THE DAILY
Fish Eye
Published From Srinagar

Srinagar • TUESDAY • 28 , OCTOBER 2025 • Volume: 15 • Issue No. 248 • Pages 08 • Rs. 2/- • RNI No. JKENG/2011/39531 • Email:editorfisheye@gmail.com • visit us at ////www.dailyfisheye.com

Govt Schools Will Spearhead India's Education Reforms: LG Sinha

Inaugurates DREAM School Project in Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: "Government schools will lead the future of India's learning reforms," the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday. He said the Robotics Lab, STEM innovation centres, smart classrooms, advanced digital infrastructure, professional development for teachers, and holistic learning spaces will unlock the potential of every child. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the inauguration of DREAM School Project at the prestigious Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi Bagh, Srinagar.

The project- Developing Resilient Education and Aspirational Mindsets (DREAM) is a collaboration between the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the Faizal and Shabana Foundation that was initiated through an MoU in March 2023.

As per the MoU, the Faizal and Shabana Foundation has constructed the middle school block with state-of-the-art facilities such as Robotics and STEM Lab, ACs for all the rooms and a dedicated lunchroom with separate kitchen and a storeroom. The DREAM School Project was committed by Mr. Faizal Kottikollon, Chairman of the UAE India Business Council–UAE Chapter (UIBC–UC), during a high-level UIBC-UC delegation visit to Srinagar in 2023.



The project aimed to transform public education in Jammu Kashmir, builds on the success of the Nadakkavu School model in Kerala, which has been ranked among the top 3 best Government Day schools in India for the past five years.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said the project is a testament to our commitment to ensure global standard education to every child and a progressive environment for them to aspire and dream big. He further stated that his goal is to ensure that every school in Jammu Kashmir becomes a hub of innovation, inclusion, and inspiration - nurturing the youth who will shape the nation's future.

"We are committed to foster a nurturing and empowering atmosphere that propels each student towards growth and excellence in the school, which will guarantee holistic development encompassing social, emotional, and intellectual growth for every student, moulding them into exemplary citizens of the future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

> "Our youth are our **greatest strength**, and their talent and potential will drive our vision for the **future**. Over the past few years, we have invested deeply in transforming our **education ecosystem** to make Jammu Kashmir an 'Oasis of **Talent**'," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the key initiatives taken by the UT Administration, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, aimed at equal access to education, promoting inclusivity, enhancing infrastructure, empowering youth, and aligning education

See On P/6

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO FOSTER A NURTURING AND EMPOWERING ATMOSPHERE THAT PROPELS EACH STUDENT TOWARDS GROWTH AND EXCELLENCE IN THE SCHOOL, which will guarantee holistic development encompassing social, emotional, and intellectual growth for every student, moulding them into exemplary citizens of the future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

We Must Be Prepared For Long Wars: Rajnath Singh

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Terming faceoff with Pakistan post Pahalgam terror attack in May this year as a reminder that hostilities can erupt anytime, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said that India must be prepared for potential war that can breakout without any prior warning.

Speaking at the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) Annual Session here, Singh said, "The outcome of Operation Sindoor demonstrated the growing strength of India's indigenous defence ecosystem."

He said indigenous systems such as the Akash missile system, BrahMos cruise missile, and AkashTeer Air Defence Control System played a key role during the operation. "We all saw how these systems and other home-grown platforms performed during Operation Sindoor. Their success has strengthened India's reputation not only in the region but also globally," Singh said.



The Defence Minister said that while the soldiers executed the mission on the frontlines, it was equally the result of the efforts of engineers, scientists, and industry professionals working behind the scenes.

"The success of Operation Sindoor belongs not just to the soldiers who fought, but also to those who designed, developed, and produced the technology that made it possible," he said. "People working in research, innovation, and manufacturing are silent contributors to national

See On P/6

Speaker rejects Lone's adjournment motion on reservation policy

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Monday rejected an adjournment motion brought by Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone to discuss the government's "failure" to rationalize the reservation policy.

After the Question Hour concluded, Lone



drew the attention of the Chair to an adjournment motion he had submitted, seeking a discussion on the

See On P/6

Over 10,500 medical, paramedical posts lying vacant in health institutions: Sakina Itoo



SRINAGAR: The Health and Medical Education Minister, Sakina Itoo on Monday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that a total of 10,555 medical and paramedical posts are currently lying vacant across the Union Territory in various healthcare institutions, including the Directorates of Health Services in Kashmir and Jammu divisions, as well as Government Medical Colleges (GMCs).

The revelation, came through a question raised by MLA Shakti Raj Parihar, who sought details about the staff shortage and its impact on healthcare delivery across the Union Territory.

Sakina Itoo informed the House that 5,718 posts are vacant in the

See On P/6

Over 19,500 Hectares Of Forest Land Encroached In J&K: Govt

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has disclosed that a significant area of 19,501.87 hectares of forest land remains under illegal encroachment across the Union Territory as of September 30, 2025.

This information was presented by the Forest Department in a written reply to an inquiry from Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, the Honourable Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Jammu South, during the ongoing Autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly.

A detailed, division-wise breakdown of the encroachments was provided in an annexure, a copy of which is with Kashmir Convener.

In response to the situation, the Forest Department outlined a multi-pronged strategy to reclaim the illegally occupied land. According to the reply, the key measures being undertaken include detailed surveys and boundary demarcation exercises are being carried out to accurately identify encroached areas.

Notices are being issued to encroachers under Section 79(A) of the Indian Forest Act,



1927, directing them to vacate the land.

The department is conducting active eviction drives to physically remove illegal occupants from forest land.

Following eviction, the retrieved land is fenced and replanted with indigenous species to restore its forest cover and

See On P/6

CM Omar Vows Fair Relief for 2025 Flood Victims

No politics or regional bias in relief distribution, says Chief Minister

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah intervened during the Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, reiterating his Government's stance on land allotment for the landless and the distribution of relief for recent damages across regions.

Responding to a query raised by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta on behalf of MLA Sham Lal Sharma, the Chief Minister said that the Government is not bringing any fresh policy as the existing framework adequately addresses the issue.

"The Minister has already given the correct answer. The question is not about the absence of a policy but whether there is a need for a



fresh one. We are not introducing a new policy because there is no need for it," the Chief Minister stated.

Elaborating on the Government's initiative for the landless, Omar Abdullah said, "We have already announced that five marlas of land will be provided to landless families for construction of houses. The

> The **Chief Minister** said that teams from the **Government of India**, including the Home Minister and Agriculture Minister, visited the **affected areas** to assess the damage alongside local authorities.

necessary paperwork is underway. For residents, the land will be allotted on a lease basis."

Addressing concerns over regional parity in relief

See On P/6

Compensation of Rs 12.28 Lakh Disbursed to Impacted Farmers: Javid Dar

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar informed the Legislative that 12.28 lakh has been disbursed to the affected farmers as compensation for the losses caused by natural weather vagaries that struck various parts of Jammu and Kashmir during September 2025.

He stated that the total compensation amount calculated for eligible losses under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) norms stands at 152.37 lakh, out of which 12.28 lakh has already been disbursed.

Minister was responding to the Calling attention motion moved my MLA Hilal Akbar Lone regarding the steps taken by the government for providing of compensation to the affected farmers, due to the recent blockade of national highway.

He also informed that despite the temporary disruption of road connectivity along National Highway-44 due to heavy rains and landslides, the government ensured transportation of apple produce from the Kashmir Valley to major markets



outside the Union Territory.

"During the road-blocked period, 1,25,376 apple boxes worth 10.03 crore were dispatched by train from Budgam and Anantnag to Jammu and Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. Up to 23rd October 2025, approximately 14,000 metric tonnes (9 lakh boxes) have been transported from various Fruit and Vegetable markets of the Kashmir Valley to destinations outside Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory through rail services," the Minister said.

> He stated that the total compensation amount calculated for eligible losses under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) norms stands at ₹152.37 lakh, out of which ₹12.28 lakh has already been disbursed.

Regarding the damage caused to farmers by the recent floods and

See On P/6

J&K Statehood Hopes Dimming: Omar Abdullah

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that delays in restoring statehood are diminishing hope among the people. He clarified that there is no understanding between the National Conference (NC) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), but his efforts are focused on maintaining relations with the central government to ensure proper governance.



Speaking to the media persons, Omar, said he will not utter anything regarding resigning as the Chief Minister, as mentioned by him in an interview yesterday. "The person who conducted that interview also tried to ask me questions around this. I didn't answer them. If I didn't answer her, why do you think I will answer you?" he said.

Abdullah said he was hopeful for the restoration of statehood from the first day. "But the hope is fading with each passing day. Still, I am hopeful of its restoration. The more you make us wait, the less hopeful we will be. Only one year has passed. It would be better if we could have it during this hopefulness," he said.

The CM said the government wanted to talk about the restoration of statehood. However, the speaker didn't allow the discussion as the case is subjudice, he said. "I had no objection if any MLA tried to bring a resolution on statehood. The custodian of the house is the speaker, and only he can decide on the introduction of bills and resolutions."

"I know where I stand in the matter of statehood. I know that if a resolution of statehood comes before the House, then my colleagues and I will vote," he added.

See On P/6

J&K Govt Seeks NIA Nod For Starting Work On Cable Car Project In Pahalgam

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said it has sought the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) nod for starting work on a cable car project in Baisaran in the tourist resort of Pahalgam, the site of the April 22 terror attack.

The NIA is probing the attack, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, died.

In response to an unstarred question by Pahalgam MLA Altaf Ahmad Wani in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, the government said the project work has been allotted to a company but it has not begun "in view of the post-Pahalgam scenario".

The alignment for the 1.4-km project has been identified by the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC).

"The lower terminal point is located near the Yatri Niwas in Pahalgam and the upper terminal point is located in Baisaran. The total length of the project would be 1.4 km. The... 9.13 Hects (land required) for the project belongs to the Forest Department," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who holds the tourism portfolio, said in a written reply.

See On P/6

DC Kishtwar approves 103 Youth Projects under Mission YUVA

FE NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) met under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma to review and approve applications



submitted under the Mission YUVA scheme.

A total of 103 applications, duly verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs), were presented before the Committee. Each proposal was assessed for eligibility, project feasibility and the socio-economic background of the applicant.

After thorough scrutiny, the Committee approved all 103 applications for financial assistance and handholding support.

The DC directed the AD Employment to ensure that all approved cases are forwarded to banks at the earliest so that applicants can receive timely benefits under the scheme.

He also directed banks to sanction and disburse loans without delay and to provide regular mentorship to support the new entrepreneurs.

Mission YUVA continues to play a vital role in creating livelihood opportunities for the youth of Kishtwar district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC Pawan Kotwal; PO ICDS Dr. Rishi Sharma; DSWO Tariq Parvez Qazi; Manager JK Bank Cluster Office Anil Sharma; EO MC Vinod Kumar; DNO JKEDI Aejaz Ahmed; DDM NABARD Nikhil Sharma and other concerned officers.

Pesticide Testing Laboratory Jammu Accredited under ISO/IEC 17025

JAMMU: The Pesticide Testing Laboratory (PTL), Jammu has achieved a prestigious milestone with its accreditation under ISO/IEC 17025, marking a significant step toward strengthening agricultural quality assurance and analytical



excellence in the region.

The remarkable achievement has been realized under the dynamic leadership and guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta and Agriculture Chemist Jammu Vinod Sharma, whose continuous support and vision have been instrumental in upgrading the laboratory infrastructure and aligning it with international testing standards.

The Director Agriculture Jammu congratulated the entire team of PTL Jammu for their dedication and professional excellence. He stated that this accreditation is a proud moment for the Department and a testament to its commitment to ensuring quality control in agricultural inputs. He added that the laboratory's enhanced credibility will help safeguard farmers' interests by ensuring that only genuine and standard-quality pesticides reach the market.

The Agriculture Chemist Jammu expressed gratitude to the Directorate and the laboratory team for their coordinated efforts in achieving this milestone. He emphasized that the accreditation will further improve the accuracy and reliability of testing results, thereby contributing to evidence-based decision-making and quality assurance in the agriculture sector.The officers also acknowledged the contribution of Assistant Agriculture Chemist Jammu Ravinder Gupta and the whole team of the Pesticide Testing Laboratory including Research Assistant Tarminder Singh; JAEO Vikas Gupta; JAEO Inderdeep Singh; JAEO Adarash Anand Thaploo and JAEO Raman Preet Kour.

The ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation reaffirms PTL Jammu's commitment to providing reliable, precise and internationally recognized testing services. This milestone will greatly benefit farmers, agro-input suppliers, and other stakeholders across the Union Territory by ensuring the availability of quality-assured pesticides and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Div Com Jammu Reviews Arrangements For Darbar Move

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today reviewed the arrangements being made for the Darbar Move to winter capital, including residential and official accommodation for the government officials and staff arriving here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, MD JKTDC, Regional Officer NHAI, DIG traffic, Director Estates, Director Health Services Jammu, Chief Engineers of PWD, PDD and Jal Shakti.

The Divisional Commissioner inquired about the arrangements being made by the Director Estates at the Civil Secretariat and the government residential Quarters for the comfortable stay of move employees.

Managing Director JKTDC was asked to make arrangements for providing meals during the Darbar Move between Banihal and Jammu.

Chief Engineers of PWD and Jal Shakti were directed to take measures for adequate water and power supply to the government residential quarters.

DC Bandipora chairs meeting on Solid Waste Management under Swachh Bharat Mission

FE NEWS NETWORK

Focus on source segregation and Plastic Waste Management

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired a meeting to review the progress of Solid Waste Management under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.



The meeting was attended by officers from the Urban Local Bodies, Rural Development Department, WUCMA, Legal Metrology, Pollution Control Board, Cooperative Department, besides Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, Block Development Officers, and other concerned stakeholders.

The meeting discussed the self-assessment summary of Solid Waste Management across important parameters such as door-to-door waste collection, source segregation, processing by bulk waste generators, wet and dry waste processing capacity, dumpsite remediation, and geo-mapping of waste processing facilities, C&D facilities, landfills, dumpsites, and STPs/FSTPs. The aspirational parameters covering geo-mapping of wards, drains, nallahs, and water bodies, along with mechanisms for waste sale, were also reviewed.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all Executive Officers to share the list of bulk waste generators with the Pollution Control Committee (PCC) along with details of the quantum and nature of waste generated. She stressed on roping in Cooperative Societies to strengthen local-level waste collection and processing, and called for interaction with interested cooperative units to explore viable partnerships. It was informed that rural sanitation efforts will be supported through third-party agencies, while necessary infrastructural assistance shall be provided by the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat's office.

The DC also laid emphasis on achieving the Garbage-Free City (GFC) Star Rating, stating that efforts are underway to attain 1-Star certification for Bandipora town and 3-Star certification for Sumbal. She directed officers to engage a professional agency for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns to raise awareness among citizens regarding source segregation, plastic waste management, and sustainable waste disposal practices.

During the discussion, the DC underscored the importance of coordination between the Urban Development Department (UDD) and Rural Development Department (RDD) and proposed the signing of an MoU between the two departments for ensuring effective waste collection and awareness generation in rural areas.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that the district administration is committed to promoting transparency, accountability, and public participation in achieving Swachh Bharat Mission goals and urged all departments to work collectively towards making Bandipora clean, sustainable, and garbage-free.

J&K Bank commences Vigilance Awareness Week- 2025

Vigilance is a mindset that must guide our actions every single day: MD & CEO

SRINAGAR: In line with the nation-wide campaign led by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), J&K Bank marked the commencement of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 .

MD &CEO Amitava Chatterjee presided over the event from Delhi through VC, while Executive Director Sudhir Gupta and CGM Sunit Kumar joined from Jammu. At CHQ, the event was attended by CGM Imtiyaz Ahmad, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) Ambrish Kumar Mishra, General Managers, Deputy General Managers, and other senior officers of the Bank.

The observance began with MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee administering the Integrity Pledge to the officers and staff of the bank.

This year, the Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from 27th October to 2nd November 2025 with the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility", underscoring the collective duty of all stakeholders to promote integrity and transparency in every sphere of public life.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee highlighted the importance of individual and institutional commitment to ethical conduct.

He said, "Integrity is the foundation of trust and the lifeblood of sustainable growth. As a leading financial institution, it is our shared duty to ensure that every process, every transaction, and every decision reflects fairness, honesty, and accountability."

"This week reminds us that vigilance is not just a policy—it's a mindset that must guide our actions every single day," he added.



Reaffirming the Bank's commitment to preventive vigilance, CVO Ambrish Kumar Mishra emphasized the need for proactive participation by every employee.

"Vigilance is most effective when it becomes part of our organizational culture. Each one of us has a role to play in ensuring transparency, compliance, and ethical governance," the CVO said.

"The true strength of our vigilance system lies in awareness, collaboration, and a shared resolve to uphold integrity in all our dealings," he remarked.

As part of the week-long observance, the Bank has planned to organize several initiatives including an Online quiz on anti-corruption and preventive vigilance measures through its intranet besides awareness campaigns on it's social media platforms besides radio programs.

Meanwhile, during the day, all Divisional, Zonal, Cluster, and Branch Heads across the Bank's network also administered the Integrity Pledge to their respective teams reinforcing a unified institutional stand against corruption and unethical practices.

The observance of 'Vigilance Week' reflects the Bank's continued commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance in its operations, while aligning with the national vision of a corruption-free and ethically driven work culture.

DC Rajouri Reviews Implementation Of Health Programmes

Stresses on quality service delivery, outreach activities

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of various health programmes in the district.



The meeting witnessed detailed discussions on maternal and child health, Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC), Home Based Young Child Care (HBYC), and Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK). The Deputy Commissioner directed field teams to ensure regular visits to homes, schools, and Anganwadi Centres to strengthen grassroots-level health interventions.

Taking a serious note of institutional deliveries, the DC directed the Health Department to promote institutional deliveries at Kalakote and Darhal by rationalizing deployment of anaesthesia and gynaecology specialists to cater to local needs. He also reviewed the status of Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) and Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and emphasized prompt and transparent service delivery to all eligible beneficiaries.

The DC further directed the department to ensure provision of free diet and transport services under JSSK across all health institutions of the district to provide improved maternal and child care outcomes.

Other key parameters reviewed included sex ratio at birth, family planning services, child immunization, adolescent health, inpatient and diagnostic services, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening, cataract surgeries, Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) performance, and the functioning of Block Public Health Units (BPHUs) in the district.

The DC directed the department to ensure 100% screening of the vulnerable population so that TB can be eradicated. He further instructed to organize regular training sessions for ASHA workers, obtain feedback from them, and felicitate top-performing ASHAs who have received the highest incentives as a motivation for others.

Highlighting the importance of community participation, the DC asked the department to engage nursing college students as 'Adi Sahyogis' in tribal villages to support awareness generation and service delivery in far-flung areas.

Reviewing telemedicine facilities at Badhaal, Dhar Sakri and Bagla, the Deputy Commissioner directed officials to enhance digital consultation access for the rural population to bridge the healthcare gap. He also instructed the RBSK teams to scale up their performance and organize visual and audio impairment screening camps, ensuring line-listing of identified individuals for follow-up and necessary medical interventions.

While reviewing the functioning of Primary Health Centres (PHCs), the DC stressed the need to improve infrastructure, optimize manpower utilization, and enhance service quality to ensure better patient care and satisfaction.

Baramulla hosts District-Level Viksit Bharat Cultural & Innovation Fest under National Youth Festival 2025–26

BARAMULLA: In connection with the National Youth Festival 2025–26, the Department of Youth



Services and Sports, District Baramulla, organized a vibrant and inspiring District-Level Viksit Bharat Cultural and Innovation Track Competition at the Indoor Stadium, Khawaja Bagh Baramulla.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 150 schooling and non-schooling youth in the 15–29 years age group, showcasing their creativity, intellect, and cultural brilliance.

The competitions included Declamation, Story Writing, Painting, Folk Dance, Poetry Writing, and Innovation (Science Mela Exhibition), each reflecting the spirit of Viksit Bharat and the boundless energy of India's youth.

The event was graced by various dignitaries from various departments who lauded the efforts of the young participants and emphasized the importance of nurturing innovation and cultural expression among youth.

A panel of judges drawn from reputed institutions evaluated the performances and selected the best talents who will represent District Baramulla at the Divisional Level Competition.

At the valedictory ceremony, the best performers were given certificates and trophies, applauding their outstanding contributions and spirited participation.

The event reflected the department's continued commitment to empowering young minds through opportunities that blend art, culture, innovation, and national development.

Div Com Kashmir assess operation of Heli-services for snowbound areas of Bandipora, Kupwara

Stresses on online registration of requests, streamlining of services

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Monday chaired



a meeting of officers to assess arrangements for the operations of Heli-services during the winter months for the people of snowbound areas of Bandipora and Kupwara districts.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Additional Secretary Civil Aviation, Director Finance Civil Aviation, Additional SIO NIC, Assistant Commissioner Central, representative of Jet Serve and other officers.

Addressing the meeting, the Div Com directed appointment of Nodal Officers at Divisional Level and District offices to assist smooth operation of Heli-services. He stressed on initiation of online registrations alongwith offline registration to streamline the entire process.

He emphasized on freezing of timelines before departure time to ensure take-off of scheduled sorties.He also called for filtration of requests for preference based on urgency and necessity.

Meanwhile, the Div Com enjoined SIO, NIC to create a mobile Application for processing requests to provide single window system to the concerned people.

Further, he instructed DCs to widely publicize contact numbers of control rooms so that people can avail Heli-service.

DC Kishtwar interacts with SHG members

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma interacted with the members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) from CD Blocks of Kishtwar, Palmar, Thakrie, Trigam, Mughalmaidan and Nagseni.

A total of 3,021 SHGs comprising 21,133 members are presently active across 13 CD Blocks of District Kishtwar, contributing significantly to community development and women empowerment initiatives. During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner called for exploring the possibility of extending benefits of Mission YUVA schemes to SHG members.

Remediation work of 15000 MT of legacy waste completed at Mand: CM Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah informed the Legislative Assembly that the concerned agency had completed the remediation work of 15000 MT of legacy waste at Mand in Udhampur, whereas the Bio-mining of the remaining 27,000 MT of legacy waste on the site, under SBM (U), is under active consideration.

He was responding to the Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA RS Pathania.

While calling attention motion about the dumping of garbage by Udhampur Municipality at Village Mand, RS Pathania said that the dumping has created an unbearable stink, diseases and un-aesthetic environment along with Jammu-Srinagar highway.



Responding to the motion, the Chief Minister said that the area was transferred to Municipal Council, Udhampur for establishment of Solid Waste Management Project for which the Municipal Council, Udhampur had invited tenders from potential bidders for Bio-mining of legacy waste located at Mand.

He said that the work for the Bio-Mining of legacy waste was started in March this year and the agency had already completed the remediation work of 15000 MT of legacy waste.

The Chief Minister further informed the house that from time to time disinfectors are being deputed for fumigating the surrounding area of Mand site to avoid stinking and risk of spread of diseases in the surrounding areas.

The Chief Minister further said that the site will continue to be used as a dumping site until the government identifies a suitable alternative.

Govt allocates Rs 505 Cr funds under C&T in J&K during 2025- 26 FY: Dy. CM

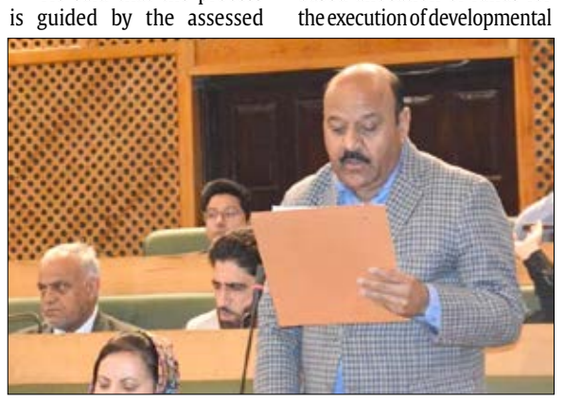
SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary informed that the Government has allocated Rs 50, 556.9 lacs funds under Cities and Towns (C&T) and Rs 3268. 29 lacs under Potholes scheme in J&K during 2025- 26 Financial year.

The Dy. CM was replying to a question raised by Legislator Javid Hassan Baig in the Legislative Assembly today.

While sharing the District wise details, the Dy. CM said that the government will ensure quality work is carried out across Jammu and Kashmir and strict action shall be taken against the concerned if quality is compromised.

He said that the formulation of plans and allocation of funds in respect of Roads and Buildings are undertaken by the Government in accordance with established norms and approved procedures.

He said that the process is guided by the assessed requirements received from the field divisions and finalized keeping in view the availability of resources as well as the recommendations of the MLAs and District Development Council (DDC) Members.



He said that the objective is to ensure judicious and need-based allocation of funds for the execution of developmental works and maintenance activities under various schemes of the Department, so as to achieve balanced infrastructure development across all areas.

Supplementary were raised by Legislators including, R. S Pathania, S.S Slathia, Arvind Gupta and Pawan Kumar Gupta.

SKUAST-Kashmir a Symbol of Sustainability and Innovation: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo

Addresses the week long Capacity Building programme on Rebuilding Forest Landscapes

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) is hosting a second One Week Capacity Building Programme on "Forest Landscape Rebuild-An Integrated Approach to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation", scheduled from 27th to 31st October, 2025 for Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers nominated by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Division of Research & Trainings), Government of India from different parts of the country.



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo while speaking as Chief guest on the occasion appreciated the restructuring measures taken by the University in agricultural sector that safeguards economy, equity and ecology and declared SKUAST-Kashmir as a symbol of Sustainability & Innovation.

He also sensitised the audience in accepting their responsibility towards nature which will play instrumental role in mitigating the impact of climate change.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that execution of any plan needs passion among executive class for sustainable and secured future. He impressed upon the coordination between agricultural researchers and Indian Forest Officers for rebuild of Forest landscape, biodiversity conservation and various climate change mitigation measures towards restoring harmony between people and planet.

Atal Dulloo highlighted that IFS officers are no longer only tree protectors but are custodians of biodiversity conservation, landscape management, climate mitigation, watershed management and livelihood measures in forest biome.

Prof. Prof. (Dr) Nazir A Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, valued the efforts of Shri Atal Dulloo in reforming the agriculture sector in Jammu & Kashmir through HADP implementation.

The inaugural programme was attended by Directors, Deans, Registrar, HoDs and resource persons. While briefing about the program, Course Director, Prof. Javeed Iqbal Ahmad Bhat, Head, Division of Basic Sciences & Humanities gave an overview of technical sessions that include interactions and collaborative work plans between agricultural intelligentsia and Executive leadership of Indian Forest Services to coherent agricultural minds and forest guardians for Forest Landscape Rebuild.

Field visit to various biodiversity reserves and protected forest landscapes of Kashmir also forms the part of the programme.

Rs. 451.99 lacs incurred on lift irrigation scheme Peth Devsar: Minister Jal Shakti



SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmad Rana said that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the lift irrigation scheme Peth Devsar was prepared at an estimated cost of Rs. 452.69 lacs under NABARD.

The Minister said that against this an expenditure of Rs. 451.99 lacs has been incurred till date. However, the scheme could not be commissioned as the cost of land has shot up from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 80.91 lakhs upon the promulgation of Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, (LARR Act) 2013 since August, 2019.

The Minister said this while replying a question by Legislator, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad in Legislative Assembly today.

He further stated that the department is currently examining the modalities for covering the balance funds as per revised rates/ guidelines. He added that subsequent steps will be taken based on the outcome of this examination and in accordance with the applicable financial rules.

Govt assures no shortage of food grains in Keran, Jamgund: Satish Sharma

SRINAGAR: Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma informed Legislative House that there is currently no shortage of food grains in the Keran and Jamgund areas of Kupwara.



He was responding to the Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Mir Saifullah.

While calling attention motion about the non-availability of food grains, Mir Saifullah said that the far flung areas of Keran and Jumgand remain closed for six months during the winter owing to heavy snowfall and face shortage of food grains.

Responding to the motion, Minister said that the government ensures advance release/dumping of food grains under all schemes for a period of 8 months i.e., from November to June every session to the inaccessible areas i.e., main borders of Kupwara including Keran and Jamgund well before the onset of winter season/closure of roads.

Elaborating further, he said that in respect of Jamgund, against the requirement of 536.14 quintals of food grains for a period of 08 months, i.e., November 2025 to June 2026, 100% of the quantity has been delivered to the area.

"In respect of Keran, against the requirement of 2774.43 Qtls of food grains for 08 months, i.e., November 2025 to June 2026, 800.00 Qtls have already been transported and received at the respective locations, and 346.80 Qtls have already been dumped in advance," he said.

He further said that the remaining quantity shall be ensured to be delivered/stocked by or before 31st of October 2025.

Srinagar–Bandipora–Gurez Road to get NH status soon

Progress comes after MLA Bandipora's persistent efforts

Srinagar: Bandipora is all set to get National Highway status for the Srinagar–Bandipora–Gurez Road, marking a major breakthrough in regional connectivity and infrastructure development.

This progress, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer, comes as a result of the persistent efforts of MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat, who has been pursuing the proposal with the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

The latest communication from Union Minister Nitin Gadkari confirms that the proposal is under active consideration by the Ministry.

MLA Bhat, while making the development public to dispel doubts surrounding the issue, expressed gratitude to the Union Minister for his positive response and active consideration of the long-pending demand.

He expressed confidence that the proposal will receive a favourable approval soon, and urged cooperation from the other two MLAs of the district to help make this long-cherished dream a reality—(KNO)

Govt taking pro-active steps to prevent the spread of Hepatitis A in Bandipora: Sakeena Itoo

Encourages people to take preventive measures

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo informed the Legislative Assembly that Health and Family Welfare has taken several prompt and comprehensive measures to control and prevent the spread of Hepatitis A in Arin block of Bandipora.

Responding to the calling attention motion moved my MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, minister said that the situation is being continuously monitored by the Health Department, in coordination with the District Administration and the Jal Shakti Department.

"A surveillance mechanism has been put in place to ensure timely reporting and response to any fresh case," she said.

She informed the House that after receiving the information of the infectious disease, the field teams and District Surveillance Unit Bandipora visited the affected areas, and it was found that the cases were sporadic in nature with a scattered pattern and no clustering of cases was established from any particular area.

The minister further said that these areas are being monitored by the field teams and preventive measures



were set in the form of extensive IEC activities at multiple levels coupled with microbiological water analysis.

She said that District Public Health Lab is completely functional at DH Bandipora and 166 Blood Samples were tested for Viral Hepatitis. She also said that 93 water samples were tested from area of concern and the report was shared with the PHE Department for necessary action.

Minister further said that in coordination with the Jal Shakti Department, all local water sources have been inspected and samples taken for quality testing.

"Public awareness drives have been launched to educate residents about maintaining personal hygiene, boiling drinking water, and avoiding open defecation," the minister said. Minister further said that medical camps have been organized in the affected and adjoining villages to ensure early detection and treatment of new cases. "Adequate stock of medicines and diagnostic kits has been supplied to the local health institutions. Special emphasis has been laid on educating school children and community groups about preventive measures," She added.

Chief Secy administers Integrity Pledge as part of Vigilance Awareness Week

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, administered the Integrity Pledge to officers and officials of the Civil Secretariat as part of the observance of National Vigilance Awareness Week (NVAW), 2025.

The nationwide campaign, announced by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), is being observed from 27th October to 2nd November 2025, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

This year's theme, "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility", underscores the importance of collective efforts in fostering integrity, transparency, and accountability in public administration.

The observance officially commenced today at 11:00 AM with the administration of the Integrity Pledge by all public servants across government departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), autonomous bodies, and other organizations throughout the country.

By taking the pledge, officers and officials reaffirmed their commitment to uphold ethical standards and promote a corruption-free environment in public service.

The week-long activities under the Vigilance Awareness campaign aim to sensitize employees and citizens alike to the significance of honesty and integrity in governance.

As part of the observance, various awareness programmes, workshops, seminars, and debates on ethical governance and preventive vigilance are scheduled to be organized across government departments and public institutions during the week.

These initiatives are intended to encourage proactive participation of all stakeholders in building a culture of transparency and accountability in the administration all over the country.

DC Kupwara chairs DLCC Meeting on National Tobacco-Control Programme & COPTA-2003

KUPWARA: The District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) meeting was held at DC Office Chamber, Kupwara under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse to review the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA-2003) in the district.

During the meeting, The DC emphasized strict enforcement of tobacco control measures, particularly in public places and educational institutions, and directed all stakeholder departments to ensure visible compliance of COTPA-2003 provisions across the district.

The DC stressed on effective implementation of the Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (ToFEI) guidelines and directed



the Education Department to ensure installation of signages, appointment of tobacco monitors, and conduct of awareness programmes in all schools and colleges.

The DC also directed for intensified enforcement drives in markets and public places to ensure compliance with COTPA-2003 and the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA).

He further called for extensive awareness campaigns, including wall paintings, posters, and competitions in schools to highlight the ill effects of tobacco use. On Tobacco-Free Villages, the DC instructed the concerned officers to conduct special Gram Sabha meetings to sensitize Panchayat members, NGOs, SHGs, youth and farmers, besides organizing Nukkad Nataks, wall writings, and declaration programmes to promote and sustain the "Tobacco-Free Village" initiative.

During the meeting it was informed that a student rally under the NTCP will be organized on October 28, 2025, from DC Office Complex Kupwara, which will proceed via Bypass Road to Sub-District Hospital Kupwara with participation of students and ASHA workers.

The meeting was attended by SDM Lolab, CMO Kupwara, ASP Kupwara, DySP Handwara, BMO's DEPO, CEO MC and other concerned Officers.

DDC Udhampur flags off Farmers' Tour to Srinagar

UDHAMPUR: A group of ten farmers from the temperate areas of Udhampur District was today flagged off by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Udhampur, Saloni Rai for a five-day training-cum-exposure visit to the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH) Srinagar.

The training tour, being held from October 27 to 31, 2025 has been organized under the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme.

During the tour, the farmers would be imparted training on the maintenance and management of high-density apple orchards.

They would be trained in canopy management, pruning techniques, nutrient management, plant protection measures, nursery management basics and standard propagation techniques, among other aspects of apple orchard management.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC emphasized the importance of such exposure visits in enhancing farmers' technical skills and adoption of advanced horticultural practices. She encouraged the participants to make the best use of this learning opportunity and to share their experiences with fellow farmers in their respective areas.

Rally under SVEEP conducted at GHSS Humhama for Voter Awareness

BUDGAM: As part of the ongoing efforts under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme, a voter awareness rally was organised by District administration in collaboration with CEO Budgam and information & PR Budgam.

The rally aimed to spread awareness among the general public, especially the youth, about the importance of voting and active participation in the democratic process.

The event was flagged off from Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Humhama, where students, teachers, and staff members participated enthusiastically, carrying placards and chanting slogans promoting ethical and informed voting.

The rally passed through the main streets of Humhama, drawing attention and engagement from the local community. On the occasion, District Information Officer (DIO) Budgam, Erum Khan and Principal GHSS Humhama, Shabir Hussain, addressed the gathering and spoke about the power of the vote and the responsibility of every citizen to participate in elections. They highlighted that voting is not only a constitutional right but also a fundamental duty that shapes the future of the nation. They urged students to act as ambassadors of voter awareness by encouraging their families and communities to register and vote responsibly.

The event reflected the collective commitment of the District Administration Budgam towards ensuring inclusive, ethical, and informed participation in the electoral process.

Editorial

A Party at War With Itself

A political turmoil that's been simmering for some time has erupted in the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC). What was planned to be a show of opposition unity in the Assembly has now been engulfed by a much worse spectacle: an ugly and public exchange of word between the party's own leaders. The furious exchanges between Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, party MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, and senior leader Majeed Larmi has exposed a deepening divide which raises doubts as to the party's credibility and its pledges to the public.

The lines of this conflict are no longer being whispered about in the hallways, they are now proclaimed from the podiums of press conferences. Fueling this is profound disappointment expressed by Aga Ruhullah, who regarded himself as a star campaigner in the 2024 elections. His main contention is that the party had abandoned the very promises on which it sought a mandate, namely creating one lakh jobs. His salient question, "Where has that fight gone?" resonates not only with his supporters, but likely many supporters of the party that see a disconnect between political aspirations, and real outcomes.

However, the leadership's response has evidently been quite telling. Rather than responding soberly to these valid concerns, leadership's response was dismissive and personal. Omar Abdullah's careful and public demonstration of the "earth and sky" that separates a loyalist like Mian Altaf from Ruhullah was an obvious demonstration of displeasure, as well as a refusal to engage with the criticism. Majeed Larmi's subsequent dare that the MP should resign his seat if he was really dissatisfied, was telling. This angle of questioning a critic's loyalty, rather than engaging their substantive critique, is a classical, albeit dangerous, political tactic.

While the leadership is right to the take note of the structural limitations placed on an elected government in the present arrangement (i.e., the absence of full statehood, and the LG's supervision of crucial domains), such limitations cannot become excuse forever. Voters chose the NC to face these exact constraints and to mount a determined struggle for their rights. To plead helplessness in the face of what are core promises is to plead for political irrelevance.

The dangers facing the National Conference are varied. First, this public fighting gives the impression of a party at war, which erodes public trust and clearly benefits its political opponents. Second, and of even greater concern, the party risks alienating its base. Ruhullah's questions about youth who have been jailed and unfulfilled commitments, and the collective experiences of the people who elected the party.

The power of a political party comes not from the silence of its members but from being able to gather international voices for a similar objective. The current uncivil war in the NC only benefits its enemies. The party leadership must move past the personal jabs and address the issue of credibility that this rift demonstrates, for the sake of its own future and the future of those it represents.

Sufi Nisar: Guardian Of Kashmir's Sufi Spirit



BY SHAHNAWAZ NAZIR

In a world swept by the currents of haste and forgetfulness, there are rare souls who stand as sentinels of memory—those who guard the fading songs of a people, the fragrance of their sacred heritage, and the language of their ancestors. Among these luminous keepers stands Sufi Nisar Sahib, a name whispered with affection and reverence among lovers of Kashmiri mysticism. His life's work—reviving, preserving, and disseminating the written treasures of Kashmir's Sufi poets—has become a quiet revolution, nurturing a generation's reconnection with its spiritual and linguistic roots.

The Land of Saints and Poets

Kashmir has long been called Pir Vaer, the Valley of Saints. From the tranquil groves of Chrar-e-Sharif, where Sheikh ul Aalam R.A. (Nund Reshi) rests, to the spiritual echoes of Shamas Faqeer, Mehboob ul Aalam, and countless others, this valley has been a sanctuary for divine seekers. Their verses, sung in the language of the people, wove together the earthly and the eternal.

But as time advanced, conflict, migration, and modern indifference began to erode that delicate fabric. Ancient manuscripts decayed in forgotten trunks; the Kashmiri language, once the medium of divine dialogue, started to recede from daily life. Amidst this quiet erosion, Sufi Nisar Sahib arose—not as a scholar seeking fame, but as a humble devotee answering a sacred call to preserve his heritage.

The Humble Archivist of the Divine Word

Born and raised in the valley, Sufi Nisar grew up listening to the verses of mystics that echoed through shrines and mountains. These words were not merely poetry—they were the heartbeat of Kashmiri spirituality, the whispered remembrance of God in the native tongue. He sensed early on that something sacred was slipping away.

Years later, with deep conviction, he began an extraordinary mission: to collect, preserve, and digitize the poetic manuscripts of Kashmir's Sufi masters. What began as a personal effort soon turned into a global service to seekers and scholars alike. Through sheer dedication, he started scanning rare books—many unavailable even in libraries—and sharing them through his online blog and social media. Each scanned page became an act of devotion, an offering to the divine legacy of his homeland.

Today, his blog has evolved into what many consider a digital library of Kashmiri Sufi heritage. Almost every form of old literature related to Kashmiri Sufi kalam (poetry) can be found there, along with a Kashmiri dictionary and other valuable resources. For many like me, it has become a sacred space of learning, reflection, and remembrance.

A Personal Connection Beyond Distance

Though I have never met Sufi Nisar Sahib in person, I consider him one of my greatest



guides. During the days when I was writing my first poetry collection, Divine Melodies, I had the honor of speaking with him. Our conversations, though separated by distance, carried deep spiritual warmth. His words were filled with wisdom, humility, and kindness.

He guided me through the delicate balance of expressing divine love through poetry—how to let the words breathe naturally and allow the soul's yearning to speak for itself. Even from afar, his guidance touched me profoundly. It was as though an unseen teacher was walking beside me through the process, reminding me to remain true to the essence of love and longing that lies at the heart of Sufi expression.

To this day, whenever I feel the urge to read Kashmiri kalam, I simply open Sufi Nisar Sahib's blog on Google. It has become my personal retreat, a spiritual library where I can lose myself in the words of the saints. The blog holds treasures that might have otherwise been lost to time, and it fills my heart with peace each time I visit.

Often, I find myself scrolling through the pages not just to read but to feel the presence of those who wrote centuries ago—the mystics whose words still pulse with divine remembrance. And every time I see Sufi Nisar Sahib's name on Facebook, I feel a quiet joy, a sense of calm and gratitude, as though I am witnessing a living embodiment of the love and patience that defines the Sufi path.

An Open Heart and a Listening Ear

One of the most admirable qualities of Sufi Nisar Sahib is his approachability and patience. Whenever someone asks him a question on Facebook—be it about a verse, a saint, or a linguistic detail—he responds with generosity and humility. There is no trace of pride or dismissal in his tone. Instead, he welcomes every question with warmth, as if each seeker is equally deserving of understanding.

Such behavior reflects the essence of Sufism: service without ego, teaching without superiority. In a world where social media often fosters division, his presence on these platforms has become a source of harmony. He uses the digital world not for self-promotion, but as a means to serve humanity and the sacred word.

Preserving the Kashmiri Language

Language is more than a tool of communication; it is the vessel of a people's soul. The Kashmiri language, with its lyrical beauty and spiritual undertones, carries centuries of mystic wisdom. Recognizing this, Sufi Nisar extended his mission beyond manuscripts to reviving linguistic pride among Kashmiri youth.

Through his blog and social presence, he encourages people to read, write, and speak Kashmiri—to reconnect with the mother tongue of saints. His digital archive stands as both a monument and a living classroom, inspiring countless Kashmiris, both at home and abroad, to rediscover the rhythm of their own language.

Technology as a Spiritual Tool

What makes Sufi Nisar Sahib's contribution even more remarkable is how he has transformed technology into a vessel for spirituality. In an age where the internet often distracts and divides, he uses it as a tool of remembrance and unification. His online presence is not a mere website—it is a digital shrine, where lovers of Kashmiri poetry gather from across the globe.

Through his tireless efforts, seekers from America, Europe, and the broader subcontinent can now access the writings of Shamas Faqeer, Ahad Zargar, and Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani, many for the first time. His blog ensures that the divine wisdom of Kashmir's poets is no longer bound by geography—it travels on the wings of light across continents.

An Unseen Teacher and Living Example

Like the true Sufis of old, Sufi Nisar Sahib teaches through silence and action. His humility is his message. He never claims ownership of the texts he preserves. He never demands acknowledgment. He sees himself only as a conduit through which the heritage of the saints flows into the world.

This humility is rare in our time. It reminds one of the candle that never speaks of its own light—it simply burns to illuminate others. In that burning lies the essence of divine service.

His quiet consistency, his patience with seekers, and his deep respect for every poet and saint he mentions make him a living example of the Sufi principle: serve, love, and let go of the self.

Inspiration for the New Generation

Many young Kashmiris, caught between modern uncertainty and a longing for meaning, have found direction through Sufi Nisar Sahib's work. His example teaches them that to know one's culture and spiritual heritage is to anchor oneself amid the storms of the world.

Inspired by his path, some have begun their own journeys of preservation—scanning old books, collecting oral histories, and translating Sufi poetry into English to reach global readers. Through his quiet service, he has sparked a revival of remembrance—one that may, in time, restore the valley's cultural and spiritual balance.

A Legacy of Love

To preserve a book is to preserve a soul. Each manuscript that Sufi Nisar rescues, each poem he shares, is a form of zikr—a remembrance of God through the written word. His efforts have ensured that the voices of Kashmir's mystics do not fade into silence but continue to speak to generations unborn.

For those like me, who are deeply connected to Sufi literature and Kashmiri identity, his work is not just archival—it is transformative. It reminds us that love, knowledge, and service can transcend all boundaries, even those of distance and time. I may have never met him face to face, but through his words, his guidance, and his work, I feel his presence as a spiritual companion—one who lights the path without ever asking to be seen.

The Light That Never Dies

The story of Sufi Nisar Sahib is the story of love's endurance. In him, the ancient and the modern meet in harmony; in his work, the language of saints finds new life in the digital age. He reminds us that spirituality is not confined to shrines or monasteries—it breathes wherever there is sincerity of heart.

In the quiet of his room, as he scans another fragile manuscript, one can almost imagine the unseen company of saints smiling upon him. For through his labor, their voices continue to echo across the valleys, reaching the hearts of seekers in every corner of the world.

And thus, Kashmir continues to sing—not only through its rivers and mountains, but through the dedication of one humble servant: Sufi Nisar Sahib, the guardian of Kashmir's Sufi soul, whose silent service has turned the digital age into a sanctuary of remembrance.

Author Can Be Mailed At
nawazrather786@gmail.com

Beyond Literacy: The Unaddressed Caste Bias of the Educated Class



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Caste has been an institution within the Indian social structure, influencing a person's life from birth to death. The framers of the Constitution envisioned an India where individual identity would be based on their abilities, morality, and actions, rather than on their innate social class. To this end, several safeguards were incorporated into the Constitution, including the right to equality, equality of opportunity, and the abolition of untouchability. However, even after more than seven decades, it must be acknowledged that caste consciousness is not limited to villages; it has persisted, albeit in a modified form, in educated, urban, and professional circles.

The Constitution, through Articles 14 to 17, explicitly grants all citizens the right to equality and dignity. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar described this as a means not only to legal equality but also to social and economic equality. He warned that political equality would be unsustainable if social inequality persisted. This warning remains relevant today, as despite the power of law, caste-based thinking, deeply ingrained in society's psyche, has not been completely eradicated.

Education is considered a vehicle for social consciousness, but surprisingly, caste prejudices persist in subtle and sophisticated forms even among the educated class. Caste is often present as an unspoken identity during admissions to universities and professional institutions, in peer relationships, and in social networking. Discussions of "merit" often lead people to harbor prejudices about reservation policies and assume that those from reserved categories are inherently less qualified. This perception challenges the principle of equality even among the educated class of modern India.

Urbanization and industrialization were considered to break down caste boundaries. However, in practice, caste consciousness has revived in new forms even in cities. For example, even in metropolitan areas, most people marry within their own caste groups. Caste and sub-caste remain prominent filters on matrimony websites. This means that while economic progress and modernity have changed external behavior,



social psychology has still not been freed from the confines of caste.

The presence of caste cannot be denied even in the professional sphere. Traditionally, trade and business have been dominated by certain castes, and this trend continues implicitly in modern corporate structures. Caste social capital plays a significant role in networking, investment, and access to opportunities. For example, members of a business community are more comfortable offering business support to one another. Similarly, social biases are often at play during job recruitment or promotion under vague criteria such as "cultural fit" or "network fit."

Politically, caste consciousness has also gained new energy in modern democracy. The urban middle class often considers itself above caste, but during elections, the same class appears to base its allegiance on caste identity. Caste organizations, student unions, and professional associations are now linking their caste identity with the demand for rights. Thus, caste is no longer merely a social institution, but has taken the form of a 'political resource' and 'social capital.'

In urban India, this form of casteism manifests as symbolic rather than overt discrimination. Directly insulting someone because of their caste is now a crime, but subtle forms of this mindset persist in social life. For example, mocking an employee's social background, making sarcastic remarks about reservations, or maintaining social distance from a coworker—these are all forms of caste-based prejudice.

Ethnic consciousness has found a new outlet in the digital age. Pages, organizations, and communities of ethnic groups on social media platforms promote their pride and history. This can be a symbol of cultural self-respect, but it often devolves into competitive ethnicity, creating new divisions in society. The "us" versus "them" mentality now persists even in the virtual world.

Following economic liberalization, it was believed that merit would be paramount in the global market and the private sector. However, studies from the 1990s to the present show that even in the corporate sector, Dalit and backward classes have relatively low participation. The lack of reservations in the private sector has further exacerbated this inequality. Consequently, modernity and marketization have provided the illusion of equal opportunity, but have failed to eliminate the reality of caste inequality.

A large segment of the urban middle class formally rejects caste, but uses caste-related identities in informal life. This contradiction reflects the social complexity of modern India. For example, someone may describe themselves as liberal in the office, but accept caste-based marriage options for their children. This duality makes it clear that the social influence of caste still permeates even the most personal decisions in life.

One reason for the persistence of caste consciousness is that caste is no longer seen solely as a symbol of oppression in society, but also as a support for identity and community. Particularly after the rise of reservation and social justice politics, disadvantaged groups have used caste as a means to protect their rights. This has also led to the emergence of a "positive discourse" of caste, which speaks of self-respect and representation. However, in this process, the boundaries of caste have not been completely eliminated; rather, they have been transformed.

Social scientists believe that caste has now become a "resource network" in Indian urban society. It has evolved from traditional ties to a modern means of communication. Whether in jobs, business, or politics, it still serves as the basis for trust, cooperation, and the distribution of resources. This makes it clear that modernity has not eradicated caste, but rather reshaped it.

When evaluating the effectiveness of constitutional safeguards, it is also important to understand that law can only provide a framework, but social consciousness changes slowly. Education and economic progress have challenged caste inequality, but the pace of change in social behavior is slow. As long as group identity, rather than individual merit, remains the basis for social respect, opportunity, and recognition, caste consciousness will persist.

Sociologists like André Betienne, M.N. Srinivas, and Gopinath Mohanty have repeatedly pointed out that urbanization in India does not mean the complete disintegration of traditional structures, but rather their reconfiguration. That is, while the outward form of the rural caste system may be broken, its mentality is recreated in a new form in the city. This is why caste-related inequalities persist in subtle forms even in modern fields like the IT sector, media, education, and medicine.

This persistence of caste consciousness presents both a challenge and an opportunity for Indian democracy. A challenge because it limits the ideals of equality and social justice, and an opportunity because this consciousness can be transformed into a broader discourse on social justice. If caste is used as a tool of representation and cooperation rather than oppression, it can strengthen social cohesion.

The way forward lies in a combination of education, sensitization, and policymaking. Value education based on social diversity and equality should be encouraged in schools and universities. Mechanisms such as ethics codes, equal opportunity commissions, and independent audit systems on inequality can be useful in promoting diversity in the workplace. The media and mass media must also play an active role in breaking down racial stereotypes and promoting the ideal of equality.

The Constitution of India is not merely a legal document, but a manifesto for social change. Its spirit dictates that a person's worth be judged by their actions, not their birth. Today, the need is for the educated and working class—who play an exemplary role in society—to lead this change. Until the role of caste in social respect, opportunity, and behavior is eliminated, the dream of equality will remain unfulfilled.

Ultimately, it can be said that Indian society is changing, but caste consciousness remains its deepest root. The Constitution has given us direction, but social reality has not yet fully progressed in that direction. Urbanization, education, and employment have certainly weakened caste, but its influence has not yet ended. Modern India's greatest responsibility is to realize the ideal of equality in both law and practice. Only then will we be able to realize the vision of an India where a person's identity is not their caste, but their humanity.

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

Agriculture, allied sectors suffered about Rs.209 crores loss due to highway closure: Javid Dar

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production department, Javid Ahmad Dar informed the house that as per preliminary reports of the department around Rs. 209 Crores loss has been reported due to recent closure of National Highway by landslides and flash floods in agriculture and allied sectors.

The Minister made these remarks while replying a question raised by Legislator Waheed-Ur-Rehman Para in the legislative assembly today.

The Minister informed the house that under the Re-structured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS), Apple, Saffron, Mango and Litchi crops have been notified to provide cover. He added that the tendering process for selection of Insurance company (out of the empanelled Insurance companies notified by the GoI) to provide Insurance cover to these Horticulture crops is in process.

Regarding CA storage, the Minister said that the department is providing assistance for establishment of C.A. Storage units in the JKUT and the estimated requirement for Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage is 6.00 LMT, (30% of annual production fruit crops). He added that currently, Jammu and Kashmir has 2.92 LMT of capacity and the Department is contemplating to increase the C.A. Storage capacity in next five years through Centrally Sponsored Scheme Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) besides J&K Government is also providing top-up subsidy from UT Capex



The Minister also informed that various initiatives are undertaken by Government to support this expansion like Awareness/seminars are being conducted in each District to aware the youth about the incentives available for establishment of C.A. infrastructure and other post-harvest related activities. He added that as most CA stores are located in the Industrial Growth Centre at Lassipora, Pulwama, and the Industrial Estate at Aglar, Shopian, efforts are underway with the Industries and Commerce Department to establish sector-specific industrial estates for horticulture and post-harvest management in other districts.

Regarding the steps being taken for upgradation and improvement of Fruit Mandi at Pulwama and Rajpora, the Minister said that the Department has established two fruit and vegetable Markets in Pulwama district at Prichoo Pulwama and Pachhar Rajpora Pulwama, which have been made functional. He added that the basic infrastructure is available in these mandis, however, up-gradation and improvement of the mandis is a continuous process for which funds to the tune of Rs 1.28 Cr and Rs 3.68 Cr respectively have been earmarked for up-gradation under NABARD for the Year 2025-26.

With respect to measures being taken to revive the Market Intervention Scheme and to use NAFED model to support apple growers, the Minister informed that the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) was announced by the Government of J&K in the year 2019 for procurement of Apple fruit crop through Government of India's authorized Enterprise, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) to provide benefit to the farmers by facilitating the timely marketing of farm produce during Covid-19 pandemic.

He also added that possibility of establishing in CA storage units in other districts apart from Pulwama is being explored to cater growing demands of horticulturists.

Legislators, M.Y Tarigami; Ghulam Mohidin Mir and Javid Riyaz Bedar raised supplementary questions on the subject.

Works On Different Projects Being Executed On Fast-Track Basis In Anantnag Constituency: Deputy CM

FE NEWS NETWORK

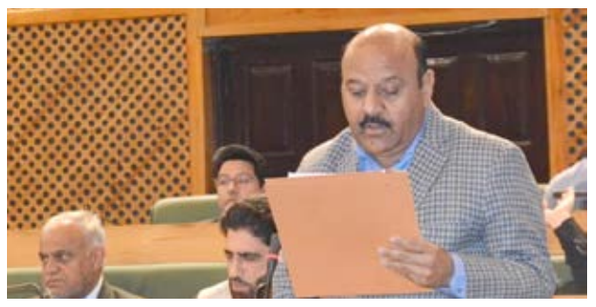
'DPR amounting to Rs. 499.25 lacs for Construction of Marriage Hall at Rani Bagh Anantnag prepared'

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary informed the Legislative Assembly that the works on all ongoing projects in Anantnag Constituency will be executed on fast track basis and completed timely.

The Deputy Chief Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Peerzada Mohammad Syed.

The Deputy CM informed the house that the DPR for Construction of the Marriage Hall at Rani Bagh for an amount of Rs. 499.25 lacs has been prepared and stands submitted to office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Anantnag. However, the administrative approval is awaited.

He further informed that the department has raised various queries regarding non-completion of construction work of shopping complex building at Old SRTC Yard near DC Office Anantnag like requirement of Technical Sanction, vetting of structural drawings and other related issues with Housing and Urban Development department (HUDD), adding thay as and when the H&UDD responds to the observations of this department, the work on the said project shall be started in line with financial code and GFR (manual of works).



With regard to new Deputy Commissioner Office Complex in Anantnag, the Deputy CM informed that a Preliminary Project Report (PPR) amounting to Rs. 106.87 Crores has been prepared for the construction of the Mini Secretariat and has already been submitted to the office of Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag by the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Anantnag. He added that, although no formal letter has been received for the preparation of DPR, it is currently under preparation in close consultation with the Chief Architect and work shall commence once land is free from any encumbrances, AAA is obtained, and funds are made available, in accordance with the GFR (Works Manual) and applicable financial codes.

Regarding the proposal for construction of Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) behind (MMABM) Hospital Janglat Mandi Anantnag on land owned by Municipal Committee Anantnag, the Deputy CM informed the house that no such communication has been received from the indenting department; as and when a formal request is received from the Tourism Department, the process for the Tourist Centre (TRC) shall be initiated as per the norms governing the said construction.

Construction of new Women's Hostels under active consideration of Government Sakeena Itoo

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR:Minister for Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo said that the construction of new Women's Hostels is under active consideration of the department, while as the possibility for establishing Women's Hostel in district Kishtwar will be explored.



The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Shagun Parihar regarding Women's Hostels in Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister informed the house that 12 Women's Hostels under the Higher Education department, with capacity of around 1200, are functional in various districts across Jammu and Kashmir. She also informed that 16 Girls Hostels are under construction in different colleges across Jammu and Kashmir. She added that several functional/ under construction Girls Hostels are also established under Skill Development department at various Polytechnic Colleges in Jammu and Srinagar.

Further, the Minister informed that under Social Welfare department, one Working Women Hostel is functional at Roop Nagar, Jammu with a capacity of 25 women, which includes dormitories, kitchen, library, washrooms, lawns, lobby, and daycare centre.

She also informed that the Department is in the process of establishing five newly approved Sakhi Niwas in the districts of Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Kathua, and Rajouri and suitable buildings have been identified and engagement of human resources is under process.

The Minister also added that the Health & Medical Education Department also provides hostel facilities through Nursing, Para-medical, and Girls Hostels for Medical Colleges, besides School Education Department also provides Hostel Facilities for Girls through KGBVs in various districts of J&K.

49 existing, 12 new water supply schemes functional in Lolab Constituency: Javed Rana

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana informed the Legislative Assembly that a total of 49 existing and 12 new water supply schemes are operational in the Lolab Constituency to provide drinking water to the population.

He was responding to the Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Lolab Qayser Jamshaid Lone, regarding shortage of portable drinking water in Lolab Constituency.

Responding to the motion, the Minister said that there is no acute shortage of potable water in the Lolab constituency.

He informed the house that 49 existing water supply schemes are operational in the Lolab Constituency catering to the needs of 50 villages. He said that additionally 22 new schemes have been taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission and CAPEX to ensure that each and every rural household in Lolab Constituency has a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) within its premises, capable of supplying drinking water in adequate quantity.



He said that out of 22 schemes, 12 are functional and 10 are at various stages of execution. These schemes continue to provide drinking water to the population and are maintained regularly to ensure functionality, he added.

The Minister said that the areas, viz; Lalpora, Khanbutho, Darmohalla, Potshai, Tikkipora, Sogam, Ganaie Mohalla and Lassipora where schemes are not commissioned yet, also get drinking water supplies.

"In such areas, where the water supply schemes are yet to be completed and which face issues especially during dry spell, due to low service level or some uncovered pockets, as an interim arrangement, water is supplied by deployment of requisite number of water tankers," he added.

The Minister informed the house that new schemes for these areas under various programmes are at different stages of execution, and once completed, sustainable access to clean drinking water as per the prescribed quality and quantity standards shall be ensured to these areas as well.

> The Minister said that the areas, viz; Lalpora, Khanbutho, Darmohalla, Potshai, Tikkipora, Sogam, Ganaie Mohalla and Lassipora where schemes are not commissioned yet, also get drinking water supplies.



DDC Kupwara reviews progress of works under District Capex Budget

FE NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse convened a meetings of concerned officers to review the progress of developmental works under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26.



At the outset, the CPO Kupwara, presented a detailed overview of the ongoing and completed projects under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 pertaining to various departments including R&B, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, PHE, Minor Irrigation, United Grants, ADF and Samridh Seema Yojna.

The meeting was informed that total approved outlay for the financial year 2025-26 involves Rs10907.83 lakh, and funds released as on date is Rs 6882.03 lakh.

On the occasion, the DDC took a detailed review of the physical and financial status of works taken up under the District Capex budget. He stressed upon the officers gear up the pace of work and ensure timely completion of all ongoing projects keeping in view the ensuing winter season.

He emphasized the need for regular field monitoring, better inter-departmental coordination, and prompt resolution of bottlenecks hampering project progress.

The DDC reiterated the administration's commitment to equitable and sustainable development across all blocks of Kupwara district and urged officers to utilize funds judiciously before the end of the financial year. He further instructed the concerned departments to upload progress reports on the BEAMS and PFMS portals to ensure real-time monitoring and transparency.

The DDC directing all departments to expedite works under Area Development Plans (ADP), PRI grants, and other schemes aligned with the District Capex Budget to ensure tangible results on the ground.

CPO Kupwara, ACD, Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti and I&FC, besides, other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

DC Srinagar Reviews Implementation Of Mission YUVA Scheme In District

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To review the status and progress of the implementation of the Mission YUVA scheme in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.The meeting focused on assessing the achievements made so far under the scheme and formulating a future roadmap in consultation with concerned departments and stakeholders to further enhance the progress of Mission YUVA in Srinagar.



At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of various components of the scheme, including pendency of cases at different levels, establishment of Model Single Block Development Units (SBDUs), conduct of awareness programmes under Udyam Jagriti-4.0, and initiation of output tracking mechanisms aimed at improving the overall implementation of the Mission.

The DC directed the Employment Department and J&K Bank to adopt proactive measures to meet the targets set for the current financial year. Emphasizing the significance of grassroots-level support systems, he instructed that SBDUs, Block Handholding Desks (BHDs), and YUVA Doots be optimally utilized to facilitate on-ground execution of the scheme.

The DC stressed the need to further streamline the approval process, ensure timely sanction and disbursal of loans, and closely monitor the establishment of enterprises by beneficiaries. He further directed that processes from District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) approvals to bank sanctions and loan disbursals be further expedited.

Highlighting the importance of Udyam Jagriti-4.0, the DC emphasized close coordination between colleges and the District Employment Department to organize awareness programmes and sensitize students about the entrepreneurial ecosystem under Mission YUVA, enabling youth to pursue self-employment opportunities.

The DC also instructed the concerned departments to ensure the establishment of Model SBDUs in the district and initiate a robust output tracking mechanism under the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar; Nodal Principal Colleges, Seema Naaz; General Manager, J&K Bank, Peer Masood Ahmad Chishti; Deputy Director Employment, Shubi Tabasum; Lead District Manager (LDM), Nilofer Jan; and other concerned officers.

LG Sinha

with modern skill requirements and technological advancements.

"Our youth are our greatest strength, and their talent and potential will drive our vision for the future. Over the past few years, we have invested deeply in transforming our education ecosystem to make Jammu Kashmir an 'Oasis of Talent'," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor gave five mantras to the students: first, find inspiration; secondly, think big; thirdly, dream big; fourthly, take risks during the educational journey with courage; and fifth, act with compassion and sensitivity.

He also called upon the educational institutions and the teaching community to develop the education system that rewards creativity, curiosity, innovation, and critical thinking. He stressed that this system must balance creativity with competition, where classroom tests are based on learning, originality, and experimentation, where creativity and individuality are valued more than marks and gold medals.

Shri Faizal E. Kottikollon, Founder, Faizal and Shabana Foundation and Chairman, UAE India Business Council – UAE Chapter (UIBC–UC); Ms Shabana Faizal, Co-Founder, Faizal and Shabana Foundation; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Secretary School Education Department; Dr. Aman Puri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Maj. Gen. Sharafuddin Sharaf (Retd.), Vice-Chairman, UIBC–UC; Shri Sunjay Sudhir, former Indian Ambassador to UAE; Dr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo; Director General, School Education, Kashmir; office bearers of Faizal and Shabana Foundation; Principal of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, teachers and students in large number attended the inaugural ceremony. (DIPR)

Rajnath Singh

defence."

Referring to the tensions that followed the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Singh said India's response showed that the armed forces were prepared for any eventuality. However, he cautioned that the evolving global situation called for constant vigilance and self-reliance.

"After the Pahalgam attack, when Operation Sindoor was launched, a situation arose where war was knocking at our doors," Singh said. "Our forces are fully prepared to defend the nation in any circumstance, but the level of uncertainty in the world has increased. We must therefore move forward carefully, assessing every situation before taking action."

He said the nature of modern warfare is changing rapidly, with technology, drones, and cyber capabilities becoming central to national security. "To deal with these changes effectively, indigenisation is the only path forward," he said.

Pertinently, 'Operation Sindoor' was launched in May this year as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead. The operation involved precision strikes by the Indian Armed Forces on multiple terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir—(KNO)

Speaker

government's failure to rationalize the existing reservation policy.

"I want to reiterate that reservation is a post-dated cheque. Please, don't brush it under the carpet," Lone urged.

As Lone pressed the issue, the Speaker ruled that the matter could not be discussed as it was neither of recent occurrence nor permissible due to its sub-judice status.

Citing Sub-Rule 3 of Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House, the Speaker explained that an adjournment motion can only be brought on matters of recent occurrence.

"The adjournment motion should concern a matter of recent occurrence. This is not such a matter. You had also raised this issue during the budget session. A sub-committee has been formed to examine the issue," the Speaker said.

He further pointed out, as per Sub-Rule 7 of Rule 58, an adjournment motion cannot be admitted if the matter is pending before a court of law.

"This matter is sub-judice," the Speaker added.

According to the notice for the adjournment motion submitted by Lone, the business of the House should have been suspended to discuss the government's failure to rationalize the existing reservation policy.

"The existing policy has severely curtailed the competitive space available to Kashmiris in public employment, promotions, and professional education. In December last year, the government constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to examine public grievances concerning the revised reservation policy. However, despite the lapse of ten months, the committee's report has neither been made public nor have its recommendations been implemented," the notice reads—(KNO)

CM Omar

measures, the Chief Minister strongly refuted any suggestion of discrimination.

"Our policy is not to seek relief for one region while ignoring another. This was never our intention," he emphasized.

The Chief Minister said that teams from the Government of India, including the Home Minister and Agriculture Minister, visited the affected areas to assess the damage alongside local authorities.

"After a joint assessment, it was observed that Jammu division has suffered comparatively more damage than Kashmir. Accordingly, we have prepared a relief package which is being submitted to the Government of India for approval," Omar Abdullah informed the House.

He assured that once the package is approved, the distribution of relief funds will begin without any bias or favouritism.

"There will be no politics, no religion, and no regional discrimination in the distribution of relief. Where there is loss, there must be compensation," the Chief Minister asserted.

Earlier, Minister Social Welfare Department, Sakeena Itoo said that the Government has not formulated any fresh rehabilitation policy for the recent flood victims.

However, a proposal regarding the allotment of State land measuring 05 Marla in favour of each land less family affected due to Natural Calamities (i.e. Floods, Landslide, cloudbursts, earthquakes) on lease basis for residential purposes only is under consideration. (DIPR)

Forest Land

prevent future encroachment.

Surveillance has been increased across territorial and Forest Protection Force units to foil any new attempts at encroachment.

The department is employing advanced technology, including Remote Sensing, GPS, and Drone surveys, for the effective monitoring and protection of forest land.

According to the document, this official acknowledgment highlights the ongoing challenge of protecting forest ecosystems in the region and the government's stated efforts to address the issue through a combination of legal, physical, and technological means. (KNO)

Over 10,500

Directorates of Health Services of both Kashmir and Jammu, severely affecting patient care, particularly in rural and hilly areas.

In the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir (DHSK), a total of 3,738 posts are lying vacant that includes 8 medical and 179 paramedical posts in Srinagar, Ganderbal: 30 and 180, Budgam: 41 and 954, Pulwama: 36 and 274, Baramulla: 97 and 356, Bandipora: 19 and 110, Kulgam: 32 and 288, Shopian: 10 and 100, Anantnag: 46 and 364 and 161 and 453 in Kupwara.

Similarly, in the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu (DHSJ), 1,980 posts remain vacant. The break-up includes Jammu: 79, Doda: 64 medical and 89 paramedical, Kathua: 96 and 125, Kishtwar: 38 and 75, Ramban: 48 and 67, Rajouri: 85 and 171, Reasi: 55 and 72, Poonch: 100 and 142, Samba: 56 and 98 and 54 and 96 in Udhampur.

The Minister further stated that 4,837 posts are lying vacant in the nine Government Medical Colleges of the Union Territory.

The vacancies include 1761 in GMC Jammu, GMC Kathua: 349, GMC Doda: 292, GMC Rajouri: 191, GMC Udhampur: 960, GMC Srinagar: 573, GMC Anantnag: 192, GMC Baramulla: 163 and 356 in GMC Handwara.

The Minister assured the House that the government is aware of the shortfall and that the recruitment process for filling these posts is under active consideration.

"The department is taking all necessary steps to fill the vacant positions in a phased manner. Recruitment is being done through various recruiting agencies including the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Services Selection Board (JKSSB)," she said.

Sakina Itoo added that the government is prioritizing critical care areas such as emergency services, maternal health, and diagnostics to ensure that healthcare delivery is not compromised—(KNO)

J&K Govt

The government said the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC) has floated tenders for engagement of a consultant for the preparation of a detailed project report (DPR) and a tender document for the said project.

The tenders have been finalised and the work has been allotted to a qualified agency — Ronmas India Pvt. Ltd.

An agreement has been signed between the JKCCC and the executing agency. However, the agency could not carry out its assignment in view of the post-Pahalgam scenario, the CM said.

The executing agency has sought permission to visit the site for conducting topography and geo-technical studies.

"The matter for grant of permission to conduct site visit has been taken up with the deputy commissioner, Anantnag, who has conveyed to take up the matter with the National Investigation Agency," it said.

The Department of Tourism said the matter has been taken up with the NIA, and once the permission is received from the federal probe agency, the consultant shall start work on the project, estimated to cost Rs 100-120 crore, immediately.

The work shall be completed within the shortest possible time of 18 months, the department said.(PTI)

Javid Dar

landslides, the minister said that a comprehensive assessment was carried out by the department that revealed that the floods affected 431.091 hectares of crop area, with losses exceeding 33 percent across Jammu and Kashmir.

He further assured that the government remains committed to supporting the farming community and that all necessary measures are being taken in this regard.

He said that the J&K Government is set to implement Re-structured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS). Under RWBCIS, Apple, Saffron, Mango, and Litchi crops have been notified to provide cover. The tendering process for selection of insurance company (out of the empanelled insurance companies notified by the GoI) to provide insurance cover to these horticulture crops is in process, he said.

Minister said that Kashmir, predominantly an agrarian economy, is the leading apple-producing region in India, contributing significantly to the national apple output. He said that the current apple production for the 2025 season is estimated at approximately 22.15 Lakh Metric Tonnes (MT).

Minister informed that out of the 22.15 Lakh MT production, it is the normal trend that around 14.0 Lakh MT is exported to markets outside J&K, while the balance is consumed locally, stored in CA facilities, or lost due to natural perishability and handling losses.

"At the time of the road blockage, only 22,000 MT (about 1%) remained stranded on NH-44 during the period under reference, whereas a larger part of the produce would continue to move out in phases as per the seasonal pattern," he said.

Regarding the alternative measures taken for movement of horticulture produce during the period National Highway remained closed, he said that six-tyre trucks were permitted to use the Mughal Road.

Javid Dar further informed that Department of Horticulture P&M established a control room at Qazigund for monitoring and coordination of truck movement.

He said that farmers and traders were encouraged to use railway parcel vans, defer harvesting until NH-44 restoration and CA stores were recommended for short-term preservation.

Regarding the disruption in the movement of fruits due to highway blockade, minister said the region's horticultural produce movement was affected due to prolonged closure of National Highway 44 (NH-44), due to natural vagaries resulting in washing of carriageway of the national highway and landslides, which is the primary route for transporting fresh fruits and vegetables to national markets.

Heavy rainfall and landslides during August and early September (26th & 27th August and 2nd & 3rd September 2025) led to extensive damage along NH-44, including washing of a road stretch and landslides at various locations, disrupting the supply chain and stranding significant quantities of apple produce.(DIPR)

Hopes

government doesn't make decisions based on religion or area. "These are BJP members who have kept about 15% of the population of this country out of the government. Today, the BJP has not even one Muslim Member Parliament in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha," he said while replying to a query on compensation to the flood-hit people.

The Chief Minister said his government will decide to disburse relief to the people by looking at the loss, not the area or religion. He added that in the area which has suffered loss, the package will be requested from the Centre and distributed among the people.

On hurdles being faced under the Union Territory, Abdullah said that if there were no obstacles, he would not have asked for statehood. "It is obvious that issues are being raised. I have the responsibility, and I will have to answer the House. But the officer doesn't seem to be my choice. There are many other examples and many institutions that should be under the control of the elected government, which are not yet. There are two universities, Cultural Academy, SKIMS, Power Development Corporation. There are many things that should have been transferred to the elected government, which have not been done. With these obstacles, we are fighting that statehood should be returned to us so that all these rights are with us," he said.

About the Business Rules file, Omar said that there has been a conversation with the center for a few hours. "There have been one or two rounds of discussion. Some questions have been raised from there. But we are telling them that the business rules we have sent are completely under the J&K Reorganization Act. We have not tried to work against the Reorganization Act anywhere," he said.

Regarding MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone's statement calling Rajya Sabha elections a 'fixed match' between NC and BJP, the Chief Minister stated that the person who has not taken part in the elections should clarify what his helplessness was to help the BJP. "If he wanted to avoid match-fixing, at least he would have used his vote," he said, adding that the people of Handwara did not send him here to remain silent and play double roles. He should openly say whether he is with BJP or not.

"On the day when elections were announced, I had maintained that those who do not take part in this election or abstain are directly helping the BJP. The media had already announced the results, giving us three and the BJP the seat. But, on the ground, we fought and tried to win," he said.

Regarding the Rajya Sabha results, he said those who have made a deal of their faith should answer to Allah, adding that he would like them to come forward.

He also said that one of the independent MLAs had approached him and admitted that he made a mistake. "The MLA was not allowed to open the dummy voter slip and thus he voted in the wrong place," he added.

Omar said that on the last seat, four votes went in favour of the BJP, while three deliberately destroyed their votes because they didn't give a first preference; they directly wrote a second preference. Therefore, the BJP clearly made attempts to lure people. On what basis they were lured, whether they were induced or anything else, that only the BJP can answer," he said.

On the discussion over Mehraj Malik's detention, Abduallah said the speaker has given his opinion. I agree that whatever Mehraj Malik did was not worthy of a PSA. If there is any action against him, then the Speaker can do it. He is a member of this House," he said, adding that a disciplinary committee can be formed to look into it, but using PSA against an elected member is completely wrong.

The CM said that his attempt is that the central government should maintain relations so that J&K government's work is done properly. "But the relationship between the government, the National Conference, and the BJP has a big difference. There is no relation between the National Conference and the BJP anywhere else. What will happen to my relationship with the central government is another thing," he said.

Omar said any by-election is a challenge for a government. "We are taking this by-election also as a challenge. This challenge is multiplied by the complexities of voter distribution in Budgam. It is also multiplied by some element of internal politics that is playing out. I am hopeful that the people of Budgam will make the right choice," he said—(KNO)

Faizal & Shabana Foundation Expands Kerala's Nadakkavu Model to Transform Public Education in J&K

New Middle School block at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh marks the next chapter in national public education reform

Brings Kerala's proven Nadakkavu school-transformation model to the schools of Jammu & Kashmir



SRINAGAR: The Faizal & Shabana Foundation (FSF), the philanthropic arm co-founded by entrepreneur and education reformer Mr. Faizal E. Kottikollon and Mrs. Shabana Faizal, inaugurated the newly constructed Middle School Building at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh, Srinagar in the august presence of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, who as the Chief Guest at the Inauguration, lauded the initiative as a milestone in advancing inclusive and equitable education in the region.

The event was attended by several key dignitaries from India and the UAE, including:

- RN Sharma, Principal Secretary, School Education Department, J&K
- Dr. Aman Puri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs
- Amb Sunjay Sudhir, former IFS
- Maj. Gen. Sharafuddin Sharaf (Retd.), Vice-Chairman, UIBC–UC and Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group UAE
- Dr G N Itoo, Director General, School Education Kashmir
- Senior members of the bureaucracy UAE and national media
- Leadership of the UAE India Business Council – UAE Chapter

For Jammu & Kashmir, the project holds added significance as a step toward building the educational infrastructure, empowering the youth, and ensuring social inclusion. It reaffirms the government's commitment to ensuring that every child, especially every girl child, has access to quality education in a safe, inspiring environment.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha extended his heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Faizal, Mrs. Shabana, and the Faizal & Shabana Foundation for their exemplary commitment to transforming public education in Jammu & Kashmir. This initiative reflects how visionary leadership, compassion, and collaboration can reshape the trajectory of government schooling. The project has not only revitalized the learning environment at Kothibagh but has also sparked new hope among students, teachers, and the wider community. It stands as a shining example of how design, innovation, and empathy can elevate education to global standards.

The project, under a Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model, marks the Foundation's expansion of its celebrated Nadakkavu Model from Kerala to Jammu & Kashmir. The Nadakkavu Model is a movement in public education reform rooted in design, innovation, and empathy. The Nadakkavu transformation in Kozhikode, where a 120-year-old government school was reimagined under the PRISM (Promoting Regional Schools to International Standards through Multiple Interventions) framework, had earlier inspired over 977 schools across Kerala and led to a state-wide government scale-up. With the launch of the Kothibagh project, this proven model now reaches Jammu and Kashmir, successfully bridging regional aspirations with a unified national vision for quality public schooling.

Faizal E. Kottikollon, Founder & Chairman of KEF Holdings and Co-Founder of the Faizal & Shabana Foundation said, "Today is a historic milestone in our mission to reimagine public education in India. What began as a single initiative in Kerala's Nadakkavu School has now grown into a nationwide movement, one that begins a new chapter here in Jammu & Kashmir. Our vision is simple: every child, irrespective of background, deserves access to world-class learning in an environment of dignity, design, and empathy. The success of government schools in Kerala proves that transformation is possible when purpose meets partnership. With the steadfast support of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and the people of Jammu & Kashmir, we are proud to take this journey forward and ensure that every child's potential becomes India's greatest strength."

Condolence Message

We are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Jana Begum, beloved wife of Sona Ullah Bhat, resident of Murran, Pulwama, who left for her heavenly abode on 24th October 2025.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved family in this moment of sorrow. May Almighty Allah grant her the highest place in Jannah and give patience and strength to her family and loved ones to bear this irreparable loss.

Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un
(Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return.)



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION GUREZ

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

(REW) E-NIT No. 22/2025-26/EE/R&B/Grz/7126-40/E-tendering/Dated:-25-10-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Supply of CGI Sheets for Construction of temporary Shelter Sheds for fire victim of Kashpot Block Panchayat Halqa Zadgay B	*10.00*	*600 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)*	*10 days*	*20000*	CDF of Hon'ble MLA	*DEE/ CEE/ BEE*	District Development Commissioner

Position of AAA:-(Accorded)

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.		25-10-2025	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	27-10-2025	(10:00 AM)
		To	01-11-2025	(04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	27-10-2025	(10:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	01-11-2025	(04:00 PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		01-11-2025	(06:00 PM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Gurez		

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Gurez

DIPK-7535/25 Dt: 27-10-2025

Amit Shah inaugurates Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai

NEWDELHI: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated 'Deep Sea Fishing Vessels' under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at Mazgaon Dock, Mumbai. On this occasion, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, and Union Minister of State for Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol were also present.

In his address, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this is a significant step towards modernizing India's marine fisheries sector and promoting cooperative-based development in coastal areas. He said that the Modi government is committed to realizing the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and strengthening the blue economy by leveraging the potential of the cooperative sector.

Amit Shah stated that the inauguration of the two trawlers today will not only enhance India's capacity to harness the potential of its fisheries wealth in the coming days but also ensure that, through cooperatives, the profits of the fisheries industry reach the homes of our hardworking poor fishermen.

Union Minister of Cooperation stated that presently, individuals working on trawlers for fishing are employed on a salary basis, but now, with cooperative-based fishing, the entire profit from the trawlers will reach the homes of every fisherman involved. Shah said that while 14 such trawlers will be provided initially, the Central Government, the Ministry of Cooperation, and the Fisheries Department plan to provide more such trawlers to fishermen on a cooperative basis in coming time. He mentioned that these trawlers can stay in deep seas for up to 25 days and carry up to 20 tons of fish. Additionally,



there will be larger ships to coordinate operations and transport fish from the sea to the shore. He also noted that the trawlers are equipped with convenient facilities for living and dining.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation stated that a major scheme is being planned in the coming days for the poor brothers and sisters who earn their livelihood by fishing along the approximately 11,000-kilometer-long coastline. He said that the concept of cooperation is that, whether it is milk production, agricultural markets, or fisheries, the profit belongs to the hardworking individual. A country truly prospers only when a poor person in a rural area becomes economically empowered. Shah remarked that those who view the country's prosperity solely through the lens of GDP do not understand the social structures of such a vast nation. In a country with a population exceeding 130 crore, mere GDP growth does not make it fully developed; a human-centric perspective must also be incorporated. Without the goal of making every individual and every family prosperous, the nation cannot truly prosper.

Amit Shah stated that in the field of fisheries, cooperation is becoming the foundation of the lives of all our brothers and sisters, and we are moving forward in this direction. He mentioned that plans are in place for processing, export, and the deployment of large collection ships in the future. He said that processing will be done by them, chilling centers will belong to them, and exports will also be facilitated through our multistate export cooperative.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched numerous programs for fisheries, which have yielded positive results. In 2014-15, India's total fisheries production was 102 lakh tonnes, which has now increased to 195 lakh tonnes. Domestic production was 67 lakh tonnes, which has risen to 147 lakh tonnes. Maritime production has grown from 35 lakh tonnes to 48 lakh tonnes. Freshwater fisheries have seen a 119 percent increase, rising from 67 lakh tonnes to 147 lakh tonnes, while maritime production has increased from 35 lakh tonnes to 48 lakh tonnes. He said that our approximately 11,000-kilometer-long coastline holds immense potential for increasing maritime production. The Ministry of Cooperation has set a goal to harness this potential and ensure that profits reach our fishermen brothers and sisters through a cooperative-based approach. (PIB)

Malaysia's Anwar Calls For Dialogue Over Coercion At ASEAN's East Asia summit

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Monday urged Asia-Pacific leaders to choose dialogue over coercion and cooperation over confrontation, as he opened the East Asia summit at a time of sharpening rivalry between the United States and China.

The East Asia summit is a regional forum between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and its key regional partners—Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States—to discuss political, security and economic challenges.

"Today we must renew our shared purpose, reassert our objectives, promote principles of forward-looking engagement," Anwar said in his opening remarks. "We continue to advocate for dialogue over coercion...and cooperation over confrontation. We affirm our stand on global peace and security, for multilateralism and international law."

The summit convened after US President Donald Trump left Malaysia earlier Monday for Japan, following his participation in ASEAN's weekend summit meetings. On Sunday, Trump witnessed the signing of several economic agreements with Malaysia, Thailand, and Cambodia—part of Washington's push to strengthen trade ties and secure access to critical minerals as it seeks to reduce reliance on China.

Trump also attended a ceremony marking a formal expansion of the Cambodia–Thailand ceasefire that Washington helped broker earlier this year.

Analysts say tensions in the South China Sea, the resilience of regional supply chains and ASEAN's response to internal crises, particularly Myanmar's prolonged conflict, would dominate talks in the East Asia summit.

The US delegation is expected to emphasise freedom of navigation, economic security and a transactional approach to alliances and trade, presenting Washington as a reliable partner for Indo-Pacific stability, said Ilango Karuppannan, former Malaysian ambassador and senior adjunct fellow at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

By contrast, China, represented by Premier Li Qiang, will likely underscore sovereignty, noninterference and the virtues of connectivity through projects such as the Belt and Road initiative and other regional frameworks, he said.

Their "rivalry sets the backdrop against which every other issue is discussed—from security to trade" but ASEAN is expected to maintain its neutrality, keeping the focus on regional cooperation, not on taking sides, Ilango said.

"The 20th East Asia summit will be remembered



for the signing of the peace deal and US trade recalibration with Southeast Asia," he added.

Anwar, in his speech, again commended Trump's plan to end the Gaza conflict, but said more must be done to ensure a just and lasting political solution for the Palestinian people.

He voiced concern over the recent surge of ballistic missile launches by North Korea and called for engagement.

"Once we call for engagement in all areas from Gaza to Ukraine to Myanmar, we should not preclude engagement with (North Korea)," he said.

On Myanmar, he said ASEAN is sticking to its 2021 Five-Point Consensus on peace and dialogue to resolve the civil war triggered by Myanmar's 2021 military takeover. He didn't touch on Myanmar's plan for a general election, but said fighting has subsided and that engagement should continue.

Anwar also said territorial tensions in the South China Sea should be resolved within ASEAN and its regional partners, with a "Code of Conduct" being negotiated to govern behaviour in the disputed global sea route. He warned that outside pressure could escalate tensions and urged all parties to respect international law.

Earlier, ASEAN members and five partners — China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand — held a leaders' summit of the Regional Economic Comprehensive Partnership, the first since they signed a free trade pact in 2020. The agreement, which covers roughly one-third of global GDP, aims to promote regional economic integration and strengthen supply chain resilience. (PTI)

Putin should focus on ending war with Ukraine: Trump after Russia tests Burevestnik nuke-powered missile

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Monday dismissed reports of Russia testing a nuclear-powered missile stating that the US also had nuclear submarines located close to Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin had yesterday in his address to the Federal Assembly (Russia's bicameral parliament) stated that Moscow had developed a small-sized nuclear power unit that could be used in a cruise missile to extend its range practically indefinitely. According to Putin, this would be a low-flying missile with unpredictable trajectory, TASS reported.

The missile's development kicked off after the United States withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in December 2001, the Russian official media reported.

Putin was cited as saying that the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile has no analogues in the world. He said Moscow had successfully tested teh weapon and will work towards deploying it. Russian officials claim it remained airborne for about 15 hours and covered about 14,000 kilometers (8,700 miles).

Speaking to reporters on Air Force One, Trump said, "They know we have a nuclear submarine, the greatest in the world, right off their shore."

"So I mean, it doesn't have to go 8,000 miles, and they're not playing games with us, we're not playing games with them either. We test missiles all the time, " Trump said.

"And I don't think it's an appropriate thing for Putin to be saying either, by the way," the US President said.

Further referring to the Russian-Ukraine conflict, Trump said, "He ought to get the war ended, a war that should have taken one week is now in its fourth year, that's what he ought to do instead of testing missiles."

White House earlier last week placed sanctions on two of Russia's largest oil companies -Rosneft and Lukoil, along with dozens of subsidiaries. The European Union also on Wednesday unanimously approved its 19th package of sanctions against Russia.

Meanwhile after participating in the ASEAN Summit in Malaysia, Trump on Monday afternoon landed in Tokyo for meetings with emperor and new prime minister Sanae Takaichi. (ANI)



Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Inaugurates NSC Seed Processing Plants, Launches Online Booking System

NEWDELHI: Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan today inaugurated the newly established state of the art vegetable and flower seed processing and packaging unit of the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) at Pusa Complex, New Delhi. On this occasion, he also virtually inaugurated five NSC seed



processing plants located at Bareilly, Dharwad, Hassan, Suratgarh and Raichur.

The vegetable seed processing plant at Beej Bhawan, Pusa, New Delhi, has a processing capacity of 1 tonne per hour, while the other five NSC plants have a capacity of 4 tonnes per hour each. These facilities are equipped with advanced technologies to ensure the availability of high-quality seeds to farmers and to enhance the quality of seed production across the country.

During the programme, Chouhan also launched the 'Seed Management 2.0' system and an online seed booking platform for farmers. Through this platform, farmers will now be able to book their seed requirements online, ensuring greater transparency and accessibility. He emphasised that it is crucial for quality seeds to reach small and marginal farmers.

Chouhan stated that the new facilities will ensure easy access to high-quality seeds, significantly improving agricultural productivity. "These new plants will fulfil farmers' requirements, which is extremely important. During the recently conducted 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan', the maximum number of complaints received were related to spurious and substandard seeds. Hence, ensuring the supply of quality seeds is essential, and NSC has a vital role to play in this. The government is taking strict measures in this regard," the Union Minister said.

Commending the NSC team, the Union Minister described this initiative as a major step towards a self-reliant agricultural system, adding that the role of NSC is not merely to earn a livelihood but to fill the nation's grain reserves.

Chouhan urged the corporation to undertake innovations in regional languages to make its services more accessible to farmers and curb the arbitrary practices of private companies. "Private players have their own role, but public corporations have their distinct importance. The functioning of State Seed Development Corporations also needs to be improved. Considering all these aspects, NSC should work with a clear roadmap," he said.

The event was attended by Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi, NSC CMD and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Smt. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Joint Secretary Ajit Kumar Sahu, and senior officials from NSC and the Agriculture Ministry.

The National Seeds Corporation Limited is a Schedule 'B' – Mini Ratna Category-I Company, fully owned by the Government of India. Since its establishment in 1963, NSC has been playing a pivotal role in producing and supplying quality seeds to farmers across the country. (PIB)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj Records 100% Disposal of Public Grievances under Ongoing Special Campaign 5.0

NEWDELHI: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is actively undertaking activites under Special Campaign 5.0 from 2nd to 31st October 2025. The Ministry has recorded significant progress across key focus areas of public grievance redressal, record management, and cleanliness. As on 27th October 2025, the Ministry has achieved 100% disposal of 299 Public Grievances and 104 Public Grievance Appeals under the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters. Four cleanliness drives have been conducted during the campaign period, achieving all planned targets. Out of 150 physical files identified for review, 100 (67%) have been reviewed, while 355 (77%) of 460 e-files have been reviewed across various divisions. Till now as part of the regular follow-up, MoPR is regularly coordinating with State and UT Departments of Panchayati Raj to ensure timely resolution of public grievances.



Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, MoPR also conducted a review on 24th October 2025 of the ongoing implementation phase. So far, the Ministry has carried out cleanliness drives across it's offices in New Delhi, beginning with Shramdaan intiative on 1st October 2025 led by the Secretary at Connaught Place in New Delhi. As part of the overall workplace improvement, obsolete materials and equipments were disposed off, Workshop on Record Management was organized etc. The Ministry continues to operate fully on the eOffice platform, ensuring timely action, reduced pendency, and encouraging States and UTs to adopt similar practices at the Panchayat level. (PIB)

Opposition's stand against SIR excuse for impending electoral losses, master class in hypocrisy: BJP

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday slammed the Congress for questioning the integrity of the Election Commission over the SIR decision and called the Opposition a "herd of dissatisfied souls", alleging that they are targeting the poll panel over voter-list revision to find an excuse for their "impending electoral losses".

It also accused the Opposition of hypocrisy, saying the same parties that have been claiming that SIR is against the Constitution are demanding the revision exercise in some of the states.

This came after the Congress questioned the Election Commission's move to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Electoral rolls in 12 states and Union territories, including West Bengal, saying the poll body's intentions and credibility are under suspicion.

Also, the CPI(M) took different stands in TMC-ruled West Bengal and in Kerala, where the Left alliance is in power.

CPI(M) state secretary Mohammed Salim demanded that the voters' list in West Bengal be published in a transparent manner following SIR and that his party will depute booth-level agents (BLAs) in every polling booth to ensure that names of genuine voters are not omitted during SIR.

But in Kerala, the ruling CPI(M) party's state secretariat accused the Union government of "rushing" the SIR in the state with "ulterior motives" and warned that the exercise, based on voter rolls from 2002–2004, could disenfranchise more than 50 lakh voters.

Hitting back, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said the opposition parties are like "'asantusht atmaon ka jhund' (herd of dissatisfied souls)' and a "master class in hypocrisy".

"It is evident from the fact that on the one hand they will say that the SIR is for stealing of votes, the SIR is against the Constitution, and it should not be done. On the other hand, the SIR is being demanded by the opposition parties in Maharashtra before the local body polls," Poonawalla told PTI.

"Congress leader Tariq Anwar says



we are not opposed to the SIR principally, and Kharge and the other leaders of the Congress say that the SIR is an attack on democracy... They are completely confused," he added.

Poonawalla alleged that the Congress and other opposition parties are targeting the Election Commission and using the SIR as an excuse for the "impending losses" in the upcoming polls.

"They need somebody to blame," he said and accused the Opposition of following the strategy of "divide, distort, create deficit of trust in constitutional bodies and provoke riots" in the name of SIR.

"If not, how can they themselves demand deletion of votes (names of the ineligible voters) in states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana."

The BJP spokesperson termed the Congress and other opposition parties' reaction to the Election Commission's decision to conduct SIR an "attack on democracy" and alleged that they are doing so to "save their family".

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar announced on Monday that the poll panel will conduct phase two of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in 12 states and Union Territories between November and February.

The states and Union Territories are: the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Among these, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal will go to the polls in 2026. Kumar clarified that in Assam, where polls are also due in 2026, the revision of electoral rolls will be announced separately.

Phase two of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise will begin on November 4 with the enumeration state and continue till December 4. The EC will release the draft electoral rolls on December 9, and the final electoral rolls will be published on February 7.

Kumar said a separate provision of the Citizenship Act was applicable to Assam.

Ahead of the Election Commission's press conference, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said his government will welcome the poll panel's move to carry out SIR in the state.(PTI)

OPC FORTIFIED
KHYBER CEMENT

KHYBER CEMENT
Dil se banao

Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra
Dil Se Bana Hai



+91 1943501600 | info@khybercement.com | www.khybercement.com | Follow us:

Spectrum Ads | 7006500019

durashine®

TATA BLUESCOPE STEEL

Avoid getting TRICKED!
Scan QR code for GENUINE DURASHINE®





Auth Dealer: Saleem Trading Co. Bandipora +917006263383

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