



J&K Assembly Session to begin today

■ Obituary reference for 6 deceased MLAs listed in day-1

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SRINAGAR: The nine-day autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly is expected to be stormy, with opposition parties gearing up to corner the ruling National Conference (NC)-led government over a range of issues.

The session, comprising six sittings, will begin tomorrow with obituary references for six former legislators who passed away after the last budget session held in Jammu.

The proceedings are expected to be stormy, with the opposition expected to target the government over governance failures, unfulfilled promises made in the NC's election manifesto, demands for statehood, and reservation-related concerns.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will demand accountability from the NC-led government for what he described as a "betrayal of electoral promises." "The government has failed to deliver on its commitments made during the elections—whether it is the promise of 200 free units of electricity, 12 LPG cylinders per household, or other assurances given to the people," Sharma said.

He further said that the BJP will question the government on its inability to create employment opportunities for the youth. "In the election, the government promised to create one lakh jobs for the youth, but they

challenges confronting the region. As previously reported, the Assembly Secretariat has disallowed a resolution submitted by Peoples Conference

Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Business Establishments Bill, 2025. The Legislative Assembly Secretariat has received 450 questions, 13 private members' bills, and 55 private



have done nothing. We will ask them what they have done for the youth in the past year," he added.

Meanwhile, smaller Kashmir-based opposition parties such as the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peoples Conference (PC), and Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) are expected to agitate over issues like statehood restoration, reservation rationalisation, and other

president Sajad Gani Lone seeking the restoration of statehood, citing that the matter is sub judice.

The focal point of the session will be three government bills slated for introduction. The cabinet has already approved amendments to the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayat Raj Act, 1989, and the Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017, along with the enactment of the

members' resolutions for the session. Additionally, 33 private members' bills submitted during the last Assembly session remain pending and will be given priority on October 28-the day designated for private members' business. However, many of these bills are unlikely to be introduced in the House. Meanwhile, the Business

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Ruhullah's Absence Won't Impact His Performance: Aga Mahmood

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) candidate Aga Syed Mahmood on Wednesday said that the absence of support from former minister and incumbent parliament member, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi would not affect his performance in the ongoing Assembly by-election in Budgam.

Aga Mahmood asserted that the National Conference is larger than any individual and enjoys grassroots support across the constituency. "NC created Ruhullah, Ruhullah didn't create NC. He has supporters within his family and among well-wishers, which is fine, but ultimately NC supporters will vote for the party," he said.

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NEP 2020 Made Education Simpler: Dr Jitendra Singh

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'PM Modi's regime has heralded democratisation of opportunities across all sectors'

JAMMU: Asserting that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has made education simpler, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that in PM Modi's regime there has been democratisation of opportunities.

While distributing free laptops among the top-performing female students of his constituency, Dr Singh said, that the government led by PM Modi has introduced several dedicated schemes for women, and in the wake of Diwali, laptops could be the ideal gift for meritorious girl students.

"In the last 11 years, PM Modi has encouraged the education of girl students and introduced several dedicated schemes for them. In the Civil Services Exam, female students

have consistently been the toppers. In 2014-15, 16 female students were toppers. Last year, two out of the first three toppers were



females in the IAS exams. In Jammu and Kashmir, girls are becoming IAS from places like Kishtwar and Rajouri," he said, adding, "After PM Modi came to power, there has been democratisation of opportunities, democratisation of information available for

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NEW DELHI: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday said that the foundation for 'Operation Sindoor' was laid down in 2016 soon after Pakistan sponsored terrorists attacked an Army camp near Line of Control (LoC) at Uri in North Kashmir's Baramulla District.

Speaking at the unveiling of "Civil Military Fusion as a Metric of National Power and Comprehensive Security" book and "Portraits of Valour: Timeless Military Art" coffee table book by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the Army Chief said, "Higher command course always talks about 'why'. Three things which I picked up from him [Lt Gen Raj Shukla (Retd)] at that point in time...The second thing was the foundation

for Operation Sindoor. At that time (in 2016) Uri had happened and he conducted a detailed discussion and various options, how should we go about this situation which



comes in future."

Referring to 'Operation Sindoor' that was launched to avenge April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead, the Army Chief said that when the situation was discussed with him it was nothing new as when the Uri attack had

happened all the options were discussed to deal with the situations that could arise in future. "So, I must concede very frankly, when this situation came to me, it was a

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"This time we will not maintain the restraint that we had in Operation Sindoor 1.0. This time we will do something that will make Pakistan think whether it wants to retain its place in geography or not," General Dwivedi had said

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very normal thing for me because I had already seen this earlier." Pertinently, earlier this month the Army Chief had issued a fierce warning to Pakistan.

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NITI Aayog, CS Discuss Plan to Establish Tele-ICU Network

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SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, held a detailed discussion with Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. V.K. Paul, to deliberate on the establishment of Tele-ICU facilities across the newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in the districts of J&K.

advanced healthcare innovations into its public health system. He stated that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir is working towards establishing Tele-ICU facilities under a hub-and-spoke model, ensuring 24x7 critical care monitoring, expert consultation, and real-time clinical support for peripheral hospitals. Under this model, newly established GMCs will serve as spokes connected to a central command hub within the UT.

To ensure effective implementation, the Chief Secretary proposed deputation of an expert team from J&K to leading healthcare institutions across the country to study the design and operational mo-

dalities of existing Tele-ICU hubs and command centres. He emphasized that while J&K faces challenges arising from difficult terrain and human resource



limitations, the administration is committed to developing a customized, scalable model that addresses regional needs and strengthens healthcare delivery at the grassroots level.

Highlighting the next steps, the Chief

Secretary directed the Health & Medical Education Department to work out the technical, administrative, and financial contours of the initiative. He stressed the importance of creating a state-of-the-art

To ensure effective implementation, the Chief Secretary proposed deputation of an expert team from J&K to leading healthcare institutions across the country to study the design and operational modalities of existing Tele-ICU hubs and command centres...

Tele-ICU hub within J&K equipped with expert professionals and technology partners to provide continuous clinical guidance, training, and quality assurance. The hub would also serve as

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NC will win all 4 Rajya Sabha seats: CM Omar

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SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday exuded hope that the National Conference (NC) would emerge victorious in all four



seats in the Rajya Sabha elections, slated to be held on October 24. He also urged the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, to stop issuing baseless statements.

On the sidelines of the joint strategy meeting, the Chief Minister, told media persons that ahead of every

Assembly session, a Legislature Party Meeting is conducted, and today, NC and other independents held a meeting to devise a strategy.

"This session is different from others as elections for the Rajya Sabha are being held, and a strategy was being prepared to secure victory in all the seats," he said, terming today's meeting as significant.

"I am thankful to Tarigami and other independents for attending the meeting. With the enthusiasm that can be seen among the NC MLAs and other independents, I am hopeful that NC will secure all four Rajya Sabha seats," he said.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister, while replying to a query about Congress's non-participation in the meeting, said that they did not join as they had their own meeting. "Congress has always maintained that they will not allow the BJP to emerge victorious. Congress has its own system. There is a difference between their party and ours."

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Tensions escalate in J&K alliance...

Congress skips crucial joint strategy meeting with NC

SRINAGAR: As strains deepen within Jammu & Kashmir's ruling alliance, the Congress party on Wednesday opted to stay away from a joint strategy session called by its coalition partner, the National Conference (NC), to discuss its strategy for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections and the autumn session of the Legislative Assembly.

After a three-hour long meeting chaired by President Pradesh Congress Committee Tariq Hamid Karra, the Congress party skipped the NC-convened strategy meeting to discuss RS polls and the autumn session of the Assembly. Karra told reporters as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the meeting remained inconclusive today and will resume on Thursday.

"The sentiments and suggestions put forth by our legislators are being shared with the high command. It was decided that, keeping in view the sensitivity of some important matters, today's meeting has been adjourned until

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Director Horticulture Jammu reviews implementation of development schemes

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JAMMU: Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Sayed convened a review meeting with Chief Horticulture Officers of Jammu Province.



The meeting was held here in the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Horticulture and attended by Joint Director, Deputy Director Central, Deputy Director Planning, Accounts Officer, Assistant Director, Chief Horticulture Officers of all Jammu Province, Chief Canning Instructor, Nursery Registration Officer and Horticulture Information & Publicity Officer.

The meeting reviewed the physical and financial achievements under the departmental schemes including MIDH, CAPEX, CSS, Rejuvenation, P15H, P13H, P21H, P9H and JKCP for the financial year 2025-26 and to finalize strategies for achieving 100% targets as per the approved Action Plans.

The Director emphasised timely execution of field activities, effective monitoring and optimum utilization of funds to ensure that all developmental objectives under these schemes are achieved within the stipulated time frame. The officers were directed to accelerate the implementation process and maintain regular reporting for better coordination and transparency.

Director Agriculture Jammu distributes One Lakh Hybrid Vegetable Seedlings under HADP

JAMMU: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta distributed one lakh hybrid vegetable seedlings to farmers of Sub-Division Marh under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme



(HADP). The seedlings, raised by the Agronomist, Vegetable Improvement Scheme (VIS) Jammu and are disease-free, healthy and of high quality. So far, around 2 to 3 lakh vegetable seedlings have already been distributed to farmers under this initiative.

Interacting with the farmers, the Director Agriculture informed that these seedlings are available at a highly subsidized rate. He appealed the farmers to avail benefit of this facility and adopt quality vegetable cultivation practices for enhanced productivity and profitability.

During the visit, the Director Agriculture also inspected the Naturally Ventilated Polyhouse where red and yellow bell peppers, seedless cucumber and tomato are being raised under protected cultivation. These crops are being maintained for demonstration purposes and will serve as live models during the farmers' training programmes from across the Jammu Division.

Highlighting the scope of urban farming, the Director Agriculture informed that 2000 grow-bags are being distributed under the IPDP to encourage vegetable cultivation in urban and peri-urban areas. He further reviewed the ongoing works at the Centre of Excellence, which is expected to become operational within a month. The centre will facilitate round-the-year production of vegetable and floriculture seedlings, thereby strengthening the region's nursery infrastructure.

Agronomist (VIS), Vikas Padha, apprised the Director Agriculture about the ongoing activities and informed that the sowing of breeder seed of spinach has commenced at the JPAE Farm for further multiplication and distribution to farmers to ensure the availability of quality vegetable seed.

Among others present on the occasion were Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma, Agriculture Chemist, Vinod Kumar Sharma, Agronomist (VIS) Jammu, Vikas Padha, Assistant Botanist, Ajit Singh, SDAO Marh, Khalid Hassan and other senior officers and staff of the department.

Police arrests two people evading arrest for five years

Srinagar: In a significant action against fugitives evading the law, police in Ganderbal traced and arrested two absconders who were evading arrest for last five years, a police spokesman said Wednesday.

He said that the arrested individuals have been identified as Mohammad Saleem Sheikh son of Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh and Rehana Begum w/o Mohammad Saleem Sheikh, both residents of Panzipora Sopore, involved in Case FIR No. 47/2021 U/S 420, 34, 201/IPC.

The accused persons were apprehended by Police during a special operation and were produced today before the court Addl. Special Mobile Magistrate Ganderbal for further legal proceedings, the spokesman added.

Secy ITD reviews progress of projects under Capex Budget 2025-26

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JAMMU: Secretary, Information Technology Department (ITD), Dr. Piyush Singla chaired a meeting of senior officers



to discuss and review the physical and financial progress of different projects of the department under Capex Budget 2025-26 at Civil Secretariat here.

Chief Executive Officer, JKEGA; Special Secretary, ITD; Director Finance, ITD; Additional Secretary, ITD, Deputy Director

(Planning), ITD; Head SeMT J&K; Incharge IT Cell; besides, other officers and officials attended the meeting through virtual mode.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on various issues

initiatives in UT of J&K, digitalization of office Records development of IT Hub/ Park at Jammu & Srinagar and others.

Secretary IT emphasized upon the concerned officers to clear all bottlenecks for early completion of all ongoing projects

of IT department. He also directed the officers to take proper workout on under process DPRs and other issues so that the works on the different projects could be completed in time-bound manner.

During the meeting, Director Finance and other concerned officers briefed the Secretary and gave a power point presentation about the status of various projects, besides action taken on physical and financial status of Capex Budget 2025-26.

The meeting was also informed about present status of physical and financial progress of total

number of ongoing and new projects including upgradation of State Data Centre, setting up of wired LAN for Civil Secretariat Jammu, setting up of dedicated 2Gbps internet Lease Line for both Secretariats at Jammu & Srinagar and setting up of MPLS for e-office.

Wullar Lake On Brink Of Disaster As Shore Turns Into Garbage Dump

Locals blame authorities, general public for environmental degradation

BANDIPORA: North Kashmir's Bandipora district is witnessing a growing environmental crisis as another shore of the famous Wullar Lake, located in the Puthshay area, is rapidly transforming into a dumping site.

This follows a similar situation at Zalwan, which locals termed the failure of local authorities to enforce effective solid waste management measures.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a visit to the site revealed heaps of foul-smelling garbage dumped along the lake's edge, causing significant inconvenience to residents and marred the beauty of the area, which is located near the proposed site for the fruit mandi.

The situation is aggravated by stray dogs scavenging through the waste, posing a safety risk to people passing by. "Many people have been bitten by these dogs in recent times," said Muhammad Amin, a local resident.

He recalled a time when the area was cleaner, with boats moored along the shore,

but lamented how the place has deteriorated over the years. "The garbage has spread everywhere, and while the authorities are responsible, people's careless behaviour is



also to blame," he added.

He also noted that the location's proximity to the Bandipora-Sopore road worsens the problem.

Adding to the environmental degradation, locals said that dead animals are frequently dumped here, further contaminating the area.

Saleem Dar, another resident, expressed

concern over the government's inaction despite multiple complaints. "The administration is spending large sums of money trying to clean the lake, but people keep polluting it," he said.

He warned that toxic substances from the waste could dissolve into the water, posing a severe threat to the lake's ecosystem. Dar urged that proper scientific methods be adopted to manage and treat the waste effectively.

Locals also blamed the general public for contributing to the pollution. "If the people who live here don't protect Wullar Lake, who else will?" questioned a group of residents.

They called on the administration to impose strict penalties on those responsible for dumping waste, stressing that such action is crucial to prevent further damage to the lake.

Residents said the Rural Development Department (RDD) has been involved in cleanup efforts for several weeks, but without public cooperation and stricter enforcement, these efforts are unlikely to bring lasting relief.

An official said that he will look into the matter—(KNO)

Bandipora Police Hold Parent-Student Awareness Session at IDPS

BANDIPORA: In a proactive step to address the rising concern of drug abuse among youth, the Bandipora Police con-



ducted a parent-student interaction session at the International Delhi Public School (IDPS) on Wednesday.

The session, themed "Identifying Early Warning Signs and Behavioural Changes in Children: Recognising Possible Narcotic Usage," aimed to equip parents, teachers, and caregivers with the knowledge to spot early indicators of substance abuse and respond effectively.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Headquarters Bandipora, Latief Khan (JKPS), urged parents to maintain open

communication with their children and be vigilant about changes in behaviour. Highlighting the critical role of community engagement in tackling drug-related issues, he encouraged reporting any suspicious activity linked to drug trafficking or consumption.

Demonstrating personal commitment, DySP Khan also shared his contact number, assuring parents that he remains

accessible around the clock. "Together, we can protect our children from this dangerous path and secure their future," he emphasized.

Station House Officer (SHO) Bandipora, Akhter Hussain, described drug abuse as a serious societal challenge affecting both moral and physical well-being. He stressed that parents and teachers must actively watch for early signs of addiction and provide timely support to affected youth. The Chairman of IDPS offered the vote of thanks, commending the Bandipora Police for prioritising youth welfare. He appealed to parents to collaborate closely with law enforcement and report any concerning behavioural changes in their children promptly.

The session saw active participation from both parents and teachers, who welcomed it as a valuable platform for discussion on an urgent social issue. Many praised the Bandipora Police, particularly DySP Khan's office, for its ongoing community outreach and strong stance against drug networks in the district.

Local resident Mohd Ramzan Bhat noted that the situation regarding drug abuse has improved significantly under DySP Khan's leadership. "We have observed noticeable progress in controlling the drug menace since he took charge," he said. (KNS)

Department of Agriculture Jammu celebrates Vishwakarma Day

JAMMU: The Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu celebrated Vishwakarma Day with great enthusiasm and reverence at the Government Agriculture Workshop and Seed Processing Unit, Talab Tillo. The event was graced by the Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta who highlighted



the pivotal role of agricultural mechanization in ushering in a new era of agricultural advancement.

Addressing the officers and workers, the Director emphasized that farm mechanization is essential to enhance both productivity and quality in the cultivation of food and non-food crops. He underscored the need to adopt modern tools and equipment for sustainable and efficient farming practices, which will contribute significantly to the next agricultural revolution.

Later, a special Puja ceremony of Bhagwan Vishwakarma—the divine architect and patron of artisans and engineers—was organized by the Directorate of Agriculture.

The ceremony included the worship of tools and machinery along with prayers for the safety and well-being of all operators and workers. The event concluded with the distribution of Prasad among the participants.

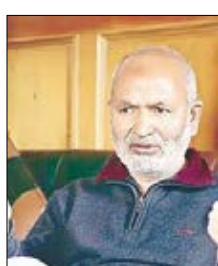
The Director interacted with the workers and inspected various machines installed at the workshop and seed processing unit, including the Sheet Cutting Machine, Sheet Bending Machine, Beading Machine, Power Hammers, Sheet Rolling Machines and Swaging Machines. He appreciated the efforts of the workshop staff for their contribution in maintaining and fabricating essential agricultural implements used across the region.

Simultaneously, Vishwakarma Puja was also held at the Seed Processing Plant, Seed Multiplication Farm Chinore and Seed Multiplication Farm Chakrohi, where officers and workers participated in the rituals with devotion.

The event was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) Dr. Ashwani Sharma; Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma; Accounts Officer Vishnu Kant Sharma; Agriculture Research Engineer (ARE) Firdous Ahmad Tak, DSCO Nirmal Prakash and other senior officers and staff members of the department.

NC Govt Failed to Address Public Issues: Naeem Akhtar

BANDIPORA: Senior PDP leader Naeem Akhtar on Tuesday launched his political activities from his native town in Bandipora. Addressing party workers at the Bandipora office, Akhtar stated that the "NC government's



contribution has been limited to providing jobs to 50 MLAs and nothing more," alleging that public issues were not adequately addressed during their tenure.

Akhtar said the PDP aims to rebuild its organisational structure from the grassroots level and pursue a democratic process to restore constitutional and political rights. He said the party's vision focuses on public participation, accountability, and addressing issues related to employment, development and representation.

Addressing his maiden workers' meeting in Bandipora, Akhtar discussed the way forward and said he would work for the constituency. "I promise Bandipora will become a model district in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Akhtar also referred to his previous tenure as R&B Minister, stating that projects like Wular Vintage Park, Athawtoo tourist accommodation centre, Mudhamati beatification and widening of the Bandipora-Sumbal road were based on his own initiative. He said former PDP MLA Nizamuddin Bhat did not approach him with projects or suggestions related to Bandipora at the time, which he described as a bottleneck in constituency-level engagement.

"I had walked these streets and places during my childhood, and was motivated by that to do something for my native district," Akhtar said.

He further said that if elected to power, avenues would be created for youth employment in Bandipora. "Youth here will not have to seek jobs; they will become job providers rather than job seekers," he added.

Akhtar was speaking in the presence of the Constituency Incharge Bandipora. Several workers from other parties joined the PDP during the event.

He urged party workers to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level and engage with people on local concerns.

Indian Heaven Premier League commencing from October 25th: Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements

Urges organisers to strictly adhere to online ticketing mechanism

SRINAGAR: The first edition of T20 Indian Heaven Premier League shall commence from 25th October at Bakshi Stadium featuring International, National and local players. The high octane league will see the participation of eight teams for a fortnight while the stadium is expected to remain brimmed with the crowd coming from all across the J&K.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the mega sports event, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg chaired a comprehensive meeting of officers from various departments to take first hand appraisal of the preparations to set the stage ready for IHPL.

While reviewing the arrangements for the itinerary of the players, Div Com directed organisers to keep security agencies informed about the arrival, accommodation and movement of all players.

The meeting was informed that around 25 thousand to 30 thousand spectators are expected to watch the matches directly in the stadium.

On the occasion, Div Com directed organisers to confine booking of maximum tickets through online mechanism only to fa-

cilitate smooth crowd management.

He also directed police and security officers to deploy adequate personnel to assist crowd control in an organized manner.

Div Com also instructed organisers to strictly adhere to the timelines for entry of spectators and conclusion of daily matches while DC Srinagar was directed to depute magistrates to facilitate co-ordination among stakeholders.

Regarding drone coverage, Div Com instructed concerned agencies to approach to the district administration for proper permission.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed concerned officers of Jal Shakti and PDD for ensuring uninterrupted supply of drinking water & electricity at the venue.

Garg urged SMC, Sports Council and event



organizers to conduct continuous cleanliness and sanitation drive to avoid littering

Sports Council, SMC, Information, Jal Shakti, PDD, Traffic, Police, Airport Authority,

around the venue.

He instructed IHPL Organisers to strictly mention food items that shall be allowed into the stadium for match viewers.

To take care of any medical exigency, Div Com directed Health Department to deploy ambulances fully equipped with features and medicine besides asked officer to prepare a roster for medical & paramedical staff for the deployment at the venue.

He also instructed for identification of parking places to avoid inconvenience to the public and ensure proper traffic management.

He also directed for stationing of fire tenders near the stadium to combat any eventuality of fire incident.

Besides DC Srinagar, the meeting was attended by officers from various departments including

SWD Srinagar Organizes Training/Sensitization Programme on Various Welfare Schemes

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD) Srinagar organized a Training-cum-Sensitization Programme on various Wel-

assist community members in availing benefits, improving livelihoods, and accessing their rights.



Speaking on the occasion, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Srinagar, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, highlighted the importance of organizing such programmes with frontline workers of Mission Poshan. He emphasized their pivotal role in reaching out to the community and ensuring the successful implementation of welfare schemes at the local level.

During the programme, District Mission Coordinator, Ruqaya Ashraf, delivered a detailed presentation on various welfare schemes being implemented by the Department of Social Welfare for different sections of society, including Women, Senior Citizens, and Persons with Disabilities.

Additionally, the District Mission Coordinator of SANKALP - Hub for Empowerment of Women, Srinagar, gave a comprehensive overview of welfare and livelihood schemes from various departments, including Social Welfare, Mission Vatsalya, Labour, Mission Yuva, Mission Youth, JKE-DI, J&K Women's Development Corporation, Agriculture, Sheep Husbandry, and Animal Husbandry.

The significance of organizing such Programmes is to improve access and awareness, to develop skills for self-sufficiency, to promote entrepreneurship, to handle administrative procedures, to address specific needs, to ensure quality and outcomes.

fare Schemes for Women, Senior Citizens, and Persons with Disabilities at the Conference Hall, ADR Centre, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar.

The programme was held with the Supervisors of Mission Poshan to enhance their understanding and capacity to disseminate information about different welfare initiatives among local communities.

The programme aimed to equip participants with detailed knowledge of various welfare schemes so they can effectively inform and

BJP to celebrate 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

SRINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, organized a preparatory meeting at S1 Church Lane, Srinagar, to discuss and finalize the programmes to be held in connection with the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India and the architect of national unity.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), BJP J&K, chaired the meeting and outlined the series of activities planned by the party to commemorate the occasion. He said that various programmes including Unity Marches (Ekta Yatras), seminars, debates, and nukkad natakis will be organized across the Union Territory to spread the message of unity, nationalism, and integrity championed by Sardar Patel.

"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision and courage laid the foundation of a united India by integrating over 560 princely states. The India we live in today stands on his dream of oneness and national integration. It is our duty to continue his mission and strengthen the spirit of unity," said Ashok Koul. He further added that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has revived and celebrated the legacy of Sardar Patel, exemplified by the construction of the world's tallest statue, the Statue of Unity, a tribute to the great statesman's unmatched contribution to nation-building.

J&K BJP Secretaries Mudasir Wani and Arif Raja, Programme Incharge Bhat Imtiyaz, State Co-Media Incharge Sajid Yousuf

Shah, Co-Incharge of All Cells Bilal Parray, District Presidents, and other senior functionaries were present during the meeting.

Mudasir Wani emphasized that these programmes will encourage youth participation and fosters a sense of collective



responsibility towards the nation's integrity.

Arif Raja said that the life and legacy of Sardar Patel continue to inspire millions, and BJP's commitment to his ideals is reflected in every initiative aimed at strengthening unity and nationalism.

Later, Ashok Koul also addressed booth-level meetings as part of the ongoing election campaign for the Budgam Assembly constituency by-election. Addressing party workers at Booth No. 164 Thokerpora, he lauded their enthusiasm and dedication, stating that the campaign is progressing effectively and the party is moving steadily towards victory.

Medical Establishments Sealed in Zainapura for Regulatory Violations

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 22: In a decisive move to enforce regulatory compliance and safeguard public interest, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapura, Bilal Ahmed today led a joint operation in collaboration with the Drug Control Authorities Shopian, resulting in the closure of four medical establishments, including a wholesale dealer.

The enforcement drive was undertaken to ensure adherence to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act), and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, with specific focus on the maintenance of NRX Scheduled H1 records, implementation of new GST labelling, and compliance with GST rates.

The inspections revealed instances of non-compliance, including inadequate record-keeping, absence of computerized billing, and non-functional CCTV cameras, prompting immediate action.

The SDM and Drug officer have underscored their commitment to upholding the highest standards of regulatory compliance within the healthcare sector, emphasizing that such enforcement actions will continue unabated.

All medical establishments are advised to adhere strictly to the prescribed rules and regulations to avoid similar action, ensuring the protection of patients' interests and the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain.

This enforcement drive was in line with the directions issued by Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, in the recent NCORD meeting.

WVC Members of Zainapura flagged Off to Exposure Visit to Model Spring Shed in Seer Hamdan

SHOPIAN: In a significant step towards promoting climate resilience and sustainable development, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapura, Bilal Ahmad, today flagged off an exposure visit of 29 Village Watershed Committees (WVCs) members of Zainapura area to Seer Hamdan, Anantnag, under the NABARD-supported Spring Shed development project initiative.

This visit aims to enhance the understanding of watershed management practices, sustainable livelihood models and natural resource conservation among WVC members with a focus on adapting to the challenges posed by climate change.

The visiting team from various Village Watershed Committees, will tour Seer Hamdan, a model Spring Shed area, in Anantnag to gain first-hand experience of successful interventions implemented there, including innovative approaches to water harvesting, soil conservation and agroforestry. These initiatives have not only improved the local ecosystem but also enhanced the community's resilience to climate-related stressors.

Speaking on the occasion, SDM Zainapura emphasized the importance of such initiatives in building local capacities and promoting community-led sustainable development, particularly in the context of climate change and appreciated NABARD for its continued support in rural development. He encouraged participants to replicate best practices in their respective areas tailoring them to the specific needs and challenges of their local environments.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Revenue, SDM office, NABARD representatives and members of various WVCs, all of whom are committed to working together to promote climate-resilient development in the region.



Chris Gayle set to return to Kashmir for IHPL-2025

'Universe Boss' promises excitement at Sgr's Bakshi Stadium



SRINAGAR: Cricket superstar Christopher Henry Gayle or Chris Gayle, fondly known as the 'Universe Boss', has shared his return to Kashmir for the upcoming Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL), beginning October 25 at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium.

In a video message that went viral on social media, Gayle said, "Srinagar, what's up! It's Chris Gayle, the Universe

Boss himself, and I'm here with some exciting news. I will be a part of the Indian Heaven Premier League that kicks off on October 25 until November 8. You're going to see lots of superstars and more big names added to the tournament as well."

Encouraging fans to join the excitement, he added, "It's gonna be at Bakshi Stadium — yes, grab your tickets

now! There will be lots of fun and excitement."

According to details obtained by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Gayle's return to Kashmir follows his first visit in 2024, during the Legends League Cricket (LLC), where thousands of fans packed Bakshi Stadium to witness him in action.

The "Gayle fever" had gripped the valley, with chants of "Gayaloo, Gayaloo" echoing through the stands as he took the field for the first time in Srinagar.

During that time, nearly 30,000 fans turned out for the matches, making it one of the biggest sporting spectacles in recent years. The overwhelming response highlighted Kashmir's growing enthusiasm for professional cricket.

Meanwhile, with the IHPL set to bring more international names and star players to the valley, Gayle's video has reignited the excitement among local fans who still remember the electrifying atmosphere from his last appearance—(KNO)

Doctors call for using iodised salt to combat iodine deficiency

Warn lapses in iodine intake can lead to serious health issues

SRINAGAR: "There is a need for consuming iodised salt to prevent iodine deficiency - a silent but serious nutritional disorder that continues to affect millions across the globe," doctors in Kashmir said.

Although awareness about the use of iodised salt has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir, experts warn that lapses in its use can still lead to grave health complications, particularly among women and children.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Shabir Ahmad Dar from the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) said that iodine is a vital micronutrient required for the production of thyroid hormones, which regulate metabolism, growth, and development.

"When the body does not get enough iodine, the thyroid gland enlarges in an attempt to capture more iodine from the bloodstream, leading to the formation of a goitre—a visible swelling in the neck," he said.

Dr Dar said that iodine deficiency is one of the leading causes of preventable brain damage in children. "In pregnant women, the deficiency can

lead to miscarriages, stillbirths, and mental disability in newborns. Children born to iodine-deficient mothers often suffer from developmental delays, stunted growth, and lower IQ levels," he added.



Dr Bashir Ahmad Mir, a paediatrician, said that despite significant progress under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NID-DCP), there is still a need for continuous awareness and monitoring.

"The use of iodised salt is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent iodine deficiency. Every household must ensure that the salt they use is adequately iodised," he said. Recent health surveys, including

NFHS-5, have shown encouraging trends, with around 98 per cent of households reportedly using iodised salt. However, officials caution that proper storage and usage are equally important, as iodine can evaporate if the salt is exposed to moisture or heat for prolonged periods.

Doctors said that preventive measures include the iodised salt for daily cooking and ensuring it is stored in an airtight container away from moisture and sunlight, educating communities about the importance of iodine in the diet, conducting regular health check-ups and awareness programs, especially in remote and rural areas and encouraging monitoring of iodine levels in commercially sold salt to ensure compliance with health standards.

They have urged the people to be vigilant and consistent in using iodised salt, stressing that the cost of prevention is negligible compared to the lifelong impact of iodine deficiency disorders.

"A pinch of iodised salt each day can save generations from avoidable physical and mental disabilities," doctors advised—(KNO)

Editorial

Alliance Adrift

The well-designed mask of stability in Jammu & Kashmir's ruling alliance is starting to show serious cracks. The decision of the Congress party to boycott an important joint strategy session called by its senior partner, the National Conference (NC), is more than a political snub; it is a public announcement of a partnership in trouble. This setback, coming just before Rajya Sabha elections and autumn assembly session, threatens the legislative agenda of the alliance and the government's stability itself.

The immediate background of the rift lies in NC's arrogance going into the Rajya Sabha elections, denying its ally a secure seat while offering a safer and ultimately riskier seat, made NC sound more like a patron rather than acting like a partner. The same thing was done with the Nagrota Assembly seat, which had the same unfortunate conclusion. Congress interpreted the NC's attitude appropriately as indicating a diminishing influence and respect in their partnership. The political clarity is clear: the NC is confident it can navigate on its own and/or wants to see how far it can go.

The response from the Congress, though less blunt, indicates intrigue as well. By "adjourning" its internal meeting to "apprise the high command" and discuss "guidance," the Pradesh Congress Committee, under Tariq Hamid Karra, indicates two things. It is buying time to figure out its options, which suggests that blind loyalty is no longer going to be assumed. More importantly, the Pradesh Congress Committee is saying, in public, that its trust in the alliance has "shaken due to certain incidents." This is, frankly, diplomatese for a lack of trust.

Karra's call to "not jump to conclusions" is a common political trope. However, the conclusions are obvious. A coalition that cannot even organize a "joint meeting" to discuss fundamental issues about a parliamentary election and a legislative session is a coalition in name only. The fundamental purpose of any alliance is for its partners to demonstrate unity, plan together, and combine strength. The whole notion flies out the window when alliance partners begin separating themselves to reflect.

The consequences of this deepening divide are serious. The next assembly session is important to address the many problems facing Jammu & Kashmir today. A divided ruling alliance will not be able to pass meaningful legislation or provide coherent governance. It would be a government in paralysis, and that's a situation the region cannot afford. In addition, this public division creates the potential for political tooth-fairies, and instability to override the mandate for a stable government.

The glue that binds a coalition together is not solely about the numbers, it is mutual respect and shared vision. If that glue has disappeared, honesty will suit everyone better than pretending to hold the alliance together... for no one but the sake of the public. This next 24 hours are important while Congress deliberates internally. The people of Jammu & Kashmir are following this, and they deserve a government that is focused on governance rather than trying to salvage a sinking alliance.

A Check On Wellness: Ramzaan College's Annual Health Initiative



■ Wani Arfat

At Ramzaan College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, Galander Pampore, welfare of the students is given equal importance to their academic growth, indicating a holistic education policy. The college conducts comprehensive health check-ups for all students, demonstrating its commitment not only to academic excellence but also to the physical, mental, and emotional health of its students. These assessments are crucial in identifying potential health issues early, ensuring that students remain fit and capable of handling the rigorous demands of medical and paramedical education.

The medical student's life is tense with study for hours on end, clinic duty and test-anxious exams. Such a lifestyle may hide health issues, increase stress, and lead to fatigue or poor nutrition. Yearly routine check-ups identify such latent issues, providing the opportunity for early treatment. No aspect of a student's health is left to chance, reflecting the belief that learning and health go hand in hand.

On check-up in this year, the students were given a comprehensive series of tests that included height and weight measurement for tracking progress, measurement of blood pressure and pulse rate for cardiovascular health, temperature tests for infection check, hemoglobin tests for anemia screening, blood sugar testing, complete blood counts, vision screening, routine complete physical examination, and cardiovascular check. The nurses provided personalized care, observing even small signs of tension, anxiety or stress, an indicator that emotional and mental well-being were as important as physical well-being.

The usability of the check-ups was glaring. For instance, a strained pulse rate in a student confirmed an existing medical condition that was given immediate attention for their health. The majority of students had small problems like mild anemia, minor eye issues, or stress indicators, which could be corrected with ease if addressed within time. Apart from discovery, these screenings educate students on healthy living, maintaining

balanced diets, exercise, sufficient rest, and stress mitigation.

The actual benefits of such check-ups are real and imminent. In this year's examination, one student was detected to have a pulse rate of 115, which necessitated further examination that revealed a pre-existing health issue. Early intervention enhanced the general health and energy levels of the student, illustrating how yearly assessments serve as early-warning systems to avert minor

concerns from becoming severe medical issues. Also, minor indicators like vision deficiencies, mild anemia, and periodic stress were tackled, enabling students to embrace corrective strategies in time. These tests promote the development of healthy habits, such as well-balanced diets, regular physical activity, adequate rest, and proper stress management, developing habits for a lifetime of wellness.

Apart from medical advice, the students are also guided and mentored by teachers and coordinators. Our coordinator Ajaz Sir provides extremely helpful advice beyond

students and teachers ever striving for excellence. In addition to them, some committed faculty members were equally instrumental in making the health check-up sessions smooth, organized, and pleasant for all students. The genuine hard work of Ubaid Sir, Zahid Sir, Zeeshan Sir, Aabid Sir, Auqib Sir, Rabiya Maam, Rimsha Mam and Mehak Maam must be particularly appreciated. Their professionalism, empathy, and patient-centric attitude ensured that the whole process remained smooth and comforting. Personally speaking, I have to say that I didn't even

notice when Rabiya Maam took my blood, a moment which clearly depicted her skill and tender care. This kind of experience instills confidence among the students and the faculty members, making what otherwise would be a tense medical process a soothing and experience-gaining one.

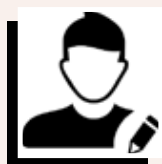
Such a practice also encourages a sense of responsibility among the faculty and staff, who are charged with helping students facing physical or mental illnesses. It is indicative

of the college's concern for each student's overall well-being, not merely academic achievement. Being included in this year's check-up, I got firsthand experience of professionalism, dedication, and attention provided by our medical personnel and faculty. It was reassuring to see a learning environment where health is considered on par with education so that students can thrive academically, physically, and emotionally.

In conclusion, yearly health check-ups are not routine; they are essential for early detection of diseases, protection of mental and physical well-being, and encouraging healthy lifestyles for life. Ramzaan College of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences is a model institution that places student health at the top of their priority list. In the guidance of coordinators, teachers, and Principal Jamsheeda Zaroo, not only are students receiving medical care but are also guided, motivated, and spurred on to do their best. The philosophy is holistic in nature, paving the way for a healthier, more productive, and satisfying life in the future, proving that knowledge and health together form the seeds of true success.

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

Shielding Teens From Harmful Instagram Content



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

In this digital age, social media has become an integral part of life. Children and adults alike spend a significant portion of their daily lives on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and other platforms. However, as the appeal of this virtual world has increased, so too have its associated dangers. Teenagers, whose thinking, attitudes, and behaviors are still developing, are the most affected. For teenagers lost in the glare of social media, this platform sometimes serves as a learning medium, but it also often causes mental, emotional, and social imbalance. Addressing these concerns, Instagram's parent company, Meta, has taken a significant step. The company has announced that teenagers under the age of 18 will no longer be able to view objectionable or inappropriate content on their Instagram accounts.

This decision is extremely important not only from a technical perspective but also from a social perspective. Adolescence is a time when a person's mind is most sensitive. What is seen, heard, and felt at this age determines the direction of their future lives. Easy access to violent, sexually suggestive, or depressing content on social media unwittingly leads children down a path from which it becomes difficult to return. Mental problems such as suicidal tendencies, depression, insecurity, and low self-esteem are deeply linked to the unrestrained world of social media. In such a situation, this decision by META is certainly a responsible initiative.

Meta's policy comes at a time when there's a serious debate worldwide about the safety of children on social media platforms. Parliaments and courts in several countries have questioned social media companies about their actions to protect the mental well-being of minors. Instagram has previously faced questions about teen online safety, with committees ranging from the US

Congress to the British Parliament. Former Meta employees have also revealed that Instagram's algorithm deliberately suggests potentially mentally destabilizing content to keep teenagers engaged. Following criticism, the company introduced parental supervision tools, but they

This step is significant because India ranks among the world's top social media users. Millions of teenagers are active on Instagram daily. School-age children are so engrossed in posting selfies, creating Reels, and garnering likes that real-life sensibilities and priorities are being left behind.



were limited. Now, the company has decided to take this a step further by implementing a PG-13-based content filtering system.

Under this new system, parents will have the right to monitor their children's activities. Users under the age of 18 will not automatically see content on Instagram that is violent, sexual or suicidal. This system will work through a filter which will be similar to the PG-13 rating system of Hollywood films. Just as a film is given this rating when it is considered suitable for children above 13 years of age, similarly, the suitability of content on Instagram will now be decided by the same standard. The company claims that this feature will be implemented first in America, Britain, Canada and Australia and will be implemented worldwide including India by the end of the year.

Teens' self-worth is now determined by the number of followers they have and the number of likes their posts receive. This is a new and dangerous form of social acceptance. When a post doesn't receive the desired response, teens begin to sink into guilt and depression. Sometimes, this despair leads them to suicidal thoughts. If Instagram can keep teens away from objectionable content, it will be extremely beneficial for their mental balance and emotional development.

Parents will also feel relieved by this move. They will no longer fear that their children are accidentally led astray or exposed to pornographic content. Through "restricted content settings," they will be able to determine what their children should and should not see. This will also improve family communication, as parents will now be able to provide both monitoring and guidance.

Children will also realize that social media is not just a medium for entertainment, but a platform to be used responsibly.

However, this policy will only succeed if social awareness is increased along with technological security. Simply installing filters will not completely solve the problem. Children are always one step ahead of technology. They find ways to circumvent restrictions. Therefore, it is essential to promote digital literacy in schools, families, and society. Children should be taught what is right, what is wrong, and why certain things are being restricted. Unless they understand the reasons, they will view restrictions not as control but as resistance.

It's also worth considering that the definition of "objectionable content" can vary across societies and cultures. What's considered inappropriate in one country may be normal in another. Therefore, such regulations, which are enforceable globally, must take into account cultural diversity and local sentiments. Meta will need to ensure that its algorithms understand local languages and social sensitivities. This will be a major challenge in a multilingual country like India.

Another important aspect is that social media companies often prioritize profits, not ethics. More users mean more advertising and more revenue. Therefore, keeping teenagers off the platform or limiting their content could go against the company's economic interests. Therefore, it will be interesting to see how seriously Meta implements this new policy. If it turns out to be merely a cosmetic measure, its purpose will be defeated.

This global initiative to regulate social media also serves as a signal to governments. The digital world has become so influential that mere moral appeals will no longer suffice. Just as there is a system of censorship for films, advertisements, and TV programs, balanced and independent monitoring institutions are essential for social media. Governments should ensure that companies not only declare policies but also create transparent mechanisms for their compliance. Parents should also be empowered to monitor their children's digital habits.

Teens need to understand that their true

identity isn't determined by the number of likes or followers on Instagram. Self-respect, self-confidence, and social support are the true values of life. The digital world cannot replace the real world. If children understand that social media is a means, not an end, its positive potential is immense.

Meta's decision points to a human-centered approach, not just a technological fix. At a time when teens in many parts of the world are facing suicide, cyberbullying, and online abuse, such initiatives offer a ray of hope. However, it's also crucial that social media companies maintain transparency. Parents receive regular reports, children evaluate their own digital behavior, and educational institutions incorporate this topic into their curriculum.

Numerous studies have shown that excessive social media use contributes to anxiety, sleep deprivation, and a decline in self-satisfaction among adolescents. The tendency to constantly compare themselves to others leads them to develop an inferiority complex. In their pursuit of the "perfect body," "glamorous lifestyle," and "world of filters," they become increasingly disconnected from reality. If Meta can mitigate these risks through its new system, it will be a significant achievement for society.

However, this shouldn't be limited to teenagers. Adults also need to regulate social media. Fake news, hate speech, and misinformation have become a challenge to democracy. Therefore, Meta's initiative in this direction can serve as an example for other platforms.

Ultimately, this decision represents a highly commendable step toward the safety, mental health, and moral development of adolescents. Technology is meaningful only when it serves the common good. Meta's initiative is an extension of this spirit. If this policy is implemented with complete seriousness and transparency in the future, it will prove to be a significant step toward a healthy digital culture, not only for adolescents but for every segment of society.

Author is an Independent columnist and social analyst. He can be mailed at satywanverma333@gmail.com

Admin tightens fire safety ahead of winter

DCs directed to enforce inspections, launch awareness campaigns after rise in incidents

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, has issued a circular instructing all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) across the valley to implement strict fire safety measures ahead of the winter season.

The move comes after repeated advisories failed to prevent recurring fire incidents, which have caused significant loss of life and property.

According to the circular, it has been observed with serious concern that, despite awareness campaigns, a substantial number of fire incidents continue to be reported across various districts of the Kashmir Division, particularly during the winter months.

The circular states that these incidents have resulted in significant loss of life and property, primarily due to electrical short circuits, improper handling of heating appliances, and unsafe storage of combustible materials.

"Accordingly, all Deputy Commissioners are hereby requested to undertake the following preventive, supervisory, and enforcement measures within their respective jurisdictions," it reads.

The circular adds that DCs should

formulate and implement a comprehensive District-Level Winter Fire Safety Plan in coordination with the Fire & Emergency Services Department, Power Development Department (PDD), Public Health

Inspection of Wiring and Electrical Load: Ensure that PDD teams conduct random inspections of residential and commercial wiring, with particular attention to high-risk areas prone to



Engineering (PHE), Health Department, and Municipal & Panchayat authorities. The Department of Fire & Emergency Services shall designate one District-Level Nodal Officer for the purpose.

Awareness Campaigns: Launch intensive public awareness drives through electronic, print, and social media platforms to sensitize residents about the safe handling of electrical and heating appliances, LPG usage, and fire prevention measures.

overloading, congested urban centers with wooden structures, and substandard electrical installations.

Fire Safety Audits: Direct Fire & Emergency Services to undertake fire safety audits of congested urban localities, government offices, hospitals, schools, markets, and residential clusters. Ensure that identified deficiencies are rectified within a fixed timeframe.

Combustible Storage Regulation: Take strict action against the improper

storage of combustible materials, such as dry grass, firewood, and LPG cylinders, in congested localities or residential premises.

Hamam and Gas Heater Safety: Conduct awareness and inspection drives for hamams and LPG/gas heaters, particularly emphasizing the removal of LPG cylinders from bedrooms during night hours.

Coordination with Local Bodies: Direct Municipal Committees, Panchayats, and Urban Local Bodies to ensure unobstructed fire lanes, accessible water points, and readiness of local fire hydrants throughout the winter months.

Emergency Preparedness: Review district disaster management preparedness, including the availability of fire tenders, emergency water sources, and quick response teams, especially in snow-bound areas.

Periodic Review: Convene monthly reviews at the district level and submit reports to the Divisional Commissioner's office regarding fire incidents (if any), preventive measures taken, and the status of public awareness initiatives.

The circular stressed that all Deputy Commissioners must ensure strict compliance with these directions and maintain zero tolerance for negligence in fire safety enforcement—(KNO)

Civil Society delegation from Rajouri calls on Javed Rana

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A delegation of civil society members from District Rajouri

The civil society from Rajouri raised issues related to development, better health care, road infrastructure and service delivery.

They urged immediate action for its upgradation to ensure smooth and safe travel for the public.

Minister assured the delegation



called on Minister for Jal Shakti Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana at Civil Secretariat here, to raise key issues of public importance concerning the district. During the meeting, Javed Rana patiently heard a wide range of public grievances and assured timely redressal through appropriate government channels.

He highlighted that Omar Abdullah led government remains accessible and responsive to the needs of people and our priority is to bring governance to the doorsteps of common masses.

The members demanded the operationalization of the Maternal & Child Hospital at Gujjar Mandi, Rajouri, emphasizing the need to improve healthcare services for residents. They highlighted that starting of hospital operations is necessary to ensure accessible, quality medical care for women and children to the Pir Panjal residents. The delegation also highlighted the deteriorated condition of the Rajouri-Thanna Road, pointing out that the blacktopped surface has significantly worsened over time, causing daily hardships for commuters.

that the Government is fully aware of these issues and necessary directions have already been issued to the concerned officers for their early resolution.

The Minister also spoke to the Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, to ensure prompt attention to these matters.

The Minister further assured the residents of improved facilities and better infrastructure in the district, reiterating the Government's commitment to public welfare and development initiatives in Rajouri.

DM Baramulla chairs 21st NCORD meeting, Directs Strict Anti-Drug measures

FE NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: District Magistrate (DM) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired the 21st meeting of the Narco



Coordination Committee (NCORD) at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Baramulla to review the district's ongoing efforts to curb drug abuse and strengthen enforcement under the NDPS Act.

During the meeting, the DM directed all law enforcement agencies to ensure strict implementation of NDPS laws and to intensify awareness programmes on the harmful effects of drug abuse, particularly

among youth and students. He also emphasized taking strict action against persons found smoking in public places, especially around educational institutions.

The DM further instructed for 100% installation of CCTV cameras in all educational institutions and identified hotspots to enhance monitoring and surveillance. He also directed the Police, Revenue, and Excise Departments to carry out joint drives for the destruction of bhang (cannabis) cultivation, ensuring close coordination for effective results.

While reviewing overall progress under NCORD, the DM stressed the importance of community participation, urging Public representatives, religious leaders, and educational institutions to actively support the administration's anti-drug initiatives.

The meeting was attended by ADC Sopore, ADC Baramulla, SDM Uri, SDM Pattan, ASP Baramulla and representatives from Excise, Education, Health, Social Welfare, and other concerned departments, who shared updates on ongoing anti-narcotic measures in the district.

Minha Wani wins 'Best Female Player' award at 5th AICF Open FIDE Chess Tournament

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Demonstrating her consistency on the chessboard, Minha Ayaz Wani once again brought recognition to Kashmir by winning the 'Best Female Player' award at the 5th AICF Chess for Everyone Open FIDE Rating Chess Tournament 2025. This event took place at the Indoor Sports Complex, Polo Ground, Srinagar.

The national-level tournament, organised by the All India Chess Federation (AICF) and supported by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, featured about 200 players from across the country, including seniors, juniors, men, and women. This made the competition both tough and exciting.

Minha, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer, showed remarkable composure and skill throughout the tournament, earning 5.5 points out of 9



rounds. She won three games, drew five—two of which were against rated opponents—and lost only one. Her strong overall performance earned her a cash prize and a trophy.

The 18-year-old's success reflects the increasing presence of Kashmiri talent in

the national chess scene. Minha's achievements have not only raised her profile but also inspired many young players, especially girls, to pursue chess with passion and confidence.

Previously, Minha had established herself as one of Kashmir's most successful

young chess players. She won two gold medals at the national level, earned three gold medals in state championships, and consistently secured gold medals across inter-district, district, and zonal tournaments, a record that highlights her dedication and skill in the sport from a young age—(KNO)



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MD DJAY-S Establishes help desks for Enumeration & Socio-Economic Profiling of Urban Poor in Srinagar, Jammu

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, Deendayal Jan Aajeevika Yojana—Shehri (DJAY-S), has announced the commencement of the Enumeration and Socio-Economic Profiling survey of urban poor households in the cities of Srinagar and Jammu.

This crucial exercise is being undertaken under DJAY-S to identify and register eligible urban poor households for facilitating their access to various Centrally Sponsored Social Security Schemes.

The enumeration process is being carried out by dedicated field teams through door-to-door visits, covering all wards of Srinagar and Jammu Municipal Corporations to ensure comprehensive coverage of eligible beneficiaries. The collected data will be uploaded on the Convergence Portal of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.

In order to assist and facilitate the urban poor, Help Desk's have been established at Srinagar city in the Office's of the Chief Executive Officer, Urban Development Agency Kashmir (UDAK), Habitat Centre, Bemina Srinagar (Contact Numbers: 7006444930, 7006956457) Email id djaysrinagar@gmail.com.

Similarly, Help Desk for Jammu city has been established at Jammu Urban Development Agency (JUDA), Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Chowk, Narwal Road, Jammu Contact Number (8825061185, 9697203858) Email id: helpdeskdjays@gmail.com.

The Mission Director has urged all eligible urban poor households to actively participate in the survey and make use of the Help Desks for any queries or support related to the enumeration process. The Help Desks will remain operational during office hours on all working days.



Observers for Bye-Assembly Elections to 27-AC Budgam review election preparedness

FE NEWS NETWORK

Inspect MCMC, Control Room, Strong Room established for the bye-elections

BUDGAM: General Observer, Bhore Singh Yadav; Expenditure Observer, Ravinder Kumar and Police Observer, Nachiket Jha for 27-Assembly constituency Budgam held a joint meeting at the Conference

sion of India (ECI) to ensure smooth, fair, and transparent conduct of polls in the District.

They stressed on proactive approach from all the stakeholders to encourage maximum voters so that enhanced voter turnout is registered during upcoming bye-elections in 27-AC Budgam of the District. They also stressed on completion of the EPIC distribution process in 27-AC Budgam.

The Expenditure Observer emphasised the need for coordination among various monitoring teams for effective expenditure overseeing and stressed the prompt reporting of any ECI violations concerning election expenditure booking.

He also underscored the efficient media monitoring to contain any misuse of election expenditure by the contesting candidates in the district and underscored timely reporting and uploading of any seizures or violations as per ECI norms.

The Police Observer stressed on the officers to work with utmost coordination to ensure incident-free and smooth conduct of the polls in 27-AC Budgam.

Earlier, the DEO Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat apprised the observers regarding the preparations for the free, fair, and peaceful conduct of polls in 27-AC budgam of the District.

He said that 173 polling stations had been set at designated 111 locations across 27-assembly constituency Budgam.

The DEO said that model polling stations had also been set up at various locations in 27-AC Budgam to facilitate the voters on the polling day and welcome them to experience a festive-like environment.

He said that dedicated facilities for voters including clean drinking water and ramps for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are also meticulously arranged to enhance the voting experience.

Later, the observers visited the Control room, Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) at the DC office complex. They also inspected a strong room established at Boys Higher Secondary school Budgam.

The meeting was attended by the SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar; ADC Budgam, ASP Budgam, Returning Officer (RO) of 27-Assembly constituency Budgam, Dy. District Election Officer and all Nodal officers.



hall here to take review of the preparedness for upcoming Bye-Assembly election 2025 to 27-AC Budgam of the District.

The observers took an extensive appraisal of Returning Officer to 27-AC Budgam and Assistant returning officers for arrangements made by them for smooth conduct of Bye-Assembly election to 27-AC Budgam.

They held a detailed discussion about enforcement of MCC, expenditure monitoring, security plan, transport and communication plan, besides functioning of VST, flying squads, training of poll staff, AMF at polling stations, and other measures undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the upcoming Bye-Assembly polls in 27-Assembly constituency Budgam.

On the occasion, the General Observers enjoined the officers to work with added zeal and unwavering dedication to uphold the sanctity of the election process and safeguard the democratic spirit.

They also urged them to ensure strict enforcement of MCC and other guidelines of the Election Commis-

J&K Assembly

Advisory Committee of the Assembly met today in the Speaker's office to discuss the allocation of time for legislative business during the session—(KNO)

Pakistan

Operation Sindoor has done the work of shattering Pakistan, and even today it has not forgotten that pain..."

The senior BJP leader also noted the growth in the domestic defence production and how India is rapidly becoming a manufacturing hub for the defence sector.

"One of my key takeaways from reading this book is that civil-military fusion should be viewed not just as integration, but as a strategic enabler... This process is now moving forward rapidly in India... We have promoted defence manufacturing and public-private partnerships. While promoting defence startups, we have also increased industry partnerships with academia. Today, we are rapidly emerging as a manufacturing hub for the defence sector.... Domestic defence production now totals more than Rs. 1.5 Lakh Crore. Of this, the private sector contributes approximately Rs. 33,000 Crore. The government has already begun implementing many of the suggestions made in this book..." (ANI)

BJP Legislature

to corner the government on a range of issues.

"We are holding a meeting tomorrow at 8:30 AM to discuss the issues to be raised during the session," a BJP MLA told KNO.

Sharma had earlier stated that the BJP would demand accountability from the National Conference-led government for what he described as a "betrayal of electoral promises." "The government has failed to deliver on its commitments made during the elections whether it is the promise of 200 free units of electricity, 12 LPG cylinders per household, or other assurances given to the people," Sharma said.

He further said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would question the government on its inability to create employment opportunities for the youth. "In the election, the government promised to create one lakh jobs for the youth, but they have done nothing. We will ask them what they have done for the youth in the past year," he said—(KNO)

NEP 2020

preparation. Those students who are dedicated do not need any coaching, as everything is available on laptops and mobiles. The National Education Policy has made education simpler."

Dr Jitendra Singh said, "Among the other schemes of PM Modi, in 2014, there used to be nearly 400 start-ups, but now it is 1 lakh 75000. Nearly 50,000 to 60,000 start-ups are women-led. Women are leading projects in space, Aditya, Chandrayaan-3. In the Mudra scheme, no gratuity or mortgage is required. Fifty four and half crore loan has been distributed in Mudra scheme, and 68 percent loans in that have been given to women."

Dr Singh said, "There is an aspirational surge in the youth, especially the women. On the occasion of Diwali, what better gift could there be for meritorious girl students. We have given this present to the topper girl students today. May they achieve their goals, and may we become a small means to that."

He stated that this is the same government that has extended maternity leave to six months and introduced mid-career schemes for women—(KNO)

Army Chief

"If the neighbouring country continues to support terrorism it will lose its geo-

graphical presence. If Pakistan wants to retain its place on the map, it must stop state-sponsored terrorism," the Army Chief had said speaking at an Army post in Rajasthan's Anupgarh.

He had maintained that the Indian forces won't show any restraint this time, hinting that a second version of 'Operation Sindoor' wouldn't be far away if Islamabad refuses to med its ways.

"This time we will not maintain the restraint that we had in Operation Sindoor 1.0. This time we will do something that will make Pakistan think whether it wants to retain its place in geography or not," General Dwivedi had said

He had also asked the soldiers to stay prepared. "If God wills, you'll get an opportunity soon. All the best."

It may be recalled that 'Operation Sindoor' the mega military operation was undertaken by India to give a fitting reply in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. Nine terror camps were hit in Pakistan and PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) by Indian forces using long-range precision weapons on May 7, 2025.

The attack on terror camps led to skirmishes between the two countries for four days. A ceasefire followed on May 10 after the Pakistani commanders pleaded with their Indian counterparts to stop the offensive—(KNO)

Ruhullah's Absence

The NC candidate emphasized that the by-election is being contested in the name of the party and its legacy rather than individual influence. "An individual is not fighting this election; it is the National Conference that is in the fray. Our workers and loyal voters stand firmly with the party," he said.

Expressing optimism about his chances, Aga Mahmood acknowledged that the electoral battle in Budgam remains challenging. "I am hopeful of victory, though every election is a tough process that tests one's resolve," he said.

Responding to a query about protests staged against the Deputy Chief Minister by some locals, Aga Mahmood downplayed the incident. "Only a few well-wishers from Magam and Nowgam had expressed their grievances. Such small protests are natural during election time," he stated.

He reiterated that the credibility and performance of the National Conference would ultimately determine the outcome of the Budgam by-election. "Our strength lies in the party's history, its leadership, and the trust of the people," he added. (KNT)

CS, NITI

a training and mentoring centre for medical staff across the UT, eventually leading to the creation of additional regional hubs for wider Tele-ICU coverage.

Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, informed that the Department has proposed the establishment of at least a 10-bedded Tele-ICU unit in each of the new GMCs. He outlined the preparatory groundwork completed so far and presented a roadmap for phased implementation, including infrastructure readiness, technology procurement, and training modules.

The participants shared insights based on the their experience in administering the critical care medicine and suggested mechanisms for seamless integration of Tele-ICU facilities with existing hospital systems. Principals of various GMCs also shared their perspectives on operational feasibility, interconnectivity, and potential clinical benefits of the initiative.

Others who were present throughout this session includes MD, NHM; MD, JK-MSCL; Principals of GMCs, Dental Colleges and other concerned officers.

The deliberations underscored the J&K Administration's focused approach towards

leveraging telemedicine and digital health technologies to bridge gaps in healthcare access, particularly in remote and underserved areas. The proposed Tele-ICU network is expected to significantly enhance the Union Territory's capacity for critical care delivery, ensuring timely medical intervention, expert supervision, and improved patient outcomes across all tiers of the healthcare system. (DIPR)

NC will

They have to wait for the party high command's decision, whereas we take decisions here," he said.

"The Congress high command cannot be in favour of the BJP," he said, referring to Congress's participation in the Rajya Sabha elections. He added that although, at the local level, Congress was ready to contest the bypolls, the high command decided to leave the seat for NC, and therefore, the candidate was announced.

Regarding PDP's support, the Chief Minister said, "Our leader, Shami Oberoi, met PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti today and requested, on behalf of the party, to support the NC candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections. Earlier, Dr. Farooq Abdullah also spoke with her. Although no decision has been made public by the party yet, they have promised us that a decision will be taken after internal discussions," he said.

On the LoP's statement, the Chief Minister said that he must clarify who made the offer to form a government with the BJP. "We have not made any such offer. We don't hide anything. The LoP must stop issuing these baseless statements," he added—(KNO)

Congress

tomorrow for further discussions and consultations," he said.

Karra said that it would be premature to assume Congress was in a dilemma over voting in the Rajya Sabha polls.

"I would request you not to jump to conclusions. I told you that every member had his opinion and suggestion and it was necessary to apprise the high command about it.

Based on our report, we have sought their guidance because central leadership's involvement and guidance is necessary for a national party. That is why the meeting remained inconclusive and will resume tomorrow," he said in response to a question on whether Congress was in fix over voting in Rajya Sabha polls.

He said there is no doubt in the fact that confidence of Congress has shaken due to certain incidents.

The NC had extended invitations to all legislators of the ruling alliance, including six Congress MLAs, five independents, and CPI (M) MLA Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami, for the meeting scheduled at Hotel Radisson Collection.

The rift between the NC and Congress has been widening over the past two weeks, particularly after the NC denied Congress a safe seat in the Rajya Sabha elections. Instead, the NC offered a riskier seat, which Congress declined to contest. The NC also proposed the Nagrota Assembly seat to Congress, which was similarly rejected—(KNO)

Ladakh leaders, MHA resume dialogue to address demands

NEW DELHI : After several months of a freeze in communication, dialogue between the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and representatives from Ladakh Union Territory resumed on Wednesday.

The news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) has learnt that the discussions focused on four specific demands, including statehood for Ladakh, inclusion under

the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, implementation of reservation measures, and the removal of the National Security Act (NSA) imposed on climate activist Sonam Wangchuk. The talks lasted close to two hours and included a nine-member delegation comprising leaders from the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), along with Ladakh's Member of Parliament Mohd Haneefa Jan. This meeting marked a renewed effort to find common ground after recent unrest in Leh and long-standing demands from the region's civil groups.

According to members present at the meeting, discussions were held on each point raised. On statehood and the Sixth Schedule, the delegation explained that Ladakh required greater control over its resources, land, and administrative mechanisms.



They also pointed to the need for stronger constitutional tools to protect employment and cultural practices. Reservation policies for local communities formed another part of the agenda.

Official sources said that the MHA is expected to examine various options and conduct follow-up discussions to shape a policy that includes representation across different social groups in the region.

Member of the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), Sajjad Hussain Kargili, said their demand for the past six years has been the restoration of democracy in Ladakh, with statehood being the best solution.

He added that the issue could not be resolved in one or two meetings as it required a process, which was already underway.

"The discussions also covered the implementation of a reservation policy in Ladakh, the release of those detained in connection with the September 24 incident, including

Sonam Wangchuk, and compensation for those who were killed or injured in the incident," Kargili said.

Member of Parliament (MP) Hanifa Jaan said the meeting between Ladakh's leadership and senior officials of the Union Home Ministry reflected a serious and sincere approach towards resolving the region's long-pending issues.

"The discussions focused on demands related to statehood, inclusion under the Sixth Schedule, and constitutional safeguards, with all key points presented strongly before the Ministry," he said.

Jan noted that while a final decision could not be reached in a single sitting, the meeting marked an important step forward. He expressed hope that the ongoing process would lead to meaningful progress on the issues facing Ladakh.

The meeting follows an announcement by the MHA on October 17 that a judicial inquiry would be held into the September 24 violence in Leh. That incident, which broke out during a protest called by LAB, resulted in four deaths and several injuries. It also led to dozens being taken into custody, including Wangchuk—(KNO)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sameena Jan, D/o. Ghulam Mohammad Ahangar, R/o Shajar Colony, Mandibal, Nowshera, Srinagar J&K 190011, would like to make correction in my name from Sameena Jan to Samee Jan and date of birth from 11.11.1983 to 10.11.1983.

Henceforth, I shall be known as Samee Jan, and my correct date of birth shall be 10.11.1983 for all official and legal purposes.

Any person having any objection may file the same in writing to the General Manager, Government Rambir Press, Ambphalla, Jammu – 180005, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the said period.

اطلاع عام

غلطی سے اسکول ریکارڈ میں میری بیٹی بنام سنت جان کی تاریخ پیدائش 08-05-2021 کا اندراج ہوا ہے جبکہ اصلی تاریخ پیدائش 18-05-2014 ہے جس کی درست کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنے اعتراضات پریسل گورنمنٹ ہڈل اسکول رمبو کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد میں عذر کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

جاوید احمد ڈار

ساکنہ رہم پلوامہ

ECONOMIC OFFENCES WING, SRINAGAR (CRIME BRANCH KASHMIR)

3rd Floor ERA Building, Exhibition Ground, Srinagar-190001

HUE & CRY NOTICE

Case FIR No. 08/2024 U/S 420 IPC is under investigation with Police Station Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir. The individual whose description is given below, is involved in the said case is evading his arrest to scuttle the due process of law. Please have a sharp look out, if the accused is traced /found he be apprehended/detained and this agency be informed accordingly, on phone No. 0194-2471836. The description of the accused is as under:

Particulars of the person	Gulzar Ahmad Wani @ Shahid S/o Shamas ud din Wani R/o Laddenwan District, Kupwara (A/P SD Colony Batamalo Srinagar)	
Aadhar No.	822141083616	
Pan No.	ADAPW2703P	
Election ID No.	NK	
Date of Birth	01-04-1985	
Height	5-6'	
Hair	Black	
Identification mark	NK	

Sd/- Sr. Superintendent of Police
Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar
Crime Branch Kashmir

DIPK: 7392/25 Dated: 22-10-2025

GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office Of The District Development Commissioner Anantnag

Subject:- Interview of Shortlisted Candidates for Contractual engagement- under Mission YUVA-posts of SBDU and BHDs

Whereas, in pursuance to this office Notification No. ADDC/ANG/2025-26/478-80 dated 23.07.2025, online applications were invited Tor engagement against contractual positions in Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) under the Mission YUVA initiative; and,

Whereas, through the online mechanism established by Mission YUVA. this office received a total of 292 applications from aspiring candidates; and,

Whereas, out of the total applications received, 75 candidates were initially shortlisted as qualified through the automated scrutiny process; and,

Whereas, upon preliminary examination, it was observed that Certain candidates had inflated their marks at various qualification levels and/or misrepresented the relevance of academic degrees vis-a-via the prescribed eligibility criteria; and,

Whereas, upon detailed cross-verification of credentials and certificates, only 52 candidates were found to possess authentic and accurate documentation; and,

Whereas, vide this office reference No. ADDC/ANG/2025-26/811-14 dated 18.09.2025, the aforesaid candidates were called for physical verification of documents before the Oversight Committee, wherein only 46 candidates appeared and presented their documents for scrutiny and, were found relevant, genuine and in conformity with the eligibility criteria as verified by the Oversight Committee framed under Mission YUVA.

Now, therefore, it is hereby notified that the said 46 Shortlisted candidates (list Enclosed) are called to appear for interview scheduled to be held on 25-10-2025 (Saturday) at 12:00 am in the office of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag.

Failure to appear for the Interview on scheduled date and time/hall render the candidate's didature liable for cancellation without any further notice.

Sd/-Additional District Development Commissioner
(Nodal officer Mission YUVA) Anantnag

No:ADDC/Ang/2025-26/**1034-1035**
Dated : 18-10-2025

DIPK-7371/25 Dt: 22-10-2025

Roads In Patlibagh Pampore Macadamized; Wave Of Joy Among Locals

Pulwama: Patlibagh area of Pampore witnessed a wave of happiness among residents as the long-awaited road macadamization project was completed. The development has significantly improved local infrastructure and connectivity, bringing relief to the people of the region.

The project was made possible through a generous allocation of 6.5 crore by BJP leader and DDC member from Kakapora block, Minha Lateef Bhat. Locals expressed their gratitude to the BJP leader for addressing a long-pending demand and improving transportation facilities in the area.

Residents also extended their thanks to Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, and the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department for their active role in executing the project efficiently. Mohammad Lateef Bhat was appreciated for his efforts in mobilizing the R&B department and ensuring that



the developmental work was carried out in a timely manner.

This infrastructural upgrade is ex-

pected to boost overall development in the region and improve day-to-day life for commuters and residents alike.(CNS)

LG Kavinder stresses need to foster Scientific Temper among students for a ‘Progressive Ladakh’

KARGIL: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, today emphasised the need to foster a scientific temper among students to build a progressive and innovative Ladakh. He said that nurturing curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in young minds is essential for creating a modern society capable of meeting future challenges through knowledge, research, and innovation.

The Lt Governor was speaking after inaugurating the 52nd Rashtriya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RBVP) State Level Programme, organised by the Department of Education, UT Ladakh, at the Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC), Kargil. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of students and teachers from various schools across Leh and Kargil districts, who showcased creative models and scientific innovations reflecting real-life applications of science and technology.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Kavinder Gupta underlined that developing a scientific outlook among students is vital for building a society rooted in evidence-based reasoning and innovation. “Developing scientific temper is the key to a modern, knowledge-based society. The future of Ladakh lies in the hands of these young innovators who will transform challenges into opportunities through science and technology,” he said.

The Hon’ble Lt Governor also interacted with the participating students and teachers, commending their creativity, confidence, and understanding of scientific concepts. He appreciated the Department of Education for providing a dynamic platform that encourages

students to think beyond textbooks and find practical solutions to real-world problems.

Highlighting the Administration’s commitment to educational excellence, the Hon’ble Lt Governor announced



that 350 teachers from Ladakh will soon undergo specialised capacity-building training to strengthen the teaching ecosystem. He emphasised that teachers play a pivotal role in shaping future generations and urged them to discharge their responsibilities with sincerity and dedication.

The Lt Governor also felicitated students who excelled in various categories of the exhibition. He appealed to the students to cultivate curiosity, question assumptions, and apply scientific reasoning in their daily lives. He urged them to use their knowledge not only to excel academically but also to find innovative solutions to the challenges faced by their communities. He encouraged the young minds of Ladakh to dream big, embrace creativity, and contribute to building a self-reliant and progressive nation through science, technology, and innovation.

In their respective addresses, Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk, and Acting CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Kacho Mohd Feroz, lauded the initiatives taken by the UT Administration and LAHDCs to enhance educational standards in Ladakh. They called for sustained efforts to improve student performance, fill vacant teaching positions, and continue special programmes such as winter coaching for students.

Secretary Education, UT Ladakh, Ms. Bhanu Prabha, reaffirmed the Department’s focus on ensuring quality education and improving the working environment for staff and teachers. She highlighted ongoing reforms to make the education system more inclusive and skill-oriented.

The event was attended by Executive Councillors of LAHDC Kargil, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, SSP Kargil, Principal DIET, Chief Education Officer, and a large number of teachers and students from across the Union Territory. (PIB)

CDS Chauhan, COAS highlight necessity of civil-military fusion

SRINAGAR: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday unveiled the ‘Civil Military Fusion as a Metric of National Power and Comprehensive Security’ book by Lt Gen (Retd) Raj Shukla and a coffee table book ‘Portraits of Valour: Timeless Military Art by Lieutenant Colonel Arul Raj’, authored by Major General Ian Cardozo, AVSM, SM (Retd).

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi delivered remarks on the occasion, in which both emphasised the necessity of civil-military fusion and the initiatives taken by the army to fulfil the purpose.

General Anil Chauhan, drawing parallels from his role as CDS, said Civil-Military Fusion is about jointness and integration at the national level. He emphasised that it is a “difficult but even more essential process.”

“When the government appointed me as the CDS, one of my primary jobs was to create jointness and integration among the three services. It’s a very difficult task, but essential, I think. Civil-Military Fusion is about jointness and integration at the national level. It is even more difficult but even more essential, and that’s what Raj Shukla has brought out in his book (Civil Military Fusion as a Metric of National Power and Comprehensive Security),” CDS said.

Anit Chauhan further said that the political leadership has guided the military to take some initiative to integrate this civil-military fusion.

“It’s not that India has not made efforts toward this; in fact, in the recently held Combined Commanders’ Conference, the political leadership gave us some direction in which they asked the military to take the lead in some of the initiatives where we can integrate,” he said.

Additionally, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi shared his own interactions with the author, Lt Gen (Retd) Raj Shukla and shared the lessons which helped during Operation Sindoor. Three things which I picked up from him [Lt Gen Raj Shukla (Retd)] at that point in time. One thing was the foundation for Operation Sindoor. At that time (in 2016), Uri [episode] had happened, and he conducted a detailed discussion and various options on how to approach this situation that may arise in future. So, I must concede very frankly, when this situation came to me, it was a very normal thing for me because I had already seen this earlier,” he said.

Further speaking about military-civil fusion, General Upendra Dwivedi highlighted the importance of the military to take ownership to move the relationship forward.

“The book brings out the asset-based thinking, not the deficit-based thinking. Now, if you take the journey from civil-military relations to the MCF (Military-Civil Fusion).

The moment you talk about MCF means that the military has to take ownership of moving the civil-military relationship forward. Earlier, we were telling that the responsibility lies with the civil, but this is the time the military has to take the ownership,” he said. (ANI)

MoES Achieves Major Interim Progress under Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters (SCDPM) 5.0

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has achieved significant interim progress under the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters (SCDPM) 5.0,

procedures and easing rules to promote faster and more citizen-centric governance. Oversight of SCDPM 5.0 activities across MoES institutions—including regional centres and



an initiative spearheaded by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) to enhance cleanliness, streamline records, and ensure timely resolution of pending issues across all government offices.

Launched nationwide on October 2, 2025, in tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, SCDPM 5.0 has seen enthusiastic participation from MoES, which has made notable strides in improving administrative efficiency, transparency, and public service delivery.

As part of the campaign, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has conducted 54 impactful cleanliness drives, meticulously reviewed over 500 files and records, and weeded out 192 files after due assessment. It has also addressed three PMO references, three State Government references, two references from Members of Parliament, and nine public grievances. In addition, the Ministry executed proper disposal of scrap materials, including e-waste, generating a revenue of over 33.23 lakh and freeing approximately 8,750 square feet of office space.

The campaign also focuses on simplifying

field units—is being led by Joint Secretary, Shri D. Senthil Pandiyan, who conducts periodic meetings to monitor progress and address challenges.

Each MoES institution has appointed nodal officers responsible for coordinating daily reporting and updates via digital platforms, including social media, mobile app groups, and the DARPG’s SCDPM portal, enabling real-time evaluation of activities and outcomes.

Emphasizing the Ministry’s commitment to sustained progress, Shri Pandiyan stated, “The SCDPM is more than a campaign—it is a commitment and an opportunity to modernise governance and deliver public service with speed, transparency, and a citizen-centric mindset. We must remain focused on making MoES institutions models of administrative excellence.”

Going forward, the Ministry plans to conduct additional cleanliness and record management drives, enhance workflow efficiency, and promote effective disposal of pending matters in alignment with the Government of India’s vision of transparency, good governance, and public service excellence. (PIB)

Japan says it plans to tell Trump it will build up military, upgrade security strategy

TOKYO: Japan’s new foreign minister said Wednesday his country plans to show its determination to further build up its defence to rapidly adapt to changing warfare realities and growing tension in the region when US

major break from Japan’s defense-only principle under its postwar pacifist constitution.

The ruling party’s alliance with the right-wing Japan Innovation Party that replaces the dovish centrist Komeito party has raised concern that



President Donald Trump visits Tokyo next week.

Trump is expected to hold talks next Tuesday with Japan’s Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, who took office Tuesday after being elected as Japan’s first female leader.

Takaichi, who had spent much of past few weeks embroiled in internal political wrangling, has to face major diplomatic tests within days of taking office — Trump and two regional summits.

“We are firmly preparing for President Trump’s visit,” Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said.

Motegi said he hoped Trump’s first meeting with Takaichi during his Oct 27-29 visit would serve as an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss further strengthening of the Japan-US alliance while fostering their personal relationship of trust.

He said Japan also hopes to further cooperate with South Korea, along with other regional partners including Australia and the Philippines, while seeking stable and constructive relations with China.

Japan is currently undergoing a five-year military buildup through 2027 as part of its national security strategy, including doubling its annual defense spending to 2% of gross domestic product.

The strategy that promotes Japan’s strike-back capability with long-range missiles marks a

a revised strategy may involve further offensive roles for Japan under Takaichi, a security hawk.

Motegi said Japan’s further strengthening of its military capability is essential in order to adapt to emerging new warfare such as drone swarms in the war against Ukraine, as well as responses to cyberattacks.

While firmly pursuing the ongoing five-year military buildup, the government will also review it, “and we hope to firmly convey our plans to the US side,” Motegi said.

Japan is expected to face tough demands from Trump to further increase its defense spending to NATO levels of 5% of GDP, more purchases of costly American arsenals and additional spending for some 50,000 US troops in Japan under the bilateral security pact.

“Our national defence should be based on our own independent decision,” Motegi said. “What’s important is not the amount or the GDP ratio but what’s in it.”

He also said he hopes to meet with his counterpart, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, at the earliest time possible to discuss further strengthening of the deterrence and response capability of the Japan-US alliance.

Motegi returns to the post for the second time after serving in 2019-2021, during Trump’s first term, when he earned a reputation as a tough negotiator. He is also tasked with following up on the Japan-US tariffs agreement. (PTI)

India Rises to 9th Position Globally in Forest Area; Retains 3rd Rank in Annual Forest Gain

NEW DELHI: India has achieved a major milestone in global environmental conservation, moving up to the 9th position worldwide in

efforts toward forest protection, afforestation, and community-led conservation under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra



total forest area, according to the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025, released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bali.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, shared the development on social media platform ‘X’, noting that India has also retained its 3rd position globally in annual forest area gain.

In the previous assessment, India was ranked 10th. The Minister said the improvement reflects the success of the Government of India’s sustained

Modi. Highlighting the Prime Minister’s initiatives such as the ‘Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam’ campaign and the growing public participation in plantation drives, Shri Yadav said these efforts have strengthened collective environmental responsibility across the nation.

He added that the achievement underscores the effectiveness of the government’s forest management policies, state-level plantation programmes, and citizen-driven environmental consciousness, reaffirming India’s commitment to a greener and more sustainable future. (PIB)

Govt committed to holding March 5 election in free and fair manner: Nepal PM Karki

KATHMANDU: Nepal’s Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Wednesday said that her interim government is committed to holding the March 5 general election in a free and fair manner.

“We are responsible for addressing the legitimate voices of Gen Z in line with the Constitution. The government will create an environment where Nepalis can vote without fear, strengthening democracy, advancing prosperity, and safeguarding citizens’ rights,” she said while speaking at an event in Madhyapur Thimi, Bhaktapur.

Her comments came a day after she met with representatives of major political parties for the first time since the formation of the caretaker government last month and discussed preparations for the general elections and security issues.

The meeting at the Prime Minister’s official residence in Baluwatar was attended by prominent leaders of several political parties of the dissolved House



of Representatives.

Karki, 73, became Nepal’s first woman prime minister last month after the ouster of then Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli following youth-led ‘Gen Z’ protests against the government over corruption and a ban on social media.

Minister for Communications and Information Technology Jagdish Kharel said that the interaction with leaders of political parties on Tuesday created a conducive atmosphere for the forthcoming general elections.

During the five-hour-long meeting, the

political leaders urged the government to create a conducive environment for elections. Karki reiterated the government’s stance on holding the election on the stipulated time.

“It was a very positive discussion with the political parties. Most of them were positive towards the election that encouraged the government to forward activities,” Kharel told reporters late Tuesday night.

“All the representatives of political parties and cabinet members presented themselves with utmost responsibility to help in building an atmosphere for elections,” said Kharel.

“It was a serious and thorough discussion for conducting elections, checking corruption, as well as ensuring security for the upcoming polls. The political parties were informed of the government’s preparation for the election,” he said.

The government sought cooperation from all the political parties in conducting free and fair elections.

Nepal’s top electoral body has already announced March 5, 2026, as the date for the House of Representatives election.

Those present from the government side included PM Karki, Finance Minister Rameshwar Khanel, Energy Minister Kulman Ghising, Home Minister Om Prakash Aryal, Agriculture Minister Madan Pariyar, and Minister for Communications & Information Technology Jagdish Kharel.

Gagan Kumar Thapa and Prakash Sharan Mahat from the Nepali Congress; Shankar Pokharel and Pradip Gyawali from the CPN UML; Barsha Man Pun and Pampha Bhusal from the CPN (Maoist Centre); Swarnim Wagle and Sobhita Gautam from the Rastriya Swatantra Party; Rajendra Pandey and Prakash Jwala from the CPN (Unified Socialist); Rajendra Gurung and Mohan Shrestha from the Rastriya Prajatantra Party; Upendra Yadav and Prakash Adhikari from the Janata Samajbadi Party, among others, attended the meeting. (PTI)



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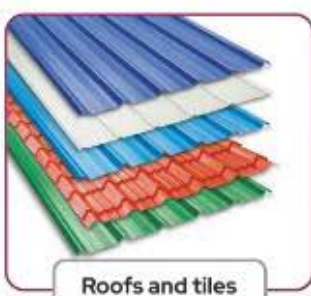
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