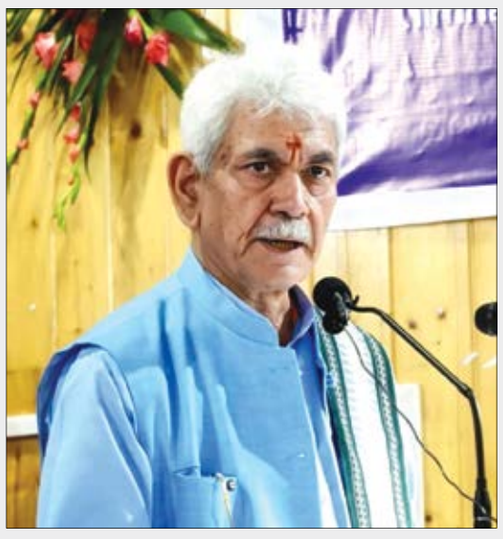
THE DAILY
Fish Eye
Published From Srinagar

Srinagar • THURSDAY • 16 , OCTOBER 2025 • Volume: 15 • Issue No. 239 • Pages 08 • Rs. 2/- • RNI No. JKENG/2011/39531 • Email:editorfisheye@gmail.com • visit us at ////www.dailyfisheye.com

Era Of Terror Sympathisers Over, Beneficiaries Of Violence To Face Law: LG

FE NEWS NETWORK

Meets ***terror victim*** families in Kupwara, addresses ***NoKs*** of ***terror*** victims





SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited Dardpora and met the families of civilian martyrs killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists. He also addressed terror victim families at Government Degree College Kupwara and assured the family members of proper rehabilitation and strictest punishment to the culprits.

The Lieutenant Governor said justice, respect and dignity to family members of civilian martyrs killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists is his top priority. He said criminal justice system will ensure perpetrators and elements of terror ecosystem are punished, providing a sense of justice and closure for victim's family and the society.

"I have assured the family members that their decades-long trauma, torment and suffering is over. We will ensure all the support so that they can reclaim their lives," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also observed that families of civilian martyrs have gone through deep trauma, suffered various challenges including unemployment and education and felt loss of hope in the past three decades.

"Families of civilians who were killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists also suffered systemic barriers which stifled their progress. They were denied their rights and access to resources. All obstacles are now removed and we are ensuring justice and dignity for terror victim families," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the civilians who were mercilessly killed by Pakistan sponsored terrorists in Jammu Kashmir. The families of terror victims also narrated their ordeal.

"It is difficult to articulate the pain and suffering of terror victim families due to their profound emotional and psychological trauma and the administration will handle each case with full sensitivity and responsibility.

So far around 250 terror victim families provided with government jobs. This mission will continue till justice is done to every affected family. This is the beginning of a new era of justice in Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

> "I have assured the **family members** that their decades-long trauma, torment and **suffering** is over. We will ensure all the support so that they can **reclaim** their lives," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India) and Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, under which the houses of terror victims having their own land will be constructed. Under the initiative, the HRDS India and Divisional Commissioners of both the divisions

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Cabinet Greenlights 3 Key Bills for Assembly Debate

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The cabinet on Wednesday gave its nod for introduction three key bills in the upcoming session of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Sources said, that the cabinet gave its nod for amendments to the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 and the Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017, as well as for the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Business Establishment Bill, 2025.

According to sources, the amendment to the Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 proposes to raise the upper age limit for the State Election Commissioner (SEC) from 65 years to 70 years.

With the proposed amendment, the upper age limit would be enhanced to 70 years.

The government also gave its go ahead for the Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Business Establishment Act-2025.

The proposed legislation mooted by the Labour & Employment Department aims at regulating working conditions, employment practices, and operational standards for shops and other business establishments in the Union Territory.



It also gave go-ahead for introduction of amendments in the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act 2017.

The cabinet has also given nod for the removal of the qualification requirement under the State Marriage

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Restrictions Lifted From Leh After 22 Days

FE NEWS NETWORK

LEH/JAMMU: Authorities on Wednesday lifted the restrictions in Leh district of Ladakh, 22 days after they were imposed following violence during the statehood protests that left four people dead and over 80 others injured.



The district administration had on September 24 promulgated prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya

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CS reviews Roadmap For Mega Youth Engagement Programme

Programme aims empowering young minds through education, sports, culture, and entrepreneurship



SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday reviewed a detailed presentation by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department on "Youth Engagement: Building Tomorrow's Leaders", which outlines an integrated framework aimed at empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir through sports, culture, education, entrepreneurship, and digital innovation.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Culture; Commissioner Secretaries of GAD, Youth Services & Sports, and Floriculture; Secretaries of School

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J&K Bypolls: BJP Fields Devyani Rana For Nagrota Seat

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a move poised to leverage family legacy and voter sympathy, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday



officially announced Devyani Rana as its candidate for the high-stakes Nagrota Assembly bypoll, setting the stage for a fiercely contested battle in the Jammu region.

The announcement comes just weeks before the November 11 polling date, with the constituency – a traditional BJP stronghold – having fallen vacant following the untimely death of Devyani's father and senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana, on October 31, 2024.

Devyani Rana, 32, the daughter of the late MLA and niece of Union Minister Jitendra Singh, expressed unbridled confidence in carrying forward her father's "winning streak" during a media interaction at her residence in Jammu.

Surrounded by jubilant BJP workers and supporters who celebrated the news with traditional dhol beats, she stated, "I would like to continue with my father's winning streak. I have received a lot of love and blessings from the people, especially the youth, and the party. We are confident of winning. The work done over the past year has been appreciated by people. I intend to take forward the vision of Rana sahib for Nagrota."

Emphasizing the enduring bond with

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Omar Abdullah Reviews Readiness Of Integrated Mining Surveillance System

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Mining Department at the Civil Secretariat here to assess the department's modernization initiatives, regulatory framework, and ongoing reforms in mineral management and surveillance.



The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Mining Department Anil Kumar, Director Geology & Mining, all Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, and other senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Additional Chief Secretary, Mining, gave a detailed presentation on the department's performance, highlighting technological advancements, regulatory reforms, exploration projects, and financial outcomes achieved in recent years.

A major highlight of the review was a presentation and live demonstration of the Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS) — a digital initiative developed in collaboration with BISAG (Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics). The IMSS portal and mobile application provide real-time

> The **Chief Minister** instructed the department to categorize active and **non-active** mineral vendors or suppliers and establish a dedicated monitoring cell at the **Directorate level** for continuous data tracking and real-time **oversight**.

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Five-Year Report Card Will Be Govt's True Judge: Dy CM

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary reiterated that the present dispensation is fully committed to the overall development and welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks during an extensive tour of Chanpora Constituency in Srinagar.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is focused on ensuring equitable and sustainable development across all regions of the Jammu and Kashmir.

"People will judge this government after our five-year report card," he asserted.

During his tour, the Deputy Chief Minister, accompanied by local legislator Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo, inspected several ongoing developmental projects in the constituency.

The projects inspected include Community Centre Hyderpora, Marriage Hall Haranbal Natipora, Bailey Bridge project at Chanpora, as well as widening of Rawalpora–Mocho Road. He also reviewed the progress on the Bund Road project from Chanpora to Natipora Junction and



other ongoing works across the constituency.

While inspecting the Community Centre Hyderpora, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to submit a detailed report for early resumption of works so that the facility can be dedicated to the public at the earliest.

He also issued instructions for utility shifting and removal of bottlenecks along the Rawalpora–Mocho Road to expedite work and ensure smooth and enhanced road facility to the general public.

> He further instructed officers to ensure that all ongoing works, including the Bund Road, Chanpora–Natipora Junction and other road projects, are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

To enhance connectivity and mobility for residents of the Chanpora area, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to initiate

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Omar Govt's One-Year Mark Brings Rising Pressure to Deliver

FE NEWS NETWORK

People await progress on manifesto vows, opposition slams NC for 'failure'

SRINAGAR: The pressure to deliver on the promises has been mounting for the ruling regime in Jammu and Kashmir as the National Conference (NC) government completed one year in office on Wednesday, while all the promises from one lakh jobs to free units of electricity and 12 gas cylinders remain unfulfilled.

On October 16, 2024, the first government in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, led by Omar Abdullah, assumed office here after the NC-Congress alliance secured an absolute majority in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, winning 48 seats. NC carried the alliance to victory by winning 42 seats, while Congress could win only six seats.

According to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer, the mood across Jammu and Kashmir is a mix of cautious hope and growing impatience.

Riding a wave of optimism, the NC swept to power last year, pledging 12 flagship promises made on the



party's manifesto ahead of the 2024 Assembly elections.

Yet, as the government marks its first anniversary, many of those promises remain in the realm of rhetoric.

The ruling regime after taking over has kept its promise so far only on passing the resolution on statehood restoration in the first

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LG visits Vajr Division's Roshan Mustaqbil in Kupwara

KUPWARA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited 'Roshan Mustaqbil', a youth empowerment centre at Zangli, run by Indian Army's Vajr Division to channelise local talent into education, skills and livelihood. He was accompanied by Maj Gen K Mohan Nair, YSM, SM, General Officer Commanding, Vajr Division and other senior officers.

The centre currently has over 690 youth enrolled, who are building a better future for themselves and the society.

The centre offers classrooms for competitive exam preparation, digital learning and computer labs, a library and reading room, tourism and hospitality training facility, and also entrepreneurship incubation with market linkages. The youth centre has turned out to be a place for amalgamation of sports, Kashmiri culture and modernity of outlook for a brighter future.

Roshan Mustaqbil has achieved notable success in a very short span of time and youth trained at the centre are getting placement across the country. The Centre has also fostered

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Public Outreach Camp Held At Panchayat Chill - Assar

DODA: In line with the government's commitment to ensuring citizen-centric governance, a Public outreach camp was held today at Panchayat Chill (Block Assar).

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh presided over the event aimed to facilitate a direct interface between the public and administration for the redressal of public grievances, discuss developmental issues and review



the ongoing government schemes.

A large number of locals and students attended the program, with all District and Sectoral Officers present to respond to public demands and provide on-the-spot solutions.

The residents raised numerous demands, seeking road maintenance from Assar to Chill, construction of a pakka pathway to the cremation ground, installation of crash barriers, review of the Chill–Kashi Kundi road survey, replacement of damaged pipelines and restoration of flood-affected structures.

The People also sought establishment of a receiving station in the area to perk up power supply, augmentation of school infrastructure, adequate teaching staff and filling up of medical staff positions in local health centers. Issues related to the JJM (Jal Jeevan Mission), PMGSY roads and compensation for damaged houses and crops were prominently highlighted.

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh issued on-the-spot directions to concerned departments, instructing XEN PWD (R&B) to immediately start pending road works in the area. The XEN PHE was asked to review ongoing JJM projects and inspect the water reservoir to ensure safe drinking water, while the XEN PDD was asked to replace damaged electric poles and resolve power-related complaints.

The local Tehsildar was instructed to conduct verification of houses damaged due to recent rains, while the XEN PMGSY was told to expedite the clearance of landslide debris and initiate protection work along affected road stretches. The DC also directed the local SDM to regulate auto, e-rickshaw and matador fare.

The DC further emphasized promoting adventure tourism near Trungal Bridge urging for the installation of signage along the highway to highlight its tourism potential. He directed the Education Department to address staff shortage in schools, while the Social Welfare Officer was asked to review pending cases under the Marriage Assistance Scheme.

The ACD was instructed to organize special camps for resolving labour card-related issues. The DC also called upon the CMO to ensure sufficient staff availability at local health centres. He directed the RDD and Education department functionaries to jointly visit schools to assess infrastructure needs. He urged the public to avail benefits of HADP and Kisan Khushal Gaon (KKG) initiatives to enhance livelihood.

The Public outreach camp concluded with a strong assurance from the District Administration to take prompt action on all projected issues and continue such initiatives to strengthen public trust, promote transparency and ensure equitable development across rural areas of the district. The event also featured departmental stalls showcasing various government-sponsored schemes and awareness materials for public benefit.

Diwali arrangements finalized at Bhaderwah

BHADERWAH: To review and finalize the necessary arrangements for forthcoming Diwali Festival, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Bhutyal chaired a meeting of



functionaries from different Police, Public Works (R&B), Jal Shakti, JPDCL, Municipal, Fire & Emergency Services, Health and Revenue departments.

A detailed discussion was held regarding power and water supply, market regulation, sanitation and cleanliness, traffic management and fire safety measures to ensure smooth and safe celebrations during the festival.

The ADC directed the concerned departments to conduct a special cleanliness drive and illuminate major markets, temples and public places before Diwali. Instructions were also given to the Municipal Committee to ensure proper disposal of waste and debris, while the Police Department was asked to deploy adequate personnel for maintaining law and order and smooth traffic flow.

He directed the Fire & Emergency Department to remain on high alert with ready-to-respond units. The Health Department was also instructed to keep ambulances and emergency medical teams available to deal with any untoward incidents. He urged the local traders and community members to celebrate the festival with environmental responsibility, avoiding plastic and non-eco-friendly materials during lighting and decoration.

Javid Dar lays foundation stone, inaugurates key projects at SKUAST-K Wadura Campus

FE NEWS NETWORK

Also addresses Awareness-cum-Exhibition Programme on strengthening agricultural education, research, farmer outreach

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar attended One-Day Awareness-cum-Exhibition Programme at Wadura Campus of SKUAST-Kashmir on strengthening agricultural education, research and farmer outreach.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that the Campus is a premier and precious institute in this region. He said that Wadura campus has created various success stories in agriculture, horticulture and others allied sectors.

The Minister emphasized upon the University administration to focus on enhancing the infrastructure and introduce new streams in this Campus so that farmers are benefitted. The Minister further stated that the government is committed to provide all support to strengthen this Institute.

The Minister appealed the farmers to interact regularly with scientists of this Campus for gaining knowledge about new technologies and scientific methods used during the farming.

Minister lauded the Faculty's remarkable contributions to agricultural education, research, and extension. He emphasized SKUAST-K's pivotal role in driving technological innovation, nurturing skilled human resources, and uplifting the farming community, all of which, he noted, are essential for the socio-economic advancement of Jammu & Kashmir.



On the sidelines of the programme, the Minister laid the foundation stones of several important facilities including the Medical Centre, Speed Breeding Lab, and Gene Bank. He also inaugurated the Exhibition, HVC Sports Week.

He also inaugurated a series of landmark initiatives aimed at bolstering scientific research, student welfare, and innovation-driven farming practices. Marking the formal commencement of the Rabi season, the Minister ceremoniously initiated the sowing of Rabi crops including Brown Sarson, Oats, and Kala Zeera.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice Chancellor, in his remarks, highlighted SKUAST-K's commitment to translational research and academic excellence, underscoring the University's vision to bridge the gap between laboratory research and field-level impact.

Earlier, Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Mir, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, in his welcome address briefed the audience on the notable achievements of the Faculty.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, in her address, emphasized the importance of a strong extension network for holistic rural development, while Prof. Haroon Rashid Naik, Director Research, SKUAST-K, highlighted key research milestones and ongoing scientific pursuits of the institution.

Registrar, Professor Azmat Alam Khan; Director Strategies Planning, Dr Haroon Rashid Naik; Conservator Forest, North Kashmir Irfan Ali Shah and officers from various line departments, faculty members, and students were also present on the occasion.

The Minister also released several publications, booklets, and pamphlets documenting the University's recent innovations and outreach efforts during the programme.

On the occasion, the Minister also visited various exhibition stalls set up by different divisions of the Faculty, where student start-ups and innovators showcased new technologies, research outcomes, and extension activities designed to empower farmers and promote sustainable agriculture.

Diwali arrangements discussed at Udhampur

■ Emphasis on green, eco-friendly celebration



UDHAMPUR: In preparation for Diwali, a comprehensive meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, here in Conference Hall, DC Office Complex Udhampur.

The meeting included in-depth discussion on the arrangements such as the installation of cracker stalls, security measures, traffic management, drinking water supply, power supply, sanitation, quality control and pricing checks of eatables as well as the deployment of fire tenders.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the government functionaries to make foolproof arrangements related to their respective departments well in advance. She emphasized the importance of launching a mass awareness program to inspire residents to celebrate a Green and eco-friendly Diwali by avoiding the use of crackers.

The DC further stressed the need to promote purchase of earthen lamps (diyas) made of cow dung by the Self Help Groups under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission and DUDA.

In a key decision, the meeting constituted a multi-department committee to conduct market inspection to monitor the rates and quality of products, particularly sweets, eatables and fruits during the festive season.

Subash Stadium was designated as the venue for the sale of firecrackers. "The traders shall be informed that the sale of firecrackers is only permitted at the designated venue, Subash Stadium and not at individual shops," the DC directed.

The Jal Shakti and JPDCL were instructed to ensure adequate supply of drinking water and uninterrupted power supply during the festival days including at Subash Stadium where a large number of people are expected to gather for purchasing firecrackers.

The CEO Municipality was tasked with launching a sanitation drive across the town focusing on the venue for cracker stalls and its surroundings.

The Health Department was directed to arrange necessary first aid facilities at Subash Stadium to manage any emergencies.

The Fire & Emergency Department was instructed to have standby Fire Tenders available at the cracker sale venue to promptly address any incidents that may occur during the sale days. The District and Traffic Police were urged to take measures for effective traffic regulation in the town during the festive days.

QUL Fruits Leads Farmer Awareness Drive on High-Density Plantation and Financial Schemes Across South Kashmir

Anantnag: QUL Fruits, in association with the Jammu & Kashmir Bank, on Wednesday successfully organized a landmark awareness drive for farmers across South Kashmir, focusing on High Destiny Apple Plantation Scheme (financial schemes) and institutional support for High-Density Plantation (HDP).

The programme was conducted at three distinct Qulgahs (phygital farmer-engagement centres) in south Kashmir's Anantnag region — Mattan at 11:30 AM, Bijbehara at 1:30 PM, and Achabal at 3:30 PM — drawing a large and enthusiastic turnout of farmers from surrounding areas.

Farmers actively interacted with officials, raised pressing questions, and discussed challenges related to financing. The events served as a vital platform for two-way engagement, allowing experts to clarify doubts while giving farmers the opportunity to share on-ground realities.

At every Qulgah, officials highlighted how QUL Fruits, offers year-round guidance, supported by a dedicated scientific team that advises farmers on soil health, disease diagnostics, and scientifically backed cultivation practices.

Speaking at the event, Nahida Fayaz, Incharge QulGah, highlighted the importance of farmer awareness about the financial schemes and opportunities available under the High-Density Plantation



model. She said, "High-Density Plantation is the future of Kashmir's apple industry. It not only enhances yield and income but also empowers our farmers to compete on a global stage."

She further added, "QUL Fruits is not just a company — it is a mission to empower farmers and nurture a sustainable horticultural ecosystem that begins in the Valley of Kashmir and reaches the world."

Representatives from Jammu & Kashmir Bank Mutton, Corporate Branch, Bijbharaand Achbal reaffirmed their commitment to providing tailored credit facilities, low-cost financing, and accessible schemes to support farmers in adopting modern, sustainable practices for HDP.

Officials emphasized that QUL Fruits and its partners remain deeply committed to social welfare and inclusive growth. This initiative is part of a broader mission to place Kashmir firmly on the global map of apple production.

"Programs like this give farmers like me not just knowledge, but also confidence. Such programs aware us about financial support available through banks helps us to plan better for the future," said Mohammad Iqbal a farmer from Krerbal Anantnag.

He adds, "I feel hopeful that with these resources, I can increase my orchard's productivity and provide a better life for my family."

QUL Fruits is a pioneering, tech-enabled horticulture enterprise based in Kashmir, committed to transforming the region's traditional orchards through modern, sustainable, and technology-driven interventions.

Over the years, QUL has evolved into a fully integrated horticultural platform, spanning orchard installation and management, controlled-atmosphere storage, and digital supply chain integration with national markets. The company has already impacted over 10,000 farmer lives and established more than 1,000 hectares of high-density plantations. (PR)

A G Mir reviews operational capabilities of SDRF Jammu

JAMMU: A G Mir, Commandant General HG/CD & SDRF Jammu and Kashmir, visited SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu. He was accompanied by Mohammad Arshad- DIG HG/CD & SDRF Jammu.

Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu Zahid Naseem Manhas presented a detailed presentation on the achievements of SDRF 2nd Bn. in



recent disasters that occurred in Jammu province including Chishoti (Kishtwar), Ramban, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Katra, Kathua, low-lying areas of Jammu, Kalaban, Poonch and Rajouri.

The visiting officer was informed about the requirement of high value equipment, adequate transport facilities and manpower to improve the operational efficiency of SDRF 2nd Bn.

DIG Mohammad Arshad highlighted the role of HG and CD and the challenges faced by them. The Commandant General gave a patient hearing to the briefings and appreciated the role of SDRF personnel in mitigating disasters with quick response which helped save lives.

A display of high-value equipment and articles used by SDRF Jammu was also arranged, showcasing the capabilities and achievements of SDRF. The Commandant General took keen interest in understanding the working of CD/HG & SDRF, assuring all ranks that he would look into the matters being faced by them and take up the issues with higher authorities.

The visit demonstrated the commitment of the Commandant General to the welfare and operational efficiency of SDRF personnel.

Among others present on the occasion included Manzoor Hussain, DSP, Adjutant; Dinesh Gupta, DSP QM/Incharge Trgs. SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu; Tajinder Kour, DSP, SO to DIG HG/CD & SDRF Jammu; Naseem Akhter, DSP, Area Commandant HG Jammu; Satvir Singh, DSP, HG/CD Samba; Maroof Badhana, DSP, HG/CD Poonch; Barkat Hussain Qureshi, DSP, Area Commandant HG Rajouri; Masoof Mirza, DSP, Area Commandant HG Udhampur & Dev Raj, DSP, Principal, CTI HG/CD Jammu.

The visit concluded with a renewed commitment to enhancing the capabilities and welfare of SDRF personnel.

Relief Commissioner reviews progress of development works in Migrant Camps

JAMMU: Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K Dr. Arvind Karwani chaired a meeting with officers of line departments to review the ongoing development works in the migrant camps and to take stock of the day-to-day issues being faced by the migrants.

Deputy Commissioner (Relief) Vijay Kumar Sharma; Chief Accounts Officer Shiwani Bhan; Assistant Commissioner (Relief) Kailash Devi; Assistant Commissioner (Relief) Sanjeev Kumar and the officers from different Government departments and the Relief Organization attended the meeting.

Dr. Karwani reviewed the damages due to recent incessant rains and the steps being taken to fully restore the same. He also reviewed the ongoing development works and the works in the pipeline. He emphasised on the importance of adhering to the directions issued by the General Administration Department, wherein responsibilities of Transit Migrant Camps at Jammu and Kashmir has been assigned to the Government Departments with the directions to nominate an officer, not below the rank of Executive Engineer for liaising/coordinating the execution/maintenance of works/projects about their department with the Relief Organization (M).

It was informed that the construction of four bore-wells in the Mini Township Jagti and two bore-wells in the Camp Nagrota to address the long-pending demand of the camp inmates shall be completed by mid-November.

The work of installation of 150 street lights in the migrant camps has also started on the ground. The JPDCL was instructed to start the work of fencing and clearance of all transformers in the camp areas, for which approval has also been accorded.

The PWD(R&B) also informed about the renovation works in progress. The meeting was informed that the construction of the Rs 6.5 Cr Multi-Purpose Community Hall is in full swing and shall be completed by March next year. Deputy Commissioner Relief and Assistant Commissioners Relief were asked to ensure weekly visits to the camps assigned as per duty roster and take stock of all development works/problems of migrants, including grievances related to immovable properties in the Kashmir Valley.

Speaker Legislative Assembly reviews arrangements for upcoming Assembly Session at Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather today convened a high-level meeting at Assembly Secretariat here, to review arrangements for the upcoming Assembly session, scheduled to begin on October 23rd, 2025.

During the meeting, the Speaker impressed upon the officers from various departments to put in place all required facilities and ensure that all necessary preparations are made in advance to facilitate the smooth conduct of forthcoming session. He took an in-depth review of all the arrangements and called upon the concerned to work in a coordinated manner to ensure the session runs smoothly.

"It is our collective responsibility to ensure the smooth functioning of the assembly and all departments have to be prepared in advance in this regard," he said.

He asked the General Administration Department to ensure that the reply to the Assembly Questions shall reach to the Assembly Secretariat as early as possible and necessary instructions need to be issued to all the departments in this regard.

He also called upon the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs that Government Bills be forwarded to the Assembly Secretariat well on time and necessary instructions be issued to all the concerned departments.

Speaker called upon the Information Department to ensure proper coverage of the proceedings of the House. He also asked the Information Department to provide logistical support by making available technical equipment like public address systems, mikes and other related items for the media.

Information Technology Department was asked to ensure Wifi and Internet Services with High Speed and installation of Routers wherever required before the ensuing Assembly Session.



He also called upon the security agencies for deployment of adequate staff well versed with Parliamentary traditions within the premises of J&K Legislative Assembly at Srinagar and make adequate arrangements for safety and security of Legislators.

Speaker further called upon the Estates department to expedite execution/completion of repair/ renovation works within the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Srinagar particularly in the Assembly Hall and VIP Chambers.

They have been also asked to install intercom telephone facilities within the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly at Srinagar, besides checking of telephones already installed within the VIP Chambers. To ensure proper regulation of traffic on roads leading to J&K Legislative Assembly Complex/Civil Secretariat Srinagar and MLA's Hostel Srinagar, Speaker called upon the concerned to put in place necessary measures for avoiding inconvenience to general public on this account.

Regarding water supply, Speaker called upon the Jal Shakti Department to keep necessary measures for providing sufficient and regular water supply to the Legislature Complex and Legislator's Hostel, Srinagar.

He also called upon the Power Development Department to check loopholes in transmission lines, if any, in order to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the course of session, besides ensuring uninterrupted power supply in the MLA' hostel.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation was asked to keep the entire premises and lawns of the Assembly and MLA's Hostel neat and clean, before the commencement of the session.

Speaker also issued necessary directions to the concerned departments to make advance preparations and put in place foolproof arrangements to provide timely medical support, installation/ restoration of telephones in VIP chambers, emergency assistance, fire safety, cafeteria, proper hospitality for members, staff, and visitors throughout the session.

The Speaker emphasised that all protocol measures should be meticulously followed to ensure smooth functioning and the safety of all stakeholders during the proceedings.

ADDC Shopian presides over Block Diwas at Gagren



SHOPIAN: As part of the ongoing public outreach and grievance redressal initiative of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, a Block Diwas was held at Gagren,Shopian.

The camp was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian,Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of citizens, youth and representatives from various villages of Shopian villages who put forth their demands and grievances related to basic amenities, infrastructure development,water supply, road connectivity, health,education and welfare schemes.

The ADDC gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and individuals and issued directions to the concerned officers for the redressal of genuine grievances and fulfilment of development demands. He also instructed the officers to remain proactive in the field and ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach every eligible beneficiary and stressed upon timely completion of ongoing works and utilization of funds within stipulated timelines. On the occasion, the ADDC reiterated the government's commitment to participatory and accountable governance and underlining the importance of coordination between departments to achieve effective service delivery.

Among others, General Manager, DIC, Shurjil Naik, CMO, BDOs and representatives from R&B, REW, Jal Shakti, KPDCL, Agriculture, Horticulture, Health, ICDS and other concerned officials were present during the event.

Women's College M.A Road has immense contribution towards JK's overall development: Sakeena Itoo

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo remarked that Government College of Women (GCW), M.A Road has immense contribution towards the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir from last 75 years.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the celebrations to commemorate the 75th year of existence of the Government Women's College, Srinagar, '75 Years: A Celebration of Excellence in Women's Education', one of Jammu & Kashmir's premier institutions dedicated to women's education and empowerment.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister lauded the College's rich legacy and its transformative contribution to the intellectual, cultural, and social development of Jammu and Kashmir. She added that the college has major contribution towards the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This institution has, over the decades, been a cornerstone of women empowerment, nurturing generations of leaders, educators and professionals, who have contributed meaningfully across various fields", Minister said.



The Minister further said that GCW, Srinagar, stands as a beacon of empowerment and enlightenment for women across J&K. She added that for seventy-five years, it has opened doors of opportunity for thousands of young women, fostering not only academic excellence but also confidence, leadership, and a spirit of service to society.

Sakeena Itoo, in her address, also remembered the contribution of various Alumni members and expressed gratitude to them for their presence in these celebrations. She commended the faculty and alumni for their sustained dedication and called upon students to carry forward the institution's legacy with renewed vigour in the era of knowledge-driven growth.

The Minister further emphasized the government's commitment to strengthening higher education infrastructure across J&K, with special focus on enhancing access, quality, and innovation in women's education. She added that Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah has given immense importance to Education, Health sectors and kept sufficient outlay for them in Budget.

The Minister further said that newly established degree colleges have been made functional by this government in last one year, besides sufficient faculty has been recruited to improve the educational outcomes of colleges across J&K.

Vice Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar, Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education and Director Colleges also addressed the gathering.

In her welcome address, Principal GCW Srinagar termed the celebrations as momentous day in the history of college. She also highlighted various achievements of the college since its inception.

During the event, the Minister also unveiled Coffee Table Book depicting 75 years of college. She also released College Times, Zoological Chronicle as well as many books of Alumni, faculty members and students.

One-Day Training Programme on Incident Response System Held at Pulwama

PULWAMA: District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Pulwama, in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRR&R), today organised a one-day training programme on the Incident Response System (IRS) at the Circuit House, Pulwama.

The programme aimed to strengthen the district-level response mechanism and promote coordinated and effective action during emergencies and disasters.

During the event, Deputy Secretary, DMRR&R, Snober Jamil conducted an orientation session, sensitising participants about their respective roles and responsibilities under the IRS framework.

She highlighted the importance of preparedness, coordination, and timely response to mitigate the impact of disasters.

Additionally, Brig. Kuldip Singh (Retd) delivered an insightful virtual session on the concept, objectives, and functioning of the Incident Response System.

He emphasised the need for a clear chain of command, defined responsibilities, and efficient resource mobilisation during crisis situations.

Participants were also briefed on the roles of Incident Commanders and other designated officers, integration of line departments, and the mechanisms for coordination at district and tehsil levels. The event also outlined the objectives and structure of IRS, its integration with departments such as Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Health, PWD, Jal Shakti, Information and others. Emphasis was laid on conducting regular training sessions and mock exercises to enhance preparedness and improve inter-agency coordination. During the programme, various officers shared their insights, personal experiences, and case studies from field situations, contributing to a rich exchange of practical knowledge and lessons learned from ground-level disaster response. Among others, the programme was attended by officers from the Revenue, Rural Development, Police, Health, Fire & Emergency Services, PWD, Transport, SDRF, FCS&CA, and Jal Shakti Departments.

Legal Metrology Deptt. organises Mega Consumer Awareness Programme at University of Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Department of Legal Metrology, Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with the School of Law, University of Kashmir, organized a Mega Awareness Programme on Legal Metrology, GST Revision and Consumer Protection today at Gandhi Bhawan, University of Kashmir here.

The event, presided by Commissioner Secretary, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat, was held with an aim to enhance public understanding of legal metrology norms, disseminate knowledge on GST reforms, promote compliance among traders, and empower consumers to seek redressal through proper legal channels.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary emphasised on the importance of various consumer redressal platforms in protecting the consumer interest. He also outlined about consumer justice delivery mechanism by Consumer Commissions, recent initiatives like delegation of powers to Legal Metrology Officers to lodge complaints in Consumer Commissions and enforcement drives conducted in the field of GST reforms.



Saurabh Bhagat assured full departmental support for future collaborative initiatives including joint programmes, student internships, financial awards, and other encouraging measures for law students.

He emphasized the need for sustained engagement through a series of awareness events in the future.

The Commissioner Secretary also underscored the importance of initiatives like paid internship opportunities for law students in Consumer Courts and the institution of a Shield of Merit for the top-performing student in Consumer Affairs which are under consideration.

Addressing the gathering, Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Kashmir, Owais Ahmad emphasized on the protection of consumer rights against unfair trade practices and highlighted the importance of responsible consumer participation in ensuring effective enforcement of consumer laws.

In his address, Controller, Legal Metrology Department, J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara highlighted the department's pivotal role in ensuring accuracy and uniformity in weights and measures. He also spoke about that the role of Legal Metrology in recent GST reforms.

During the event, it was informed that department of Legal Metrology is ensuring the passing of revising GST benefits post 22nd September 2025 to Consumers and strict action in terms of the provisions of Legal Metrology Act, 2009 is being taken against all the erring traders found violating the guidelines regarding new GST rates.

An interactive session was also held at the event in which panel of experts from Legal Metrology and Consumer Commissions participated .The session was highly interactive in which the students actively engaged in question-answer segment on contemporary issued in consumer protection.

RDD finalises roadmap to set up 20 standardized food enterprises under JKRLM

We are creating a culture of enterprise, not just employment: Secretary RDD

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, finalized an action plan under which the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), in collaboration with Kerala's acclaimed Kudumbashree Mission, will establish 20 standardized food service enterprises across the Union Territory.

Chairing a review meeting of JKRLM, Secretary said that the partnership with Kudumbashree aims to replicate a proven, holistic ecosystem for enterprise development. "The focus goes beyond creating food stalls—it is about building a structured, sustainable, and quality-driven framework for women entrepreneurs," he emphasized.

As part of the plan, a baseline study will identify potential locations, while standardized training modules and continuous mentorship will ensure long-term viability of the enterprises. A unified brand and operational guideline will be developed to maintain consistency in quality and service across all units.

A dedicated Kudumbashree National Resource Organization (NRO) team has already been positioned to oversee the rollout, which includes 'Café Mentor' training and the creation of a cadre of Master Community Resource Persons (MCRPs) to provide on-ground support. "An enterprise monitoring system will also be put in place to track progress and provide sustained handholding to women entrepreneurs," the Secretary added.

Aijaz Asad highlighted that JKRLM is intensifying efforts under the "Lakhpati Didi" initiative, with a strategic shift towards nurturing "Millionaire Didis." The goal is to help women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) move from earning 1 lakh annually to 10 lakh and beyond. "So far, 50 women in Jammu and Kashmir have already achieved this milestone, proudly earning the title of 'Millionaire Didi'," he informed.



This remarkable success was nationally recognized during the launch of the compendium "Har Didi Ek Kahani" in Jammu & Kashmir on July 3, 2025, unveiled by Union Minister for Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Secretary directed officials to strengthen credit linkages for SHGs, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), and to enhance convergence with Mission YUVA, PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), and the Lal Ded Stree Shakti Scheme. These efforts, he said, are aimed at maximizing employment generation and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for rural women across the UT.

Emphasizing the importance of capacity building, Aijaz Asad instructed officials to establish Community-Managed Training Centres (CMTCs), identify local resource persons, and foster a culture of collective learning and participation.

"We are committed to making rural Jammu and Kashmir a hub of women-led entrepreneurship and inclusive growth," the Secretary affirmed, outlining a clear roadmap for the Mission's next phase of expansion and impact.

Presenting a comprehensive overview, Managing Director, JKRLM, Subhra Sharma, highlighted that under the UMEED Programme, 7.66 lakh rural households have been mobilized into 94,962 SHGs across 20 districts and 265 blocks. These groups have received 528.86 crore in capitalization support and have collectively accessed 2,806.06 crore in bank credit since 2013–14, reflecting a strong credit culture and repayment discipline.

Under the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), 7,280 rural enterprises have been established across 14 blocks, with 16.53 crore disbursed through the Community Enterprise Fund. JKRLM has also signed an MoU with the National Resource Organisation (OMPLIS) to strengthen Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) and set up Community Managed Training Centres (CMTCs) for training needs assessment, module development, and exposure visits—further accelerating the rural entrepreneurship ecosystem.

4th UTRC Meeting held at Pulwama

PULWAMA: In compliance to the directions of NALSA and JK Legal Services Authority, 4th Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting was held in the office chambers of Pr. District & Sessions judge Pulwama.

The meeting was presided over by the Pr. District & Sessions Judge Pulwama, Secretary DLSA Pulwama, SSP Pulwama, ADC Pulwama, Superintendent of Sub-Jail Pulwama and Chief LADC Pulwama. In this meeting the list of Under trial prisoners furnished by the concerned authorities was taken up for consideration.A total of 6 cases were taken up and discussed and out of which 2 cases were recommended for consideration by the committee as per the guidelines and remained 4 were recommended for medical examination to the concerned medical board in order to get their present health status and accordingly concerned court will decide their release as per the law.

Editorial

Healing The Wounds

For thirty long and painful years, a pall of violence and grief hung heavy over the families of civilians murdered by terrorists supported by Pakistan. Their pain was made worse by a systemic indifference; many had sought justice but only received bureaucratic silence. Their pain was a wound on the national conscience, a wound that remained raw and festered over the years.

Today, we have turned a corner and that this tertium quid is over. The intention of the government is now clear and unambiguous: to deliver justice and restore dignity to these brave families. LG have assured them that their decades of pain, torture, and suffering were not in vain, nor will they be forgotten. The long night of their anguish is at an end and a new day of healing and restitution is at hand.

It is hard to put words to the depth of emotional and psychological destruction suffered by the families. The pain is not something in the past; it is alive in them today, affecting their every single day for years. They have struggled as much with the loss as with a regime of blocking factors preventing healing and rebuilding. These obstacles are now acknowledged and already being removed. As LG promised admin will provide every resource possible to get them back to their lives, to their futures, and to their rightful place in a peaceful society.

This suffering was also perpetuated by a wicked false narrative constructed by the guilty terrorists and their support systems in the valley. For thirty years, these systems have told lies to cover up their atrocities. The curtain has been pulled back, and now the people see the reality. Pakistan, a known haven and exporter of terrorism, is presently exposed. Their application of state policies of cross-border terror has been brought to light. Let me make this clear to the people: those that supported and perpetuated this fake narrative for the terrorists will be exposed and held to account.

In what is an important step to assist and restore dignity to people that have been affected, around 250 families have been offered government jobs by LG. And this is just the beginning. The mission of rehabilitation and justice will continue tirelessly until every affected family has been accommodated and justice is brought to fruition.

This is much more than a change of policy; it is a moral obligation; it is a national duty. To honour our civilian martyrs, is to be there for their families, with unquestionable commitment and resolve. We owe the families more than compensation; we owe them closure, more than sympathy, we owe them justice. The challenge of healing scars like this is never easy, but it is a challenge that we are now committed to for a successful and rightful outcome, side by side, with the families until all of this is completed.

Sajda: The Posture Of Peace



■ DR AFTAB JAN

Sajda is the heart of Salah, the most humble and powerful moment when the forehead touches the earth in complete surrender. It is the posture of obedience, humility, and closeness to the Creator. The Qur'an commands: "And prostrate and draw near to Allah." (Surah Al-'Alaq 96:19). In this simple but profound act, the believer lowers the most honored part of the body, the forehead, to the lowest place — the ground — acknowledging that all greatness belongs to Allah alone. The Qur'an further says: "So fall down in prostration to Allah and worship Him." (Surah An-Najm 53:62). The Prophet Muhammad beautifully explained the spiritual value of Sajda when he said: "The closest a servant is to his Lord is when he is in prostration, so increase your supplications therein." (Sahih Muslim). This shows that Sajda is not only a physical position during prayer but the highest point of spiritual nearness. It is where pride is broken, the heart is softened, and the soul finds peace.



What is truly remarkable is that modern science, centuries later, has discovered astonishing benefits in this divine posture. Sajda is not just a movement; it is a complete therapy for the human body, mind, and soul. When a person goes into Sajda, blood flows freely toward the brain due to the lowered position of the head. This improves oxygen supply to the brain cells, especially in the frontal lobe, which is responsible for decision-making, emotions, and self-control. This increased blood and oxygen flow improves memory, focus, and mental clarity, and can even help reduce the risk of neurological disorders over time. In our modern world filled with overthinking, stress, and constant mental stimulation, this simple act provides natural relief for the brain, nourishing it five times a day through every Salah.

The act of Sajda activates the parasympathetic nervous system, which is responsible for relaxation and healing. It slows the heart rate, relaxes muscles, lowers cortisol (the stress hormone), and induces a state of deep calm. People who prostrate regularly often experience improved mood, reduced anxiety, and better emotional stability. Unlike modern therapies that require expensive treatment, Sajda provides this naturally, every day, as part of worship. In addition, when the forehead touches the ground, grounding takes place. The human body builds up static electricity through electronic devices, artificial environments, and constant contact with synthetic materials. Sajda, when performed on natural ground or natural mats, helps discharge this excess static electricity into the earth, balancing the body's bioelectrical state. Modern research on "earthing" shows this can reduce inflammation, improve sleep, stabilize mood, and support immune function — a benefit already embedded in the act of Sajda centuries ago.

The physical benefits are also scientifically proven. Studies have shown that regular prostration can bring relief from various pains: lower back pain decreases by 24%, ankle pain by 27%, toe pain by 14%, knee pain by 53%, and wrist pain by 28%. This happens because Sajda involves gentle bending, stretching, and weight distribution that naturally strengthens muscles and improves joint mobility. For the lower back, prostration gently stretches the lumbar muscles, decompresses the spine, and relieves tension caused by long hours of sitting. This makes Sajda a natural posture to maintain spinal health. For the knees, which bend fully during prostration, regular movement enhances synovial fluid circulation, strengthens supporting muscles, and prevents stiffness, explaining the 53% pain relief found in studies. The ankles and toes, often neglected in daily life, are flexed and extended in every prostration, which improves their strength and mobility and reduces swelling or pain. The wrists support part of the body weight during Sajda, and this regular mild pressure strengthens them and improves flexibility, giving a 28% reduction in pain over time.

The circulatory system also benefits deeply. The position of Sajda improves venous return, meaning blood flows back to the heart more efficiently, reducing pressure on veins and supporting overall heart health. It improves blood distribution, lowers blood pressure naturally, and energizes the body. The digestive organs are gently massaged when the abdomen is pressed against the thighs during Sajda. This increases blood flow to the stomach, intestines, liver, and kidneys, improving digestion, relieving constipation, and supporting natural detoxification. Sajda is beneficial for pelvic health too; it strengthens the pelvic floor muscles, improves reproductive organ circulation, and helps regulate internal functions.

The brain benefits further because this posture increases cerebral perfusion — the flow of blood and oxygen to the brain. People who regularly pray and prostrate often report fewer headaches, clearer thinking, and better concentration. The act also lowers sympathetic activity (the "fight or flight" system), replacing stress with a feeling of safety and surrender. This is why after Salah and Sajda, many people feel emotionally lighter and mentally refreshed.

On the spiritual and psychological level, Sajda is a moment of complete humility. It lowers the head but lifts the soul. It breaks arrogance, which is one of the greatest diseases of the heart. It brings stillness, peace, and tears of sincerity. In today's fast, noisy world, where stress, depression, and anxiety are widespread, Sajda offers something that medicine cannot — a deep inner connection to the Creator. When a believer is in Sajda, they are in the most beloved position to Allah, the position where duas are most likely to be accepted. It is a time to empty the heart of worldly burdens and fill it with faith, gratitude, and trust.

Allah says: "We will show them Our signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that it is the truth." (Surah Fussilat 41:53). Sajda is one of those signs. What Allah commanded for worship also turns out to be perfect for human health. Modern science proves that this single act benefits the brain, heart, spine, joints, muscles, digestive system, nervous system, emotions, and soul. It heals the body through circulation, stretching, and detoxification. It heals the mind through calmness, oxygenation, and stress relief. And it heals the soul through humility, closeness to Allah, and spiritual light.

In truth, Sajda is not just a ritual movement; it is a divine prescription. It is worship, healing, and protection combined in one simple act. It improves circulation, strengthens joints, calms the nervous system, clears the mind, relieves pain, detoxifies the organs, and softens the heart. It is both a spiritual elevation and a physical therapy — given to us by Allah, the One who created the body and knows what is best for it. In every Sajda, there is mercy, healing, strength, and nearness to the Most Merciful. It is the posture where the body bows, but the soul rises. It is the point where science meets revelation, where health meets faith. Sajda is truly a gift — a daily act that nourishes every part of a human being: body, mind, and soul.

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Body On Stress: The Road To Heart Disease And Diabetes



VIJAY GARG

Stress has become an almost unavoidable part of modern life, affecting people of all ages and backgrounds. From the pressures of work and family responsibilities to unexpected daily challenges, the demands of everyday living can build up, often quietly eroding both physical and mental well-being. Understanding how to effectively manage these pressures is no longer just a matter of comfort—it is essential for long-term health. Recent scientific research and expert health guidance now offer concrete strategies for handling daily stress more effectively.



❍ The Role of Perceived Control

A study conducted by researchers at Penn State, published in Communications Psychology, highlights the importance of perceived control in managing daily stress. The research involved over 1,700 participants who recorded the stressors they experienced over 24-hour periods and whether these challenges were resolved by the end of the day. Stressors included common life pressures such as interpersonal conflicts, work overload, and family-related stress.

The findings revealed that on days when participants felt more in control of their stressors, they were significantly more likely to take actions to resolve them. David Almeida, a professor of human development and family studies at Penn State and senior author of the study, noted that even small boosts in perceived control can increase the likelihood of addressing everyday hassles. that these effects appear to strengthen with age, suggesting that learning to identify and act on moments of control can improve long-term emotional health.

❍ Recognizing Stress Symptoms

According to the Mayo Clinic, stress can manifest in various ways, affecting the body, mood, and behavior. Physical symptoms may include headaches, muscle tension, fatigue, chest pain, or sleep disturbances. Stress can also influence emotions, causing anxiety, restlessness, sadness, or feelings of being overwhelmed. Behaviorally, it can lead to overeating or undereating, reduced physical activity, and substance misuse. If unaddressed, chronic stress increases the risk of serious health problems, including high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, and diabetes.

> When stress becomes overwhelming or persistent, it is essential to seek professional help. Health care providers or counselors can identify underlying causes of stress and offer coping techniques. Immediate medical attention is warranted if stress symptoms mimic serious conditions, such as chest pain or shortness of breath, which may signal a heart attack rather than simple stress.

❍ Strategies to Manage Daily Stress

Experts recommend practical strategies to strengthen perceived control and mitigate stress. Regular physical activity, mindfulness practices such as meditation or yoga, maintaining social connections, and pursuing hobbies can all provide meaningful relief. Keeping a journal, ensuring sufficient sleep, eating a balanced diet, and avoiding harmful substances are additional measures that support stress management. The Mayo Clinic emphasizes that active approaches to stress, which engage the mind and body, are more effective than passive distractions like excessive screen time.

When stress becomes overwhelming or persistent, it is essential to seek professional help. Health care providers or counselors can identify underlying causes of stress and offer coping techniques. Immediate medical attention is warranted if stress symptoms mimic serious conditions, such as chest pain or shortness of breath, which may signal a heart attack rather than simple stress.

The science is clear: daily stress is manageable when individuals cultivate a sense of control over their circumstances and adopt healthy coping strategies. By combining awareness of stress symptoms with proactive, practical steps, people can reduce the burden of everyday stress and protect both their physical and mental well-being.

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Rana Calls For Multi-Pronged Strategy To Accelerate Tribal Empowerment Across J&K

FE NEWS NETWORK

Reviews progress on implementation of PMVDY

SRINAGAR: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, called for a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach to accelerate the pace of tribal empowerment across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Zainpora, Showket Hussain Ganie; Director, Tribal Affairs, Mumtaz Choudhary; Mission Director, Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Dr. Shubhra Sharma; and other senior officers.

Chairing a detailed review meeting on the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY), the Minister underlined the importance of inclusive planning, inter-departmental coordination, and ground-level execution to ensure that the benefits of government schemes effectively reach tribal communities, especially those residing in remote and underserved regions.

During the interaction, the Minister reviewed the progress of PMVDY across various districts and examined its impact on tribal livelihoods and socio-economic development.

At the outset, Rana enquired about the status of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras



(VDVKs) established across the Union Territory, their operational effectiveness, and the tangible outcomes achieved in terms of income generation and employment creation.

He emphasised that PMVDY has the potential to be a game changer by promoting value addition to minor forest produce (MFP), thereby empowering tribal entrepreneurs and enhancing their access to sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The Minister sought detailed information regarding the training and capacity-building efforts undertaken under the scheme, particularly those targeting tribal artisans and small-scale entrepreneurs in far-flung areas.

Rana urged the officials to intensify efforts to expand market linkages for tribal products at both regional and national levels. He asked departments to identify existing implementation gaps, strengthen inter-agency collaboration, and submit fresh proposals in areas where interventions are most urgently needed.

The Minister highlighted the need for timely and well-planned initiatives to bridge developmental disparities and enhance the reach and relevance of the Van Dhan scheme.

He reiterated that the success of PMVDY lies in its ability to create self-reliant, skilled and empowered tribal communities capable of participating actively in the economic progress of Jammu and Kashmir.

He affirmed the Government's firm commitment to integrating tribal populations into the mainstream economy while simultaneously preserving and promoting their rich cultural and artisanal heritage.

Calling for data-driven and structured approach to planning, monitoring and execution, the Minister emphasised the importance of continuous progress tracking, impact evaluation, and replication of successful models across tribal-dominated areas.

Rana also called upon the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) to work in close coordination with local Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) while formulating and implementing livelihood initiatives.

He noted that MLAs possess deep insights into the needs and aspirations of their constituencies and can play a pivotal role in ensuring that government programmes are both need-based and impactful. He stressed that active collaboration between administrative agencies and elected representatives can significantly enhance the outreach, efficiency, and responsiveness of developmental interventions.

The Minister urged all stakeholders to work in synergy to realise the shared vision of an inclusive, equitable and empowered tribal society in Jammu and Kashmir.

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Winter Preparedness at Kupwara

FE NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg chaired a high-level meeting of officers at D.C Office Kupwara to review the district's preparedness for the upcoming winter season.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse; SSP Kupwara, Syed Al-Tahir Gilani; ADDC, ADC Kupwara, ADC Handwara, besides, all district and sectoral officers.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner took a detailed review of snow clearance machinery, availability of essential commodities, power and water supply preparedness, healthcare arrangements, and communication strategies for snow-bound and border areas including Karnah, Keran, Machil, Jumagund and Budnamal.

He directed all the departments to ensure prompt and coordinated action plans are in place to tackle any exigencies during snowfall.He also took review of District Capex Budget and some major Projects.

The Div Com took review of the availability of essential commodities in border and hilly areas and was informed that adequate stock of essential commodities including food grains, LPG and other essentials are available in areas like Karnah, Keran,



and Machil for the upcoming winter season. Deputy Commissioner Kupwara assured that all necessary measures have been initiated and the administration is fully geared to meet any winter challenges.

The Divisional Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the district administration and urged for continued coordination among the departments to ensure public convenience and safety.

The Divisional Commissioner also took review of the ongoing construction of RKCTC National Highway, Mission YUVA and Nasha Mukt Bharat Abiyan.

Regarding redressal of public grievances, the Div Com directed the SDMs and Tehsildars to fix the Grievances Redressal Day in their jurisdictions to ensure effective public outreach.

He also directed the concerned officers for timely disposal of migrant land applications after following the devised checklist. Besides, officers were directed to ensure strict adherence to PSGA during the delivery of the services.

DC Baramulla Holds Block Diwas at Nambla Uri

FE NEWS NETWORK

Assures Timely Redressal of Public Grievances

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today presided over a Block Diwas programme at Nambla, Uri, aimed at strengthening public outreach and ensuring effective on-ground delivery of government services.



During the event, various departments set up stalls to generate awareness among locals about key welfare schemes and flagship initiatives of the Government.

The DC accompanied by SDM Uri and ACD, inspected the stalls and interacted with officials to review the status of public service delivery. He also distributed sanction letters, Golden Cards, and Job Cards among the beneficiaries.

Public representatives and residents from adjoining border villages raised several issues pertaining to basic amenities and developmental needs.

The DC patiently listened to all the grievances and issued on-spot directions to the concerned officers for prompt redressal of genuine demands.

He assured the gathering that all legitimate issues will be addressed within the stipulated timeframe, while matters requiring higher-level intervention will be taken up with the competent authorities.

The DC appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the people and reiterated the administration's commitment to transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance, ensuring equitable development across all areas of the district.

SKUAST Kashmir Kickstarts "Catch Them Young" Mission under SKIIE Centre

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: An Awareness-cum-Sensitization Programme entitled "AgriNovate 1.0: Redefining Organic Agriculture through Innovations & Start-ups" was successfully organized in collaboration with Government Degree Collage Pulwama today under the Alternate system of Agriculture for sustainability (HADP-16) by the Sher-e-Kashmir Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIIEC), SKUAST-Kashmir.

The event aimed to promote organic agriculture and inspire youth to explore innovation-driven and entrepreneurial ventures in the agri-sector.

During the programme Chief Executive Officer/Head, SKIIE Centre, SKUAST-K, Naveed Hamid, emphasized the importance of innovation-led approaches in transforming traditional farming systems toward commercially viable approaches through scientific innovative intervention.



He gave stress on changing the mindset and mapping the same with new trends in agriculture and agribusiness system for ideation generation.

He elaborated on the objectives of HADP-16 and the crucial role of SKIIE Centre under the dynamic leadership of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir A Ganai and Director Research SKUAST K, Prof. Haroon R Naik in promoting innovation, incubation, and start-up culture within the agricultural ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir.

Professor, Government Degree College, Pulwama, Dr. Naveed Ahmad, highlighted the importance of integrating organic farming practices with scientific interventions to enhance productivity, profitability, and environmental health.

The Technical Session was presented by Director Happico Industries, Dr. Rouf Ahmad and Director Glowtips, Dr. Muneer Ahmad who deliberated on the importance of organic farming technologies, start-up opportunities, value addition, and policy support for agri-entrepreneurship.

They emphasized the role of SKUAST-Kashmir in providing incubation and handholding support and skill-based training to aspiring agri-preneurs.

HADP-16 Staff member, Dr. Shayista Fayaz, briefly threw light on startup opportunities in the organic sector and support under HADP to kickstart their enterprise followed by a briefing on registration process for Agri-Innovate Hackathon/ Grand Challenge.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, start-up aspirants, and faculty members of Govt. Degree college Pulwama who engaged in interactive discussions on the potential of organic agriculture as a sustainable and profitable enterprise and shared out of the box ideas with the technical team.

Later an hour deliberation with Principal GDC Pulwama Prof. Haris took place on remodifying the traditional educational and Agricultural system and mapping the mindset of these young minds towards Agri-Startups culture.



DC Shopian reviews progress of works of RDD Sector under District Capex Budget 2025-26

FE NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta chaired a review meeting to assess the status and progress of works being executed by the Rural Development Department (RDD) as part of the District Capex Budget, 2025-26.

During the meeting, DC was informed that under the current financial year, a total of 1565 works have been approved in the RDD sector across different blocks of the district. Out of these, 250 works have been completed so far while the execution of the rest of works is ongoing.

The DC emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of execution so that all approved works are completed within the stipulated time frame keeping in view the approaching winter season.

He also directed concerned to maintain transparency, quality control and regular monitoring through field inspections with corresponding booking of expenditure on account of completed works.

While reviewing the block-wise status, the DC called upon the officers to prioritize public utility and community-oriented projects that directly benefit rural populations.

He stressed on judicious utilization of funds under the District Capex and underlined the importance of coordination for achieving set targets, both in physical and financial aspects.

Frontline engineering RDD staff was instructed to improve the work performance and ensure cent percent quality execution of approved plan of activities during the current financial year.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ACD, Muzaffar Ahmad; DSEO, ExEn, REW, AEEs, JEs, Panchayat Secretaries and other officials of the RDD.



Secretary S&T Chairs TAC to finalise Research Projects

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Science and Technology, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, organized a two-day meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKST&IC) on 14th and 15th October 2025 at the SKICC, Srinagar. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Science & Technology, as the Chairperson of the Committee.



The TAC convened to evaluate and finalise research proposals under the Sponsored Research and Extension Programme (SREP)—a flagship initiative of the Science & Technology Department aimed at promoting indigenous research and supporting scientists in developing solutions to region-specific socio-economic and environmental challenges. This year, the Department received 525 project proposals, including 306 from the Kashmir region and 219 from the Jammu region, from a wide range of universities, medical and technical institutions, and research laboratories across the Union Territory. The proposals were reviewed across 20 thematic areas, focusing on climate change, glacier studies, water and energy security, food sufficiency, environmental protection, public health, and natural disasters, among others.

The Committee comprised eminent scientists and academicians, including Dr. Anish Yadav (SKUAST-Jammu), Dr. Parvinder Pal Singh (CSIR-IIIM Jammu), Dr. Mudasir Andrabi (SKUAST-Kashmir), Dr. Aabid Hussain Shalla (IUST-Kashmir), Dr. Meena Sharma (University of Jammu), Dr. Kumud Ranjan Jha (SMVDU), Dr. Ambika Prasad (IIT Jammu), and Dr. Anil Bhat (SKUAST-Jammu). Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, Additional Director, JKST&IC, served as Member Secretary of the Committee.

In his remarks, Dr. Shahid Choudhary emphasized that novelty, methodology, and societal impact should be central to the evaluation process. He reiterated the Government's resolve to build a strong ecosystem for research, innovation, and technological advancement in Jammu & Kashmir. "The R&D funding policy is designed to provide early-stage support to promising ideas, enabling researchers to transform their innovative concepts into scalable and sustainable solutions," he stated.

Dr. Choudhary further underlined that the Science & Technology and Biotechnology Departments have a major mandate to finance and facilitate R&D across diverse disciplines. He urged researchers to maintain high ethical standards, ensure the efficient use of public funds, and align research priorities with societal needs while safeguarding academic freedom and scientific excellence.

The Chairperson also directed the Council to develop an online portal for submission, evaluation, and tracking of research proposals to ensure transparent and merit-based funding. He suggested that universities and research institutions nominate expert panels for internal screening before forwarding proposals to the Department.

The TAC concluded its deliberations with the finalisation of select high-impact, regionally relevant projects that will be placed before the Government for approval. The selected projects are expected to contribute significantly to scientific advancement, policy innovation, and sustainable development in Jammu & Kashmir.

Era

will identify terror victim families whose houses were destroyed by the terrorists.

The Lieutenant Governor said the culprit Pakistani terrorists and their support system in the valley ran a false narrative for three decades to absolve terror country Pakistan for its sins.

"Pakistan, breeding ground of terrorism, is exposed now and those involved in peddling a fake narrative on behalf of terrorists will be brought to justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg; DIG NKR Baramulla, Maqsood-Ul-Zaman; Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse; SSP Kupwara, Syed Al-Tahir Gilani; Chairman, Save Youth Save Future Foundation,Shri Wajahat Farooq Bhat and other members of the Foundation, senior officials and family members of victims of terrorism were present. (DIPR)

Cabinet Greenlights

Assistance Scheme. As per existing guidelines, a girl availing benefits of the scheme must be middle pass.

The cabinet has also given nod to in Schedule II of Jammu and Kashmir Engineering (Gazetted) Services Recruitment Rules 1978 which would pave the way for filling the posts of Chief Engineers and other higher-ups in different engineering departments.

It has been learnt that cabinet has given nod to e-auctioning of limestone mineral blocks in J&K. Besides, it has also given go-ahead to administrative approval for a sewerage scheme at tourist resort of Gulmarg at a cost of Rs 45.80 crore—(KNO)

Restrictions

Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in Leh, banning the assembly of five or more persons.

No incident of violence had been reported since then, officials said.

"I do hereby withdraw the restrictions imposed vide this office order dated September 24 with immediate effect," District Magistrate Leh, Romil Singh Donk, said in an order on Wednesday.

He said certain restrictions were imposed under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to prevent any breach of peace and disturbance to public tranquillity.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, in a report submitted on Wednesday, said that there is no imminent apprehension of breach of peace and public order and recommended withdrawal of the restrictions under Section 163 BNSS, the DM said.

Police arrested climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on September 26, two days after clashes between security forces and protesters demanding Ladakh's statehood and Sixth Schedule status left four people dead and 90 injured. He was detained under the National Security Act (NSA) for allegedly inciting the violence and shifted to Jodhpur jail.

Wangchuk, a leading voice of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been spearheading a five-year-long agitation demanding statehood and constitutional safeguards for the residents of Leh and Kargil. (PTI)

Omar Abdullah

monitoring of mining activities through dashboards integrated with e-Challan and e-Market systems. This innovation aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and regulatory compliance in mineral operations across Jammu and Kashmir.

He informed the meeting that over 243 triggers have already been generated for field verification through features such as vehicle tracking, GPS-enabled monitoring, PoS-linked e-challaning (integrated with J&K Bank), and on-the-spot enforcement to curb illegal mining.

While appreciating the initiative, the Chief Minister directed the developers to explore delineating and delegating PoS functions to expand the use of digital monitoring systems. He also called for integration of the department's existing portal with the IMSS platform to ensure seamless implementation and improved results.

Omar Abdullah further suggested that the application should allow citizens to register complaints through mobile gadgets to be integrated in the system with satellite imagery or other evidence, strengthening public participation and grievance redressal.

The Chief Minister instructed the department to categorize active and non-active mineral vendors or suppliers and establish a dedicated monitoring cell at the Directorate level for continuous data tracking and real-time oversight.

Reviewing ongoing reforms under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) 2025-26, the Chief Minister was informed that the department has initiated a series of key measures aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring greater transparency in the mining sector. These include a shift towards an auction-based system for allocation of mineral blocks, introduction of mine closure and rehabilitation provisions, and the implementation of advanced survey and mapping mechanisms. The department has also operationalized the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) framework to ensure that mining revenues directly contribute to local area development and welfare initiatives.

Further, the meeting was informed, efforts are underway to revise royalty fee structure and penal provisions to align with current market realities while improving compliance.

The Mining Department has made the use of GPS-enabled transport and PoS-based transactions mandatory to track mineral movement and prevent leakages. Legal enforcement mechanisms have been reinforced through the requirement of royalty clearance certificates, in line with recent directions from the Hon'ble High Court, thereby tightening regulatory oversight and ensuring responsible mineral extraction practices.

The department also presented the status of major and minor mineral blocks, highlighting progress in auctioning and granting of mining leases across districts. The Chief Minister emphasized that all clearances and NoCs must be obtained in advance before blocks are allocated through auction to avoid procedural and operational delays faced by successful allotees & bidders who have to run from pillar to post in obtaining environmental and other clearances.

Speaking on the issue of illegal mining, Omar Abdullah underscored the need to eliminate collusion at lower levels of administration, asserting that illegal operations cannot persist without internal complicity.

"In my previous tenure, illegal mining was never a concern. With the technological tools now available, any such activity is only possible if there's collusion at the lower level. The department must use these systems effectively to eliminate that possibility. The more we reduce such collusion, the lesser the chances of illegal mining," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister also reviewed exploration projects currently being carried out by MECL and GSI, covering sapphire, lithium, lignite, and shallow biogenic gas reserves in various districts. He was informed about ongoing exploration of granite, graphite, gypsum, copper, and base metals, supported by detailed geological mapping, drilling, and feasibility assessments.

He stressed on ensuring strict compliance with environmental regulations, particularly in eco-sensitive zones, while expanding mineral development activities in a sustainable manner.

The Chief Minister commended the Mining Department for adopting digital innovation and institutional reforms and urged continued focus on transparency, efficiency, and environmental responsibility in the sector. (DIPR)

CS reviews

Education, Health & Medical Education, and Skill Development Departments; besides several other Heads of Departments and senior officers.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary termed the youth engagement programme a significant step towards nurturing creativity, innovation, and leadership among young people across the Union Territory. He emphasized the need to make the initiative multidisciplinary so that every young person is engaged meaningfully in line with their individual talents and aspirations.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon departments including Youth Services & Sports, Culture, School Education, Higher Education, Health, Rural Development, and others to devise strategic departmental plans for engaging maximum youth across their respective sectors. He also directed the Deputy Commissioners to prepare district-specific action plans for effective on-ground implementation.

Highlighting the centrality of coordinated efforts, the Chief Secretary designated the Planning Department as the nodal agency for overall implementation and monitoring of the initiative. He instructed it to develop a unified online platform for uploading and tracking all youth engagement activities across departments. The General Administration Department (GAD) was tasked with framing a Steering Committee to ensure smooth inter-departmental coordination and effective execution of the programme.

Underscoring the need to leverage existing national-level initiatives, he called for tapping into schemes and platforms of the Ministry of Youth Affairs such as My Bharat, NSS, Youth Exchange Activities, and Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, which provide valuable exposure and skill-building opportunities for youth.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took feedback from Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners regarding their proposed strategies for maximizing outreach and participation under the programme. He urged all departments and district administrations to adopt a collaborative and convergent approach, pooling resources and expertise for impactful implementation at the grassroots level. He further enjoined upon the Information Department to create necessary awareness among the public about the youth welfare schemes and other orientation programmes for furthering their career pursuits.

Presenting the framework, Director General, Planning, Satvir Kour, highlighted that the initiative seeks to harness the creativity and dynamism of youth recognizing them as key drivers of social transformation and economic progress. She said the programme would equip young people with life skills, values, and self-confidence, steering them away from vulnerabilities such as substance abuse, unemployment, and social evils.

The Strategic Action Plan presented covers multiple dimensions of engagement, including Sports and Cultural Development. Revival of traditional arts, crafts, and cultural festivals such as Sufi festivals, classical arts performances, literary gatherings, and visual arts exhibitions promoting J&K's rich heritage while creating livelihood opportunities is going to be the innate part of this programme.

With respect to furthering the Education and Skill Development the action plan focuses on making education and vocational training more accessible, market-relevant, and skill-oriented to enhance employability and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Another key pillar of the strategy includes entrepreneurship and business development which envisages expanding access to startup ecosystems, incubation centres, and financial assistance through schemes like PMEGP, REGP, NRLM (Lakhpati Didis), and Startup J&K, to nurture a new generation of self-reliant entrepreneurs across agriculture, technology, tourism, and handicrafts.

Encouraging productive digital engagement through webinars, innovation contests, and online learning platforms to connect rural youth with experts and mentors, is another strategic feature of this youth engagement programme.

Further, the District Development Commissioners (DDCs) are going to identify two socio-economically backward blocks in each district and prepare targeted plans for youth engagement across education, skilling, cultural activities, sports, and livelihoods. The DDCs were also instructed to ensure extensive awareness among young citizens regarding various government welfare and empowerment schemes to encourage their proactive participation.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to make youth empowerment a collective mission, integrating efforts of all departments to channelize the energy and potential of the young population towards a vibrant, inclusive, and progressive Jammu and Kashmir. (DIPR)

LG visits

revenue generating startups, women's digital inclusion and strengthening national integration. (DIPR)

Omar Govt's

Assembly Session while the other pledges like free 200 units of electricity, 12 gas cylinders to economically weaker sections, Rs 5,000 per month to women belonging to EWS, establishing a medical trust to fight against serious diseases like cancer, reinstating free education up to the university level have remained unfulfilled.

The NC had also promised a comprehensive job package for youth, and redrawing the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, and the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019 have also been oversighted so far.

For many, the past 12 months have felt more like a year of waiting than one of transformation.

One of the key planks of NC was tackling unemployment, promising a comprehensive job package for the youth. However, the unemployment rate, instead of witnessing a decline, has increased further as no major recruitment has taken place in the year, and the policy is nowhere in sight.

"We have been promised employment. But a year has elapsed; it seems nothing is going to happen for the educated youth with no measures in sight over the promised job policy," Aijaz Ahmad, one of the unemployed youth, told KNO.

Looking Ahead

As the Omar Abdullah government enters its second year, the pressure to deliver is mounting.

With the government continuing to make promises over delivering their pledges mentioned in the manifesto, the road ahead is far from easy.

The Chief Minister has repeatedly mentioned that they have been given a five-year time to deliver on the promises, insisting that systemic change cannot happen overnight.

But for the people, time is a luxury and a year without making any positive change on the ground, over-delivering on the promises has made them quite disappointed.

Opposition Reacts

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary and J&K in-charge, Tarun Chugh, slammed CM Abdullah, saying that despite completing one year in office, his government has "failed" to fulfil even a single promise made to the people.

Chugh said the people of Jammu and Kashmir demand accountability from the government, as none of the commitments made during the elections have been honoured.

Accusing the NC government of "not fulfilling" its pre-poll promises, People's Democratic Party (PDP) president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, a few days ago, drew parallels with the then Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi, saying the latter focused on developmental works despite governing in a Union Territory.

"It has been one year since the government has been in power here, but they haven't done enough despite promising jobs, free power supply and other incentives. Kejriwal gave free electricity to people, while over here, consumers are being charged heavily. There are even talks of water charges now," Mehbooba said.

Taking a dig at the NC government, Apni Party president and former minister, Syed Altaf Bukhari, said the party has failed to deliver on its promises.

"The people have lost faith as NC has failed to fulfil its commitments. There is no visible development, no electricity waiver, no social welfare schemes, no free 200 units of power, no release of jailed youth, and rising unemployment," he said—(KNO)

Five-Year

work on the construction of the Bailey Bridge at the earliest.

He further instructed officers to ensure that all ongoing works, including the Bund Road, Chanpora–Natipora Junction and other road projects, are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

During his visit to Bagh-e-Mehtab, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected ongoing macadamization works in Baghe Mehtab area and assured strict action against use of sub- standard material or any other negligence are reported.

During tour, various delegations called on the Deputy Chief Minister and appreciated the Deputy CM for taking spot inspections of the ongoing works.

Among others, Chief Engineer R&B Sushil Kumar; SEs from R&B, SMC, Housing, and other senior officers from concerned departments accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the tour. (DIPR)

J&K Bypolls

the electorate, she added, "Nagrota will always remain with BJP. I am sure the voters will bless me with overwhelming support."

The BJP's Central Election Committee (CEC) cleared Devyani's name alongside Aga Syed Mohsin for the Budgam seat in Kashmir, as confirmed in an official release from the party headquarters in New Delhi.

This decision overrides speculation around other contenders like Nand Kishore Sharma and Anil Sharma, banking instead on the sympathy wave generated by Devender Rana's passing. The senior Rana had scripted history in the 2024 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections by securing a record 48,113 votes – the highest margin in the Union Territory at 30,472 votes – defeating National Conference (NC) candidate Joginder Singh.

A former NC loyalist, who defected to the BJP in 2021, Devender Rana had previously won the seat in 2014 on an NC ticket, underscoring the constituency's volatile yet BJP-leaning dynamics since 1996.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party (India) Chairman and former Minister Harsh Dev Singh on the same day issued a fervent appeal to the NC and Congress – allies in the ruling INDIA bloc – to back him as their consensus opposition candidate.

Positioning himself as a viable alternative to the BJP's "dynastic politics", Singh argued that a united front was essential to counter the ruling party's dominance in Nagrota, a seat where the NC-Congress alliance had faltered in 2024 by fielding separate candidates.

In a statement shared via social media and addressed to NC president Farooq Abdullah and Congress leaders, Harsh Dev Singh said, "I make a strong appeal to the National Conference (NC) and Congress to support me as the consensus candidate from the INDIA Alliance in the upcoming Nagrota assembly by-poll elections. The people of Nagrota deserve a united opposition voice against the BJP's machinery, not fragmented efforts that dilute our strength. Let us set aside differences for the greater good of democracy and the aspirations of the youth and marginalized sections in our constituency."

Singh, a two-time former MLA from the Ramnagar (now reserved post-delimitation), highlighted his grassroots connect with people during the tenure as Education Minister in Mufti Sayeed's government during 2002-2006.

He cautioned that without unity, the bypoll could reinforce BJP's grip, potentially at the expense of the coalition's broader agenda on statehood restoration and regional equity.

The appeal comes amid reported strains within the NC-Congress partnership, which failed to consolidate votes in Nagrota during the last polls – NC's Joginder Singh polled 17,641 votes, while Congress's Balbir Singh managed 5,979.

Neither the NC nor Congress has announced its candidate yet, leaving room for Singh's overture.

Political analysts view this as a tactical bid by the Panthers Party leader to exploit alliance fissures, especially as the bypoll serves as a litmus test for the ruling coalition's cohesion post the 2024 elections.

Nagrota, encompassing parts of Jammu district with a diverse voter base including urban professionals, farmers, and ex-servicemen, remains a prestige battleground.

The BJP's 2024 triumph here was pivotal in its Jammu sweep, contrasting with the NC's Valley dominance.

With counting slated for November 14, the bypoll – alongside Budgam – is expected to draw national attention, gauging public mood on governance, development, and the push for J&K's full statehood.

As campaigns gear up, Devyani Rana's camp is already mobilizing on themes of continuity and progress, while Harsh Dev Singh's plea underscores the opposition's high-wire act—(KNO)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U T)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.**

Corrigendum 02 for Date Extension

Name of work: Rate contract for repairs/maintenance to various snow Cats (Tractors) of different Models and makes of Machinery Division Kashmir (PSCCR Srinagar and SCCR Budgam).

Reference: - This office e-NIT No.: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/45 Date:25-09-2025 (Tender ID: 2025_PWDJK_289622 _1)

Due to poor response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT is extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	14-10-2025 upto 06:55PM	22-10-2025 upto 09:00AM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	15-10-2025 at 02:00 PM	22-10-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

DIPK-7205/25
Dt: 15-10-2025

No: MDSK/TS/3257-61 Date: 15-10-2025.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) DIVISION DOORU**

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIT NO 37 OF R&B/DOORU/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/ 2775-80 DATED 15/10/2025

E-tenders (**In single cover system**) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a ***Percentage Rate basis*** for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (InRupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*
1	Clearance of Snow for various roads Temple link Lukbawan , Khanpora Link, Larkipora Bongam and Kralpora, Polytechnic College at larkipora, Sadoora Babdar road., Qabamarg Shrine Link, Batpora Fathehpora Link, Bongam Fathehpora Link, Beigh Pora Fathehpora Link, Lukbawan to Qabamarg link, Babdar fatehpora road, (Agg length=10.35 Km). **(Stage 6)**	**500**	**5000**	**3054 Snow**	**All Classes**

1 The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website **www.jktenders.gov.in** as per schedule of dates given below:-

Table 1:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		15-10-2025	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	15-10-2025	(5:00 PM)
		To	20-10-2025	(06:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	15-10-2025	(5:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	20-10-2025	(06:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		21-10-2023	(11:30 PM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Dooru.		

2 Bids must be accompanied by a **Treasury Challan (*dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date*) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Dooru (tender inviting authority)** as the cost of the tender document.

3 All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.5000/= at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer R&B Division Dooru In strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs.10,000/= at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the Contract.

3 The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site **www.jktenders.gov.in** and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of ***Executive Engineer R&B Division Dooru*** **(tender receiving authority).**

4 The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.**

5 The earnest money shall be forfeited, if: -

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within three days from the date of intimation.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days.

Sd/Ex.Engineer

DIPK-7195/25 Dt: 15-10-2025

Tourism Ministry Convenes to Develop "One State: One Global Destination" Vision

NEWDELHI: Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology inaugurated the 16th International Railway Equipment Exhibition-2025, Asia's largest and the world's second-largest railway exhibition at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi today.

The Union Minister announced plans to develop dedicated passenger corridors, engineered for maximum speeds of up to 350 kmph with an operating speed of 320 kmph. He said that many such corridors will be constructed across the country, forming part of the Government's Viksit Bharat vision, which targets the development of around 7,000 km of dedicated routes by 2047. These corridors will be equipped with indigenously developed signalling systems and modern Operations Control Centres (OCCs).

The Minister said that Vande Bharat is a huge success. On technical parameters, it matches with the best in the world. India is working on the next generation of high-speed trains, with a strong focus on the export market. He stated that India is currently operating Vande Bharat 3.0, which represents a significant improvement over its earlier versions. The Minister highlighted that Vande Bharat 3.0 already meets international benchmarks, capable of accelerating from 0 to 100 kmph in just 52 seconds—faster than many trains in Japan and Europe—while maintaining lower noise and vibration levels. He added that Vande Bharat 4.0 is expected to be launched within the next 18 months, aiming to set global benchmarks in every aspect of performance and passenger experience. The



new version will focus on enhancing toilets, improving seats, and elevating the overall workmanship of the coaches. He said the goal is to establish Vande Bharat 4.0 as the global standard, a train so advanced in quality and comfort that countries around the world would aspire to adopt it.

The Minister also discussed the progress of Amrit Bharat trains. He noted that Amrit Bharat 2.0 is operational, while version 3.0 is under development based on push-pull technology—suitable for long-distance journeys. The Minister stated that Amrit Bharat 4.0 will feature next-generation trainsets and locomotives. He added that within the next 36 months, the new-generation passenger locomotives are expected to be designed, manufactured, and ready for testing.

The Union Minister said that in the last 11 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, special focus has been given to the modernization and expansion of Indian Railways. For this, the Railway budget has been continuously increased. In the last 11 years, more than 35,000 kilometres of new tracks have been laid and 46,000 kilometres of electrification has been completed. He informed that on the world stage, Indian Railways is now also emerging as a major exporter. Rail engines manufactured in India are being exported to Africa, Australia, and many other countries.

The Union Minister informed that 156 Vande Bharat services, 30 Amrit Bharat services, and 4 Namo Bharat services are now running across India. He stated that in the year 2024-25, a record more than 7,000 coaches, approximately 42,000 wagons, and 1,681 locomotives were produced. Along with this, the country's first 9,000 HP electric locomotive was inaugurated, while 12,000 HP locomotives are already in operation.

Vaishnaw also said that Indian Railways, which serves more than 20 million passengers daily, has now become the world's second-largest network in freight transport, surpassing the US. He said the bullet train project is progressing rapidly and the Dedicated Freight Corridor work has been 99% completed. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, more than 1,300 railway stations across the country are being redeveloped. (PIB)

CSIR–NIIST Celebrates Golden Jubilee; Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Innovation Centre to Boost Startups

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The CSIR–National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR–NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, marked its Golden Jubilee with a grand event attended by Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who highlighted the institute's pivotal role in



India's transformation into an innovation-driven, knowledge-based economy.

Recalling that the institute was established fifty years ago with the objective of harnessing the southern peninsula's abundant natural resources for scientific and societal development, Dr. Singh said that CSIR–NIIST has been at the forefront of translating research into practical solutions, combining sustainability with entrepreneurship.

According to PIB, as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, Dr. Singh inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Building and the CSIR–NIIST Innovation Centre, designed to serve as a hub for converting research ideas into commercially viable products and startups.

Emphasizing the centre's interdisciplinary scope, Dr. Singh said it will nurture entrepreneurs and support innovation across sectors ranging from agriculture to artificial intelligence. He noted that the first cohort of ten startups has already completed incubation, reflecting the institute's ability to convert scientific discoveries into market-ready innovations.

Dr. Singh further informed that the Government of Kerala has allotted land at Thonnakkal for the proposed Center for Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship within the Bio 360 Life Sciences Park. The new facility is expected to accelerate translational research in biotechnology and life sciences, bridging the gap between laboratory breakthroughs and real-world applications, thereby creating life-changing solutions for the public.

Highlighting NIIST's major achievements, Dr. Singh enumerated several nationally significant innovations: a biomedical waste conversion rig installed at AIIMS Delhi, which converts infectious medical waste into non-toxic material; the development of "designer rice" suitable for diabetic and pre-diabetic populations; indigenous Vaccine Vial Monitors (VVMs) that reduce dependency on imports; and research on sustainable packaging alternatives to plastics. He emphasized that these initiatives demonstrate science with direct social impact, supporting national programs such as Swachh Bharat, Ayushman Bharat, and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Despite being a relatively small institute, Dr. Singh noted that NIIST has shown remarkable growth. Over the past two years, its institutional budget has increased by 1.5 times to over 120 crore, with approximately half allocated to research and development. The institute has transferred 28 technologies, signed 65 agreements with industry, and achieved record levels of external funding and research output, reflecting what the Minister described as "purposeful excellence."

Dr. Singh also underscored the institute's national leadership role, recalling that it organized the 10th India International Science Festival at IIT Guwahati in 2024, which attracted over 40,000 participants. He said that hosting a major science festival spanning the country from the southern tip to the northeast demonstrates CSIR–NIIST's ability to unify and lead scientific initiatives on a national scale.

Speaking about the broader innovation ecosystem, Dr. Singh stressed the importance of whole-of-government and whole-of-nation approaches, integrating interdisciplinary research with inter-ministerial collaboration. He cited ongoing collaborations between CSIR and the Department of Biotechnology, and pointed to the government's recent decision to allow private sector participation in strategic areas such as space and nuclear research, describing this as a model for India's future innovation framework.

Highlighting India's rising global innovation standing, Dr. Singh said the country's Global Innovation Index ranking has improved from 81 in 2014 to 38 in 2025, reflecting India's emergence as a top-tier innovation performer. He also noted that 55 percent of patents filed in India are now resident patents, indicating growing domestic technological capacity and confidence.(PIB)

NPCI Warns Against Festive Payment Scams

Festivals are a time of celebration, gifting, and increased shopping activity. Both online and offline channels offer attractive discounts, limited-time sales, and cash-back promotions that encourage quick purchasing decisions. In this festive rush, many individuals may act impulsively to secure a 'too good to be true' deal. Scamsters are aware of these behavioral patterns and often exploit them through social engineering. As scams evolve with technology, awareness and a few mindful steps can help users enjoy a safe and seamless experience.

Shop Only on Official Apps and Websites: Fraudsters create lookalike websites and links, especially during sale season, to steal personal and payment details. Always type the web address yourself or use the official app. Avoid clicking on links from promotional emails, SMS or forwarded messages. Do not download files or click on links from unknown sources, as they may contain harmful software and could gain access to your device.

Complete Payments only Within the Platform: Some scams push users to pay on external UPI IDs or links outside the shopping app or site, skipping safety checks. Always complete transactions on the official checkout page and confirm the seller's details.

Be Careful with Free Vouchers and Cashback promises: Messages offering rewards, cashback or festival gifts may ask for OTPs, account details or small "fees". Genuine offers don't need sensitive information or upfront payments. Pause and verify before engaging.

Treat Unexpected OTP Requests as Warning: Some messages claim that a payment has failed, or an account is blocked, and then request OTPs to "fix" the problem. OTPs are meant only to confirm a transaction initiated by users. Banks or payment apps never ask for them over calls or messages.

Don't Act Under Pressure: Scammers create urgency by saying an offer will expire soon or your account will be blocked if you don't act. Genuine platforms don't use fear or rush tactics. Take a moment to check before responding.

To ensure a secure transaction experience, users should adopt the 'Stop, Think, Act' principle. By stopping at the point of unexpected requests, thinking and verifying the information, and acting wisely, users can effectively safeguard transactions and protect sensitive information, ensuring a secure experience. (PR)

NPCI
भारतीय राष्ट्रीय भुगतान निगम
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ECI Tightens Measures Against Money Power and Ensures Accessible Voting for PwDs in Bihar Elections

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday issued stringent directives to enforcement agencies to curb the use of money power, freebies, drugs, narcotics, and liquor in the upcoming General Election to the Bihar Legislative Assembly and the bye-elections in eight Assembly Constituencies, following the schedule announced on October 6, 2025.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson of Election Commission of India (ECI) said to ensure free and fair elections, expenditure observers have already been deployed to monitor candidate spending and have reached their respective constituencies. During their visits, they are engaging with teams responsible for expenditure monitoring. Flying Squads, Surveillance Teams, and Video Surveillance Teams are working round-the-clock to detect any suspected use of inducements to influence voters.

Additionally, the Election Seizure Management System (ESMS), an online platform for real-time reporting of seizures and interceptions, has been activated. Since the announcement of elections, enforcement agencies have seized a total of Rs. 33.97 crore worth of cash, liquor, drugs, and other freebies. The Commission emphasized that ordinary citizens should not face inconvenience or harassment during inspections, and any violations can be reported through the C-Vigil App.

In a parallel effort to ensure inclusivity, the ECI issued detailed instructions to Chief Electoral Officers to make polling stations in Bihar fully accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). All 90,712 polling stations will be located at ground-floor or road-entry level, equipped with ramps at proper gradients to facilitate access for wheelchair users and senior citizens. PwD electors and senior citizens will be given priority while entering polling booths. For visually impaired voters, Accessible Voter Information Slips with Braille features will be issued alongside regular slips. Under Rule 49N of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, visually impaired voters may also take a companion to cast their vote if needed. Dummy Ballot Sheets in Braille will be available at all polling stations, allowing visually impaired voters to cast votes independently on EVMs using the Braille facility.

Transport and wheelchair services will be provided at polling stations, which can be requested through the Divyang (Saksham) Module of ECINET. In a landmark step, 292 polling stations in Bihar will be exclusively managed by Persons with Disabilities.

Through these comprehensive measures, the ECI aims to maintain the integrity of the electoral process while ensuring participation of all eligible voters, including those with disabilities, reinforcing the democratic principles of transparency, fairness, and inclusivity. (PIB)

Sri Lankan PM to make first official visit to India from October 16-18

NEWDELHI: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya to visit India from October 16 to 18, marking her first official visit to the country since assuming office, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday.



She will meet Indian political leaders to discuss bilateral issues of mutual interest.

As part of her visit, she will deliver the keynote address at the NDTV World Summit, an event jointly organised by NDTV and the Chintan Research Foundation in Delhi.

Further, MEA stated that Harini Amarasuriya, who is also the Education Minister of Sri Lanka, will visit the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi as well as NITI Aayog to explore avenues of collaboration in the domains of education and technology.

The PM of Sri Lanka, a distinguished alumna of the Hindu College of Delhi University, will also visit her alma mater. In addition, she will participate in a business event to strengthen commercial linkages between the countries, according to MEA.

This visit continues the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between India and Sri Lanka, advancing the deep and multi-faceted bilateral ties. It will further strengthen the bonds of friendship, reinforced by India's 'MAHASAGAR Vision' and its 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

On October 2, Amarasuriya, along with Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha, offered floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Temple Trees, at the Prime Minister's Office in Colombo.

Sharing pictures on X, the High Commission of India in Colombo, Sri Lanka wrote, "Hon'ble Prime Minister @Dr_HariniA, along with High Commissioner @santjha, offered floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Temple Trees, the official residence and office of the Prime Minister, today."

This year marks the 156th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, remembered as the Father of the Nation for his pivotal role in India's freedom struggle.

Born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, revered as Mahatma Gandhi, was the pioneer of non-violent resistance. Through his philosophy of ahimsa and satyagraha, he mobilised millions of Indians to participate in the freedom struggle against British colonial rule.

On January 30, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse at Gandhi Smriti in New Delhi, just months after India attained independence. (ANI)

Ukrainian officials meet with US weapons manufacturers before Trump-Zelenskyy talks

KYIV(UKRAINE): A Ukrainian government delegation has met with prominent American weapons manufacturers during a US visit, a senior Kyiv official said Wednesday, before President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's meeting with US counterpart Donald Trump at the White House later this week.

A delegation led by the head of the Ukrainian president's office, Andrii Yermak, and Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko met with representatives of Lockheed Martin and Raytheon, Yermak wrote in a Telegram post.

Yermak didn't disclose what was discussed during the talks, but said that his country's cooperation with the two companies "continues to grow" as Ukraine looks for further help resisting Russia's all-out war, which began on February 24, 2022.

Mykhailo Podolyak, a senior adviser to Yermak, posted on X that Ukraine is seeking cruise missiles, air defence systems and joint drone production agreements from the United States.



Raytheon produces Patriot air defence systems, which have been vital for Ukrainian efforts to counter Russian long-range strikes, and Tomahawk cruise missiles. Kyiv officials are keen to obtain Tomahawks, which could allow Ukraine to strike targets deep inside Russia, including Moscow, accurately and with large warheads.

Lockheed Martin also manufactures a wide array of sophisticated weapon systems that can help Ukraine.

While Zelenskyy is widely expected to request Trump's go-ahead at the Oval Office to procure Tomahawks, Washington has hesitated over such a move out of concern that it could escalate the war and deepen tensions between the United States and Russia.

However, Trump on Sunday warned Russia that he may send Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine if Moscow doesn't end its war there soon—possibly using that threat to increase the pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin to compromise.

Putin said that Tomahawks wouldn't change the situation on the battlefield in Ukraine, while Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said in published remarks Sunday that the issue of Tomahawks is "of extreme concern" to Moscow.

NATO defence ministers were meeting in Brussels on Wednesday to discuss how they can maintain the momentum of weapons supplies to Ukraine after European military aid for Kyiv dropped sharply in the summer. European allies and Canada are buying American weapons to help Kyiv hold back Russia's forces.

Meanwhile, Svyrydenko, the Ukrainian prime minister, said that she met with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Tuesday, as the two countries put the finishing touches to the US-Ukraine Reinvestment Fund, part of an agreement granting American access to Ukraine's vast mineral resources.

Svyrydenko said that the fund is "several important decisions away" from starting to function.

The first potential projects set to receive investments in the critical minerals, energy and infrastructure sectors are taking shape, she said.

Meanwhile, Russia and Ukraine continued their almost daily attacks on each other's energy assets, as Ukraine tries to dent Russian fuel supplies and oil revenue and Russia seeks to cripple the Ukrainian power grid before winter.

Ukraine's armed forces conducted an overnight strike on an oil terminal in Feodosia, in the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula, according to a post on Telegram Wednesday by the General Staff. The terminal is an important logistical link supplying Russian forces with fuel, it said.

The attack damaged 16 fuel reservoirs that were still intact after Ukrainian forces struck the terminal last week, sparking a fire, it added.

Meanwhile, Naftogaz Group, Ukraine's biggest oil and gas company, said Wednesday that Russia struck one of its thermal power plants overnight, the latest in a series of major attacks on the company's natural gas facilities and infrastructure. (PTI)

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Auth Dealer: Saleem Trading Co. Bandipora +917006263383

Printer, Publisher, Owner: ***Mir Altaf Hussain.*** *Editor in Chief :* ***Mukhtar Ahmad Wani .*** *Sub Editor:* ***Dar Mukhtar (9622178083)***
Place Of Publication: ***Dalgate Srinagar, Near Jan Bakery.*** *Printed At:* ***Khidmat Offset Press, The Bund Sgr.***
Email: ***editorfisheye@gmail.com.*** *Office Contact:* ***9622178083***