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Modi govt's counter-terror policy in J&K is toughest ever: Amit Shah

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says when **terrorists** tried to rise again, we launched **Operation Sindoor**

SRINAGAR: Asserting that India now responds to terror threats with unprecedented resolve and strength, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the PM Modi-led government's action against terrorism in J&K is unlike anything seen in decades.

Addressing a public rally in Taraiya, Bihar, Shah said, "During the Congress rule, terrorists played 'khoon ki holi' (blood-soaked Holi) across India. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we entered their homes and wiped them out through 'Operation Sindoor.'

He said that terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack were brought to justice under 'Operation Mahadev,' and their handlers were also targeted inside Pakistan. "The way Modi ji responded to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, no one did in the past several decades," he added.

Highlighting the government's achievements, the Home Minister said the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir was a historic decision that permanently integrated the region with the rest of the country. "From removing Article 370 to fighting terrorism, we have acted on every front. When terrorists tried to rise again, we launched Operation Sindoor and taught them a lesson in their own homes," Shah said.



He said the government ended the practice of triple talaq, giving justice to Muslim women, and after 350 years fulfilled the long-standing promise of building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Shah also accused opposition parties of misleading people with "unrealistic promises" and reviving what he described as the politics of corruption and fear.

He said the regime led by PM Modi remains focussed on development, welfare, and national security.

"The Indian economy is now among the fastest-growing in the world, inflation is under control, and the country's global standing has strengthened," he said, adding that the government's vision is to build a self-reliant and secure nation rooted in cultural values.

> "The **Indian economy** is now among the fastest-growing in the world, inflation is under control, and the country's **global standing** has strengthened," he said, adding that the **government's vision** is to build a self-reliant and secure nation rooted in cultural values.

Calling for public vigilance, Shah urged citizens to stay alert against those who seek to derail progress. "Only a stable government can ensure continuity of development and the safety of the nation," he said.

The Home Minister also launched a sharp attack on Lalu Prasad Yadav, the RJD, and the INDI Alliance, recalling the "jungle raj" era in Bihar marked by corruption and lawlessness. Expressing confidence, Shah said the NDA would return to power in

See On P/6

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India No Longer Stays Silent After Terror Attacks, Strikes Back: PM Modi

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said it is his guarantee that the day is not far when the nation would be rid of Maoist terror and hit out at the previous Congress regime for nurturing "urban naxals" and turning a blind eye to violence unleashed by them.

Addressing the NDTV World Summit here, he recounted the recent success in countering Maoist terror saying 303 Naxal operatives have surrendered in the past 75 hours and only three districts of the country now remain in the severe grip of left wing extremism.

"Eleven years ago, approximately 125 districts across the country were affected by Maoist terrorism. Today, that number has been significantly reduced to just 11 districts. Of these, only three remain severely impacted by Maoist influence," he said.

Modi said over the past decade, thousands of Naxalites have surrendered, abandoning their violent path.

"To put this into perspective, in the past



75 hours alone: 303 Naxalites have laid down their arms. These were not ordinary individuals; they carried bounties worth lakhs on their heads," he said.

"In the last 50-55 years thousands were killed by Maoist terrorists.

See On P/6

First Industrial Salt Freight from Gujarat Reaches Kashmir

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JAMMU: The first 21-wagon consignment of industrial salt from Gujarat reached south Kashmir on Friday, adding another milestone in freight transportation for the Jammu division of Northern Railway, officials said.



The train, carrying 1,350 tonnes of industrial salt from Kharaghoda Goods Shed in Gujarat, arrived at the Anantnag

See On P/6

MHA orders judicial probe into Leh violence

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, on Friday has ordered a judicial inquiry into the September 24 law and order incident in Leh, which led to the unfortunate death of four individuals during police action.

According to an official notification, "In order to ensure an impartial inquiry, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, today, notified a judicial inquiry to be conducted by Hon'ble Dr Justice B S Chauhan, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, into the circumstances leading to the serious law and order situation, the police action and the resultant unfortunate death of the four individuals."

The government

See On P/6

Police, Security Forces Fought Shoulder to Shoulder in 'Op Sindoor': DG BSF

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HYDERABAD: Director General of Border Security Force, Daljit Singh Chawdhary,



on Friday said that police worked shoulder to shoulder with other security forces during 'Operation Sindoor'.

Speaking after reviewing the passing out parade of the 77th (Regular Recruits) batch of the Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) here, Chawdhary said in moments of great national challenge, the police do not stand alone.

"We have seen this in operations like 'Sindoor' where the police worked shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces and the central armed police forces," he said.

Such coordination is a reminder that the security of the nation is not the task of one institution but a collective effort, he said.

In those moments, IPS officers often become the bridge binding the strength of the state with the trust of the people, ensuring that democracy survives in its toughest tests, Chawdhary said.

From preventing and investigating crime to countering terrorism, from tackling

See On P/6

CM Omar Abdullah Convenes Review Meeting Of District Kulgam

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Emphasizes timely completion of projects, winter preparedness, efficient fund utilization



KULGAM: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a comprehensive review meeting of District Kulgam to assess the progress of developmental works under the District CAPEX Budget 2025–26 and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

The Chief Minister appreciated the district administration's effective response during the recent floods and reviewed ongoing measures for infrastructure restoration and public service delivery. He directed officers to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply during the upcoming winter months, to expedite permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure, to intensify field inspections, and strengthen inter-departmental coordination. He further instructed the officers to prioritize the completion of all ongoing projects within set timelines to ensure visible outcomes on the ground.

> Kulgam, including the **Solid Waste** Management & Material Recovery Facility at Lirrow, the **Municipal Shopping Complex**, and a Modern Abattoir, aimed at strengthening commerce and **civic amenities** in the district.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javid Dar, and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, DDC Chairperson Kulgam,

See On P/6

GMC Anantnag Strengthens Capacity with 50 MBBS, 18 PG Seats

FE NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: In a historic stride for medical education in south Kashmir, the Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag has achieved two remarkable milestones — the grant of 50 additional MBBS seats, raising the total intake to 150, and the approval of 18 postgraduate MD/MS seats by the National Medical Commission (NMC).

The twin approvals mark a transformative moment for the institution and are expected to significantly boost both undergraduate and postgraduate medical training opportunities in the region.

Principal GMC Anantnag, Prof Dr Rukhsana Najeeb, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, for his "unwavering guidance and continuous support" in securing these approvals.

"This is a proud moment for the entire GMC Anantnag fraternity. The addition of 50 MBBS seats will provide more opportunities for aspiring students from South Kashmir and beyond, while the MD/MS recognition places our college among the leading institutions of the country," Prof Najeeb, said.



She said the approval process required rigorous compliance with NMC standards. "I personally visited the NMC office in New Delhi multiple times to present our case, respond to their observations, and ensure full adherence to their criteria. This success is the result of teamwork, persistence, and collective dedication," she added.

Faculty members, residents, and staff hailed Prof Rukhsana's "visionary" leadership and described the development as a "turning point" for the institution. They credited her proactive approach and tireless efforts for putting

> Faculty members, residents, and staff hailed Prof Rukhsana's "visionary" leadership and described the development as a "turning point" for the institution. They credited her proactive approach and tireless efforts for putting GMC Anantnag on the national map of medical excellence.

See On P/6

Budgam By-Election

NC, PDP Delay Nominations Close to Deadline

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Budgam: As the last date for filing nomination papers for the Budgam by-election approaches, the two major regional parties including National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are yet to officially declare their candidates.

Speculations are rife that the National Conference may field Aga Syed Mehmood, though party sources said, that the final decision is expected within the next 24 hours.

In the 2024 General Assembly elections, PDP's Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi had secured 17,525 votes from Budgam, while NC's Omar Abdullah bagged 36,010 votes and won the seat by a significant margin.

Omar Abdullah, however, chose to retain his Ganderbal seat, leaving the Budgam constituency vacant. The Budgam seat fell vacant on October 21, 2024, after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah retained the Ganderbal constituency following his dual victory in last year's Assembly elections.

Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has already announced



Aga Syed Mohsin as its candidate for the Budgam by-polls.

Muntazir Mohiuddin, who was earlier associated with the Apni Party has also confirmed his decision to contest as an independent candidate.

Another independent candidate, Jibran Dar, has filed his

See On P/6

Expecting more powers, putting efforts for statehood: CM Omar

KULGAM: Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah Friday said that his government is making continuous efforts for the restoration of statehood, hoping that more powers (statehood) will be granted soon, which is being delayed for the reasons only known to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Speaking to reporters in Kulgam, Omar, said that statehood was a promise made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and should have been fulfilled by now. "We were hoping that the Centre would restore statehood within a year. We don't know why there is a delay — only the BJP knows. But our fight for it will continue," he said.

On revival of bi-annual Darbar Move practice, Omar said, "I have made it clear from day one that in the Union Territory, whatever promises we made, we will fulfill them. "The Darbar Move was one of the promises we made in our manifesto, and since 2021, it has been restored."

About reservation, the Chief Minister said that a cabinet sub-committee

See On P/6

DC Doda reviews progress of NHIDCL Projects

Stresses on Road Safety, timeline completion of Highway Works

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DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of road safety and infrastructure works being executed by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).



The meeting focused on the ongoing works along the Batote–Kishtwar National Highway, with special emphasis on improving road safety, maintaining traffic flow and ensuring the timely completion of developmental projects.

Detailed discussions were held regarding construction of crash barriers, culverts, drainage systems, blacktopping and widening of narrow stretches. The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure the immediate removal of encroachments and expedite the blacktopping of the Batote–Nashri road. He also emphasized that blacktopping of all key stretches must be completed before the onset of winter to ensure smooth movement of vehicles and avoid road damage during snowfall. Additionally, he instructed the NHIDCL to expedite the shifting of electricity towers obstructing road work and constituted a committee to review and resolve the matter. Stressing on public safety, the DC instructed the NHIDCL to prioritize widening of sharp curves and strengthening of retaining walls, particularly at sensitive locations such as Khellani Mahalla, Ragi Nallah, Assar stretch and Thanda Pani.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the status of bridge construction along the highway and instructed the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work. He specifically directed the removal of a large boulder at Jalebi Mohare, Pul Doda to prevent any potential mishaps and ensure smooth vehicular movement. The progress of blacktopping work on the Goha–Marmat stretch was also discussed, with clear directions to expedite execution and prepare for winter snowfall to maintain connectivity during harsh weather conditions.

DLSA Udhampur convenes UTRC meeting

UDHAMPUR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur convened a Quarterly UTRC Meeting-2025 in adherence to the directives issued by the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) and J&K Legal Services Authority (J&K LSA).

The meeting was held in the Conference Hall, DLSA Udhampur to review the cases of under-trial prisoners and expedite the release of eligible candidates who have undergone a lengthy waiting period without trial.

The meeting was chaired by Chairperson DLSA/Principal District & Sessions Judge Udhampur Virinder Singh Bhou and attended by Secretary DLSA Dr. Smriti Sharma; Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai; Dy. SP Hqrs Prehlad Kumar on behalf of Senior Superintendent of Police; Chief LADC Atul Singh and others

The Committee reviewed cases as per the guidelines from the Supreme Court and NALSA SOPs, focusing on prisoners with no proper representation or those who have spent substantial time behind bars without trial. The Committee recommended the release of eligible prisoners, ensuring that the benefits of legal provisions reach the intended beneficiaries. The meeting also discussed action items, such as conducting regular meetings to track progress, maintaining a consolidated data sheet to monitor prisoner cases and preparing quarterly reports.

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed by Chairperson DLSA Udhampur to all the stakeholders for their proactive participation in addressing the concerns related to under trial prisoners.

Civil-Military Fusion Capsule...

Cross-establishment visit session held at Div Com Office Jammu

JAMMU: As part of the ongoing Civil-Military Fusion Capsule in Jammu, a cross-establishment visit was conducted at the Office of the Divisional Commissioner Jammu. The session



was presided over by the Assistant Commissioner Naresh Kumar and witnessed active participation of representatives from civil administration, military establishments and line departments.

The day's proceedings commenced with a presentation on "Civil Administration: Understanding Organisation, Role & Functioning" by representatives of the Civil Administration, highlighting governance structures and coordination mechanisms in the Jammu region. This was followed by a session on "Perspective Development Plan in Jammu Region and Integration with Military Requirements," emphasizing synchronized developmental strategies catering to both civil and security needs.

An informal tea interaction between civil and military participants further strengthened interpersonal rapport and mutual understanding. Subsequently, Brigadier (Dr.) Vijay Sagar Dheman (Retd) delivered a detailed talk on "Border Area Development and Dual Use Infrastructure," focusing on critical border logistics and integrated infrastructure planning.

The concluding session by the Joint Director, Tourism Department on "Integrated Border Area Development with Battlefield Tourism in Jammu Region" outlined tourism-led growth opportunities in sensitive sectors, aligning with national objectives of security and regional prosperity.

DC Samba convenes Block Diwas program at village Goran

Administration delivers on Ground-Level Governance

FE NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan conducted an extensive review



of the Health Department's performance and ongoing initiatives in the district here at a meeting.

The meeting underscored the administration's unwavering commitment to prioritizing health services, promoting good governance, and achieving universal healthcare coverage for all sections of society, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized populations.

The Deputy Commissioner laid special emphasis on accelerating efforts under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), directing officials to achieve the ambitious target of screening 70,000 vulnerable individuals for TB in the district.

Recognizing TB elimination as a top priority, DC Sudan stressed the critical importance of community engagement through Nikshay Mitras, the dedicated community volunteers who serve as a vital bridge between TB patients and healthcare services. She asked Community Health Officers (CHOs) to work in close coordination with Nikshay Mitras to proactively identify potential TB cases, deliver effective treatment support, and diligently monitor patient outcomes to ensure complete recovery.

In line with the administration's vision of inclusive healthcare, the Deputy Commissioner directed immediate saturation of the district's population aged 70 years and above with ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) cards, thereby ensuring that senior citizens have unhindered access to quality healthcare services and benefits under government schemes.

To expedite the creation of digital health identities and promote the adoption of digital health initiatives across all demographics, the DC instructed officials to actively engage with private sector operators for generating ABHA IDs, thereby leveraging public-private partnerships for enhanced service delivery.

Addressing another critical aspect of healthcare governance and social welfare, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Medical Officer to organize a comprehensive workshop to acquaint medical fraternity with the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act.

"The initiative aims to create awareness about preventing sex-selective practices, combating gender discrimination, and promoting the survival and well-being of the girl child, thus reinforcing the administration's commitment to gender equality and women's healthcare," she added.

Concluding the review, Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan emphasized that achieving TB elimination goals and ensuring comprehensive healthcare coverage requires collective efforts, sustained awareness campaigns, extensive screening drives and robust treatment support mechanisms.

She called upon all stakeholders, including Nikshay Mitras, Community Health Officers, private healthcare operators, and departmental officials, to work cohesively towards strengthening healthcare services and building a healthier, TB-free society.

Seminar On Conservation, Cultivation And Entrepreneurship In Medicinal Plants Sector Held At Kathua



DC urges farmers to adopt cultivation of medicinal herbs for sustainable livelihood

'Two Nakshatra Gardens planned for the District'

KATHUA: A one-day District Level Seminar on "Promoting Conservation, Cultivation and Entrepreneurship in the Medicinal Plants Sector" was organized here by the J&K Medicinal Plants Board and Directorate of AYUSH, J&K in collaboration with the District Administration Kathua.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Director AYUSH J&K, Dr. Suresh Kumar Sharma was the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the potential of medicinal plant cultivation as a sustainable livelihood avenue and urged farmers to adopt herbal crops for better income and supporting ecological balance. He also emphasized the use of AYUSH medicines for long-term health management. He directed AYUSH staff to organize awareness camps in remote areas of the district.

Director AYUSH J&K, Dr. Suresh Kumar Sharma, informed that two Nakshatra Gardens and multiple School Herbal Gardens will soon be established in Kathua district on the lines of similar initiatives in other districts.

Earlier, the Experts from the J&K Medicinal Plants Board including Dr. Wahid, Dr. Ramesh and Dr. Paramjeet Puri held interactive sessions with the participants and deliberated upon departmental schemes promoting cultivation of medicinal herbs as an alternative to conventional crops. Subject experts from KVK and SKUAST-Jammu also delivered technical lectures on conservation and scientific cultivation practices of medicinal plants.

Later, the DC Kathua and Director AYUSH participated in a plantation drive held in the premises of the District Ayush Office.

Officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest and KVK departments besides a large number of farmers from different blocks of the district participated in the seminar.

District Ayush Officer Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Sharma presented the vote of thanks.

DLSA Jammu Organises Exhibition Cum Sale Of Products Made By Jail Inmates

JAMMU: District Legal Services Authority Jammu in collaboration with Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu & District Jail Amphalla, Jammu has organized a Diwali exhibition cum sale of products manufactured by prisoners.

The event was inaugurated by Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Jammu Y. P. Bourney here at the District Court Complex Janipur. Other Judicial Officers were also present at the event.

The display and sale counters were established under the overall supervision of Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu.

The sale of products manufactured by prisoners of two jails of District Jammu will continue for two consecutive days i.e. 17.10.2025 & 18.10.2025. The stalls reflect the skill, creativity and dedication of the inmates engaged in various vocational and rehabilitation programs within the jails. The event aimed to promote rehabilitation, creativity and skill development among inmates through their active participation in preparing various handcrafted and decorative items. The exhibition stalls feature a wide range of handicrafts, festive decorations, and other handmade products prepared by the inmates of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal & District Jail Amphalla Jammu.

The activity not only enhanced the festive spirit within the Court Complex but also served as a meaningful step towards strengthening community engagement with correctional institutions. The initiative provided a valuable platform to inmates to demonstrate their skills and talent developed through vocational training programs in the jail.



The collaboration between District Legal Services Authority Jammu and the two Jails of District Jammu underscores the joint commitment towards strengthening inmate reformation, skill development and social reintegration.

The visitors include Ld. Judicial Officers, Advocates, Litigants, Judicial Staff & common masses who purchased various articles during this festive season. The participation and appreciation of the visitors will further encourage the inmates and reinforce the objectives of rehabilitation through creative and productive engagement.

BOCA meeting...

DC Udhampur discusses cases pending for approval

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today presided over a meeting of the Building Operation Controlling Authority held in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex and attended by CEO Patnitop Development Authority Virender Kumar Manyal; SE PWD Sanjeev Gupta; SDM Chenani Dr.



Ranjeet Singh Kotwal; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Sandeep Gupta, DFO Udhampur and several other officers from concerned departments.

The meeting primarily focused on reviewing and discussing pending cases for approval, including permissions for construction of new residential and commercial buildings, repair and renovation of existing structures and cases pertaining to the development of land by local hereditary residents.

During the deliberations, two cases were approved with specific conditions, particularly concerning changes in land use.

Deputy Commissioner directed the CEO PDA to conduct regular monthly BOCA meetings to ensure prompt disposal of applications and timely decision-making on pending cases.

Director Agriculture Jammu inaugurates Paddy Procurement Mandi at Udheywala

JAMMU: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta inaugurated the Paddy Procurement Mandi (Registration-cum-Facilitation Centre) at Udheywala for the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025–26.



The inaugural programme was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Manohar Lal Sharma, officers from the Agriculture Department, representatives of FCI and a large number of farmers from the area.

During the visit, the Director Agriculture inspected the preparedness of the procurement mandi and interacted with the farmers. He listened to farmers issues and directed the field staff to ensure that no farmer faces any inconvenience during the procurement process. He also emphasized the need for on-the-spot registration of farmers and instructed that ID generation for farmers must be smooth and hassle free.

The Director Agriculture further directed field officers to intensify awareness campaigns about procurement mandis through panchayat-level groups, posters, banners and social media platforms, so that farmers are well informed about mandi operations.

The Director also instructed the Chief Agriculture Officer, Jammu, to appoint SMS-level officers for effective supervision at procurement mandis and to conduct joint inspections of the mandi sites along with FCI officials. He stressed the need for timely processing of bills to ensure prompt payment to farmers.

Discussions were also held on the provision of uniform cleaning charges, timely supply of gunny bags and adequate logistical support at the procurement centres through effective coordination between FCI and the Agriculture Department.

For the current Kharif season, a total of 26 Paddy Procurement Centres will be operational across Jammu, Kathua, and Samba districts to facilitate smooth procurement operations. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been notified as 2,389 per quintal for Grade A paddy and 2,369 per quintal for Common Grade paddy with cleaning charges fixed at 50 per quintal.

Among others present on the occasion included Divya Sharma (Quality Inspector, FCI); Sanjeev Khajuria (I/c Procurement Cell, DoAJ); Suman Koul (I/c AEO, Pouni Chak); Surinder Radotra (I/c JAEO)'; Madhu Rani (I/c JAEO); Abid Hussain Shah (AEA); Anshu Banotra (AEA) and staff members of Sub-Division Marh.

CM Omar reviews progress of development projects, CSS & capex budget implementation at Anantnag

Assures support for priority works and inaugurates new Tehsil Office at Shangus

ANANTNAG: Continuing his extensive tour of districts, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the developmental scenario, ongoing projects and implementation of government schemes in District Anantnag.

The Chief Minister took detailed stock of the progress under District CAPEX 2025–26, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and other flagship programmes.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javid Dar, and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, District Development Council Chairperson Anantnag, Members of the Legislative Assembly Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed (Anantnag), G.A. Mir (Dooru), Altaf Ahmad Wani (Pahalgam), Abdul Majeed Bhat (Anantnag West), Zaffar Ali Khatana (Kokernag), Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri (Srigufwara–Bijbehara) and Reyaz A. Khan (Shangus–Anantnag East).

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Fakhruddin, heads of departments, district officers, and other concerned officials also attended the meeting.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Fakhruddin gave a detailed presentation highlighting the status of development works, ongoing projects, and performance of various departments in the district.



During the review, the Chief Minister underscored the need to accelerate development works with regular fortnightly monitoring, ensuring timely utilisation of funds and preventing lapsing of funds.

He directed that all core infrastructure - healthcare, education, tourism, and horticulture initiatives be strengthened to enhance livelihood opportunities and economic growth.

Emphasizing inter-departmental coordination and rigorous project monitoring, the Chief Minister directed officers to ensure time-bound completion of all ongoing works and effective delivery of public services.

In his address, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called upon the district administration to expedite implementation under the CAPEX budget, noting that current expenditure levels were low.

He instructed the Deputy Commissioner to conduct fortnightly reviews to ensure full utilisation of allocations by December, ensuring timely execution of works under SACSI and cautioning against any lapsing of funds.

Reiterating his government's commitment to development, the Chief Minister assured that all significant and priority works would be taken up for implementation. He urged legislators to make optimum use of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for local projects, citing the construction of marriage halls as one such viable initiative.

Speaking on the SASCI scheme, the Chief Minister said: "There is a big responsibility on us under SASCI. We must ensure full expenditure of the funds received by December to secure the next instalment. I urge the Deputy Commissioner to monitor progress weekly, address slippages promptly, and keep my office informed of any issues. I do not want a single SASCI project to suffer due to implementation delays."

He further directed that utilisation of available funds be prioritised and assured that all legitimate public demands raised during the meeting would receive due consideration.

"As we have done in the past year, we will continue to take up and execute as many developmental works as possible in the coming year," he added, complimenting the district team for their efforts so far.

Earlier, the public representatives presented various constituency-specific issues and developmental demands for redressal.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah e-inaugurated the Tehsil Office Building at Shangus and dedicated it for public use.

CEO reviews preparedness for bye-election to 77-Nagrota AC

JAMMU: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Jammu and Kashmir, Sanjeev Verma today chaired a review meeting to assess preparedness for the upcoming bye-election to 77-Nagrota Assembly Constituency (AC),



scheduled to be held on November 11, 2025.

During the meeting, District Election Officer (DEO), Dr. Rakesh Minhas, presented a detailed account of the election arrangements being made in the constituency.

He highlighted key parameters from the updated constituency profile and informed that 150 polling stations, with robust polling infrastructure and 100% assured minimum facilities like ramps, lighting, drinking water and sanitation, have been established for the bye poll to the Constituency, having 97,893 registered voters.

Detailed deliberations were held on EVM and VVPAT management, transport planning, SVEEP campaigns, strong room arrangements and facilities for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and senior citizens during the meeting. Addressing the officers, CEO Sanjeev Verma stressed that the bye-election must be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner, ensuring voter confidence through strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct and timely redressal of grievances. He added that the bye-election represents a "festival of democracy", which should witness inclusive participation from all sections of society.

The CEO directed officers to ensure completion of all training and logistical exercises as per schedule. He appreciated the proactive measures taken by the district administration and emphasized on citizen outreach through SVEEP rallies and awareness programmes.

The CEO expressed satisfaction over the coordinated arrangements led by the DEO and Returning Officer and urged all officers to work in close synergy, maintaining high standards of neutrality and efficiency to uphold the sanctity of the democratic process.

Dr. Nirupa Rai, Special Secretary; Sandish Kumar Gupta, Special Secretary, Joint CEO Anil Salgotra, other Nodal Officers and senior district officers were present in the meeting.

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Returning Officer 77-Nagrota and Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) Irshad Rather also participated in the meeting and informed the CEO about the security preparedness for the Bye-Elections.

Training for Polling Staff for 27-AC Budgam Bye-Elections Enters Second Day

BUDGAM: The second day of training for polling personnel deputed for the Bye-Elections to 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency continued smoothly today across all three designated venues i.e. Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall Budgam, Government Degree College Budgam, and Community Hall Budgam.

The training sessions are being organized under the overall supervision of the District administration to ensure that all election officials are well-versed with the latest guidelines and procedures prescribed by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Master Trainers conducted detailed demonstrations on handling of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) units, along with hands-on practical exercises for all categories of polling staff.

The trainees were sensitized about the importance of maintaining transparency, impartiality, and adherence to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during the entire polling process.

The training also focused on mock poll procedures, sealing protocols, polling station setup, and accessibility arrangements



to facilitate inclusive voting, especially for senior citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

District-level officers and Nodal Officers monitored the training process at all venues to ensure comprehensive coverage and effective participation.

The DEO has directed that every official engaged in poll duty must attend all phases of training sessions to ensure foolproof arrangements on the polling day.

The next phase of training is scheduled to continue in the coming days, during which Presiding Officers, Polling Officers, and other staff will undergo further sessions focusing on practical simulations and case-based learning to strengthen preparedness for the smooth conduct of the bye-elections.

DLIC meet on Mission YUVA held at Ganderbal, 53 fresh cases approved

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore chaired a meeting of district level implementation committee (DLIC) here to examine and approve cases received under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme for financial assistance and entrepreneurial support to beneficiaries in the district.

At the outset, DC emphasized the importance of mission YUVA in promoting entrepreneurship, skill development, and self-employment among youth.

The meeting discussed and scrutinized the applications regarding units received under the scheme from SBDU, and unanimously approved 53 cases under the Mission YUVA scheme.

The DC directed all the line departments to ensure timely support and facilitation of the beneficiaries approved under the scheme.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner, Assistant Director Employment, Lead District Manager, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, besides other officers and officials from concerned departments.

Secretary Transport chairs meet on issues, grievances of transporters

JAMMU: Secretary, Transport department, Avny Lavasa today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to discuss various issues and grievances raised by transporters.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on wide range of matters concerning the transport sector, like improvement of public transport services, streamlining of vehicle documentation, facilitation of permits and fitness certificates, and addressing operational challenges faced by transporters across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Secretary gave a patient hearing to all the issues raised and discussed ways to address and resolve them. She emphasized the government's commitment to strengthening the transport sector, ensuring transparency, and improving ease of operations for all stakeholders. Transport Commissioner, J&K; Additional Secretary, Transport Department; Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir; Regional Transport Officer, Jammu; representatives of NIC attended the meeting. Officers stationed at Srinagar attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Judicial Academy Srinagar organizes orientation programme on "Medical Forensics & Medico-Legal Aspects in Trial"

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Srinagar, organized a One Day Special Orientation Programme on "Medical Forensics & Medico-Legal Aspects in Trial; Different Dimensions of Cyber Crimes and Electronic Evidence".

The programme was organized under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Justice Arun Palli and under the guidance of the Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the Academy, for Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary of Kashmir Province including UT of Ladakh, Public Prosecutors, Additional Public Prosecutors, Assistant Public Prosecutors, and Investigating Officers of Kashmir Province.

The programme commenced with introductory remarks by Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta, who outlined the objectives of the orientation programme. She emphasized that in the age of digital transformation and advancing forensic technologies, the judiciary and prosecution must stay equipped with evolving scientific, medical, and technological developments that critically shape the administration of criminal justice.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Kashmir, Dr. Mir Junaid Alam focused on the theme "Demystifying the Information Technology Act, 2000 with Reference to Cyber Crimes viz. Issues, Challenges and Way Forward.

He discussed the legal and procedural complexities



arising from cyber offences, data breaches, and online frauds. He also highlighted the gaps between technology and enforcement and emphasized the need for judicial officers and investigators to enhance their understanding of digital footprints, data preservation, and admissibility of electronic records. In his address, he also underscored the importance of judicial sensitivity to privacy, digital rights, and due process in cases involving cybercrime.

Senior Assistant Professor, Centre for Distance and Online Education, University of Kashmir, Dr.Aneeda Jan deliberated on "Medical Forensic Law: Constitutional Perspective and Role of Judiciary" and "Impact of Technology on Forensic Evidence. She elaborated on the intricate relationship between law and forensic medicine, underscoring the critical role of medical evidence in the dispensation of justice.

Further, she spoke on the constitutional and ethical dimensions of forensic investigation, highlighting the responsibility of courts to ensure the integrity, authenticity, and admissibility of forensic materials.

Discussing technological advances, she pointed out how digital imaging, DNA analysis, and AI-based diagnostic tools are transforming medico-legal practices and judicial evaluation of evidence. Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Rajeev Gupta addressed on the topic "Electronic Evidence: Definitions and Characteristics". He outlined the essential requirements for the admissibility of electronic evidence.

He also discussed judicial precedents governing electronic records, the authenticity of digital signatures, and challenges in verifying metadata and data chain integrity. He stressed that the digital age demands a deeper understanding of technological processes to prevent miscarriage of justice due to procedural lapses in electronic documentation and certification.

The programme concluded with an interactive session and feedback, during which participants shared insights and discussed practical challenges faced in handling medico-legal cases and cybercrime trials. The deliberations reinforced the need for continued judicial and prosecutorial training to ensure that the justice delivery system keeps pace with advancements in forensic science and technology.

The event reflected the Academy's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary knowledge among judicial and legal officers, enabling them to uphold procedural fairness, scientific accuracy, and technological competence in the dispensation of justice.

Felicitation Ceremony held for MDP Trainees by JKEDI Pulwama

PULWAMA: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Pulwama organized a felicitation ceremony for the trainees of the recently concluded Management Development Program (MDP) under the RAMP initiative at the NRLM Centre, Pulwama. During the ceremony, training certificates and other benefits were distributed among the participants who successfully completed their MDP training.

The speakers highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship and skill development in promoting self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods.The program aimed to encourage the trainees to utilize their newly acquired managerial and entrepreneurial skills to strengthen their business ventures and contribute to the local economy.The event concluded with an interactive session, where officers appreciated the enthusiasm of the trainees and assured continued support from JKEDI and NRLM for their entrepreneurial journey.The event was attended by District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama, Raiyees Manzoor; Assistant Faculty/Course Coordinator, Waseem Afzal Naik, District Program Manager NRLM Pulwama, along with other officers /Officials from JKEDI & NRLM.

Week long outreach programme on Ayushman Bharat scheme for Migrants concludes at New Delhi

DELHI: The week-long outreach camp organized by the Relief Organization, J&K, in collaboration with the J&K State Health Agency (SHA) in Delhi NCR area concluded successfully.

The outreach camp was held in Noida, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, and other areas, in which more than 400 new families were enrolled under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, and the members of many already enrolled families were added. Facilitation regarding various Government schemes and services being offered by the Relief Organization was also provided in these special camps.

The camp was held under the overall supervision of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani, who was assisted by Assistant Commissioner (Relief), Kailash Devi; officers of SHA and Relief Organization.

Dr. Karwani also interacted with the social activists and representatives of various organizations of Kashmiri migrants at New-Delhi and patiently listened to their suggestions/ grievances related to immovable properties of migrants in Kashmir Valley, development of robust database of migrants and various services being offered by the Relief Organization. There was a general demand that more such outreach programmes be organized in future. On the occasion, Dr Karwani also reviewed arrangements for the Kashmiri Migrant voters based in New-Delhi for the Bye Election of Budgam Assembly Constituency, which is going to polls on 11-11-2025 with Assistant Returning Officer Delhi.

Dr Karwani impressed upon ARO and his team to reach out to the migrants and create voter awareness and offer all possible facilitation to them for smooth voting process.

He was informed that four special polling stations have been established for the facility of Kashmiri migrant voters in Delhi.

Ashoka University opens undergraduate applications for 2026 intake

SRINAGAR: Ashoka University, India's leading institution in interdisciplinary Computer Science, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and the Humanities, has opened the application window for the 2026 intake of its Undergraduate Programme on Monday, October 13, 2025.

A spokesman of the university said that the applicants can choose from a wide range of undergraduate offerings that combine academic excellence with experiential and interdisciplinary learning. The 2025-2026 Admissions cycle introduces several significant updates, reflecting Ashoka's vision to broaden access, offer multiple academic pathways, and support high-achieving students across India.

Ashoka University reaffirms its commitment to financial inclusivity by announcing 500 merit and need-based scholarships across all programmes. 200 scholarships out of these have been introduced as merit scholarships, for the first time. Under the special merit scholarships 100 percent tuition fee waivers will be awarded to 50 exceptional achievers in JEE Mains, IISER (IAT), CMI and the Indian National Olympiads (INO). Admitted students with high scores in these national aptitude tests will benefit from the Special Scholarships.

For the same it is important that a student has minimum 98%ile in JEE Mains, top 2000 rank in the IISER Aptitude Test, top 100 rank in CMI Entrance Examination, candidates who have qualified for the Training Camp stage of the Indian National Olympiads (INO) in Mathematics, Science, Astronomy, Linguistics and Informatics. Up to 100 percent tuition fee waivers will be awarded to 150 admitted students based on their overall performance in the holistic Ashoka University admissions process, with recognition for high performance in school board examinations (CBSE and ICSE/ISC). For this the students should be CBSE and ICSE/ISC Class X and Class XII (final or predicted) board scores-98 percent and above. Uniquely, all awardees of the Special Merit Scholarships and Achievers' Merit Scholarships will remain eligible for additional need-based assistance, ensuring that financial barriers do not overshadow academic potential. Up to 100 percent need-based tuition fee/full waivers will be available to admitted students requiring financial support from the University. Applications will be accepted across four rounds, starting October 13, 2025, giving students multiple opportunities to apply. For residents of India, the Ashoka Admissions Assessments will be conducted across 37 physical centres nationwide, ensuring accessibility for applicants from a wide range of regions across India. Non-Residents of India will be required to choose the option 'I am not a resident of India'. Special consideration will be given to applicants with physical disabilities, mobility/locomotor issues and impairments. The admissions process will be conducted across four application rounds, beginning on October 13, 2025 and concluding on May 31, 2026. Ashoka University is a premier interdisciplinary higher education and research-focused institution, offering world-class opportunities in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. Established in 2014 by leaders, thinkers, academics and philanthropists from diverse fields, it operates on a unique model of collective philanthropy, blending the finest governance practices with cutting-edge pedagogy and an internationally reputed faculty. (PR)

Editorial

Independent MLA Conundrum

The recent collapse of talks between the National Conference (NC) and the Congress to form a united front ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections is more than a political tussle. It reveals a serious flaw in the process. The political theatre centres on seven independent MLAs which undeniably obfuscates transparency.

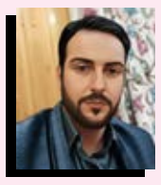
The arithmetic in the Assembly is clear and tense. The ruling alliance and the opposition are in a knife edge race for the fourth Rajya Sabha seat, with the BJP just one vote short according to reports - its a high-stakes game now. This has put the seven independent legislators firmly centre stage for the first-time - five of the independents support the government while two back the opposition, in an ordinary scenario, their publicly professed support offers some clarity. However, what the Rajya Sabha election rules create is an absurd dichotomy whereby their former allegiances become impermissible at the moment of voting.

The 'open ballot' system for party-affiliated MLAs, designed as a means of discipline and accountability, has an agent of the party verifying the vote, which means there are no cross-votes or backroom deals, creating some degree of certainty. For independents, the system flips. Independents are expected to vote in secret, and, in fact, have the prohibition of even showing a ballot to an agent. If they do show it, their vote is invalidated.

An independent MLA can declare to support a party, attend candidate nominations with the candidates of that party, vote with the opposition having done so without repercussions. And, this is not a hypothetical situation; it is the very "issue of independents" which panned the NC-Congress talks. How can there be trust in the support of an independent member of a coalition? The promised vote becomes a promise, simply a matter of opinion, with no means of enforcement.

As the Rajya Sabha elections near, there will be 7 people getting attention. The real question is, why even rule that gives precedence to uncertainty over definitiveness? There is no excuse for this hole in the system. What is currently going on is a shadowy process for independent MLAs in the Rajya Sabha elections. For the good of our republic, this process should be replaced by one that respects the commitments that our elected representatives make, and verify those commitments.

Harnessing Blue Gold: Hydropower Fuels Jammu & Kashmir's Ascent



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Jammu and Kashmir, known for its rivers that cut through lofty mountains and deep valleys, possesses a hydropower potential unmatched in most parts of India. This natural advantage, often called the Union Territory's "blue gold," is finally beginning to receive the attention it deserves. As the country moves toward a green energy future, Jammu and Kashmir stands poised to play a defining role in India's renewable power landscape.

Hydropower has long been recognized as the cornerstone of Jammu and Kashmir's energy economy. Recent data indicates that the region has an estimated hydroelectric potential of nearly 18,000 megawatts, of which about 14,867 megawatts have been identified as feasible for development. However, only around 3,540 megawatts—just under a quarter of that potential—have so far been harnessed. This imbalance between available resources and realized capacity reflects both the vast opportunity and the persistent challenges that have shaped the region's power sector for decades.

The rivers of the Union Territory—chiefly the Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi, and parts of the Indus—carry enormous energy within their fast-moving currents. The Chenab basin alone holds the majority of the region's hydropower potential, flowing through Kishtwar and Doda, areas that have now become the focal points of new development. At present, Jammu and Kashmir has roughly 3,540 megawatts of installed hydropower capacity, generated through central, state, and private sector projects. Of this, nearly 2,250 megawatts are under the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), around 1,200 megawatts are managed by the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation, and a smaller portion comes from independent power producers. Major plants like Baglihar, Dulhasti, Salal, Uri, Kishanganga, and NimooBazgo form the backbone of the region's power generation system.

Despite this infrastructure, Jammu and Kashmir continues to face energy deficits, particularly during winter when water levels drop and demand peaks. Electricity demand has been steadily rising, with per capita consumption increasing from 1,322 units in 2020–21 to over 1,530 units in 2023–24. Total annual consumption has exceeded 20,900 million units, while generation lags far behind, forcing the administration to import electricity from the northern grid at a significant cost. The economic implications are immense, as the purchase of imported power drains valuable financial resources that could otherwise be invested in local generation capacity.

In response, the administration has launched an aggressive push to expand hydropower capacity. As of 2025, five major



hydropower projects with a combined capacity of about 3,090 megawatts are under construction across the Union Territory. These include the PakalDul, Ratle, Kiru, Kwar, and Parnai projects—most of them concentrated in the Chenab basin. Together, they represent a decisive step toward doubling Jammu and Kashmir's generation capacity in the next few years. PakalDul, the largest of them, is progressing toward completion with more than two-thirds of its physical work done, while the Kiru and Kwar projects are advancing at steady rates. Ratle, a long-delayed project, has finally been revived under a joint venture between the government and NHPC, symbolizing renewed institutional confidence in large-scale hydropower development.

Beyond these ongoing projects, the government has unveiled an ambitious pipeline of 15 additional hydropower schemes totalling about 7,768 megawatts. These include Sawalkote, Kirthai-II, Bursar, and Dulhasti-II, among others. When realized, they will collectively transform Jammu and Kashmir into a power-surplus territory, capable of not only meeting its own demand but also exporting surplus electricity to other states. Smaller hydropower and mini-hydel projects are also being encouraged under the Independent Power Producers model, supporting decentralized energy generation and local employment.

This expansion is not merely about producing more electricity—it is about redefining the economic landscape. Hydropower has the potential to make Jammu and Kashmir self-reliant, reduce dependence on costly imports, and create thousands of skilled and semi-skilled jobs. It can drive industrial growth, improve infrastructure, and enhance revenue for the territory's exchequer. With the right policies, hydropower can become the backbone of a green and sustainable regional economy.

However, the road to this transformation is not without obstacles. The Himalayan terrain presents unique geological challenges, and many projects face delays due to difficult working conditions, environmental clearances, and funding constraints. Seasonal fluctuations in river discharge, particularly during the winter months, affect generation levels. Climate change introduces further uncertainty, altering precipitation patterns and affecting river flows. Moreover, large hydropower projects often raise ecological and social concerns related to biodiversity loss, displacement, and landscape alteration. Addressing these challenges requires careful planning, transparent governance, and active community participation.

Despite these hurdles, progress on the ground reflects a clear change in momentum. The partnership between the Jammu and Kashmir administration and NHPC has emerged as a key driver of this new phase of development. The adoption of joint venture models has reduced financial risks and ensured access to technical expertise. Meanwhile, technological improvements in tunnelling, dam construction, and environmental mitigation are helping to minimize the ecological footprint of large projects. The emphasis on mini and micro-hydel projects also indicates a balanced approach—one that combines large-scale power generation with localized, sustainable solutions.

The strategic dimension of hydropower in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be overlooked either. The region's rivers, governed by the Indus Waters Treaty, represent not only natural resources but also geopolitical assets. Optimal utilization of these waters for power generation strengthens India's rights under the treaty while ensuring that Jammu and Kashmir benefits fully from its natural endowments. Hydropower thus serves both economic and national interests, linking local development to broader questions of resource sovereignty and regional stability.

As India advances toward its national goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, the role of hydropower as a clean, renewable, and reliable energy source becomes increasingly crucial. Unlike solar and wind, hydropower provides round-the-clock stability and can balance the fluctuations of other renewables. For Jammu and Kashmir, this convergence of natural advantage and national priority offers an unprecedented opportunity.

If the current pace of development is maintained, Jammu and Kashmir could add more than 3,000 megawatts of new capacity within the next three years and potentially reach close to 10,000 megawatts of installed capacity before the end of the decade. This would mark a historic shift from power scarcity to energy self-sufficiency. The dream of illuminating every home and powering every industry in the region could soon be realized.

The rivers that carve through Jammu and Kashmir's mountains are more than scenic wonders—they are engines of transformation. With political will, technological capacity, and environmental responsibility working in tandem, hydropower can become the foundation of a new economic era. The future of Jammu and Kashmir, it seems, will not only flow through its rivers but also be powered by them.

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The Nut That Nourishes the Organ It Mimics



By Dr Aftab jan

Walnuts are among the most powerful natural foods created by Allah, carrying a unique combination of nutrients that benefit both the inner body and outer appearance. Their shape resembles the human brain, and interestingly, modern science confirms that walnuts support brain health in many ways. They are loaded with healthy fats, plant-based proteins, vitamins, minerals, and powerful antioxidants that work together to nourish every system of the body. Eating a few walnuts daily can bring benefits to the heart, brain, skin, hair, digestive system, and even emotional well-being. They are simple, natural, and need no processing, which makes them a perfect part of both traditional diets and modern nutrition plans.

Walnuts are especially rich in omega-3 fatty acids, particularly alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), which plays a critical role in reducing inflammation, supporting brain development, and protecting against cardiovascular disease. These fats are essential because the human body cannot make them; they must be taken through food. Regular walnut consumption helps maintain flexible blood vessels, lowers harmful LDL cholesterol, and supports good HDL cholesterol. Studies have shown that people who eat walnuts frequently have a lower risk of heart disease and better blood vessel function. Walnuts also contain polyphenols, powerful plant compounds that fight oxidative stress, which is a major cause of cell aging, inflammation, and chronic diseases like diabetes and cancer. These antioxidants are concentrated in the thin, papery skin of the walnut, which is why it is best to eat the nut with its skin.

For the brain, walnuts are like a super fuel. The omega-3s, vitamin E, folate, and polyphenols in walnuts work together to reduce oxidative damage in brain cells and improve communication between neurons. Regular walnut intake has been linked to better memory, faster processing speed, and sharper focus. Some research suggests that older adults who consume walnuts have a slower rate of cognitive decline and a lower risk



of diseases like Alzheimer's. Even for students and professionals, walnuts can improve concentration and reduce mental fatigue because they provide long-lasting energy without sugar crashes. The magnesium and B vitamins in walnuts support the nervous system, helping to calm anxiety and improve mood. Serotonin production, which affects happiness and emotional balance, is positively influenced by nutrients found in walnuts, making them a natural mood stabilizer.

The benefits of walnuts extend to the digestive system. They are rich in fiber, which helps in smooth bowel movements, supports beneficial gut bacteria, and protects against constipation. A healthy gut plays a key role in immunity, metabolism, and even mental health, because of the gut-brain connection. Walnuts act like a prebiotic, feeding good bacteria and promoting a healthy gut environment, which reduces inflammation throughout the body. This internal cleansing shows on the skin as well. People who eat walnuts regularly often notice clearer, brighter skin because toxins are eliminated more efficiently outside.

Walnuts also play a role in managing weight. Although they are energy-dense, they give a strong feeling of fullness because of their fiber, protein, and healthy fat combination. This reduces unhealthy snacking and stabilizes blood sugar levels. Unlike sugary snacks that spike and crash energy, walnuts release energy slowly, supporting stable mood and mental clarity. This makes them an excellent choice for people trying to lose weight or maintain healthy eating habits. Their nutrients support metabolic health, improve insulin sensitivity, and may help in preventing type 2 diabetes.

For the heart, walnuts are like natural protectors. Their omega-3s, antioxidants, and minerals work together to lower blood pressure, reduce inflammation in arteries, and prevent plaque buildup. Regular walnut consumption improves endothelial function, which is the ability of blood vessels to expand and contract efficiently. This lowers the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Walnuts are also sodium-free and naturally cholesterol-free, which makes them heart-friendly even for older people. For people with high cholesterol or family history of heart disease, a handful of walnuts daily can make a significant difference over time.

From an Islamic perspective, walnuts and nuts are part of the natural blessings that Allah has spread for human health. The Qur'an mentions in several places that Allah created fruits and produce for human nourishment and reflection. Walnuts, like other wholesome foods, are a reminder of divine wisdom in creating something small but full of power. The Prophet Muhammad encouraged moderation and healthy eating, and nuts were part of the traditional diets of many early Muslim communities because of their strength-giving properties. Eating natural foods like walnuts keeps a person strong, clear-minded, and able to worship and serve better.

Modern science also confirms that walnuts support reproductive health. For men, walnuts improve sperm quality, mobility, and structure because of their antioxidants and omega-3s. For women, the nutrients support hormonal balance and reproductive organ health. Their anti-inflammatory properties support fertility and overall vitality. Pregnant women benefit from walnuts because they support fetal brain development through their rich omega-3 content.

Walnuts support bone health as well. They contain magnesium, phosphorus, and essential fatty acids that help in calcium absorption and bone strength. Regular consumption protects against osteoporosis and joint weakness. For people who do physical activity or sports, walnuts help in muscle recovery and reduce post-exercise inflammation, making them a great natural supplement.

They also support better sleep. Walnuts contain melatonin, a natural hormone that regulates sleep-wake cycles. Eating a few walnuts in the evening can help improve sleep quality, which in turn improves memory, mood, and overall health. A well-rested body heals faster, functions better, and shows better outward health in skin and hair.

Walnuts are easy to add to daily life. They can be eaten raw, soaked overnight for better digestion, added to salads, blended in smoothies, or sprinkled over yogurt and oats. Soaking walnuts makes them softer and helps remove certain natural compounds that can affect digestion, making nutrients more available. Eating 4–6 walnuts daily is enough to get benefits without overloading on calories.

This small nut brings a powerful combination of brain support, heart protection, digestive balance, beauty nourishment, emotional stability, and spiritual reflection. It is a single food that touches every aspect of health—physical, mental, and emotional. Its brain-like shape is a silent reminder of how nature and divine design are connected. In a world filled with processed food, returning to natural, nutrient-dense gifts like walnuts is not just a health choice, it is an act of honoring the creation of Allah. Regular use brings slow but deep transformation: sharper mind, stronger heart, glowing skin, healthier hair, balanced mood, and cleaner inner systems. Walnuts truly are a brain-shaped gift carrying blessings for the whole body.

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Speaker Engages With Media Persons In Pre-Assembly Session Talks

FE NEWS NETWORK

Highlights role of media in fostering informed public discourse on legislative proceedings

Assures full support to media fraternity during Assembly Session

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Abdul Rahim Rather interacted with media persons of different News organisations at Assembly Secretariat here to facilitate smooth and efficient coverage of the forthcoming Assembly session.

The meeting was attended by Director Information, Nitish Rajora; Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit; SSP Security Civil Secretariat, Sajjad K. Bhat; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR), Javid Ahmad Rather; Assistant Director Doordarshan, veteran Journalists, bureau chiefs, senior journalists and correspondents, representatives of All India Radio and other concerned officers.

During the interaction, Speaker Rather held detailed discussion with media fraternity on various issues concerning media professionals, identifying additional requirements to enhance their working environment during the upcoming session. The



deliberations also focused on ensuring hassle-free entry of media persons to the Legislative Assembly premises and as well as their facilitation for smooth coverage of the session.

The Speaker highlighted the vital role of media in upholding transparency and fostering informed public discourse on legislative proceedings. He emphasized that the media acts as a vital bridge between the people and the legislature, ensuring citizens remain aware of policies, discussions and decisions that shape governance across Jammu and Kashmir.

Recognizing the significance of media in highlighting public issues, the Speaker sought cooperation from media houses for balanced and responsible reporting of the Session. He emphasized the critical role of journalists in ensuring transparency and public awareness of legislative discussions and advised them to keep public interests paramount while disbursing their professional assignments.

While reviewing arrangements for media persons, the Speaker emphasized on the importance of taking necessary measures to prevent inconvenience to journalists covering the proceedings. He instructed the Assembly Secretariat officers to prepare and issue entry passes for journalists in coordination with information department well in advance for their unhindered entry into the assembly complex.

To enhance media accessibility, the Speaker directed the information department to install sufficient number of microphones and Public Address Systems (PAS) within the Assembly Hall and its lawns, facilitating smooth interaction between dignitaries, Ministers, legislative assembly members and the journalists. He also directed the Hospitality & Protocol department to install Shamyana with a dais for press briefings by the MLAs and Ministers.

The Speaker also directed SSP Security, Civil Secretariat to make appropriate parking arrangements for media personnel near the Assembly Secretariat.

During the interaction, the Speaker also invited constructive suggestions from journalists for improving media engagement and coverage of legislative business. Representatives of both print and electronic media expressed their appreciation for the Speaker's proactive approach and shared valuable inputs on improving accessibility and communication channels between the media and the Assembly Secretariat.

They highlighted key concerns like designating parking spaces, provision of high-speed Wi-Fi for seamless coverage and extension of other logistical support.

Bandipora Scripts History, Bags Best Performer Award in India under AKY

FE NEWS NETWORK

President of India Felicitates DC Bandipora for Exemplary Performance

BANDIPORA: In a historic moment and a matter of immense pride for Jammu and Kashmir, District Bandipora has bagged the Best Performer Award in the Country under the prestigious Adi Karmayogi Abhiyaan (AKY), recognizing the district's outstanding implementation and on-ground impact of the initiative.



For this remarkable feat, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, was felicitated by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, during a national-level ceremony held today.

The honour marks a significant milestone for the district, reflecting its commitment to innovation, transparency, and citizen-centric administration.

The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyaan, a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at capacity building, skill enhancement, and improving governance efficiency, was implemented in Bandipora with remarkable zeal and vision. The district administration adopted a proactive approach by conducting extensive training sessions, awareness programmes, and introducing digital governance practices, all of which contributed to its recognition as the Best Performing District in India. The DC expressed gratitude on receiving the national honour and dedicated the achievement to the collective efforts of her team and the people of Bandipora. She said that the recognition belongs to the entire Bandipora team who worked tirelessly to make the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyaan a success.

The DC acknowledged the relentless dedication and coordination of the District Nodal Officer (DNO) Yar Ali, Khan, Chief Planning Officer, M. Maqbool Lone; District and Block Mission Teams (DMTs and BMTs), Aadi Saathis, Aadi Sahyogis, and all 17 participating Ministries.

This national recognition has brought unprecedented pride and visibility to Bandipora and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, placing it firmly on the national map for excellence in governance and public administration.

Secretary Transport visits IDTR Kot Bhalwal Jammu, reviews ongoing works

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Secretary, Transport department, Avny Lavasa visited Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) located at Kot Bhalwal here and held detailed assessment of ongoing works.

The visit was part of department's focused efforts to expedite the development of critical transport infrastructure in the Union Territory.

The Secretary was accompanied by Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan; Additional Transport Commissioner, Anju Gupta; Superintendent Engineer, PW (R&B) Jammu, Additional Secretary, Transport, Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Jammu; Executive Engineers PWD & Mechanical and Assistant Engineers PWD and Mechanical Departments.

At the outset of the visit, Transport Commissioner, presented a detailed overview of the IDTR project. He informed the Secretary about components of the institute like Administrative Block, Hostel Block, various driving test tracks, and other associated infrastructure being developed to facilitate professional driver training and research.

During the inspection, Secretary assessed the progress of civil works and examined key training facilities such as driving simulators, classrooms, laboratories and other equipment essential for modern



driver education. She also held on-site deliberations regarding coordination, quality control and future operational planning of the IDTR.

Expressing concern over delays in the completion of critical infrastructure, the Secretary issued firm instructions to the Executive Engineers, PWD, Mechanical and Electrical to ensure timely execution of all pending works. She emphasized the importance of adhering to the stipulated timelines and directed that the balance works must be completed within next 15 days.

DDC Kupwara Chairs DLRC/DCC Meeting, Reviews Bank Performance and Scheme Saturation

FE NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Shrikant Suse chaired the meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC)/ District Consultative Committee (DCC) to review the performance of banks with regard to saturation of different government schemes in the district and financial inclusion initiatives.

On the occasion, Lead District Manager Kupwara, Tanveer Ahmad highlighted the overall performance under Annual District Credit Plan (ACP) 2025-26.He informed that under Priority Sector Lending, the district achieved disbursements to the tune of Rs 402 Crores during the first quarter against the set target of Rs1446 Crores for the financial year 2025-26.

The DDC expressed concern over the slow progress by some banks in the priority sector and directed them to improve their performance and meet set targets promptly.



Under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), banks in the district have disbursed Rs 124.72 Crores among 7953 beneficiaries, promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship during the first quarter ending June 2025.

Detailed discussions held on performance under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, NRLM bank linkages, PM Vishwakarma Yojna, Kisan Credit Card as well as PM FME scheme.

Expressing strong displeasure, the DDC directed all banks to improve their performance under PM Jan Dhan Yojna, PM Suraksha Bima Yojna, Atal Pension Yojna, PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojna and directed all banks to submit scheme wise achievements on fortnightly basis to DC office for monitoring. The DDC also directed JK bank to expedite loan disbursal under sanction cases under mission Yuva and directed LDM and cluster head to monitor branch wise pendency on daily basis.

All banks and line departments were directed to increase public outreach programs with special focus on saturation of social security schemes as well as expansion of branch network and efficient working of banking correspondents in the boarder villages which are covered Vibrant village programme.



Chairman DLSA Srinagar reviews functioning of LADCs

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, organized a review meeting in the office chamber of the Principal District and Sessions Judge/Chairman, DLSA Srinagar, at the District Court Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by, Principal District and Sessions Judge/Chairman, DLSA Srinagar, Tasleem Arief and held under the supervision of Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Sajad-ur-Rehman.

The meeting was convened to review the functioning and performance of the Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) and to ensure effective delivery of legal aid services to undertrial prisoners and other eligible beneficiaries.

During the meeting, discussions were held on various aspects concerning the timely representation of legal aid cases, coordination between LADCs and the DLSA office, and measures to strengthen the quality and accountability of legal aid services.

The Chair emphasized the importance of professionalism, diligence, and empathy in dealing with legal aid beneficiaries, reiterating that access to justice is a fundamental right that must be upheld in both spirit and practice.

The meeting concluded with directions for improved monitoring, periodic case reviews, and continued collaboration among all stakeholders to ensure that no person in need of legal assistance is left unrepresented.



NIT Srinagar celebrates IEEE Day 2025 with focus on innovation, research, and collaboration

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar celebrated IEEE Day 2025 with great enthusiasm and academic spirit. The event was organized by the IEEE AP-S/CRFID Chapter, Delhi Section, in association with the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), NIT Srinagar, to commemorate global innovation, collaboration, and engineering excellence.



The celebration was held under the leadership of Dr. Mahesh P. Abegaonkar, IIT Delhi, Chair, IEEE AP-S/CRFID Delhi Chapter, and Dr. Amit Kumar, Assistant Professor, NIT Srinagar, and Executive Committee Member, IEEE AP-S/CRFID Delhi Chapter.

The event featured an enlightening talk by Dr. Sheikh Javaid Ahmad, Associate Professor, University of Kashmir, who shared valuable insights on research and innovation in the fields of RF and Microwave Engineering.

Dr. Sheikh Javaid's lecture inspired students and researchers to explore emerging opportunities in high-frequency systems and communication technologies.

Two Ph.D. scholars from NIT Srinagar, Ms. Jasmine Jan and Mr. Basharat Ali presented their outstanding research work in the area of antenna design and development. Their presentations reflected the depth of research and innovation being pursued by the institute's ECE Department.

The program was also attended by Dr. G. R. Beigh, Head, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, who congratulated the organizers and participants for making the event a success.

He highlighted the importance of IEEE in nurturing innovation and global collaboration among engineers and researchers.

Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Mir, Head, Training and Placement Center, also graced the occasion along with several faculty members and students, emphasizing the importance of industry-academia interaction in shaping future-ready engineers.

Expressing his appreciation, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, congratulated the organizers and participants for successfully hosting IEEE Day 2025.

"IEEE Day symbolizes the power of ideas and the impact of technology in driving positive change. Such events encourage our students and faculty to collaborate globally and pursue excellence in research and innovation," he said.

Prof. Kanaujia also appreciated the IEEE Delhi Section for its continued collaboration with NIT Srinagar, calling it a meaningful step toward strengthening academic and research partnerships.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rahman, extended his greetings to the entire organizing team and participants.

"The celebration of IEEE Day at NIT Srinagar reflects our institute's growing engagement with global scientific communities. It provides our students an invaluable platform to interact, innovate, and contribute to technological advancement," he added.

Modi govt's

Bihar with the largest majority in two decades.

He also paid tribute to late BJP leader Brijmohan Ji, and remembered Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan and Bhikhari Thakur, calling them symbols of Bihar's political and cultural pride—(KNO)

PM Modi

These Naxals would not allow schools or hospitals to be built... they would not let doctors enter clinics... they would bomb institutions. Maoist terrorism was an injustice to the young people," he said.

"I used to feel agitated... this is the first time I am expressing my pain to the world," Modi said.

"The day is not far when India will be totally free from Naxalism and Maoist violence, this too is Modi's guarantee," he told the gathering that included Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya, former UK prime minister Rishi Sunal and former Australian prime minister Tony Abbot among others.

"Areas that were affected by Naxalism will celebrate Diwali for the first time in 60-70 years," the prime minister said.

He said during the Congress regime, "urban naxals" were so dominant that no information about any Maoist terrorist incident reached the people of the country and they enforced heavy censorship on such incidents.

"This is why my government has taken particular efforts to reach out to these wayward youth and bring them back into the mainstream. Today, the country is seeing the result of these efforts," he said.

"Earlier, the headlines were about vehicles blown up in Bastar and security personnel killed. Today, the youth there are organising 'Bastar Olympics'. This is a big change," Modi said.

"And I say with great responsibility that those who wear the Constitution on their foreheads still work day and night to protect these Maoist terrorists who do not believe in the Constitution," he said, in an apparent dig at the Congress.

Modi asserted that while earlier governments carried out reforms as compulsion his dispensation does it with conviction and has turned every risk into reform.

He said that India now does not remain silent after terror attacks but hits back using surgical and air strikes.

"Earlier governments carried out reforms as compulsion, we now do it with conviction. Age of unknown can be uncertain thing for world but it is opportunity for India as it has always turned risks into reforms.

"... We have turned every reform into resilience and every resilience into a revolution," he told the gathering.

Modi underlined that India now does not remain silent after terror attacks but hits back at using surgical and air strikes.

"India no more remains silent after terror attacks but gives befitting reply through air strikes, surgical strikes and Operation Sindoor," he said.

"When wars became headlines globally, India proved naysayers wrong by continuing to march ahead as fastest growing economy," added Modi.

Asserting that India is not in a "mood to stop", he said as the world today faces various roadblocks and speed breakers, it is only natural to talk about an unstoppable India.

"We will neither pause nor slow down. 140 crore Indians will move forward together with full momentum.

"Today, India has moved from being among the fragile five to becoming one of the world's top five economies...from chips to ships, India is self-reliant and filled with confidence in every sphere," he said.

Noting that nationalisation of banks during Congress rule led to creation of "mountain of non-performing assets for banks", Modi said that democratisation of financial and other institutions is key driver behind unstoppable India.

"People are India's biggest strength and they can excel when there is no pressure or intervention from government.

"India has proved everyone wrong on digital financial infrastructure. World sees India as reliable, responsible, resilient partner and land of opportunities," he said. (PTI)

First Industrial

goods shed in Kashmir, they said.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal said, "The Jammu Division of Northern Railway on Friday received the first 21-wagon consignment of industrial salt from Gujarat at the Anantnag goods shed in Kashmir." The industrial salt is mainly used in tanning, pulp, soap, and brick kiln industries.

According to officials, the new mode of transport will ensure a steady supply of essential commodities to the Valley, reduce logistics costs and travel time, and lessen dependence on road transport – especially during adverse weather conditions when road connectivity is disrupted.

In recent months, the Valley has witnessed growing freight activity, including the transport of apples from Kashmir to Delhi and the movement of Maruti vehicles and other goods to the region.

Singhal said the arrival of the salt consignment is expected to pave the way for more such freight movements, further strengthening trade links between Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir.

"With such initiatives, Indian Railways continues to expand the logistics network in the Union Territory, ensuring efficient movement of essential and commercial goods for both people and industries," an official said. (ANI)

CM Omar

MLAs M.Y. Tarigami and Pirzada Feroz Ahmed, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary R&B, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Amir Ul shafi Khan, heads of departments, and all district officers attended the meeting.

While reviewing winter preparedness, the Chief Minister underscored the importance of equipping districts, particularly in snow-prone areas, with sufficient 4x4 ambulances to ensure uninterrupted emergency services. "We are working with the concerned departments to make sure that every district has an adequate number of 4x4 ambulances so that people do not face difficulties during heavy snowfall," he said, directing officials to ensure that the ongoing arrangements include appropriate mobility and safety measures.

On the developmental front, the Chief Minister noted that while the number of new works had increased compared to the previous year, the value and scale of ongoing projects had also grown significantly. "Our achievement levels need to improve further as the working season is short. I urge the district administration to utilize the remaining two months effectively to maximize expenditure and progress," he said.

Highlighting the importance of timely fund utilization under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Omar Abdullah directed officers to ensure that the first instalments are fully utilized by December to avoid delays in the release of subsequent funds. "Frequent reviews are essential to track the progress and utilization under schemes like SASCI to prevent work disruption and withholding of funds on account to low percentage of expenditure by the end of December ," he added.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister e-inaugurated several key urban infrastructure projects in Kulgam, including the Solid Waste Management & Material Recovery Facility at Lirrow, the Municipal Shopping Complex, and a Modern Abattoir, aimed at strengthening commerce and civic amenities in the district.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inspected departmental stalls showcasing various government schemes, welfare initiatives, and achievements under flagship programmes. He interacted with officials and beneficiaries, appreciating their efforts in ensuring citizen-centric governance and effective public service delivery.

During the meeting, the DDC Chairperson and local legislators raised several development related issues concerning their respective areas. The Chief Minister assured that all genuine demands would be considered on priority to accelerate Kulgam's overall growth and development.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Amir Ul shafi Khan, gave a detailed presentation outlining the district's developmental progress, achievements, and challenges for 2024–2026. He highlighted key focus areas like post-flood infrastructure restoration, healthcare, agriculture, education, and rural-urban development.

Significant progress was reported under CAPEX investments, with major achievements in irrigation, education, health, and urban sectors, besides ongoing works on bridges, roads, and water supply schemes. Schemes like MGNREGA and PMAY have generated substantial employment and housing support. Upgradation of health facilities, improved school retention rates, and expansion in horticulture, livestock, and fisheries sectors were also noted.

Deputy Commissioner underlined proactive winter preparedness, while identifying challenges such as transformer shortages, staff vacancies, and delays in road restoration and industrial land allotment. He said the district's integrated departmental coordination continues to drive resilient and inclusive growth. (DIPR)

Expecting more

led by Sakeena Itoo was formed and it has submitted the final report. "The report has been approved. The cabinet memo is being prepared for circulation and will be sent to the LG for approval," the Chief Minister said.

Regarding losses suffered by farmers, Omar said that the government does not need to wait for the Assembly to address the issue. "Wherever there has been damage to agricultural or horticultural crops, assessments have been completed. Talks with the Centre are underway for a relief package, similar to those given to other states. J&K also deserves such a package," he said.

On the revocation of FIRs registered during COVID-19 restrictions, Omar said, "Law and order is not with the elected government right now. Once we regain those powers, we will fulfill our other promises as well."

Meanwhile, in a post on X, the Office of Chief Minister, J&K, said that Omar Abdullah took a round of stalls set up by various departments at Kulgam.

"Chief Minister took a round of stalls set up by various departments at Kulgam, showcasing key Government schemes, public welfare initiatives, and achievements under flagship programmes," the post reads.

"He interacted with officials and beneficiaries, appreciating the efforts towards ensuring citizen-centric governance and effective service delivery," it added—(KNO)

NC, PDP

nomination papers today at the Returning Officer's office in Budgam, accompanied by his supporters.

According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), candidates can submit their nomination papers until October 20 for the 27-Budgam and 77-Nagrota constituencies.

Scrutiny of nominations will be held on October 22, while the last date for withdrawal of candidature is October 24.

Voting for the by-elections is scheduled on November 11, with counting set for November 14—(KNO)

DG BSF

narcotics and smuggling to safeguarding biodiversity and enforcing socio-economic laws, the IPS carries a mandate both vast and wide, the BSF DG said.

Above all, it calls upon its officers to uphold integrity of the highest order, he said.

He called upon the officers to respect human rights and remain deeply committed to the service of the people.

"You (IPS officers) are stepping into the service at a time when India is undergoing transformative change. The challenges before you are not simple. Terrorism, Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) and violent separatism still threaten our internal security even as newer threats like cyber crimes, financial fraud, radicalisation and information warfare emerge", he said.

As guardians of democracy, you must lead from the front with the courage to fight, compassion to heal and an unshakeable sense of justice, and that treats both the weak and the powerful without discrimination, he said.

The future of policing must be smart, strict and sensitive, modern and mobile, alert and accountable, reliable and responsive, techno savvy and well trained, Chawdhary said, adding "You must lead by example".

He said technology will be a force multiplier, but technology alone will not win the trust. Trust is earned through compassion, accessibility and a readiness to listen to the people you serve, he said.

"Remember, a police station is the first point of contact for the citizen and its functioning will reflect your leadership more than anything else. Strengthening that grassroots interface will determine the true credibility of the service," he said. (PTI)

GMC

GMC Anantnag on the national map of medical excellence.

Under the new sanction, the college will offer 18 MD/MS seats in key specialities, including general medicine (4 seats), general surgery, paediatrics and anaesthesia (four seats each) and two seats for ENT (Otorhinolaryngology).

This expansion will not only enhance clinical and academic training for students but also strengthen tertiary-level healthcare services across South Kashmir by ensuring a consistent supply of specialists.

Prof Rukhsana extended her gratitude to the Minister for Health and Medical Education and the entire administrative team for their continued encouragement. She acknowledged the cooperation of faculty members, consultants, residents, support staff, and media fraternity whose collective contributions made the achievement possible.

Civil society representatives congratulated the GMC Anantnag administration, calling the twin approvals a "historic advancement" for south Kashmir. "This is not just an institutional success — it's a victory for our youth, our patients, and our healthcare system. It will reduce the need for students to seek education outside J&K and improve patient care across the region," said a senior citizen from Anantnag—(KNO)

MHA orders

has always been open for dialogues at any time and it would continue to welcome the discussion with Apex Body Leh (ABL) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) through the High-Powered Committee on Ladakh or any such platform.

"We are confident that continuous dialogue would yield the desired results in near future. The government stands committed to the aspiration of the people of Ladakh," the statement said.

The notification stated that FIR No. 144/2025 has been registered at Police Station Leh under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The order, issued by Joint Secretary Prashant S. Lokhande, emphasizes the government's commitment to ensuring accountability and transparency in the matter. (PIB)

Turning Passion into Prosperity: Suneel Singh scripts Walnut cultivation success Story with ICAR-CITH -Srinagar

JAMMU: Shri Suneel Singh- a 39-year-old Ex-Serviceman from Gundarna Tagood, Tehsil Mughal Maidan District Kishtwar has turned his passion for walnut farming into a profession. He served the nation as an Indian Army Soldier from 2004 to 2021 and developed a passion for horticulture with special alignment towards walnut crop.

Chasing his passion, Suneel contacted ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar seeking information about the walnut varieties and technologies available for taking up his eunoia of walnut cultivation and propagation. He got an early support from ICAR-CITH, Srinagar including supply of elite walnut varieties and true-to-type planting material for establishing the initial mother blocks; know how on propagation techniques especially annular/ring/patch budding and cleft grafting, in walnut; guidance on pollination management for understanding male and female flowering synchronization and compatible pollinizer planting; rejuvenation of old and inferior trees with superior quality varieties, orchard layout and plantation design, including spacing, irrigation setup and soil management practices; support in establishing a mother block for elite germplasm conservation and production of scion wood; continued advisory support for nursery management; disease control and varietal identification & registration.

ICAR-CITH, Srinagar is also assisting and guiding him for protection of walnut varieties/ selections through PPV&FRA and their promotion through PPP mode. This early institutional mentoring from ICAR–CITH, Srinagar helped Suneel Singh gain confidence and technical skills, transforming his small start into a model walnut enterprise.

Armed with guidance and support from ICAR-CITH, Srinagar and his own innovation and dedication Suneel has made it big since 2021,

Under walnut propagation he achieved 90% success rate in annular/ring budding and 50% success rate in cleft grafting under open field conditions which is exceptional for walnut.

Identified, maintained, and multiplied seventeen early-bearing, soft-shell, better quality, high yielding walnut varieties/ selections suited to local agro climatic conditions.

Raised 70,000 seedling rootstocks of walnut and produced 25,000 grafted/ budded plants of walnut during the last three years (2021-2024). One of the cluster bearing selections (SS-1) which has been applied for registration/ protection through PPV&FRA represents 50% of this planting material.

Developed mother block on 2 ha land of walnut selections which are under testing for registration through PPV&FRA, New Delhi.

Developed nursery block of grafted and budded walnut plants on 1 ha land with assured irrigation supply and accessibility to the main road. His nursery was accredited by the State Horticulture Department in 2017 and NHB in 2023.

Supplied planting material of walnut (SS-1 and other elite selections) to Kishtwar (8,000), Doda (1,000), Ramban (500), Udhampur (800), Kashmir (150), Kathua (700), Uttarakhand (10,000), Himachal Pradesh (3,000), Sikkim (10), Nagaland (100), Manipur (200), Mizoram (150) and therefore covered an area of about 150 ha under walnut in these states.

Developed and implemented a community driven lift irrigation system from the Sigdi Chatroo River for assured quality water supply.

His YouTube channel "Kishtwar Gold Walnut Farm" is subscribed by 1047 subscribers having 105 videos on walnut for the benefit of farmers, stakeholders, and other viewers. He is also promoting walnut cultivation as a profitable enterprise through other social media like Facebook.

Suneel Singh was earning Rs 2 lakh per annum during 2021 when he retired from his service and started his journey for walnut cultivation and propagation in 2021. Now he generates an annual income of 15-20 Lakh per annum from nursery (90%) and walnut sales (10%), provides planting material to farmers in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram thereby expanding walnut area and productivity, acts as a trainer and motivator for local youth, students and farmers.

Suneel Singh advocating walnut cultivation as a superior alternative to apple because of its resilience to weather vagaries, organic nature, low-input friendly, suitable for dry temperate conditions, no need of cold storage, limited post-harvest losses, ease of transportation, higher plant life (>200 years), higher market value (Rs 400-500/kg shelled and Rs 1200-1400/kg for kernel), market for by-products like green hull, shell, pellicle, oil etc.

Suneel Singh's journey stands as a testament to how scientific guidance, when combined with passion and perseverance, can transform livelihoods and inspire rural entrepreneurship. With ICAR-CITH's timely support and his own determination, Suneel Singh has turned walnut cultivation into a profitable, sustainable and inspiring model for others to follow.

Government of Union of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Machinery Division Kashmir
Mechanical & Hospital Engineering
Department, Kashmir

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2025-26/53
Date	17 /10/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders in two (02) cover system, are invited on item rate basis from the manufactures or their authorized dealers/representatives only, for the following supply:-

Description	Estimated Cost (In lakh of Rs.)	Earnest Money (In lakh of Rs.)	Cost of Bid Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of Completion	Position of funds
1	2	3	4	5	6
Supply of 24V Electro Hydraulically Operated Variable Snow Plough Assembly (04 No)	60.00	1.20	1500/-	90 Days	Approved under Capex Budget 2025-26

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.inas per schedule of dates given below:-

01	Publish date	17-10-2025(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	17-10-2025(18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	17-10-2025 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	28-10-2025(18:55 hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	29- 10-2025(14:00 hrs)

Sd/
Executive Engineer

No: MDSK/ TS/3309-13
Dated: - 17 -10-2025.

DIPK-7289/25 Dt: 17-10-2025

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir,

Office of the Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kralpora
Short TermE tendering NIT No.44/RnB/Kralpora of 2025-26Dated: 16-10-2025

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor Jammu &Kashmir(UT), e-tenders are being invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	EMD (in Rupees)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head
1.	Upgradation of Payer Mohalla Road at Dardsun Bala	14.08(incl C/o Bitumen and GST)	600/-	28170	4 Days	Bee/Cee/Dee Civil having MOU with registered HMPO	Potholes 2025-26

Position of AAA/ TS: Accorded
Position of funds: Available
*No:*Div-KRLP/2871-85
Date: 16-10-2025

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16.10.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	16.10.2025(5:00 PM) to 21.10.2025 (6:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	16.10.2025 (5:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	21.10.2025 (6:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22.10.2025 (12:00Noon) In the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora.

Upload/Disclose the bank account number which is linked with the GSTIN along with proof. No payments shall be released by the department to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder.

2. Bids must be accompanied with Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora (tender inviting authority). Treasury Challan must be writtenboldly and clearly with Name of Work, Name of the Contractor along with Contact No, NIT No and Serial No of Work on NIT(if any).
3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of the allotted Cost in the form of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
4. In case ofabnormally low bid price the Circular instructions issued by the Finance Department vide No FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 dated 08-08-2025 regarding seeking of additional performance security from the selected bidder for quoting ALB are as under
   a. Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/Security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on bid price.
   b. Where the bid price is below 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on bid price.
   c. The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of the bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of the bid price is 0.5% or more.
   d. The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kralpora

DIPK-7293/25 Dt: 17-10-2025

Dr. Jitendra Singh Unveils Curtain Raiser for India International Science Festival (IISF)

CHANDIGARH: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Friday unveiled the Curtain Raiser for the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025, describing the event as a celebration of science and innovation that reflects India's growing scientific spirit and curiosity.



According to Press Information Bureau (PIB), the four-day festival, scheduled to be held from December 6 to 9, 2025, at Panjab University, Chandigarh, will bring together scientists, researchers, innovators, and students to showcase India's achievements in science, technology, and innovation. The event will be themed "Vigyan Se Samriddhi – Science to Prosperity," emphasising the government's focus on harnessing science for national growth, sustainability, and self-reliance.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Singh said the IISF has evolved into a powerful platform that not only celebrates scientific progress but also inspires public participation in building a "Viksit Bharat" through science and innovation. He said every major address delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the past decade — from Independence Day speeches to policy announcements — has consistently underscored the importance of science and technology in national development.

He noted that the theme "Vigyan Se Samriddhi for Atmanirbhar Bharat" captures India's next growth phase, powered by innovation and sustainability. He added that achieving self-reliance requires reducing import dependence and strengthening domestic capabilities across key sectors, including life sciences, agriculture, fuel, and automotive technologies.

Highlighting the focus areas, Dr. Singh said IISF 2025 will centre on five broad themes—Science, Technology and Ecology of North-West India and the Himalayan Region; Science for Society and Education; Atmanirbhar Bharat through Science and Technology; Biotechnology and Bio-economy; and Integration of Traditional Knowledge with Modern Science. The event will involve institutions from Jammu, Chandigarh, and the Himalayan belt, showcasing region-specific innovations that promote sustainable development.

Drawing a connection to the recently held Emerging Science, Technology & Innovation Conclave (ESTIC-2025), Dr. Singh remarked, "The two events complement each other — you study to know what to celebrate, and you celebrate to get inspired to study more."

He further said that initiatives such as the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) will democratise research funding by extending support to universities and institutions across states, ensuring that innovation is not confined to traditional centres of excellence. He emphasised India's unique ability to blend traditional knowledge systems with cutting-edge modern science, calling it one of the country's greatest scientific strengths.

Dr. Singh urged students, start-ups, and citizens to participate actively in the festival, which will feature scientific exhibitions, business-to-business meetings, competitions, and cultural programs aimed at connecting laboratories with society. "The event will serve as a platform to carry India's scientific message from lab to land and from innovation to Atmanirbharta," he said.

The curtain raiser was attended by Prof. Renu Vig, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University; Prof. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology; Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR; Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences; Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Chairman, Department of Atomic Energy; Dr. A. Suryachandra Rao, Director, IITM Pune; and Dr. Shiv Kumar Sharma, National Organising Secretary, Vijnan Bharti, among others.

Launched in 2015, the India International Science Festival has emerged as one of the country's largest platforms for promoting scientific temper and public engagement with science. The 2025 edition aims to strengthen this vision by showcasing how science and innovation continue to drive India's journey toward sustainable prosperity and self-reliance. (PIB)

Govt working on steps to improve supply of rare earth minerals: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI: The government is working on measures to improve supply of rare earth minerals, including negotiating trade pacts with Chile and Peru, promoting domestic exploration, and engaging startups in recycling and processing, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.



Critical or rare earth minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, and cobalt are essential raw materials which have applications in various industries ranging from electronic goods to fighter jets.

These minerals also fuel the growth of rapidly growing clean energy technologies, including electric vehicles and battery manufacturing. Countries like Chile, Peru and Australia have reserves of these minerals.

India already has implemented a trade pact with Australia and is negotiating with South American nations Chile and Peru. The Indian team is visiting the two South American countries for the next round of trade talks.

"Look at Chile and Peru, think about it. Why am I doing FTA with them in the first place? It gives you the answer," he said when asked about steps the government is taking to deal with the shortage of these minerals.

China, the major player of these minerals, has imposed restrictions on the supply, which is disrupting the supply chains worldwide.

"In our country, we are looking at increasing explorations and I have been talking to start-ups engaged in this area both for recycling of the waste, from which we can extract rare earths, and we are also in dialogue with start-ups to see if we can create the processing facility in India, which is currently concentrated in one geography," Goyal said.

The minister also suggested that the industry diversify their supply chains, as dependency on one country for the import of any product will create problems.

"We must assess all our respective supply chains, see whether they are overly dependent on any particular geography," he said, adding if it is dependent on one country, you are prone to vulnerability, particularly in a world where trade is being used as a weapon".

"We have seen weaponisation of trade and supply chains. Make your supply chains robust, wherever possible, be self-sufficient and self-reliant. Make sure we have a sufficient number of options so that we are not vulnerable," he added.

He also said that the government is formulating guidelines for the newly announced Rs 10,000 crore Fund of Funds Scheme (FFS) for startups, unveiled in the Budget.

It is focusing on manufacturing and high-technology sectors, which require longer-term funding.

Further, Goyal criticised the previous Congress governments for not properly negotiating free trade agreements with ASEAN, Japan and Korea, and now they are not benefiting the domestic industry.

Speaking at an Assocham event here, Goyal said that while these countries can increase their exports to India, domestic exporters are finding it difficult to enter their markets.

"We face difficulty when we export," he said, adding that only imports have grown from these countries.

On the other hand, he said, the FTAs concluded by the NDA government are helping increase India's exports. This government has implemented such pacts with the UAE, Mauritius, the EFTA bloc and Australia. (PTI)

ECI Holds Meeting with Enforcement Agencies to Curb Illicit Inducements Ahead of Bihar Elections

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday held a high-level meeting of the Multi-Departmental Committee on Election Intelligence (MDCEI) at Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi, to review and strengthen mechanisms aimed at curbing the movement of cash, drugs, liquor, and other inducements during the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

According to Press Information Bureau (PIB), the meeting, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi, focused on ensuring proactive and preventive measures by enforcement agencies to maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

Heads of key enforcement and regulatory bodies including the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB), Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Indian Banks' Association (IBA), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Railway Protection Force (RPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Postal Department attended the meeting.

The Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, State Police Nodal Officer, and the Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar also joined the deliberations virtually.

During the meeting, the participating agencies briefed the Commission on their preparedness and ongoing initiatives to ensure inducement-free elections, covering measures to prevent the use of money, liquor, drugs, and other illegal means to influence voters.

The ECI directed all agencies to ensure real-time coordination and intelligence sharing to detect and act against economic offences and election-related violations effectively. It stressed the need for intra-agency coordination at the national, state, and district levels to ensure seamless collaboration during the election period.

The Commission further instructed agencies to map vulnerable constituencies and identify routes prone to smuggling of cash, drugs, liquor, fake currency, and other contraband across inter-state and international borders.

Reiterating its commitment to maintaining electoral integrity, the ECI underscored its policy of 'zero tolerance' toward any form of inducement and directed all enforcement wings to take strict, coordinated, and timely action to ensure free and fair elections in Bihar. (PIB)

Shivraj Chouhan Directs Officials For Timely Implementation Of PM Dhan-Dhaanya-Krishi-Yojana

NEWDELHI: Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, held a high-level meeting with the Ministers and Secretaries of these 11 Ministries, along with officials from the NITI Aayog, to ensure that the



meeting with senior officials of the Ministry regarding the 'Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission' and the 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana'. During the meeting, the Union Minister issued directions for their time-bound implementation. To ensure the expeditious execution of the 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana', Chouhan will soon convene a meeting with ministers from 11 ministries.

It was conveyed during the meeting that the 'Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission' will be implemented through the creation of district-level clusters, with support being sought from States for the formation of these clusters. Additionally, Chouhan directed officials to ensure effective implementation of the 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' at the grassroots level. He stated that the timely execution of both initiatives at the ground level would benefit farmers directly.

The 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana', launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to promote agricultural advancement in 100 aspirational districts across the country by integrating 36 sub-schemes of 11 Ministries. In this context, Chouhan instructed officials to organise a maximum benefits of the scheme reach the farmers.

The Union Agriculture Minister also directed officials to hold a meeting with nodal officers of the States concerned with the 'Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission' to ensure its successful and timely implementation. Earlier, on October 11, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' and the 'Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission' during a mega event held at Pusa, New Delhi.

The Union Cabinet had approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' on July 16, 2025. The scheme will be implemented for a period of six years, starting from FY 2025–26, with an annual outlay of 24,000 crore. Similarly, the 'Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission' will be implemented over a period of six years with a financial outlay of 11,440 crore. The mission aims to increase the area under pulses from 275 lakh hectares to 310 lakh hectares, production from 242 lakh tonnes to 350 lakh tonnes, and productivity to 1,130 kg per hectare by 2030–31. Along with improved productivity, the mission is also expected to generate substantial employment opportunities. (PIB)

India-Sri Lanka cooperation holds immense importance for region: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday conveyed to his Sri Lankan counterpart Harini Amarasuriya India's commitment to work together in the shared development journey of the two countries as both the leaders held talks to boost overall bilateral ties.



Amarasuriya is on a three-day visit to India beginning Thursday, in her first trip to the country India after assuming charge of the top office.

"Our discussions covered a broad range of areas, including education, women's empowerment, innovation, development cooperation and welfare of our fishermen," Modi said on X.

"As close neighbours, our cooperation holds immense importance for the prosperity of our two peoples as well as the shared region," he said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Modi conveyed that Amarasuriya's visit would impart fresh momentum to the "historic and multi-faceted India-Sri Lanka ties".

It said the two leaders discussed measures to strengthen cooperation in a number of areas, including education, technology, innovation development cooperation and welfare of Indian fishermen.

Highlighting the special ties between India and Sri Lanka, Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to work together in the shared development journey of the two countries, it said.

Modi also recalled his State visit to Sri Lanka in April during which he held fruitful discussions with President Anura Kumara Disanayaka.

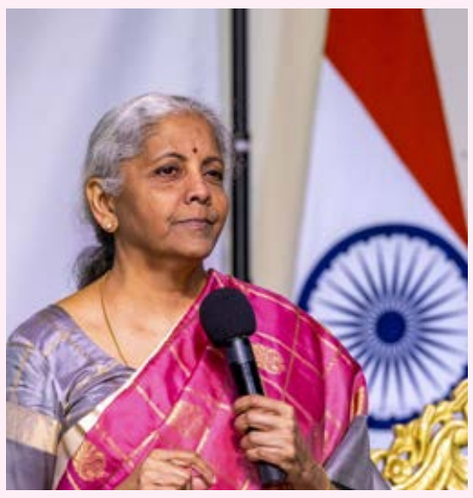
Modi conveyed his warm wishes to President Disanayaka, and said that he looked forward to their continued engagements, according to the MEA. (PTI)

FM Sitharaman urges rural banks to boost credit for agriculture and MSMEs

NEWDELHI: The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chaired a meeting to review business performance of the Karnataka Grameena Bank (KaGB) at Ballari, Karnataka on 16th October 2025. The meeting was attended by Sh. M Nagaraju, Secretary (DFS), Sh. Shaji K.V., Chairman NABARD, ED Canara Bank and other senior officials from the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

During the review, the Finance Minister assessed key indicators including credit growth, NPAs, performance under financial inclusion and implementation of government-sponsored schemes of KaGB. She advised KaGB to increase its share in ground level agriculture credit disbursement with special focus on emerging areas of the economy.

Smt. Sitharaman also directed all stakeholders to take necessary steps to realise the potential of allied agriculture activities in the region. KaGB and Canara



Bank were specially directed to work with state government departments to increase credit disbursement to MSME and allied sector.

The rationalisation of GST rates has opened new opportunities in rural areas due to increase in consumption, which is an indication of more funding by banks, the Finance Minister said. Smt. Sitharaman urged the rural banks to leverage this opportunity to cater the credit requirement in semi-urban and rural areas.

The Union Minister said that capital requirement of some of the FPOs are met by Development Financial Institutions and Government Departments. The working capital requirements should be fulfilled by the Banks. Rural bank should upgrade its products and services as per the convenience and demand of Farmer Producer Organisations, the Minister emphasized. This will enable both Banks and FPOs to leverage their resources for mutual benefit and sustainable growth of rural economy.

Further Smt. Sitharaman said that many companies are moving their services like data centre services from tier-1 to tier 2 & 3 cities. The rural banks shall focus on such emerging areas to improve their financial health. KaGB shall focus on its business operations to make the bank profitable and overcome the challenges faced by stressed assets, the minister added.

The Union Minister advised KaGB and Sponsor Bank to engage with respective committees at panchayat/district level to improve the screening process of applications received under Government sponsored schemes viz. PM-Vishwakarma & PMFME.

The Union Finance Minister urged KaGB to spread its presence in the Kalyan Karnataka region by opening new branches wherever presence of banking outlets are inadequate. KaGB was also advised to enhance operational efficiency by improving asset quality, adopting new technology and strengthening customer service delivery.

The Secretary, DFS, Sh. M Nagaraju highlighted that the integration of systems and processes have been completed post amalgamation and stressed upon KaGB's medium term business plan and review thereof by sponsor bank for long term sustainability and viability of the rural bank.

Sh. Nagaraju noted the potential in agro processing and MSME in the region and urged KaGB to partner with NABARD for value creation by farmers in agriculture and allied sectors. He appreciated KaGB for its remarkable progress in Atal Pension Yojana and suggested to improve its performance under other financial inclusion schemes such as PMJJBY, PMSBY & PMJDY. He also suggested a future roadmap to partner PSBs by providing banking services in the areas which is unserved/underserved. He emphasized need of staff integration and skill upgradation of employees post amalgamation. (PIB)

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