



J&K Assembly Session Commences With Emotional Tributes, Heated Clashes

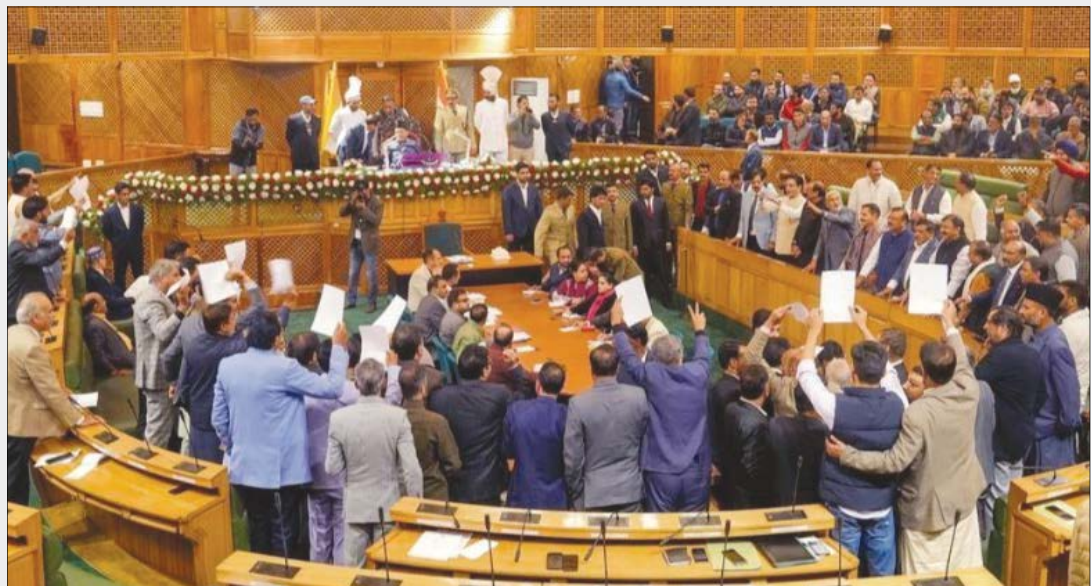
FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly began Thursday with trib-

pre-session protests demanding justice. The proceedings began with the Speaker of the House, Abdul Rahim Rather, remembering all seven deceased and paid homage to them, highlighting

Singh Charak, former MLA Dina Nath Bhagat, former MLC, Ghulam Nabi Shaheen, former MLC, Ramesh Arora, former MLC, Sardar Mohammad Akhlaq Khan and former legislator Moham-

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Minister Javed Ahmed Rana and the MLAs including Dr Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Dr Devinder Ku-



utes to deceased members, but the solemn start quickly gave way to heated debates over statehood, reservations, and workers' rights, following

their contributions.

The departed, who were remembered, included former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, former minister, Gulchain

mad Sultan Pandithpuri.

During the obituary reference, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; Leader of Opposition, Sunil Kumar Sharma;

mar Manyal, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Dr Rameshwar Singh, Mubarak Gul, Salman Ali Sagar, M.Y. Tarigami, Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh, Pawan Gupta, Sajad Gani Lone, Aijaz Jan, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi, Nizamuddin Bhat, Vikram Randhawa, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Choudhary Mohammad Akram,

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SPEAKER REFLECTED ON THE LIVES OF THE FORMER GOVERNOR, FORMER MINISTER AND OTHER LEGISLATORS OF THE HOUSE, noting that they had made significant contributions to the nation's development, including that of Jammu and Kashmir.

MLAs Set to Cast Votes in Rajya Sabha Elections Today

Eyes on 4th seat as NC, BJP locked in 28-28 tie

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: With MLAs of Jammu & Kashmir set to vote on Friday to elect four members of the Rajya Sabha, all eyes are on the outcome of the fourth seat, where the National Conference and the BJP each have 28 MLAs.

The MLAs will cast their votes at three separate polling booths set up in the Legislative Assembly complex between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

The counting of votes will take place at 5:00 PM and is expected to conclude within minutes.

While the National Conference's victory on three seats is a foregone conclusion, the result of the fourth seat is being closely watched, where the BJP's advantage has diminished following support for the National Conference from the Congress, PDP, and independent MLA Shabir Kulley.

Based on current political equations, National Conference candidates have the support of 57 MLAs, including 41 NC MLAs, six Congress MLAs, six independents, three PDP MLAs, and one CPI(M) MLA, while the BJP has 28 MLAs. The choices of two MLAs - Mehraj Malik and Sheikh



Khursheed - remain undisclosed. Malik, who is currently in detention under the Public Safety Act, cast his vote on Monday inside Kathua district jail.

The victory of National Conference candidates Choudhary Muhammad

Congress supports NC for J&K Rajya Sabha polls: Dr Farooq

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday claimed the Congress supports the ruling party in Jammu and Kashmir for the Rajya Sabha elections scheduled to take place a day later.

Differences erupted between the alliance



partners after the Congress had accused the National Conference (NC) of backtracking on its promise of giving the

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BJP's Chugh says statehood for J&K soon as promised by PM, HM

Accuses CM Abdullah of unfulfilled promises, betraying people of Budgam

BUDGAM: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh on Thursday said that statehood for Jammu and Kashmir would be restored soon, reiterating that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah already announced this in Parliament and during their visits to the region.

Speaking to the media after addressing the BJP Budgam Assembly Constituency Convention at Alamdaar Colony, Mirgund, Chugh said, the decision on statehood has already been made by the Prime Minister in Parliament. "The Home Minister has also confirmed this. The

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'Operation Sindoor' Shows India's Will to Punish Aggressors: Rajnath

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Describing 'Operation Sindoor' as India's message to the world that it is always ready to respond to every challenge, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday lauded the Indian Navy for its combat readiness.

Addressing top naval commanders in the national capital, the Defence Minister said, "The world witnessed the Indian Navy's strength during Operation Sindoor as its deterrent posture forced Pakistan to remain in the harbour or near its coast."

He said that 'Operation Sindoor' has sent a clear message to the world that "India is capable" of giving a befitting reply to the enemy and would respond to every challenge.

Singh commended the Navy for creating a "deterrent posture" during the operation. "It forced Pakistan to remain in the harbour or near its coast," he added.

The Defence Minister described the Indian

Navy's presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as a matter of "comfort for the friendly nations" and "discomfort for those who seek to destabilise the region".



Singh said the Indian Navy, through its multi-dimensional capabilities, has played a leadership role in the region.

"In the last six months, our ships, submarines and Naval aircraft have been deployed at an unprecedented scale. In addition, our Navy has provided safe passage to

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CM Omar Pays Tribute To Former Guv, Departed Members On Day First

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah paid homage to former Governor, legislators and ministers during obituary references held on the opening day of the Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the departed leaders had all contributed in their own ways toward the welfare of the people. "None of us is perfect; mistakes are inevitable, whether made knowingly or unknowingly," he observed.

The Chief Minister also suggested that the Assembly adopt a concise format for obituary references, similar to that of the Parliament. "We are politicians, and politics often finds its way into our speech-

es. It would be more appropriate to pay respects briefly without lengthy addresses," he said.

Welcoming the suggestion, Speaker Abdul Raheem Rather said it



would be duly considered. "As we remember them today, one day we too will be remembered. Let us learn from their lives and service," the CM remarked.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah noted that all the leaders being remembered had dedicated them-

selves to public service, whether through elected office or party association. Referring to former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, he said Malik had a long public career,

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serving as an MLA, minister and Governor in various states.

Paying tribute to G. M. Shaheen, the Chief Minister described him as a courageous leader

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CS Calls For Early Screening, Treatment To Make J&K TB-free

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of the TB Mukti Bharat Abhiyan and assess the measures under-



taken by the Health & Medical Education Department to achieve the vision of a Tuberculosis-free Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME), Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah; Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary; Managing

Director, JKMSCL; Principals of Government Medical Colleges (GMCs); Directors of Health Services, Jammu and Kashmir; HoD, Chest Medicine, GMC Srinagar; and senior faculty members from various medical institutions across the UT. Dep-

monitoring of patients, encouraging them to personally adopt a few cases each, extend individualized medical support, and maintain regular contact with patients to track their progress.

The Chief Secretary further reviewed the action taken on directions issued in earlier meetings, emphasizing their strict and time-bound implementation to secure better outcomes under the Abhiyan.

Underscoring the importance of vigorous contact tracing, Dulloo called for strengthening the network of ASHA workers to facilitate home visits and ensure 'at-home' care and counselling,

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RS Polls

National Conference, BJP In Key Contest

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The first Rajya Sabha polls since Jammu and Kashmir's downgrading to a Union territory status are scheduled for Friday with political observers anticipating three seats for the ruling National Conference (NC) and one for the BJP, provided their strategies remain on course.

The elections for the four Rajya Sabha seats in J-K have been divided into three notifications.

Chowdhury Mohammed Ramzan of the NC is in a direct contest with Ali Mohammed Mir of the BJP in one of the seats.

For the second seat, NC's Sajjad Kitchloo will fight against Rakesh Mahajan of the BJP. The third notification will see a contest for two seats in which the NC has fielded party treasurer G S Oberoi, also known as Shammi Oberoi, and Im-

ran Nabi Dar against BJP's Sat Sharma.

The NC on Thursday issued a whip to all its MLAs to ensure their presence for casting votes in favour of the party candidates.

Going by numbers, the 41-member strong NC, which has the backing of the six Congress and one CPM MLAs, and six Independents, is likely to sail through in three seats.

The contest for the final seat is razor-thin. The Assembly has a strength of 88 MLAs out of which the NC-led ruling coalition has 54.

The BJP, with 28 Assembly members, strategically named its Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Sat Sharma in the third notification.

Sharma has already got a crucial edge after the Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) led by Sajad Gani Lone, an erstwhile

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Govt failed on all fronts; session too short to discuss public issues: LoP Sharma

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Leader of Opposition and BJP MLA Sunil Sharma on Thursday expressed disappointment over the limited duration of the autumn session of the Assembly, saying the government has failed to provide sufficient time to discuss pressing public issues.

"It is unfortunate that the government has allotted very limited time for it, just 5-6 days," Sharma said.

He said that several key public issues particularly electricity, water, and road need urgent attention. "People are waiting for basic facilities. The government has failed on all fronts," he said.

Sharma also targeted Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, saying the opposition had high expectations from him. "It is unfortunate that he neither gave ample time for the session nor is he working for the people," he said.

He further stated that the opposition is prepared to raise public issues effectively during the limited session. "We are ready for it,"

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Samba: District Ujjwala Committee reviews implementation of PMUY 3.0

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Rakh Barotian, Bari Villages tagged for 100% saturation under DAJGUA

SAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan chaired a meeting of the District Ujjwala Committee (DUC) to review and streamline the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) 3.0 in Samba District.



The meeting was attended by representatives from Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, HPCL, BPCL) and officers from stakeholder departments including Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), District Industries Centre (DIC), Revenue, Rural Development, Urban Local Bodies, Transport, Fisheries, Agriculture and Employment Departments.

At the outset, Assistant Director, FCS&CA Rahul Gupta presented a detailed overview of the PMUY application verification and seeding process.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon maintaining transparency, accountability and inter-departmental coordination for expeditious release of LPG connections under PMUY. She directed all concerned departments to ensure timely verification of connections as per the guidelines.

Special focus was laid on Rakh Barotian and Bari Villages, identified for complete saturation of LPG connections under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The Deputy Commissioner stressing the need for reviewing progress at regular intervals with each department submitting updated verification reports to ensure that no eligible household is left out in the process.

ADDC Rajouri reviews progress of RDD schemes and budgetary heads

Stresses timely completion of pending works

RAJOURI: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, Malikzada Sheraz Ul Haq chaired a review meeting at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to assess the progress of the schemes and budgetary heads being implemented by the Rural Development Department in the district.

Taking a detailed review of PRI Capex works, the ADDC was informed that out of 2862 proposed works, 2756 have been tendered and 1748 allotted so far. The ADDC instructed to complete the allotment process for the remaining works within two weeks.

He also reviewed the progress under BDC, DDC, SSY, Aspirational Panchayats and ABDP components, besides taking stock of the status of CDF works. He directed the department to expedite tendering, allotment and execution of all pending projects.

While reviewing the PMAY scheme, the ADDC instructed the officers to prioritize the completion of all houses currently under construction. He also reviewed the status of MGNREGA, emphasizing the completion of e-KYC of beneficiaries to ensure smooth wage disbursement.

He further conducted a block-wise review of the generation of MGNREGA Persondays and the status of wage payments.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Development Auqil Naveed, Executive Engineer REW, BDOs; AEEs; JE; other district and sectoral officers.

ADM Jammu reviews arrangements for upcoming JE Examination

JAMMU: Additional District Magistrate Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal chaired a meeting to finalise arrangements for the OMR-based written examination for filling posts of Junior Engineer (Electrical) and Junior Engineer (Civil), scheduled on October 25 and November 2, 2025.

The ADM directed all departments to ensure strict adherence to procedures and examination guidelines to maintain fairness and transparency across all examination centres. She stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination for logistics, security and entry management.

Officers were instructed to ensure timely distribution of examination material, proper invigilation and adequate candidate-support facilities.

Detailed responsibilities were assigned to each department and officers were advised to remain alert and proactive to prevent any irregularities or malpractice.

ADM Ansuya Jamwal highlighted the collective responsibility to uphold the integrity of the recruitment process and called for full cooperation from all stakeholders to ensure a smooth and impartial examination for thousands of candidates in Jammu district.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Nazool, Nodal Officers from City Colleges, Executive Engineer JPDCL, District Education Planning Officer and other concerned officers.

Devyani Rana launches election campaign

Reaffirms Commitment to Nagrota's Continued Progress as Model Constituency

FE NEWS NETWORK

MATHWAR: BJP candidate for bye-polls to Nagrota assembly seat, Devyani



Rana pledged to carry forward the mission that her late father Devender Singh Rana had envisioned to transform the constituency by focussing on development, education, women empowerment, and youth engagement.

"In line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Paryas Sabka Vishwas, Devender Singh Rana's vision was of a Nagrota that grows with opportunity, dignity, and togetherness, irrespective of religion or caste. With zeal and commitment, I will continue this mission to ensure that Nagrota emerges as a model and vibrant constituency across Jammu and Kashmir", Devyani Rana said, evoking much

enthusiasm and overwhelming support from the people during her door-to-door and nukkad meetings at Mohalla Bhagtan Keri, Kalyar, Changral, Mathwar, Dabber

tirelessly dedicated his life for transforming the constituency.

"Devender Rana believed in the power of inclusive development that touches every home, empowers every youth, uplifts every woman, and connects every hamlet. I seek to dedicate myself to that very mission with sincerity, zeal and commitment," she added.

Rana outlined her priorities for Nagrota, saying that youth and women engagement besides empowerment of under served populations remain central to the BJP agenda with a focus on promoting self-help groups, startup initiatives, and rural entrepreneurship.

"The people have showered immense affection on Rana Sahib, and it is that revered bond which now inspires me to step forward. As a BJP Karyakarta and also as a daughter of Nagrota, I dedicate this journey to the service of the people of Nagrota", she added.

Referring to the BJP's vision for Jammu and Kashmir based on the principles of balanced regional development, transparent governance, youth empowerment, and grassroots participation in decision-making, she said this vision has translated into improved infrastructure, expanding tourism potential, and enhanced civic amenities, creating a foundation for inclusive and sustainable progress. Nagrota is an equal beneficiary of this vision and will continue to be so, she reiterated.

JMC Commissioner Conducts Extensive Tour Of Greater Kailash

Reviews civic infrastructure, addresses public issues

boundary wall to restore safety and aesthetics of the Greater Kailash Park and completion of pending lane and drain works in the Royal Avenue area.

estimates for the pending developmental works for timely completion of the same.

The Commissioner said that public participation plays a vital role in shaping

JAMMU: Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav conducted an extensive tour of Ward No. 68- Greater Kailash- an important and fast-developing area within the municipal limits.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav inspected several prominent locations including Greater Kailash Shiv Mandir, Fountain Chowk, Jalochak Basti, Greater Kailash Park and Royal Avenue. The tour was aimed at assessing the on-ground condition of public infrastructure and identifying areas where developmental intervention is required.

Members of the Greater Kailash Residents Welfare Society and several locals met the Commissioner and apprised him of the pressing civic issues affecting the area. They raised various demands for improvement and up-gradation of civic amenities, including renovation and beautification of the pond near the Shiv Mandir, completion of the Nallah work to ensure proper drainage and prevent water-logging during the rainy season, laying of new lanes and drains in the Jalochak Basti to improve sanitation and connectivity, repair of the collapsed



Dr. Yadav listened patiently to the residents and assured them that the issues raised would be prioritized. He emphasized that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to ensuring equitable development of all areas under its jurisdiction. He directed the concerned officers to prepare detailed

a clean, sustainable and well-developed city.

Health Officer JMC, Dr. Vinod Sharma; Executive Engineer, Division 5, Er. Yasir Bashir Kitchloo; Chief Transport Officer, S. Dharamveer Singh and Sanitation Officer, Parshotam Kumar accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.

DC Ramban Reviews Progress Of Developmental Works Across Key Sectors

Directs departments to redress public grievances, expedite project completion

of the projects being implemented under the District Capex Budget and other developmental schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner issued the directions while reviewing the action taken by the departments on issues raised

AEEs and other officers from PWD, PMGSY, REW and allied departments.

Referring to the limited working season and approaching winters, the DC instructed departments, particularly the Rural Engineering Wing (REW) and PWD R&B, to expedite allotment and initiation of allotted works to ensure their timely completion. He emphasized strict adherence to quality standards particularly in roads and other infrastructure projects.

The DC further directed REW to ensure early retendering of remaining works and start of allotted works. He also reviewed the status of developmental projects of Urban Local Bodies, Youth Services & Sports, Education and Revenue departments.

Underlining the importance of effective utilization of funds, the Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agencies to achieve their financial and physical targets within the stipulated time frame.

Providing feedback, the officers highlighted the bottlenecks impeding progress on certain projects. The DC addressed most of these issues on the spot by issuing necessary directions to the concerned officers for immediate redressal, ensuring smooth implementation of developmental initiatives across the district.



RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan directed the executing agencies and stakeholder departments to resolve public grievances on priority, especially those related to basic amenities and developmental works. He also reviewed the progress

during his recent public outreach programmes held across the Subdivisions Gool, Banihal, Ramsoo and other tehsils of the district.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Assistant Commissioner Development Sheraz Ahmed; Executive Engineers,

Joint drive conducted in Ukhral to enforce drug control regulation

RAMBAN: Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, a joint inspection was conducted by the Revenue Department, Police and Drug Control authorities in the Ukhral area to ensure strict compliance with drug control regulations and address safety concerns in the region.

The drive was undertaken under the directions issued by the Deputy Commissioner during a



meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) which met to review control measures against drug trafficking, substance abuse and associated safety challenges in the district.

The inspection aimed to ensure that chemist shops operate strictly within the legal framework and are not involved in the illegal sale of psychotropic drugs. The teams also checked the functioning of CCTV cameras in medical shops to enhance surveillance and accountability.

The proactive measure aimed to serve as a deterrent against illegal practices and promote transparency in the pharmaceutical sector. The inspection teams thoroughly examined sales records and compliance practices related to the sale of psychotropic substances requiring careful regulation.

All medical shop owners were asked to adhere to the prescribed norms and avoid selling psychotropic drugs without valid prescriptions. The shopkeepers were also directed to maintain an adequate stock of essential medicines to ensure genuine patients are not inconvenienced.

Special Lok Adalat on Cheque Bounce Cases Organized at Budgam

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, organized a Special Lok Adalat on Cheque Bounce Cases today at the District Court Complex, Budgam, as well as at the Taluka Courts of District Budgam.

The Special Lok Adalat was held under the Chairmanship of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Budgam, O.P. Bhagat and under the supervision of Civil Judge (Senior Division)/ Secretary DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak

In this Special Lok Adalat, each Court had identified cases beforehand, which were thereafter placed before Seven Benches constituted by DLSA Budgam for settlement.

During the Special Lok Adalat, a total of 48 Cheque Bounce Cases were taken up for amicable settlement, out of which 7 cases were settled with a settlement amount of Rs 26, 23,000.

Bye-Elections to 27-AC Budgam...

First Randomisation of Polling Staff Held at Budgam

BUDGAM: The first randomisation of polling staff designated for deployment across 173 polling stations for the Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly



Constituency Budgam was today held at Budgam.

The randomisation was carried out by the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, in accordance with the guidelines stipulated by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Through this process, software-generated deployment of 1020 employees, including a 50% reserve, was completed to ensure transparency, fairness, and impartiality in the deployment of polling staff.

Returning Officer (RO) 27-AC Budgam, Deputy District Election Officer (Dy. DEO), Nodal Officer ETBPS, and other officers were present during the randomisation process.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO Budgam emphasised that the District Administration is fully committed to conducting free, fair, inclusive, and peaceful elections in the constituency.

He further directed all concerned officers to ensure that every arrangement from training of polling staff to logistics and communication facilities is completed well in advance as per the ECI mandate.

The DEO also reiterated that transparency and accountability shall remain the guiding principles throughout all stages of the electoral process for bye-Election to 27-AC Budgam.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo reviews implementation of Mission YUVA

Directs time-bound loan disbursal and capacity enhancement of entrepreneurs

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress and implementation of Mission YUVA, taking a detailed appraisal of achievements made so far and charting the future course of action with concerned departments and stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretaries of Higher Education, Planning, and Agriculture Production Departments; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretaries of Employment and Rural Development Departments; Director Employment; Director, Handicrafts (Kashmir), besides other senior officers. Vice-Chancellors of Universities, Managing Director, J&K Bank, and Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

While reviewing the progress under Mission YUVA, the Chief Secretary directed the Employment Department and J&K Bank to adopt proactive measures to meet the targets set for the current financial year.

He emphasized that loans worth 1,000 crore must be disbursed to facilitate grounding of projects worth 2,000 crore, thereby enabling aspiring entrepreneurs to establish viable business ventures.

He underscored the need for enhancing the capacity of beneficiaries to transform their ventures into successful enterprises and called for convergence of all employment generation initiatives such as Lakhpati Didis under JKRLM, PMEGP,

HADP, JKIP, and PMFME with Mission YUVA to maximize their collective impact.

Highlighting the significance of grassroots-level support systems, Dulloo directed that the Single Block Development Units (SBDUs), Block Handholding Desks (BHDs), and YUVA Doots under the Mission be optimally utilized to facilitate on-ground execution and synergy with other government schemes.

He further instructed banks to depute their representatives to the BHDs at block level to streamline the process of approvals and ensure timely



sanction and disbursal of loans. Deputy Commissioners were asked to closely monitor the establishment of enterprises by beneficiaries and expedite processes from District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) approvals to bank sanctions and loan disbursals. The Chief Secretary also urged districts to complete the recruitment of required manpower for smooth functioning of Mission YUVA structures.

To ensure wider outreach, the Chief Secretary called for involving legislators, public figures, and local influencers

in awareness campaigns. He advised strategizing engagement with focus groups such as Lakhpati Didis, PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries, PMKVY trainees, and artisans from the handicraft sector, encouraging their participation under Mission YUVA.

Administrative Secretaries and Vice-Chancellors shared their insights and suggestions during the meeting, highlighting best practices from other regions and recommending measures for capacity enhancement and time-bound implementation of the Mission.

Commissioner Secretary,

Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, presented a detailed overview of Mission YUVA's achievements and objectives. He informed that the Department aims to create successful entrepreneurs in every panchayat, building local role models to inspire others.

He highlighted that the fourth phase of the Udyam Jagriti campaign is currently underway, focusing on students from Degree Colleges, Polytechnics, and ITIs; women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs); and beneficiaries with sanctioned loans. So far, 16,000 college students out of about

50,000 and 45,000 women SHG members out of 7 lakh have been reached under this phase. The Department is also contemplating capacity-building sessions for legislators to familiarize them with employment and livelihood schemes for better outreach at the constituency level.

The meeting was informed that 1,23,350 registrations have been made on the Mission YUVA portal, with 53,138 applications received—of which 50,544 pertain to nano-enterprises, 1,975 to new MSMEs, and 551 from existing units. Out of these, 27,369 applications have been approved by DLICs, 7,462 bank sanctions have been issued, and 4,673 disbursals completed, with subsidies granted in 281 cases.

The average project cost is around 6.44 lakh, and 262 crore has been disbursed till date. The Chief Secretary was also apprised about the buyer-seller app developed under the Mission to facilitate market linkages for registered enterprises and about initiatives to promote incubation and innovation-driven entrepreneurship in the Union Territory.

Reiterating the government's commitment to fostering youth entrepreneurship, Dulloo emphasized that Mission YUVA represents a transformative step towards empowering youth, enabling self-reliance, and creating a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir.

He called upon all departments and banks to ensure seamless coordination, timely support, and measurable outcomes for the Mission's success.

DC Srinagar inspects progress of Noor Jehan Bridge at Qamarwari

Directs for speedy completion of remaining works to ensure immediate commissioning of the vital project

Also takes onsite review of upgradation works for Development of Parimpora Fruit Mandi

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today conducted an onsite visit to Rs 14.77 crore nearing completion vital project of Noor Jehan Bridge over River Jhelum at Qamarwari and assessed the progress of ongoing works.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Executive Engineers of R&B, SDA, Tehsildars of Eidgah & Shalteng and other concerned.

During his visit, the DC reviewed the pace and quality of work on the bridge being constructed over the River Jhelum connecting Noorbagh with Qamarwari.

He directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the completion of remaining works to ensure speedy commissioning of the vital project, which is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity in the area.

He also instructed concerned Officers to remove all bottlenecks, ensuring proper road alignment and complete finishing works

on a war footing. The DC emphasized that the completion of the Noor Jehan Bridge will



significantly decongest traffic on the existing Qamarwari-Cement Bridge and provide alternative connectivity between Noorbagh and Qamarwari areas across River Jhelum.

Pertinently, load testing of the bridge has been completed on the bridge.

Later, the DC visited the Parimpora Fruit Mandi, one of the largest horticultural markets in Kashmir and held a detailed interaction with Mandi members and traders.

He reviewed the progress on works undertaken for development and upgradation

of the Mandi including macadamisation and upgradation of approach roads and internal links, besides other infrastructure improvements being carried out by the Srinagar Development Authority and R&B Department.

On the occasion, the DC assured the members of the Fruit Mandi that land for truck terminal has been identified and shall be developed under National Clean Air programme (NCAP) to facilitate smooth movement of vehicles, traders, and goods.

Besides, senior Officers of District Administration, President of New Kashmir Fruit Association Parimpora, Basheer Ahmad Basheer, Vice President, Anil Kumar, General Secretary Mohammad Ayoub and other members of the Association accompanied the DC during the visit to Fruit Mandi Parimpora.

NIT Srinagar hosts orientation program for B.Tech. admission batch 2025



Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Thursday, organized an orientation program for the newly admitted B.Tech. 2025 batch of all branches.

The program commenced with a welcome address by Director, NIT Srinagar Prof. Binod Kumar Kanujia, who extended his greetings and best wishes to the new students. He was joined by Director I/C Dr. Roohie Naaz Mir and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman.

In his message, Prof. Atikur Rahman hailed the initiative, stating that such orientation programs are important and play a vital role in helping new students adapt to the academic environment and culture of NIT Srinagar.

He said these programs not only guide students through their academic journey but also inspire them to excel in research, innovation, and personal development.

The event was hosted by Dr. Manoj Kumar, First Year Coordinator, with the coordination of branch sub coordinators, Dr. Nitika Kundan (Metallurgical & Materials Engineering), Dr. Hareesh Myneni (Electrical Engineering), Dr. Noor Zaman Khan (Mechanical Engineering), Dr. Arzoo Nissar (Information Technology), Dr. Karthik Dasari (Civil Engineering), Dr. Mohd. Moiz Khan (Chemical Engineering), Dr. Tawseef Ayoub Shaikh (Computer Science Engineering), and Dr. Amit Kumar (Electronics and Communication Engineering).

During the session, students were given a comprehensive introduction to the institution's academic environment, rules and regulations, and various support services.

Dean of Academic Affairs, Prof. B.A. Mir detailed the academic framework and policies, while Dean of Student Welfare, Prof. Mohammad Abid Bazaz, provided insights into hostel, mess, and student welfare activities. All Heads of Departments, along with the First Year Coordinators, introduced their respective branches, highlighting key features, faculty expertise, and laboratory facilities. The Training and Placement Cell was introduced by Prof. Ajaz Ahmed Mir, who explained its pivotal role in enhancing students' employability through internships and campus placements. Students were also acquainted with various institutional units and cells, including the Medical Unit (Dr. Gawher Nabi Tantray), NCC Unit (ANO Lieutenant Dr. Nitika Kundan), SC/ST Cell (Dr. Kurela Swamy and Dr. Nitika Kundan), NSS Unit (Dr. Pramod Yadav), Student Activity and Sports (Dr. Manoj Kumar), Mohammad Abrar Khan (Sr Pharmacist) and the Library (Showkat Ahmad Wani). The orientation concluded with an interactive session, ensuring that students begin their academic journey at NIT Srinagar with awareness, enthusiasm, and a sense of belonging.

BJP protests against NC MLA's "communal party" remark

Srinagar: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday held a protest against remarks by the National Conference (NC) MLA Bashir Ahmad Veeri, who had called it a "communal party".

According to details available with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the NC MLA, while paying tributes to BJP ex-MLC, Ramesh Arora, highlighted the role and works done by the leader. He also said that Arora despite being affiliated with the 'communal party' was having a 'secular mindset'.

Soon after his remarks, BJP legislators stood from their benches and held a protest, demanding action against the NC legislature.

The party raised objections over his remarks, with BJP legislator, Sham Lal Sharma stating that such derogatory comments have been made while paying tributes to anyone during the obituary.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather also asked the legislators not to use any controversial remarks during obituary references—(KNO)

Div Com Kashmir Inspects Operational Readiness of 60 MLD STP Noorbagh

Project covering 15000 Households in Srinagar, to be commissioned on October 31: Anshul Garg

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, conducted an on-site inspection of the 60 Million Litres Daily (MLD) Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) at Noorbagh, Srinagar, to assess its operational readiness ahead of its commissioning scheduled for October 31.

The inspection was carried out after completion of a project of the Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme for Greater Srinagar, initiated under the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) at a cost of Rs 143 Cr which was later revised to Rs 157 Cr.

During the visit, Div Com highlighted the critical importance of the project in strengthening urban sanitation infrastructure and improving environmental and health standards in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, Garg informed that the project was executed by the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) under

the supervision of the Housing and Urban Development Department.



"We have commenced the trial run of the 60 MLD STP after NBCC and UEED geared up their resources to complete this long-pending project", Div Com said and added that once commissioned it will immediately benefit around 15,000 households in Srinagar city.

Acknowledging the city's expanding population since the project's inception, Garg announced that the administration is already planning the second phase of

the project of 70 MLD capacity to cater increasing requirements in proportion to growth of the city.

He also directed the Superintending Engineer, UEED, to initiate the process for acquiring a dedicated power supply line to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the plant and also get the DPR finalised for the utility shifting, tertiary treatment, automated quality monitoring and other infrastructural requirements within 1 week for consideration of the Administrative Department. During his interaction with local residents, the Div Com listened

to their grievances regarding sewerage and stormwater issues and assured them that their concerns would be resolved at the earliest. Addressing media queries about the power scenario in the valley, Garg said that power supply remains a top priority for the administration.

"Regular reviews are being conducted at both the UT and Divisional levels to ensure regular power supply", he said.

"Currently the concerned department is conducting pruning of trees, maintenance works, and augmentation of buffer stock of transformers to ensure overall preparation for winter", he said. The power scenario this winter is expected to be better than in previous years," he added. The Div Com was accompanied by the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, and officers from the Revenue Department and UEED during the visit.

Secretary Health reviews Operational Efficiency and Procurement Processes of JKMSCL

SRINAGAR: Secretary Health and Medical Education Department, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, chaired a review meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) to assess its operational efficiency and procurement processes.

The meeting focused on strengthening the operational efficiency of JKMSCL, particularly through the Drug & Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDM) portal, and ensuring strict adherence to procurement guidelines and Rate Contracts (RCs). The Chair underscored the importance of maintaining transparency, accountability, and timely procurement through established processes.

The Secretary directed JKMSCL to implement DVDMs at all healthcare facilities, from GMCs to sub-centers, to track drug requirements and consumption. He also emphasized the need to execute tenders for Machinery

& Equipment in a time-bound manner and formulate an Essential Equipment List



(EEL) for scientific planning of future procurements to align procurements strictly Dir patient care and public welfare.

Dr. Shah stressed the importance of implementing penal clauses for any delays in executing supplies and taking strict disciplinary action against defaulters. He also emphasized the need for statutory audits

and quality testing of drugs, and the operationalization of the modern testing laboratory

at Kathua. "All officers must gear up for improved performance, clear all legal pendency without delay, and ensure timely and effective implementation of projects and contracts. JKMSCL must maintain the highest standards of transparency and efficiency in its operations," said Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah.

Midnight fire ravages 9 houses, godown in Srinagar's Habba Kadal

Families left homeless as flames engulf Karfali Mohalla; residents recount night of chaos, despair

Srinagar: A fire incident tore through Karfali Mohalla, Habba Kadal Srinagar, in the night hours of Wednesday-Thursday, reducing nine homes and one godown to ashes.

For the residents, it was more than a blaze; it was the destruction of memories, dreams and the security of a lifetime.

"It was a night of cries and chaos," said Sahil, a resident, his voice trembling. He added, flames rose so high, lighting up the entire neighbourhood.

People ran screaming, clutching whatever belongings they could grab.

"Some barely escaped with their children in their arms," Sahil told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer.

Another resident, whose home was completely destroyed, recalled helplessly: "We tried buckets of water, but the fire was too strong.

Everything we had built over decades, our photos, clothes,

documents, savings, turned to ashes in minutes. It feels like life itself burned away."

The fire reportedly started in a godown around 2:30 AM, officials told KNO. They said



firefighters rushed from nearby stations and headquarters too but narrow lanes and congested houses typical of old Srinagar slowed the rescue.

By the time flames were under control, nine houses lay in ruins, and families were left homeless in the chilly October night.

Meanwhile, amidst the rubble and cries residents huddled together, sharing clothes, blankets and food salvaged from neighbours. Some cried silently,

staring at charred walls where their lives once unfolded. "We have nothing now. Not even a roof over our heads," one elderly resident said.

Moreover, the tragedy has drawn attention from political and social leaders.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti tweeted: "First Ganpat Yaar, then Baan Mohalla, and now Karfali Mohalla within less than a month, devastating fires have engulfed the homes of the poorest of the poor. Dozens of families

have been left without a roof over their heads in this harsh winter, losing not just shelter but a lifetime of belongings.

It's heartbreaking to see people standing amidst the ashes of what was once their home."

She appealed to the government to provide urgent financial assistance, along with timber and tin sheets, so these families can rebuild their lives again." Officials said investigation have been launched to ascertain the cause of the fire—(KNO)

Editorial

Test of Alliances

As the Members of the Legislative Assembly in Jammu & Kashmir are preparing to vote for the Rajya Sabha, a subtle, but still significant political shift is developing. Although we know the outcome of three out of the four seats already, the fight for the fourth seat has become emblematic of the political changes. This election will be far more than a simple formality; it is a test of the opposition's unity, and a demonstration of the National Conference's (NC) ability to build consensus.

The arithmetic in the Assembly is simple. The National Conference-led coalition, including support from the Congress, the PDP, and some independents, are at 57 MLAs. The BJP is the main opposition party at 28 MLAs. This gives the NC all three seats. The interesting part is that the third seat and fourth seat are up for combined election.

This combined poll strategy is when the party political acumen is fully on display. The ruling alliance is going to divide the votes between both candidates, Gurwinder Singh Oberoi and Imran Dar, with 29 and 28 votes, respectively. The BJP, with its massive bloc of 28 votes, is putting all its support behind Sat Sharma. On paper, this puts NC's Oberoi in a precarious place with a one-vote advantage over both Dar and Sharma for the third seat. The fourth seat is a race between Dar and Sharma, with both candidates possessing 28 votes apiece, which makes it a nail-biter on paper.

This is also where the non-disclosed votes by two MLAs and the role of independent legislators becomes critical. The fact that an independent MLA's votes could swing the election when cast in the secret ballot indicates the fluidity of the situation. It reminds the parties that, in a close division of the house, the importance of each individual legislator is surprisingly great, and the perceived stability of a coalition can be precarious.

These elections send a clear message in a number of directions. This provides evidence that under regional and national opposition parties are working closely together to demonstrate opposition strength against the BJP in Jammu & Kashmir. The NC alongside the Congress and PDP, have progressively come together as opposition parties to show, even with their ideological and practical challenges, a political inevitability in another country and the , where there is strong opposition. For the BJP, the fight is to maintain its strength and its ability to show organizational strength as a minority in the assembly.

Evidence of a factions close in the NC is possible to dissect as evidence of behavioural, and the fragility of discipline that comes when a political necessity presents. The loss will lead to questions concerning the reliability of suddenly form alliances, which leads to issues of the management of a multi factional opposition. While indirect, this Rajya Sabha election is an important component of the political development of the Union Territory, providing a signal for the broader electoral politics to come.

Anxious and Unaware: Generation Alpha’s Unquiet Wisdom



■ DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

When I saw the scene in “Kaun Banega Crorepati,” where ten-year-old Ishit told Amitabh Bachchan, “I know the rules, please don’t start explaining them,” I wasn’t surprised at all. I’ve seen many children whose words

they don’t know how to pause and listen.

Ishit’s behavior reflected that unease. His words were confident, but behind that confidence was a hidden fear. At an age when children should be asking questions, he was eager to answer. This isn’t just a child’s tendency, but a sign of a broader social situation. This behavior isn’t a sign of a mental illness, but rather the result of unbalanced development. When a child is constantly trying to speak up, prove himself right, and attract attention, he’s living under some invisible pressure.

Often, these children are caught in an invisible competition. They believe they

know everything.” An eighth-grade student breaks down, entangled in the web of love and popularity found on social media. This is not just the fault of parents, but also of the education system, which expects the same pace and results from every child. A child who doesn’t fit that mold is labeled a rebel. Sometimes, their rebellion is merely a voice of inconsistency, not a crime.

The greatest paradox of our time is that we have equated knowledge with speed. We have mistaken technical proficiency for maturity. But the real crisis is that our new generation is becoming emotionally unstable. They communicate with the outside world,

and our systems. Children need empathy, not just knowledge. They need to be taught to endure, not conquer. If we don’t change course, qualities like humility and patience will be labeled as abnormal. Society is moving toward a path where the quiet will be considered weak, and the shouting successful. This is a dangerous time when the roots of civilization are beginning to wither.

Ironically, the adults who criticized the child themselves use anger, disrespect, and abusive language on social media. How can a generation that has lost its self-control teach children decorum? This is the deepest concern.



are mature beyond their years, but whose emotions are far behind their childhood.

Some on social media called him arrogant, others said his parents hadn’t instilled good values. But the truth lay deeper than these immediate reactions. That boy was, in fact, a mirror of an entire generation—the generation we call the Alpha generation, the fastest, most impatient, and most unstable.

These children are growing up in an era where the answer to every question is just a touch away. Their childhood is filled with mobile phones, replacing games with peers, and the glare of the screen. They want everything “instantly”—answers, attention, and praise. But this immediacy comes at a cost. The part of their brain responsible for patience, judgment, and emotional control is swept away by a deluge of information before it can mature. The result is a rapid pace of thought, while the ability to control it weakens. These children know a lot, but

must appear intelligent and successful at all costs. This superficial confidence is a veil behind which lies insecurity, fear, and performance anxiety. When Ishit said, “If I don’t win twelve lakh rupees, I won’t be allowed to take a picture with you,” it was clear that his self-worth is tied to achievement. This pressure stems from the expectations of family, school, and society.

Today’s parents praise their children’s intelligence and achievements, but pay little attention to their emotions. The priority is to make them smart, not disciplined. They forget that children’s greatest learning power is imitation. They learn from our actions, not from our words. If there is irritation, impatience, and bitterness at home, they will replicate the same patterns in society. The nature sown like a seed in the family grows into a tree in society.

The same scenario plays out in schools. A seventh-grade student declares, “I already

but not with their inner selves. Schools, gadgets, and societal competition have robbed children of the stillness of childhood. Now, a quiet child is labeled “slow,” while a loud one is labeled “successful.” This is the paradox of our civilization.

The problem lies not in the child, but in our perspective. We taught children to speak, but not to listen; we gave them knowledge, but not empathy. We taught them achievement, but not balance. That’s why today, any child who expresses their feelings is immediately labeled “uncultured,” “arrogant,” “rebellious.” But that child is merely a reflection of our own impatience. Our homes, our schools, and our society are collectively transforming that innocent mind into a machine that speaks a lot but understands little. Now, there’s competition in education, performance in parenting, and comparison in society. All three have robbed a child of their spontaneity.

Now, we need to change both our thinking

“

Today’s children’s eyes sparkle with reaction, not knowledge. They don’t want to listen, because we haven’t heard them. “I know the rules, please don’t start explaining them”—this sentence isn’t just a child’s dialogue, but a mirror of the fatigue, insecurity, and emotional distance of modern parenting. When a child says this, they’re questioning not the rules, but the very nature of the relationship. It’s time to teach children dialogue, not discipline—otherwise, the future society will be intelligent, but not sensitive.

”

That child is not a flaw, but a sign. He shows us the direction we are headed. We are creating citizens who are technically adept, but mentally exhausted. That child is a mirror of our inner haste, our expectations, and our imbalance. He needs to be understood, not scolded. Within every supremely clever child lies a bright but frightened mind, one that needs to be guided, not suppressed.

Unless we teach our children to value compassion over achievement, and humility over intellect, they will continue to grow up under the burden of our unfulfilled aspirations. That child was, in fact, a reflection of ourselves—and perhaps we should now fear the reflection we are increasingly turning away from.

Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science. He can be mailed at priyankasaurabh9416@gmail.com

HM Amit Shah: Strategist Reshaping India’s Political Future



LALIT GARG

In Indian politics, there are a few names that rise above the positions they hold, names that are defined not by title but by unwavering resolve, visionary leadership, and an unshakable commitment to national integrity. Amit Anilchandra Shah is one such name, a leader forged in struggle, an architect of political organization, and a sentinel of internal security and national unity. As India’s Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Amit Shah has redefined governance. His work spans revolutionary reforms in internal security, national cohesion, and rural revival. It is no exaggeration to call him the modern-day “Iron Man”, a true ideological successor to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. With a blend of political acumen and transformative governance, Shah has emerged not just as a tactician but as a nation-builder, a statesman whose strategies have reshaped India’s political and developmental landscape.

A long-time associate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah is seen as both a key confidant and the party’s chief strategist. His political journey began with his early induction into the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), and by 1987, he had joined the BJP’s youth wing. During Narendra Modi’s tenure as Gujarat’s Chief Minister, Shah rose rapidly, handling key portfolios such as Home, Law, and Transport, while emerging as a force to be reckoned with. As Minister of Cooperation, Shah has transformed the ministry from a bureaucratic structure into a people-centric movement. He doesn’t view cooperation merely through an economic lens but as a practical expression of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas.” From sugar mills to dairies, agriculture, seed production, and marketing, the entire cooperative ecosystem has been infused with fresh dynamism. His initiatives like the first-ever

national cooperative policy draft, digitalization of PACS, and converting over 200,000 primary agriculture credit societies into multi-dimensional hubs mark a renaissance in rural India. Under his leadership, the cooperative movement has become the backbone of Atmanirbhar Bharat,

of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. It wasn’t merely a constitutional act but a monumental assertion of India’s indivisible unity. Under the combined leadership of Shah and Modi, a decades-old wound was healed. The abrogation was a decisive blow to separatist ideology, and it restored

the National Investigation Agency (NIA), adopted technological innovations in border management, and initiated vital police reforms. His “zero tolerance” policy against terror has made the country more secure than it has been in decades. Whether it was the Delhi riots or threats from



empowering farmers as stakeholders in the nation’s growth. Shah has redefined the cooperative lexicon with a new vision, “Prosperity through Cooperation.”

One of his most significant accomplishments lies in his handling of internal security. For decades, Left-wing extremism plagued large swathes of the country, creating a climate of fear, underdevelopment, and violence. Under Shah’s leadership, a comprehensive three-pronged strategy — combining law enforcement, intelligence, and development — has struck at the very roots of Naxalism. Over 90% of the previously affected regions are now treading the path of peace. His approach — “Terrorism can’t be defeated by bullets alone, but by development and dialogue” — reflects his nuanced understanding of national issues. His legacy will forever be intertwined with the abrogation

the Valley to the national fold. Today, the tricolour flies high, tourism thrives, investment flows in, and the youth of Kashmir dream again — all because of Shah’s fearless and farsighted resolve. As he proclaimed in Parliament, “Kashmir is the crown of India, and until peace and development reach every valley, our mission remains incomplete.”

What sets Amit Shah apart is his extraordinary foresight. Whether it is strategizing elections or executing constitutional decisions, he anticipates the board and places every piece with precision. Post-370 abrogation, peaceful elections in Jammu & Kashmir and the quiet resolution of a centuries-old conflict in Ayodhya are testimonies to his silent yet seismic political planning. As Home Minister, he has strengthened India’s internal security framework with enhanced laws against terrorism, bolstered the powers of

across the border, Shah’s decisions have always been swift, balanced, and nation-first.

Politically, Amit Shah is often referred to as “Modi’s Hanuman”, not just because of his loyalty, but for being the executor of Modi’s vision. As BJP’s president from 2014 to 2020, he transformed the party into the world’s largest political organization, with a membership base exceeding that of over 70 nations combined. The BJP’s landmark victories in the 2014 and 2019 elections were driven by his meticulous organizational planning and mass connect strategies. His name is now synonymous with campaign excellence and electoral dominance. Yet, his identity transcends politics. He is the guardian of national unity, the protector of internal security, and the torchbearer of cooperative resurgence. His presence in government marked a transition from organization-building to nation-building.

When the history of India’s parliamentary evolution under Narendra Modi is written, Amit Shah’s policies will stand tall, as a modern “Chanakya,” whose silent strategy shaped the grand narrative.

Shah’s decision to keep his image off official campaign posters, focusing only on Modi, was a deliberate move, a testament to his belief in a collective vision rather than personal glory. It was part of a larger “Shah Doctrine”, to Modi-fy the campaign, and turn every election into a direct vote of confidence in the Prime Minister. It is this mindset that has given Amit Shah a permanent space in the BJP’s core identity. To his supporters, he is a protector of Hindu values; to his critics, a polarizing figure. But none can deny his on-ground connect, strategic brilliance, and sheer organizational talent. His rise from a booth-level worker to the country’s Home Minister is a saga of grit, discipline, and clear vision.

Amit Shah’s leadership reminds the nation of Sardar Patel, while Patel unified India geographically, Shah has worked to integrate its thoughts and ideologies. Patel wielded the iron will to shape India’s map; Shah has infused it with the spirit of oneness. His guiding mantra has always been, “Not the individual, the nation comes first.” From transforming cooperative structures, strengthening national security, to reshaping Kashmir’s future, Shah’s impact is historic. His approach isn’t driven by shrewd politics but by a deep, committed vision. There is no pretense, only purpose. His decisions are grounded not in expediency, but in patriotism. A tireless karmayogi, he has shown that if the intent is pure and the vision is clear, even the most complex transformations are possible. Amit Shah is not just a politician, he is a force of nature shaping the destiny of modern India. On his 61st birthday, he stands not merely as a man of the moment, but as a maker of epochs, a resolute symbol of discipline, strategy, and unwavering nationalism. Indeed, he is India’s Crisis Breaker, Master Organizer, and Modern Iron Man.

Author is a senior columnist. He can be mailed at lalitgarg11@gmail.com

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Arrangements for 2nd Edition of Kashmir Marathon

FE NEWS NETWORK

Directs beautification of route with potted plants, seamless facilities for participants

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the 2nd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled to be held on November 2.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Director Tourism, Vice Chairman LCMA, ADC Srinagar, SSP Traffic, Director Health, and officers from departments including Information, KPDC, R&B, PHE, Youth Services & Sports, and other concerned agencies.

During the meeting, Div Com emphasized ensuring comprehensive arrangements at the flag-off cum finishing spot, including electricity, sanitation, first-aid, and toilet facilities.

He directed the Director Tourism to share the detailed Marathon route plan with all concerned departments for effective coordination of responsibilities and arrangements.

The Director Tourism and SSP Traffic were instructed to arrange an adequate



number of barricades for smooth traffic management on the event day.

To strengthen emergency response, the Div Com directed the Health Department to deploy a water ambulance

in Dal Lake and instructed the SDRF to keep their boats ready to assist the Tourism Department in case of exigencies. He also directed the Health Department to establish a field hospital at Polo View

for post-Marathon recovery of participants and to set up seventeen aid stations along the route, adequately staffed to assist runners.

Commissioner SMC was directed to beautify the Marathon route with potted flower plants in collaboration with SKUAST-K, and to ensure sanitation along the entire stretch as well as dog-catching measures for the safety of participants.

The R&B Department was instructed to ensure a pothole-free track, while arrangements for bottled drinking water and refreshments were also reviewed.

The Div Com stressed the importance of training and sensitizing volunteers regarding their roles and responsibilities during the event.

The meeting also discussed organizing a joint medal ceremony for the Full Marathon (seven hours) and Half Marathon (three hours) at SKICC.

It also discussed arrangements for three-day exhibition showcasing local products by departments including Handicrafts & Handloom, Horticulture, and Agriculture.

To ensure real-time coordination among departments, the Div Com directed the establishment of a Command & Control Centre for the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

SKUAST-K Takes Modern Wheat Technology to Tribal Farmers of Gurez

FE NEWS NETWORK

University's Mega Outreach under TSP-AICRP Brings Nutrient-Rich, High-Yield Wheat to 700 Tribal Farmers

BANDIPORA: In a remarkable stride towards agricultural empowerment of tribal communities, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) conducted a two-day mega outreach programme, under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) – AICRP on Seeds (Crops), NSP Srinagar Centre, in collaboration with KVK/MAR&ES Gurez.

The initiative marked the formal introduction of SKUAST-K's most novel wheat variety 'Shalimar Wheat-3' (SW-3) to the tribal farmers of Gurez valley, ensuring that the benefits of latest agri-technology reached even the last villages along the LoC, including Chorwan, Gujraan, Abdulain and Chakwali.

A record 70 quintals of SW-3 seed, coupled with the scientific package of practices, were distributed among 700 tribal farmers, covering over 70 hectares (1400 kanals) of land across the valley. The event drew wide appreciation for bringing cutting-edge

research directly to the doorstep of the most remote farming communities. Addressing the gathering, Principal Investigator NSP (Seeds), SKUAST-

Speaking on the occasion, Head KVK/MAR&ES Gurez, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, reiterated SKUAST-K's commitment to preserving traditional



Kashmir, Prof. Gowhar Ali, highlighted that Shalimar Wheat-3 represents the university's latest innovation, a biofortified, disease-resistant, and high-yielding variety capable of producing up to 38 quintals per hectare, significantly enhancing nutritional and economic security.

The key contributor to the development of SW-3, Dr. Shabir Hussain Wani, emphasized that adoption of the technology on scientific lines would boost productivity and minimize dependency on external seed sources in Gurez.

crops while introducing University Released Varieties (URVs) to improve livelihood opportunities under natural and organic farming systems. He added that the impact assessment and monitoring of the technology adoption will continue to ensure long-term benefits for the tribal farming community.

The participating farmers expressed heartfelt gratitude to SKUAST-Kashmir for bridging the technology gap and bringing sustainable agricultural solutions to the frontiers of Gurez valley.

Police arrests six absconders in Sopore, Shopian and Awantipora

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Police arrested six long-evading absconders in Sopore, Shopian and Awantipora who had been on the run for years in separate cases, a police spokesman said Thursday.

He said that in Sopore an absconder identified as Saleem Ahmad Sheikh son of Fojia Sheik resident of Parimpora, presently Sheikh Colony Makhdoom Sahib Srinagar was wanted in Case FIR No. 29/2003 U/S 379, 511 RPC of Police Station Dangiawacha. The accused had been evading arrest since 2003. After sustained efforts, the police team traced and arrested him.

The second absconder identified as Bashir Ahmad Mir son of Ali Mohammad Mir resident of Lachipora Handwara, was wanted in Case FIR No. 134/2012 U/S 379 RPC of Police Station Tarzoo. He had been absconding since 2016 and was arrested after meticulous tracking by Police. After completion of legal formalities, both the accused will be produced before the courts of competent jurisdiction, the spokesman added.

In Shopian, police apprehended three long term

absconders who had been evading arrest for several decades. The arrested absconders include Munshi Chohan resident of Aribal Kulgam wanted in FIR No. 29/1999 under sections 381 RPC of Police Station Shopian, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat resident of Niloora Pulwama wanted in FIR No. 25/2002 under sections 379, RPC, 6 Forest Act of Police Station Shopian and Farooq Ahmad Lone resident of Noorpora Tral wanted in FIR No. 410/2010 under sections 379 RPC of Police Station Shopian. These individuals were involved in various criminal cases and had been deliberately evading the due process of law for over three decades.

In Awantipora, police arrested one absconder who was evading his arrest for last 14 years. Police received non-bailable warrants under section 299 CrPC/ 335 BNSS issued by the Principal Session Court Pulwama against one absconder identified as Latief Ahmad Akhoun son of Jalal din resident of Mullaq Harwan Srinagar. The absconder was involved in case FIR No 100/2011 under section 20/20 NDPS Act registered at Police Station Awantipora. Subsequently, the arrested accused was produced before the court of Law, the spokesman said.



DC Srinagar reviews progress on ABHA ID Enrolment, PMJAY-Sehat (Golden Card) Coverage, TB Control Measures

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the progress of health initiatives in the district, including the enrolment of Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs and the coverage under the PMJAY-Sehat (Golden Card) scheme.

The meeting also assessed the ongoing Tuberculosis (TB) control measures and related health interventions.

At the outset, the DC emphasized the importance of achieving universal coverage under the ABHA ID initiative to ensure seamless access to digital health services. He directed the Officers to intensify awareness campaigns and expedite the registration process across all Medical Zones/Blocks in the district so that citizens are benefited from the government



initiatives. On the occasion, the DC also reviewed the progress of the Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

(AB-PMJAY), under which Golden Cards are issued to eligible beneficiaries. The DC called for coordinated efforts

to saturate the process so that all eligible families can avail benefits of cashless healthcare services at empanelled hospitals.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner also took stock of the performance of Srinagar District under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). He commended the Health Department and associated teams for their accelerated efforts and improved performance in efforts towards TB elimination.

The DC emphasized the need to sustain the current momentum and further strengthen grassroots-level initiatives to achieve the goal of a TB-free district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; Medical Superintends of SKIMS, JLN, SMHS, CD Hospital, District Tuberculosis Officer, and all Zonal Medical Officers.

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SWD Srinagar Organizes Exposure Visit for CCI Students under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Srinagar organized an Exposure Visit for students of Child Care Institutions (Palash/Pareesha) Shalimar to the SPS Museum and SPS Library, Lal Mandi Srinagar under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

The visit was aimed at providing opportunities for observation, discussion, and knowledge exchange among the students.

During the visit, students first visited the SPS Museum, where they learned about history, science, art, and culture through firsthand observation of artifacts and exhibits. They explored sections showcasing ancient sculptures, coins, animal skins, heritage crafts, weapons, and papier-mache art, gaining valuable insights into the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

Later, the students visited the SPS Library, where they explored various books and resources while learning about modern library systems, information management, and potential career opportunities in library sciences. The visit aimed to encourage lifelong learning and academic curiosity, highlighting the importance of libraries as free and open sources of information and knowledge.

The students were accompanied by staff members from SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar, along with educators and caretakers from Palash and Pareesha.



Annual Day Celebration At Sadiq Memorial Educational Institute, Kupwara ■ Wins Hearts With Student Performances

FE NEWS NETWORK

“Knowledge Becomes Power Only When It Serves People,” Says Renowned Educationist G.N. Var

KUPWARA: The Sadiq Memorial Educational Institute, Kupwara, celebrated its Annual Function Day 2025 with great enthusiasm and cultural fervor. The event witnessed overwhelming participation from students, teachers and parents, as young learners showcased their talent through a series of performances, speeches and cultural presentations that reflected both educational excellence and traditional values.

The function was graced by renowned educationist and PSAJK Founder, G.N. Var, as the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honour included Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Kupwara Mohammad Maqbool, Former CEO Kupwara Javid Iqbal Wani, Principal GHSS Sulkoat Bashir Ahmad, Vice Principal Women's Degree College Sulkoat Ferooz Faizan, Senior Lecturer Abdul Waheed, Chairman Sadiq Memorial Kupwara Mohsin Hussain, Principal Tabassum Farooq and ZNO Kupwara Faiz Wani.

The event began with a recitation of the Holy Quran and Naat-e-Shariff, followed by welcome addresses and vibrant performances by students that captivated the audience. From motivational speeches to thought-provoking skits, sports and colourful cultural presentations, the day was a celebration of the students' creativity, confidence and discipline.

Speaking on the occasion, G.N. Var lauded the school administration, staff, and students for their outstanding dedication to education despite economic challenges.

Var said, “Sadiq Memorial Educational Institute has proved that talent knows no boundaries. The students have shown excellence in every field, whether in speeches, cultural programs or academics. I am deeply impressed by the dedication of the school management for keeping the flame of education alive in such a far-flung area.”

He added, “This institute deserves every possible support from the community so that it continues to provide quality education to underprivileged children. Every parent dreams of seeing their child succeed and Sadiq Memorial is turning those dreams into reality.”

ZEO Kupwara Mohammad Maqbool appreciated the school's commitment, He said “Sadiq Memorial is not just a school, it is a mission of education and values. The hard work of the teachers and management is clearly visible in the students' confidence and performances.”



Vice Principal Women's Degree College Sulkoat Ferooz Faizan described the event as a “celebration of discipline and determination. Institutions like Sadiq Memorial are the backbone of our society, and community support for them is essential.”

Former CEO Kupwara Javid Iqbal Wani highlighted the school's growing impact on local education. “Schools like Sadiq Memorial are shaping the future of Kupwara. The event was a reflection of strong academic leadership and genuine dedication. I congratulate the entire team for their remarkable contribution.”

Principal GHSS Sulkoat Bashir Ahmad praised the teachers for nurturing confidence and ethics among the students. “Education is not only about books, it is about building character, discipline and humanity. Sadiq Memorial School is doing exactly that.”

Chairman of Sadiq Memorial Educational Institute, Kupwara, Mohsin Hussain, expressed pride in the students' accomplishments. He said, “We are proud that our students have brought laurels to the school through their hard work and dedication. Our mission is to provide the best possible education to every child, regardless of their background.”

Principal Tabassum Farooq, in her vote of thanks, expressed gratitude to the staff, parents, students and distinguished guests for their unwavering support. She said, “Today's celebration is the result of collective effort, dedication and teamwork. It is your commitment that enables us to nurture not only academic excellence but also character, creativity and confidence in every child.”

J&K Assembly

Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, Iftikhar Ahmed and Narinder Singh paid tributes to the departed souls. The session comprises six sittings, including the obituary references held today. The Assembly 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—(KNO)

MLAs

Ramzan and Sajjad Kichloo on the first two seats is certain, as each is expected to secure 57 votes against the BJP's 28. Unlike the first two seats, a combined election is being held for the third and fourth seats, where three candidates- Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, Imran Dar of the National Conference, and Sat Sharma of the BJP -are locked in a direct contest. The two highest vote-getters in this combined election will be declared winners. For the third and fourth seats, MLAs of the ruling alliance would split their votes between Gurwinder Singh Oberoi and Imran Dar, while all BJP MLAs would vote for Sat Sharma. It is expected that the National Conference will allocate 29 votes to Oberoi and the remaining 28 to Imran Dar, with the BJP also holding an equal strength of 28 votes. The composition of the voting blocs- specifically, which MLAs will vote for which candidate -within the ruling alliance for the third and fourth Rajya Sabha seats will be interesting to watch, given that independents are not required to display their votes. Unlike party-affiliated MLAs, independent legislators are not required to show their marked ballot papers to authorized polling agents. The J&K Assembly currently has seven independent MLAs—(KNO)

Congress

party a safe seat in the Rajya Sabha polls. The Congress on Wednesday did not attend a meeting of the MLAs of the coalition that was called by the NC. "The Congress is with us, and supports us," Abdullah told reporters here when he was asked about the Congress not yet announcing its support to the NC - its alliance partner in J-K --for the Rajya Sabha polls. Asked why he did not contest the Rajya Sabha polls, Abdullah, who has been a parliamentarian for 22 years in his 45-year political career, said he has to take care of Jammu and Kashmir now. "I have done a lot of Parliament. Now, I have to take care of my home. When the house is prosperous, the nation will also be prosperous. We have to strengthen our home, remove its difficulties, and give respite to the people here. That is our aim," he said. The NC chief said there is no need for him to go to Parliament as it is the turn of the younger generation to go to Parliament now. "The young will go there now, who will speak about our difficulties there. Our Parliament members are not for us only, they will have to see about the nation as well. They have to address the problems of the nation," he added. Responding to a question on Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urging people to check for "halal certification" on products before purchasing them, Abdullah said the people of the state have to decide on that. "You should ask that question to the people of UP. It is not related to us. The people of UP should decide on that," he said. However, the former chief minister of J-K said India is a country with unity in diversity. "As long as we strengthen diversity, India will be strong. It is a question of time, change takes place, no government remains forever. Their time to leave will also come. We should not lose hope, we should have patience and tolerance. Everything will be alright till we remain patient. God is for everyone, whichever religion a person belongs to. This is God's biggest blessing on India," he said. Talking about the US tariffs, Abdullah said that should be rolled back. "See the amount of tax America has imposed on us. What is that? Are we trying to destroy the world? I want to tell Trump to roll it back and move forward, thinking that while God has bestowed powers on him, the same God can take those powers away. "Where did the British Empire or the Persian Empire go? Where is the Roman Empire or the Russian Empire? They were destroyed. All the empires get destroyed when their arrogance reaches their peak," Abdullah added. Responding to a question about the people of Kashmir being angry with the installation of smart electricity metres, the NC president said the people need to understand that the government has to buy power worth crores of rupees. He also called upon the people to use electricity judiciously. (PTI)

CM Omar

who continued to serve the people with determination even after surviving a major landmine blast. The Chief Minister also expressed concern over the negligence of the concerned district administration for failing to inform the Assembly Secretariat about the demise of former Legislator Mohammad Sultan Pandithpori. "You have already taken note of the lapse, and I am sure the Chief Secretary must have also acted on it. An explanation must be sought from the concerned officers," he said. (DIPR)

Operation Sindoor

approximately 335 merchant vessels, equalling approximately 1.2 million metric tons of cargo and a trade value of USD 5.6 billion," he said. This, he said, is proof that India has now become a trusted and capable partner in the global maritime economy. Singh lauded the Indian Navy for enhancing its capabilities through indigenous equipment and emerging as the flag bearer of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

"In the last 10 years, nearly 67 per cent of the Navy's capital acquisition contracts have been with Indian industries. This proves that we are no longer dependent solely on imports," he said. Singh said the Indian Navy is working on 194 innovation and indigenisation projects. "Today, our Navy has become a pioneer in the country's self-reliance, innovation, and industrial development," he said—(KNO)

BJP's Chugh

process is underway, and it will happen soon," he said. Chugh accused Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of betraying the people of Budgam and failing to deliver on promises made in his manifesto despite being in office for over a year. "Omar Abdullah betrayed Budgam. Not a single commitment from his manifesto has been fulfilled. The public is ready to respond to that betrayal by voting for Aga Syed Mohsin in the Budgam by-elections," he said. The BJP leader dismissed Abdullah's claims that the Lieutenant Governor's administration was hindering governance. "Except for the police, all ministries are under your control. Your ministers are enjoying red-beacon cars and government bungalows meant for public service, not luxury," he said. "Even senior National Conference leaders have acknowledged the government's failure to keep its promises." Chugh accused the NC government of neglecting important areas like tourism. "Not a single new tourism project has been started. It's PM Modi and the BJP who are working hard to make Jammu and Kashmir an international tourism hub," he said. The rally, part of the BJP's ongoing campaign in Budgam, was attended by senior party leaders including J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, Vice-President Dr Shehnaz Ganai, State Secretary Mudasar Wani, Prabhari Budgam Sheikh Bashir, District President Ghazi Rahulla, and senior leaders Dr Ali Mohd Mir, Ashraf Azad, Sameer Shah, Imtiaz Ahmed, and Er. Aziz Hussain. Chugh urged the people to support BJP candidate Aga Syed Mohsin. He said, "This election is not just about one seat; it's about ending dynastic misrule and giving Budgam a leader who stands with the people. The BJP is committed to transparent governance, real development, and dignity for every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir." Sat Sharma, while addressing the rally, said the BJP has made significant progress in Jammu and Kashmir through consistent effort and the trust of the people. "The acceptance of BJP has grown across regions because the party represents every section and community. Today, people look to BJP with hope because it stands for everyone," he said. (KNO)

Govt failed

Sharma added. On Rajya Sabha polls, he said that the BJP is fully confident that it will win—(KNO)

National Conference

ally of the BJP-PDP government, last week announced that his party will abstain from the Rajya Sabha elections. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed confidence that his party will win all four seats but deep down, he would also know that it would require every non-BJP vote to be cast in favour of NC candidates. Congress legislators did not attend a key meeting of allies convened by the NC on Wednesday, two days ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls. Abdullah also sought to play down the absence of Congress, saying every party follows its own procedure. "They (Congress) have their own process. There is a difference between their party and ours. Their leadership has to wait for the signal of their high command, while we take our decisions here. This is not something new, and no one should have any problems with it," Abdullah told reporters. Asked if Congress' abstention will hurt the chances of NC candidates in the Rajya Sabha polls, Abdullah said as far as the elections are concerned, the national party has regularly maintained that it will not support the BJP, nor will it allow the saffron party to win. "So, let them have their meetings, no one should have any objection to that. The signal from the (Congress) high command will not be such that will help the BJP," he added. Abdullah also said he is thankful to CPM leader M Y Tarigami and Independents for attending the meeting. "The enthusiasm I see in my members and those with us, I am hopeful that the NC candidates will emerge winners on all four seats," he said. Asked if the opposition PDP was ready to support the NC candidates, Abdullah said while PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has not made any announcement, she has assured that a right decision will be taken after consulting her party colleagues. "One of our candidates, Shammi Oberoi, met Mehbooba Mufti and requested her on behalf of the party to vote in favour of the NC to make our candidates successful. First, our president (Farooq Abdullah) had dialled Mehbooba. "While the PDP has not announced anything, she (Mehbooba Mufti) has told Farooq Abdullah as well as Oberoi that she will discuss the matter with her party colleagues and take a right decision," he said. The Union territory, with four Rajya Sabha seats, had remained unrepresented in the Upper House since February 15, 2021, the day when Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmed Laway completed their terms. Two other members - Fayaz Ahmed Mir and Sham-sheer Singh Manhas - completed their terms on February 10 the same year. (PTI)

CS calls

thereby improving adherence to treatment and recovery outcomes.

The Chief Secretary held an extensive interaction with Deputy Commissioners to review the availability, utilization, and functionality of diagnostic equipment, screening mechanisms, and treatment facilities across all districts. He urged the district administrations to optimise resources, ensure uninterrupted supply of medicines, and strengthen coordination between district health teams and field functionaries for timely service delivery. He also called for annual analysis of TB-related deaths to determine underlying causes and implement corrective measures to prevent avoidable fatalities. He directed the Health Department to ensure integration of patient records with the Sehat App and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) portal for seamless record management and monitoring. The Chief Secretary further reviewed the action taken on directions issued in earlier meetings, emphasizing their strict and time-bound implementation to secure better outcomes under the Abhiyan. Providing updates, Secretary H&ME, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, informed that significant progress has been achieved in strengthening TB surveillance, infrastructure, and early diagnostic systems. He stated that J&K has achieved 100% notification of TB cases, with 11,499 cases reported, while 92% of the vulnerable population has been screened placing the Union Territory among the best-performing regions in the country. He added that all District TB Centres (DTCs) are adequately equipped to meet screening and treatment targets, and efforts are underway to ensure patient adoption by doctors and regular home visits by ASHA workers for sustained patient engagement. Mission Director, NHM, Baseer Ul-Haq Chaudhary, informed that 22.09 lakh individuals from the vulnerable population have been screened for TB so far, with a presumptive testing ratio of 4,636 per lakh population in J&K. A total of 5.59 lakh people have been tested. He further apprised that community support worth 3.5 crore has been extended to benefit 6,982 patients, while 7,891 patients are currently under treatment. Of these, 6,618 have been linked to Nikshay Mitras for additional nutritional and emotional support, with the total number of registered Mitras reaching 6,728 across J&K. Reiterating the UT Administration's commitment to eradicate TB, the Chief Secretary underscored that coordinated inter-departmental efforts, community participation, and optimal use of available resources are key to achieving the objectives of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. He emphasized that through sustained awareness, technological integration, and compassionate outreach by medical professionals, Jammu and Kashmir can emerge as a model TB-free region in the country. (DIPR)

Entrepreneurship, self-employment crucial for economic growth: LG Kavinder Gupta

KARGIL: Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, emphasised that entrepreneurship and self-employment are crucial for economic growth, job creation and innovation as they boost a nation's economy by generating wealth, and improving the standard of living. Entrepreneurship drives innovation and competition, while self-employment provides a career path, especially during periods of high unemployment, An official spokesperson quoted LG Kavinder Gupta. The Lt Governor was speaking during the culmination ceremony of Phase 1 of Jan Hit Campaign organised by District Administration Kargil at Hussaini Park, which witnessed the enthusiastic participation of public, self-help groups, artisans, youth and beneficiaries of centrally-sponsored schemes. Commending the efforts of District Administration Kargil for effectively implementing government welfare programmes/schemes and ensuring visible progress over the last 100 days, the Lt Governor stressed that government-sponsored central schemes are vital for driving national development and ensuring equitable growth, especially among beneficiaries in marginalised communities and underdeveloped regions. These programmes target a wide range of social and economic issues, serving as a powerful tool for poverty alleviation, infrastructure development and human capital formation. He highlighted the importance of making the public aware of various centrally-sponsored schemes among youth, women and artisans from Kargil so that they avail full benefit of the schemes to improve their means of livelihood, benefiting their family members. Highlighting the significance of self-employment and entrepreneurship, the Hon'ble Lt Governor said, "Not everyone can be provided with a government job and therefore the focus should be on skill development and self-employment opportunities."

Reiterating the commitment of Government of India and UT Administration to ensure holistic development of Ladakh and the uplift of every strata of society, the Hon'ble Lt Governor highlighted that 70 entrepreneurs have benefited under the PMEGP and PMFME schemes, terming it a "very positive step towards economic empowerment." He highlighted 30 loan cases that were recently sanctioned, reflecting the administration's strong commitment to public welfare and economic development. The Lt Governor highlighted the benefits of the 'Aspiration to Inspiration - From Block to District' initiative, acknowledging it as a step in the right direction to encourage innovation and self-reliance at the grassroots level. The Lt Governor also launched the e-portal of the Aspiration to Inspiration Block to District programme, marking a significant step towards digitisation and accessibility of government initiatives. He congratulated the concerned departments and expressed happiness over the District Administration's proactive approach and the progress achieved under various sectors, including agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, and health.

Earlier, the Hon'ble Lt Governor, accompanied by CEC LAHDC Kargil Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, MP Ladakh Mohammad Hanifa Jan, Executive Councillors, and other dignitaries, visited various stalls set up at the camp. He interacted with officials and beneficiaries, and also reviewed the implementation of government schemes at the ground level. In his remarks, CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo commended the District Administration for organising the campaign and reiterated the Council's commitment to strengthening grassroots governance. He stated that such initiatives bridge the gap between the administration and the people while ensuring transparency and efficiency in service delivery. MP Ladakh Mohammad Hanifa Jan, in his address, said that the Jan Hit Campaign has played a crucial role in spreading awareness about welfare schemes, enabling more people to benefit from government initiatives. He appreciated the district officers for their coordinated efforts and assured all possible support for the ongoing and future development initiatives in Kargil. During the event, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, briefed the gathering about the 'Aspiration to Inspiration: Block to District' programme, its objectives, and its impact on empowering local entrepreneurs. Earlier, General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) Kargil, briefed the gathering about the objectives and achievements of the Jan Hit Campaign. Vote of thanks was delivered by Tsering Motup, Lead Bank Manager. Sanction letters, certificates and awards were distributed among the beneficiaries and achievers. The event marked a significant milestone in the District Administration's outreach and

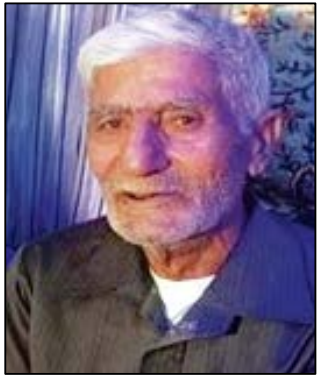
public welfare efforts, reaffirming the government's commitment to inclusive growth, entrepreneurship, and participatory governance in Ladakh. (PIB)

Burning of leaves, branches choke Kashmir's air

PULWAMA : As autumn draws to a close in Kashmir, a familiar haze begins to settle over the valley, not from mist or fog, but from the widespread burning of fallen leaves and tree branches. The practice, deeply rooted in local tradition, is meant to produce charcoal for Kangris (traditional firepots) to keep homes warm during the freezing winter months. But environmentalists and health experts warn that this seasonal ritual is causing severe damage to both public health and the environment. Every year, as the pruning season begins in apple-growing districts like Pulwama, Shopian, Baramulla, Kulgam, and Anantnag, smoke rises from orchards and roadsides alike. The burning of heaps of leaves and twigs fills the air with thick smog, reducing visibility and worsening air quality. "The smoke from burning leaves contains fine particles and harmful gases that can easily reach deep into the lungs," said Dr Umar Mushtaq a scientist at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST). Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Umar said, "This can trigger respiratory problems, especially among children, the elderly, and those already suffering from asthma or heart diseases." (KNO)

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of Iftikhar Ahmad Kak, Son of Late Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Kak, Resident of Rainawari, Kalwal Mohalla, who passed away on 23rd October 2025. Mourning will be observed for three days only. Ijtimai Fateh Khawani will be held on Saturday, 25th October 2025 at 10:30 AM at the ancestral graveyard, Kaka Mohalla, near Nowhatta Police Station, Srinagar. May Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannah and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.



BEREAVED FAMILY

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B)

DIVISION AWANTIPORA.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No:90/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/5532-42

Dated:17-10-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Construction of Boundary Wall for PHC Gulzarpora.	53.98	1600/-	2% of Adv cost	30 days	SASCI 2025-26	Aay,	DHSK

Position of AAA:

Accorded vide No: Director Health Services Kashmir's order No: 89/DHSK of 2025 dated 30.09.2025

Position of funds:

Committed.

Position of TS:

Accorded vide No. 153-SE/PS of 2025-26 Dated: 16.10.2025.)

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-10-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17-10-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	18-10-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	27-10-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	28-10-2025 12:00 PM

1. Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)

(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority).

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority)as per rule-171 (1) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

Sd/-

Draftsman

sd/-

Technical Officer

sd/-

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Awantipora

DIPK-7417/25

23-10-2025

Dr. Jitendra Singh Calls for Stronger State Role in Building India's Bioinnovation Ecosystem

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Thursday called for leveraging regional strengths

The Minister said India's biotechnology sector has emerged as a key pillar of national development, contributing significantly to the country's economy



and active state participation to build a robust bioinnovation ecosystem across India.

Chairing a comprehensive review meeting of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Dr. Singh assessed key projects and new initiatives aimed at expanding India's biotechnology landscape. These include biofoundries, regional innovation hubs, and a state-wise mapping exercise to identify biotechnology potential and growth opportunities.

through innovations in healthcare, agriculture, environment, and industry. "Our goal is to make biotechnology an engine of economic and social transformation by linking research institutions, startups, and state governments in a common ecosystem of innovation," he said.

Dr. Singh emphasized that the next phase of India's bioeconomy growth would depend on deeper engagement with states, universities, and local industries. He noted

that DBT has initiated the creation of Bio E3 Cells — focusing on Entrepreneurship, Education, and Empowerment — to strengthen collaboration and ensure that regional strengths align with national priorities.

Highlighting the department's new initiatives, officials briefed the Minister on efforts to expand biofoundries, which will serve as key platforms for rapid design, testing, and scaling of biotechnological solutions, bridging the gap between research and real-world applications.

During the meeting, Dr. Singh also felicitated Ms. Ekta Vishnoi, IRS, Joint Secretary, DBT, for winning a silver medal at the World Powerlifting Championship, lauding her achievement as a symbol of India's growing presence on the global stage. "Her success represents the discipline, resilience, and teamwork that define India's scientific and technological journey," Dr. Singh said. He added that DBT's work in human physiology and health sciences could play a vital role in advancing performance science and sports technology in India.

The Minister underlined that biotechnology holds solutions for many of India's pressing challenges — from sustainable agriculture to affordable healthcare and environmental resilience. He urged DBT to speed up project implementation, promote startup-led innovation, and ensure that every region benefits from scientific progress through coordinated policy, investment, and capacity building. The review concluded with a renewed call to strengthen Centre-State collaboration and make India a global hub for biotechnology-driven innovation and sustainable growth. (PIB)

EU joins US in heaping more sanctions on Russia to push Putin into Ukraine peace talks

BRUSSELS: The European Union on Thursday heaped more economic sanctions on Russia, adding to US President Donald Trump's new punitive measures the previous day against the Russian oil industry. Russian state media

economy

Energy revenue is the linchpin of Russia's economy, allowing Putin to pour money into the armed forces without worsening inflation and avoiding a currency collapse.



dismissed the measures, claiming they are largely ineffective.

It is part of a broadened effort to choke off the revenue that funds Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and compel President Vladimir Putin to negotiate an end to the war.

The measures are a triumph for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has long campaigned for the international community to punish Russia more comprehensively for attacking his country.

"We waited for this. God bless, it will work. And this is very important," the Ukrainian leader said in Brussels, where EU countries attending a summit announced the latest round of Russia sanctions.

Despite US-led peace efforts in recent months, the war shows no sign of ending after more than three years of fighting, and European leaders are increasingly concerned about the threat from Russia.

Ukrainian forces have largely held Russia's bigger army at bay in a slow and ruinous war of attrition along a roughly 1,000-kilometre (600-mile) front line that snakes along eastern and southern Ukraine. Almost daily, Russian long-range strikes have taken aim at Ukraine's power grid ahead of the bitter winter, while Ukrainian forces have targeted Russian oil refineries and manufacturing plants.

Sanctions target key areas of the Russian

The EU measures target Russian oil and gas, the Russian shadow fleet of hundreds of ageing tankers that are dodging sanctions, and Russia's financial sector. A new system for limiting the movement of Russian diplomats within the 27-nation EU will also be introduced.

Zelenskyy urged more nations to punish Russia. "This is a good signal to other countries in the world to join the sanctions," he told reporters in Brussels.

International crude prices jumped more than USD 2 per barrel on Thursday on news of the additional sanctions.

State-run and pro-Kremlin Russian media mostly shrugged at the news.

"Pressure or no pressure, it won't make things any sweeter for Zelenskyy. And what's more, it won't bring peace any closer," Komsomolskaya Pravda, a popular pro-Kremlin tabloid, said.

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti said in a column that the new sanctions were "painful, as usual, but not deadly. Also, as usual."

Senior officials in Europe and the United States have debated for months over how best to crank up pressure on the Kremlin. The new EU measures took almost a month to decide. The 27-nation bloc has already slapped 18 packages of sanctions against Russia over the war, but getting a final agreement on whom and what to target can take weeks. Moscow has also proved adept at sidestepping sanctions. (PTI)

India Re-Elected as Vice-Chair at UNESCO's COP10 on Anti-Doping in Sport

NEW DELHI: India actively participated in the 10th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP10) to the International Convention against Doping in Sport, held from 20-22 October 2025 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. The meeting marked the 20th anniversary of the Convention, which is the only legally binding international instrument committed to promoting integrity and eliminating doping in sport globally.

The Indian delegation, comprising Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary (Sports), and Anant Kumar, Director General, National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), engaged with delegates from over 190 States Parties, alongside representatives of the African Union, International Olympic Committee, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and other international organizations.

During the proceedings, India was re-elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau for the Asia-Pacific (Group IV) for the term 2025-2027. Azerbaijan was elected Chairperson of the COP10 Bureau. Brazil, Zambia, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were also elected as Vice-Chairs for their respective regional groups.

India also extended in-kind support to the proceedings of the COP10 Session by facilitating provision of Interactive Boards displaying the journey of the Anti-Doping Convention.

More than 500 representatives of national governments, anti-doping organisations, and permanent delegations to UNESCO attended the meeting. Discussions focused on strengthening governance and compliance under the Convention, financing the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport, and addressing emerging challenges, including gene manipulation, traditional pharmacopoeia, and ethical considerations in sport.

The COP9 Bureau and Approval Committee's report highlighted institutional coherence, strategic communication, and cross-sectoral integration. India successfully proposed amendments aimed at promoting harmonization and visibility across education-related projects by integrating Values Education through Sport (VETS) approach to foster the transmission of sport values, ethics and integrity among youth, sport organizations and the society at large.

The outcomes of COP10 will contribute to the ongoing reform process of the Convention, aimed at enhancing its governance and effectiveness. The session concluded with reaffirmation of the collective commitment of States Parties to promoting integrity and fairness in sport. (PIB)



Indian space sector saw remarkable achievements, over 200 significant milestones recorded in 2025: ISRO Chief Narayanan

NEW DELHI: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan on Thursday said that the country's space sector has achieved remarkable progress in 2025 under the visionary leadership of Prime



Minister Narendra Modi, with more than 200 significant milestones recorded this year alone.

He was speaking at the curtain raiser of the Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation Conclave 2025 in Bengaluru.

Narayanan emphasised that the upcoming Conclave 2025 will centre on Space Technologies, aimed at fostering synergy among multiple stakeholders and propelling collaborative efforts toward realising the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Highlighting India's scientific advancements, the ISRO Chairman said, "From January until now, over 200 significant accomplishments have been made under the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

He recalled that on January 6, ISRO released nearly 10 terabytes of scientific data from the Aditya-L1 mission for the first time, followed by another release in February. "Till date, we have made available around 15 terabytes of data from the mission," Narayanan stated.

Marking a major technological breakthrough, he said India performed its first-ever on-orbit docking experiment, SPADEX (Space Docking Experiment), on January 16.

"This complex operation involved two satellites travelling at speeds of 28,400 km per hour, which were successfully aligned and docked using advanced algorithms,

cameras, propulsion, and inertial systems. With this, India became the fourth country in the world to demonstrate successful in-space docking," he added.

ISRO has since conducted de-docking and even power transfer between two satellites, further strengthening India's in-space capabilities.

He also mentioned the launch of GSLV-F15 on January 29, marking the 100th large vehicle mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, a key moment in India's space history.

Reflecting on India's space journey since its inception in 1962, Narayanan said, "The first milestone came on November 21, 1963, when India launched its first sounding rocket from Thumba near Thiruvananthapuram. From those humble beginnings, India has made tremendous progress."

He termed the July 30 launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite as another "proud milestone".

The joint mission, equipped with an L-band radar from NASA and an S-band radar from ISRO, represents one of the most significant collaborative efforts in the history of India's space programme.

The ISRO Chairman further announced that approval has been granted for the establishment of a third launch pad in Tamil Nadu, with a budget allocation of Rs 400 crore, a key step to boost India's launch capabilities.

Speaking about private sector participation in the space domain, Narayanan said that the Department of Space is actively promoting and supporting private companies and startups through IN-SPACE.

"We are hand-holding private players at every stage from development to testing. It is the responsibility of the Department of Space to enable the growth of the space ecosystem in India. We are extremely happy when the private sector does well and when startups grow. When these two happen, the space ecosystem grows, and the common man of this country benefits in a very big way," he emphasised. (ANI)

Bihar polls fight between 'Vikaas' and 'Vinaash': J P Nadda

AURANGABAD/HAJIPUR: BJP chief J P Nadda on Thursday said that the assembly election in Bihar is a fight between 'Vikaas' (development) of the NDA and 'Vinaash' (destruction) of the INDIA bloc.

Addressing a rally in Aurangabad district, Nadda lashed out at the Congress, accusing it of being a "parasitic party that finishes off its junior alliance partners".

The senior BJP leader attacked the RJD, saying the Lalu Prasad-led party stands for 'Rangdari' (extortion), 'Jungle raj' (anarchy) and 'Dadagiri' (intimidation).

Making light of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's promise to provide employment to youngsters and check out-migration, he said such promises of the RJD reminded him of the party's alleged involvement in the land-for-jobs scam.

Criticising the RJD's poll promise of providing a government job to every family in Bihar, Nadda sought to know

from where would funds be generated to pay the salaries.

He also lambasted the RJD for giving a ticket to gangster-turned-politician,



the late Md Shahabuddin's son Osama Shahab in the upcoming polls, stating it showed how concerned the party is for Bihar.

"The RJD has fielded Shahabuddin's son... how can it ensure the security of

the people of Bihar if it fields such candidates? Lalu's RJD stands for Rangdari, Jungleraj and Dadagiri," he said.

The RJD has fielded Shahab from the Raghunathpur assembly constituency in Siwan district.

Nadda claimed that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar made Bihar free from 'jungleraj' in the last 20 years.

"In this election, the fight is between 'Vikaas' and 'Vinaash'," he said.

"People of Bihar can never forget jungleraj. During Lalu Prasad's tenure, people from Bihar were forced to migrate to other states. Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, people of Bihar are witnessing growth. The state is continuously moving towards development," he said.

"The NDA government in Bihar has

done a lot for the state in recent years. The rail budget for Bihar has been increased by almost 10 times by the Centre. Besides, out of the total 44 Vande Bharat trains introduced by the Centre recently, 26 are for Bihar only," he said.

Besides, the Railways Ministry has also increased the number of special trains to 12,000 this time to meet the passenger rush during Chhath festival, he added.

Later addressing a rally at Patepur assembly constituency in Vaishali district, Nadda said the NDA government is working for overall development of Bihar.

"Ten airports are being constructed in Bihar, which will increase exports from the state... also the Makhana Board established by the Centre will increase farmers' income. And the Youth Commission set up by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will change the lives of the youngsters," he added.

Sharpening his attack on the RJD, he alleged that abduction had become an

industry during 'jungle raj' of the RJD and ransom amount used to be finalised at the then CM's residence.

"How can people forget the days of jungle raj during the RJD rule... Abduction had become an industry in the state," he alleged.

Without taking the name of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, a former chief minister of the state, Nadda alleged, "People are well aware of the fact that ransom amount in cases of abduction was finalised at the official residence of the then CM."

"Youth must ask their parents about 'jungle raj' and 'goonda raj' before casting votes in Bihar polls," Nadda said.

Attacking the Congress, he said leaders like Telangana CM Revanth Reddy say that the DNA of the people of the southern state is better than that of the residents of Bihar.

"Congress leaders cannot think of betterment of the people of Bihar," he added. (PTI)



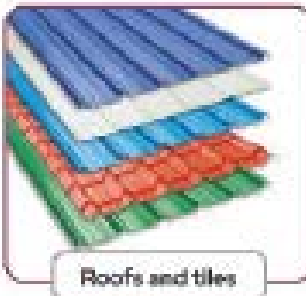
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