area, ensuring a safe crossing point for the local residents. He also mentioned that land compensation and damage cases are under active process.

Poshan Project Reasi celebrates Poshan Maah at Agharjitto



REASI: The Poshan Project Reasi celebrated Poshan Maah with great enthusiasm at Lower Batora, Panchayat Agharjitto, as part of the ongoing nationwide Poshan Maah initiative. The event aimed to enhance awareness about nutrition, health and overall well-being among rural communities.

The event was chaired by District Programme Officer (Poshan Reasi) Sudarshan Kumar along with CPO Reasi Suninderjeet Kour. She educated the participants about the objectives of Mission POSHAN and the significance of Poshan Maah celebrations in promoting healthy living and combating malnutrition.

As part of the celebrations, several engaging activities were organized, including nutrition awareness sessions, demonstration of healthy recipes and interactive engagements with local women and children. These sessions emphasized the importance of balanced diets, child health and the effective utilization of various government nutrition schemes available to families in the region. The celebration witnessed active participation from Panchayat members, Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers, mothers and children from the local community.

The programme concluded with a message encouraging the community to adopt nutritious food habits and ensure the health and well-being of every child and mother in the district.

DC Rajouri reviews safety measures amid adverse weather forecast

Stresses on readiness of essential services, amenities

RAJOURI: In view of the adverse weather forecast, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review preparedness measures and ensure the safety and well-being of the people, particularly those residing in snow-bound and far-flung areas.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of high altitude roads in Budhal and Thanamandi, with special focus on roads providing connectivity to Army posts, and directed the concerned authorities to remain alert and ensure timely clearance of snow and restoration of connectivity.

He further instructed the officers to disseminate messages among the tribal population in the upper reaches regarding the weather situation.

Reviewing the power supply scenario, the DC directed the Power Department to take adequate measures for uninterrupted electricity supply to vulnerable areas. He asked the department to provide protective gear to field staff for their safety. He emphasized

on identifying gaps at the ground level and staying fully prepared to address any emergency.



The Sheep Husbandry Department was instructed to spread awareness in local languages so that herders can easily report about

emergency situation and seek help in case of any eventuality. The Education Department was directed to conduct safety audits of all Government schools, as also ensure similar audits are carried out in private institutions.

The DC also reviewed the preparedness of SDRF and directed the department to conduct drills to ensure readiness for any exigency.

The Health Department was instructed to strengthen Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in far-flung areas to meet healthcare needs during adverse weather conditions.

The meeting was attended by ADC Chander Prakash; ACR Mohammad Jahangir Khan; SE Tilak Raj; CPO Maqsood Ahmed; DySP Satish Kumar; Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Ex. En PDD, Ex. En PHE, Deputy Controller SDRF and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

Additionally, ADC Kalakote Tanvir Ahmed, ADC Kotranka Dilmir Choudhary, ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa and ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma participated in the meeting virtually.

Empowering Youth through Sports: Indian Army launches Girls Archery & Shooting competition in Doda

DODA: In a powerful stride toward youth empowerment and community engagement, the Indian Army's 10 Rashtriya Rifles inaugurated a Girls Archery and Shooting Competition today at Doda under the banner of Operation Sadbhavana. The initiative aims to foster sportsmanship, discipline and confidence among young girls and boys in the region, while strengthening the bond between the Army and local communities.

The opening ceremony was graced by Sub Major Chain Singh, the International Shooter and Olympian. His presence inspired the young participants and added prestige to the event. The atmosphere was charged

with enthusiasm, pride and a shared commitment to nurturing future champions. A total of 25 girls and 27 boys showcased their talent and determination



in the 10-meter Air Rifle shooting events. Speaking at the ceremony, Sub Major Chain Singh emphasized the transformative power of sports in shaping character and building unity.

He lauded the Indian Army's 10 Rashtriya Rifles for creating inclusive platforms for youth development, especially for girls in remote areas. Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh also attended the event and appreciated the Army's efforts, thanking the 10 Rashtriya Rifles for this remarkable initiative. This competition is part of the broader vision under Operation Sadbhavana to promote peace, progress and participation through constructive engagement. The Indian Army remains committed to uplifting local talent and providing opportunities that resonate with cultural pride and national spirit.

Special interactive session hosted for IID J&K students at DC Office Doda

DODA: A special interactive session for the students of the Institute for Intellectual Development (IID J&K) was organized at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Doda. The program was graced by the esteemed presence of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, whose participation added immense value and inspiration to the event.

The primary objective of the session was to provide students with a unique platform to interact directly with the Deputy Commissioner and gain valuable insights into leadership, governance and personal development. Around 100 students participated enthusiastically, making the session lively and impactful.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the students and encouraged them to stay focused on their future goals.

During the session, students interacted freely with the DC, asking thoughtful questions related to career counseling, maintaining a positive study environment during preparation and developing self-belief to clear competitive examinations. The Deputy Commissioner responded to each query with motivational guidance and practical advice,

inspiring the students to work with dedication and confidence.

IID J&K has been playing a pivotal role in empowering youth through quality education, offering free coaching to students from economically



weaker sections. This initiative is being carried out in close collaboration with the District Administration Doda, with the shared vision of making quality education accessible and affordable for all.

The success of this educational program is attributed to the dedicated faculty, including Tahir Ashraf Wani (Senior Lecturer, Chemistry), Sajad Ahmed, Dr. Mohammad Shuaib (Director, IID J&K). Their commitment and guidance have been instrumental in nurturing the academic growth of students and preparing them for future challenges.

Rana lays foundation stone for approach roads to Mendhari Nallah

Also reviews developmental scenario of Mendhar Constituency



FE News Network

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana laid the foundation stone for the construction of approach roads to the downstream bridge over the Mendhari Nallah. The vital infrastructure project, sanctioned at a cost of 339.20 lakhs, will be executed by the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department. During the foundation-laying ceremony, Rana directed the Executive Engineer of the R&B department to ensure the project is completed within the stipulated timeline. He stressed the importance of adhering to high quality standards and technical specifications, emphasizing that durable road infrastructure is essential for long-term public convenience and regional development. Reaffirming Omar Abdullah Government's commitment

to enhancing road connectivity in remote and underserved areas, Rana noted that improved infrastructure is a key driver of socio-economic growth and accessibility in rural areas.

Later, the Minister chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the overall developmental scenario in Mendhar Constituency.

Highlighting the crucial role of horticulture and agriculture in bolstering the rural economy, Rana called for increased outreach and awareness among farmers and the general public regarding various government schemes and welfare initiatives.

He directed the concerned departments to organize awareness camps, workshops and field demonstrations at the village level to ensure that information reaches the grassroots, enabling maximum public participation and benefit.

The Minister also held a detailed review of ongoing and proposed works under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the Public Works Department (PWD).

He instructed officials to expedite the tendering process, monitor progress rigorously, and ensure timely completion of all infrastructure projects.

He also reviewed the status of road restoration efforts following recent landslides and directed the timely preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for new road projects under various schemes.

In the education sector, Rana called for swift implementation of developmental initiatives aimed at improving educational infrastructure, teaching standards and learning outcomes.

He emphasized the need for optimal utilization of existing human resources and integration of digital learning tools to enhance the quality of education, particularly in rural schools.

Addressing the healthcare situation, the Minister highlighted the importance of improving healthcare access and service delivery in underserved areas.

He directed health officials to undertake outreach programs to enhance community awareness and ensure equitable access to primary healthcare services.

The Minister underscored the importance of interdepartmental coordination, proactive governance and transparency in the execution of development works.

"The Government is committed to ensuring inclusive and holistic development that reaches every section of society, especially those in far-flung and rural areas," Rana stated.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Health, Rural Development, PWD and PMGSY departments, along with field-level officers and representatives from various line departments.

Active participation of citizens, panchayats must for achieving vision of a clean, green J&K: Javid Dar

Addresses culmination ceremony of Swachhotsav 2025 at Srinagar

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Rural Sanitation, J&K organised the culmination ceremony of Swachhotsav 2025 at RDD Park, Harwan, marking the grand conclusion of the 15 day long Swachhata Hi Seva campaign across the Union Territory.

The event was graced by Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, as Chief Guest. He appreciated the active participation of citizens, panchayats and various stakeholders in the campaign, adding that their active participation is must for achieving the vision of a clean and green Jammu & Kashmir.

MLA Hazrabal Salman Sagar, Secretary RDD Mohammad Aijaz Asad; Director General Rural Sanitation,

Anoo Malhotra; Director Rural Development Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; other senior officers RDD, district administration and representatives of Swachh Bharat Mission were also present on the occasion.

In his address, the Minister underscored the need to continue the cleanliness drive beyond campaigns and events, stressing

that cleanliness should become an integral part of daily life and faith.

"Cleanliness is not just a duty, it is part of our faith. Every citizen must act responsibly to

Centre (CFC) at Harwan, aimed at strengthening local governance and improving public service delivery in the area.

The culmination ceremony witnessed vibrant participation



keep their surroundings, water bodies, and public spaces clean. The true spirit of Swachh Bharat lies in sustained community participation," the Minister said. He highlighted that clean water bodies are lifeline for communities, and protecting them from pollution must remain our top priority.

He urged people to ensure that waste is managed at source and to actively support initiatives under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen for solid and liquid waste management.

Earlier, Javid Dar also laid the foundation stone for a new Community Facilitation

from students, PRI members, officers, SHG members, and sanitation workers, who showcased their contributions through photo exhibitions, cultural performances, and waste-to-wealth displays highlighting innovative local efforts toward a cleaner environment.

The event concluded with a pledge on cleanliness and environmental responsibility, reaffirming the collective commitment to sustain the momentum of Swachhata Hi Seva and make Jammu & Kashmir a model of rural sanitation excellence.

Adopt proactive approach to bring shadow areas under network coverage: Div Com to BSNL



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, chaired a meeting to address ongoing network coverage problems in shadow areas across various districts, including Srinagar, Kupwara, Shopian, and Anantnag. The meeting highlighted the need to improve mobile connectivity in these areas, with

a focus on the timely erection of telecom towers.

He instructed BSNL to submit a phase-wise report detailing all existing telecom tower sites & stages of work and urged to initiate the construction of towers at locations where land has already been transferred to the telecom company.

Regarding revenue & land transfer issues, District administrations were directed

to resolve any revenue-related issues to facilitate the land transfer process for the timely completion of tower installation in shadow areas.

He emphasised on eliminating duplicate entries from the combined list of proposed tower sites to avoid redundant efforts and to streamline the process.

To address concerns regarding the erection of a tower near the Dachigam Wildlife Park, Div Com directed officials to find an alternative location for the tower at Mulnar to avoid potential conflicts with the park's conservation efforts.

He instructed BSNL officers to adopt a proactive approach to pursue the cases with district administrations and other concerned officers.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Shopian; Additional Commissioner Kashmir; Additional Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Kupwara & Anantnag; Assistant Commissioner Central, DGM BSNL, OSD to Div Com and other officers.

Mega Awareness, Distribution Camp organised at Achabal

FE News Network

ANANTNAG: A mega awareness and distribution camp was organised by the Department of Social Welfare, Anantnag in collaboration with the District Information Center, Anantnag and Cultural Wing, DIPR Kashmir at Achabal.

Secretary DLSA, Fozia Paul graced the event as Chief Guest while SDPO Achabal attended as Guest of Honour.

Principal GHSS Achabal, TSWOs, officials of SW & other departments, civil society members and a large number of senior citizens attended the camp.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary DLSA briefed about the legal services and rights available to the senior citizens and called for implementing holistic measures for the elderly and senior citizens so they age with respect and dignity. She advocated for a rights based approach to ensure social security and overall welfare of senior citizens and other vulnerable sections of society.

On the occasion, officers from Social Welfare highlighted the services and facilities provided by the department to senior citizens such as Old Age Pension, Hearing Aids and Old Age Homes. During the program, colorful cultural items like skits and songs on rights of senior citizens and Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan were presented by the artists of Cultural Wing, DIPR Kashmir.

At the conclusion, carrom boards and other sports kits were distributed among the senior citizens for their recreation and psychological well being.

Rana reviews relief, rehabilitation efforts for Kalaban landslide victims



FE News Network

MENDHAR: Minister Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana convened a meeting with Sub-Divisional staff in Mendhar to assess the ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures for families affected by the recent landslide tragedy in Kalaban.

During the review, the Minister stressed on the importance of comprehensive and transparent evaluation of damages incurred due to the natural calamity.

He directed officials to ensure that no affected family is overlooked, and that the assessment process remains fair, accurate and inclusive.

"The Government is fully committed to stand with every family affected by this tragedy. All necessary measures are being taken to ensure timely relief, rehabilitation and assistance to the affected individuals," he said.

Rana also called for enhanced coordination between administrative officers and on-ground response teams to streamline rehabilitation and restoration efforts.

He urged for expedited preparation of compensation proposals and long-term rehabilitation plans, ensuring they reflect the real needs of the victims.

Rana issued clear instructions for prompt follow-up actions and regular progress reviews to monitor implementation on ground.

Kashmir literature fest second edition to begin from Oct-11

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: The much-awaited second edition of the Kashmir Literature Festival is all set to commence from 11th to 12th October at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar. Following the success of its inaugural edition in December last year, the festival aims to celebrate and revive Kashmir's rich literary and intellectual heritage. Organized by the Shrikula Foundation, the festival according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) will bring together eminent authors, scholars, and intellectuals from across India. Among the participants of the fest includes former Vice Chancellor of Kashmir University, Khurshid Andrabi,

JK Bank Managing Director Amitabh Chatterjee, and noted Kashmiri writer Neeraja Mattu, who will be part of the Kashmiri literature speaker panel.

The festival will be inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at 10 am on 11th October.

The festival has emerged as a platform for Kashmiri youth to engage with intellectuals, fostering dialogue between students from various institutions and prominent writers.

Speaking about the event, a member of the organizing committee said, "Last year, I was invited merely as an audience member.

GMC Srinagar administrator Mohammad Ashraf Hakak honoured with 'Pride of India Award'



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Mohammad Ashraf Hakak (JKAS), the Administrator of Associated Hospitals at the Government Medical College (GMC) in Srinagar, was felicitated with the prestigious 'Pride of India Award' on Saturday.

The award was presented in recognition of Hakak's exceptional and professional contributions to his field, which have significantly impacted the healthcare administration in the region.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials

from the medical fraternity. Dr. Iffat Hussain Shah, the Principal of GMC Srinagar, along with Sarwar Khan, Director of the Associated Colleges and Faculty Institutions (ACFI) Kashmir, jointly honoured him with the accolade.

The 'Pride of India Award' acknowledges individuals who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and excellence in their professional domains.

Hakak's work in streamlining the administration of the associated hospitals under GMC Srinagar has been widely praised, making him a deserving recipient of this honour.

FE News Network

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education department, Shantamanu inaugurated the 52nd Rajya Satriya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP) 2024-25 and Divisional Level National Science Seminar (NSS) 2025, held together as a Mega Science event at Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo here.

The event was hosted by the State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT) J&K, Divisional Office Jammu and other officers were present on the occasion.

Joint Director DSEJ, Joint Director SCERT, Joint Director Central, experts from NCERT, New Delhi- Prof. Ramavatar Meena and Prof. T. P. Sharma, National RSBVP Coordinator, students and other officers were present on the occasion.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from seventy young innovators, twenty seminar toppers and teachers from the ten districts of Jammu Division.

The ACS in his captivating address on the occasion, motivated

Shantamanu Inaugurates Mega Science Event At Jammu

the students to embrace curiosity, strengthen scientific foundations and step forward with confidence to shape their future and wished them to begin their journey

were exhibited under the theme "Science and Technology for Society". The exhibits addressed pressing issues like natural farming, waste management, and

with modern sustainability practices and were enriched by the expert inputs from Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, Professor of Agronomy, SKUAST-Jammu.



as innovators and leaders of tomorrow.

In her opening remarks, Joint Director SCERT, Prof. Sindhu Kapoor, praised the efforts of students and educators emphasizing SCERT Jammu's commitment to fostering scientific passion, creativity and innovation among the young minds for the betterment of the society.

Under the 52nd Rajya Satriya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP), sponsored by NCERT, forty seven innovative models

renewable energy solutions and were evaluated by an expert jury comprising faculty members of different colleges. Twenty-one outstanding models (three from each sub-theme) were shortlisted to represent Jammu Division at the 52nd Rashtriya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani 2025.

The Science Seminar saw ten district-level winners delivering insightful presentations on the theme "Quantum Age Begins: Potential and Challenges." Their talks blended traditional wisdom

first position will showcase his talent at the UT-level, with the opportunity to represent Jammu & Kashmir and showcase their talent at the National Science Seminar 2025 in Bangalore.

Deputy Secretary, School Education Department, in her concluding remarks, lauded the efforts of the students and SCERT Jammu for organizing such enlightening programs. She gave away the medals and certificates to the students in recognition of their remarkable efforts.

Editorial

Forecast And Response

The familiar chill in the air and the forecast of a Western Disturbance remind us that Jammu and Kashmir is facing another tough weather season. The region will experience a new round of bad weather starting Sunday, bringing widespread rain and the first significant snowfall of the season at higher elevations. The real challenge is not just the weather but how ready the administration is and how the public will respond.

The Indian Meteorological Department has issued a clear advisory. From October 5 to 7, there will be light to moderate rain and thundershowers in the plains, along with snowfall at higher elevations. Some areas in Jammu and Kashmir might see intense rainfall. The potential effects are serious. There could be landslides and falling rocks on certain highways, and important mountain passes like Sinthan Top and Zojila may have to close. For the agriculture and horticulture sectors, which are currently in their peak harvest period, the risk is even greater. Unharvested crops and fruit-laden orchards are very susceptible to heavy rain and strong winds, which could lead to significant financial losses for farmers.

In this way, the high-level review meetings led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg are timely and welcomed. The guidelines - issues that ranged from keeping machinery on standby for snow clearance to confident coordination for the safe transportation of fruit from orchards to terminal markets, were spot on. Particularly, using High Molecular Weight Polyethylene plastic in snow ploughs to minimize damage to the road infrastructure was a thoroughly thought out detail to keep in mind at the forefront of sustainable infrastructure management while they facilitate clearing the way for movement of traffic.

But history of such weather events reminds us that the distance between the directive and the delivery could be great. The administrative apparatus needs to now move to a position of proactive execution from a state of plan. It is critical that the advisory for farmers to suspend harvest productive is communicated through every possible means of communication (p) - radio, cellular networks, and the government offices in localized committee - to be sure it reverberates as far as the last orchard in the most remote village. The dissemination of personnel and machinery must be advanced and not reactive. The perception of a single stranded vehicle on the Jammu-Srinagar highway or inoperable movement in clearing the Zojila pass could have a snowball effect on ruining a primary and critical feed into the supply chain.

For residents, this is a time for caution and community. People need to listen to the warnings, stay off the roads unless absolutely necessary, especially in elevated areas, and take whatever action they can to protect their property. While the arrival of the first snowfall of the season is enticing, the risk involved is very real.

As the clouds build these next few days will not only put to the test the values learned from similar events, but also the integrity of the extensive plan outlined by the administration. The measure of success will be seen in the execution of the plan and its associated processes, as we stand back and watch the region and its citizens navigate this weather with little damage to human life, economic recovery, and infrastructure. Hopefully, this season will be one of vigilance and preparedness instead of peril.

The Unfulfilled Promise of Women in Indian Science



■ PRIYANKA SAURABH

India has made remarkable progress in science and technology over the past few decades. Indian scientists are recognized globally in areas such as the space program, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, the

when these same girls pursue research and development, only 14 percent remain in this field. Furthermore, the number of female faculty in higher education institutions is limited to approximately 15 percent. The country's most prestigious institutions, such as the IITs, IISc, or CSIR, have never been headed by a woman.

Inequality is also evident in the world of scientific awards and recognition. Of the more than six hundred Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes awarded until 2023, only sixteen were awarded to women scientists. This data suggests that while women enter

a career break, re-entry becomes extremely difficult. While the Department of Science and Technology's Women Scientists Scheme exists, its reach remains limited.

This problem not only hinders women's individual achievements, but is also deeply linked to India's future. As India resolves to fulfill the dream of a developed India, ignoring the participation of half the population in scientific innovation and research could prove self-defeating. The World Bank estimates that increasing women's participation in science and technology could generate an additional \$700 billion in growth for the Indian

encourage young women researchers. ISRO and DRDO have implemented flexible working hours, extended maternity leave, and work-from-home options. Gender sensitivity committees have also been formed in many institutions. But this remains insufficient. There is a need to expand the reach of these schemes and implement them effectively.

The way forward is to establish minimum representation thresholds for women in research institutes and universities. Ensure special funding for women-led projects. Ease re-entry after career breaks and provide increased re-entry fellowships. Build mentoring bridges between senior women scientists and new researchers. Above all, change the mindset of society. Families and society must accept that science is not a domain of men, but of everyone.

Women in Indian science have progressed beyond a symbolic presence, but many barriers



digital economy, and nanotechnology. Women's participation in this journey has proven to be more than merely formal, but rather concrete and effective. The contributions of Dr. Tessy Thomas, known as the Missile Woman, or the Chandrayaan-3 mission's female scientists Kalpana Kalahasti and Ritu Karidhal are vivid examples of this. This demonstrates that the role of Indian women scientists is no longer merely symbolic; they have become the driving force behind real change.

Yet, the other side of the picture is worrying. While the number of girls studying science and technology in India is large, this number steadily declines as they reach research and leadership positions. This trend is known as the "leaky pipeline." The 2022 report of the All India Survey on Higher Education shows that women's participation in science and technology at the graduate level is approximately 43 percent. This figure would be a matter of pride for any country. However,

science and technology with equal enthusiasm at the initial stage, as responsibilities and pressures increase, their numbers dwindle. This is the leakage that undermines national excellence.

This leakage has many layers. Motherhood and family responsibilities impact women's careers the most. Long working hours, high-pressure projects, and a lack of flexible options lead many talented women to drop out. Institutional structures also remain male-dominated. Promotion and leadership positions in universities and research institutes are difficult for women. Informal networks, social biases, and gender stereotypes further exacerbate this difficulty.

Funding and recognition are also a major challenge. Women are often given less priority in research grants, limiting the direction of their projects and the potential for innovation. Social perceptions also consider science a male-dominated field, often discouraging girls from pursuing it. Even if a woman takes

economy by 2025. If women contribute equally to the fields of artificial intelligence, clean energy, biotechnology, and digital technology, India's global competitiveness will automatically increase.

It's also a question of India's global image. Concrete steps towards gender equality are consistent with India's international commitments and leadership aspirations. When Indian women scientists speak on global issues like climate change at international forums, it becomes a symbol of India's credibility. Furthermore, it's a question of the aspirations of future generations. If we ensure equal opportunities for women in science today, tomorrow our daughters will be filled with confidence and will consider science a field of choice.

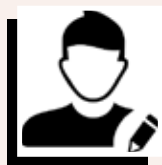
The government has taken some positive steps. Initiatives such as the Department of Science and Technology's Kiran Scheme, the Women Scientists Scheme, and the SERB Power Fellowship have been created to

Inequality is also evident in the world of scientific awards and recognition. Of the more than six hundred Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes awarded until 2023, only sixteen were awarded to women scientists. This data suggests that while women enter science and technology with equal enthusiasm at the initial stage, as responsibilities and pressures increase, their numbers dwindle. This is the leakage that undermines national excellence.

to leadership remain. These barriers are not only a personal loss but also a national one. If India is to become a knowledge power, this leakage must be stopped. True innovation and excellence are possible only when men and women stand shoulder to shoulder as equals in laboratories, universities, and research institutes. This is not just a question of equal opportunity, but also of India's scientific future and global competitiveness.

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Beyond the Algorithm: Preparing Students for an AI World



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries, economies, and daily life. The real challenge for education today is not just to impart knowledge, but to cultivate the habits, skills, and values that AI cannot replace. Schools and universities must prepare students for a future where adaptability, creativity, and ethics matter as much as technical knowledge.

Beyond Information: Teaching Critical Thinking

AI delivers information instantly, but it cannot ensure accuracy or wisdom. Students must be trained to question, analyse, and filter knowledge. Educators must train students to:

- Evaluate information critically (distinguishing between fact, bias, and misinformation).
- Understand how AI systems work (algorithms, data, bias in machine learning).
- Develop media and digital literacy to responsibly consume and create content.

Habit to cultivate: "Always question the source, context, and purpose of information." "Education in the AI age is not about filling the mind with data, but about shaping the mind to use data wisely."

Example: In the United States, Stanford University's Center for AI Safety trains students to detect misinformation and bias in algorithms.

India Example: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Madras) has introduced an online B.Sc. program in Data Science and AI, which emphasizes not only technical learning but also critical evaluation of digital information.

Creativity: The Human Edge
AI cannot replace human imagination. Project-based learning, design thinking, and interdisciplinary approaches must form the backbone of education. Schools and universities

- should:
- Encourage students to approach problems from multiple perspectives.
 - Integrate project-based learning where students use AI tools creatively.
 - Promote interdisciplinary thinking (math + arts, science + ethics, business +

Habit to cultivate: "Embrace change as growth, not as threat." "The most valuable degree in the AI era is the ability to learn, unlearn, and relearn." Example: In Finland, AI literacy programs are offered to all age groups. India Example: The AICTE (All India Council

Ethics in the AI World
Technology without ethics can be dangerous. Students must learn to use AI responsibly. Students must be trained to:

- Recognize the moral implications of technology.
- Uphold integrity in using AI for



technology).
Habit to cultivate: "Think beyond what exists—create, innovate, and explore the 'what if.'"

Example: In Singapore, design labs encourage students to create AI-driven solutions while blending arts and philosophy.

India Example: The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 highlights creativity and multidisciplinary learning. At Ashoka University, students combine AI projects with humanities, encouraging them to think beyond algorithms.

Adaptability and Lifelong Learning
As industries evolve, adaptability is more important than memorized facts. Education should prepare students to continuously re-skill. Institutions must:

- Teach learning how to learn as the most valuable skill.
- Foster adaptability, resilience, and openness to change.
- Provide opportunities for students to re-skill and up-skill through micro-credentials, online modules, and blended learning.

for Technical Education) has partnered with companies like Microsoft and Intel to introduce AI and machine learning modules in engineering colleges, ensuring students are ready for the industry.

Collaboration and Emotional Intelligence
AI cannot replicate empathy, leadership, or teamwork. Students must practice collaboration and communication. Education should:

- Encourage teamwork, peer-learning, and leadership opportunities.
- Build communication and negotiation skills.
- Promote diversity and cross-cultural understanding.

Habit to cultivate: "Value relationships as much as results." Example: At Harvard University, AI courses are combined with leadership seminars.

India Example: The Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad integrates AI management studies with teamwork and case-based learning, preparing future leaders who can balance data with people skills.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 highlights creativity and multidisciplinary learning. At Ashoka University, students combine AI projects with humanities, encouraging them to think beyond algorithms.

academic and professional purposes.
Habit to cultivate: "Ask not just 'Can we do this with AI?' but also 'Should we?'"

Example: The University of Helsinki offers the global Elements of AI course, emphasizing ethics.

India Example: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru has launched research projects on "ethical AI" focusing on fairness, accountability, and privacy, making ethics a core part of the curriculum.

Entrepreneurship and Opportunity
AI is a tool of innovation. Universities should nurture entrepreneurial mindsets. Schools and universities should:

- Encourage entrepreneurial thinking, risk-taking, and experimentation.
- Build financial literacy and innovation ecosystems on campus.

Teach students how to convert ideas into startups or impactful projects using AI. Habit to cultivate: "See challenges as opportunities to build solutions."

Example: In Dubai, HCT innovation hubs link students with industry partners. India Example: IIT Hyderabad has set up an AI Research and Innovation Hub, where students design startups in healthcare, agriculture, and education using AI-powered solutions.

Balanced Human-AI Partnership
AI should be seen as a partner, not a threat. Students must learn how to use it effectively while preserving human values, educators must prepare students to:

- Use AI as an assistant, not a substitute.
- Learn prompt engineering, automation tools, and AI-aided research methods.
- Balance screen time with mindfulness, creativity, and physical well-being.

Habit to cultivate: "Use AI to amplify your potential, not to replace your effort." Example: In Japan, AI tutors assist students while professors focus on mentorship.

India Example: CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) has already introduced AI as a subject in high schools, helping students use AI tools for projects while balancing them with ethical and creative applications.

The Road Ahead
The AI revolution is unstoppable. The real question is whether students will be passive consumers of technology, or active leaders shaping its future.

Curiosity, creativity, adaptability, empathy, and ethics—these are the real lessons of tomorrow. If schools and universities succeed in cultivating them, students will not only survive the AI era, but they will also lead it with vision and responsibility.

As the saying goes: "Education in the AI age is not about filling the mind with data, but about shaping the mind to use data wisely."

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Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Reviews Measures to Decongest Srinagar Roads

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a bid to streamline traffic mobility in the city, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, chaired a high-level meeting with stakeholder departments to review ongoing and proposed measures aimed at decongesting major & interior roads in Srinagar city.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairpersons of LCMA, VCSDA, SSPT Traffic Srinagar, ADC Srinagar, Chief Engineer R&B, Joint Commissioner SMC, and representatives from the Wildlife, Transport, and SRTC departments.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on development of Multi-Level Parking at different locations, Widening of Boulevard Road, development of Smart City charging Infrastructure, operationalization of ITMS cameras and traffic signals, regulation of E-Rickshaws and framing of Policy for influx of used vehicle.

On the occasion, he laid emphasis on expediting the creation of multi-parking facilities, particularly in high-density areas such as Nishat, Shalimar Bagh, Jamia Masjid, Sanat Nagar, Bemina, and Batamalo.

The meeting also discussed the



impact of the widening Boulevard Road to ease traffic pressure and enhance tourist and local movement besides allowing one-way traffic from Dalgate to Nehru Park.

introducing one-way traffic movement on selected interior roads. It was decided to start the initiative on the pilot basis to assess its effectiveness before wider implementation.

Also, the meeting discussed the

infrastructure for Smart City electric buses to avoid bunching of e-buses was also discussed.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) to adhere to the committed timelines for the operation of traffic lights and ITMS cameras at 66 key junctions.

Further, Div Com urged to encourage private landowners along Boulevard Road to partner with the administration by lending land for parking purposes on tripartite basis.

He also called for regulation of e-rickshaws and demarcation of 'No-Go Zones' to reduce congestion on main roads. The meeting deliberated on the need for policy to regulate the increasing number of used vehicles being brought into Kashmir Valley.

To ensure effective execution, Div Com directed all departments to categorize proposed measures into short-term, mid-term, and long-term actions. He stressed on inter-departmental coordination and strict adherence to timelines to deliver impactful results.

Garg also emphasized for removal of bottlenecks across key corridors and urged all departments to work collectively to improve the urban transport ecosystem in Srinagar.

ADC Budgam Reviews Winter Preparedness In District

FE NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: In view of inclement weather conditions forecasted by the

levels. These control rooms will function as the nodal points for public grievances and will monitor the daily progress of winter management efforts on the

commodities, with a special focus on ensuring the seamless supply to people living in the higher and remote reaches of the district.



IMD, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness of all concerned departments.

The ADC directed officers to put in place a robust and comprehensive mechanism to mitigate public inconvenience.

He directed Executive Engineers, including the mechanical engineering wing, to formulate a detailed plan for snow clearance and restoration of road connectivity. He stressed to prioritize roads based on their strategic importance and traffic volume to ensure essential services and movement are not disrupted.

All Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been instructed to establish Control Rooms at their respective Sub-Divisional

ground.

The Executive Officers of all Municipal Committees have been tasked with creating a dedicated plan to look after the sanitation, and sensitize the people not park their vehicles along the road side or even in the lanes which hinder the snow clearance efforts.

The PDD department has been directed to carry out advanced pruning of trees along power lines to prevent their uprooting from heavy snow, which is a major cause of power outages and damage to infrastructure.

The department was directed to keep adequate stock of transformers available at the district headquarters to mitigate the need during the winters.

The Assistant Director FCS&CA has been directed to create and maintain an advance buffer stock of essential

CMO Budgam has been instructed to ensure the round-the-clock availability of paramedical staff and an adequate supply of medicines and medical equipment at all health centers to handle any winter-related emergencies.

Emphasizing the need for a seamless inter-departmental response, the ADC stated, "There shall be close coordination between all departments to achieve the best outcomes for the public conveniences. Our objective is to pre-empt challenges and ensure that the people of Budgam face minimal hardship this winter."

The meeting was attended by ACR Budgam, CPO Budgam, all SDMs, CMO, all Executive Engineers, Officers of Municipal Committees, AD FCS&CA and other concerned.

'Manipulation Of ITC Claims, GST Invasion Requires Strict Vigil'

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms aimed at easing compliance and lowering costs on essential commodities have been widely welcomed across industries and consumer groups. However, concerns are mounting over tax evasion practices in key sectors such as cement and automobiles, potentially undermining the benefits of the reforms.

The reforms announced last month include rate cuts on essential goods and the simplification of return filing procedures.

While the overall response to the reforms has been positive, industry insiders and tax experts here have raised concerns over the alleged misuse of the Input Tax Credit (ITC) mechanism by certain players in different industries.

According to sources, some manufacturers may be underreporting their production volumes to evade taxes.

As per sources, "Certain factories don't show the amount of production that is actually being produced but show less than the actual in order to evade GST. The remaining output is being sold without proper

invoicing, leading to significant revenue losses for the government," sources informed.

Such practices involve manipulating ITC claims, they said.

The automobile industry has also faced scrutiny



in the past over classification disputes and ITC misuse, though no recent cases have been officially reported under the latest reform regime.

The sources said that there is a need to keep strict vigilance in this regard and enquire any such practices of fraud here

ADDC Shopian reviews progress under Mission Yuva, Dharti Aabha & Adi Karmayogi

FE NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone reviewed the progress of Mission Yuva, Dharti Aabha and Adi Karmayogi here at Mini-Secretariat today.

The meeting was convened to take stock of the ongoing activities and progress achieved under the said programs and to formulate future strategies for their effective implementation in the district.

At the outset, ADDC highlighted the objectives of Mission Yuva, Dharti Aabha and Adi Karmayogi, stressing that these initiatives are aimed at empowering youth, creating livelihood, opportunities, strengthening self-employment avenues, promoting sustainable agriculture, ensuring skill development and building capacity of various sections of society. He emphasized that coordinated action plans are crucial

for maximizing the impact of these programmes on the ground.



The ADDC reviewed department-wise achievements and sought inputs from the concerned officers regarding the present status of works and interventions being carried out. He laid stress on enhancing convergence among departments and directed

officers to put in extra efforts for ensuring visible results.

ADDC directed for focussing on counselling, awareness and motivation programmes for youth to channelize their energies towards constructive and skill-based activities.

The Health Department was asked to strengthen health awareness and wellness initiatives, while Agriculture and allied sectors were instructed to frame innovative models for sustainable livelihood.

Banking institutions were directed to ensure hassle-free credit linkages for youth entrepreneurs and self-help groups, while Employment officers were asked to organize regular orientation and entrepreneurship development programmes. The NRLM and DIC were also advised to work in close coordination with field functionaries to facilitate community

mobilization and enterprise development.

ADDC emphasized that Mission Yuva and related initiatives are not mere schemes but platforms to transform the potential of youth into concrete development outcomes. He impressed upon all officers to monitor field activities regularly, identify bottlenecks and ensure saturation of benefits under various schemes.

The meeting concluded with the commitment that all line departments shall work in synergy to make Shopian a model district in terms of youth empowerment, livelihood generation and inclusive growth.

The meeting was attended by District Programme Officer, ICDS, Zaheer Ahmed; SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed; Chief Medical Officer, Shopian along with BMO Keller, Chief Agriculture Officer, Lead District Bank Manager, Assistant Director Employment, District Aadhaar Manager and other concerned.

DLSA Budgam Conducts Legal Awareness Program for Jail Inmates at Central Jail Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

LADCs deputed to educate inmates on their legal rights, entitlements, and access to justice

BUDGAM: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, organized the chain of events under the leaderships of Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Arun Palli, and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sanjeev Kumar.

The programmes were conducted under the directions of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum and under the supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Budgam, O.P. Bhagat, and under the guidance of Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The objective of the events/programmes was to educate jail inmates about their legal rights and entitlements at various stages of the criminal justice process specifically during Pre-Arrest, Arrest, and Remand and to verify the status of sentence completion remission, Parole & release orders, record any instance of over incarceration etc.

DLSA Budgam had deputed its LADCs viz Lateef Ahmad Khan (Chief LADC), Nazir Ahmad Wagay (Deputy LADC), and Yawar Ali (Assistant LADC) to the central jail Srinagar who held discussions with the jail inmates and also covered essential legal aspects such as bail, parole, and furlough, with the aim of empowering prisoners to understand and assert their rights effectively. LADCs checked with the jail authorities the status of the sentence completion etc. identified the UTP's for UTC and deliberated upon the assignments.

On the occasion, Chief LADC Budgam, elaborated on Access to Justice at the Pre-Arrest, Arrest, and Remand Stages, emphasizing the importance of seeking timely legal aid and assistance. He also discussed the concepts of parole and furlough, explaining their procedures and benefits for eligible inmates.

Deputy LADC Budgam, highlighted the legal rights of individuals during the pre-arrest, arrest, and remand stages. He focused on key aspects such as bail, detention, the right to legal representation,

and provisions related to premature release, parole, and furlough of prisoners under the Prisoners Rules, 2022.

Assistant LADC Budgam, spoke on the procedures concerning premature release, parole, and the rights of under-trial prisoners. He also interacted with prison authorities and inmates, stressing the importance of



adhering to the latest Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and ensuring that the legal and human rights of prisoners are duly protected.

They also discussed the NALSA (Access to Legal Aid Services to Prisoners and the Functioning of Prison Legal Aid Clinics) Scheme, 2022, highlighting the role of Jail Visiting Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) in ensuring effective implementation. It was emphasized that the Prison Legal Aid Clinics (PLACs) must ensure that every prisoner receives legal assistance to file and pursue appeals before the Courts within the prescribed time, thereby preventing the denial of the right to challenge convictions and sentences due to lack of legal representation.

The PLACs were also urged to ensure that no prisoner remains in custody beyond the sentence imposed by law.

The awareness programme marked a significant step towards empowering jail inmates with knowledge of their legal rights and facilitating their access to justice.

The DLSA, Budgam, reiterated its commitment to providing legal aid and assistance to the marginalized and vulnerable sections of society, including prisoners. The authorities expressed confidence that such awareness initiatives will play a vital role in promoting the cause of justice and ensuring that the rights of under-trial prisoners are protected and upheld.

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Machail Mata Yatra Suspended For 3 Days Due To Inclement Weather In Kishtwar

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district suspended Machail Mata pilgrimage for three days from October 5 following an inclement weather advisory issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), an official said on Saturday.

Earlier, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board had also announced suspension of the pilgrimage during the same period as a precautionary measure.

Sixty-five persons, mostly pilgrims, were killed and more than 100 injured, and 32 others remain untraced following a cloudburst in Chisoti, the gateway village to the Machail Mata shrine on August 14. In another incident, 34 pilgrims lost their lives and 20 others were injured in a landslide along the Vaishno Devi track on August 26.

In view of the inclement weather advisory issued by the IMD, the movement of pilgrims towards the Machail Mata shrine shall remain suspended from October 5 to 7 as a precautionary measure, Kishtwar District Magistrate Pankaj Kumar Sharma said in an order.

He said the decision has been taken in view of the forecast of adverse weather conditions, including heavy rainfall and potential landslides in the region.

"No pilgrim shall be permitted to proceed towards the shrine during the said (suspension) period," Sharma said, requesting cooperation from all stakeholders and the pilgrims.

Meanwhile, authorities have issued advisories urging people to remain vigilant and avoid flood- and landslide-prone areas in the Doda district, following the IMD's weather alert predicting rains and snowfall from October 4 to 7.

Doda Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh said that the residents should stay away from rivers and other water bodies and urged nomadic families not to camp near riverbanks. He further advised that pregnant women and critical patients be shifted to safer locations in advance.

"We have made all the arrangements. Teams of snow clearance and road clearance have been put in place. Route safety is our priority," Singh told reporters in Doda, Jammu Tourism Guide

Western Disturbance

SAMPARK and BEACON, to keep adequate machinery on standby for snow and debris clearance at vulnerable spots to maintain uninterrupted road connectivity.

Notably, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, also convened an urgent meeting on Thursday with officials from key departments to review preparedness and mitigation plan.

During the meeting, Divisional Commissioner instructed concerned departments to ensure immediate deployment of personnel and machinery at critical locations to facilitate swift snow clearance.

He stressed the importance of completing the tendering process for the winter snow clearance plan by October 31, and directed the deployment of trained and experienced machinery operators to avoid damage to road infrastructure. He urged use of High Molecular Weight Polyethylene plastic in snow ploughs to enhance efficiency and minimize road wear—(KNO)

Better

who often face steep travel costs, he said. Singh said that earlier attempts to develop an airstrip in Kishtwar faced hurdles, and fresh feasibility and land assessment studies are now being initiated to find a feasible solution.

Referring to Kishtwar as an "aspirational agricultural district", he highlighted that an airport there would boost the region's economy, especially the agricultural economy, by helping local saffron cultivators and farmers reach wider markets.

The minister said that he would personally take up the matter of land requisition, wherever required, with the chief minister and chief secretary.

He also reviewed the ongoing expansion of Jammu airport, which is being upgraded at a cost of around Rs 860 crore, according to a statement. (PTI)

BJP

which separate elections will be held, it will field only one candidate for the remaining two seats, which will be contested in a single election.

The BJP is expected to field the first two candidates for a 'symbolic' fight against the ruling NC-led alliance, which is likely to win both these seats comfortably. However, the party is expected to field a strong candidate for one of the two remaining seats, where it has strong chances of winning.

The BJP's decision to field candidates on all seats will ensure an election for the first two seats, which usually went uncontested in the past, as the ruling party would win them unopposed.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu earlier in the day, Sethi said the focus of the meeting was on the kind of individuals needed to represent the party in the Rajya Sabha.

"It was not about specific individuals, but rather the qualities of individuals who can effectively represent the party in the Rajya Sabha," he said.

He added that the views of the core group would be conveyed to the party high command—(KNO)

IGP Reviews

related to the use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in law enforcement," he said.

Officers were also encouraged to devise national-level strategies for law enforcement and to innovate to bring measurable improvements in police functioning, the officer said.

The IGP emphasised aligning all initiatives with the national vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.

He underscored the importance of timely compliance with pending directives and ensuring that national-level policing guidelines are implemented in letter and spirit.

Chhattisgarh is set to host for the first time the All-India DGP-IGP Conference next month, where issues related to internal security, ongoing operations against Naxals, and cybersecurity will be discussed.

The 60th edition of the three-day conference, beginning November 28, will be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while the valedictory session is likely to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

About 250 officers in the ranks of DGP and IGP are expected to physically attend the meeting, while more than 200 others will participate virtually.

A separate preparatory meeting was held today, under the chairmanship of Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS, to review arrangements for the forthcoming National Police Commemoration Day, to be observed on October 21.

The IGP Jammu underscored the importance of the day, noting that Police Commemoration Day is not only a solemn occasion to honour the supreme sacrifices of police martyrs but also an opportunity to reinforce the bond between the police and the public.

He called upon all officers to ensure that the events are conducted in a dignified and seamless manner befitting the occasion. (PTI)

PM Unveils

of Bharat Ratna Karpooi Thakur, the Prime Minister said that he devoted his entire life to social service.

Modi said that the skill university, which is being established in his name, will serve as a powerful means to carry forward that vision.

The Prime Minister also said that the GST

Bachat Utsav' is currently underway in the country and it is a time for double bonus for the youth of Bihar. The Prime Minister also congratulated the youth of Bihar and the country for the reduction in GST.

On this occasion, Modi also inaugurated one thousand 200 Vocational Skill Labs established in 400 Navodaya Vidyalayas and 200 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across 34 States and Union Territories.

The Prime Minister also launched Bihar's revamped Mukhyamantri Nishchay Svyam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana, under which nearly five lakh graduate youth every year will receive a monthly allowance of one thousand rupees for two years, along with free skill training.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also felicitated 46 All India Toppers from Industrial Training Institutes under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship at the event.

Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Singh also reiterated Mr Modi's vision of making the country a global skill centre. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar joined the event virtually. (PTI)

J&K Govt

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

As per circular, all administrative departments have been directed to submit their recommendations to the Finance Department no later than October 30, after due scrutiny of the estimates.

"All administrative secretaries are requested to send budget proposals in respect of each HOD to the Finance Department by the notified date," the circular states.

The calendar for discussion of departmental budget proposals shall be notified separately.

As per the circular, budget preparation at the Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) and Head of Department (HOD) levels shall be completed by October 20 and October 25, respectively.

According to guidelines issued by the Finance Department, the Revised Estimates for 2025-26 and Budget Estimates for 2026-27 shall be prepared against sanctioned posts for filled positions only, without any provision for vacant or deputation posts.

"A separate statement showing provision for vacant posts for 12 months in Budget Estimates 2026-27 and for six months in Revised Estimates 2025-26 shall be appended with the budget proposals," the guidelines state.

The Finance Department has also directed that no creation of posts shall be anticipated or budgeted for in either the Revised Estimates 2025-26 or the Budget Estimates 2026-27 for the ensuing financial year.

According to the department, both the Revised Estimates for 2025-26 and Budget Estimates for 2026-27 related to works shall be projected by each HOD, DDO, and Budget Controlling Officer in consultation with the respective MLAs.

"Revised Estimates 2025-26 under CDF, DDC/BDC, and PRI/ULB grants shall be projected within the available grants, in consultation with Hon'ble MLAs, DDCs, BDCs, and PRI members," the guidelines emphasise—(KNO)

Class 10

JK BOSE has granted concession of 15% syllabus, making attempt of 85% marks equivalent to 100%.

The J&K BOSE has urged students to prepare seriously for the examinations while renewing its commitment to conduct the exams in observance of high standards of transparency.

The BOSE has exhorted invigilatory staff to be completely professional while discharging their duties in order to safeguard the purity and integrity of exams and requested school education department to extend cordial support in smooth and fair conduct of the examination. (DIPR)

Focus

is actively discussing Ladakh with several rounds of talks ongoing.

He said that the BJP created the Union Territory of Ladakh, carving five districts out of two, and granted UT status to those seeking separation. Chug added that under PM Modi's leadership, Ladakh, like Jammu & Kashmir, is witnessing a new chapter of progress and development—(KNO)

J&K Govt

permitted for sale, while raw or semi-processed meat brought without temperature control will face immediate disposal," he said—(KNO)

BGSBU academia hails remarkable progress made by University

Flays elements spreading false narrative against the Varsity

RAJOURI: Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) Rajouri has strongly condemned the deliberate attempts being made to tarnish the University's image, particularly at a time when the admission process is underway.

The University fraternity firmly asserts that such baseless and misleading narrative is intended to undermine the remarkable progress BGSBU has achieved in recent months across academic and administrative fronts.

Since Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, assumed additional charge as Registrar

around eight months ago, BGSBU has undergone a phase of transformative growth and renewal. Aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the University has rolled out 27 new Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes, established six new academic departments, and launched four-year UG programmes with multiple entry-exit options to foster flexibility, innovation, and global competitiveness. The introduction of cutting-edge courses in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, along with comprehensive programmes in Tourism and Management at the Diploma, UG, PG, and Ph.D. levels, reflects BGSBU's commitment to future-ready education.

This academic expansion has been mirrored by a remarkable surge in admissions, with over 1,000 students enrolling across various Diploma, UG, and PG programmes this year—a testament to the growing confidence of students and parents in the University's vibrant academic ecosystem and progressive governance model.

For the very first time, BGSBU has integrated field-based experiential learning into its academic structure, particularly for students of professional programmes. In a recent collaboration with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), students were given the opportunity to visit and study key tunnel projects—an initiative designed to bridge classroom learning with real-world exposure and industry relevance.

Promoting linguistic diversity and regional identity, the University has established a Centre for Research in Gohri, Pahari and Kashmiri Languages and launched MA and BA programmes in these disciplines, reaffirming its dedication to safeguarding the cultural and linguistic heritage of the region.

BGSBU continues to advance its digital transformation and transparency agenda through the full-scale adoption of Samarth ERP, enabling end-to-end digitalization of admissions, examinations and student services and ensuring seamless, efficient and accountable governance.

In terms of infrastructure, the University has secured 20 crore under RUSA to strengthen its academic and physical infrastructure, and 2 crore under CAPEX for the development of state-of-the-art smart classrooms. Over the past year, developmental grants have been optimally utilized, ushering in a new era of growth after years of dormancy. Renovation of three hostels has been completed, with work on others in progress. A new academic block has been constructed to accommodate the growing student population, while renovation of faculty quarters, academic blocks and conference halls is also underway through concerned government agencies.

For the first time, smart classrooms are being established across multiple departments, equipped with modern teaching aids, interactive panels, and digital learning tools. This initiative represents a major leap towards transforming traditional teaching spaces into dynamic, technology-enabled learning environments that enhance student engagement, participation, and academic delivery.

Driving innovation and skill development, BGSBU has established a Startup Cell, an Entrepreneurship Development Cell, a Tinkering Lab, and an Institutional Innovation Council to nurture creative thinking, support student-led ventures and build a robust innovation ecosystem on campus.

Very recently, the University also hosted its first-ever Startup Hackathon, marking a milestone in its journey towards fostering creativity, innovation and problem-solving among students.

In pursuit of sustainability, the University is on course to become a carbon-neutral campus through a 1 MW solarization project in collaboration with the J&K Science and Technology Department and JKEDA—reflecting its long-term commitment to clean energy and sustainable practices.

To promote women's empowerment and education, BGSBU offers special incentives, including a 50% fee concession for the only girl child and the top two meritorious female students, along with civil services coaching for 30 girls under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme.

For the first time, RFID-enabled identity cards have been introduced for students, faculty, and staff, enhancing campus security, operational efficiency and digital integration.

BGSBU has placed strong emphasis on student well-being and holistic growth. For the first time, a comprehensive University Induction Programme was conducted, with a special focus on mental health, drug abuse awareness and adjustment to university life—demonstrating the University's proactive approach to supporting students beyond academics.

Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University reaffirms its unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, inclusivity and transparency. The University urges all stakeholders to disregard false and malicious propaganda and to continue their faith in BGSBU's mission of shaping responsible, skilled and socially conscious citizens prepared to lead in a rapidly evolving world. (DIPR)

Farooq Abdullah hospitalised in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah (87) has been hospitalised as he was not keeping well for the past few days, party leaders said on Saturday.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister developed infection in the abdomen on Tuesday and was taken to a private hospital for treatment, the leaders said.

"He (Abdullah) was not keeping well for the past few days but his condition is getting better now. He is likely to be discharged later today or tomorrow," a party leader said. (PTI)

Trikolbal Cricket Club Clinches Baramulla Police Cricket Tournament Title at SNW Chanderhama Pattan

AKHTAR ALI

PATTAN: The final match of the Baramulla Police Cricket Tournament was held today at SNW Chanderhama Pattan, where Trikolbal Cricket Club (TCC) lifted the coveted title after a thrilling encounter with HCC Hanjiwera.

Winning the toss, TCC opted to field first. HCC Hanjiwera set a target of 139 runs in 18.1 overs. In reply, TCC Trikolbal chased down the target in just 16.4 overs, finishing at 147/7 to seal a memorable victory.

The grand finale was graced by DIG North Kashmir as the Chief Guest, along with SSP Baramulla, SDPO Pattan, DySP Pattan, and SHO Pattan, who encouraged the players and congratulated both teams for their spirited performances.

Individual awards were also presented on the occasion. Nayeem Ahmad of HCC Hanjiwera was declared Man of the Series for his consistent performance throughout the tournament, while Mustafa Ahmad



of TCC Trikolbal was adjudged Man of the Match for his brilliant contribution in the final.

A total of eight teams participated in the tournament, which witnessed enthusiastic competition and

showcased remarkable local cricketing talent. The Baramulla Police Cricket Tournament concluded on a high note, promoting sportsmanship, discipline, and youth engagement through the spirit of cricket. (ADVT)

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Public Works (R&B) DIVISION
AWANTIPORA
Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO: T-1/EEA/4978-82 Dated: 03/10/2025

Extension Notice

Subject:-

1. Restoration of Lethpora CTC Road
2. Macadamization of Road at Alamdar Colony Shar shali Pampore.
3. Restoration of Main Adda to Market Pampore
4. Repair and Renovation of AEE Residential Quarter
5. Renovation of District Tuberculosis office Unit at Tral Pulwama.

Reference:- This office e-NIT NO.45/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/3866-76 Dated 30-08-2025
This office e-NIT NO.57/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/4237-47 Dated 15-09-2025
This office e-NIT NO.58/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/4248-58 Dated 15-09-2025

The critical dates for the above noted NIT are hereby extended as under:

Sl. No.	Bid Submission End Date	Deadline
1	Bid Submission End Date	09-10-2025 upto 4.00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	10-10-2025 upto 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.
DIPK-6833/25 Dt: 04-10-2025 **Sd/-Ex.Engineer**

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture Kashmir,
Lal Mandi, Srinagar, J&K

NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture in the Kashmir Division of Jammu and Kashmir has established **24/7 Control Rooms** in all 10 districts OF KASHMIR DIVISION in response to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Weather Advisory for heavy rainfall, snowfall, and potential hazards like landslides and flash floods from **October 4-7, 2025**. These Control Rooms are tasked with monitoring weather conditions, coordinating with farmers, and facilitating rapid response to protect agricultural assets, including crops and orchards.

For assistance or to report issues, farmers and stakeholders are advised to contact the following officers of the Agriculture Department, Kashmir:-

Name	Designation	Mobile No.	Email Address
Aman Jyoti	Joint Director Agri. Extension Kashmir	7889587594	agrijaek-kmr@jk.gov.in
Mohd Rafiq	CAO Shopian	9797357385	CAOSHOPIAN123@GMAIL.COM
Sabeena Kouser	CAO Baramulla	9419033633	chiefagri-bla@jk.gov.in
Asifa Nabi	CAO Ganderbal	7006690696	CAOGBL123@GMAIL.COM
Javed Samoon	CAO Bandipora	7006630750	CAOBPRAGRI111@GMAIL.COM
Idrees Bashir	CAO Srinagar	9796702171	CAOSGR111@GMAIL.COM
Naseer Ahmad Khan	CAO Budgam	9797791871	CAOBUDGAM@GMAIL.COM
Farooq Ahmad Reshi	CAO Kulgam	9419017877	CAOIKULGAM@GMAIL.COM
Waheed U Rehman	CAO Pulwama	9419091753	AGRIIPUL@GMAIL.COM
Mohd Iqbal Khan	CAO Kupwara	9622839097	CAOKUPWARA@GMAIL.COM
Shahnawaz Shah	CAO Anantnag	7889369803	AGRIANG@REDIFFMAIL.COM

DIPK-6801/25 Dt: 04-10-2025

Rahul Gandhi Has Turned Into 'Leader Opposing Bharat': Anurag Thakur

SHIMLA: Former Union minister and MP Anurag Thakur on Saturday attacked Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over his recent remarks on India and the RSS, and said that opposing India everywhere has now become a part of Gandhi's nature and he has now turned into "leader opposing Bharat".

Thakur said this while addressing the people during his visit to Himachal Pradesh's Mandi. He said that even during Operation Sindoor and air strikes on Pakistan, Gandhi continued to "praise Pakistan" while being in India.

"What is the compulsion that makes Rahul Gandhi oppose India at every step?" he asked. He further claimed that because of such behaviour and his "affection" towards Pakistan, Gandhi has already lost 90 elections, and now Congress' defeat in Bihar is also certain.

He also spoke on the issue of the state government terming the release of an additional devolution instalment of Rs 843 crore from the Centre as insufficient, and said, "While the central government is providing thousands of crores of rupees to Himachal Pradesh, Congress leaders in Himachal are trying to mislead the people instead of thanking the central



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government.

"Congress' own election guarantees have failed miserably and have remained only on paper," said Thakur.

He also lashed out at Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and said that the state government has failed to spend funds received by the central government on time and is unable to submit utilisation certificates. Thakur also asked the CM how many families had been given the Rs seven lakh compensation for building permanent houses after the 2023 disaster and how many affected families had truly been helped. (PTI)

Bihar Emerging as Global Hub for Makhana Production: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

PATNA: Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday attended the Makhana Mahotsav 2025 at Gyan Bhavan, Gandhi Maidan, Patna, during his one-day visit to Bihar.

An official spokesperson said the event highlighted the growing importance of makhana (fox nut) as a major agricultural and economic asset for the state and the country.

During the programme, Shri Chouhan released a special report titled "Makhana: From Culture to Prosperity" (Makhana: Sanskriti se Samridhi), showcasing the crop's journey from traditional cultivation to modern commercialization.

Addressing the gathering, Chouhan lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent initiatives benefiting Bihar, noting that "Bihar is witnessing showers of prosperity and development — the Sun of a developed India is shining brightly on the state's destiny." He also referred to the Prime Minister's 64,000-crore package for the youth, particularly aimed at empowering Bihar's emerging generation.



Highlighting the Centre's farmer-friendly measures, the Union Minister mentioned the recent hike in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for key crops. He assured that the Central Government will procure all produce of lentils (masoor), urad, and arhar grown by Bihar's farmers at the MSP.

Calling makhana an "extraordinary blessing" for the poor, Chouhan said Bihar has now emerged not only as India's but also as the world's leading centre for makhana production. He noted that the cultivation area, which once spanned around 3,000 hectares, has now expanded to between 35,000 and 40,000 hectares, underscoring the rapid growth of the sector.

Announcing major initiatives to strengthen the makhana value chain, the Minister said the Central Government has established a dedicated Makhana Board to promote research, development, marketing, branding, and overall promotion of makhana.

He further revealed that approximately 475 crore has been sanctioned for the procurement of modern machinery, development of new varieties, and creation of processing facilities to enhance production and value addition.

Appealing to Bihar's youth to explore entrepreneurship opportunities in the sector, Shri Chouhan encouraged them to launch startups focused on makhana processing and export. "Our goal is to take makhana from India to dining tables across the world, ensuring a steady rise in farmers' incomes," he said.

The Makhana Mahotsav 2025 celebrated Bihar's growing status as the global hub of makhana production, symbolizing the state's march towards agricultural prosperity and rural transformation under the Centre's development agenda. (PIB)

Nirmala Sitharaman Launches Nationwide Financial Awareness Campaign "Apki Puunji, Apka Adhikaar"

GANDHINAGAR: Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman today launched the nationwide financial awareness campaign titled "Apki Puunji, Apka Adhikaar" (Your Wealth, Your Right) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, marking a major step towards reuniting citizens with their unclaimed financial savings.

Addressing the gathering, Finance Minister Sitharaman said the campaign carries a "simple but powerful message" — that every rupee saved by citizens must ultimately return to them or their families. "Unclaimed deposits, insurance proceeds, dividends, mutual fund balances, and pensions are not mere entries on paper; they represent the hard-earned savings of ordinary families — savings that can support education, healthcare, and financial security," she said.

Outlining the guiding vision of the campaign, the Finance Minister introduced the "3A Strategy" — Awareness, Accessibility and Action. She explained that Awareness aims to inform every

citizen about tracing unclaimed assets; Accessibility focuses on simplified digital tools and local outreach; and Action ensures time-bound, transparent claim settlements. "Together, these three pillars will bridge the gap between citizens and financial institutions, promoting dignity and confidence among beneficiaries," she said.

The Finance Minister also commended the proactive role of regional rural banks, particularly Gujarat Gramin Bank, and other financial institutions for their outreach during KYC and re-KYC campaigns. "These efforts have helped citizens stay connected to their savings and entitlements, laying a strong foundation for the success of this campaign," she said, urging all institutions to maintain the same dedication and outreach in tracing unclaimed assets nationwide.

Sitharaman also distributed certificates to beneficiaries who successfully reclaimed their unclaimed deposits from

various institutions, symbolizing the start of the nationwide awareness drive. Gujarat Finance Minister Kanubhai



Desai described the campaign's launch from Gujarat as a "moment of pride" for the state, assuring full support for its implementation through active outreach. "The unclaimed deposits are very useful for education, empowerment, and other financial needs of the beneficiaries," he

Japan's Ruling Party Elects Sanae Takaichi As New Leader, Likely To Become First Female PM

TOKYO: Japan's governing party on Saturday elected former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a hard-line ultra-conservative and China hawk, as its new leader, making her likely to become the country's first female prime minister.

In a country that ranks poorly internationally for gender equality, the 64-year-old Takaichi makes history as the first female leader of Japan's long-governing conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Takaichi is one of the most conservative members of the male-dominated party.

An admirer of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Takaichi is a protégé of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ultra-conservative vision and a regular at the Yasukuni Shrine, seen as a symbol of Japan's wartime militarism, which could complicate Tokyo's relations with its Asian neighbours.

Takaichi beat Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of popular former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in a runoff in a vote by the LDP on Saturday.

Takaichi replaces Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba as the party hopes to regain public support and stay in power after major election losses.

She is likely to be Japan's next prime minister because the party remains by far the largest in the lower house, which determines the national leader, and because opposition groups are highly splintered.

Takaichi vows to strengthen Japan-US alliance. Takaichi later said she will immediately work on stemming rising prices, while also focusing on diplomatic and security challenges.

Parliamentary vote is expected in mid-October. The LDP, which has been criticised by opposition leaders for creating a prolonged political vacuum, said Takaichi needs to hurry because the winner will soon face a diplomatic test: a possible summit with US President Donald Trump, who could demand that Japan increase its defence spending.

A meeting is reportedly being planned for late October. Trump will travel to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea starting October 31.

Takaichi said ensuring the Japan-US alliance is her top diplomatic priority.

"It is essential to... confirm the reinforcement

of the Japan-US alliance," she said. Takaichi stressed the importance of their cooperation through three-way frameworks that also include regional partners such as South Korea, Australia and the Philippines, pledging Japan's greater role in achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific. She said she respects all tariffs and investment



agreements struck between Tokyo and Washington under the Ishiba government.

Takaichi faces major domestic challenges. The LDP, whose consecutive losses in parliamentary elections in the past year have left it in the minority in both houses, needs its new leader to quickly bring back voter confidence and stability and to address challenges in and outside Japan.

Takaichi will also need cooperation from key opposition groups to implement her party's policies.

Ishiba, who achieved a 15 per cent tariff deal with Washington and put Japan's ties with South Korea and other Asian countries on track during his one-year stint, said "I hope the LDP will band together under new (party) president Takaichi to serve for the country and the people, as well as the world and for the new era."

Ishiba, a centrist known as archrival of Abe, was virtually forced into resigning by ultra-conservative wings in the party.

There were five candidates for the job. Five candidates — two currently serving and three former ministers — vied for the LDP presidency.

Hamas' agreement to peace plan not about Gaza but "long sought peace" in Middle East, says Trump

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Friday (local time) expressed confidence regarding Hamas' willingness to ensure peace in Gaza, after the militant group agreed to the 20-point peace plan introduced by him earlier this week.

Trump mentioned that the issue is not about peace in Gaza alone but in the whole of Middle East region. He further said that Israel should stop its attacks in Gaza so that it can quickly release its hostages.

"Based on the statement just issued by Hamas, I believe they are ready for a lasting PEACE. Israel must immediately stop the bombing of Gaza, so that we can get the Hostages out safely and quickly! Right now, it's far too dangerous to do that. We are already in discussions on details to be worked out. This is not about Gaza alone, this is about long sought PEACE in the Middle East," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Hamas on Friday (local time) agreed to release all Israeli hostages, whether dead or alive, in response to the 20-point Gaza peace plan introduced by US President Donald Trump earlier this week, Al Jazeera reported.

"In this context, the movement affirms its readiness to immediately enter into negotiations through the mediators to discuss the details of this agreement," Hamas said in a statement released on Telegram, quoted by Al Jazeera.

The group also agreed to hand over the Gaza administration to an independent Palestinian technocrats' body "based on Palestinian national consensus and Arab and Islamic support."

"Other issues mentioned in President Trump's proposal regarding the future of the Gaza Strip and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are connected to a unified national position and relevant international laws and resolutions," the statement said, as per Al Jazeera.

"They will be addressed through a comprehensive Palestinian national framework, in which Hamas will participate and contribute responsibly," the statement added.

The development comes after United States President Donald Trump on Friday (local time) issued a stern warning to Hamas, saying the militant group is "militarily trapped" and has been given a last chance to agree to a peace deal endorsed by regional and global powers. (ANI)

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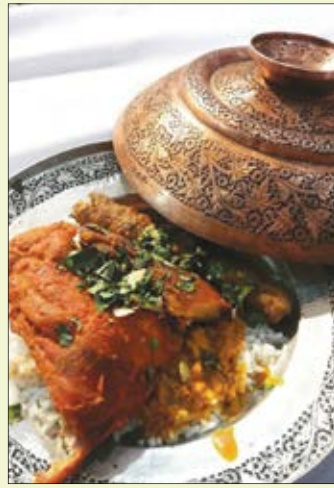
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