



PM Modi Has Secured India By Crushing Terrorism: PM Modi

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that for 70 years, no one dared touch Article 370, but in 2019, Prime Minister Modi ended it and crushed terrorism from hideouts like no one had before.

Addressing rallies across Bihar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that for seven decades, no government attempted to amend Article 370, but in 2019, PM Modi revoked it and fully integrated Jammu and Kashmir into India.

Shah also discussed India's economic trajectory, saying that under Modi's leadership, the country rose from the 11th to the fourth-largest economy in the world, with a goal of reaching third by 2027. "PM Modi has brought our country's economy from 11th place to fourth. We will move from fourth to third before 2027. He has made our country safe," he said.

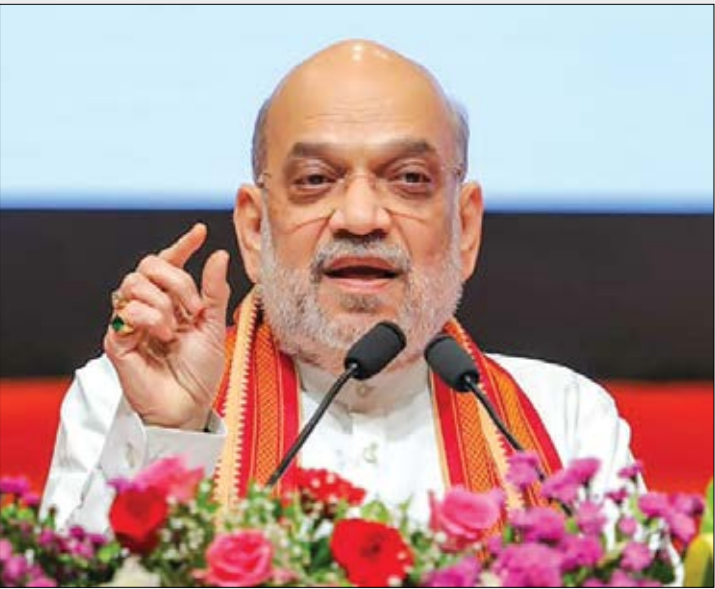
On security issues, the Home Minister listed major attacks after Modi took office, including Uri, Pulwama, and Pahalgam. He said the government responded through surgical strikes, air strikes, and launched Operation Sindoor following the Pahalgam attack.

"Modi has worked to secure India. He has worked to make India prosper-

sion of voter rolls in Bihar. He accused opposition parties of obstructing the

promise you that we will remove every single infiltrator from Bihar," he said.

He also called out Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and Manmohan Singh, as well as Lalu Prasad Yadav, for remaining silent on



ous," Shah said. He criticised previous governments for failing to act on security matters, citing political considerations, and said Modi's government took decisive steps to neutralise terrorists at their hideouts.

Turning to electoral matters, the HM addressed the special intensive re-

process and said that all infiltrators would be traced and removed from the electoral lists. Shah urged voters to support the NDA government, promising action against infiltrators. "Tell me, should the names of infiltrators be removed from the voter list or not? Form the NDA government again... I

Shah also discussed India's **economic** trajectory, saying that under **Modi's leadership**, the country rose from the 11th to the **fourth-largest economy** in the world, with a goal of reaching third by **2027**.

security matters and criticised Rahul Gandhi for shielding infiltrators through his "Ghuspetiya Bachao Yatra".

The Home Minister said the Bihar Assembly elections would decide whether the state continues on the path of development or returns to misgovernance. "Under Modi, India strengthened national security

Govt Planning Reforms For Print, TV Media Amid Rapid Digitisation: Union Minister Vaishnaw

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The government has planned a series of initiatives to shield the conventional media from the disruptions expected due to rapid digitisation in the sector.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said the government plans to remove the regulatory overhang in the radio industry and Television Rating Point (TRP) reforms.

"The government is working to remove regulatory barriers wherever they exist," the minister said in an informal interaction with reporters here.

Vaishnaw said the ministry is exploring ways to improve the television rating system to ensure fair revenue to television channels from government advertisements.

"Television Rating Point (TRP) guidelines are being formulated. The first round of consultation is complete, feedback has been received, and a second consultation

paper will be published soon," the minister said.



The government is also considering increasing the advertisement rates for print and television media.

Vaishnaw said the government is also working on the integration of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), and Press Information Bureau (PIB) to improve coordination across media outreach and regulatory functions. He said the PIB has intensified its outreach efforts, issuing backgrounders and research-based

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RS Polls... Farooq Abdullah, BJP deny "fixed match" allegations

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Conference and the BJP on Saturday rejected allegations that the Rajya Sabha polls were a "fixed match", with NC president Farooq Abdullah saying his party had rejected an offer from the BJP and had preferred



a contest. Abdullah also denied the charge by People's Conference chief and MLA from Handwara, Sajad Lone, that

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J&K has immense cricketing talent: Minister Satish Sharma on IHPL opener



SRINAGAR: Expressing pride in Jammu and Kashmir's sporting potential, Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma

on Saturday extended a warm welcome to the organizers and players of the Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL) during its opening match at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

"I congratulate and welcome you all. The organizers and players of the Indian Hevan Premier League have come to the land of Jammu and Kashmir carrying a message of love and friendship," the Minister Sharma said while speaking on the sideline of league.

He added, "I assure you, we have immense talent here. Our people love cricket,

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CM's Bid To Divide J&K Failed, Legislators Voted Freely: Sat Sharma

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Pal Sharma, who secured the fourth Rajya Sabha seat in the Union Territory, Saturday said that the win came despite efforts by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to create a divide between the two regions.

Sharma returned from Kashmir to a reception by party workers and supporters at Jammu airport, followed by a procession to the Trikuta Nagar party office.

The BJP dismissed claims by People's Conference leader Sajad Gani Lone that the election was predetermined between the National Conference and the BJP.

Sharma defeated NC candidate Imran Nabi Dar by receiving 32 votes against Dar's 22 in the third notification. NC's Gurwinder Singh Oberoi also won a seat with 31 votes.

Sharma told reporters that the party did not offer anything to legislators but asked them to vote according to their conscience.

He said that the BJP received four votes in this instance and expected more support in future elections from legislators acting similarly.



He said the seat was won from Kashmir despite opposition attempts to unite legislators against the BJP.

Sharma dedicated the win to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party workers and said the party would continue its work under the policy framework of inclusive

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CM Omar Inaugurates Kashmir's First Chrysanthemum Theme Garden

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood (Chrysanthemum Theme Garden) at the picturesque Botanical Garden in Srinagar, marking a new milestone in the Valley's tourism and floriculture landscape.

Developed at a cost of 1.869 crore, the Chrysanthemum Theme Garden spans over 100 kanals and is envisioned as a major autumn attraction in Kashmir. With its vibrant blooms in shades of yellow, red, pink, and purple, the garden promises to infuse new color and charm into the Valley's tourism calendar during the autumn months.

The Chief Minister cut the ceremonial ribbon and declared the garden

open to the public, describing it as "a floral celebration that adds a new chapter to Kashmir's tourism story."



ricultural Sciences and Technology-Kashmir (SKUAST-K) for their collaborative role in establishing the theme garden. He noted that the initiative would "address the

Omar Abdullah recalled that he had laid the foundation stone of **Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood** in November last year, drawing parallels with the **success** of the Tulip Garden...

off-season gap in tourism and enhance the autumn experience for visitors."

Omar Abdullah recalled that he had laid the foundation

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CM Abdullah Calls For Quality, Innovation In Higher Education

FE NEWS NETWORK

Addresses Valedictory Session of NEP Conclave at AS college

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday said that Jammu and

should remain the central pillars of higher education in the region.

He was addressing the valedictory session of the two-day National Education Policy (NEP) Conclave-2025 organised by the Higher Education Department (HED) at Amar Singh College, Srinagar.

The event was attended by Minister for

manu, Vice Chairman J&K Higher Education Council Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chancellors of various universities, Director Colleges Prof. Aijaz Bashir, Principal Amar Singh College Ajaz Ahmed



He noted that the **National Education Policy** has enabled students to design their own degrees, combining subjects and practical exposure in ways that make them employable and confident.

Hakak, principals, educationists and students from across Jammu and Kashmir.

In his address, the Chief Minister reflected on the transformation of India's education landscape, observing

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Kashmir's education system must continue to evolve with the changing times, emphasising that quality and innovation

Higher Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary HED Shat-

Chief Secretary Reviews Arrangements For 2nd Edition Of Kashmir Marathon

FE NEWS NETWORK

Tourism Deptt gears up to make this marquee event a grand success

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to review the arrangements for the upcoming 2nd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon, being organized by the Tourism Department on November 2, 2025, in Srinagar.

The meeting besides Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism was attended by Secretary, Health; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; DIG, Traffic; MD, JKTD; Director, Tourism, Kashmir; SSP, Traffic, Srinagar; Commissioner, SMC, and other senior officers of concerned departments.

The Chief Secretary described the marquee event as a valuable opportunity to promote tourism and sports culture in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that the inaugural edition had received overwhelming response and set new benchmarks for sporting events in the region.

He observed that participation from runners across the nation and abroad would further reinforce Kashmir's



image as a premier destination for leisure, adventure and sports tourism.

Emphasizing seamless coordination among all departments, Dulloo directed the concerned to ensure fool-proof arrangements for visiting athletes and participants, covering aspects such as transportation, accommodation, medical care, security, sanitation, and event management.

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EC May Roll Out First Phase Of All-India SIR Next Week

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission is likely to roll out the first of pan-India Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' list next week beginning with "10 to 15 states", including those going to polls next year, officials said Saturday.

Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal will to polls in 2026 and they are amongst the states where the voters' list cleanup exercise will begin first.

The poll authority is likely to announce the first phase of SIR middle of next week, in which as many as "10 to 15 states" would be included, officials said.

The EC will not hold the electoral roll cleanup exercise in states where local body elections are taking place or are due, as the grassroots poll machinery is busy with it and may not be able to focus on SIR, they said.

The SIR in such states will be held in later phases.

The voters' list cleanup exercise has concluded in Bihar where the final list with nearly 7.42 crore names was published on September 30.

Biahr will go to polls in two phases, on November 6 and November 11,

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DHSJ reviews healthcare scenario in District Rajouri

FE NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Director Health Services Jammu (DHSJ) Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar visited Rajouri where he chaired a meeting to discuss healthcare related issues of the border District.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO),



Medical Superintendents, Block Medical Officers (BMOs) and other senior health officials of the district. The discussion focused on assessing the overall functioning of health institutions, infrastructure status, human resource position and progress under the health programmes in the border district.

Dr. Zargar took a detailed review of NTEP, 102 108 referral audit, NCD, Maternal and Child Health (MCH) indicators, National Health Mission (NHM) schemes, Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY and other flagship health initiatives. He directed the officers to ensure quality patient care, timely availability of medicines and strict adherence to standard treatment protocols.

The Director expressed concern over certain operational and logistic issues and instructed the concerned officers to resolve the same on priority. He emphasized the need for close monitoring, community outreach activities and better coordination among district and block-level teams to improve service delivery, especially in remote and hard-to-reach areas of Rajouri.

Dr. Zargar also reviewed the status of infrastructure development works, staff strength and public health preparedness. He stressed the importance of maintaining proper sanitation in health facilities and ensuring a patient-friendly environment.

The Director appreciated the dedicated efforts of the health officials of District Rajouri and urged them to continue their commitment towards strengthening the healthcare system and achieving the goals of equitable and accessible healthcare for all.

The meeting concluded with actionable directions to address district-specific challenges and enhance overall health service performance in Rajouri.

Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan...

DC Kathua reviews ground level impact of outreach activities

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma chaired a meeting with stakeholder departments to review the implementation of the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan in the district.

The DC emphasized the need to intensify ongoing efforts to curb the menace of drug abuse by roping in civil society, community leaders, and the youth. He directed the stakeholder departments to design activities that specifically target young people to spread awareness and promote a drug-free lifestyle.

While reviewing the outreach measures, the DC instructed the departments to ensure quality content dissemination of awareness activities along with timely uploading of data and reports on official portals.

The DC also stressed engaging Self Help Groups in awareness campaign to sensitize communities about the ill effects of substance abuse. He called for organizing awareness programmes at panchayat and village levels, as well as in schools and colleges to ensure maximum public participation and reach.

Highlighting the importance of mass awareness, the DC asked the officers to ensure proper publicity of all activities through different media platforms. He also directed Executive Officers of Municipal Committees to organize sports events to engage youth and channelize their energies in constructive pursuits.

The DC further suggested conducting marathons and other outdoor activities as part of the campaign to promote fitness and a healthy lifestyle among the younger generation.

The meeting was attended by officers from Social Welfare, Municipalities and other line departments.

DDC Doda inspects pace of blacktopping work on Mohalla Road

DODA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Harvinder Singh conducted on-site inspection of the ongoing blacktopping work on the Shiva Bridge to Mohalla Road, here the other day. The visit aimed to assess the progress of the project and ensure adherence to quality standards in road construction.



During the inspection, the DDC Doda stressed the importance of maintaining high standards of workmanship and the use of quality materials to enhance the road's longevity and provide smooth connectivity to the local population.

He interacted with the engineers and officials of the executing agency,

directing them to expedite the work while strictly following safety and quality parameters.

The DDC Doda also urged timely completion of the project to facilitate improved transportation and boost overall development in the area.

Divisional Level-Northern India Science Drama Contest 2025-26 held at Baba Jitto Auditorium

FE NEWS NETWORK

Director School Education Jammu inaugurates mega event

JAMMU: Director School Education Jammu Dr. Naseem Javed Choudhary



on Saturday inaugurated the Divisional Level-Northern India Science Drama Contest 2025-26 hosted by SCERT Divisional Office, Jammu at Baba Jitto Auditorium, Kissan Kendra, Talab Tillo.

Students from ten districts of Jammu Division presented original science-based plays judged on presentation, scientific content and communication.

Government High School Suchani-Samba secured the first position while GGHSS Nowabad Jammu and GHS Panyalag Kathua bagged second and third position.

Sheetal from GHS Suchani won Best Director and Best Script awards, Jeewan Lal from HS Panyalag was adjudged Best Actor and Ms. Lakshita Bhagat from GGHSS Nowabad received Best Actress award.

The jury included Ravinder Sharma Smooh, Director Reflection Theatre Group Jammu; Suraj Singh Jamwal, HOD Vocal (Retd.), Music and Fine Arts College Jammu; and Dr. Amarjeet Singh, Assistant Professor, Music and Fine Arts College Jammu.

The winning team will now represent the Jammu Division at the Northern India Science Drama Contest to be held at the National Science Centre, Delhi on December 1-2, 2025.

The event was held under the aegis of the National Science Centre, Delhi, a unit of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, with the theme "Science & Technology for the Benefit of Mankind" and sub-themes including Women in Science, Smart Agriculture, Digital India, Hygiene for All and Green Technologies.

Earlier, the event commenced with the lighting of traditional lamp followed by the formal inauguration by the Chief

Guest.

In his address, Dr. Choudhary urged students to explore and communicate scientific ideas through creativity and performance, highlighting that such contests nurture confidence, teamwork and scientific temper among learners.

The occasion was graced by Gurdev Kumar, Joint Director and Manisha, Personnel Officer, Directorate of School Education Jammu as Guests of Honour, along with Principals of DIETs. Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor welcomed the dignitaries and participants. In his address, Dr. Choudhary urged students to explore and communicate scientific ideas through creativity and performance, highlighting that such contests nurture confidence, teamwork and scientific temper among learners.

The valedictory session was graced by Dr. Karuna Nidhi, Deputy Director (Trainings), Department of Agriculture Jammu and DIET Principals from Kathua, Samba, Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch.

In her valedictory address, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor appreciated the efforts of students, teachers, and the SCERT team for promoting scientific thinking through creative expression. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sandarve. The programme was coordinated by Ms. Neeraj Jamwal, Dr. Sandarve, and Dr. Jyoti Sudan, and moderated by Ms. Manu Vasudeva and Ms. Shamim Nazki.

From LoC to Limelight: Mankote Block shines at NITI Aayog's Regional Best Practices Seminar

POONCH: The Aspirational Block Mankote of District Poonch (Jammu & Kashmir) has earned special recognition at the Regional



Best Practices Seminar (North) organized by NITI Aayog under the Aspirational Districts & Blocks Programme (ADP/ABP) held at Varanasi.

Representing the District, Pankaj Magotra (Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch) and Ijaz Ahmed (Block Development Officer Mankote)

presented the Nutrition Use Case titled "A Jan Andolan for Nutrition and Community Well-Being" — a model that has achieved remarkable improvement in community health outcomes despite the block's remote border location.

The initiative was further strengthened by the guidance, encouragement and unwavering support of Ashok Kumar Sharma, District Development Commissioner Poonch. His proactive leadership, strategic direction and focus on fostering inter-departmental collaboration were crucial in enabling Mankote Block to achieve its ambitious health and nutrition objectives. The Deputy Commissioner's commitment to nurturing innovation, empowering field-level officers, and prioritizing community well-being played a

pivotal role in making the Nutrition Use Case a resounding success and a model worthy of national recognition.

The Nutrition use case was jointly conceptualized and prepared by Aspirational Block Programme Fellow (ABPF) Ajaz Ahmed and ICDS Supervisor Nahima Kouser. Their tireless efforts in community mobilization,

field-level convergence and innovative program design were instrumental in making Mankote's initiative a replicable model of excellence under the ABP.

The key achievements of the Block Mankote Nutrition Model include Institutionalized Health & Nutrition Camps across villages near the Line of Control (LoC); timely detection and management of high-risk pregnancies, ensuring safe motherhood; Mass NCD screening and lifestyle awareness drives, promoting preventive healthcare and Community-led nutrition education, empowering women and families towards better dietary practices.

The initiative has significantly improved maternal and child health indicators, strengthened inter-departmental convergence, and enhanced community awareness on nutrition and well-being.

The model was featured in the ADP/ABP Best Practices Compendium – Northern Region, launched during the seminar inaugurated by Rohit Kumar, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, ADP/ABP, NITI Aayog.

The seminar brought together officers and development partners from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir, highlighting field-level innovations driving India's transformation journey.

DC Kishtwar Reviews Formulation Of 6- Year Action Plan Under PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Vikas Yojana

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting of Agriculture and Allied Departments to review the formula-

sity and limited short-term agricultural credit disbursement.

Discussing the roadmap, the DC emphasized stakeholder departments to adopt



tion of a comprehensive Six-Year Action Plan under the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMDDKY).

Kishtwar is among the 100 districts of the country selected as an Aspirational Agriculture District under the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMDKY) based on key indicators such as low crop productivity, low cropping inten-

a coordinated, integrated and outcome-oriented approach in the plan formulation to ensure sustainable agricultural growth, enhanced productivity and improved livelihoods.

The concerned departments presented their respective proposals and shared insights for an integrated development strategy.

The departments were directed to identify key interventions and flagship projects aligned with local agro-climatic conditions that can deliver tangible benefits to farmers and rural communities over the next six years.

The DC called for the inclusion of innovative and climate-resilient initiatives such as the promotion of high-yield and climate-resilient crops, adoption of efficient irrigation and water management practices, strengthening of livestock and fisheries development and value addition through cooperatives and self-help groups (SHGs).

The heads of the concerned departments were asked to finalize and submit detailed action plans by November 1, 2025, enabling the district to forward a consolidated 6-Year Comprehensive Plan to higher authorities for approval.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pankaj Kotwal; PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma; CPO Akhil Thakur; DFO Marwah Vishal Chaudhary; DFO Kishtwar; CAO Kushal Chandel; CHO Sajid Mustafa; Ex En Jal Shakti Sanjeev Kumar Gupta; LDM Harsh Rawal; Dy. CMO Masood Ahmed Qazi, DSHO among other concerned officials.

SBI RSETI Ramban commences Women's Tailoring Training Programme

RAMBAN: State Bank of India's Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI RSETI)



Ramban commenced a 30-day Women's Tailoring Training Programme here to empower rural women with employable skills.

During the month-long course, the women trainees would be imparted hands-on practical training, entrepreneurial knowledge and market awareness, thereby promoting income generation and self-employment opportunities in the district.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Naib Tehsildar Banihal Zakhir Hussain in presence of Director SBI RSETI S. Harvinder Singh. The Naib Tehsildar congratulated the enrolled women trainees and encouraged them to take maximum benefit from the training.

The Director motivated the participants to actively engage in learning and assured them of continuous guidance even after completion of the training.

He highlighted that after successful completion of the training, trainees will also be provided support in accessing credit linkages through various government-sponsored schemes to help them start their own tailoring units and become financially independent.

Municipal Council Reasi organises PM Awas Mela-Shehri at Bus Stand

REASI: The Municipal Council Reasi today organised the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) – PM Awas Mela (Shehri) here at the Bus Stand. The event was held as part of the Angikaar 2025 Awareness Campaign which aims to generate awareness about the Government of India's flagship "Housing for All" mission and to guide citizens on the benefits, eligibility and filing of application for availing the benefits.

The mela witnessed enthusiastic participation from the public. Beneficiaries and interested citizens were briefed on the step-by-step procedure for applying the PMAY-Urban scheme, including details on required documentation, eligibility criteria and the process from sanction to construction of houses.

EO Municipal Council Mohammad Ajaz Tantray interacted with the public, emphasizing that the main objective of the mela was to ensure that no eligible family is left without a pucca house. He also highlighted the provision of on-the-spot assistance to facilitate citizen participation.

Information stalls were set up by Municipal Council staff to guide visitors. Awareness material was also distributed among the participants.

Military-Civil Fusion Capsule...

Team of stakeholders visit Samba, Domana, Mira Sahib Brigades

JAMMU: As part of the ongoing Military-Civil Fusion Capsule, the stakeholder participants today undertook cross-establishment visits to the Samba, Domana, and Mira Sahib Brigades



in the Jammu sector. The visit aimed to deepen understanding of the operational, administrative and developmental challenges in border areas, while fostering closer cooperation between the civil administration and the armed forces.

During the interactions, participants gained valuable insights into the functioning of field formations, coordination mechanisms, and efforts undertaken by the Army to maintain security and support developmental initiatives in border regions. The exchange provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, reinforcing the spirit of jointness, synergy and mutual respect that underpins effective civil-military cooperation.

The Civil-Military Fusion Capsule continues to serve as a model of inter-agency cooperation, promoting shared learning, coordination and a unified approach to national objectives.

The initiative reflects the Government's vision of integrated national security and border development, with the civil administration and senior Army officers emphasizing the importance of collaborative planning and execution for regional stability.

Craft Meets Culture: Divisional Commissioner Launches “Know Your Artisan” at Iconic Ghanta Ghar

Locals, tourists, students and craft lovers converge under ‘Soulful Kashmir’ to celebrate the living heritage of Kashmiri Handicrafts

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, inaugurated the second edition of the “Know Your Artisan” series at the iconic Ghanta Ghar, Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

The event, organized by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir under the Soulful Kashmir campaign, witnessed enthusiastic participation from craft lovers, tourists and buyers alike.

Divisional Commissioner went around the stalls and interacted with National and UT Level Awardees representing the rich handicraft heritage of Kashmir, including Papier Mâché, Sozni, Kani Weaving, Walnut Wood Carving, Copperware,

Namda, Kangri Making and Hand-Knotted Carpets.

Speaking on the occasion, Anshul Garg appreciated the Department's efforts to highlight the artistry and skill of local craftsmen. He congratulated H&H for organizing the event and for their commendable initiative to showcase the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the region. He expressed his delight in meeting the talented artisans who have kept traditional crafts alive through their dedication and skill.

He informed that extensive efforts are underway for certification and Geographical Indication (GI) tagging to address challenges posed by machine-

made goods and to safeguard the authenticity of local crafts. He further congratulated the



department for its successful efforts in taking the crafts of Kashmir to every corner of the country and to international platforms. He emphasized that

the artisans of Kashmir form a vital part of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India—

role, thereby contributing to women's empowerment and socio-economic growth. Highlighting various government schemes and initiatives such as the establishment of craft villages, he assured full support from the administration for the promotion and preservation of traditional crafts. He urged that the ongoing campaign be further strengthened to bring the “golden hands” behind Kashmir's exquisite crafts into greater public focus.

“Know Your Artisan introduces a new set of famed artisans and provides them with a platform to promote their niche products,” he remarked.

As part of the event, 10 artisan stalls and dedicated ‘Try Your Hands’ corners were set up, offering visitors the opportunity to witness live demonstrations and participate in hands-on experiences. Later, the Divisional Commissioner felicitated the participating artisans during an Award Ceremony, which was attended by Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Musarat Islam, along with senior officers of the department. “Know Your Artisan” series continues to serve as a unique bridge between artisans and admirers of Kashmiri handicrafts, reaffirming the region's commitment to preserving and promoting its centuries-old artistic legacy.

KCCI delegation, others call on LG Manoj Sinha



SRINAGAR: A delegation of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), led by its President, Javid Ahmad Tenga, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday, an official spokesman said.

The delegation comprised of newly elected office bearers and executive committee members of KCCI put forth various issues related to the promotion of tourism, industries and trade-related activities in the region.

They also apprised the Lieutenant Governor of the various upcoming initiatives aimed at enhancing Kashmir's visibility as a preferred tourist destination.

Later, the Lieutenant Governor met the outstanding sports persons of Delhi Public School Srinagar at Raj Bhawan.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the students for their exceptional achievements in both national and international sports competitions. He also conveyed his best wishes for their upcoming games and future endeavours.

The delegation of students includes Hurriyah Showkat, Samma and Mysha Bilal Kanth (Silver medalists at 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat Championship), Zaid Ali (69th National School Games – Football), and winning team of Inter-DPS Football Tournament (Boys Open, Zone 1). They were accompanied by Monisa Khursheed, Vice-Principal and Mudasir Bashir, Sports Secretary, Delhi Public School Srinagar.

Earlier in the day, G M Saroori, former Minister also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

Besides, Irfan Manhas, Vice Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Shopian, also called on Lieutenant Governor and apprised him of various development issues of Shopian district.

Secretary RDD calls for accelerated progress on Panchayat Ghars, CSCs and PLCs in J&K

414 Panchayat Ghars completed; 40 Panchayat Learning Centres being established



SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, chaired a high-level meeting with Deputy Commissioners to review the status of land identification for construction of Panchayat Ghars, establishment of Common Service Centres (CSCs), and operationalization of Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs) across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Secretary sought the intervention of the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to resolve pending land-related issues hampering construction of Panchayat Ghars, informing that 414 Panchayat Ghars have been completed so far.

The meeting was attended by District Development Commissioners of various districts, Director General Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra; Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director RDD Jammu, Shahnaz Akhter; Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal; Deputy Secretary RD&PR, Tahir Ahmad Magray; Superintending Engineers REW Jammu/Kashmir, besides Assistant Commissioners Panchayat, Executive Engineers, and SPRC/DPRC teams.

During the meeting, the Secretary took a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of Panchayat Ghar construction for FY 2023–24 and 2024–25. He directed the DCs to expedite land identification for the remaining Panchayats and ensure early resolution of bottlenecks. He further advised exploring relocation options in cases where suitable land was unavailable within the Panchayat jurisdiction.

Emphasizing timely execution, the Secretary directed officers to complete formalities such as land mutation, revenue record updating, and geo-tagging before submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). Expressing concern over slow progress in some districts, the Secretary instructed DCs to treat Panchayat Ghar construction as a top priority, conduct regular district-level reviews, and closely monitor both physical and financial achievements. He further directed that Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) and Executive Engineers ensure timely completion of works while proactively addressing land disputes, tendering delays, and administrative approvals.

The Secretary emphasized that district-wise performance would be closely monitored.

On the co-location of Common Service Centres (CSCs), it was informed that 83% progress has been achieved for FY 2025–26. The Secretary urged field officers to bridge the remaining gap to ensure universal coverage across all Panchayats.

He also announced that 40 Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs) are being established during the current year, directing DCs to make these centres fully functional at the earliest. He encouraged showcasing model Panchayat Ghars as Learning Centres to promote innovation and best practices.

Stressing efficient implementation, Aijaz Asad called for regular monitoring, inter-departmental coordination, and proactive problem-solving to ensure timely achievement of RGSA objectives. During the meeting, Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, made a detailed presentation on the progress of Panchayat Ghars, Common Service Centres, and Panchayat Learning Centres.

Forest personnel are frontline defenders of our biodiversity: Javed Rana

Presides passing-out parade of newly trained Forest Guards at FTS Bandipora Also inaugurates Forest Park, Eco-restoration site at Chandaji Bandipora

BANDIPORA: Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana today presided over passing-out parade of 152 newly trained forest guards from the 71st and 73rd batches of the Forest Training School (FTS) Bandipora.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam-ud-din Bhat; MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan; MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta; Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, Irfan Rasool Wani; Conservator of Forests, North Circle Irfan Ali Shah; along with

cultural identity. Safeguarding them is our moral and environmental responsibility,” he remarked.

Reaffirming the Omar Abdullah Government's steadfast commitment to sustainable and people-centric governance, Rana highlighted a series of policy measures aimed at ensuring ecological security alongside social equity. He underscored ongoing reforms to empower tribal and forest-dependent communities through community forestry programs, green job initiatives and eco-friendly livelihood



other Senior officers of the Forest and other allied Departments were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Rana commended the dedication, discipline and endurance demonstrated by the recruits during their training period. He exhorted upon them to dedicate themselves towards protection of forest resources of Jammu & Kashmir.

He lauded the frontline staff for their dedication towards conserving forest resources and urged the new recruits to stay alert against fires and encroachments to safeguard J&K's green wealth.

He lauded the unwavering commitment of the forest personnel, describing them as the “frontline defenders” of Jammu and Kashmir's invaluable forest wealth and biodiversity.

“Our forests are not merely natural resources, they are lifelines that support water, climate stability, livelihoods and

opportunities.

“True conservation is achieved when the people living closest to nature are active participants in its protection and beneficiaries of its prosperity,” he added.

Minister Rana also appreciated the officers and trainers of the Forest Training School for maintaining high standards of instruction and instilling professionalism among the recruits.

He assured that the government remains committed to strengthening human resource capacity in the Forest Department through enhanced training, technology adoption and infrastructure improvements.

The Minister also felicitated the best-performing trainees of the 71st, 72nd and 73rd Forest Guard Training Courses, appreciating their dedication, discipline and commitment to protecting the region's rich forest resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Kumar Gupta said that the forest frontline staff plays

an important role in forest protection and their sustainable management.

Later, Javed Rana also inaugurated a newly developed Forest Park and Eco-Restoration Site at Chandaji, Bandipora, an initiative aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and revitalizing degraded land through eco-friendly restoration practices.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam-ud-din Bhat; MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone; PCCF, Suresh Kumar Gupta and other district officers were present at the inaugural event.

After inaugurating the Eco-park, Minister Rana highlighted the innovative transformation of a former dumping ground into a vibrant green space, terming it a ‘win-win initiative in the fight against environmental degradation and climate change’.

He noted that the project exemplifies the government's commitment to responsible land management and circular use of natural resources.

The Minister emphasized that such initiatives not only contribute to ecological balance but also enhance the aesthetic and recreational value of the region.

He further observed that the new Forest Park is expected to emerge as a major tourist attraction for visitors en-route scenic Gurez Valley, providing much-needed boost to eco-tourism and local livelihoods.

The Minister also appreciated the efforts of Forest Department officials, local stakeholders and community volunteers whose contributions made the project possible.

He urged citizens to take collective responsibility in preserving natural resources and supporting green initiatives that build climate resilience and long-term environmental health.

Pertinently, the eco-restoration site, created by repurposing soil from the erstwhile dumping area, now serves as a thriving green zone featuring native tree species, walking trails, way-side car parking facility and eco-awareness installations.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara chairs NCORD meeting to review measures for curbing drug abuse in district Kupwara

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under Narco Coordination (NCORD) to review various measures put in place by different departments for curbing the drug abuse in the district. ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, SDM Lolab, ACP Kupwara, Dy. SPs of Kupwara/Handwara, MS GMC, Dy. CMO, DPEO, and other concerned officers attended the meeting. The meeting held a threadbare discussion on the agenda points and the officers presented detailed progress on the work done as per task assigned in previous

meetings. The Deputy Commissioner impressed upon all officers to work in close coordination and intensify their efforts towards eradicating the drug menace from the district. He directed the concerned officers for amplifying the anti drug awareness campaigns in all panchayats, schools and colleges. It was decided that a list of government employees will be prepared who shall undergo training on anti-drug awareness and counselling, enabling them to act as counsellors in Primary Health Centres, schools, and rural communities to effectively combat substance abuse.

The Assistant Drug Controller was directed to ensure regular inspections of all medical shops in



all tehsils of the district in coordination with Police and revenue authorities. Highlighting the role of parents in safeguarding the future of their children, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized organizing

monthly Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) in all government and private schools to discuss the menace of drug abuse along with other related issues. Besides, detailed discussion was held on regular monitoring of hotspots, action taken in NDPS cases as well as functioning of Drug De-Addiction Centres. It was further impressed upon the concerned officers to fast-track the process of declaring “Nasha Mukta Panchayats” to promote healthy competition and collective efforts among Panchayats in achieving the goal of a drug-free Kupwara district.

J&K Floriculture Invites Creators for Chrysanthemum Garden

Srinagar: The Department of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Jammu and Kashmir, is pleased to announce the opening of the Chrysanthemum Garden at the Nehru Memorial Botanical Garden, Srinagar, marking a vibrant celebration of seasonal blooms and creative expression.

To commemorate this year's floral spectacle, the Department has launched two exciting competitions for visitors and creators – an Instagram Reel Competition and a Photography Competition – inviting participants to capture the essence, colour, and charm of the Garden in full bloom.

Participants are encouraged to create 15–60 second Reels that tell a creative story

of the Garden's beauty, atmosphere, and spirit. Entries may be shot on any device, provided they highlight the natural allure of the Chrysanthemum Garden without excessive filters or editing.

All Reels must be posted on Instagram, tagging and adding @gardensandparks_jk as a collaborator. Participants are also required to share their entries in high resolution via email to fonmbg@gmail.com. A short concept note is encouraged.

The evaluation will be based on 40% for Instagram engagement (views, likes, comments) and 60% for Creativity, originality, and relevance to the theme, judged by a professional committee.



Prizes money includes 20,000 (1st Prize), 10,000 (2nd Prize), and 5,000 (3rd Prize).

For those with a keen eye for still imagery, the Department invites participants to capture the spirit, colours, and character of the Garden through their lens. Any device may be used, and photographs should maintain the natural charm of the Garden.

Entries must be posted on Instagram with @gardensandparks_jk tagged and added as collaborator, and also shared via email in high resolution (JPG format, up to 25 MB). A short concept note describing the photograph is encouraged.

Evaluation will follow similar criteria of 40% for Instagram engagement and 60% for Creativity, composition, and relevance to the theme. Prizes money includes 20,000

(1st Prize), 10,000 (2nd Prize), and 5,000 (3rd Prize).

The competitions will be adjudicated by a distinguished panel of officer and experts.

All entries (Reel or Photograph) must be posted and emailed by 5:00 PM on 5th November 2025.

Winners will be announced on the official Instagram handle @gardensandparks_jk, and their work may be featured in future promotional campaigns of the Department (with due credit).

For further details or queries, participants may contact the Department via Instagram DM (@gardensandparks_jk) or email at fonmbg@gmail.com.

Editorial

Betraying Public Trust

Ruhullah Mehdi, a senior leader and Member of Parliament from Srinagar, has decided to withdraw from the campaign for his party, the National Conference (NC), in the Budgam by-elections. His action is not simply a squabble within the party, however. It is a withering critique of the National Conference and a valuable warning about the development of political decay and erosion of political credibility. Mehdi's public disillusionment expresses a feeling that is growing in intensity, an anguished sense of betrayal from an electorate that opted for a mandate of strength and self-respect, only to have it squandered by political compromise and inaction.

His specific reminders regarding the alleged cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha elections provides the crux of accountability. A senior member of the party incriminating the party leadership under the heading of treating public office as a "zaati dukaan" (or private shop), where there are secrets, is indicative of dysfunction. It alludes to the moral rot in public leadership and the cowardly abdication of responsibility.

Moreover, Mehdi has pointed to the party's greatest failure, it did not respect the "strong and clear mandate" it gained. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, he says, voted for the NC to represent them, as an independent party, and to fight a strong fight for political rights and dignity. Instead, they have seen a party that seems "weak" and dependent on coalitions that it never should have entered into. A fight has been reduced to the same old political games, and Mehdi's electorate wonders if their vote was wasted. As Mehdi appropriately cautioned, no community is forever tied to a single party; faith is easily lost, and people will move on.

The criticism extends beyond high politics into the mundane world of governance: the reversal of the promise to put in electricity meters - from condemning it as a "zulm" while in opposition to putting meters in while in power - illustrates a disappointing inconsistency.

Ruhullah Mehdi's choice to remove himself from consideration in the campaign isn't an effort to derail or tarnish the process; it is an effort to ring a big bell for his party and the political class more broadly. The National Conference, and, frankly, any political party operating in J&K would be wise to heed this alarm. The public is fixated on their representatives, and their resolve is coming close to the end. If trust is not rebuilt through action and transparent leadership from elected officials, the community will be willing to search outside for new champions of their hopes.

Our Vote, Your Voice: Shaping Budgam's Future



■ BY AUBAID AKHOON
Akhoon.aubaid@gmail.com

As Budgam once again finds itself in the spotlight amid the upcoming elections, social media platforms and local news outlets are flooded with road interviews and political debates. Unfortunately, many of these so-called public interactions often seem orchestrated, serving the interests of specific political parties through paid promotions. In the age of technology, where perception

different religious and ethnic communities. The blending of Kashmiri, Persian, and Central Asian influences has produced a vibrant tradition of art, poetry, architecture, and music. Its people, despite political and economic challenges, have preserved values of tolerance, mutual respect, and social unity. These values, rooted in Budgam's heritage, must also guide its political decisions today.

(Readers can explore more about Budgam's cultural and historical depth by searching one of my articles titled "Budgam: A District of Rich Culture, Scenic Landscapes, and the Urgency for Social Harmony" on Google.)

The Pain of Neglect

Despite being one of the nearest districts to Srinagar, Budgam's development story is filled with neglect. Successive governments,



can be more powerful than truth, political narratives are increasingly shaped by digital influence rather than genuine ground realities. This has made it even more important for the people of Budgam to think critically and vote consciously.

Budgam: A Land of Culture, Heritage, and Hope

Budgam, located in the picturesque Kashmir Valley, is more than just a geographical district—it is a land of spiritual depth, cultural richness, and intellectual legacy. From ancient times, Budgam has witnessed the rise and fall of empires, each leaving its unique imprint on the district's identity. Known as the cradle of Sufism in Kashmir, Budgam has been home to saints, scholars, and poets whose teachings continue to guide generations toward peace and harmony.

The district is distinguished by its cultural diversity and the peaceful coexistence of

regardless of political affiliation, have failed to provide the district with even the most basic facilities. The condition of roads, drinking water, healthcare, sanitation, and electricity paints a picture of administrative indifference.

What makes the situation worse is the unplanned urbanization that threatens Budgam's fertile agricultural lands. The unchecked spread of private colonies—often promoted by unregistered property dealers—has transformed vast stretches of productive farmland into unplanned residential clusters. These colonies, though illegal or semi-legal, are paradoxically equipped with better facilities than government housing schemes.

Take the example of Ompora Housing Colony in Budgam, developed by the Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board. Despite being ecologically sound, free from flood threats, and systematically planned, Ompora Colony continues to suffer from poor roads, inadequate drainage, unreliable water and electricity supply, and the absence of essential civic institutions. There is no marriage hall, no

proper hospital, no police station, and no dedicated fire and emergency service.

As a resident of Ompora Colony, I have witnessed these problems daily. This condition reflects a broader pattern of neglect faced by citizens who choose to live in planned government colonies. Ironically, those living in unregistered private colonies enjoy better basic infrastructure, thanks to selective favoritism and the influence of private interests.

If authorities truly wish to promote sustainable housing and responsible urban growth, they must start by revitalizing government colonies like Ompora—making them models of civic management and urban dignity. Roads, drainage systems, waste management, street lighting, public safety, and health facilities should be prioritized. Only then can citizens regain trust in public housing schemes and planned urban development.

The Power of an Informed Voter

With the assembly by-elections approaching, Budgam's citizens have a renewed opportunity to reflect and act responsibly. Elections are not mere political events; they are moral tests of our awareness, honesty, and vision for the future.

Voters must remember that casting a vote is not about rewarding families or following communal affiliations. It is about empowering the right person—the one who has the competence, education, and genuine commitment to address people's needs. Dynastic politics and emotional appeals have long hindered Budgam's growth. It is time to move beyond personality cults and evaluate candidates on the basis of their work, integrity, and vision.

The real question for every voter should be simple yet profound:

Who has consistently stood for the people even after the elections?

Which candidate has demonstrated sincerity toward solving local problems rather than chasing media attention?

Who values education, development, and ethics more than rhetoric and power?

The fate of Budgam depends on the collective conscience of its people. If citizens use their vote wisely, keeping the district's development and dignity in mind, Budgam can finally emerge from decades of political marginalization.

A Call for Political Maturity

Budgam's story is not one of despair but of potential. Its people are educated, aware, and capable of shaping a brighter future. However, awareness must translate into

action. True change will not come through slogans or sympathy speeches; it will come through decisive participation and responsible voting.

It is time to recognize that our vote is not just a mark on a ballot paper—it is a voice that determines the direction of our society. Every citizen must evaluate who truly deserves that trust. The next MLA should be chosen not on the basis of lineage, influence, or wealth, but on merit, sincerity, and a record of service.

Let this election mark the beginning of a new political culture in Budgam—one that values progress over propaganda,

”

Voters must remember that casting a vote is not about rewarding families or following communal affiliations. It is about empowering the right person—the one who has the competence, education, and genuine commitment to address people's needs. Dynastic politics and emotional appeals have long hindered Budgam's growth.

”

accountability over arrogance, and service over slogans. The destiny of Budgam does not lie in the promises of politicians but in the power of its people to make wise, conscious choices.

Let us move beyond old divisions and inherited loyalties, casting our votes not out of habit or pressure, but guided by reason, foresight, and responsibility. It is only through such conscious choices that Budgam can emerge from years of neglect and become a shining example of development, unity, and social harmony.

The author is a renowned educator and coaching consultant in Kashmir, also serving as a columnist, motivational speaker, and Associate Editor of Education Quill.

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Majeed Masroor, A True Soldier Of Kashmiri Literature



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

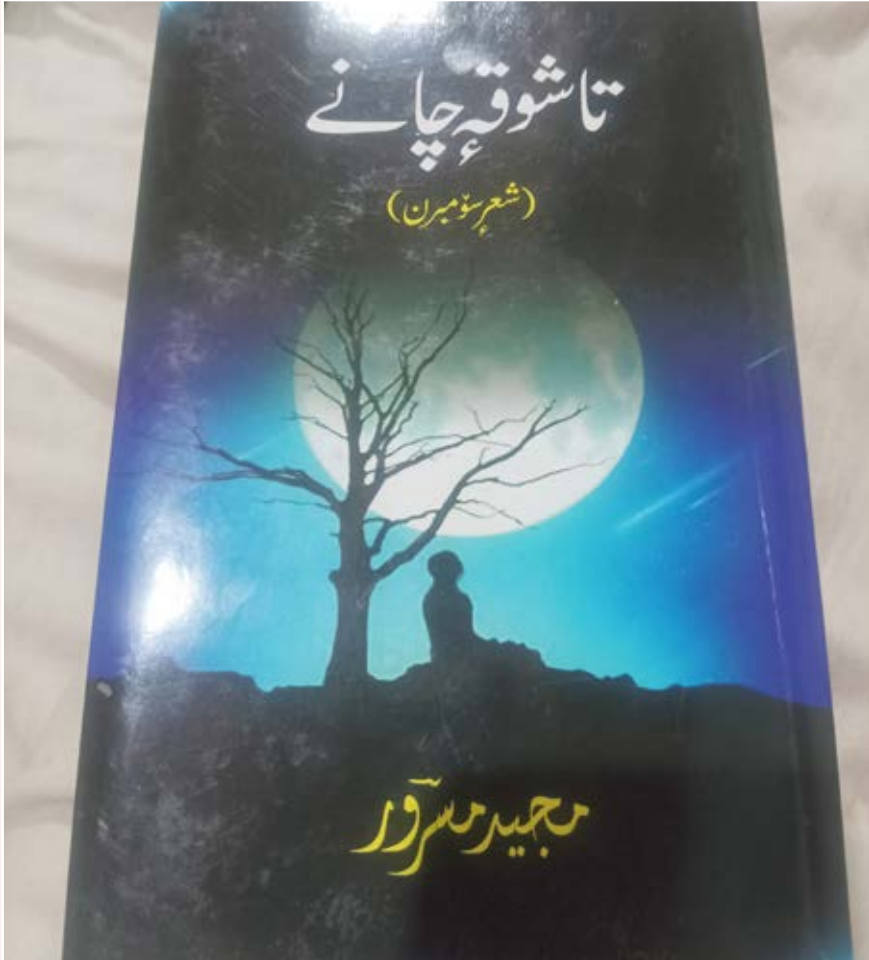
Majeed Masroor stands as a beacon of hope, love, and inspiration in the picturesque valley of Kashmir. He is not just a name; he is an institution of inspiration, a man of substance, and a true son of Kashmir who has made his people proud. He has authored about half a dozen books, among which Taashouq Chanay stands out as a masterpiece of poetry. Spanning 201 pages and dedicated to his parents, this remarkable collection was published by Taj Printing Service, New Delhi. In its foreword, Majeed Masroor shares how he was encouraged by friends and well-wishers to compile his poetic works and resume writing—something he had given up earlier for certain known reasons. Ishfaq Gowher, while commenting on the author's literary brilliance, describes Majeed Masroor as a true soldier of Kashmiri language and literature. He also reflects on his personal association with the author, recalling the days when Majeed Masroor used to organize poetic symposiums on Gulistan Channel, where he was later appointed as the honorary literary coordinator. The opening poem in this book is a heartfelt prayer in which the author seeks enduring blessings from the Almighty.

“Chus bi amut dedtal darith halam
az ya Rasool,
Akh nazar bas akh nazar nazre karam
az ya Rasool.

Be kasan baed satha Mohammad aaw,
Ashqan hund mudaa Mohammad aaw.
Wala waen wasye lol baegrawo,
Dargah dil shehlawo az.”

These are naatya verses, through which the author expresses his profound love and devotion

for the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). His choice of words and their graceful composition reflect the depth of his reverence and admiration.



Heaven writes about the revered shrine of Dargah Hazratbal, where the sacred relic of the beloved Prophet is preserved. Thousands of devotees gather there on special occasions to catch a blessed glimpse of this holy relic, a moment of deep spiritual fulfillment and collective devotion. For some revered saints such as Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani, Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom, Sheikh

Nooruddin Noorani, and Khan Sahab, the author has composed devotional poems expressing his deep love and profound reverence for them. It



appears that he seeks to adopt them as his spiritual guides and mentors in life. This book is also a collection of 68 mesmerizing ghazals, meticulously composed, each reflecting the poetic brilliance of Majeed Masroor through its varied themes. Shehlowtha myoni jigar zaanh akh pahar Wuchzihea myoni machar zaanh akh pahar The choice of words and the depth of thought

woven into this composition are truly extraordinary. The poet has succeeded in giving it a beautiful and graceful poetic form.

Balyaran ma sa sumblou myoun dil
Rayi tehnze az ti tumblou myoun dil

Using simple and familiar words of the native language, the poet has tried to convey his message to enthusiastic readers through this ghazal.

”

The poet seems to be in unbearable pain. While going through these verses, it becomes evident that no herbal or homemade remedy can heal the agony of a heartache. Only the presence of his beloved can bring him relief from this devastating sorrow.

”

Indeed, it is commendable how he carries his thoughts forward in such a clear and comprehensible manner.

Dorer chouni kotha chalai
Yoti soun salai lalo az
Ba wai dilki sarie awhalie
Yiti soun salai lalo az

Using simple and heartfelt words, the poet beautifully expresses his deep anxiety and restlessness for his beloved. He cannot endure the pain of separation and longs intensely for his presence and companionship.

Az khasni dekas drih tas chu yun
Tula narik paith waih tas chu yun

In these poetic couplets, the poet's excitement and joy are clearly evident, as he is confident that his beloved will meet and embrace him—the one for whom he has made every preparation with utmost care.

Dag mei koran chum dilas preath dawa
gou be asar
Ha tabitu near sa ami daadi nish
chukh be khabar

The poet seems to be in unbearable pain. While going through these verses, it becomes evident that no herbal or homemade remedy can heal the agony of a heartache. Only the presence of his beloved can bring him relief from this devastating sorrow.

Kuni jayi hargah wuchnekh nigran dapizes
dilasa duen

Nindrei mai zaejmich temi sind amaran
dapizes dilasa duen

The poet's brilliance radiates through these couplets, reflecting his tireless effort to shape them into something extraordinary and captivate readers with their melodious charm.

Ba wolmut azlai chani maye waesye
Chei rous ma zindagi hasi zayi waesye

These verses reflect the poet's deep attachment to his beloved. He believes that without him, his existence—whether in life or death—holds no meaning. His life derives its worth and vibrancy solely from his presence; without him, it remains colourless and void of purpose. Majeed Masroor, apart from being an ace poet and accomplished writer, is also a powerful orator. He frequently hosts symposiums and debates on popular television channels, where his eloquence and intellect captivate audiences. A well-known and respected name across Kashmir, he continues to inspire many through his multifaceted talent. I would especially urge the youth to read his works—particularly the poetry in this book—to experience the enchantment of his thought and expression.

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Javed Rana Visits Bandipora, Interacts With Public Delegations

FE NEWS NETWORK

Also inspects G&BB Hostel Bandipora

BANDIPORA: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal



Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana visited Bandipora and interacted with dozens of delegations at Gujjar and Bakerwal Boys (G&BB) Hostel here.

The Minister was accompanied by legislators Nazir Ahmad Khan,

Nizamuddin Bhat and Hilal Akbar Lone along with senior officers of district administration during the visit.

The aim of the visit was to get a first hand account of the developmental concerns in the region so as to align government policies with the actual

During the meeting, delegations expressed the urgent need to upgrade the region's infrastructure and address other essential requirements. The representatives highlighted the importance of improving roads, transportation networks, healthcare services, educational institutions and communication systems.

They also stressed the need for better water supply, power distribution and sanitation facilities to enhance the overall quality of life and promote sustainable economic growth in the region.

Discussions also focused on Forest Rights Act implementation, cultural preservation and holistic upliftment in education and infrastructure.

Minister Rana gave a patient hearing to the grievances and assured the delegations a dedicated review of their grievances, pledging comprehensive and time-bound measures for accelerated and inclusive development of the area.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to balancing environmental

conservation with sustainable development, ensuring that all proposals and measures align with broader ecological and social objectives.

This outreach by the Forest Minister underscores a holistic and responsive governance approach, making it clear that infrastructure development, upgradation of facilities, tribal needs and employment will be central themes in Bandipora's development agenda moving forward.

Earlier, Minister conducted a thorough inspection of the Gujjar and Bakerwal Boys Hostel and called upon the concerned for improving hostel infrastructure, with particular attention to the urgent requirement for enhanced facilities, increased accommodation capacity and upgraded amenities for Gujjar and Bakerwal youth pursuing higher studies.

He maintained that the provision of all modern facilities is essential to address the existing gaps and to foster a conducive environment that supports both the academic and personal growth of students.

He underscored the government's commitment to improving the living conditions and educational environment of tribal students.

CBDM Capacity Building, IRS Training Programmes Held at Anantnag

FE NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: A Capacity Building Programme on Community Based

preparedness for effective disaster risk reduction and fostering response mechanisms at grassroots level. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant

response techniques, aimed at equipping participants with practical knowledge for efficient action during emergencies.

Later, an Incident Response System (IRS) Training Programme was also organised for strengthening the district's disaster response and coordination mechanisms. It focused on familiarizing officers with the operational structure, planning process, and response protocols of IRS, preparing them to manage real-time disaster situations more efficiently.

Deputy Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, J&K, Snobor Jamil joined the session virtually and briefed the participants about the Incident Response System framework.

She highlighted the importance of IRS mechanism as a structured approach for effective disaster response and coordination among different departments.

Deputy Secretary emphasized that IRS enables clear roles, responsibilities, and communication channels during emergencies, ensuring swift and efficient action across all levels of administration.

ACD in his remarks underlined the significance of inter-departmental coordination and timely decision-making in disaster situations.



Disaster Management (CBDM) was organised by the District Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with Rural Development Department and State Disaster Response Force, Anantnag at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

The event witnessed active participation from officers including Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), and DySP SDRF and officials of various departments including Health, Youth Services & Sports, Fire & Emergency Services, Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Power Development, Revenue, and Flood Control and volunteers. The session focussed on enhancing community awareness and

Commissioner Development highlighted the importance of CBDM in empowering local communities to play a proactive role in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response. During the program, the significance of CBDM for micro planning based on community knowledge and available resources besides involving community members directly for faster response, better coordination with government agencies, self reliance and minimization of losses during disasters was elaborated.

The programme concluded with an interactive session and demonstrations about basic disaster

DLIC approves 202 cases under Mission YUVA at Shopian

FE NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

The meeting aimed to review and approve applications received under the Mission YUVA initiative, designed to foster youth entrepreneurship and self-employment.

A total of 202 applications verified by the SBDU, were presented for consideration. Following a comprehensive evaluation based on eligibility, business viability and the applicant's socio-economic background, all applications were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under the Mission YUVA framework.

Addressing the committee, the DC emphasized the vital role of self-employment in empowering youth, instructing all departments to ensure timely fund disbursement, robust monitoring and dedicated mentoring to guarantee the sustainability of the supported ventures.

During the meeting, the DC also underscored the

importance of expanding outreach activities, organizing awareness camps and conducting mobile registration drives to ensure the benefits of Mission YUVA reach



every eligible youth in the district.

"Mission YUVA is not just a scheme, it is a movement to promote innovation, self-reliance and employment generation," he stated.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; General Manager DIC, Shurjeel Naikoo; AD Employment, Lead District Manager, DDM NABARD, Advance Manager Cluster office JKB, District Officer JKEDI, EO and other concerned.

DC Srinagar visits Shrine of Makhdoom Sahib and Sharika Devi Temple

FE NEWS NETWORK

Upgradation & developmental works to be undertaken at both sites under multiple schemes

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Saturday undertook a visit to the shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhoom (RA) and Sharika Devi Temple atop Hari Parbat to assess the plan of developmental and beautification works in and around these historic sites.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; Executive Engineers from R&B, Water Works Division, City Roads Division, and KPDCI, Tehsildar Khanyar and other concerned officers.

At the Makhdoom Sahib Shrine, the



DC took note of the plan of development and beautification works aimed at improving public amenities and facilities for devotees.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure timely submission of the plan for upgradation and developmental works

Officers to carry out necessary landscaping and renovation works at both the religious places, besides improving basic facilities.

while maintaining the sanctity and heritage of the site.

The DC emphasized coordinated efforts among departments for smooth execution.

Later, the DC visited the Sharika Devi Temple atop Hari Parbat and reviewed the plan of beautification and upgradation, planned to be carried out at the site. He instructed the executing agencies to expedite the submission of the plan and ensure that quality standards are maintained, keeping in view the significance of the temple for devotees and visitors.

The DC further directed the

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DLSA Srinagar organizes Special Lok Adalat to resolve Cheque Bounce & Bank Cases

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In accordance with the 2025 calendar of the J&K Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar today.

The Lok Adalat, aimed at amicably resolving Cheque Bounce and Bank cases which was held under the direction of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum and under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, 03 benches were constituted for the said Lok Adalat, wherein first bench was presided over by the Additional District Judge (Bank Cases), Kusoom Pandita and 1st Additional District & Sessions Judge Srinagar, Anjum Ara. The second bench was presided over by Forest Magistrate Srinagar, Mohammad Ishtiaq Alam Baba and PT & E Magistrate Srinagar, Massarat Jabeen and the 3rd Bench was presided over by City Munsiff, Srinagar, Shayesta Nazir and 1st Addl. Munsiff Srinagar, Zirgham Hamid.

Overall 101 number of cases were taken up for settlement out of which 33 number of cases were amicably settled and Rs. 2,64,10,457 was awarded as settlement amount.

The Special Lok Adalat reflects the commitment of the DLSA Srinagar and J&K Legal Services Authority to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and ensure timely justice delivery.



Sharda Care Brings Super Speciality OPDs to Kashmir

- Monthly consultations available for patients in Srinagar
- Ayushman Bharat benefits extended to J&K residents for free advanced treatment

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a landmark initiative to enhance healthcare accessibility in Jammu & Kashmir, Sharda Care – Healthcity, one of North India's premier tertiary care hospitals based in Greater Noida, has partnered with Apollo Clinic, Srinagar, to launch Super Speciality OPD services.

The collaboration aims to bring the best of Delhi-NCR's medical expertise closer to the people of Kashmir through regular specialist OPDs in Neurology, Respiratory Medicine, Cardiology, and Oncology.

The first OPD is scheduled for Saturday, 8th November 2025, from 11 AM to 5 PM, featuring consultations by Dr. Showkat Nazir Wani (Consultant – Neurology) and Dr. Harish Kumar Verma (Associate Director – Respiratory Medicine) from Sharda Care – Healthcity. Going forward, these OPDs will be held on the second Saturday of every month, providing consistent access to advanced specialist care within the valley.

The launch ceremony, held in Srinagar, was graced by Mr. Sandeep Dogra, Group COO – Sharda Care – Healthcity, and attended by senior officials, including the Head of CAPF, marking a significant milestone in strengthening healthcare partnerships in the region.

This collaboration is aimed at bridging the healthcare gap between Delhi-NCR and Kashmir, enabling patients to access expert consultations and advanced treatment without the need to travel outside the valley. The initiative reinforces Sharda Care's mission of "Delivering Super Speciality Healthcare Closer to Kashmir."

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sandeep Dogra, Group COO – Sharda Care – Healthcity, said:

"This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that quality medical care is accessible to all, regardless of geography. By bringing our specialist OPDs to Srinagar, residents of Jammu & Kashmir can access the same advanced care available in Delhi-NCR, right here in their home region. Our partnership with Apollo Clinic marks a significant step in making healthcare not only accessible but also compassionate, af-

fordable, and technologically advanced."

Adding to this, Mr. Rishabh Gupta, Managing Director – Sharda Care – Healthcity, remarked:

"Healthcare equity is central to our vision. Through



this collaboration with Apollo Clinic, we are taking a decisive step toward democratizing access to world-class medical expertise. We are confident this initiative will bring tangible health benefits to the people of Kashmir and strengthen Sharda Care's commitment to serve every patient with excellence and empathy."

In addition to specialist OPDs, the initiative extends Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) benefits to eligible patients from Jammu & Kashmir. Patients holding valid Ayushman cards will now receive free treatment at Sharda Hospital, Greater Noida, across all specialties. A dedicated Ayushman Help Desk & Helpline will be established to facilitate direct coordination between patients in Kashmir and doctors at Sharda Hospital.

With 600+ beds, 30+ super-speciality departments, and one of India's largest Level 1 Trauma & Emergency Centres, Sharda Care – Healthcity is recognized as a leading healthcare destination in North India. Advanced facilities include AI-driven diagnostics, robotic surgery, comprehensive cancer care, and 3D neuro-navigation technology, ensuring patient-centric, world-class care.

PM Modi

through surgical strikes in 2016, air strikes in 2019, and Operation Sindoor in 2025,” he said—(KNO)

Farooq Abdullah

the NC had “gifted” seven votes to the BJP. On Friday, the ruling NC won three seats, while the BJP managed one in the first Rajya Sabha elections held in Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union territory in 2019. J-K BJP president Sat Sharma defeated NC candidate Imran Nabi Dar by securing 32 votes. “Had we gifted it, then how did our fourth candidate secure 21 votes? We did not give any gift. They (BJP) had come to us (saying) – let there not be an election and we (NC) take three and give them (BJP) one. We said no, we will contest and it will be decided on the ground,” Abdullah said while replying to queries from reporters. He expressed gratitude to the Congress and the PDP for supporting NC candidates in the Rajya Sabha polls, and also asserted all his party MLAs were united and the BJP could not break even one of them. “All MLAs of our party remained united; they could not break even one. There were some media reports that we are not united, but we remained united. We are thankful to Mehbooba (Mufti) ji’s party (PDP), Congress party and those independents, including Langate and Shopian MLAs, and others who supported us,” he said. When asked whether the PDP had supported the NC, Abdullah said, “Yes, PDP supported us”. “I am thankful to them, I thank Mehboobaji,” he said. He said while it was a matter of happiness that NC’s three candidates won the election, it is “regretful” that the fourth candidate could not win because some MLAs “backtracked” from their promise of support. “He got 21 votes but could not win because some people did not keep the promise they had made,” he added. Asked whether it was a miscalculation by the party or a “betrayal” by some MLAs, Abdullah said, “Such things happen in an election”. “God knows whether it was a betrayal or what. But, I am thankful to God that we won three seats,” he said. He downplayed allegations of a “fixed match” between the NC and the BJP. “Allegations were made even against our Prophet, and we are nothing in comparison to him. Allegations will continue to be levelled and we have to fight them,” the former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K said. Leader of Opposition in J-K Assembly Sunil Sharma said they are thankful to the seven legislators who “rejected” NC and supported the BJP candidate. “We do not know them, but one thing is clear that they have rejected the NC government and served them a warning. We welcome these seven legislators because the BJP bagged the seat because of them. There may be more like them who are not happy with the government,” he said. He claimed the BJP made “no contact with any legislators but requested them to vote for the party to reject the current government’s “anti-people” policies. The LoP also rejected Lone’s allegation that the Rajya Sabha election was a “fixed match” between NC and BJP. At a press conference earlier, Lone blamed the NC for the BJP’s victory. “You (NC) have clearly gifted seven members to the BJP. It was a fixed match,” he alleged. “Today, we have caught them (NC) red-handed in their (BJP’s) lap... “I am saying this with authority that all the cross-voting was done by the NC,” Lone said, claiming the Rajya Sabha results were not due to “horse-trading”, but an “understanding”. “The NC had a pact with Delhi. The BJP’s reality is 70, including 42 from the NC, and not just 32 (28 party MLAs plus four who supported it in the polls),” Lone claimed. Meanwhile, Abdullah described as “propaganda” the accusations that the party had not made adequate preparations for winning the fourth seat. “Had we not made any preparations, how did we get 21 votes? This is a misunderstanding; this is propaganda. There is no truth in this,” he said. About J-K Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra’s reported statement that the Congress party was happy that it did not contest the fourth seat and left it to NC, Abdullah said that Karra “has the right to say anything”. “We had offered them Nagrota (assembly seat) (where bypoll is taking place), they did not even take that. What is the reason? You ask them. I talked to the Congress high command myself. They (first) told me at midnight that they would contest,” he said. He expressed the hope of the NC candidate emerging victorious from the seat. On a question about assembly elections in Bihar, the NC president said, “The BJP should lose there”. Asked about NC’s poll promise of providing 200 units of electricity free and the “resentment” among a section of people over the installation of smart metres, Abdullah said J-K was not getting electricity free of cost. “Wherefrom are we going to pay for that? I have always said power is not free. Even when I was CM in 1984, I used to say that it is not free. We are paying thousands of crores of rupees, which could have been spent on the welfare of the people. Do you think about that? Do you think about how you indulge in power theft? “If you have to save this state and its identity, then we should adopt austerity, bear it. It (money) will not come from the sky. If we have to save our freedom, then we have to face these difficulties. Nothing is free,” he said. (PTI)

CM Omar

stone of Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood in November last year, drawing parallels with the success of the Tulip Garden. “Just as the Tulip Garden transformed the spring tourist season, the Chrysanthemum Garden will redefine autumn tourism in Kashmir,” he remarked. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also inaugurated an exhibition featuring a wide range of ornamental, lavender, and other floral varieties cultivated by local growers with departmental support. He interacted with the floriculturists and appreciated the dedication and craftsmanship of the gardeners and field staff whose efforts brought the blooms to life. The event was attended by MLA Zaidal Tanveer Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture Zubair Ahmed, Secretary Culture, Director Floriculture Kashmir and other senior officials. (DIPR)

Sat Sharma

development and effort. Regarding Sajad Gani Lone’s statement that seven NC votes were given to the BJP, Sharma said the accusation was irrelevant, questioning why Lone had not voted himself and pointing out that abstaining from voting was undemocratic—(KNO)

J&K has

and I thank and welcome you all for bringing this tournament to our Union Territory.” He said, we have many IPL, local and international players and events like this provide great exposure to our youth. The Minister further said such tournaments inspire the next generation of cricketers. “I believe more leagues, tournaments and events should be organized across Jammu and Kashmir. I welcome you all once again—enjoy your time here, make friends and take back beautiful memories from this land of warmth and hospitality,” he said adding, on behalf of our leader Omar Abdullah Sahib, I extend my greetings to everyone. It is important to mention, the Indian Heaven Premier League, organized at Srinagar’s Bakshi Stadium, aims to promote cricketing talent across the Union Territory and foster sportsmanship and unity through the participation of players from different parts of India, and locals as well—(KNO)

CM Abdullah

that the traditional system of rote learning has given way to a more dynamic, learner-centric approach. “There has been a change in the ways of providing education. Earlier, books were given to students, they memorised lessons, wrote exams, received marks and degrees, and were sent into the world—but with little practical readiness. Companies would often say that we get educated children but must first make them ‘unlearn’ before retraining them for the workplace,” he said. He noted that the National Education Policy has enabled students to design their own degrees, combining subjects and practical exposure in ways that make them employable and confident. “In our time, we had to choose between fixed streams—medical, non-medical, commerce or arts. Today’s students can design their degrees to suit their future aspirations. Alongside theoretical learning, the emphasis on practical exposure has given students the confidence to innovate and find real-world solutions,” the Chief Minister remarked. Referring to the exhibition organised by students from various colleges, Omar Abdullah appreciated the ingenuity and problem-solving mindset demonstrated through several innovative projects. He cited examples such as a fingerprint-based car ignition system linked with Aadhaar to prevent underage driving, carbon monoxide detection sensors for safety during winters, and automated water flow systems for frozen pipelines in cold regions. “These are not just classroom ideas but real solutions to real problems. Our children are learning to think critically and apply knowledge to everyday challenges. This is the spirit that the National Education Policy seeks to nurture,” he said. The Chief Minister also lauded the creativity of students involved in traditional crafts, art, papier-mâché, needlework, beekeeping, and organic farming, describing them as vital forms of vocational excellence that reflect the diversity of J&K’s educational strengths. Referring to the innovative initiative Colleges on Wheels, the Chief Minister said such programmes have broadened the horizons of students, especially young women. “It must have been difficult for parents to allow their daughters to travel across the country on a train, but I am sure those journeys transformed their lives. I hope the Higher Education Department continues such experiments so that our students exchange ideas and experiences,” he said. Omar Abdullah congratulated the colleges that secured NAAC accreditation, describing it as a recognition of quality assurance and academic excellence. He encouraged other institutions to strive for similar standards. “Getting NAAC accreditation is a big achievement. Those colleges which are yet to achieve it must make it their priority. Accreditation ensures that our institutions meet national benchmarks of quality,” he added. On the occasion, the Chief Minister honoured college principals whose institutions received NAAC accreditation and distributed appreciation certificates among students who excelled in sports and extracurricular activities across J&K colleges. Earlier, Omar Abdullah visited the student innovation and craft exhibition organised on the sidelines of the conclave, where he interacted with students and appreciated their creativity and innovative ideas. (DIPR)

EC May

and the counting will take place on November 14. The Commission has already held two conferences with state chief electoral officers (CEOs) to firm up the SIR rollout roadmap. Several CEOs have already put the voter lists published after their last SIR on their websites. The website of the Delhi CEO has the 2008 voter list when the last intensive revision took place in the national capital. In Uttarakhand, the last SIR took place in 2006, and that year’s electoral roll is now on the state CEO website. The last SIR in states will serve as the cut-off date, just as the 2003 voter list of Bihar was used by the EC for intensive revision. Most states had the last SIR of the voter list between 2002 and 2004. Most have nearly completed the mapping of current electors with the voters according to the last SIR held in their respective states or Union territories. The primary aim of the SIR is to weed out foreign illegal migrants by checking their place of birth. The move assumes significance in the wake of a crack-down in various states on illegal migrants, including from Bangladesh and Myanmar. (ANI)

The Chief Secretary urged the Traffic Department to take all necessary measures to secure the marathon routes on the day of the event. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive traffic management plan, including appropriate diversions and issuance of advance travel advisories to ensure the safety and convenience of commuters. He underscored the need to provide a memorable experience to all participants that reflects Kashmir’s hospitality and growing capability in hosting large-scale international events. During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Ashish Chander Verma informed that several renowned national and international athletes are expected to participate in this year’s edition. He further noted that the event would also act as a platform to showcase local art, craft, and culture, with dedicated stalls promoting Handicrafts and Handloom products from Jammu and Kashmir. Director, Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob, presented a detailed overview of the operational plan, covering aspects of participant registration, route management, volunteer deployment, and publicity campaigns. He elaborated that the marathon will feature two main race categories: the Full Marathon (42 km) and Half Marathon (21 km) are open to both men and women like the first edition of this game here. The routes will traverse Srinagar’s most iconic and picturesque locations, including Dal Lake, Mughal Gardens, and Chinar-lined boulevards, offering runners an inspiring blend of athletic challenge and scenic beauty. The meeting was apprised that the Full Marathon (42 km) will take participants through a captivating circuit showcasing the natural and cultural splendor of Srinagar, while the Half Marathon (21 km) will provide runners an equally enriching experience that combines endurance with the Valley’s breathtaking vistas. Adding to the event’s grandeur, the Kashmir Marathon 2025 features an impressive prize pool, with substantial rewards for winners in both Full and Half Marathon categories. For the Full Marathon, the overall category prizes include Rs25,00,000 for 1st place, Rs20,00,000 for 2nd, Rs18,00,000 for 3rd, Rs15,00,000 for 4th, and Rs12,00,000 for 5th place. In the respective age-group categories (18–35 years, 36–50 years, and 50+ veterans), cash prizes of Rs1,00,000, Rs75,000, and Rs50,000 will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions respectively. For the Half Marathon, the overall category winners will receive Rs15,00,000, Rs12,00,000, Rs9,00,000, Rs6,00,000, and Rs3,00,000 respectively for the top five positions, while age-group winners will receive Rs75,000, Rs50,000, and Rs25,000 for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions respectively for both men and women participants. With its generous rewards, stunning routes, and vibrant community participation, the Kashmir Marathon 2025 is poised to emerge as a flagship sporting event showcasing the region’s spirit, hospitality, and tourism potential. Expressing optimism about the event, the Chief Secretary remarked that the Kashmir Marathon would not only promote fitness and sportsmanship among youth but also serve as a major tourism promotion event, attracting visitors from across the world to experience the Valley’s natural beauty and cultural richness. (DIPR)

Govt documents on key topics regularly. He said a chatbot for fact-checking is being developed for verifying the authenticity of videos and online content. (PTI)

Rang-e-Chinar’ 2.0 begins at NIT Srinagar, thousands attend first day

SRINAGAR: The much-awaited two-day annual cultural festival, Rang-e-Chinar, started on Saturday at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, attracting an enthusiastic turnout of over 8,000 students, faculty, and visitors. The inaugural day featured a series of events designed to celebrate creativity, culture, and student talent. Returning in 2025 as Rang-e-Chinar 2.0, the festival is organized under the theme ‘Roots and Rhythms’ and promises to be bigger, better, and more diverse than previous editions. The two-day event includes a range of workshops, exhibitions, performances, and interactive installations that provide an immersive experience for attendees. The opening ceremony was attended by the In-Charge Director and Dean R&C, Prof. Roohie Naaz Mir; Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman; Dean Students’ Welfare and Chairman of the fest, Prof. Mohammad Abid Bazaz; and key officials from the local police, including SP Hazratbal, DSP, and SHO Nigeen. Other Deans, wardens, and faculty coordinators were also present. In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanujia lauded the efforts of the organizing team and emphasized the importance of cultural festivals in fostering holistic development among students. He highlighted that such events help students express their creativity, engage with diverse ideas, and strengthen the sense of community within the institute. Prof. Kanujia further explained that the theme ‘Roots and Rhythms’ represents the integration of tradition-

al values with contemporary ideas, allowing students to connect with their heritage while experimenting with modern forms of art and performance. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Roohie Naaz Mir, In-Charge Director and Dean R&C, said Rang-e-Chinar provides an important platform for students to showcase talent beyond academics and fosters a spirit of teamwork and innovation. Prof. Roohie also acknowledged the contributions of faculty, administrative staff, and student coordinators in ensuring smooth execution. She urged students to actively participate in all activities, attend workshops, and engage with visiting artists and mentors to make the most of the opportunities provided by the festival. Institute Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman added that the smooth execution of such large-scale events reflects the institute’s commitment to both academic and cultural excellence. He said that events of this scale require careful planning, coordination, and administrative oversight to ensure smooth execution. “Such festival offers students an opportunity to develop skills beyond academics, including management, communication, and collaborative problem-solving,” Prof. Rehman added. Prof. Bazaz, Dean Students’ Welfare and Chairman of Rang-e-Chinar 2.0, highlighted the importance of student participation and leadership in organizing the festival. He said that the event provides a unique platform for students to engage in cultural, artistic, and extracurricular activities while developing organizational and teamwork skills. He said that the collaborative efforts of students, faculty, and administrative staff have been central to the successful execution of the festival. “Such events play a vital role in enhancing the campus environment, fostering creativity, and promoting holistic development among

students,” Prof. Bazaz added. Earlier, Dr Janani L, Coordinator of Rang-e-Chinar 2.0, addressed the gathering, highlighting the scale and scope of the festival. “The event features more than 40 competitions and cultural activities over two days, with participation from over 25 institutions across Jammu and Kashmir and an expected footfall of more than 8,000 attendees,” she said. Dr. Janani said the theme ‘Roots and Rhythms’, explaining that it represents a fusion of cultural heritage with contemporary artistic expression. She outlined the variety of activities, from traditional art forms such as Silambam, Henna Art, Crochet, Fabric Painting, and Clay Art to modern competitions in dance, singing, acting, poetry, photography, and rap battles. Dr. Janani also detailed the pro shows planned for the festival, including performances by Waqar Khan, Momin Band, Shor Band, and On Edge DJ, aimed at providing high-energy entertainment for attendees. A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Iqra Altaf, who extended gratitude to Director Prof. Binod Kumar Kanujia for his continuous guidance and support. She acknowledged Prof. Roohie Naaz Mir for her dedication, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman for ensuring smooth administration, and Prof. Mohammad Abid Bazaz for his leadership in organizing the festival. She also recognized the support of all Heads of Departments, Deans, and wardens for facilitating student participation. Dr. Iqra highlighted the contributions of the event coordinators, including Dr. Janani, Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Dr. Sparsh Sharma, and Dr. Pankaj Kumar, whose planning and dedication ensured the festival ran smoothly. She also thanked the administrative and non-teaching staff, local police authorities, Tehsilidar, and other members of the local administration for their cooperation. (DIPR)

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer

Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

GIST of Detailed e-NT No:- 49/J5-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26.

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for **"registered experienced Contractors of Machine Drilled Hand pump wells"** as per details given below The bidding process shall be completed online on **www.iktenders.gov.in** in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	S. No of AA	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money (EMD)	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Major Head /Program me	Technical Sanction	Tend er Call
1.	02	Installation of Bore well (Pattan Nowgam behind Degree College, Pattan, Pattan main town Nags, Checksan Nowlari, Agrikalan, Kongamdara, Malik bagh Pattan Pahlallan	Rs. 25.34 Lacs	Rs.76,200 /-	Rs.1100/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	CDS of MLA Pattan 2025-26.	JS-PHE/GWDS/ CDS/ 24 of 10/ 2025, Dt: 23-10-2025	1 st
2.	01	Installation of Tube well at Pinjpora, Utikoo Wussan, Yail, Sonim (05 units).	Rs. 15.00 Lacs	Rs.45,000 /-	Rs.700/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	CDF of MLA Gulmarg.	JS-PHE/GWDS/ CDF/ 25 of 10/ 2025, Dt: 23-10-2025	1 st
3.	01	Digging of Bore well at Environment Park Kijjora Ganderbal.	Rs. 8.56 Lacs	Rs.25,700 /-	Rs.500/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	Capex Budget 2025-26.	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Other Deptt./ 10 of 10/ 2025, Dt: 23-10-2025	1 st
4.	01	Digging of Tube well at Environment Park Manigam District Ganderbal.	Rs. 3.84. 00 Lacs	Rs.11,600 /-	Rs.300/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	Capex Budget 2025-26	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Other Deptt./ 09 of 10/ 2025, Dt: 23-10-2025	1 st

Position of Funds:- Available:

- (For Sl. No.01): Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the District Development Commissioner Baramulla Vide Order No: 210/DDC of 2025, issued under endorsement No.DCB/ CDS/MLA- Pattan/ 2025-26/10879-83, Dated: 11-10-2025.
- (For Sl. No. 02): Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the District Development Commissioner Baramulla Vide Order No: 206/DDC of 2025, issued under endorsement No. DDCB/CDS /MLA-Gulmarg/ 2025-26/10853-60, Dated: 11-10-2025.
- (For Sl. No. 03): Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the PCCF/ Director Vide Order No: 91/DEERS Of 2025, issued under endorsement No. CC.7669032/DEERS/Acctt/2025-26/063/571-73, Dated: 26-08-2025.
- (For Sl. No. 04): a). Director Ecology , Environment & Remote Sensing Kashmir's letter No. MMO,DEERS /2025-26/440-43, Dated: 09-10-2025.
- b). Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the PCCF/ Director Vide Order No: 105/ DEERS of 2025, issued under endorsement No. CC.7669032/DEERS/Acctt/2025-26/625-626, Dated: 28-08-2025.

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.iktenders.gov.in>

From 25.10.2025 (10:00 AM) to 01.11.2025 (11:00 AM)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: **<https://www.iktenders.gov.in>**

As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

Table-II															
1.	Publishing Date 25-10-2025 (10:00 A.M)														
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids 25-10-2025 (10:00 A.M) upto 01-11-2025 (11:00 A.M)														
3.	Period of Submission of bids 25-10-2025 (10:00 A.M) upto 01-11-2025 (11:00 A.M)														
4.	Date of opening of Tender. 01-11-2025 (03:00 P.M)														
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011														
6.	Cost of Tender Document : Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/ e-challan/ via online deposited to Account Head 0215 or in the below mentioned account Number in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply) <table><tr><td>Name of Bank</td><td>Jammu & Kashmir Bank</td></tr><tr><td>Name of Branch</td><td>Residency Road, Lal Chowk-190001</td></tr><tr><td>Name of Account</td><td>Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.</td></tr><tr><td>Account Type</td><td>Current Accounts Government.</td></tr><tr><td>Account Number</td><td>0005 0405 0004 7709</td></tr><tr><td>IFSC Code</td><td>JAKA0CHINAR</td></tr><tr><td>MICR Code</td><td>190051056</td></tr></table>	Name of Bank	Jammu & Kashmir Bank	Name of Branch	Residency Road, Lal Chowk-190001	Name of Account	Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.	Account Type	Current Accounts Government.	Account Number	0005 0405 0004 7709	IFSC Code	JAKA0CHINAR	MICR Code	190051056
Name of Bank	Jammu & Kashmir Bank														
Name of Branch	Residency Road, Lal Chowk-190001														
Name of Account	Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.														
Account Type	Current Accounts Government.														
Account Number	0005 0405 0004 7709														
IFSC Code	JAKA0CHINAR														
MICR Code	190051056														
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days														
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.iktenders.gov.in														

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR and (The date of CDR/FDR etc must not be prior to 03 months from the date of issuance of this e-Nit and Treasury Receipt) (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) as cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 01-11-2025 (03:00 PM) If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No:- JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Comp/10196-213
Dated:- 24-10-2025

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division, Srinagar.

DIPK-7498/25 Dt: 25-10-2025

India's Healthcare Now 'Accessible, Affordable, Available': Dr. Jitendra Singh

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Saturday highlighted the rapidly changing paradigms of medical education in India as also those of health care, pointing to a transformative decade that has made healthcare in India more accessible, affordable, and inclusive.

Addressing the 54th Foundation Day and College Convocation of the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS), University of Delhi, Dr. Jitendra Singh conferred degrees upon undergraduate and postgraduate students and urged the new generation of doctors to embrace innovation while staying rooted in compassion.

The Minister observed that medical education in India has witnessed a paradigm shift in the past decade with a steep rise in the number of medical colleges and training opportunities. "Ten years ago, there were only about 45,000 undergraduate medical seats; today, the number is close to 1.5 lakh," he said, noting that the expansion of institutions like AIIMS has democratised access to medical education across regions and enabled more women to pursue medical careers.

He described the transformation of healthcare delivery as "three-fold — accessible, affordable, and available," crediting initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat and Jan Aushadhi Kendras for redefining the relationship between the state and the citizen in health matters. Sharing anecdotes from his medical career, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted how health insurance in India has evolved to cover pre-existing diseases — a shift he called "one of the most humane innovations" in public health policy.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also emphasised the growing global credibility of India's life sciences sector. "It is this department — the Department of Biotechnology — that has developed the world's first DNA vaccine for COVID-19,



and the HPV vaccine for cervical cancer prevention," he said, noting that India now supplies indigenous vaccines to over 200 countries.

Pointing to India's first indigenous antibiotic 'Nafithromycin' and successful gene therapy trials for haemophilia published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Dr. Jitendra Singh said such breakthroughs reflect India's emergence as a leader in preventive and therapeutic healthcare. He urged UCMS and similar institutions to collaborate with the private sector in conducting advanced clinical trials and research. "The age of working in silos is over," he remarked, encouraging academic institutions to integrate with industry and government laboratories.

A Souvenir marking the institution's 54-year journey was released on the occasion, capturing the college's milestones in medical education, research, and public

service. The publication highlighted UCMS's growing contribution to India's healthcare ecosystem, particularly its partnership with GTB Hospital in community-based health initiatives.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also presented awards and medals to meritorious students and faculty members in recognition of their academic excellence and contributions to medical research and teaching. The Minister congratulated the awardees and expressed confidence that India's new generation of doctors would play a decisive role in shaping the nation's healthcare priorities.

Reflecting on the evolving health challenges, the Minister said today's doctors must deal with a "bi-phasic disease spectrum" — the coexistence of communicable and non-communicable diseases — alongside an ageing population and rapid technological changes. He noted that the integration of artificial intelligence in medicine, which he himself has experimented with through tele-mobile clinics, is set to redefine diagnostics and patient care. "AI can communicate in the patient's own language and even provide comfort through human-like interaction," he said, calling it a hybrid model that combines empathy with innovation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded by reminding young graduates of their unique position in shaping the future of healthcare. "Those receiving their degrees today will be at the prime of their careers when India celebrates 100 years of independence in 2047," he said. "Destiny has given you this opportunity to be the architects of a healthier, more self-reliant India." (PIB)

No. of medical colleges India increased from 387 to 819 in 11 years: Nadda

NEW DELHI: The number of medical colleges in the country has gone up from 387 to 819 in the last 11 years, Union Health Minister Nadda said on Saturday.

Addressing the 50th Annual Convocation Ceremony of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here, Nadda said similarly, the number of undergraduate medical seats has risen from 51,000 to 1.29 lakh and that of postgraduate seats from 31,000 to 78,000.

He said an additional 75,000 seats are expected to be added across the undergraduate and postgraduate levels in the next five years.

The health minister congratulated the graduating students and commended the AIIMS for its unparalleled contribution to advancing medical science, education and patient care in the country.

He exhorted the young doctors to serve people with empathy, uphold the highest standards of ethics and harness innovation to meet the country's evolving healthcare needs.

Nadda also noted that the country has made considerable progress in maternal and child health, with the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) declining from 130 to 88 and the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) from 39 to 27, according to the Sample Registration Survey (SRS) data.

Under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR) and Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) have also shown significant reductions of 42 per cent and 39 per cent, respectively, both exceeding the global average.

Nadda further stated that TB incidence in India has dropped by 17.7 per cent, more than twice the global rate of 8.3 per cent, as reported by The Lancet Report.

Concluding his address, the health minister requested the graduating students to actively contribute to academics and research, and uphold the prestigious legacy and brand of the AIIMS through excellence in their professional and ethical conduct.

He encouraged them to remain lifelong learners and innovators, committed to advancing medical science and serving the society with compassion. (PTI)



Pakistan should end grave, ongoing human rights violations: India at UNSC calls J&K an "integral and inalienable part"

NEW DELHI: India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Parvathaneni Harish, called upon Pakistan to end the "grave and ongoing human rights violations in the areas illegally occupied by it", particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.



"We call upon Pakistan to end the grave and ongoing human rights violations in the areas illegally occupied by it, where the population is in open revolt against Pakistan's military occupation, repression, brutality and illegal exploitation of resources," Ambassador Harish said, while addressing the United Nations Security Council during the open debate organised on the 80th UN Day on Friday (local time).

Reiterating that Jammu and Kashmir will always be an "integral and inalienable part of India," the Ambassador said that while the people in the region exercise their fundamental rights, such concepts are "alien" to Pakistan.

"Let me emphasise that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been, is, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India. The people of Jammu and Kashmir exercise their fundamental rights in accordance with India's time-tested democratic traditions and constitutional

framework. We, of course, know that these are concepts alien to Pakistan," he said.

Harish emphasised India's commitment to Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, seeing the world as one family, and advocating for justice, dignity, and prosperity for all.

"This is not only an outlook that anchors our worldview, but also the reason why India has consistently advocated for justice, dignity, opportunity and prosperity for all societies and peoples. It is also the reason why India places its faith in multilateralism, international partnerships and cooperation," he said.

While addressing the UNSC Open Debate, the Indian Ambassador highlighted the UN's contributions since World War 2, while acknowledging questions related to relevance, legitimacy, credibility, and efficacy.

"The theme of this debate gains great salience at a time when the world's largest multilateral organisation — the United Nations — faces questions related to relevance, legitimacy, credibility, and efficacy," Ambassador Harish said.

The ambassador further highlighted how the organisation worked for decolonisation, and became a "beacon of hope for international peace and security."

"This organisation was founded in the aftermath of the Second World War as a beacon of hope for international peace and security. It advanced decolonisation; it has been instrumental in the emergence of new nation-states in the Global South; it drew up ambitious markers for economic growth, social development, and prosperity; it focused our minds on global challenges such as pandemics, countering terrorism and climate change," he added.

October 24 marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945.

With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, which included the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being. (ANI)

Russian missile and drone attacks kill 4 in Ukraine as Zelenskyy pleads for air defence

KYIV: Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukraine overnight into Saturday killed at least four people and wounded 20, officials said, and prompted fresh pleas from Ukraine's president for Western air defence systems.

In the capital, Kyiv, two people were killed and 13 were wounded in a ballistic missile attack in the early hours of Saturday, Kyiv's police said.

A fire broke out in a non-residential building in one location, while debris from intercepted missiles fell in an open area at another site, damaging windows in nearby buildings, Ukraine's State Emergency Service wrote on the message app Telegram.

"Explosions in the capital. The city is under ballistic attack," Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on Telegram during the onslaught.

In the Dnipropetrovsk region, two people were killed and seven wounded, acting regional Gov Vladyslav Haivanenko said, adding that apartment buildings and private homes were damaged in the strikes.

Ukraine's air force said Russia launched nine missiles and 62 drones, of which four missiles and 50 drones were intercepted.

In Russia, the Defence Ministry said its air defences shot down 121 Ukrainian drones over Russia overnight.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that such attacks intensify Ukraine's need for Patriot defence systems.

"It is precisely because of such attacks that we pay special attention to Patriot systems — to be able to protect our cities from this horror. It is critical that partners who possess relevant capability implement what we have discussed in recent days," he wrote in English on X.

"America, Europe and the G7 countries can help ensure that such attacks no longer threaten lives," he said.

Zelenskyy is hoping Ukraine can purchase 25 Patriots from the US to fortify its air defences, particularly in cities.

On Friday, he urged the United States to expand its sanctions on Russian oil from two companies to the whole sector, and appealed for long-range missiles to hit back at Russia.

Zelenskyy was in London for talks with two dozen European leaders who have pledged military help to shield his country from future

Russian aggression if a ceasefire stops the more than three-year war.

The meeting hosted by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer aimed to step up pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, adding momentum to recent measures that have included a new round of sanctions from the United States and



European countries on Russia's vital oil and gas export earnings.

The talks also addressed ways of helping protect Ukraine's power grid from Russia's almost daily drone and missile attacks as winter approaches, enhancing Ukrainian air defences, and supplying Kyiv with longer-range missiles that can strike deep inside Russia.

Zelenskyy has urged the US to send Tomahawk missiles, an idea US President Donald Trump has considered.

Kirill Dmitriev, Putin's envoy for investment and economic cooperation, said Friday he believes Russia, the US and Ukraine were "quite close to a diplomatic solution" to end the three-year war.

Speaking to CNN after arriving in Washington for talks with US officials, Dmitriev said a planned summit in Budapest between Trump and Putin had not been cancelled but would likely occur later.

Trump said Tuesday his plan for a swift meeting with Putin was on hold because he didn't want it to be a "waste of time."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov made clear in public comments Tuesday that Russia is opposed to an immediate ceasefire.

A White House official confirmed Friday that Dmitriev, who announced his visit on X, will meet with US envoy Steve Witkoff. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorised to publicly discuss the private meeting. (PTI)

LG Kavinder Gupta attends historic first Passing Out Parade of Ladakh Police

453 Recruits including 209 women join the force

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, Saturday addressed the first-ever Passing Out Parade of Ladakh Police at the Police Training Centre, Stong-Sar, marking a historic milestone in the journey of India's youngest police force.

The Lt Governor inspected the parade and took salute of the marching contingents during the march past/Rashtriya salute. He also felicitated the All-Round Best Recruit Constables of Ladakh Police, namely R/Ct Sonam Yangchan (all round best & indoor best), R/Ct Jigmet Palkit (outdoor best) and R/Ct Mohd Sharif (best marks men).

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that the day symbolizes the growing strength, discipline, and self-reliance of Ladakh Police. He noted that since the formation of the Union Territory, Ladakh Police has faced numerous challenges — from modernizing basic infrastructure to building a self-sufficient training ecosystem and ensuring security across strategically significant areas. "It was through these challenges that the resilience and determination of Ladakh Police were forged,"

he said.

Highlighting the administration's commitment to strengthening the police force, Kavinder Gupta said the UT government has undertaken major initiatives for modernization, infrastructure upgradation, training, housing, welfare, and digital transformation.

He mentioned that police presence and assistance have been enhanced in key tourist areas, and special focus is being placed on women's participation, improved communication systems, and welfare of police personnel and their families.

The Lt Governor said that the establishment of the Police Training Centre at Stong-Sar, which began in 2022, represents a new era of training self-reliance for Ladakh. "This institution will not only train new police personnel locally to meet Ladakh's unique challenges but will also serve the training needs of other UT departments in the future," he added.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to youth empowerment, Kavinder Gupta announced that 453 recruits, including 209 women constables, have successfully completed their training — a landmark achievement that reflects the government's efforts to create more employment opportunities for Ladakhi youth. The recruitment process for Sub-Inspectors, he said, will begin soon to further strengthen the force. (PIB)

Minister George Kurian calls for active registration under NFD

THRISSUR: Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri George Kurian, urged all those associated with the fisheries sector to actively register under the National Fisheries Development Programme (NFD) to avail insurance coverage and multiple welfare benefits.

He was addressing a Fisheries Outreach Programme organized at Thrissur today. The Minister emphasized that the objective of the NFD is to ensure that maximum benefits reach those associated with the fishing community.

The Minister appreciated the Government of Kerala for extending full cooperation in implementing the Central Government policies in fisheries sector.

Highlighting the progress made in infrastructure development, Shri Kurian said that many fishing harbours have been redeveloped through the joint efforts of both governments. The Minister also informed that low-interest loans are being provided for the development of fish-



ing harbours.

The Minister stated that nine integrated coastal villages in Kerala have been selected for development. He said that facilities such as processing centres, kiosks, and community centres will be installed in these villages. These projects, aimed at promoting climate-resilient and technology-driven fisheries, will be fully funded by the Central Government with an allocation of 2 crore. The Minister also mentioned that the State Government will identify the beneficiary villages. The Minister also emphasized that we must work towards increasing fisheries production. "India today ranks second globally in fish production and processing, a result of the hard work and dedication of our fishers and fish farmers," he said.

He also stated the Government is committed in supporting cooperative societies of fish farmers, ensuring that they receive due benefits under welfare and development schemes.

Concluding his address, the Minister remarked that India's strength lies in its unity, and urged everyone in the sector to work hard and contribute to the turning Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat a reality by 2047.

The Outreach Programme aimed to create awareness among fishers and fish farmers about various welfare and livelihood enhancement schemes of the Government of India and to promote sustainable fisheries practices.

During the event, George Kurian distributed Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs), transponders, and NFD registration certificates, and interacted with fishers and fish farmers to understand their challenges and discuss opportunities for strengthening Kerala's fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

The event also served as a platform for direct engagement between the Minister and stakeholders, facilitating the delivery of key benefits under the Department of Fisheries, Government of India. (PIB)



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