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High-level meet on security

Committed To Cripple The Terror Ecosystem In J&K : Amit Shah

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Reaffirming the PM Modi led government's resolve to achieve a terrorism-free Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asserted that security forces will continue to have full operational freedom to eliminate any threat to peace and stability in the region.

Amit Shah, chaired a high-level meeting in New Delhi to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

After the meeting ended the Union Home Minister wrote on X: "Reviewed the security of Jammu and Kashmir along with the Lt. Governor and other senior officials. We are committed to cripple the terror ecosystem in J&K."

"Our security forces will continue to have full freedom to crush any attempt to threaten peace and security in the region. Instructed to further intensify alertness and synergy to accelerate Modi Ji's vision of a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir," he wrote further.

The security review meeting was attended by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha; the Union Home Secretary; the Director, Intelligence Bureau; the Chief of Army Staff; the J&K Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir; the Directors General of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs); and senior officers from the Government of India, the Army, and the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

An official said that the meeting discussed J&K situation threadbare and the participants briefed Home Minister Shah about the ground situation.

"Due to the determined efforts of the security agencies, the terrorist network nurtured by the enemies of the nation in J&K have been almost eliminated," the Union Home Minister said.

He asked the security forces to remain fully prepared to ensure that terrorists do not exploit snowfall to infiltrate across the border.

Shah reiterated the Centre's unwavering commitment to achieving the goal of a terrorism-free Jammu and Kashmir.

"Any attempt to threaten peace and security in the region will be dealt with sternly. Security forces will continue to have full freedom to crush any design which is aimed at creating chaos," Shah said.

The Union Home Minister appreciated the steps taken by the local administration and security agencies following the Pahalgam terror attack. "These initiatives have helped strengthen the overall security landscape of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Shah underlined the critical role of all security agencies in working in close coordination and maintaining utmost vigilance to completely eradicate terrorism from the region.

Pertinently, the Union Home

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Frequent Polls At Odds With India's Steady Growth: Jitendra Singh

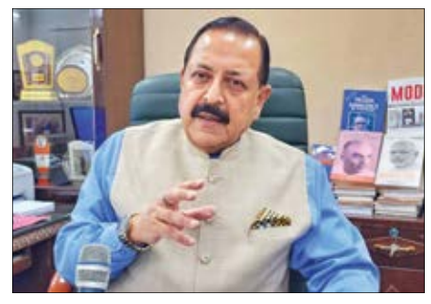
FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said political parties opposing 'One Nation One Election' are driven by narrow vested interests, and asserted that multiple elections are incompatible with the country's consistent growth and development.

Addressing a programme titled 'Students for One Nation One Election' at the University of Jammu, the minister said, "The key to a nation's uninterrupted growth is an uninterrupted electoral system with defined timelines. The frequent elections cause policy paralysis and wastage of resources."

Citing the example of the USA, he said the presidential election there is never held before the completion of a four-year term even in the most compelling situations. He recalled that when John Kennedy was assassinated, vice president Lyndon Johnson took over for the rest of the term and when Richard Nixon resigned after impeachment, vice president George Bush took over, but in both cases, a mid-term election was never contemplated.

Stressing the need for holding simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, the minister of state in the PMO said the time has come to roll out 'One Nation One Election', which represents a transformative shift in India's electoral process.



The minister said former president Ram Nath Kovind-led

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Railways Marks Milestone With Simultaneous Unloading Of Two Goods Rakes

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a landmark achievement for logistics and transportation in Jammu and Kashmir, the Northern Railways has for the first itme carried out simultaneous unloading of two goods rakes in the Union Territory, a senior official said on Thursday.



The first dual unloading of NMG (New Modified Goods) rakes loaded with Maruti Suzuki vehicles was

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Major rejig in Police Deptt; 24 IPS, JKPS officers transferred



SRINAGAR: In a major reshuffle, the Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered the transfer and posting of 24 IPS and JKPS officers in the interest of administration.

According to an order under number 484-Home of 2025, issued by the Home Department, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer, Abdul Ghani Mir, IPS (AGMUT:1994), awaiting orders of posting, has been appointed as Commandant General, Home Guards, Civil Defence, and SDRF, J&K, relieving Alok Kumar, IPS of the additional charge.

Among other key transfers, Mohd. Yaseen Kichloo, IPS (AGMUT:2013), has been transferred from SSP CICE Jammu and posted as Principal STC Talwara, while Shobhit Saxena, IPS (AGMUT:2015),

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J&K, Ladakh Brace for October Power Demand Peak of 3470 MW

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: With the onset of cold weather, the Ministry of Power (MoP) has predicted a peak power requirement of 3470 Megawatts (MWs) for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for the ongoing month.



However, contrary to it the ministry has anticipated that there may be a peak power availability of only 2490 MWs for the month of October.

According to the official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the MoP has predicted that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh may have a shortfall of 980 MWs against the total peak requirement.

Stating the anticipated power supply position in the northern region for October 2025, MoP has said that the representatives of Haryana, SLDC, Punjab SLDC and J&K SLDC informed that the shortfall in J&K would be met through Real time exchanges.

Earlier, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has said that the Discom is trying hard to improve and supply uninterrupted power supply this winter.

Director (MD) Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mahmood Ahmad Shah had said, "This year so far, KPDCL have provided improved power supply to our consumers. Besides

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India-UK Partnership Crucial Foundation For Global Stability: PM Modi

FE NEWS NETWORK

MUMBAI: The India-UK partnership stands as an important pillar of global stability and economic progress at a time the world is witnessing uncertainties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday after holding wide-ranging talks with his British counterpart Keir Starmer.



The two sides, following the Modi-Starmer talks, announced plans to supply lightweight multi-role missile systems to the Indian military to boost its air defence capabilities besides an in-principle move to finalise an inter-governmental pact to jointly develop maritime electric propulsion systems for India's naval platforms.

In their restricted as well as delegation-level talks, the two leaders held that the sealing of the historic free trade agreement between the two sides in July will inject new energy, boost trade and broaden the overall trajectory of ties.

The British prime minister, accompanied by over 100 CEOs, entrepreneurs, university vice-chancellors, landed in India's financial capital on Wednesday to a rousing welcome. It is his first visit to India.

> "India and the UK are natural partners. Our **relationship** is built on the shared values of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law," **Modi** said in his media statement in presence of Starmer.

"India and the UK are

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CS for giving strategic push to boost Milk and Mutton production in J&K

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting of the Agriculture Production Department (APD) to review the measures being taken to enhance milk and mutton production across the Union Territory. He emphasized that both sectors hold immense potential for growth, value addition, and entrepreneurship if approached with the right policy interventions and sustained departmental support.



The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar; Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; Managing Director, HADP; Managing Director, Dairy Development; Directors of Agriculture and Sheep Husbandry from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions; and other senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the need to create replicable success stories in these sectors to inspire public participation and entrepreneurship.

He observed that the region, being primarily a consumer state, offers a significant market for milk, mutton, and their processed products. Even in catering to local demand there exists vast potential in exploring commercial expansion and export of its value-added products.

He maintained that the UT must move beyond basic packaging and branding. The focus should be on scientific processing and value addition that can yield high-demand products and sustainable livelihoods. He urged local entrepreneurs to unlock the potential of the region's dairy and livestock sectors for finding the gainful employment.

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While speaking in this meeting the ACS, APD, Shailendra Kumar, gave a comprehensive overview of the present status and consumption patterns

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NC Govt Should Make Public Its First-Year Report Card: Chugh

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU : Bharatiya Janata Party National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday said the BJP is fully prepared to contest the upcoming Rajya Sabha and by-elections in Jammu and Kashmir with full strength, reaffirming that the party's foundation lies in hard work and ideology, not family politics.

Speaking to reporters after the BJP's core committee meeting in Jammu, Chugh said that elections are the true strength of democracy and every poll further strengthens it. "In democracy, elections are like a force. Every election strengthens democracy because it has the support of the people," he said.

He added that the BJP treats every election whether bypolls or parliamentary contests with equal seriousness. "If there are Rajya Sabha or by-elections, or even four Lok Sabha seats, the BJP will fight with full strength," he said.

Asserting that the BJP is a cadre-based party, Chugh said, "The Bharatiya Janata Party is not a party of a father and son, or a mother and daughter, or an uncle and nephew. It is a party of workers who believe in ideology. We have the world's greatest leader in Modi ji, and under his leadership, the party will continue to move forward."



Chugh took a sharp dig at National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah, accusing his party

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Life returns to normal in Ladakh

LEH: Life has returned to normal in Ladakh after the lifting of restrictions in the region.

Officials said, that people's cooperation and their responsible conduct has led to restoration of internet services, smooth functioning of educational institutions, and resumption of public transport and other civic activities.

Chairing a high-level security review meeting here on Thursday, Lieutenant Governor, Kavinder Gupta, expressed satisfaction over the prevailing calm and order across the Union Territory. He commended the efforts of the civil and police administration, security forces, and the people of Ladakh for their collective role in maintaining peace and harmony.

The Lt Governor said that the people of Ladakh have shown exemplary patience and unity during recent challenging times. He stressed that their spirit of cooperation has been instrumental in quickly restoring normal life across the region. "The restoration of normal life is a clear reflection of the people's faith in the administration's commitment to ensuring safety, stability, and inclusive growth," he said.

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DDC Reasi reviews saturation of schemes in Aspirational Block Thakrakote

Emphasises fast-track development, timely reporting

REASI: District Development Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a review meeting to assess the saturation of developmental indicators and interventions in Aspirational Block Thakrakote under the NITI Aayog's Aspirational Block Development Programme.



DDC Nidhi Malik took a detailed review of improvements achieved in health services, women and child development, social development, agriculture and allied activities, education and basic infrastructure development. The Functionaries from respective departments presented detailed progress reports on the initiatives undertaken in the block.

While appreciating consistent improvements in certain indicators, the DDC directed departments with slow progress to put in extra efforts to enhance overall performance.

DDC Malik laid special emphasis on the accurate and timely reporting of data on the ABP portal. The Officers were instructed to ensure data reconciliation and monthly verification with great precision before uploading, so that the achievements and interventions are correctly reflected in official records.

The DDC issued strict directions to the BDO Thakrakote to initiate and fast-track the recovery of PMAY houses under the non-starter category, in coordination with revenue officials.

For financial inclusion, the DDC directed the banking sector to prioritize the opening of bank branches in Thakrakote and to enhance the network of Banking Correspondents (BCs), ensuring better access to banking services for local residents.

The DDC instructed BSNL officials to accelerate BharatNet connectivity in the gram panchayats of Thakrakote block and to address any bottlenecks immediately.

The education sector was tasked with taking punitive action in schools showing low performance while the CEO and ZEO were directed to conduct regular inspections to improve admission rates and academic results. The DDC further directed the CEO to address the shortage of teaching staff and improve learning outcomes.

The newly appointed Aspirational Block Fellow was also briefed and instructed to maintain close liaison with all departments to ensure accurate reporting and timely resolution of queries.

The DDC concluded the meeting with a strong message of accountability, timely implementation and coordinated efforts across departments to accelerate the developmental progress of Aspirational Block Thakrakote.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, PO POSHAN, ACD, CMO and other concerned officers.

Financial Literacy Quiz organized at GCW Parade

JAMMU: The Department of English, Government College for Women Parade Ground, in collaboration with Zerodha Varsity organized a Financial Literacy Quiz aimed at promoting awareness about personal finance, investment and responsible money management among the students.

The quiz covered topics related to finance, wealth, entrepreneurship etc, mainly based on Zerodha Varsity platform and YouTube Channels.

Held in the college auditorium, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various departments with over 43 teams in the preliminary round.

Six teams qualified for the final round conducted by Quizmaster Ahil supported by Ashish. The quiz tested participants' understanding of key financial concepts. The winning team, consisting of Ojaswi Rajput, Samiyaa Sharma and Vanshika Devi, was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 12,000.

The first runner up team comprising Sonakshi Sharma, Ufra Tanveer and Vartika Sharma won Rs. 9,000 and the second runner up team consisting of Khushi Puri, Simran Chib and Rumaisa Ahmed won Rs 3,000 cash prize.

The competition was conducted in multiple rounds, featuring both written and interactive segments. The preliminary round was evaluated by the teaching faculty of the college, while the final round was evaluated by representatives from Zerodha Varsity. A dedicated team of student volunteers and faculty members managed registration, technical assistance and logistics ensuring smooth coordination throughout the event.

Minalika Rajput and Riya Jamwal from GCW Parade anchored the event, while Vishnu Priya, Shreya and Nilakshi from MCMP were responsible for the photo and video coverage.

The student organizers from the Department of English were Janvi, Monika, Palak, Raghvi, Muskan, Archita, Purvi, Stanzen, Mehak, Muskan, Tania, Pallavi and Kajal. The quiz served as an engaging platform for students to gain hands-on insights into financial decision-making and economic self-reliance.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ritu Magotra, Head of the Department of English, commended the efforts of the organizing team and highlighted the importance of financial education as an essential life skill for young learners.

Dr. Ravender Tickoo, Principal GCW Parade, reiterated that the quiz reflected the institution's ongoing commitment to holistic learning by integrating practical financial awareness with academic growth.

DC Doda reviews Mission YUVA Implementation

Pitches for spreading mass awareness, timely disbursement of loan assistance

FE NEWS NETWORK

DODA: District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh took a detailed review of the progress and implementation status of the Mission YUVA in the district here at a meeting convened the other day.



The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal; Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Bhutyal; Sub-Divisional Magistrates, the Heads of Government Degree Colleges, Government Polytechnic College, Chief Education officer, Superintendents of ITIs, Nodal Officers of Udyam Jagriti, Zonal Head and Branch Managers of J&K Bank, Block Programme Managers of NRLM and members of Small Business Development Units (SBDU) and Business Help Desks (BHD).

A detailed PowerPoint presentation on the overall progress and performance of Mission YUVA in the district was given by Deputy Director Employment Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, highlighting key achievements, challenges and future strategies.

The District Development Commissioner laid special emphasis on awareness generation under Udyam Jagriti 4.0 and directed all educational institutions, including Government Degree Colleges, ITIs, Polytechnics and Higher Secondary Schools to organise awareness sessions on Mission YUVA on a regular basis to make the students understand the scheme's objectives and benefits. Similarly, the Block Programme Managers from NRLM were instructed to cover all Self Help Group members within a month. The Chief Education Officer was also directed to ensure that awareness sessions are held in Higher Secondary Schools for sensitising future potential entrepreneurs.

The Deputy Director Employment informed that a total of 2,282 applications have been received so far, out of which 1,446 cases have been verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDU) and 1,306 were approved by the District Level Implementation Committee.

However, he said only 473 cases have been sanctioned and 131 disbursed by the banks till date.

Taking a serious note, the Deputy Commissioner directed the banks to expedite the sanctioning and disbursement process and ensure that all pending eligible cases are cleared within two weeks.

He further directed all stakeholders to intensify awareness among the general public regarding the features and benefits of Mission YUVA, describing it as a vibrant scheme aimed at nurturing entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth. He also instructed that information about the hiring of contractual positions under the mission, including posts for SBD & BHD, Motivators and External Trainers, be widely publicised. These positions, offering attractive honorariums ranging from 5,000 to 50,000, provide excellent opportunities for eligible youth. The last date for submission of applications for SBDU and BHD positions is October 11, 2025 and for Motivators, October 18, 2025.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Business Help Desks (BHD) to conduct Output Tracking of established enterprises and ensure that their success stories are shared with the SBDU for uploading on the Mission YUVA portal to inspire and motivate other young entrepreneurs.

Mega Exhibition-cum-Kisan Mela organised at District Agriculture Complex Rajouri

RAJOURI: The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare today organised a mega Exhibition-cum-Kisan Mela at the District Agriculture Complex, Kheora, under the aegis of Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA). The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from across the district.



The programme was presided over by District Development Council Chairperson, Advocate Choudhary Naseem Liaqat, who highlighted the objectives of the event and urged the farming community to take full advantage of the various government schemes aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and improving the socio-economic condition of farmers. He underlined the immense agricultural potential of Rajouri district, noting its diverse agro-climatic conditions that are highly conducive for crop diversification.

"The region's diverse topography and climate support cultivation of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables as well as allied activities like beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, and floriculture, offering farmers vast opportunities to enhance income and ensure sustainable livelihoods" he noted.

The stakeholder departments including Horticulture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Industries and others had set up informative stalls showcasing respective schemes and services. The Chief Guest inspected each stall and appreciated the efforts put in to educate and motivate farmers.

Resource persons interacted with farmers, providing detailed insights into the initiatives being implemented in the district to promote sustainable and integrated farming practices.

A magnificent cultural programme was also presented on the occasion, spreading awareness among farmers about different welfare and agricultural schemes in an engaging manner.

Scientist from KVK Arvind Ishar delivered an informative session on the Integrated Farming System, emphasising its benefits for income diversification and long-term sustainability.

The farmers were provided Mustard Seed Kits and Soil Health Cards to promote scientific soil management and enhance productivity. The event served as an effective platform for knowledge exchange and reaffirmed the government's commitment to empowering the farming community through innovation, awareness and convergence of agricultural services.

Chief Agriculture Officer Madan Gopal Singh; AD Fisheries Bodh Raj, the officers from allied departments and a large number of farmers from across the district attended the event.

Orientation Programme For Business Help Desks, YUVA DOOTs Held At Ramban

RAMBAN: The District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Ramban today organized a comprehensive Orientation Programme for Business Help Desk (BHD) members and YUVA DOOTs at the District Headquarter. The programme aimed at strengthening outreach and service delivery under the Mission YUVA initiative aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship among youth.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan inaugurated the event in presence of Joint Director Employment Jammu Paramjeet Singh.

As many as 62 YUVA DOOTs, drawn from the Rural Development Department, Agriculture Department and NRLM attended the session. They were assigned specific panchayats and municipal wards across Ramban, Banihal, Batote, Gool, Khari, Ukhral and Rajgarh blocks to ensure wider coverage of employment awareness campaigns under Mission YUVA.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak (District Nodal Officer- Mission YUVA); SDM Gool Imtiaz Ahmed; SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan; SDM Ramsoo Sayed Muzahir Hussain Shah; Assistant Director Employment Amit Kumar, bankers and functionaries from other stakeholder departments also attended the event.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the crucial role of YUVA DOOTs and BHDs in connecting unemployed youth with self-employment and livelihood schemes. He emphasized that these grassroots-level functionaries are instrumental in



creating awareness, identifying potential beneficiaries and facilitating linkages with departments implementing schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner also lauded the efforts of the Employment Department in organizing such orientation programmes and urged all stakeholders to continue consistent engagement with youth to ensure that every eligible beneficiary avails the benefits of self-employment and livelihood schemes under Mission YUVA.

The Joint Director Employment, in his address, highlighted the role of the stakeholders in implementing Mission YUVA aimed at empowering the youth of Ramban district and elsewhere in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of skill development, financial literacy and entrepreneurship in reducing unemployment and promoting sustainable income generation. The Joint Director further urged the participants to organise awareness sessions in panchayats. He emphasized mainly on quality application submission by the Youth. "YUVA Doots can guide each applicant effectively to ensure quality applications" he added.

During the technical session, Assistant Director Employment Amit Kumar, along with other resource persons, provided detailed orientation on the role and responsibilities of (BHDs) and YUVA DOOTs. The participants were trained in maintaining data of unemployed youth, mobilization strategies and digital reporting mechanisms.

An interactive question-and-answer session was also held, wherein participants raised queries regarding eligibility criteria, documentation process and benefits of various employment schemes. The resource persons and officials addressed each query in detail, clearing doubts and providing practical guidance to the participants.

DC Ramban reviews functioning of Revenue Department

Reviews progress of Land Record Digitization, SVAMITVA Scheme implementation

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of Revenue Officers to review the progress of the Digitization of Land Records and implementation of the SVAMITVA Scheme in the district.



The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; SDM Gool Imtiaz Ahmed; SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan, Tehsildars and other officials of the Revenue Department.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the ongoing digitization work, including data entry of digitized Jamabandis, completion of Khasras and Khatas, village-wise updates on ground truthing of maps and updation of sub-parcels in the mother map. He also reviewed the progress of the SVAMITVA Scheme, which aims to provide property cards to rural households through drone-based surveys and mapping.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all Tehsildars to expedite the digitization process and clear pending records within a stipulated time frame. He emphasized the importance of accuracy, transparency and timely completion of all activities to ensure reliable and accessible land records.

Highlighting the significance of efficiency and accountability, the DC said that timely completion of the digitization process; accurate record management and effective implementation of land-related schemes are crucial for good governance and improved public service delivery. The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the need to sensitize the public about the benefits of land record digitization and property mapping under the SVAMITVA Scheme. He directed officers to address public grievances promptly and ensure immediate redressal of issues of public interests.

2-month Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0 takes off in Kishtwar

DC calls for collective action to curb the menace

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma flagged off the "Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0" under the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) in the district organised by the Health Department.

The two-month-long campaign, part of a nationwide initiative by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India was launched here from Government Model Higher Secondary School (Boys) with a student rally flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner.

The rally was organized by the Health Department in collaboration with the Education Department to spread awareness about hazards of tobacco use.

Addressing the participants, the DC emphasized the urgent need for collective action to curb the rising menace of tobacco use, particularly among youth. "We, collectively—including teachers and students—must make this campaign successful in every educational institution in the district," the DC said, adding that the campaign is being launched from Government Higher Secondary School as Educational Institutions require special focus in the fight against Tobacco addiction. He said the campaign would subsequently extend to college students.

Over the next sixty days, the campaign will feature Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, community engagement workshops and enforcement drives aimed at promoting a healthier, tobacco-free Kishtwar.

The initiative will raise public awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and ensure strict adherence to Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (ToFEI) guidelines. The community would be acquainted with Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003 and the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA) 2019 with stress on enforcement of ban on the sale of tobacco within 100 yards of educational institutions

Efforts would also be directed towards creating tobacco-free villages through awareness programs, sensitization drives and law enforcement initiatives. The students and youth would be encouraged to lead the movement under the slogan: "Say No To Tobacco, Yes To Life."

The launch event was attended by Chief Education Officer Sanjay Dogra; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal; the Principal of the host school Ashok Kumar, Teachers and a large number of Students.

Dy. CM conducts extensive tour of Srinagar city, assesses development works

Emphasis on preserving heritage character of city

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary conducted an extensive tour of Srinagar city to assess ongoing development works and projects.

During the visit, the Deputy CM visited Govt. College of Education, Govt. College for Women, sites of the proposed Barbar Shah Bridge, Old Habba Kadal Bridge and Padshahi Bagh Road.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied with MLA Habba Kadal Shamim Firdous, and MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, along with other senior officials of concerned departments.

At the outset of the tour, the Deputy Chief Minister visited Govt. College of Education and Govt. College for Women and inspected the ongoing works there.

The Deputy CM directed the concerned officials to complete the pending works without further delay with adherence to the quality parameters. He also interacted with the students, teachers and other staff members during the visit.

Later, the Deputy CM inspected the site of the Proposed Barbar Shah Bridge taking up from Rata Rani Nai Sarak to Bund Exchange Road with clear span of 100 meters. The new bridge has been proposed at an civil cost of 15.25 Crores apart from the acquisition cost.

The Deputy CM was apprised that the project involves the construction of a 2-Lane Plate Girder Bridge featuring a 7.50-meter carriageway and 1.50-meter footpaths on either side.

On completion, the bridge connecting Nai Sarak



Barbarshah to MA Road via exchange road will serve as a vital link over the Chount Khul, significantly decongesting traffic in a crucial part of the city and providing relief to a population of over 500,000 souls.

The Deputy CM reviewed the project proposal and was briefed by officials on the technical specifications and execution plan. Subsequently, he directed the R&B Division Srinagar to proceed with Detailed Project Report (DPR) with considering all the components viz shifting of utilities, land acquisition and the technical feasibility.

The Deputy CM also visited the Habba Kadal area to assess Old Habba Kadal Bridge's motorability while directing the R&B Division Karan Nagar for repair of damaged decking along with direction of assessing its structural safety following the recent floods.

Later, discussions were held at Padshahi Bagh regarding the works to be executed and prioritized in the coming days.

He also interacted with local residents, community elders, and members of the traders' federation, listening to their concerns and suggestions. He assured them of developmental works aim to preserve the heritage character of the area while providing modern amenities.

The Deputy CM reiterated the government's commitment towards time-bound completion of all vital infrastructure projects in Jammu & Kashmir. He directed the concerned executing agencies to resolve any existing bottlenecks, closely monitor the finishing works, and ensure that these projects are dedicated to the public within the announced timeline to enhance the ease of living for the citizens of Srinagar and preserve its heritage character.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates two-days PARAKH workshop at PM Shri High School Yaroo D.H. Pora

Reaffirms Government's commitment to enhancing learning outcomes in J&K

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated two-day educational workshop organized at PM Shri High School Yaroo, D.H. Pora, under the aegis of PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) initiative.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena reaffirmed the Government's commitment to enhancing learning outcomes and strengthening the educational ecosystem across Jammu & Kashmir.

She appreciated the efforts of PARAKH and NCERT in building teacher capacity and promoting learner-centric education practices.

Highlighting initiatives like PARAKH, which prepare secondary school students for the World of Work (WoW), the Minister emphasized the importance of developing future-ready learners equipped with skills and competencies.

The Minister acknowledged the sincerity of teachers while urging further efforts to achieve better results. She added government is working with a strong focus on providing quality education and improved facilities across the Union Territory.



Director General School Education, Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo, in his address highlighted the objectives of PARAKH initiative and the significance of trade and vocational training in enhancing skill development.

During the event, the Minister also inspected various stalls showcasing innovative projects made by students

The workshop was aimed to create awareness among teachers, students and education stakeholders about competency-based learning, assessment reforms, and innovative pedagogical approaches aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The workshop saw participation from teachers, vocational trainers, students and education officers.

On the sidelines of the event, the Minister distributed regularisation orders to newly appointed CPWs, noting that more than 300 CPWs have been regularised under the current government.

Central Prabhari Officer visits Kupwara



KUPWARA: Union Joint Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), and Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) for District Kupwara, Sarita Chauhan today visited district Kupwara to review the performance of the district under the Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

On her arrival, Sarita Chauhan inspected various stalls installed by different departments at DC Office Complex showcasing interventions undertaken to improve Key Performance Indictors (KPIs) under ADP. Sanction letters under different schemes of Agriculture and allied sectors were distributed to the concerned beneficiaries during the inspection of the stalls. The Central Prabhari Officer also chaired a high level meeting of district and sectoral officers to review the progress on key performance indicators (KPIs) under the ADP framework. The DC Kupwara briefed about progress achieved so far under ADP regarding the five core thematic areas of the Aspirational District Programme viz. Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure.

Sarita Chauhan took detailed feedback from the concerned officers on the implementation status of various centrally sponsored schemes and initiatives undertaken in the district which are contributing to KPIs improvement.

She emphasized the need for data-driven governance and urged departments to intensify focused efforts to bridge the gaps under these thematic areas.

Appreciating the progress made relating to several indicators, she urged all departments to have inter departmental convergence of efforts to improve the performance of district in Health, education, nutrition, skill development as well as financial inclusion sectors. Departments assured to central prabhari officer to intensify focussed initiatives and regular monitoring so that district achieves improved delta ranking in coming quarter.

Satish Sharma calls on Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports

Seeks enhanced support for strengthening sports infrastructure, youth engagement in J&K

NEW DELHI: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma called on the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi and held an extensive discussion on measures to strengthen sports infrastructure, enhance youth engagement, and promote athletic excellence in Jammu & Kashmir.



During the meeting, Satish Sharma presented a comprehensive memorandum to the Union Minister, reiterating the J&K Government's commitment to transforming Jammu & Kashmir into a vibrant hub of sports and youth empowerment.

The memorandum detailed key proposals focusing on infrastructure development, athlete welfare, and grassroots participation aligned with the National Sports Policy 2025 and the J&K Sports Policy 2022.

Highlighting the significance of sports as a medium for peace, unity, and integration, Satish Sharma said, "Jammu & Kashmir stands at a defining moment in its sporting journey. With the Centre's continued support, we can channelize the energy of our youth, nurture their talent, and position J&K as a model of sporting excellence and national unity."

The Minister sought the Union Government's assistance in accelerating the development of world-class sports infrastructure, including the establishment of a National Winter Sports Centre of Excellence at Gulmarg, modernization of district stadiums with all-weather facilities, and creation of sports amenities at the panchayat level to ensure equitable access for rural youth.

He also called for expanding Khelo India grassroots programs, enhancing scholarship and financial aid schemes for athletes, integrating sports science and physiotherapy into training systems, and promoting public-private partnerships for the management and maintenance of sports facilities.

To encourage sports-linked tourism and international exposure, Satish Sharma proposed the hosting of international winter sports events at Gulmarg, which would position Jammu & Kashmir as a leading global destination for winter and adventure sports.

The Minister further requested the early release of 103.82 crore as proposed earlier for construction of critical sports infrastructure projects under Khelo India, enabling rapid execution of ongoing and planned initiatives. He also stressed the need for providing funds for promotion of sports in rural areas and funds be placed at each rural Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir

Reaffirming the Jammu and Kashmir Government's commitment, Satish Sharma said, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah we are determined to build a robust, inclusive, and self-sustaining sports ecosystem that empowers our youth and strengthens the spirit of national integration."

The Union Minister assured that soon policy for promoting sports in rural areas will be framed, besides funds for sports equipments will be provided.

Bandipora needs to stop using polythene: DC Bandipora

Attends workshop on waste management

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Thursday attended a workshop on waste management organised by the Municipal Council Bandipora to promote sustainable waste management practices and encourage public participation in maintaining cleanliness across the district.



Addressing the gathering, the DC said that waste management has emerged as one of the major challenges of modern times and stressed the need for collective action and community participation to tackle it effectively.

She urged citizens to adopt the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and to extend full cooperation to the district administration in keeping Bandipora clean, green, and litter-free.

Expressing concern over the Zalwan dumping site, the DC said that the site is swelling due to continuous dumping of waste from various parts of Bandipora town and adjoining areas.

"The citizens of Bandipora need to wake up as Zalwan is now swelling due to excessive waste. Reducing waste generation at home and in establishments is the need of the hour if we truly wish to save our district," she remarked.

On the occasion, residents of Zalwan also shared their concerns and agony over the accumulation of tonnes of waste around their village.

They appealed to the people of Bandipora to minimise waste generation at home and act as responsible citizens by supporting the district's waste reduction initiatives.

The DC urged people to avoid the use of polythene and single-use plastic (SUP) and instead switch to biodegradable alternatives.

Emphasising that cleanliness is a shared civic responsibility, she encouraged students to act as "Brand Ambassadors of Clean Bandipora" and spread the message of hygiene and sustainability in their surroundings.

During the programme, students who completed internship programmes under Swachhta Pakhwada and Seva Pakhwada shared their experiences, which included door-to-door awareness drives, household sensitisation, visits to local water bodies and the MRF plant at Sumbal, and public campaigns on waste segregation and plastic reduction.

Prominent personalities including Padma Shri awardee Faisal Ali Dar, Chairperson Civil Society Bandipora G. M. Lone, President Traders Federation Bandipora Ali Mohammad Hajam, senior citizens, and students from various educational institutions also participated in the event and shared their views on sustainable waste management and environmental conservation.

A felicitation ceremony was also held during which Swachhta interns and contributors under Seva Pakhwada were honoured for their outstanding work and dedication towards promoting cleanliness and community awareness.

Among others, the event was attended by CEO MC Bandipora Ajaz Ahmad, Principals of Degree Colleges, Chief Education Officer, Zonal Education Officers, Heads of Schools, Swachh Ambassadors, and officials of the Municipal Council Bandipora.

DDC Ganderbal chairs public outreach programme at Tehsil Wakura

Takes first-hand appraisal of public issues, assures timely resolution of genuine concerns

GANDERBAL: In order to bring governance at the doorsteps of people, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore on Thursday presided over a public outreach programme cum grievance redressal camp at Administrative Complex of Tehsil Wakura of the district.



District Development Council Member, M Ashraf Ganai; Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Lead District Manager, and other district and sectoral officers were present on the occasion besides a large gathering of local citizens, students and social activists.

During the camp, participants put forth a range of developmental issues and demands including drinking water supply, macadamization of roads and inner links, availability of bus service during late hours, desilting and widening of Dab canal, infrastructure upgradation of school buildings, shortage of staff in several schools, completion of PHC Wakoora new building and construction of a children park for the area.

DDC patiently listened to the concerns of people, took feedback from officers of line departments, and issued on-spot directions for immediate redressal of genuine issues. He further assured of taking up other issues with concerned authorities for their redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that this public outreach programme is part of participatory governance initiative, aimed at bridging the gap between administration and public through direct interaction. He said district administration is committed for transparent and citizen friendly governance.

DDC handed-over sanction letters among various beneficiaries under various schemes of Agriculture development, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Social Welfare, Mission Yuva, etc. He also distributed sports kits among students belonging to economically weaker sections of the society.

Later, DDC visited Primary Health Centre Wakura and took first-hand stock of health-care facilities extended to patients and also reviewed availability of essential medicines. He also visited the new PHC building and directed concerned for timely completion of finishing works for its timely dedication to the public to enhance health facilities.

He also visited Dab Kanal Wakura to take spot assessment of encroachment, and directed concerned Tehsildar and Irrigation Department to immediately get the encroachment removed and restore the canal to its original position.

DC Jammu reviews Diwali preparedness

Stresses on effective measures to ensure safe and seamless celebrations

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas on Thursday convened a meeting to review district-wide preparedness for the upcoming Diwali festival, aiming to ensure safe and smooth celebrations.

Reviewing the arrangements at different levels, the Deputy Commissioner underlined that the district administration has a responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the public while facilitating them to enjoy the festival. "Our endeavours should not be restrictive while also not compromising public safety," Dr. Minhas said.

Dr. Minhas directed that all departments must coordinate effectively to uphold public confidence and minimise risks during the festive period.

The DC said that licence fee collection for crackers and fireworks stalls would be handled exclusively through online mode to reduce irregularities and ensure auditing. "Permissions for retail cracker stalls will be granted on a first-come first-serve basis after scrutiny by a specially constituted Committee and processed by a single window at DC office" he added.

The Committee, led by the Additional Deputy Commissioner with DC North (Jammu Municipal Corporation) as Member Secretary, will include other district officers to ensure due diligence and transparency.

The Committee will also review and revise stall permission fees, allowing timely price adjustments responsive to market conditions. Other important discussions of the meeting covered mobilisation of medical emergency services, fire and emergency services, ensuring uninterrupted access and quality stock of essential supplies during the festival and keeping emergency response teams on alert for rapid deployment. Traffic management and security were also discussed as vital subjects during the meeting.

SSP Joginder Singh, SSP Traffic Farooq Qaiser, ADC Ansuya Jamwal, SDMs and other district officers attended the meeting.

Sheep Husbandry Department Baramulla organises Sheep Mandi at VAS Shrakwara

BARAMULLA: In a remarkable initiative, the Sheep Husbandry Department, Baramulla, organized a Mega Sheep Mandi (Buyer–Seller Meet) at the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS) Headquarters, Shrakwara.



The event marked the first-ever organized livestock trading platform in the area, enabling direct interaction between breeders and buyers without the involvement of middlemen.

Livestock farmers from various villages of Block Wagoora participated enthusiastically, bringing their animals for sale. The Department provided all necessary facilities, including animal holding pens, health check-ups, and body weight assessments to ensure smooth and transparent transactions.

The event was formally inaugurated by District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO) Baramulla, Dr. Showkat Ahangar, in the presence of AMO Baramulla, VAS Kohlina, VAS Shrakwara, among other officers and a large gathering of breeders and farmers.

A total of 423 animals were registered in the Mandi, of which 222 animals were successfully sold, generating an impressive revenue of Rs 23.21 lakh.

The event received overwhelming appreciation from both buyers and sellers.

Participants expressed gratitude to the Department for organizing such an initiative and suggested that the Mandi be held regularly every month at a dedicated and well-equipped venue with proper shelter and infrastructure for livestock.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ahangar commended the participants for their active involvement and reaffirmed the Department's commitment to empowering farmers under the Government's vision of doubling farmers' income.

He emphasized that such initiatives not only promote employment among youth but also facilitate better market access for their produce.

Editorial

No Quarter for Terrorism in J&K

The high-level security review convened by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi signifies a definitive and categorical message to all, namely, that the Government of India's resolve for a terrorism-free Jammu & Kashmir is irreconcilable and unequivocal. After the tragic Pahalgam event that stunned the nation, this reassertion of granting complete operational freedom to the security forces to neutralize the threat is also timely and definitely required. This reflects a continuity of strategy for New Delhi, combining aggressive security policy and a longer term strategic perspective of change in the region.

The meeting, consisting of the highest leadership of the country's security and government machinery, from the Army Chief and Intelligence Bureau Director to the J&K Lieutenant Governor and DGP, demonstrates the seriousness the Centre associates with the situation. The resolve shared by the attendees is precisely what is needed to eliminate the remnants of the terror ecosystem that has bled the people of Jammu and Kashmir for decades and continues to prevent change and progress.

The Home Minister's statement that the terror networks have been "almost wiped out" as a result of the vigorous work of security organizations suggests some degree comes to terms with the achievements made in recent years. Nevertheless, the order to take further precaution, especially against terrorists taking advantage of seasonal shifts such as snowfall as opportunities to infiltrate, indicates some level of understanding that the fight is not yet over.

Ultimately, the goal is not simply to contain the terrorism response militarily, but to facilitate an environment where the socio-economic life of an area can grow, represented by the tourism industry, without fear. The goal of the pursuit of a peaceful J&K is an environment where children are allowed to dream, businesses can flourish, and tourists can see first-hand the beauty only J&K can offer.

The exhortation of "utmost vigilance" and "close coordination" of all security agencies must not be understated. Terrorism is a complex and multi-faceted issue and must be tackled in a seamless and unified manner. Synergy between the Army, Central Armed Police Forces, Jammu and Kashmir Police and all intelligence wings will be the force multiplier that dismantles the remaining terrorist support structures.

The Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has rightly put at the very heart of its policy the elimination of terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir. The repeated reconfirmation of a "zero tolerance" policy by the Home Minister takes any ambiguity away. Even as the state moves forward, it is imperative that this security resolve is accompanied by sustained political and developmental outreach to the community in order to delink the ideologies of hate and violence. The journey towards a truly integrated and peaceful Jammu and Kashmir is a testing one, but with a clear path, and mindful determination, it is an achievable and necessary future for the nation.

Literary Review

S. Mashooq Ahmed's "Kitaaben Jhankti Hain" & "Kootahiyan"



■ WANI ARFAT

S. Mashooq Ahmed, hailing from the picturesque district of Kulgam in Kashmir, is a unique personality in Urdu literature. Not only is he a masterful essayist, but he is also a distinguished commentator, short story writer, and poet. His literary pen name, S. Mashooq Ahmed, has become synonymous with a mark of excellence that leaves a profound impression on the minds and hearts of every literary connoisseur and scholar.

S. Mashooq Ahmed has made an illustrious place for himself in literature. I have come to know him over the past few months by reading what he has written, and what immediately impressed me was the thoughts of his mind, the acuteness of his imagination, and the innovation of his style. Each of his commentaries and essays is a salve to the heart and an enlargement of the mind as he effortlessly introduces life experience, human emotion, social reality, and intellectual consideration into language that is simultaneously familiar and deeply resonant. Not only do his words evoke the reader, they also guide the reader into new directions of thought and reflection, and thus his writing is a guiding light in contemporary Urdu literature.

S. Mashooq Ahmed's love of literature often runs deep, and his affection for the essay form is no secret in literary circles. His essays carry a rare aesthetic and intellectual beauty that makes an impression on the reader's mind, possessing a flawless mix of elegance and depth that few authors can offer. As a critic, Mashooq reads books with care and fastidiously notes their key points and offers in-depth, perceptive critiques. His critiques do not only reveal the significance of the work that he discusses but also call upon readers to read books more deeply, exposing them to different levels of thought and imagination. Published through newspapers, magazines, and media, his works bring intellectual satisfaction and guidance, inspiring aspiring writers and readers of books as well.

S. Mashooq Ahmed is counted among India and Pakistan's best choice, renowned essayists, and his essays bear witness to both his outstanding creative abilities and nuanced understanding of Urdu literature. His essays are not only distinguished by their distinctive style but also by analysis depth, refined language, and challenging themes, which combined position him firmly in the world of literature. Thus far, he has written four great books: "Main Ne Dekha" (assays and sketches), "Dabistan-e-Kashmir ke Darakhshan Sitare" (essays on Kashmiri authors and poets), "Kootahiyan" (assays),



and "Kitaaben Jhankti Hain" (commentary and criticism). Not very long ago, Farida Anjum compiled a collection of his essays in a book named "Adabi Mashooqiyat", which only goes to underscore the value of his work.

Every line and every thought in Mashooq Ahmed's writing is a call to reflection, reminiscent of the richness of the human experience. His writing lingers on the complexities of life, on the subtlety of social behavior, on the richness of human emotions, and on what literature is all about. Through his unique blend of social observation, subtle humor, satire, and verbal agility, he conveys the richness of human experience, and his work becomes a source of guidance not only in Kashmir but across the whole subcontinent. Mashooq Ahmed is a great writer in every literary genre, but every work that he produces reflects his deep love of literature, his wide intellectual vision, and his sensitivity to human emotions.

S. Mashooq Ahmed's artistic temperament, reflected in his own special style and firm commitment to literary excellence, is a magnificent addition to Urdu literature. Every essay, review, and article written by him raises new standards of literary and intellectual excellence. He is not only a writer but also a perceptive guide, awakening readers to the facts of life, society, language, and literature. His writings evoke emotions, provoke thoughts, and illuminate the enduring richness of Urdu literature and language.

One of his most notable works, "Kitaaben Jhankti Hain" is an excellent collection of critical essays, first published in 2024 by GNK Publications. Consisting of 186 pages with hardcover binding of an advanced kind, the book is intriguing at first sight. Its price of three hundred and fifty rupees hardly reflects the rich literary wealth in store within it. The book is a rigorous reading of literature, and Mashooq Ahmed's close reading, insightful close-reading, and authentic reflection. Each essay not only elucidates regarding the work discussed but also directs to its aesthetic subtlety. His opting for plain language guarantees that the reader is not burdened but instead gets to enjoy a good and enlightening reading experience.

Kitaaben Jhankti Hain does not so much expose individual writings but displays a glimpse of a wide range of authors and writings. Through this compilation, Mashooq Ahmed throws light on the extensive expanse of literature, reflecting his extensive reading, deep love for learning, and mastery over critique. The essays and commentaries published range from fiction, poetry, essay, and criticism to introduce readers to the diverse facets of literary exploration. Of the best essays among them are critical analyses of books by Mohammad Asadullah, Manwar Usmani, Iqbal Hasan Azad, and Ibn-e-Safi, and thematic explorations of contemporary Urdu fiction and introspective writings on human life, philosophy, and literary concepts. This book not only enhances literary understanding but also serves as a handbook for readers to improve his interpretative and analytical skills.

Similarly, "Kootahiyan", a fine collection of twenty-one essays published by GNK Publications, comprises 128 pages and demands special notice with its beautiful cover. Dedicated to his loving parents out of love, respect, and gratitude, the book addresses social and day-to-day life topics in an accessible, easy-to-read manner with a catchy flow that involves readers on a journey of observation, thinking, and reflection. Each essay is humorous, satirical, and thought-provoking, challenging readers to consider different aspects of life. The anthology favors Mashooq Ahmed's observation, extensive reading, and literary ability, and each essay communicates a new message along with an emotional entreaty.

The titles in Kootahiyan—such as "Umar Poochna", "Khushamad", "Dost, Dushman aur Biwi", "Kya Karte Ho", "Bas Chaar Din", "Adhar aur Gaali", "Baheek Khareedne ka Khawab", "Kutte Mein Tera Khoon Bhi Jaoon Ga", "Laraai", "Rog Radio aur Adabi Program", "Gaye Bhi Chori Hui", "Phisalna", "Intizaar", "Shafiq Bacholiya", "Zikr-e-Ahd-e-Shabab", "Mirza Tabarak Abadi", "Shadi Shuda aur Kanware", "Soorat Pehchaan aur Paishgoi", "Ashaar ki Man Bhati Sharh", "Modern Mehboob", and "Salaam Name"—ask questions, as readers are compelled to view social realities, human actions, and everyday life in new perspectives. Each essay presents a complete story, a singular experience, and a vibrant imaginative scene, a lasting impression that is remembered in the mind and heart of the reader.

By these essays, readers not only get acquainted with Mashooq Ahmed's skill of observation and literary art but also gain a new vision for looking at day-to-day life, emotions, and social behaviors. The game of joke, criticism, and reflection in these essays makes Kootahiyan a new kind of literary work, offering enlightening and memorable reading to all the readers.

S. Mashooq Ahmed, therefore, is not merely a master essayist, critic, and columnist of Urdu literature but a writer whose works make a profound and lasting impression upon the minds and hearts of his readers. His books, Kitaaben Jhankti Hain and Kootahiyan, evoke thought, ennoble literary taste, and act as beacon lights for mature and new readers of Urdu literature. Beyond any doubt, S. Mashooq Ahmed is a shining star in the world of Urdu literature, whose light will continue to illuminate the literary and intellectual sphere for generations to come.

(Mohammad Arfat Wani, a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student from Kuchmulla Tral, is also a B. Sc. Nursing student at Ramzaan College of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences, Galander Pampore. He Can Be Mailed At wania6817@gmail.com)

Karwa Chauth: Tradition, Love, Or Patriarchy?



■ DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Every year, on the Chaturthi of the month of Kartik, as the evening sun sets, well-dressed women across India gaze at the moon, adorning plates with lamps, sieves, and karwa (water pots). Red bindis adorn their foreheads, henna on their hands, anticipation in their eyes, and a single question on their lips—"Did the moon rise?" This scene both symbolizes the beauty of Indian culture and reflects its deeply held social meanings.



The Karva Chauth fast is celebrated with great enthusiasm in North India, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. On this day, married women observe a waterless fast from sunrise to moonrise, praying for the long life of their husbands. According to tradition, this fast is observed for the stability of their marital life and the long life of their husbands. After a day of austerity, when the moon rises, the wife breaks the fast by looking at her husband's face through a sieve.

But the question arises whether this fast is just an expression of love and faith or a symbol deeply rooted in the patriarchal roots of society?

In Indian society, a woman's life is linked to her "marriage"—her happiness, her reputation, and even her identity. After marriage, her husband was considered the greatest achievement of her life, and his death was considered a curse. Thus, fasts like Karva Chauth became celebrations of a woman's dedication, sacrifice, and tolerance. But is this a celebration of love or a cultural justification for tying a woman's existence to her husband's age?

When today's educated women observe the Karva Chauth fast, the reasons may not be traditional. For many women, it has become a symbol of love for their husbands, of companionship, and of harmony in their relationships. Many men are also now observing the fast with equal devotion to their wives—a positive change. But it's equally true that Karva Chauth has become a "cultural event"—the more "glamorous" it is portrayed in TV serials, films, and social media, the more deeply its original meaning is being lost.

This fast was once a symbol of closeness and cooperation among village women. Women would visit each other's homes, fill earthen pots with water, and sing songs like, "It's Karwa Chauth's fast, brother, don't forget to bring the Karwa." This festival was an occasion for them to come together, where they would share life's hardships. But now, this fast has become a display of gold pots, expensive jewelry, and designer sarees. Instead of fasting, it's the era of "Insta Reels"—where adornment has become the main objective.

Nevertheless, it's not right to dismiss traditions as mere superstitions. Every culture has its own soul. The spirit behind Karva Chauth—love, devotion, and faith—cannot be ignored. But it's also important to view the tradition from a modern perspective. Today, when we talk about equality, freedom, and mutual respect, this fast should not be one-sided. If a wife fasts for her husband's long life, the husband should equally pray for his wife's happiness, prosperity, and health—this is true love and equality.

> Karwa Chauth is a popular Indian festival, where married women observe a waterless fast for the long life of their husbands. While its tradition is rooted in love and devotion, in modern society, the festival has come to be celebrated with a sense of equality and partnership. Many men now observe this fast. This shift demonstrates that Karwa Chauth is not only a symbol of a husband's long life, but also a celebration of mutual respect, love, and trust in relationships. A tradition is meaningful only when it embodies both the spirit and the times.

Interestingly, the religious or mythological basis of Karva Chauth is not as clear as the influence of its popular practice. "Karva" means an earthen pot, which symbolized water in ancient India, and "Chauth" means the day of the fourth day. Some scholars believe that this fast was linked to the tradition of military families—when husbands went to war, wives observed this fast for their safe return. Other beliefs say that it was a means of increasing social unity among women. This means that the core of this festival was not only related to the husband's longevity, but also to the social contribution of women.

In modern society, Karva Chauth has many interpretations. On the one hand, it is a celebration of love, while on the other, it is also a societal pressure on women to be the "ideal wife." This contradiction forces us to ponder—is every love measured by sacrifice? Is true loyalty proven only through fasting? And has this tradition become a celebration of the equal relationship between husband and wife, or is it still a symbol of "husband dominance"?

Still, it's true that its form has changed over time. In many places, husbands also observe the fast, and many couples celebrate it as a "relationship ritual." This shift indicates that society is gradually moving toward equality. The meaning of the festival remains the same, but the perspective has changed. The same is true of Karva Chauth—where it once symbolized a woman's duty, it is now embodying a shared relationship.

Today, we need to strike a balance between tradition and modernity. Karva Chauth should neither be seen as merely a ritual nor a festival of mere show. Embrace its true love, emotion, and dedication—without any societal pressure. Every woman should have the right to choose whether to fast or not; because love is defined not by fasting, but by mutual understanding and respect.

If through this fast, husband and wife can get an opportunity to understand each other, appreciate each other's sacrifices and bring newness in their relationship – then this festival will be successful in its true sense.

Because after all, Karva Chauth is not just a festival of "long life of husband", but it symbolizes the stability and sensitivity of the relationship that connects two souls.

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Sakeena Itoo inaugurates two days Annual Sports Meet of GMC Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

Emphasizes on importance of mental well-being of healthcare professionals for quality healthcare service delivery



SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated two days Annual Sports Meet-2025 of Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar at Boys Hostel Bemina here.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Minister underscored the crucial link between the physical and mental well-being of healthcare professionals and its impact on overall quality of healthcare delivery.

"Our doctors and medical students are the backbone of healthcare system. Their physical fitness and emotional balance directly influence the care they provide. Initiatives like these help rejuvenate their spirits and foster teamwork and positivity", Minister Sakeena stated.

Commending GMC Srinagar for organizing the event, the Minister highlighted that sports and recreational activities are essential components of stress management, especially for those in demanding medical professions. She underlined that sports plays a vital role in decreasing the mental stress that medical students face while adhering to their rigorous academic schedule.

The Minister also asked the GMC Srinagar administration to upgrade facilities at this playground of Boys Hostel so that maximum students are attracted towards extra curricular activities.

Principal GMC Srinagar, Dr. Iffat Hassan expressed gratitude to the Minister for constant support. She said that sports improve confidence, balance, focus and appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee.

Earlier, the Minister interacted with participants, faculty and medical students.

Chairman Sports Committee, GMC Srinagar, Dr. Salim Iqbal, played a key role in planning and organizing the event.

Pertinently, during the two days Annual Sports Meet sporting events like cricket, volleyball, football, badminton, table tennis, carrom, tug of war, and musical chair are being held, besides track and field events like 100m, 200m, 400m, relay, shot put, javelin throw, and discus throw will also form the part of sports meet. Fun games like matka race, sack race, and spoon and egg race also added energy to the program to celebrate camaraderie and holistic well-being among medical professionals and students.

Principal GMC Srinagar, Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah; Administrator GMC Srinaga, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; Heads of Departments, Medical Superintendents, faculty members, students and staff were also present on the occasion.

DC Pulwama Chairs 27th NCORD Meeting

Focus On Stronger Enforcement, Awareness, And Rehabilitation To Combat Drug Abuse

FE NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, chaired the 27th District-Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) meeting at the administrative complex Pulwama to review ongoing measures and strategise further actions aimed at curbing drug abuse, preventing trafficking, and ensuring effective rehabilitation of affected individuals across the district.

The meeting commenced with a detailed department-wise review of progress achieved on the key areas such as enforcement, destruction of wild cannabis and poppy straw, awareness campaigns, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Officers from the Police, Health, Education, Revenue, Agriculture, and Horticulture Departments presented updates on targets achieved since the previous meeting and outlined their upcoming action plans.

Emphasising the crucial role of institutional participation, Dr. Qayoom urged the establishment of "Nasha Mukht Clubs" in all educational institutions, including colleges, to intensify awareness campaigns and promote a drug-free academic environment. He further stressed on intensifying efforts to declare all educational institutions in the district completely drug-free.

On the rehabilitation front, it was informed that 347 counselling sessions were conducted in the month of September by Addiction Treatment Facility(ATF), Pulwama bringing the cumulative number of sessions held this year in the district to over 11,300. The DC directed the concerned department to further strengthen Addiction Treatment Facility to ensure quality care, sustained recovery, and social reintegration of victims.



Dr. Qayoom also instructed the Revenue, excise and Agriculture & Allied Departments to work in close coordination for the identification and elimination of illegal cultivation and to promote alternative crops as part of rehabilitation measures.

In regard to pharmaceutical regulation, the DC directed officers to identify and restrict the misuse of drugs prone to abuse. He further instructed for regular inspections of courier services to prevent the illegal transport and supply of psychotropic substances.

Reviewing the status of cases under the NDPS Act, Dr. Qayoom stressed on time-bound investigation and prosecution to ensure deterrence and effective enforcement of law against offenders.

DLSA Budgam Organizes Awareness Programme on NALSA

FE NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, organized an Awareness Programme on the NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 in collaboration with Boys Higher Secondary School, Budgam (LLC).

The primary objective of the NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 is to ensure accessible, effective, timely, and child-sensitive legal aid to children in need, safeguarding their best interests in all legal, civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings. The scheme also aims to educate communities about the legal protections available to children and to promote a supportive and child-friendly environment throughout legal processes.

The DLSA, Budgam, deputed Chief LADC, Lateef Ahmad Khan and Assistant LADC as resource persons for the event. They delivered insightful presentations on the scheme and raised awareness among participants regarding its objectives and implementation.

In his address, Chief LADC emphasized that the NALSA provides accessible, effective, and child-sensitive legal aid to all children in need, including those with disabilities. He highlighted that this comprehensive scheme consolidates earlier NALSA initiatives on child rights and protection, ensuring that children have access to competent legal practitioners and are empowered to understand their rights, entitlements, and court procedures. He also stressed the importance of community outreach to identify vulnerable children and the need for timely legal support for those requiring protection or assistance.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel also addressed the gathering and elaborated that the NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 provides children with free, age-appropriate legal services, representation, and a sensitive environment during legal proceedings, ensuring their protection from abuse and exploitation. She further explained that Legal Services Units for Children (LSUCs) play a pivotal role in implementing the scheme by establishing legal aid clinics, training lawyers and para-legal volunteers, conducting awareness programmes, and working closely with child care institutions and police authorities to ensure the adoption of child-friendly procedures and the creation of a safe, child-centric justice system.

Bye-Elections to **27-AC** Budgam:

DEO Budgam Inspects Institutions For Finalization Of Dispatch And Collection Centres For Upcoming Bye-Elections

FE NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: In view of the Upcoming bye-elections to 27–Budgam Assembly Constituency, the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today conducted an extensive inspection of the proposed dispatch and collection centres established for the smooth and efficient conduct of the electoral process.

The DEO visited Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam and Sheikh-ul-Alam Degree College Budgam, the two institutions shortlisted for setting up distribution and collection centres for polling material and related arrangements.



During the inspection, the DEO took a detailed review of logistics, infrastructure, security setup, space management, and other essential facilities required to ensure a seamless dispatch and collection process on the polling and counting days.

He also assessed the availability of basic amenities, vehicle parking, entry and exit routes, and communication arrangements at both the venues.

The DEO emphasized that all necessary guidelines and instructions of the Election Commission of India (ECI) shall be implemented in letter and spirit to guarantee free, fair, and transparent elections.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all arrangements are finalized well before the polling date and that proper coordination is maintained among all line departments.The DEO underscored the importance of meticulous planning, timely preparedness, and close monitoring of every election-related activity, including training of polling staff, material management, and security deployment.

The DEO also reviewed the functioning of the Returning Officer (RO) Headquarters established for 27–Budgam Assembly Constituency and instructed the officials to maintain readiness for the upcoming electoral exercise.Among others, the DEO was accompanied by the Returning Officer 27–AC Budgam, Chief Planning Officer Budgam, Dy. election officer Budgam, Assistant Returning Officer, and other concerned officers and officials of the election machinery.



DC Rajouri chairs NCORD meeting; Stresses on multi-pronged strategy to curb drug menace

FE NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma chaired a meeting of the District-level NCORD Committee here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office to review the measures being taken to combat drug abuse and trafficking in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to tackle the growing threat of narcotics. He directed for enhanced surveillance and monitoring including the installation of CCTV cameras at vulnerable points to track suspicious movements and activities.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the training of doctors and healthcare professionals to effectively handle drug abuse cases and provide necessary counselling and rehabilitation support to affected individuals.

Highlighting the importance of legal measures, the DC called for strict enforcement of Section 111 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) to deal firmly with organised drug-related crimes.

To strengthen community participation, he directed the constitution of village-level committees, particularly in areas along the Line of Control (LoC), to act both as awareness and vigilance groups. These committees will work closely with the administration and police to detect and report any suspicious activities related to drug peddling.

Stressing on preventive measures, the DC urged officers to promote sports and youth engagement programmes as healthy alternatives to drug abuse. He further advised them to rope in religious leaders and community influencers in spreading awareness about the ill effects of drug addiction.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed for regular checks on courier services to prevent misuse of such channels for drug transportation.

The meeting was attended by ADC Chander Prakash; ACP Sheraz Chouhan; ACD Auqil Naveed; DSWO Abdul Raheem; ARTO and other district and sectoral officers. ADCs of Kalakote, Kotranka, Nowshera and Sunderbani, besides SDM Thanamandi, participated in the meeting virtually.

SKIMS to Harness its Data Repository for AI-Driven Advances in Research, Academics & Patient Care: Director SKIMS

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director SKIMS and EOSG, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, while addressing a Workshop on "AI in Healthcare" organised by the Skill Development Centre SKIMS in collaboration with DataLeads, announced that SKIMS will utilise its rich, thirty-year-old data repository to drive new advances in research, academics, and patient care through Artificial Intelligence (AI).



Calling data the "biggest treasure and strength of SKIMS," Prof. Ashraf said the institute will leverage this valuable resource to achieve innovation and excellence in healthcare delivery.

"Data is gold, and SKIMS will utilise this gold for transformative growth in medical education, research, and clinical services," he emphasized.

Highlighting the importance of AI integration, Prof. Ashraf said the collaboration between human intelligence and machines will enhance precision, accuracy, and contextual understanding in clinical practice. He further stressed that AI can help overcome challenges at SKIMS such as limited human resources while strengthening medical teaching, training, research, and skill development.

Prof. Ashraf expressed gratitude to Syed Nazakat, CEO & Founder of Data Leads New Delhi, for facilitating the workshop and for highlighting the emerging role of AI in the health sector.

He assured full institutional support from SKIMS for major collaborations in the development of health information systems and AI-driven healthcare models. "SKIMS will take the lead in aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of reshaping healthcare in India through Artificial Intelligence," he added.

The AI Skill Development Training Programme for Healthcare Professionals, was designed to introduce medical professionals to the transformative potential of AI in modern healthcare delivery, clinical decision-making, and research.

The programme aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge and practical insights into AI-driven tools, digital healthcare applications, and data-informed practices that improve efficiency, accuracy, and patient outcomes.

The workshop covered a broad spectrum of topics including Introduction to AI in Healthcare: Concepts, principles, and global perspectives. Clinical Applications of AI: Diagnostics, imaging, predictive analytics, and personalised treatment planning. AI in Public Health and Research: Population health management, outbreak prediction, and clinical trial support.Ethical and Regulatory Aspects: Patient privacy, data security, accountability, and AI governance in healthcare.

The initiative marks a significant step toward building digital readiness among healthcare professionals, preparing them to harness AI innovations for enhanced clinical practice, research, and system efficiency.

The AI Skill Development Programme at SKIMS reflects the growing need to integrate technology with medicine, aimed at building a digitally empowered healthcare workforce capable of meeting the challenges of the future.

The day long workshop, coordinated by Prof. Aijaz A Lone & Dr. Qazi Mudassir witnessed an overwhelming participation from all cadres of SKIMS including faculty, residents, paramedics, students, administrators & technicians.

Committed

Minister during his visit to Jammu last month chaired a comprehensive security review meeting and had reiterated the Central Government's unwavering zero-tolerance policy against terrorism under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shah had arrived in Kashmir soon after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, and directed the security agencies to deal with the terrorists and their supporters with a "heavy hand."

He had visited Baisaran Valley in Pahalgam, a terror attack site, also.

Post Pahalgam terror attack continuous operations have been going on to dismantle the terror network in Jammu and Kashmir and efforts are on to ensure that tourism returns to normal—(KNO)

Jitendra Singh

committee has submitted its report, stating that more than 80 per cent of citizens are in favour of simultaneous polls.

"The committee solicited extensive public and political feedback, and consulted with experts to analyse the potential benefits and challenges associated with this proposed electoral reform," he said.

The minister said frequent elections in the country have led to "policy paralysis and wastage of financial resources".

He said, "They have also given birth to the culture of freebies and opportunism. In fact, such haphazard elections also tend to corrupt the voter."

"Political parties are opposing simultaneous elections due to their narrow vested interests. The ongoing cycle of elections across the country diverts attention from good governance. Political parties focus more on election-related activities to secure victories, leaving less time for development and essential governance," he said.

The minister urged the students to study the benefits of 'One Nation One Election' and discuss them with their peers.

Singh said history is a witness that revolutions were born by student movements. He said youths below 40 years of age are the opinion makers as they comprise over 70 per cent of India's population.

"The same youth would become future leaders, framers of policies and architects of Viksit Bharat," he said, adding that the cumulative outcome of the last decade of the Modi government has been a democratisation of opportunities for the youth as well as the resources.

The government has also created a level playing field for the youth by offering them financial support to start their own businesses which are also providing jobs to others, he said.(PTI)

J&K, Ladakh

a lot of improvement has been made in the discom in comparison to the previous year."

Pertinently, KNO reported that the power demand in Kashmir earlier this week had increased by nearly 200 Megawatts amid dip in mercury,

An official had said that KPDCL has witnessed an additional demand of nearly 200 MW of power in the past two days—(KNO)

Railways

carried out at goods shed terminals of Jammu division – Bari Brahmana in Jammu and Anantnag in Kashmir valley, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal said.

He said these two automobile rakes were transported from Gurgram in Delhi division to the Bari Brahmana Goods Shed and Anantnag Goods Terminals of Jammu Division.

A total of 113 vehicles of various models were unloaded at the Bari Brahmana terminal, while 118 vehicles were unloaded at the Anantnag terminal.

"This is the first time such a large number of vehicles have been unloaded at both goods terminals of the Jammu division in a single day, marking a significant historic achievement," Singhal said.

He said the vehicles unloaded include popular Maruti Suzuki models such as Alto, Brezza, Eeco, Dzire, Wagon R, S-Presso, Ignis, Super Carry, and Ertiga, reflecting the growing demand and efficient supply chain facilitation offered by rail transport.

"This is a historic day for logistics in Jammu and Kashmir. The growing preference of trade and industry for Indian Railways over road transport is a testament to the cost and time efficiencies offered by the Railways.

"With a strong portfolio of freight products, the Northern Railways has become a preferred mode of transport not only for perishable goods, courier services, and cement, but also for automobiles in large quantities," he said.

Singhal said this achievement reflects the rapid transformation of the logistics landscape in the region.

"Traditionally, there has been a strong bias toward road transport; however, the advanced infrastructure, reliability, and economic benefits of railway transport are changing this perception," he said.

He said Indian Railways' commitment to strengthening multimodal logistics in Jammu and Kashmir is opening up new opportunities for businesses, helping to reduce carbon emissions, streamline delivery timelines, and provide safe, bulk movement of goods. (ANI)

PM Modi

natural partners. Our relationship is built on the shared values of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law," Modi said in his media statement in presence of Starmer.

"In today's time of global uncertainty, our growing partnership stands as an important pillar of global stability and economic progress," he said.

Modi said India's dynamism and the UK's expertise together will create a "unique synergy" to further enhance the bilateral relations in diverse areas.

"Our partnership is trustworthy, and driven by talent and technology. And today, as Prime Minister Starmer and I stand together on this stage, it is a clear reaffirmation of our shared commitment to work hand-in-hand towards building a brighter future for the people of both our nations," he said.

In his remarks, Starmer described the signing of the UK-India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement as a "breakthrough moment" as it will slash tariffs, increase access to each other's markets and create jobs.

"It is significant that we're meeting here in Mumbai, India's economic and financial capital, because India's growth story is remarkable. I want to congratulate the prime minister on his leadership, aiming to be the world's third largest economy by 2028," he said.

The two leaders also welcomed the resetting of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) which will support the governance and utilisation of the trade pact and drive forward wider trade and investment partnership.

Modi and Starmer also discussed the situation in West Asia and the war in Ukraine.

"The prime minister and I also discussed the need for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, the need for stability and security in the Indo-Pacific, and the need to co-operate in critical areas like climate and energy, including breaking away from dependence on fossil fuels," Starmer said.

In the defence and security sphere, the two sides expressed strong resolve to a robust maritime security collaboration in the Indo-Pacific, including establishment of the Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (RMSCE) under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

"In the context of cooperation on training, the two Leaders welcomed progress on an arrangement that will see Indian Air Force qualified flying instructors integrated into UK Royal Air Force training, alongside an agreement that will facilitate our strong training and education relationship," a joint statement said.

It said both the prime ministers are pleased with the intent to finalise an India ' UK Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on cooperation in developing maritime electric propulsion systems for Indian naval platforms.

"Both leaders also announced the agreement to proceed via government to government route on an initial supply of Lightweight Multirole Missile (LMM) systems," the statement said.

"This will further support India's air defence capabilities and, in the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat, meet the current and future requirements of the Indian Ministry of Defence, and support a long-term collaboration on complex weapons between the two countries," it said.

In his remarks, Modi said both sides decided to establish an industry guild and a supply chain observatory for cooperation on critical minerals.

Its satellite campus will be located at Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, he said.

"We have a shared commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. In this direction, we welcome the formation of the India' UK Offshore Wind Taskforce," he said.

"We have established the Climate Technology Startup Fund. This will provide support to innovators and entrepreneurs from both countries working in the fields of climate, technology, and AI," he added. (PTI)

Major rejig

SSP Kathua, has been appointed as SSP Security, J&K.

Tanushree, IPS (AGMUT:2017), serving as SP SIA HQ, has been transferred as SSP Pulwama, replacing P.D. Nitya, IPS, whereas Sahil Sarangal, IPS (AGMUT:2017), has been posted as SSP Handwara, succeeding Mushtaq Ahmad.

Mohita Sharma, IPS (AGMUT:2017), AIG Provisions, has been appointed as SSP Kathua, replacing Saxena and Anayat Ali Choudhary, IPS (AGMUT:2017), has been transferred as SSP Kulgam, succeeding Sahil Sarangal.

In the JKPS cadre, several officers have also been reassigned. Mohd Arif Rishu has been posted as Director CTC Lethpora, Benam Tosh as Deputy Director SKPA Udhampur and Harmeet Singh Mehta as Commandant 13 IR.

Other notable transfers include Javid Iqbal as AIG CT & Intelligence, Mohd Fiesel Qureshi as SSP EOW Jammu, Ramnish Gupta as SSP CICE Jammu, Aijaz Ahmed Zargar as SSP Bandipora, and Mushtaq Ahmad as SSP Shopian.

Additionally, several awaiting officers, including Ashiq Hussain Tak, Owaise Rashid, Sarfaraz Bashir Ganai, Gh. Mustafa Bhat, Shahzada Kabir Mattoo, and Ashish Gupta, have been assigned to various battalion posts in the IRP and JKAP units.

The order, signed by Chandraker Bharti, IAS Principal Secretary to the Government, stated that the transfers and postings come into effect immediately.

In a separate order, the Jammu and Kashmir government ordered the transfer and posting of three senior JKPS officers, including Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara.

According to an official order issued by the Home Department Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar, in the interest of administration, the following transfers and postings are hereby ordered with immediate effect.

Sanjay Kumar Bhagat (JKPS:2001) Commandant 14 JKAP, is transferred and posted as AIG Buildings vice Amit Bhasin, who shall await further posting at Police Headquarters, J&K.

Gh. Jeelani Wani (JKPS:2001) SSP Kupwara, is transferred and posted as Commandant 14 JKAP, vice Sanjay Kumar Bhagat.

Syed Al-Tahir Gilani (JKPS:2001) Staff Officer of DGP, J&K, is transferred and posted as SSP Kupwara vice Gh. Jeelani Wani. By Order of the Lieutenant Governor—(KNO)

Life returns

Highlighting the deep-rooted sense of nationalism among the people, the Lt Governor observed, "Ladakhis are among the most patriotic citizens of our nation, who have always stood shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the country in safeguarding national interests."

Urging the people to continue contributing to the region's progress, Kavinder Gupta called upon all sections of society to work with renewed energy for the development and prosperity of Ladakh. He reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring equitable growth across all sectors — education, health, infrastructure, and employment — with special focus on youth empowerment and sustainable tourism.

The Lt Governor also assured that the administration remains fully committed to addressing public concerns and ensuring that every measure taken is people-centric and transparent.

Kavinder Gupta further urged citizens to remain vigilant, continue supporting law and order, and actively participate in the development initiatives being undertaken by the administration to ensure a prosperous and secure future for Ladakh—(KNO)

NC Govt

of failing to fulfill promises made to the people. "One year is about to end, and the people of Jammu and Kashmir are asking that at least 20% of your promises be fulfilled. You have not fulfilled even a single one," Chugh said as per KNS.

He dismissed the NC's claim that it was not being allowed to work. "Almost 95% of the cabinet decisions taken earlier have been approved by the LG administration. Not a single decision in the interest of the people has been stopped," he said, urging Omar Abdullah to "do something meaningful for the people of J&K."

Chugh also said that Tourism is vital for J&K's economy, but the NC has shown little seriousness toward its promotion.

The BJP leader said another core committee meeting will soon be held to finalize the party's strategy for the upcoming Rajya Sabha and by-elections, as part of continuous organizational and electoral preparations in the Union Territory.(KNS)

CS

of milk and mutton in J&K. He noted that dairy products form part of the daily diet across the UT, while mutton consumption is among the highest in the country, creating steady market demand.

The department, he said, has assessed the existing gaps and devised a roadmap to enhance both production and value addition over the next few years.

As per the presentation given by the department, J&K produces 28.75 lakh metric tonnes of milk annually, with a per capita availability of 577 grams per day, which is higher than the national average of 471 grams. However, only about 4% of milk production is currently organized, accounting for just 4% of the local production. The department aims to bring at least 20% of production under the organized sector within the next 5–7 years, the meeting was apprised.

To achieve this target, the department plans to expand Artificial Insemination (AI) coverage, secure High Genetic Merit (HGM) bulls, establish facilities for sexed semen, and address fodder deficit issues through scientific feeding practices.

Moreover around 1,600 "PashuSakhis" (Maitris) have already been engaged to extend AI services at the grassroots level, while two semen stations are being established in the UT. The department is also in the process of procuring 40 HGM bulls from the USA and setting up milk processing and chilling units in every district.

In terms of mutton production, it was informed that J&K currently has 43.68 lakh sheep and 22.5 lakh goats, producing about 370 lakh kilograms of meat and 80 lakh kilograms of wool annually, against a local demand of around 545 lakh kilograms of meat here.

To bridge this gap, the department is pursuing advanced breeding interventions such as Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) and Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET) to accelerate genetic improvement.

Plans are also underway to establish Embryo Generation Labs with a target of producing 6,000 embryos annually, develop facilities for cryopreservation, and set up ETT laboratories in every district. Capacity-building programmes for veterinarians and para-veterinarians are also being rolled out to ensure effective implementation at the field level.

The Chief Secretary encouraged the Agriculture Production Department for its proactive initiatives and directed it to work in mission mode to transform both dairy and sheep husbandry sectors into engines of rural growth and employment generation. (DIPR)

DC Kathua reviews progress of land record digitization

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma chaired a meeting of Revenue Officers to review the progress on major land and revenue-related initiatives being implemented across the district.

The meeting aimed at assessing the pace of work and ensuring timely achievement of targets under various components of revenue administration.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on multiple points including Gati Shakti Digitization of Maps, Digitization of Jamabandis, Recreation of Massavis and Disposal of DP Cases etc. The progress on Complaints received through ACB, Samadhaan and CPGRAMS, Land Acquisition Cases, PSGA Services (Fard issuance, Demarcation and Attestation of Mutation) and SVAMITVA Scheme was also reviewed threadbare.

While taking a detailed review of each component, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to work in a mission mode to achieve the set targets within stipulated timelines. He stressed that the digitization of land records and updation of maps must be completed on priority to ensure transparency and accuracy in the revenue record system.

The DC further directed the officers to expedite progress under the SVAMITVA scheme and ensure 100 percent coverage of rural areas for property card generation. He also emphasized prompt disposal of DP cases and complaints received through grievance platforms, maintaining accountability at all levels.

Highlighting the importance of PSGA services, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the field functionaries to ensure timely delivery of services like issuance of Fard, demarcation and attestation of mutation to meet the expectations of citizens and strengthen public trust in the revenue administration.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Vishavjeet Singh, Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Kathua, Vishav Partap Singh, Tehsildar Kathua, and Tehsildar Nagri, Officers who joined the meeting virtually included ADC Basohli, ADC Billawar, SDM Bani and SDM Hiranagar along with Tehsildars from other Tehsils.

The DC appreciated the efforts made so far and reiterated that consistent monitoring, coordination and timely reporting are key to successful implementation of all initiatives under the Revenue Department. (DIPR)

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir
Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)
New Office Building/Complex, Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu
Zam Zam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar

Subject: Document Verification cum Interview/Viva Voce for the post of Career Counseling Officer, Labour & Employment Department, advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2020, Item No. 074 regarding

NOTICE

The J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), Conducted the OMR Based Written Examination for the post of Career Counseling Officer, Labour & Employment Department, advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2020, under Item No. 074 on 18 tn March, 2025.

The candidates who are falling under the consideration zone for the aforementioned post,as listed herein, are hereby called upon to appear physically before the designated Documents Verification cum Interview/Viva Voce Committee(s) of the Board for the necessary Interview/Viva Voce and verification/scrutiny of their documents/certificates. The Document Verification cum Interview/Viva Voce of the candidates for the post of Career Counseling Officer, Labour & Employment Department, shall be held at JKSSB office, Zam Zam Complex Srinagar on 15.10.2025 from 11.00 AM.

S. No.	Roll No	Candidate Name	S. No.	Roll No	Candidate Name
1	1280254	Anuj Gupta	2	2280302	Toufeeq Ahmad Parah
3	1280297	Parvinder Singh	4	2280089	Omar Ashraf Malik
5	2280236	Sajad Amin Mir	6	2280344	Bazil Khurshid Syed
7	2280482	Asmat Hassan	8	2280004	Shahid Ahmad Hajam
9	2280648	Ausif Latief	10	2280555	Ishtiyaq Bashir
11	2280034	John Mohammad Malik			

NOTE: a. The candidature of all the candidates is purely provisional. The candidates wiil be required to produce the original certificates in support of their claims pertaining to age, educational qualificatior1s, category if arny, etc. at the time of their Documents Verification cum Interview/Viva Voce.Candidates are therefore advised to keep the said documents ready with them.

b. The candidates are required to produce following documents/certificates in original, along-with one set of self-attested copies, before the designated committee(s) at the time of D.V. cun Interview/Viva Voce:

1. Copy of Online Application Form. 2. Two passport size recent colour photographs. 3. One original photo ID Proof i.e. Aadhar card/Voter card/Pan card/Passport etc. 4. D.O.B certificate (10h Diploma/Marks card). 5. 10+2 Diploma/Marks card. 6. Valid Category certificate, if belongs to reserved categories. 7. Domicile certificate. s. Prescribed Qualification/Degree/marks card as per advertisement notification. 9. Bonafide Certificate on the format prescribed by the Board duly issued by the controller/Registrar of the concerned University/Institute in respect of candidates, who have obtained the qualification from outside the UT of J&K. 10. Checklist sheet/form to be submitted by candidates (as per Annexure "A").

The candidate(s) who fail to appear before the respective Document Verification cum Interview/Viva Voce Committee(s) on the scheduled date & time shall forfeit their right to selection.

No.: JKSSB-ADM/23/2024-03 (7418850) Dated: 08-10-2025

Sd/-
Controller
J&K Services Selection Board

DIPK: 6986/25 Dated: 9.10.2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE)
Mechanical Division (North) Sopore
Short term e-Tender

NIT No: PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-23 of 2025-26

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

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender document	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest money	Time of completion	Programme Head	Technical Sanction No.	AAA No. and Date
1.	Electrical repairs to 630 KvA HT/LT transformers Raw Water Stage 1st Augmentation Baramulla under M and R	Rs 200.00	Rs 3.250	02% of the estimated cost	02 Days	M and R	125 of 10/2025	Budgetary provision under M and R
2.	Electrical repairs to 100 KVA HT AVR installed at Khanpora Janbazwali Raw Water Stage 1st Baramulla under M and R	Rs 100.00	Rs 1.802		--do--	--do--	126 of 10/2025	
3.	Electrical repairs to 250 KVA HT AVR installed at WSS Jetty Raw Water Stage 1st Baramulla under M and R	Rs 100.00	Rs 2.108		--do--	--do--	127 of 10/2025	
4.	Replacement of Submersible cable at WSS Chewa and Rubber Washers, Nut and Bolts at WSS Ajas Bazipora and other Schemes under M and R	Rs 50.00	Rs 0.291		--do--	--do--	128 of 10/2025	
5.	Electrical repairs to 5 HP Submersible Motor at WSS Hoibal SK Bala under M and R	Rs 50.00	Rs 0.094		--do--	--do--	129 of 10/2025	

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website https://jktenders.gov.in from 09-10-2025 (10:00 am).

The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website https://jktenders.gov.in from 09-10-2025(10:00 am) to 16-10-2025 (6:55 pm).

Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the *Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore* on 17-10-2025 at 02:00 pm after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day.

The complete bidding shall be online.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids.

No. PHE/MDNS/DB/3743-48
Dated: 08-10-2025

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

DIPK-7018/25 Dt: 09-10-25025

Rajnath Singh, Australian Defence Minister Hold Bilateral Talks in Canberra

CANBERRA: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a wide-ranging bilateral meeting with Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr. Richard Marles, in Canberra on Thursday during his official two-day visit to Australia.

An official spokesperson of defence ministry told Kashmir Convener that the meeting marked five years of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, reaffirming the two nations' shared commitment to strengthening defence cooperation across multiple domains, including joint military exercises, maritime security, defence industry collaboration, and research in science and technology.

During the meeting, Shri Rajnath Singh highlighted the deep-rooted cultural ties and shared democratic values that continue to shape India-Australia relations. He said the partnership has witnessed "significant expansion in defence cooperation aligned with the overall trajectory of bilateral relations."

The talks concluded with the signing of three major agreements that will further institutionalize defence collaboration between the two countries including Agreement on Information Sharing, Memorandum of Understanding on Submarine Search and Rescue Cooperation and Terms of Reference



on the Establishment of Joint Staff Talks

Underscoring India's strong and consistent stance against terrorism, the Raksha Mantri reiterated that, "Terror and talks cannot go together, terror and trade cannot go together, and water and blood cannot flow together."

He urged the international community to unite against all forms of terrorism, emphasizing that peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region are essential for global progress.

The Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Anthony Albanese, briefly joined the bilateral meeting and extended a warm welcome to Shri Rajnath Singh. The Raksha Mantri conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and congratulated Mr. Albanese on his emphatic election victory in May 2025. Mr. Albanese lauded India's remarkable economic progress under PM Modi's leadership, especially in the areas of defence, cybersecurity, and information technology. He also appreciated India's success in lifting millions out of poverty and expressed keen interest in further deepening cooperation with New Delhi in the years ahead.

Following the discussions, both sides issued a Joint Statement, underscoring the growing mutual trust, interoperability, and strategic convergence defining the India-Australia Defence Partnership.

Earlier in the day, Rajnath Singh was received by Australia's Assistant Minister of Defence, Mr. Peter Khalil, and accorded a ceremonial stair guard welcome. As part of his engagements, he witnessed a live air-to-air refuelling demonstration onboard the KC-30A Multirole Transport and Tanker Aircraft (MRTT), which refuelled an F-35 fighter jet en route to Canberra — a display symbolizing the growing interoperability between the Indian and Australian air forces, following last year's Implementation Arrangement on Air-to-Air Refuelling. Upon arrival at the Australian Parliament House, Shri Rajnath Singh was given a traditional ceremonial welcome in the presence of Mr. Richard Marles, marking yet another milestone in the evolving India-Australia defence and strategic partnership. (PIB)

China says resumption of direct flights with India positive move to improve ties

BEIJING: China on Thursday described the resumption of direct flights with India after a five-year hiatus as a positive step, saying it demonstrated that both countries are "faithfully acting" on the understandings reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping to strengthen bilateral ties.

Speaking at a media briefing, the first since the Chinese Foreign Ministry resumed its regular schedule following the eight-day national holidays, spokesperson Guo Jiakun said the flights would resume by the end of October.

India had announced on October 2 that direct flights to China would resume from October 26.

"This is the latest move that demonstrates how the two sides faithfully act on the important common understandings reached between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Tianjin on August 31," Guo said in response to a question.

It's also an active move that facilitates the friendly exchanges of over 2.8 billion Chinese and Indian people, he said.

Modi and Xi had met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin and welcomed the positive momentum and steady progress in bilateral relations since their last meeting at Kazan, Russia, in October 2024.

"China stands ready to work with India to view and handle bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, be friends enjoying good-neighbourliness and partners helping each other succeed, and realise a cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant so as to deliver more tangibly for the two peoples and make due contributions to upholding peace and prosperity in Asia and beyond," he said.

Chinese airlines such as Air China, which previously operated flights between the two countries, have not yet announced formal plans for resumption.

Indian carrier IndiGo and China Eastern will be the first two airlines to resume direct flights between the two countries, people familiar with the development had said. IndiGo said in a recent statement that it plans to operate daily flights from Kolkata to Guangzhou from October 26.

"Subject to regulatory approvals, IndiGo will also introduce direct flights between Delhi and Guangzhou shortly," it said.

The flight services between the two sides were suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. They were not restored in view of the over-four-year border face-off in eastern Ladakh, which ended in October last year.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation had said India and China would resume direct air services by



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the end of October.

"This follows continuous technical-level engagement between civil aviation authorities as part of broader efforts to normalise bilateral ties," it said.

"The move will greatly enhance air connectivity, support people-to-people exchanges and contribute to the strengthening of economic collaboration between the two countries," it added.

During the Tianjin meeting with President Xi on August 31, Prime Minister Modi had stated that the resumption of direct flights was under consideration.

India-China relations plunged to their lowest point since the 1962 war following the Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020. After a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides withdrew their troops from several friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

In October last year, the two sides firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points.

Days after the agreement was finalised, Modi and Xi held talks in Kazan and took several decisions to improve the ties.

In the last few months, the two sides have taken a series of measures to repair the ties, including the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. (PTI)

ECI Directs Political Parties to Follow MCC, Issues Guidelines on Use of AI in Campaigning

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed all political parties, candidates, and campaigners to strictly adhere to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and related guidelines governing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in election campaigns, particularly in the creation and circulation of synthetic or deepfake videos targeting rival parties or candidates.

Following the announcement of the General Election to the Bihar Legislative Assembly and bye-elections to eight Assembly constituencies on October 6, 2025, the MCC has come into immediate effect. The ECI clarified that these provisions extend to all content disseminated on the internet and social media platforms by political parties and candidates.

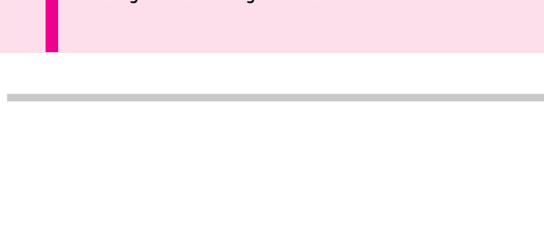
As per the MCC, the Commission reiterated that criticism of other political parties should be limited to their policies, programmes, past records, and work, and must not extend to personal attacks or remarks on the private lives of leaders or workers unrelated to their public duties. It further stated that unverified allegations, distortions, and misinformation must be strictly avoided.

The Commission has warned political parties against the misuse of AI-based tools to create or promote deepfake content that distorts facts or spreads misinformation on social media platforms. It emphasized that such actions undermine the integrity, fairness, and credibility of the electoral process.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the ECI has directed all political parties, leaders, candidates, and star campaigners to clearly label any AI-generated or digitally modified campaign material. Such content, when shared on social media or used in advertisements, must carry clear notations such as "AI-Generated," "Digitally Enhanced," or "Synthetic Content."

The Commission also informed that a strict vigil is being maintained over social media to ensure that the electoral atmosphere remains free from manipulation or misinformation. It added that any violation of the MCC or related guidelines will be dealt with firmly.

The ECI reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining the sanctity of elections, ensuring responsible use of technology, and preserving the ethical and transparent conduct of campaigns in the digital era. (PIB)



'All solid waste to be used for road construction before 2027': Nitin Gadkari

NEWDELHI: All the solid waste will be utilised for road construction by the end of 2027, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said.

Addressing the 120th Annual Session of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) on Thursday, the Union Minister stated that 80 lakh tons of waste have already



been segregated for road construction.

He said, "No material is waste and no person is waste. Depending on the appropriate technology and leadership vision, you can convert waste into wealth. We have decided that before 2027 ends, whatever garbage is there, which is solid waste, we are going to use it in road construction."

"Delhi have four such mountains; it does not look good. We have segregated 80 lakh ton of waste and used it in road construction," Gadkari added.

Hailing the biofuels and ethanol-based fuel initiatives, Gadkari said that the size of the Indian automobile industry will be the highest in the world in the next five years. Currently, the Indian industry stands third behind the US and China with a size of Rs 22 lakh crore (Rs 2.2 billion).

He said, "The thinking is integrated, and it is important for all of us. In 2014, the automobile industry was the 7th largest in the world and had a total volume of Rs 14 lakh crore (Rs 1.4 billion). A few days ago, we bypassed Japan, and now we are third in the world, and our automobile industry is Rs 22 lakh crore (Rs 2.2 billion). Now, the way we are using technology and new research to replace alternative fuels, biofuels, electric vehicles, ethanol, methanol, biodiesel, LNG, electric, and hydrogen, our automobile hub India has almost all the brands of the world."

Echoing the Centre's call for an Atmanirbhar Bharat, Gadkari said, "I called the automobile industry people and said that if you want to build an Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-sufficient India), you have to be the first in the world. The USA is the first in the world, and its automobile industry is Rs 78 lakh crore (Rs 7.8 billion). China is the second-largest in the world, and its automobile industry is Rs 49 lakh crore (Rs 4.9 billion). The way we are bringing in new research and innovations, I am confident that our automobile industry will be the first in the world in five years."

He claimed that the move to make ethanol from corn has generated an additional income of Rs 45,000 crore for farmers.

"When we decided to make ethanol from corn, the corn's market price was Rs 1200 per quintal, and MSP was Rs 1800 per quintal. After the decision, corn's price went up to Rs 2800 per quintal. Rs 45,000 crore additional went into the pockets of farmers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar," he said.

This comes amid his recurring call for ethanol-based fuel as India met its target of blending 20 per cent ethanol in Petrol.

Earlier in September, addressing the 2nd International Conference and Exhibition on Bioenergy and Technologies here, the Union Minister said that after meeting the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in Petrol, the time has arrived when India should gear up for exporting ethanol given its surplus production in the country.

"It is the time for India's futuristic development. We need to reduce our imports and increase our exports. As far as the surplus of ethanol, it is now the requirement of the country that we need to export ethanol," he said. (ANI)

Kerala CM Meets Amit Shah, Submits Memorandum On State Security, Development

NEW DELHI/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday held discussions with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and submitted a memorandum outlining key proposals to strengthen the state's internal security and development.

In a post on 'X', Vijayan said he highlighted the need for enhanced coastal security, women's safety, forensic infrastructure, and modernisation of emergency services.

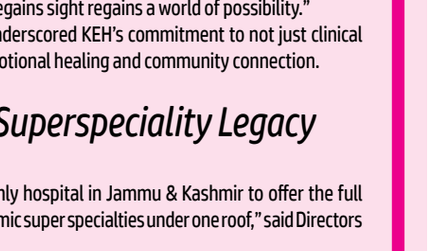
"Held discussions with Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri @AmitShah Ji and submitted a memorandum outlining key proposals to strengthen Kerala's internal security and development," Vijayan said.

He also requested a review of the decision to remove Kannur and Wayanad from the list of Left Wing Extremism-affected districts.

The meeting in New Delhi comes as the Kerala government seeks greater support from the central government to improve law enforcement and emergency preparedness in the state.

"The Chief Minister of Kerala Shri @pinarayivijayan called on Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri @AmitShah," the Home Ministry's office said on 'X', posting images of the meeting between the two leaders.

Apart from Shah, Vijayan also held meetings with Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda, who also holds charge of the Chemicals and Fertilisers ministry.



"Reviewed the ongoing National Highway projects in Kerala along with Kerala Chief Minister Shri @pinarayivijayan Ji, PWD Minister Shri P A Mohammed Riyas Ji, and senior officials in New Delhi today," Gadkari said in a post on 'X'.

The chief minister said they discussed the urgent need to accelerate key infrastructure projects in Kerala.

"Submitted a memorandum outlining the steps taken by the state government to facilitate these works and urged the Centre to expedite the delayed NH-66 project, along with sanctioning other vital corridors essential for Kerala's development," he said.

Kashmir Eye Hospitals Showcase Cutting-Edge Technology on World Sight Day

- *Today, we're proud to unveil several key initiatives:*

• Free OPD slots across our network—because no one should be denied consultation due to cost.

• A new clinic by the name of Gold Opticals at Chadoora, bringing premium care closer to home.

• On the occasion of World Sight Day, we are offering FREE surgical care and implantation of premium international-quality intraocular lenses (IOLs) for deserving and underprivileged children diagnosed with congenital cataract.

• Special Registration Card for Diabetic Retinopathy management by the name of "Sightsaver Card" which includes intra retinal injs and surgeries at subsidies.

• Introduction of cutting-edge technology:

Alcon Constellation advanced Vitrectomy System, Topcon Anterior Segment Imaging System, Topcon Phoropter, most advanced Zeiss IOL Master 700, Zeiss Visual Field Analyser, Zeiss Fundus Angiography—raising the bar for diagnostics and treatment.

This isn't just a hospital initiative—it's a public awakening," from KEH..

"We're calling on every Kashmiri to prioritize eye health. Because blindness doesn't wait—and neither should we."

Celebrating Young Visionaries: Pediatric Patient Event

In a touching tribute to resilience and recovery, KEH hosted a special event for pediatric patients who had undergone successful eye surgeries under Dr. Adil's care. The children participated in interactive games, creative activities, and received prizes and gifts from KEH staff.

"Every child who regains sight regains a world of possibility."

The celebration underscored KEH's commitment to not just clinical excellence—but emotional healing and community connection.

- *KEH's Superspeciality Legacy*

"KEH is now the only hospital in Jammu & Kashmir to offer the full spectrum of ophthalmic super specialties under one roof," said Directors of KEH.

"From Retina to Cornea, Glaucoma to Pediatric Ophthalmology, Oculoplasty to Neuro-ophthalmology—we're not just building a hospital. We're building a legacy.

(ADVT)

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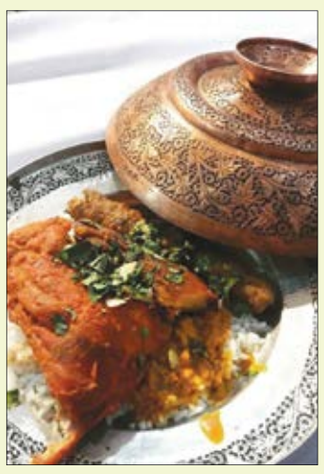
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