



Govt Will Oppose Any Legislation Favoring Land Mafia: CM Omar

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR/GANDERBAL: Expressing hope for the early snowfall this year, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the government is putting efforts to promote the tourism sector in the region. He asserted that the government will not support any legislation that benefits the land mafia or those occupying land illegally.

Speaking to the media here about the second edition of the Kashmir Marathon, the Chief Minister said the event is set to be held on November 2, 2025, despite the chilly weather conditions. "So far, the registration has doubled compared to last year. Still, enough time is left; anyone who wants to participate in the event should book their tickets and join us in the event on Sunday," he said.

Omar said that Kashmir is the ideal destination for such an event, describing the Valley as the most beautiful and ideal destination for the marathon.

The temperature will be challenging, he said, adding that the marathon is an evolving event, now entering its second edition. Such events, he said, promote tourism and help increase

footfall in the Valley.

"These events have their own significance. We are trying to promote tourism through this event and other events. Our efforts are on to give a

though footfall is currently low, but added they are hopeful for an increase.

Earlier, speaking to the media in Ganderbal, the Chief Minister reacted to the decision to reject the land bill,

people will be supported, but those meant to help illegal occupants will not be passed," he said.

Asked about the government's decision despite PDP's support in the recently held Rajya Sabha elections, Omar said, "I am not ready to sell the land



Omar Abdullah said that Kashmir is the ideal destination for such an event, describing the Valley as the most beautiful and ideal destination for the marathon.

of Jammu and Kashmir for a seat in Rajya Sabha. The government will support any bill that is aimed at providing benefits to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Any bill to benefit the land mafia will not be passed by this government," he said.

Notably, the Chief Minister visited J&K Sainik School Manasbal to

■ See On P/6

J&K Spends Over Rs 500 Cr To Boost Tourism Infrastructure

FE NEWS NETWORK

'Record 4 Cr tourists visit in two years; Foreign tourist arrivals jump from 19,000 to 47,000'

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department has spent more than Rs 500 crore over the past two years on the upgradation of tourism infrastructure and promotional activities, resulting in record tourist arrivals across the Union Territory.

Data reveals, Rs 253.75 crore were allocated in 2023-24 and Rs 268.42 crore in 2024-25 under the Capex budget for tourism infrastructure.

However, no centrally sponsored scheme was implemented during the period.

The department allocated Rs 50.50 crore for advertisements and publicity, of which Rs 42.74 crore were utilized, the data revealed, in reply to MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah's query states.

Officials said the campaigns led to a

major boost in tourist inflow and the emergence of several new destinations.

The government said that over 4 crore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir in the past two years, an unprecedented figure considering the region's population



of 1.3 crore. Foreign tourist arrivals also saw a rise, from 19,000 in 2021-22 to 47,000 in 2022-23.

Officials said offbeat destinations such as Gurez, Bangus, Doodhpathri, Aitham and Basohli have gained popularity due to the department's promotional

■ See On P/6

Free Power Only After Rooftop Solar Panel Installation: Govt

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government clarified on Tuesday that its promise of 200 units of free electricity for poor households will only be implemented after the installation of rooftop solar panels.

Replying to a question in the Assembly,



the Jammu and Kashmir government clarified that the promise of 200 units of free electricity for the poorest

■ See On P/6

Darbar Move: Movement of HMVs, MMVs barred from Jmu to Sgr on Nov 1, 2



SRINAGAR: The Traffic Police on Tuesday issued a traffic advisory restricting the upward movement of heavy and medium motor vehicles (HMVs/MMVs) from Jammu towards Srinagar on November 1 and 2, in view of the annual Darbar Move.

According to an advisory, there shall be no up-movement of goods carriers from Jammu towards Srinagar on the said dates, coinciding with the shifting of offices from Srinagar to Jammu for the winter season 2025-26.

However, the movement of light motor vehicles (LMVs) shall be allowed from both ends—from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice versa.

The advisory further

■ See On P/6

4 in 5 Rural J&K Homes Now Have Tap Water: Govt

FE NEWS NETWORK

'Over **15.63 lakh** homes connected; **3.62 lakh** still to be covered under JJM'

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that around 81 per cent of rural households across the Union Territory have been provided with tap water connections, while efforts are underway to ensure 100 per cent coverage under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

In a written reply to a question tabled by MLA Sham Lal Sharma, the Jal Shakti Department, shared that it has not failed to supply safe drinking water to any area of the UT.

It said that out of 19.26 lakh rural households, 15.63 lakh (81%) have tap water connections within their premises, while the remaining 3.63 lakh households have access to drinking water through Public Stand Posts

(PSPs) installed under existing schemes. To provide safe and adequate drinking water to all households through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), the



department said 3,253 schemes were taken up under JJM at an estimated cost of rupees 13,344 crore. Of these, 1,480 schemes have been made functional, and 1,600 have achieved more than 50% physical progress. The remaining schemes are being completed in the extended phase of JJM, subject

■ See On P/6

8 Bills Fail As Assembly Rejects 2, Withdraws 6

Heated exchange of arguments between CM, PDP's Para

FE NEWS NETWORK

Minister Omar Abdullah opposed the introduction of "The Jammu

have constructed houses on it. "How is it possible to legalize state land for those who have illegally occupied it and built houses on it? How can such an act be justified?"



SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday disallowed the introduction of two private member bills—one brought by PDP's Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra and another by BJP's Balwant Singh Mankotia—while six other members withdrew their bills at the insistence of the government.

During the proceedings, Chief

and Kashmir (Regularization and Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Public Lands) Bill, 2025," arguing that the government cannot legitimize illegality.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, stated that the government cannot grant ownership rights to individuals who are in illegal possession of land and

He reiterated that the government cannot grant ownership rights to individuals who have illegally occupied state land and constructed houses on it. Omar said the government cannot accept the bill and urged the member to withdraw it.

Nowhere is it stated in the bill that if someone has already occupied state land and constructed a house, it should be legalized. This bill seems to convey that one can

■ See On P/6

CM Omar Pledges Govt's Support To Sainik School Manasbal

FE NEWS NETWORK

MANASBAL (GANDERBAL): Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, attended and addressed the Annual Day Function of Sainik School Manasbal, reaffirming his government's commitment to strengthening quality education and infrastructure of the institution.

Extending his greetings to the staff, students, and dignitaries, the Chief Minister said it was a pleasure to revisit the school after a long time, recalling fond memories associated with it. He praised Sainik School Manasbal for its outstanding contribution to education, discipline, and character building, acknowledging it as one of the leading educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Sainik School Manasbal has produced men of honour who have gone on to serve the nation with distinction—in the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the civil administration. There must be something truly special about this institution that so many of its alumni hold such prestigious positions," the Chief

Minister said.

Highlighting the government's commitment to promoting quality education, Omar Abdullah, who is also the Chairman of the Governing Body of Sainik School



Manasbal, said that in an era of growing competition—whether in colleges, civil services, or other examinations—it was imperative to provide the best possible facilities and infrastructure to students. "We are committed to ensuring that

schools like Sainik School Manasbal are equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure so that students can compete at the highest levels. We want to introduce new initiatives that will benefit the school and its students," he said.

"We are committed to ensuring that schools like Sainik School Manasbal are equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure so that students can compete at the highest levels. We want to introduce new initiatives that will benefit the school and its students," he said.

The Chief Minister announced that the school's sports ground will be modernized with the installation of synthetic turf for football and athletic activities, adding that the government will continue

■ See On P/6

CS Pushes AI, Stricter Enforcement To Boost Drug Convictions

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired the 15th Narco Co-ordination Centre (NCORD) meeting to review the ongoing efforts and coordinated measures being taken to curb the menace of narcotics trafficking and substance abuse across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Director General of Police (DGP); Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), CID; Principal Secretary, Home Department; and other senior officers from the civil and police administration.

Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) from all districts participated through video conferencing.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of strengthening the legal and institutional framework to ensure high-

er conviction rates under the NDPS Act. He directed the Police and Law Departments to collaborate closely to devise a strategy for improving



prosecution outcomes.

The Chief Secretary further called for developing an AI-enabled system to assist in the preparation of watertight charge sheets and directed IGP Jammu to lead the development of this module in coordination with the Prosecution and Law Departments.

■ See On P/6

Over 3.61 Lakh Educated Youth Registered As Unemployed In J&K: Govt

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday informed the Assembly that a total of 3,61,146 educated unemployed youth are currently registered across the Union Territory as of September 2025.

Official data reveals that the Kashmir Division accounts for over 2.08 lakh registrations, while the Jammu Division accounts for over 1.52 lakh. Srinagar district leads the list with 23,826 registered unemployed youth, followed by Anantnag (32,298), Pulwama (28,671), Kathua (26,798), and Kulgam (21,446). The lowest registrations were reported from Kishtwar (8,870) and Reasi (12,376) districts.

Among the total registered unemployed youth, 2,33,845 are male and 1,27,301 are female.

The government highlighted that the Employment Department, under Mission Youth and Mission YUVA, is working to generate 4.25 lakh job opportunities through the creation of 1.37 lakh entrepreneurship units, focusing on self-employment, startups,

■ See On P/6

Environment Protection initiatives reviewed in Poonch

DDC seeks focus on waste management, forest fortification, rain water conservation, plantation

FE NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting to assess the implementation of environment protection initiatives in the district.



The meeting focused on key issues including management of non-biodegradable and biomedical waste, fencing of forest and wildlife protected areas, progress of the Nagar Van Scheme, Catch the Rain campaign, identification of wetlands and forest land and enforcement of the ban on single-use plastic.

The DDC conducted a detailed review and sought status reports from SDMs, Tehsildars, DFO and other concerned officers. The officers apprised him of the progress made and challenges faced in their respective areas.

The DDC directed the field officers to conduct on-ground inspections to verify Forest area boundaries and ensure removal of encroachments. Emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation, he called for intensifying efforts to enhance greenery, improve air quality and uplift the quality of urban life under the Nagar Van Scheme.

Reviewing the Catch the Rain programme, the DFO and other officers briefed the District Development Commissioner about the status of water conservation initiatives such as development of Amrit Sarovars, Water Harvesting Tanks and other sources across the district. He further instructed the officers to sensitize people in hilly areas about the importance of rainwater harvesting and sustainable water resource management.

He directed the SDMs to conduct field inspections of ongoing works and strictly enforce ban on single-use plastic to promote eco-friendly practices in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik; CPO Mohammad Iqbal Zargar; ACP Rakesh Sharma; ACD Shakeel Ahmed; SDMs, CAO, Tehsildars, PO IWMP, DFOs, CAO, Xen JAL Shakti, BDOs and other concerned officers.

IAS Anmol Rathore visits Directorate of Agriculture Jammu

JAMMU: Ms. Anmol Rathore, IAS, visited the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, Jammu. During her visit, she interacted with the officers of the department and took an overview of the ongoing schemes and initiatives being implemented for the welfare of farmers in the Jammu Division.

The Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu Anil Gupta briefed Ms. Rathore about the departmental activities, progress under various schemes and the technological interventions being adopted to enhance productivity and income of farming communities.

Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Sanjay Anand; Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Aman Jyoti Sharma; Agriculture Chemist Vinod Kumar Sharma; Agronomist (VIS) Jammu Vikas Padha; Mushroom Development Officer (MDO) Jammu Raghubir Pal Kochar; Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Manohar Lal Sharma besides senior officers and staff of the department were also present.

During the visit, Ms. Rathore assessed the Soil Testing Laboratory, Pesticide Testing Laboratory and Fertilizer Testing Laboratory, where Agriculture Chemist Vinod Kumar Sharma explained in detail the functioning and ongoing activities of the laboratories.

Ms. Rathore keenly observed the laboratory operations and appreciated the dedicated work being carried out for maintaining the quality of agricultural inputs provided to farmers.

Later, she visited the Vegetable Improvement Scheme, where she examined the Hi-Tech Polyhouse, Glass House, Naturally Ventilated Polyhouse (NVPH) and Floriculture Nurseries.

Agronomist Vikas Padha briefed her about the activities undertaken under the VIS including seedling production, crop demonstrations and farmer benefit programs. Ms. Rathore was apprised of how seedlings raised in the Hi-Tech Polyhouse reach farmers and contribute to enhancing productivity and profitability.

She also visited the upcoming Centre of Excellence (CoE) site and went through the ongoing construction and development works. The officers briefed her about the objectives and future benefits of the Centre in promoting advanced agricultural technologies.

Subsequently, Ms. Rathore visited the Pasteurizing Unit, Mushroom Controlled Cropping Unit, and Spawn Production Laboratory, where MDO Raghubir Pal Kochar apprised her of the functioning and technical aspects of mushroom cultivation and spawn production. Ms. Rathore appreciated the comprehensive efforts of the department in promoting diversified and sustainable agricultural activities across Jammu Division.



DM Reasi Calls For Scaling Up Vigil Against Drug Abuse, Trafficking

FE NEWS NETWORK

REASI: District Magistrate Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired the meeting of District level Narco Coordination (NCORD) Committee meeting at the DC Office Complex. The meeting was attended by senior functionaries from Police, Excise, Education, Health and other line departments to deliberate on strategies aimed at strengthening efforts against drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the district. The District Magistrate took a comprehensive review of ongoing anti-narcotics measures, awareness campaigns and enforcement actions undertaken by the stakeholder departments.

Reviewing the intelligence gathering and trends of drug trafficking, SSP Paramvir Singh informed the DM that the Police have constituted an Anti-Drug Squad to tighten noose around the perpetrators of drug trafficking and substance abuse.

The DM directed the Police Department to intensify vigilance, especially in identified hotspots. She also reviewed the status of NDPS cases and instructed the prosecution to pursue the cases strongly.

Further, the DM emphasized the need to strictly enforce the ban on the sale of tobacco within 100 meters of educational institutions, directing concerned departments to ensure compliance with related laws. The DFO Reasi informed that poppy crops were destroyed in the Thakrakote and Pouni areas as part of

the ongoing enforcement drive.

The District Magistrate also directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to prepare

and colleges have submitted the required certificates.

The DM further instructed the Assistant



a detailed report of individuals undergoing de-addiction treatment and ensure proper follow-up and rehabilitation. She instructed the Health Department to procure and distribute drug testing kits among blocks, schools and colleges as per requirement to strengthen preventive efforts.

DM Malik also reviewed the IEC activities under the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan being implemented by stakeholder departments and educational institutions to spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse. She directed officers to intensify awareness camps and ensure coverage of all areas of the district.

The DM also reviewed steps taken for the declaration of schools and colleges as Tobacco-Free Zones under the TOFEI guidelines. The CEO informed that ZEOs

Drug Controller to conduct regular inspections of medical establishments across the district. He informed that licenses of two establishments have been suspended for different violations. The DM further emphasized to enforce directions regarding installation of CCTV cameras and the computerized billing system at all medical shops to enhance transparency and accountability.

The DM also directed the CMO to closely monitor the process of establishing the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) in the district and expedite its execution.

Among others present in the meeting were PO POSHAN Surdesh Kumar, ACD, CMO, CEO, DSWO, Tehsildars and other senior officers were present at the meeting.

DC Reviews Ground Impact Of Environment Protection Initiatives In Doda District

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh chaired a meeting in his office chambers to review environment protection initiatives, including water conservation, waste



management and plantation.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Doda, Superintending Engineer Hydraulics, DFOs (virtually), Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and I&FC Divisions, Divisional Officer PCC, ACR and other concerned officers.

The meeting took a detailed review of action taken pursuant to the decisions of the Government and the Supreme Court regarding forest demarcation, boundary fixation, encroachment removal and ecological protection.

Discussions also covered the monitoring of non-biodegradable waste management as per the Jammu and Kashmir Non-Biodegradable Material (Management, Handling and Disposal)

Act, 2007 and progress on the fencing of forest and wildlife-protected areas.

Other important points included the status of enforcement of Air and Water Acts, biomedical waste management in health institutions, implementation of the Green India Mission and Nagar Van Scheme and identification of forest land as per Supreme Court directives.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized strict enforcement of environmental laws, with special focus on eliminating single-use plastics and strengthening waste management mechanisms in both urban and rural areas. He directed the Pollution Control Committee and the Forest Department to intensify field inspections and awareness campaigns to ensure full compliance with environmental regulations. The DC instructed all departments to submit weekly progress reports on action taken, ensuring transparency and accountability.

The DC Doda directed the ACR to ensure proper verification and documentation of Gair Mumkin Jhaad in forest areas and to take necessary action to protect state land. He stressed on the conservation of specified tree species on state land and directed for enforcement of orders within the stipulated timeline. The DC also instructed the concerned officers to verify the functioning of stone crushers and to take appropriate measures

to ensure compliance with environmental norms.

During the meeting, the issue of biomedical waste generated by the health sector was also discussed in detail. The DC directed the Health Department to furnish a detailed report on the quantity of biomedical waste generated and its disposal as per established guidelines. He also emphasized the need for strengthening the waste segregation system at the source level.

Reviewing the Catch the Rain Initiative, the Superintending Engineer Jal Shakti presented an overview of ongoing and completed works. The DC directed the concerned officers to expedite water conservation activities, desilting of ponds and afforestation efforts. He further instructed for geo-tagging of all water bodies and springs across the district by November 15, ensuring accuracy through digital mapping.

The DC also emphasized the construction of check dams in areas having water springs to prevent wastage of water. He directed the departments to focus on rejuvenation of dried and low-yielding sources.

Highlighting the ecological importance of the Chenab Valley, the DC called for community participation in sustainable development and environmental conservation. He urged all departments to coordinate effectively under a joint action plan to achieve the vision of a clean, green and ecologically resilient Doda.

DYSS Kishtwar organises Inter-Zonal District-Level “Viksit Bharat” cultural & innovation youth fest

KISHTWAR: An Inter-Zonal District-Level “Viksit Bharat” Youth Festival, featuring a vibrant display of Creativity, Culture and



innovation was organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports (YS&S) Kishtwar under the banner of the Youth Festival 2025-26.

The event was held in the Auditorium of Government Degree College, under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

The festival brought together talented youth from across the Educational Zones of the district, showcasing their skills and imagination in diverse competitions, including Declamation, Story Writing, Painting, Folk Dance, Folk Song, Poetry Writing and Innovation (Science Exhibition).

Each event resonated with the vision of “Viksit Bharat”, highlighting the creativity, confidence and potential of India’s younger generation.

The event was graced by District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh along with departmental officials and cultural enthusiasts.

In his address, Jaffer Haider Sheikh commended the participants for their enthusiasm and talent, emphasizing the vital role of such platforms in nurturing innovation, artistic excellence and cultural identity among the youth.

He also appreciated the dedication of the field staff, officers and officials for their meticulous coordination and spirited efforts in organizing the grand festival.

A panel of esteemed judges, drawn from reputed academic and cultural institutions, evaluated the performances and identified outstanding participants who will now represent District Kishtwar at the upcoming Divisional-Level Youth Festival.

The event not only celebrated the rich cultural diversity of the region but also reflected the department’s steadfast commitment to empowering young minds through holistic development—blending art, culture, science and innovation in the spirit of national progress.

SSP Ramban encourages women trainees at SBI RSETI’s certificate distribution event

RAMBAN: The State Bank of India Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI RSETI), Ramban organized a Certificate Distribution Ceremony for the pass out trainees of the Women’s



Tailoring and Beauty Parlor Training Programmes. The event marked the culmination of intensive skill development courses aimed at empowering rural women through self-employment opportunities and sustainable livelihood generation.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Gupta was the Chief Guest. In his address, he congratulated the trainees for successfully completing their respective training programmes and urged them to utilize their newly acquired skills to become self-reliant and contribute positively to society. He further encouraged the women participants to serve as role models, inspiring other girls to pursue vocational education and embrace self-reliant livelihoods.

“Skill is the true strength of a person; by using your knowledge and talent effectively, you can bring a positive change not only in your family but also in your community,” the SSP remarked. Earlier, the Director RSETI S. Harvinder Singh, briefed the Chief Guest about the diverse range of training programmes offered by the institute to promote employability and entrepreneurship in rural areas. He also apprised the participants about credit linkage support and post-training assistance available through SBI and government-sponsored schemes for establishing income-generating ventures.

The event was hosted by Course Coordinator Amrik Singh Raju, who outlined the objectives of the training programmes and highlighted RSETI’s mission of fostering skill development, entrepreneurship and financial independence among rural youth and women.

The ceremony concluded with the signature RSETI Claps, symbolizing unity, enthusiasm and commitment to the cause of self-employment and women empowerment.

DC Ramban hands over Micro ATMs, Biometric Devices to Krishi Udhymis

RAMBAN: In a significant step towards promoting digital financial inclusion and strengthening the outreach of agricultural services, the District Administration Ramban, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, distributed Micro ATMs and Biometric Devices among Krishi Udhymis (KUs) associated with different Kissan Kidmat Ghars of the district and on-boarded with the Common Service Centres (CSC) network under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, who gave away the devices to the Krishi Udhymis and encouraged them to play their proactive role in extending both agricultural and digital services to the farming community at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized upon the Krishi Udhymis to provide doorstep digital financial services, including Aadhaar-enabled payments, fund transfers and other online government services, particularly benefiting farming communities in remote and hilly areas. He highlighted that the integration of agriculture and digital technology is a key to achieve the vision of Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

This initiative is expected to pave the

way for greater financial inclusion, digital connectivity and technology-driven growth in the agricultural sector of Ramban district, the DC added.

Chief Agriculture Officer Ramban, Dr. Vinay Kumar Jandial, while addressing the gathering, stated that the distribution of Micro ATMs and Biometric Devices will empower Krishi Udhymis to function as Digital Service Providers, ensuring that farmers have access to essential financial and agricultural services within their local areas.

He added that this initiative under HADP marks an important milestone in building digitally empowered agricultural entrepreneurs who can bridge the gap between farmers and technology.

Others present on the occasion included District Agriculture Officer Kuldeep Bassan, Subject Matter Specialist, Jyoti Prakash and Sub-Divisional SMS of Ramban, who also sensitized the Krishi Udhymis and encouraged them to utilize the devices effectively for the benefit of the farming community.

Officials from the Agriculture Department, CSC representatives, and Krishi Udhymis from different blocks of the



district attended the event.

The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the District Administration and the Agriculture Department for their continuous support in promoting digital empowerment and agricultural entrepreneurship.

Chief Minister Omar unveils Kashmir Marathon merchandise

Invites runners, fitness enthusiasts & all interested to join November 2 event

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah unveiled the official merchandise of Kashmir Marathon-2025 at the Royal Springs Golf Course. The merchandise - cap, medal, and racing kit specially designed for the participants of the event was displayed at a brief function with media and officers of tourism department present.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister extended an open invitation to all fitness enthusiasts to test their endurance and participate in the 2nd edition of the Kashmir Marathon-2025, scheduled to be held on November 2.

Speaking after the launch, the Chief Minister said that an encouraging number of registrations have already been received for the event, including a significant increase in foreign athlete participation, particularly for the full marathon category.

Highlighting Kashmir's unique appeal for hosting such sporting events, the Chief Minister said, "Kashmir is the only place

some of the most iconic landmarks of Srinagar including Jhelum riverfront, Lal Chowk, Dalgate, and the scenic Dal



in the country that offers such scenic beauty and ideal weather conditions for a marathon."

He added that runners will traverse

Lake shore in the half marathon category, while full marathon participants will run further towards Hazratbal and Kashmir University.

The Chief Minister noted that runners will compete in temperatures ranging between 6-8°C, a rare advantage compared to other marathon destinations across the country in warm weather. He expressed confidence that the Kashmir Marathon is fast evolving into a premier sporting event and will soon stand alongside renowned marathons like the Delhi Marathon, which has been held for over two decades.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq, MD JKTC Shreya Singhal, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, Haris Ahmed Handoo, Joint Director Tourism Waseem Raja, Additional Secretary Tourism Owais Mushtaq and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

DC Shopian emphasised on strengthening fight against substance abuse

SHOPIAN: District Level Narco Coordination (NCORD) committee meeting was held at Shopian under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta in order to review the measures being taken against the drug and substance abuse.

On the occasion, the DC took appraisal of department-wise action taken reports and emphasised on taking coordinated action against the drug and substance abuse.

Respective department heads intimated on the progress, action being taken including police action, awareness camps, treatment facility at DH, supervision in educational institutions, inspection of pharmacies, etc. The DC called for comprehensive enforcement of drug dispensing norms by pharmacies with focus on conducting prescription audit and

strengthening the fight against drug abuse.

Stress was also laid on conducting more IEC activities



in hotspot areas, initiating the highest degree of penal action on drug peddlers and keeping close vigil on educational institutions and coaching institutions.

The alarming situation of substance abuse was highlighted and stakeholders were instructed

to take more result oriented action on wild cannabis destruction drives and creating awareness along with other measures.



SSP, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary, ACR, SDM Zainapora, Tehsildars, concerned district officers from Health, YS&S, Agriculture, Education, Colleges, Drugs, Excise, ATF, Information, Social Welfare and others attended the meeting.

Chrysanthemum Garden at NMBG a proud initiative of Floriculture Department

SRINAGAR: The Department of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Jammu & Kashmir, clarifies that the newly developed and inaugurated Chrysanthemum Garden at the Nehru Memorial Botanical Garden (NMBG), Srinagar has been entirely conceived, developed, and executed by this Department. The department stated that some reports and social media posts suggesting collaboration with any other agency in the creation of the Chrysanthemum Garden are factually incorrect and misleading and no institutional collaboration, MoU, or joint execution has been undertaken with any agency for its development. The Department's officers, its own technical team and field staff have carried out entire planning, design, plantation and landscaping work under its regular development programme. While the Department acknowledged and appreciated the contributions of other institutions or agencies towards the development of region's floriculture sector, it emphasized that due credit be given to the actual executing agency of Chrysanthemum Garden, the Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks for its vision and efforts in coming up with another great addition to floral landscape of Kashmir after Tulip Garden. The Chrysanthemum Garden at NMBG stands as a proud initiative only of the Department of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, J&K and is aimed at enhancing public spaces and promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir during autumn season. The Department reaffirmed its commitment to continue developing more such unique floral attractions under its own exclusive initiatives.

DDC Kulgam reviews progress of District Capex Works

KULGAM: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the Mini Secretariat Kulgam to assess the progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) across various sectors.

The meeting was attended by key officers and sectoral heads to evaluate physical and financial achievements, identify bottlenecks, and ensure timely execution of developmental projects in the district.

A detailed review was held regarding the status of works sanctioned, tendered, allotted, and taken up for execution under both the District Capex Budget and Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The meeting also deliberated upon the financial progress of ongoing projects and the status of works uploaded on the E-Compendium portal.

During the meeting, the DDC directed officers to ensure 100% utilization of available funds and timely completion of ongoing projects, particularly by the RDD

and allied departments. He also directed all concerned officers to achieve 100% tendering and allotment of works under both

community-demanded works, and ensure third-party quality monitoring for accountability. A block-wise review of CDF



District Capex and CDF within three days, emphasizing strict adherence to the timeline. The Joint Director Planning, Kulgam, presented a comprehensive overview of the district's progress through a detailed presentation, highlighting sector-wise achievements and targets.

Emphasizing the need for transparency, timely tendering, and strict quality monitoring, the DDC underscored that effective resource utilization and adherence to deadlines are crucial for faster delivery of public assets.

The DDC further instructed departments lagging behind schedule, to expedite execution, prioritize people-centric and

works was also conducted with respective BDOs, alongside an examination of physical and financial progress reports pertaining to the Capex Budget 2025-26.

Reiterating that no compromise on quality will be tolerated, the DDC directed all executing agencies to complete all pending projects within the stipulated timelines.

Senior officials present in the meeting included Joint Director Planning Malik Suheel, Executive Engineers from PWD and KPDC, and sectoral officers from Agriculture, Education, Youth Services & Sports, Medical, and Engineering wings of various departments.

...Vigilance Awareness Week 2025

ACB holds Awareness session for Health Department at Bandipora

BANDIPORA: As part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 being observed from 27th October to 2nd November on the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility", the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday conducted an awareness session with officers and officials of the Health Department Bandipora at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

began with the administration of the Integrity Pledge by an officer from ACB, followed by a detailed presentation on vigilance practices, corruption prevention measures, and accountability mechanisms. The ACB team also held an interactive Question and Answer session, addressing queries and sharing practical insights. During his address, DySP, Fayaz Ahmad highlighted the

equipment, goods and services, observance of General Financial Rules, avoidance of post-facto approvals, and prevention of procurement at exorbitant rates.

Officers were also cautioned against prescription of specific brands for personal gains, unnecessary referrals and surgeries at private institutions, and irregularities in issuance of fitness and disability certificates or falsification of duty rosters.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ishtiyak Naik expressed gratitude to the ACB for organizing such a thought-provoking and informative session. He remarked that, "If everybody performs their duty sincerely and with good character, corruption will automatically vanish. Integrity and honesty must become the foundation of our professional conduct."

Among others, the event was attended by Medical Superintendent District Hospital Bandipora, Medical Officers, Paramedical Staff, Clerical Staff, ASHA Workers, MLHPs from various health institutions across the district and other officials of the Health Department.



The event was chaired by Chief Medical Officer Bandipora, Dr. Ishtiyak Naik, while a team from Anti-Corruption Bureau North Kashmir, led by DySP ACB Baramulla, Fayaz Ahmad, along with Inspector, Arif Gul; NT, Manzoor Ahmad, and ASI Mukhtar Ahmad, sensitized the participants on preventive vigilance and ethical conduct in public service. The programme

role and functioning of the ACB and emphasized the importance of individual and collective responsibility in promoting integrity and transparency. He underscored the need for strict adherence to codal formalities, financial prudence, and ethical conduct in all departmental operations.

Special focus was laid on key areas such as procurement of

Government committed to nurture young talent, promote emerging sports disciplines: Deputy CM

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary inaugurated the prospects of National Soft Tennis Championship, scheduled to be held from 1st to 6th November, 2025 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy CM applauded the efforts of J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association and J&K Sports Council for developing sports culture across J&K. He highlighted that the Government is committed to nurture young talent and promote emerging

sports disciplines in J&K.

He appreciated the players for their passion and urged them to set their goals high towards representing India at the Olympic Games, World Cups and Asian Championships. "Perseverance, discipline, and hard work are the true hallmarks of sporting excellence", he added.

The Deputy CM also extended his heartfelt wishes to the organizers and participants of the 22nd Senior National Soft Tennis Championship. The event witnessed the

presence of the office bearers of the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association, members of the organizing committee, and the J&K Soft Tennis Team that will represent the J&K in the forthcoming national championship. On the occasion, the office bearers of J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association expressed gratitude to Deputy CM for his continuous support and encouragement towards the promotion of sports and youth development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Khursheed Ahmad Dar Reappointed as DMO Pulwama, Retains Additional Charge of Kulgam

Pulwama: The people of Pulwama and Kulgam have warmly congratulated Dr. Khursheed Ahmad Dar on his reappointment as District Mineral Officer (DMO) Pulwama, while continuing to hold additional charge of DMO Kulgam.

This dual responsibility reflects the administration's confidence in his unwavering commitment, professionalism, and proven track record in the Department of Geology and Mining. Local residents, public representatives, and stakeholders from both districts have lauded Dr. Dar for his transparent, disciplined, and result-oriented approach in curbing illegal mining and streamlining mineral management operations.

His tenure has been marked by strict enforcement of mining regulations, efficient monitoring mechanisms, and a people-friendly

administrative style that has earned him widespread respect.

Citizens have praised Dr. Dar as a dedicated officer who leads by example - known for his honesty, accessibility, and relentless work ethic.

Many noted that hard work and integrity never go unrewarded, and his continued charge is a well-deserved recognition of his sustained efforts to protect natural resources and ensure lawful mining practices in South Kashmir.

The people of Pulwama and Kulgam expressed confidence that under his continued leadership, the department will achieve greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency in mineral regulation.

Heartiest congratulations to Dr. Khursheed Ahmad Dar on this well-deserved honor and continued trust - a testament to his commitment to good governance and public service.

Electricity amnesty scheme fails to benefit poor: PDP's Fayaz Mir

Srinagar: People's Democratic Party (PDP) lawmaker Mohammad Fayaz Mir on Tuesday said that the government's electricity amnesty scheme, introduced four years ago to assist poor consumers, has failed to deliver benefits to them.

Speaking in the Assembly, Mir, per news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that with the onset of winter every year, people continue to face electricity shortages despite repeated government assurances. He said the amnesty scheme was launched with the belief that it would ease the burden on poor households, but in practice, those with multiple properties have benefitted instead.

"In villages, there are families with six or seven houses who have received relief under the scheme, while poor families living in a single room continue to struggle to pay electricity bills of rupees 1,500 to 1,600," Mir said.

He urged the government to consider a one-time settlement for pending electricity dues under the AYPF scheme, which he said could bring substantial revenue to the government's treasury and help regularize payments. Mir said poor families under schemes like PMAY are unable to build houses or afford basic needs due to delays in financial assistance. "If the government cannot release even rupees 15,000 for rice, how will poor families arrange 1 lakh to build a house?" he asked. He said such schemes should be implemented in a way that provides real relief to low-income households and ensures that government benefits reach the intended beneficiaries-(KNO)

New fleet of buses arriving, border districts to be prioritised during their deployment: Transport Minister

SRINAGAR: Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma said that new fleet of Buses is arriving and the government will deploy them as per the needs and requirements of people, besides border areas will be covered adequately.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Ajaz Ahmad Jan on SRTC Buses in Legislative Assembly today.

He added that Border districts of Poonch and Rajouri will be prioritised as soon as the deployment of new fleet of buses is done.

While replying to a question, the Minister informed that JKRTC plies bus services in the Haveli Constituency on the Jammu-Poonch and vice versa route continuously, adding that due to cross border shelling, the said service was discontinued for one week and the same service was restored immediately after one

week. J&K for shifting the stranded passengers coming back from



JKRTC provided two vehicles for Poonch Haveli constituency on 10.05.2025 for shifting of affected people to safer zones. He added that JKRTC also plied bus services for shifting of stranded passengers to their home town Districts during the said period on the request of District Administration, Poonch. The Minister also informed the house that during Operation Sindoor, 58 RTC Buses were deployed in several areas of

other neighbouring States. He informed that in Poonch 2 buses, Mendhar 1 bus, Rajouri 3 buses, Jammu 4 buses, Bishnah 5 buses, Akhnour/Khour 11 buses, Srinagar 2 buses, Doda 14 buses, Kishtwar 4 buses, Paddar/Nagsani 1 bus and for Bhaderwah 4 buses were deployed during Operation Sindoor for facilitation of public. Legislators, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Baldev Raj Sharma raised supplementary questions on the subject.

...Run for Unity & Celebration of UT Diwas

Ensure befitting, meticulous execution of arrangements: Div Com to officers

SRINAGAR: Ensure befitting and meticulous execution of entrusted responsibilities for the smooth and successful conduct of "Run for Unity" and celebration of UT Foundation Diwas/Ekta Diwas directed Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg to officers while chairing a meeting at SKICC, on Tuesday.

While taking the final review of preparations with officers, the Div Com issued slew of directions for comprehensive arrangements to ensure no space for loophole or lackadaisical approach.

The Div Com directed for conduct of step-by-step proceedings in a synchronized manner for vibrant celebrations of the day.

He directed departments for the enthusiastic and overwhelming participation in the programmes and instructed participants to arrive at the

venue before 8:30 AM.

The Div Com issued detailed directions regarding arrangements, including

and distribution of refreshment.

He directed Information Department for finalization of documentary to be



erection of pandals in the SKICC back lawn, singing of the National Anthem before the flag-off of the "Run for Unity" and at the conclusion of the UT Diwas celebration in the auditorium. He further instructed for stage decoration, distribution of caps, pick-and-drop facilities, VIP and participant seating, parking management,

screened during the event, installation of video walls and standees and creation of creative backdrop highlighting the theme of unity and progress.

Div com directed Traffic Police to issue advance traffic advisory for effective and meticulous traffic regulation.

He also reviewed compilation of

success stories by departments and performance of cultural programmes.

Meanwhile, he took stock of the readiness of a photo exhibition showcasing vibrancy of UT of J&K besides achievements by the departments.

Moreover, he issued directions to civil departments for ensuring comprehensive arrangements for basic amenities including availability of drinking water, uninterrupted electricity, mobile toilet facility, medical staff, ambulances, and fire tenders. Besides Deputy Commissioner Srinagar & DIG Police, the meeting was attended by HoDs and officers of Health, Education, JKEDI, Information, Horticulture, Agriculture, ICDS, JalShakti, KPDC, Handloom and Handicraft, Hospitality and Protocol, police, BSF, Sanitation Welfare, RTC, SMC, Floriculture and other concerned departments.

Editorial

Vacant Posts: Youth Remain in Limbo

The recent revelation in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly lays bare the priorities of this government and a vast explosion of the dreams among educated youth. In an answer to a question asked by one MLA, the govt stated that recruitment agencies, mainly JKPS and JKSSB, had taken in almost Rs 31.75 crore in fees from applicants seeking employment since October 2022. This is a huge financial demand on an excess of 3.61 lakh educated unemployed registered in the Union Territory. Thus, a troubling contradiction emerges, a government adept at applying fees but ineffective at delivering a job.

The government position with respect to seeking a fee from job seekers is completely indifferent to the assembly. The declaration continues, that something was required because it required the fees to support its own administration and operations - advertising, processing, and examining. This is an enormous cost, and it is astronomical revenue derived from the hopes of a generation that is utmost desperate. For some families, it is indeed pathetic to spend that money simply on an application fee, with no real value, for a mere opportunity to even be considered in the future.

The financial strain transforms into a thorough injustice when we regard it through the context of the snail's pace with which the government is proceeding with appointments. This is the same government that has relatively rapidly managed to raise crores from applicants while presiding over both a shocking rate of vacancies. Most of us are aware there are over 1,560 vacant posts in the J&K Revenue Department and over a staggering 5,200 vacant posts in J&K's Health Department. This is not just about numbers; these are vacant patwars, classrooms, hospital beds, nurses and doctors, which result in a direct fall in service delivery to the public and a general decrease in public services.

The harshness of this situation is further exacerbated by the past promise ghost. During his campaigning for election, CM Omar Abdullah made a lofty and over-promised pledge to provide 1 lakh jobs to unemployed youth in J&K. Now that he looks to have completed a year in office, his promise means nothing. His government would need to provide an average of nearly 20,000 jobs per year in order to fulfil his own promise, if he is using a 5 year term as his mandate. Where the state of recruitment is presently at, it is plainly evident to us that there is no closer than even a small fraction of a distance between the average annual job target he wanted to achieve. Not meeting even just 20% of his requirement over the year is not a small blunder; it is a consequent disease of obligation to those who put in him.

The written response from the government states outright that it has "no proposal under consideration to eliminate application fees," and this stubbornness, as thousands of posts remain unfilled and lakhs of youth are struggling, demonstrates a serious lack of both urgency and compassion. The message to the youth is clear, your contribution is welcome, but you are undesired.

The J&K administration needs to understand that its job is not to run a self-sustaining examination service, but to foster hope and opportunity. Fees in the crores must be equally matched with the willingness to fill the posts. The government must: at once publish a transparent, time-bound roadmap of filling the thousands of vacancies across all departments, rationalise the application fees and provide for all applicants from economically poorer backgrounds. Be accountable to its own promises and provide a clear explanation to the public as to why there is such a gulf between the promise of one lakh jobs and what was happening on the ground.

Aligning Education With The Workforce



■ DR. REYAZ AHMAD

The gap between schools and the workplace isn't just talk anymore; it's a real problem that is affecting our graduates' chances and

This isn't just on Mohammad; it's a failure in what he was taught. A strong computer science department should have included a must-have "Cloud DevOps" lab, led by a visiting engineer from a partner company, not just a professor. Instead of a written exam, there should be a live project to deploy. The course outline needs to be updated regularly, not just every five years, but at least every 18 months.

Scene 2: The Marketing Plan Built



hurting our economy's ability to compete. We are training students for a reality that isn't there anymore, and it's obvious everywhere you look.

Scene 1: The Code That Crashed the Interview

Mohammad, a smart computer science graduate, nails his technical interview for a cloud engineering job. He can easily explain sorting algorithms. Then comes the last question: "Can you explain how you would use a CI/CD pipeline to deploy this in AWS?"

Mohammad gets stuck. CI/CD? AWS deployment? Those terms were just mentioned briefly in one slide during his last semester. He had never actually practiced it. The role goes to another candidate who picked up these skills by taking an online course after college.

Where was the Academic Intervention?

for a Textbook, Not a Human

Rohan, a top MBA student, shares his marketing strategy for a local startup. It's an impressive 50-page document filled with SWOT analyses and theories. The startup founder listens carefully but then asks a tough question: "This is great, but what's the one thing I should do on Monday with 5,000 to get my first ten customers?"

Rohan has no clue. He learned how to work with big corporations, not the tough, budget-limited environment of a growing startup.

Where was the Academic Intervention?

The marketing program should include a "Shark Tank" element from the very start. Students need to work with real products from local businesses and be evaluated by actual entrepreneurs on how practical, scalable, and affordable their plans are. Theory is important, but hands-on experience builds real skills.

Scene 3: The Engineer Who Couldn't Communicate the Solution

Priya, a talented civil engineering graduate, comes up with a smart, cost-effective design to strengthen a local bridge. During a project review with the city officials, she tries to explain her design to a group of people who aren't engineers. She uses complicated terms like shear strength and load distribution, leaving them confused and not convinced.

should experience the tough testing of a real advertising campaign. A literature teacher should observe the writing of scripts for a media company.

2. "Real Projects" as Common Practice: Instead of using old case studies from the 1990s, bring in real problems from today's companies. Students should be able to share their ideas with the company's leaders. The challenge of working with a real client teaches much more than any book can provide.

Every engineering student's final project should include a "Public Défense." They should present their complex technical work to a mixed group of teachers, industry experts, and students from arts and humanities. Part of their grade should depend on how well the arts students understand and support the project's importance. This isn't just a "soft skill;" it's an essential ability for creating new ideas.

3. Combine Technology, Don't Just Add It: A program can't be considered modern if it sees tools like ChatGPT as a danger. It should have specific classes on "AI for Market Research" or "Using AI for Prototypes," showing students how to use these tools responsibly and well.

The gap between the classroom and the business world is growing, and our students are struggling because of it. We can't take our time with slow changes to the curriculum anymore. We need to act now. The future of our workers requires that schools not just allow connections to businesses but break down barriers and create a smooth path from school to jobs. The futures of our students and the health of our economy rely on this

(The author works at the Faculty of Mathematics, Department of General Education SUC, Sharjah, UAE)

The Silent Cardiac Epidemic In Jammu And Kashmir



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Heart disease has quietly become one of the most serious public health challenges across Jammu and Kashmir, emerging as a silent epidemic that is touching lives in every part of the Union Territory — from the bustling plains of Jammu to the mountain hamlets of Kashmir and the remote valleys of Chenab and PirPanjal. Once viewed as a condition linked mainly to old age, cardiovascular diseases are now affecting younger people, raising deep concern among doctors, policymakers, and families alike. The steep rise in cardiac ailments over the past decade reflects a troubling shift in lifestyle, environment, and public awareness — a combination that calls for urgent attention and collective response.

Across the region, hospitals are witnessing a marked increase in cases of heart attacks, hypertension, and high cholesterol. What makes this trend particularly worrying is the growing number of younger individuals — many in their thirties and forties — reporting cardiac complications. The change mirrors the transformation in lifestyle patterns, work habits, and diets that have reshaped daily life throughout Jammu and Kashmir. Sedentary routines, long working hours, and dependence on technology have dramatically reduced physical activity. Traditional outdoor recreation and physical labour, once part of everyday life, have given way to more static, indoor habits.

At the same time, dietary habits have changed. Balanced, home-cooked meals — rich in vegetables, pulses, and whole grains — are increasingly being replaced by fast food and packaged items loaded with salt, sugar, and unhealthy fats. The growing culture of eating out and reliance on processed foods have fuelled obesity, diabetes, and hypertension — all major risk factors for heart disease. This shift in lifestyle has not spared

even the rural population, where the influence of urban food habits and declining physical activity are becoming more visible.

Tobacco use remains another major driver of the crisis. Despite widespread awareness campaigns, smoking and other forms of tobacco consumption remain common among both youth and adults. The easy availability of cigarettes



and the increasing use of drugs and other addictive substances have compounded the health burden. Equally damaging are rising levels of stress and mental health challenges caused by unemployment, financial strain, academic pressure, and social uncertainty. Chronic stress triggers biochemical changes that adversely affect heart health, and when combined with unhealthy coping mechanisms like smoking or overeating, the results can be devastating.

The climate of Jammu and Kashmir further aggravates this problem. The severe winter conditions in Kashmir and parts of the Chenab and PirPanjal regions often lead to a spike in cardiac emergencies. Cold temperatures cause the blood vessels to constrict, raising blood pressure and putting additional strain on the

heart. In areas where heating arrangements are poor, sudden exposure to cold can trigger heart attacks, particularly in the early morning or late-night hours. On the other hand, the intense summer heat in the plains of Jammu can also put stress on the heart, especially among the elderly and those already battling cardiac conditions. Both climatic extremes — freezing

heart. In areas where heating arrangements are poor, sudden exposure to cold can trigger heart attacks, particularly in the early morning or late-night hours. On the other hand, the intense summer heat in the plains of Jammu can also put stress on the heart, especially among the elderly and those already battling cardiac conditions. Both climatic extremes — freezing

cold and sweltering heat — intensify the burden on an already vulnerable population.

Compounding the crisis is limited public awareness about the early symptoms of heart disease and the importance of preventive care. Many people continue to ignore warning signs such as chest discomfort, shortness of breath, or unexplained fatigue. In several cases, patients seek medical attention only when symptoms become severe, losing precious time in the process. Although healthcare facilities have improved in recent years, advanced cardiac care remains concentrated in a few urban hospitals. For people living in far-flung or mountainous areas, reaching a well-equipped medical centre during an emergency often proves impossible within the critical "golden hour."

Efforts have been made in recent years to strengthen the healthcare system. The introduction of telemedicine services, digital consultations, and referral networks has improved access to specialists, particularly for patients in remote areas. Government health departments, non-governmental organisations, and medical

The impact of heart disease extends far beyond the individual. It is not merely a medical issue but a social and economic one. When people in their most productive years develop heart conditions, families face emotional trauma and financial strain. Long-term treatment, medication, and hospital visits are expensive, and the loss of earning capacity can push entire households into hardship.

institutions have launched awareness drives, organised health camps, and promoted regular screenings for blood pressure and cholesterol. These initiatives are steps in the right direction, but they remain limited in reach and continuity. To make a real difference, awareness campaigns and preventive care programmes need to extend to every block, school, and community across Jammu and Kashmir.

The impact of heart disease extends far beyond the individual. It is not merely a medical issue but a social and economic one. When people in their most productive years develop heart conditions, families face emotional trauma and financial strain. Long-term treatment, medication, and hospital visits are expensive, and the loss of earning capacity can push entire households

into hardship. Preventive healthcare, therefore, is not only about saving lives — it is also about protecting livelihoods and strengthening the social fabric.

Addressing this growing crisis requires more than medical treatment; it demands a cultural shift toward health consciousness. Strengthening rural healthcare infrastructure, ensuring regular screening at primary health centres, and promoting preventive habits must become public priorities. Schools, colleges, workplaces, and community institutions can play an important role by educating people about the importance of a healthy diet, regular exercise, and tobacco cessation. Encouraging outdoor activities, sports, and walking can help people rediscover physical habits that once defined life in the region.

Community involvement is central to reversing this trend. Religious leaders, local organisations, and media outlets can help spread awareness and advocate for heart-friendly lifestyles. Traditional Kashmiri and Dogra cuisines, when consumed in moderation and balanced with fruits, vegetables, and physical activity, can remain part of a healthy lifestyle. Reconnecting with local food wisdom and active living can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease.

The rising tide of cardiac ailments across Jammu and Kashmir is a stark reminder that health cannot be taken for granted. It calls for collective responsibility — from individuals to institutions — to safeguard heart health and promote a culture of wellness. The growing number of heart attacks and related diseases is not an inevitable outcome of modern life; it is a preventable tragedy that demands awareness, discipline, and community action.

The time to act is now. Investing in preventive healthcare, strengthening early diagnosis, and fostering healthy living habits can save countless lives. Protecting the hearts of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is not just a medical imperative — it is a moral one, vital to securing the region's collective well-being and future.

The author is a senior analyst and can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com X/Twitter: @haniefmha

DC Srinagar Conducts Onsite Inspection Of Road Upgradation, Macadamization Works At Bone & Joint Hospital

FE NEWS NETWORK

Also takes stock of possible traffic decongestion measures including parking facilities, link roads, alternate entry routes & connecting walkway

SRINAGAR: To assess the progress of ongoing infrastructure upgradation works aimed at easing traffic congestion around the Bone and Joint Hospital, Barzulla, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday conducted an onsite inspection of the road expansion and macadamization works being executed along the Bone & Joint Hospital, Barzulla.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B Tatheer Manzoor, Tehsildar South Sajjad, Medical Superintendent Bone & Joint Hospital Dr. Adil, Executive Engineer KPDC, and other concerned officers.

On the occasion, the DC took stock

of the ongoing road upgradation measures along the Bund including macadamization works. He also took stock of the possible

of a new car parking facility for hospital staff and attendants aimed at decongesting the area and improving connectivity to

with the development of dedicated tubes for easy movement of the ambulances & Doctors & patient traffic.

Reviewing the pace and quality of work, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to expedite the completion of all remaining components of the ongoing macadamisation project. He emphasized the need for close coordination among executing agencies to minimize public inconvenience and ensure uninterrupted traffic flow during the execution of the works.

DC Srinagar highlighted that the District Administration is focused around taking specific multiple steps to ensure decongestion of traffic in the city through a mix of short term, mid term & long term steps & projects and that Decongestion of Bones & Joint Hospital is also an important part of that initiative. Decongesting this important medical establishment shall lead to better response time for the incoming patients, ease of attendants, easy access of ambulances and convenience of the doctors and staff working at the Hospital.



traffic decongestion measures in and around the hospital which included proposal of construction of ramps & small Link Road connecting the main road with the Parking facilities through the Bund side, and proper development

ensure smooth vehicular movement, particularly for ambulances in and around the hospital.

The DC also took on ground assessment of the plan to develop an alternate entrance to the Hospital along

Drug De-addiction centres functional in J&K: Sakeena Itoo

FE NEWS NETWORK

'Directed for fee regulation at rehabilitation centres'

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo said that all Drug De-addiction centres are fully functional in J&K and directed for fee regulation at all centres for affordable rehabilitation of victims.

The Minister made these remarks while replying to a question of Legislator, Surjeet Singh Salathia on Drug Addiction, in Legislative Assembly today.

She highlighted that the Health and Education departments along with law enforcement agencies are playing an active role to fight the menace of drug abuse in society. She added that strict instructions have been issued to head of all educational institutions (colleges and schools) to install CCTVs in and around their campuses to check any kind of irregular activities.

The Minister also lauded the role of NGOs in dealing with this alarming situation across J&K, adding that their support is must for combating this social evil.

While giving reply to the question, the Minister said that 166 drug abuse cases have been reported in district

Samba from the date of establishment of de-addiction centre at District Hospital Samba, with 114 Alcoholic and 62 Heroin & Cannabis affected,

campus are led by psychiatrists and counsellors to provide both preventive education and initial treatment support.

The Minister also informed that Addiction Treatment Facility has been fully established at District Hospital, Samba since February 2024 sponsored by NDDTC (AIIMS New Delhi) under MOSIE, presently working on OPD basis with services like OPD by Psychiatrist, Counselling Services and Substance Substitute therapy.

While commenting on the subject, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather advised the Minister to take suggestions from a scientific document prepared by political representatives of a party, as it outlines effective and detailed measures for combating this social evil.

The Minister informed the house that Government has already started working on this report, besides the topics related to Drug Addiction have already been made part of the curriculum.

Legislators, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi; Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani; Muzaffar Iqbal Khan; Pawan Gupta; Tanvir Ali Sadiq; Narinder Singh; Dr. Rameshwar Singh; Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri; Balwant Singh Mankotia, raised supplementary questions on the subject.



while as six patients have recovered till date. She added that the Government is taking concrete steps to curb this menace in the UT of J&K in general and Samba district in particular, like awareness Lectures and Educational Activities, Establishment of De-addiction Centre, Outreach Programs in Educational Institutions and Communities, Panchayat-Level Awareness Activities, Door-to-Door Survey and Identification as well as Camps in Hotspot Areas where a roster has been constituted for the organization of awareness and treatment camps in hotspot and other vulnerable areas. She added that these

DC Kulgam approves 258 fresh cases at 10th DLIC meeting under Mission YUVA

FE NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan chaired the 10th meeting of the



District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA, a flagship initiative aimed at promoting self-employment and entrepreneurial growth among the youth of the district.

During the meeting, the committee approved 258 cases, comprising 249 under the Nano category 07 under MSME, and 02 under Existing enterprises.

These cases had been thoroughly scrutinized and recommended for approval by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) after due evaluation of feasibility and viability parameters.

While reviewing the progress of the Mission, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the need for continuous output tracking, structured mentorship and comprehensive capacity-building programmes for the entrepreneurs to ensure long-term sustainability and measurable outcomes of the approved ventures.

He further directed all line departments to maintain robust inter-departmental coordination and adopt a proactive facilitation approach for seamless implementation of Mission YUVA in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Kulgam, General Manager DIC, Assistant Director Employment, District Social Welfare Officer, Lead District Manager Kulgam, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, Career Counselling Officer & Employment Officer DE&CC Kulgam.

Rs 1632 Cr. Master Plan in pipeline for river Jhelum flood mitigation: Rana

FE NEWS NETWORK

Says nearly Rs. 15 crore flood protection works undertaken in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmed Rana said that the government has Rs 1632 Crore Master Plan in the pipeline for river Jhelum flood mitigation.

The Minister informed this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad in the Legislative Assembly today.

He said that a comprehensive flood mitigation plan including deep de-silting and increasing carrying capacity of river Jhelum and its flood spilling channels is in the pipeline to enhance flood mitigation measures in the Valley.

The Minister said that nearly Rs 15

crores flood protection works have been undertaken in Srinagar to mitigate flood



risk.

He informed that as part of long-term and permanent flood protection measures,

under PMDP Phase-II, various bank protection works have been undertaken at critical locations adjoining the above areas at a cost of Rs. 12.30 crores.

Furthermore, to mitigate the risk of overflow, raising of embankments in vulnerable stretches has been carried out at a cost of Rs 2.49 crores, thereby enhancing the overall flood resilience of the area.

The Minister stated that the areas of Lasjan, Gandbal, Soiteng, Vethpara, Padshahi Bagh, Kursoo Rajbagh, Shivpora, Sonawar, Batwara, Rajbagh, Jawahar Nagar and adjoining localities are prone to flooding when the discharge exceeds approximately 40,000 cusecs, leading to overflow from the riverbanks.

He said that the habitations located on the left bank of River Jhelum exhibit relatively higher vulnerability due to their low-lying topography.

He said besides short-term measures

to mitigate flood threats in these localities include the restoration of weak spots identified during safety audits of river embankments through temporary protection works such as the laying of filled EC bags are also undertaken.

Additionally, as the flood season approaches, advance preparedness measures are undertaken by pre-positioning filled EC bags at vulnerable locations and keeping men and machinery under stage contracts in readiness to respond to any eventuality. These actions are executed in close coordination with the District Administration, DMRRR, and other line departments.

He further said that the flood threat can be minimized through structural and non-structural measures (Flood early warning and Flood plain zoning).

Supplementary were raised by Legislators including Tanvir Sadiq, Javid Riyaz Bedar, Hasnain Masoodi.

Orientation and Career Counselling Programme on Civil Services Examination Held at GDC Budgam

FE NEWS NETWORK

DC Budgam Inspires Students to Pursue Excellence with Focus and Discipline

BUDGAM: The Institution Innovation Cell (IIC) and Career Counselling & Guidance Cell of Government

Sheikh-ul-Alam Memorial Degree College, Budgam, in association with Exceptional IAS academy and in collaboration with District Administration budgam today organized an Orientation and Career Counselling Programme on Civil Services Examination.

The programme aimed to create awareness and provide guidance to students and faculty members from the host and allied colleges regarding various aspects of Civil Services preparation and opportunities.

The event commenced with the launch of the college magazine "Rooh" by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, along with Principal of the College, Dr. Amin Malik.

The highlight of the event was an inspirational address by DC Budgam, who shared valuable insights from his own experience in successfully clearing multiple competitive examinations including JKAS, IPS, and IAS.

The DC emphasised that focus, discipline, and self-motivation are the cornerstones of success in Civil Services. He advised aspirants to strengthen their fundamentals, stay consistent, and approach preparation with a clear strategy.

He also encouraged students to cultivate a habit of reading newspapers, staying informed about current affairs, and maintaining ethical integrity as future administrators.

"Success in competitive examinations is not about shortcuts but about sustained effort, clarity of purpose, and belief in oneself," DC budgam remarked.

He further inspired students by highlighting how perseverance, sincerity, and time management can turn aspirations into achievements.

Principal Sheikh-ul-alam degree collage budgam, Dr. Amin Malik underscored that students' growing enthusiasm toward civil services marks a transition from personal development to nation-building. Drawing on Maslow's hierarchy of needs, he stated that a civil servant not only achieves self-fulfillment but also contributes meaningfully to societal progress.

Prof. Rukhsana Jabeen of Degree collage budgam



in her welcome address shared motivational insights on achieving success, urging students to cultivate a clear vision and structured plan of action. She highlighted the importance of persistence, goal-setting, and self-belief in achieving excellence.

Later, the DC interacted extensively with the students, responding to their queries on exam preparation strategies, effective time management, and balancing academics with competitive exam study. His practical suggestions and personal anecdotes deeply motivated the participants.

Following the inaugural session, technical sessions were conducted by experts and recent qualifiers of UPSC and JKPSCC Combined Competitive Examinations, who shared their preparation journeys, study techniques, and insights into the evolving patterns of competitive exams.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion, where students expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for the initiative, terming it both informative and inspiring.

30% OFF

Book Now

IT'S TIME TO

Travel Kashmir

Book your Kashmir trip with way to destination and enjoy the scenic beauty of paradise and spend quality time with your loved ones.

WAY TO DESTINATION

Contact Us

Call us

Visit us

DC Kupwara Flags off "Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0" Rally to Promote Healthy, Smoke-Free Society

FE NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse flagged off a rally organized under the "Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0" from the DC Office Kupwara to SDH Kupwara.

The event was organized by the Department of Health and witnessed enthusiastic participation from Asha workers, students, and health officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the "Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0" is an annual initiative aimed at spreading awareness about the ill effects of tobacco consumption, especially among students and the youth. He added that such awareness activities are crucial to protect society from the harmful consequences of tobacco use.

He emphasized that special focus is being given to tobacco-free educational institutions, and the administration has initiated steps to declare Tobacco-Free Panchayats in the near future. Panchayats fulfilling the prescribed criteria will be formally recognized through Gram Sabhas, he added.

The rally concluded successfully with widespread public participation and positive response.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Masrat Wani, MS, SDH Kupwara, Dy CMO, and other health officers were also present on the occasion.



Orientation and Career Counselling Programme on Civil Services Examination Held at GDC Budgam

FE NEWS NETWORK

DC Budgam Inspires Students to Pursue Excellence with Focus and Discipline

BUDGAM: The Institution Innovation Cell (IIC) and Career Counselling & Guidance Cell of Government

Sheikh-ul-Alam Memorial Degree College, Budgam, in association with Exceptional IAS academy and in collaboration with District Administration budgam today organized an Orientation and Career Counselling Programme on Civil Services Examination.

The programme aimed to create awareness and provide guidance to students and faculty members from the host and allied colleges regarding various aspects of Civil Services preparation and opportunities.

The event commenced with the launch of the college magazine "Rooh" by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, along with Principal of the College, Dr. Amin Malik.

The highlight of the event was an inspirational address by DC Budgam, who shared valuable insights from his own experience in successfully clearing multiple competitive examinations including JKAS, IPS, and IAS.

The DC emphasised that focus, discipline, and self-motivation are the cornerstones of success in Civil Services. He advised aspirants to strengthen their fundamentals, stay consistent, and approach preparation with a clear strategy.

He also encouraged students to cultivate a habit of reading newspapers, staying informed about current affairs, and maintaining ethical integrity as future administrators.

"Success in competitive examinations is not about shortcuts but about sustained effort, clarity of purpose, and belief in oneself," DC budgam remarked.

He further inspired students by highlighting how perseverance, sincerity, and time management can turn aspirations into achievements.

Principal Sheikh-ul-alam degree collage budgam, Dr. Amin Malik underscored that students' growing enthusiasm toward civil services marks a transition from personal development to nation-building. Drawing on Maslow's hierarchy of needs, he stated that a civil servant not only achieves self-fulfillment but also contributes meaningfully to societal progress.

Prof. Rukhsana Jabeen of Degree collage budgam



in her welcome address shared motivational insights on achieving success, urging students to cultivate a clear vision and structured plan of action. She highlighted the importance of persistence, goal-setting, and self-belief in achieving excellence.

Later, the DC interacted extensively with the students, responding to their queries on exam preparation strategies, effective time management, and balancing academics with competitive exam study. His practical suggestions and personal anecdotes deeply motivated the participants.

Following the inaugural session, technical sessions were conducted by experts and recent qualifiers of UPSC and JKPSCC Combined Competitive Examinations, who shared their preparation journeys, study techniques, and insights into the evolving patterns of competitive exams.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion, where students expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for the initiative, terming it both informative and inspiring.

Promotion Of Regional Languages Is Equally Vital Along With Hindi, Says Dr Jitendra

NEWDELHI: Addressing the first meeting of the Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Science and Technology was held today in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Minister of State (Independent

Charge) for Science & Technology; Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that the use of Hindi across all Ministries and Departments is essential, as Hindi is not just a language but a growing symbol of India's cultural identity.



He noted that employees from southern India are increasingly using Hindi, reflecting its emergence as a pan-Indian language of communication. Dr. Jitendra Singh underlined the need to integrate Hindi with modern technology to strengthen its presence

in science and technology communication. He said that AI-driven translation tools are enhancing the dissemination and interpretation of Hindi content, enabling scientific knowledge to reach a wider audience in a more meaningful way.

The Minister stressed that all Ministry websites should be equally accessible in Hindi to ensure that scientific information is available to citizens in their own language.

He also announced that officials and employees demonstrating excellence in the use of Hindi will be recognized and awarded by the Ministry.

Underscoring the importance of linguistic diversity, the Minister also said that the development and promotion of regional languages is equally vital. He further stated that India's scientific and technological growth must reflect the voices of its diverse linguistic landscape. Hindi and regional languages together can serve as powerful vehicles for innovation, communication, and nation-building.

Union minister also highlighted that the University Grants Commission (UGC) is providing Hindi-based tools and resources for employees, thereby strengthening the role of Hindi in scientific communication. He further mentioned that all Ministries should adopt Hindi for official work to strengthen its position nationwide.

During the meeting, members of the Committee suggested that the use of Hindi in departmental proceedings should be further increased and that scientific content should be disseminated in Hindi to promote accessibility. They also recommended greater use of social media for spreading Hindi content and encouraging employees who actively work in Hindi.

The event was attended by Secretary DST, Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary DBT, Dr Rajesh S Gokhale, CEO ANRF, Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, and other senior officials from department of science and department of biotechnology. (PIB)

Ukraine's Long-Range Strikes Cut Russia's Oil Refining Capacity By 20 pc, Zelenskyy says

KYIV: Ukraine's long-range strikes on refineries inside Russia have reduced Moscow's oil refining capacity by 20 per cent, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, citing intelligence from Western governments.

Over 90 per cent of those deep strikes on Russian soil were carried out by Ukrainian-made long-

range weapons, according to Zelenskyy. He said Ukraine needs additional foreign financial help to produce more of them.

Oil exports play a key role in funding Russia's invasion of its neighbour Ukraine. While Ukrainian weapons take aim at the refineries, new sanctions from the US and the European Union are aiming to cut into Moscow's oil and gas export earnings.



range weapons, according to Zelenskyy. He said Ukraine needs additional foreign financial help to produce more of them.

Oil exports play a key role in funding Russia's invasion of its neighbour Ukraine. While Ukrainian weapons take aim at the refineries, new sanctions from the US and the European Union are aiming to cut into Moscow's oil and gas export earnings.

Despite renewed US-led peace efforts, the war shows no sign of ending after nearly four years. With the Kremlin showing no willingness to compromise, US President Donald Trump raised the stakes by announcing sanctions last week against Russian oil giants Rosneft and Lukoil.

Those sanctions are due to come into force on November 21, and Zelenskyy says Trump "probably will use this as a tool of pressure or dialogue with the Russians."

China and India are the biggest customers for Russian oil. Zelenskyy said India "has definitely given all the signals that it will reduce imports of energy resources" from Russia.

He said he is hopeful that Trump's planned meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping

Oil exports play a key role in funding Russia's invasion of its neighbour Ukraine. While Ukrainian weapons take aim at the refineries, new sanctions from the US and the European Union are aiming to cut into Moscow's oil and gas export earnings.

energy infrastructure.

— By next month Ukraine will be producing between 500-800 interceptors per day to stop Russia's Shahed drone attacks, but operators also need training to use them.

— Ukraine has captured 2,200 Russian prisoners of war in over six months of fighting this year in the eastern region, where Russia's bigger army is making a push to capture the city of Pokrovsk where Ukraine is shoring up its defences with more troops.

— Kyiv officials are holding parallel talks with Sweden, France and the US to build up Ukraine's future combat aviation potential. Zelenskyy says he has requested a fleet of 250 new aircraft in total. (PTI)

Delhi: CAQM bans entry of non-BS-VI commercial goods vehicles registered outside city

NEWDELHI: In a move to curb rising air pollution in the national capital, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Tuesday announced that all commercial goods vehicles registered outside Delhi and not compliant with BS-VI emission standards will be prohibited from entering the city from November 1.

The official notification issued by CAQM states, "The Commission with a view to abate air pollution caused by high volume of transport/ commercial goods vehicles entering into Delhi, in exercise of its powers conferred under Section 12(1) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021, issued Statutory Direction No. 88 dated 23.04.2025, directing for a strict ban on entry of all transport/ commercial goods vehicles viz. LGVs, MGVs and HGVs, other than BSVI, CNG, LNG and EVs, into the NCT of Delhi w.e.f. 01.11.2025 except such vehicles registered in Delhi."

According to the notification, non-BS-VI compliant commercial goods vehicles are allowed to enter Delhi only until October 31, 2026.

"Such non-BS-VI compliant transport/ commercial goods vehicles, carrying essential commodities/ providing essential services were permitted to enter Delhi, but only for a limited period up to 31.10.2026, beyond which such goods and services will also have to be catered only through CNG / LNG / EV / BS-VI diesel vehicles," the notification said.

A meeting of the CAQM panel was earlier held to review the preparedness for the implementation of the said direction.

The notification said, "To review the preparedness for implementation of the said direction, a series of meetings were held with all stakeholders, viz., Transport Department, GNCTD, MCD, NHAI, MoRTH and Transport Department of NCR States, wherein issues were raised regarding nonavailability of adequate arrangements for returning such non-compliant vehicles, which may lead to congestion at border entry points. It was also intimated that about 40% of the total goods vehicles entering Delhi carry essential items/supplies. In addition, a number of representations have also been received from various transport associations and entities highlighting their difficulties."

Post-Diwali, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) has been reeling under the 'poor' and 'very poor' categories in several areas, even as Stage 2 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) remains in effect.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the AQI in Delhi stood at 304 as of 1 pm on Tuesday, classified as the 'very poor' category.

Among the city's monitoring stations, Anand Vihar reported an AQI of 311, RK Puram 316, Siri Fort 347, Bawana 334, Burari Crossing 319, Dwarka Sector 8 311, Mundka 318, Narela 302 and Punjabi Bagh 313 — all categorised as 'very poor'.

Meanwhile, Delhi is expected to witness its first artificial rain, as the aircraft designated for cloud seeding has taken off from Kanpur for the national capital. (ANI)

'Infrastructure Must Be People-Centric, Focused on Comfort and Convenience': Gadkari

NEWDELHI: Union Minister of Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari outlined three key pillars for the future of infrastructure — People, Prosperity, and Planning. Infrastructure must be people-centric, ensuring comfort and convenience for citizens. To support this, 670 road-side amenities have been developed across the country.

Addressing the CII National Conference on "Future of Smart Roads – Safety,

national highways. The Minister also said that improved road connectivity is boosting religious tourism and adventure sports in several parts of the country.

Highlighting Prosperity, the Minister said that every rupee invested in infrastructure generates three rupees of economic growth, reflecting its strong multiplier effect. On Planning, he stressed the need to curb pollution and promote sustainable, eco-friendly and resilient development, noting that 8,500 trees



Sustainability and Resilience" held in New Delhi.

In his address, Gadkari said that under the vision of the Prime Minister to make India a five-trillion-dollar economy by 2027, the development of world-class infrastructure will play a pivotal role. He noted that the road and transport sector offers immense opportunities for economic growth, investment, and employment generation across the country.

The Minister informed that the Ministry's annual revenue, currently at 55,000 crore, is projected to rise to 1.4 lakh crore within two years, reflecting the immense growth potential of the sector.

Headed a comprehensive 2027 infrastructure plan was discussed in the Cabinet, which includes sustainable initiatives such as the use of 80 lakh tonnes of segregated plastic waste in road construction and reuse of treated water from purification plants for road building.

Work is underway to convert 25,000 kilometres of two-lane highways into four lanes, while a 2 lakh crore port connectivity programme is linking all major ports with

have been transplanted along the Dwarka Expressway as part of the Government's green initiative.

He said that the use of precast technology has been made mandatory in road and infrastructure projects to enhance quality and ensure timely completion. He also called for greater ownership and responsibility among engineers and contractors.

Highlighting the sector's economic significance, Gadkari said that 80 percent of goods traffic in India moves by road, while 1 percent is by air and 18 percent through other modes. With improved road infrastructure, logistics and fuel costs are expected to come down to single-digit levels.

Gadkari emphasized balancing infrastructure growth with ecological responsibility. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to building safe, sustainable, and world-class roads that drive economic progress and enhance citizens' lives. As mobility evolves, India is shaping "Smart Roads" that integrate technology with essentials like pedestrian access, EV charging, fuel stations, parking, and modern roadside amenities. (PIB)

Ashwini Vaishnaw Reviews Railways Preparedness For Cyclone Montha

NEWDELHI: Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the preparedness in view of the impending Cyclone Montha. The review meeting, held through video conferencing, focused on assessing the readiness of the Railway network along the East Coast.

The Union Minister reviewed the measures being taken for passenger safety, train regulation, restoration planning, and coordination with local administrations and disaster management agencies. He instructed Railway officials to take all necessary precautions in anticipation of the cyclone's impact, particularly along the East Coast in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Telangana.

Emphasizing the need for uninterrupted communication and timely deployment of disaster response teams, the Union Minister directed all Railway zones to remain on high alert and ensure swift restoration of train services after the cyclone.

Indian Railways has activated divisional war rooms for real-time coordination and response to the impending Cyclone Montha. Essential materials, machinery, and manpower have been kept in readiness, particularly in the Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, and Guntur divisions.

Continuous monitoring of train operations is being carried out to minimize passenger inconvenience. The East Coast Railway (ECoR), South Coast Railway (SCoR), and South Central Railway (SCR) zones have been instructed to



mobilize resources for emergency response and take all necessary safety precautions.

Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager, East Coast Railway, along with Principal Heads of Departments and Divisional Railway Managers briefed the Minister on the precautionary measures already initiated across the vulnerable sections, particularly in the Waltair and Khurda Road Divisions. (PIB)

Scindia Underscores Development of World Class Tourist Circuits in North Eastern Region

NEWDELHI: Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, participated in three High-Level Task Force (HLTF) meetings on October 27, 2025. Earlier this year, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region had constituted Eight High-Level Task Forces, each headed by one of the Chief Ministers of the NE State along with Union Minister of DoNER and three Chief Ministers of other NE States as members. The initiative emerged from a consensus reached during the 72nd Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council (NEC), held on December 21, 2024, at Agartala. These task forces are fostering inter-state collaboration, enabling policy alignment, and ensuring that development efforts are regionally integrated rather than state-bound.

Shri Pu Lalduhoma, Chief Minister of Mizoram, chaired the meeting of HLTF on North East Economic Corridor, with participation of Shri Preston Tynsong,

Deputy Chief Minister, Meghalaya; Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Minister, Industries & Commerce, Act East Policy, EF&CC, Assam; and Shri Puneet Kumar Goel, Chief Secretary, Manipur. During the meeting, a comprehensive roadmap for addressing critical challenges in economic infrastructure and strategic interventions across short, medium and long-term horizons was presented. Development of road and railway networks, air connectivity, inland waterways, energy infrastructure, digital connectivity, trade corridors and border trade infrastructure were emphasized. Valuable inputs were provided by HLTF member states i.e. Meghalaya, Assam, and Manipur. The Union Minister appreciated the depth of the presentation and asked the Mizoram Government to submit the final report of HLTF after incorporating the feedback received.

Meeting of HLTF on Tourism was chaired by Shri Conrad Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya. Shri Gajendra Singh

Shekhawat, Union Minister for Tourism & Culture also participated in the meeting, besides Chief Minister of Tripura,



Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha and Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang. Shri Sangma, presented a preliminary report on recommendations of HLTF. He highlighted the key findings, challenges and recommendations for the development of tourism in the NE. The Union Minister of DoNER suggested development of world class tourist circuits in North Eastern Region. He also em-

phasised bottom-up approach to devise an action plan for the development of tourism in North Eastern Region and vision plan to attract tourists from the neighbouring countries also. The Union Minister for Ministry of Culture and Tourism highlighted the promotional activities as well as tourism infrastructure development undertaken by the Ministry of Tourism in the North Eastern Region. He also emphasized that tourism is key driver of economic development of the region.

Meeting of the High-Level Task Force (HLTF) on Agriculture and Horticulture was held under the chairmanship of Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Chief Minister of Sikkim. Chief Minister of Tripura, Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha; Minister of Agriculture, Assam, Shri Atul Bora and Minister of Agriculture, Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Gabriel D. Wangsu also participated, besides senior officers from the States of Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal

Pradesh and Tripura, and also from the Ministry of DoNER, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, APEDA, NABARD, and other stakeholder agencies. The Task Force reviewed the progress of ongoing initiatives in the agriculture and horticulture sectors across the North Eastern Region and deliberated on strategies to enhance value addition, processing, and market linkages for key agri-horti products. Key discussions centered around the development of integrated cold chain infrastructure, promotion of organic farming, cluster-based cultivation, and branding of region-specific products under a unified "Organic" labelling. The Union Minister, MDoNER, highlighted the need for economic value addition through focused state-level inputs and suggested developing short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies to ensure the success and sustainability of public sector undertakings in the region. (PIB)

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

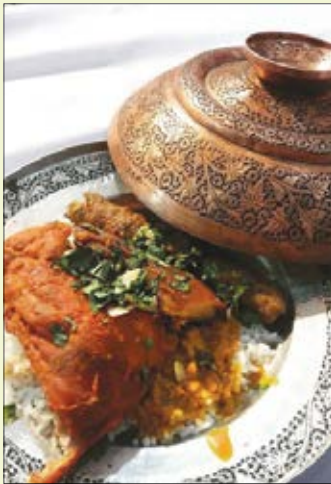
● CAFE & RESTAURANT

DAAL ROTI, BURGER, MOMOS, etc
Biryani, Fried Rice, Pizza, Chicken Roll,
kanti, kabab Rista, Yakni

ONLY FRESH PRODUCTS

CONTACT NO:

- 9149631319
- 6006116690



HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE

NH 44 VESSU ANATNAG NEAR CRPF CAMP-192101

Satisfy Your Cravings

GRAB A 90 BITES BURGER

ORDER NOW

Dine In @90 Bites, Take Away Or Ask For A Delivery

www.90bites.com +91 9055 39 49 59 created by **ACMO**

Avoid getting TRICKED!

Scan **QR code** for GENUINE **DURASHINE®**

Roofs and tiles

Longline

3 Level Robust Protection

[Also available with Coolshield (Insulation)]

Now also available in Wood texture

Stronger but lighter weight! For the support of Roofs and Walls

Ultimate armor against corrosion

Identify GENUINE DURASHINE® roofing, Guard Film with brand

1800 270 8333

Toll Free

UNDERSTAND CHECK BUY

Auth Dealer: Saleem Trading Co. Bandipora +917006263383