



Decisive Leadership, Unity Dismantled Terror Network In Kashmir: PM Modi

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Says **Sardar Patel's dream** of complete integration achieved

SRINAGAR : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that strong governance and national unity had crushed the roots of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the region's complete integration after the abrogation of Article 370 reflected Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a united India.

He said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had wanted to fully integrate Jammu and Kashmir with India, just as he did with other princely states, but that then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru did not allow it.

Addressing the gathering after the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas parade at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat on the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, Modi said Patel's goal was to bring every princely state under one flag and Constitution.

"Sardar Patel wanted to unite the entire Kashmir, just as he did with other princely states. But Nehru ji stopped his wish from being fulfilled. Kashmir was divided, given a separate Constitution and a separate flag, and the nation suffered for decades because of Congress's mistake," he said.

He said Patel believed that instead of writing history, one should work hard to create it. "After 2014, the country has once again seen the extraordi-

nary willpower inspired by Sardar Patel's vision. Today, Kashmir has broken the chains of Article 370 and has completely joined the mainstream," he said.

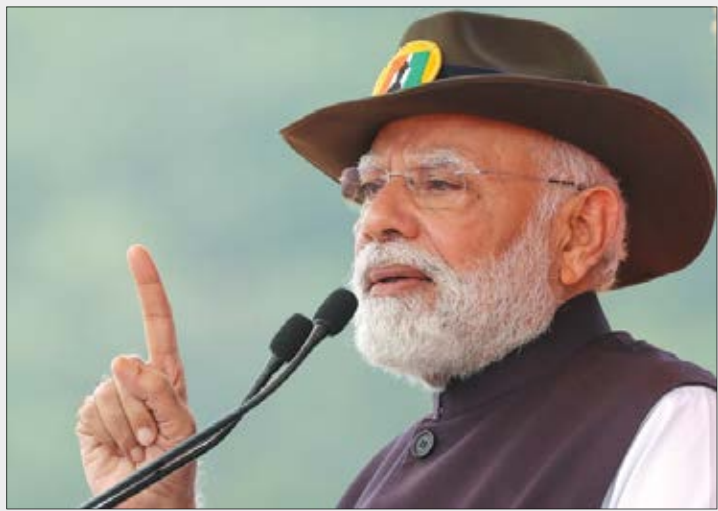
Modi said the developments in Jam-

he said.

Referring to security operations, the PM said the whole world had witnessed India's capability in "Operation Sindoor". He said India had adopted a policy of decisive response to any threat.

enemies of India," he said, adding that Patel never compromised on the country's security and dignity.

The Prime Minister also spoke about the government's actions against internal security threats. "In the last 11 years, India's greatest success has been in breaking the back of the Naxalites



mu and Kashmir over the last few years reflected Patel's dream of a united and strong India. "Today, even the leaders of Pakistan and terrorism have come to know of the true strength of India,"

"Today, if anyone dares to raise an eye on India, India will enter their homes and act. Every time, India's response is bigger and more decisive than before. This is a message for the

Sardar Patel wanted to unite the entire Kashmir, just as he did with other princely states. But Nehru ji stopped his wish from being fulfilled. Kashmir was divided, given a separate Constitution and a separate flag, and the nation suffered for decades because of Congress's mistake," he said.

and Maoists," Modi said.

He recalled that before 2014, several parts of the country were effectively under the control of Naxalite groups. "The Constitution did not work in those areas, and the police administration could not function. The Naxalites and Maoists issued their own orders, did not allow roads to be built, and destroyed schools, colleges, and hospitals. The administration was helpless before them," he said.

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J&K Govt Has Full Power, Statehood is No Excuse: LG Sinha

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Addresses UT Diwas Celebration, pays tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

"An aspirational J&K UT was born on 31st October 2019 and people's dream of peace and progress was fulfilled within a short span of time. The historic milestones were achieved in infrastructure and other sectors. All forms of discrimination were

SRINAGAR: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir's Union Territory status should not hinder the functioning of the elected government, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that it possesses full authority to govern and must stop the Centre about its promise of restoring J&K's statehood.

Describing October 31, 2019 as the day which ended fear, separatism and discrimination in Jammu and Kashmir and ushered peace, development and democratic participation, LG Sinha said, "Six years ago, under the leadership of PM Modi, history was made when for the first time, the laws framed by the Indian Parliament became applicable in J&K."



eliminated and social justice and equality were established," LG Sinha said, adding, "If we look back at the seven decades of history, many people made sacrifices to welcome this change. The foundation of this journey was laid by

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Srinagar Offices Closed...

J&K Govt Set to Resume Work in Jammu on Nov 3

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SRINAGAR: As part of the recently restored biannual practice known as the 'Darbar Move', the offices of the Jammu and Kashmir government closed in Srinagar on Friday and will reopen in the



winter capital, Jammu, on November 3, officials said.

The tradition was reinstated by the Omar Abdullah government ■ See On P/6

200 units of free electricity for AAY households soon: Govt



SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday informed the Assembly that 200 units of free electricity will be provided to all AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) households under the PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSG-MBY).

Replying to a question raised by MLA Khurshid Ahmad Sheikh said, the benefit will be implemented through the RESCO/Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) model.

It added that 2,22,564 AAY households have been identified for rooftop solar systems of 2 kW capacity each, to generate up to 200 units of free power per month once commissioned.

The Power Development Department said Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and

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Removal Of Art-370 Has Led To J&K's Full Integration With India: Amit Shah

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SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a unified India by abrogating Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, completing the mission that Patel had begun after Independence.

Speaking at the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations in Gujarat's Ekta Nagar, Shah said, Sardar Patel had shown unparalleled determination in integrating more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after 1947, a task many at the time thought was impossible.

"At that time, the entire world thought that it would be impossible to unite these 562 princely states into one nation. However, within a short span of time, Sardar Patel accomplished the monumental task of

integrating all 562 princely states, and the map of modern India that we see today is



the result of his vision and efforts," Shah said.

The Home Minister said Patel's diplomacy, courage, and administrative acumen transformed the fragmented political landscape into a unified country. "Some provinces were reluctant to integrate,

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AI-Powered Farming Key to India's Growth: LG Manoj Sinha

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Addresses SKUAST-Kashmir's Student Induction Programme

planning to boost productivity and income of farmers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He was speaking at the SKUAST-Kashmir's 'Deeksharambh', a Stu-

SRINAGAR: "We must sprint ahead in agriculture and allied sectors to fuel India's growth story," the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He said to build a developed India, our prime objective should be to achieve a consistent 5% annual growth rate.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the need for cultivating change in agriculture education to ensure sustainable practices in future.

"Educational institutions like SKUAST should focus on AI-powered farming and diversification into high-value crops with strategic



dent Induction Programme, titled as "Aneka Mein Ekta Diwas" held to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. In his address, he also lauded the academic achievements of SKUAST-Kashmir and expressed

his happiness over its overall ranking and attracting students from across states and UTs.

"Today, it is 150th birth anniversary of Iron Man of India, Sardar-

LG said that the new generation has rejected violence. "Stone pelting has become history. People are now coming out spontaneously in support of peace and progress," he remarked.

Vallabhbhai Patel and I am extremely happy that the presence of youth from every state from Arunachal to Andhra Pradesh, Kashmir to Kanyakumari,

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Bottimline

DIPR To Create Verified Database Of Journalists To Curb Impersonation

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DIOs directed to maintain verified lists, share communications with accredited journalists

SRINAGAR: Taking serious note of increasing complaints regarding misuse of media credentials and impersonation by unauthorised individuals, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, has issued strict directions to all District Information Officers (DIOs) in Kashmir Division to enhance vigilance, monitoring, and reporting of such cases.

In an official circular issued by the Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari, a copy of which lies in possession of Srinagar-based news-gathering agency Kashmir Dot Com, the department highlighted that several individuals without any formal accreditation or authorization have been found posing as journalists or correspondents of media organisations. These individuals, the circular said, have allegedly mis-

used the name of media for blackmail, extortion, coercion of officials, and circulation of defamatory or unverified material against public institutions and officers.



"It has been observed that certain persons have been apprehended and booked for extortion and misuse of media identity, which underscores the seriousness of this matter," the communication stated. To address the issue, all DIOs have been directed to maintain a verified list of ac-

credited and bona fide media persons operating within their jurisdictions, in coordination with the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) and media houses. They have also been asked to ensure that all press releases,

The circular further directs DIOs to immediately report any person or entity misusing media credentials or indulging in coercion or defamation, and to coordinate with the respective Deputy Commissioners and police authorities for prompt legal and administrative action

media invites, and briefings are shared only with recognized journalists through official channels.

The circular further directs DIOs to immediately report any person or

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Judge Us After 5 Years Report Card: CM Omar

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SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the 3x43 metre PSC Girder Double Lane Noor Jahan Bridge at Qamarwari, con-

structed over the River Jhelum to significantly ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity between the two sides of Srinagar city connecting Qamarwari with Noorbagh and serve as a vital link leading to Nallahmar road.

Built at a cost of Rs. 12.77 crore, the project marks a major step toward strengthening the city's road infrastructure and ensuring smooth vehicular movement, particularly in the densely populated Qamarwari and adjoining areas.

Addressing a large public gathering after inaugurating the bridge, the Chief Minister said, "This bridge's foundation was laid by me and after 11 years our government comes back to complete it and today dedicate it to the people."

He added, "Despite the hurdles we face in governance, my government prioritises development, dignity and peace in the region. We are committed to fulfil our commitments and bring Jammu & Kashmir on the path



of progress and prosperity."

Reiterating his stand on statehood, the Chief Minister renewed his call for its restoration, noting that it had been promised by the Central Government leadership on several occasions. "People took part enthusiastically in last year's elections as statehood was promised to

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CS stresses long term roadmap to elevate higher education

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo underscored the need for a comprehensive and futuristic roadmap to transform the higher education landscape in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the sector, he called upon the Higher Education Department to formulate a 5-10 year strategic plan aimed at elevating the stature of higher education and aligning it with contemporary academic, technological, and market needs.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Director, Colleges; Managing Director, RUSA; and other senior officers of the department.

Emphasizing the importance of relevance and innovation, the Chief Secretary urged the Department to revise the curriculum to make it more skill-oriented, industry-driven, and aspirational in outlook.

He stressed redesigning outdated courses and introducing new, market-driven programmes to ensure students are equipped for emerging

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Reasi Admin, Police celebrate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

DC Reasi leads Pledge Ceremony, Run for Unity

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REASI: As part of the nationwide observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)—commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—Reasi Administration and District Police jointly organized a series of events celebrating



the spirit of unity, integrity and national integration.

The day's proceedings began with a pledge-taking ceremony held at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex. The ceremony was led by Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who administered the pledge to officers and officials, reaffirming their collective commitment to uphold the values of national unity, integrity and communal harmony.

Following the ceremony, a "Run for Unity" was organized by the District Administration in collaboration with the District Police, Reasi. The run commenced from the District Police Lines and culminated at the General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium, spreading the message of peace, harmony and national integration among participants and the public.

DC Reasi Nidhi Malik flagged off the Unity Run, which saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of officers and officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and District Administration. The event highlighted the district's collective resolve to strengthen communal harmony and foster national spirit.

Senior officers present on the occasion included SSP Reasi Paramveer Singh, CO IRP 1st Anita Sharma; ADC Sudershan Kumar; ASP Iftikar Ahmed; DySP HQ Vishal Singh Jamwal and other senior officials from the civil and police administration.

Addressing the gathering, DC Nidhi Malik paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, fondly remembered as the Iron Man of India. She highlighted his historic role in uniting the nation and emphasized that the observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas serves as a reminder of his vision of a strong and united India. She also underlined the importance of such initiatives in instilling patriotic values among citizens, particularly the youth.

DC Reasi flags off Vigilance Awareness Rally to promote transparency, integrity

REASI: As part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today flagged off a vigilance awareness rally organized by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in collaboration with District Administration Reasi



and Police Department.

The rally commenced from the DC Office Complex, Reasi and culminated at General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium, Reasi.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various educational institutions across the district, who raised slogans and carried placards spreading messages on transparency, accountability and eradication of corruption.

Addressing the gathering, DC Reasi emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in building a corruption-free society. She encouraged the youth to play a proactive role in spreading awareness and upholding ethical values to strengthen the nation's integrity system.

The Deputy Commissioner stated that vigilance is not confined to a single week of observance but should be a continuous effort practiced in everyday life. She urged all stakeholders, including government officials, students and citizens to act with honesty and transparency in their respective spheres to make Reasi a model district of good governance and public trust.

SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, Adl. SP Iftikar Ahmed, PO Poshan Sudershan Kumar, ACD Vijay Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, DySP Laxmi Kant, DySP HQ Vishal Jamwal, Inspector Bhushan Manhas and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Assembly Session Concludes with appreciation, Renewed Commitment

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SRINAGAR: The legislators on the concluding sitting of the ongoing Assembly session reflected on the proceedings, expressed satisfaction with the overall conduct of business and reaffirmed their commitment to public welfare.

Legislative Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather invited the Members of the House to share their views, in keeping with the customary tradition of addressing the House on the final day of each session.

Speaker expressed happiness over the proceedings and thanked the members for raising people's issues effectively.

"I thank all the members of the House for playing their part in conducting the proceedings smoothly and for their constructive participation in legislative discussions," Speaker said.

In her reflections on the session, Minister for Health, Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo said that the Speaker was deserving of congratulations and thanked him for running the House in a non-partisan and objective manner to ensure a productive and fruitful session.

She thanked the opposition for playing its role effectively in holding the government accountable, adding that they deserve credit for their constructive participation.

She expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah for spending time in the House and responding to the Members' queries.

Regarding the queries raised by MLAs

about the replies, Minister said that all replies in the House were prepared after due consideration to ensure satisfactory responses.

MLA M.Y. Tarigami thanked all members and staff for making the session fruitful

every member an opportunity to participate. He acknowledged that while differences and heated exchanges are natural in debates, members must observe legislative decorum and avoid remarks that may hurt others' sentiments.

MLA Mubarak Gul while expressing satisfaction over the productive session, said that MLAs were able to raise all important issues through Calling Attention Motions, Question Hour and Zero Hour. He urged that the concerns and suggestions discussed in the House should translate into concrete action, ensuring meaningful outcomes for the public.

MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para appreciated the Speaker for accommodating all voices in the House and thanked him for providing space for diverse opinions. He said that although institutions may be weak, the Assembly remains



and productive, suggesting that future sessions be held for a longer duration to allow sufficient time for legislators to raise issues of public importance.

MLA Nizamuddin Bhat emphasized the need to maintain the dignity of the House, noting that every member has made sincere efforts to fulfill their responsibilities.

MLA Surjit Singh Slathia extended gratitude to the Speaker for conducting the proceedings efficiently and giving

the forum where elected representatives can raise their voices on behalf of the people. MLA Farooq Shah observed that people expect their elected representatives to register their grievances in the House and thanked the Speaker for conducting the proceedings effectively.

The legislators collectively appreciated the Assembly Secretariat, security personnel and media representatives for their cooperation throughout the session.

District Administration Samba Pays Tribute To Iron Man Of India, Organises 'Run For Unity'

SAMBA: In a powerful demonstration of national solidarity and patriotic fervor, the District Administration Samba organized a magnificent 'Run for Unity' to commemorate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, whose extraordinary statesmanship and unshakable resolve transformed a fragmented subcontinent into a unified nation. Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan flagged off the event from the District Administrative Complex Nandani Hills, as hundreds of participants embodying the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' marched to Gujar Hostel, symbolizing the nation's stride towards greater unity and prosperity.

The atmosphere resonated with patriotic zeal as all participants, standing in unison, took the Unity Pledge, solemnly reaffirming their sacred commitment to preserving India's territorial integrity, promoting communal harmony and strengthening the bonds of national integration that Sardar Patel fought tirelessly to forge.

The event witnessed participation from enthusiastic students, senior government functionaries including Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ajay Bharti; Chief Education Officer Keval Krishan, teachers and officials from other departments, all united

in their tribute to the architect of modern India.

The massive turnout transformed the event

commemorative event, emerged as a living testament to the enduring legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.



into a moving spectacle of youthful energy and idealism, demonstrating that Sardar Patel's vision of a united India continues to inspire and guide the nation's future generations.

Meticulously organized by the District Youth Services and Sports Office under the supervision of DYSSO Dharmvir, the 'Run for Unity' transcended being merely a

The event powerfully encapsulated the imperishable values of oneness, integrity and national solidarity, serving as a clarion call to every citizen to remain steadfast guardians of India's unity, to rise above divisive forces and to work collectively toward building a strong, harmonious and globally respected nation that fulfills Sardar Patel's immortal vision of an indivisible and prosperous India.

JKEDI organizes Startup Idea Challenge Boot Camps at JU Bhaderwah Campus and ITI Kishtwar

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) continued its mission of fostering innovation and empowering youth through



entrepreneurship by organizing Boot Camps under J&K Startup Idea Challenge at Bhaderwah Campus of University of Jammu and Government Industrial Training Institute, Kishtwar. The events, held under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring entrepreneurs and faculty members.

At Bhaderwah Campus of Jammu University, the boot camp was graced by Rector, Professor Rahul Gupta, University of Jammu, Dr. Umesh Choudhary,

Head, School of Business Department, Bhaderwah Campus, Jammu University, Vivek, Superintendent, ITI, Bhaderwah, Vishal Sharma, Branch Head, J&K Bank,

Faculty of the Bhaderwah Campus, Officials from Employment Department, District Industries Centre and JKEDI, Doda.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Umesh Choudhary, Head, School of Business Department, Bhaderwah Campus, Jammu University, underscored the need of organizing such initiatives more frequently to build and nurture a vibrant startup ecosystem in the U.T. of Jammu and Kashmir. Sixteen participants presented their ideas before the jury members.

The ideas were evaluated based on innovation, feasibility and market potential. Shabir Majeed, District Nodal Officer (DNO), JKEDI Doda deliberated on the details of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 while describing the Startups as drivers of innovation and economic growth.

At Kishtwar, the boot camp, under the J&K Startup Idea Challenge, was held at Government Industrial Training Institute

(ITI). The event was aimed to boost the startup ecosystem of the Union Territory in line with the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27. Er. Anoop Sharma, Principal, ITI Kishtwar inaugurated the event.

In his address, the Principle highlighted the importance of building a robust entrepreneurial culture in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Majid Manzoor Khan, Associate Senior Faculty, JKEDI highlighted various interventions and programmes being implemented by JKEDI under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 and urged students to think innovatively and work towards building sustainable entrepreneurial ventures.

Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, District Nodal Officer (DNO), JKEDI Kishtwar, delivered the keynote address, outlining the agenda of the session and setting the tone for discussions on innovation, entrepreneurship and opportunities available under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27. The

Bootcamp witnessed enthusiastic participation of students, Faculty members of ITI, Officials from Government Polytechnic College, Kishtwar, Employment Department, District Industries Centre and JKEDI, Kishtwar attending the session.

Baramulla Observes Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with Great Fervour; DC administers unity Pledge, Flags off Padyatra

BARAMULLA: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of national integration, the District Administration Baramulla observed Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) with great



enthusiasm and patriotic zeal.

The main event was held at the Government Degree College Ground, Baramulla, where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, administered the Unity Pledge to a large gathering of participants including Students, Local Citizens, Officials and officers of Civil and police, reaffirming their commitment to uphold the unity, integrity, and security of the nation. Hundreds of students, officials, locals, and CRPF personnel participated in the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the remarkable contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in uniting the nation and emphasized the need to carry forward his vision of a strong, united, and progressive India. He called upon the youth to emulate Patel's ideals of dedication, discipline, and national service.

Following the pledge ceremony, the DC, accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh, flagged off a Padyatra from the College Ground to Dak Bungalow Baramulla. The rally, featuring enthusiastic participation from students and citizens carrying the National Flag and banners, reverberated with slogans promoting unity, peace, and brotherhood.

At Dak Bungalow, the DC along with SSP inspected stalls set up by various departments showcasing their initiatives and schemes aimed at public welfare, youth empowerment, and community development. The DC appreciated the efforts of the departments in spreading awareness about government programmes and urged officials to continue working with dedication towards inclusive development.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the aim of observing Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is to strengthen the bond of national integration and remind citizens of Sardar Patel's unmatched role in unifying India.

Agriculture Directorate Jammu observes National Unity Day with Pledge Ceremony

JAMMU: The Directorate of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu today celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) at Krishi Bhawan to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The event was organized to reaffirm the spirit of unity, integrity and self-reliance among all officers and staff of the department.

Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu Anil Gupta led a solemn pledge with officers and staff reaffirming their commitment to preserve and strengthen the unity, integrity and security of the nation. The solemn atmosphere reflected a deep sense of national pride and dedication to the ideals of unity and service.

Among others present included Director Law Enforcement J&K S. Balbir Singh; Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/ Farms) Jammu Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma; Deputy Director Agriculture (Central) Jammu Sanjeev Rai Gupta along with all sectoral heads, senior officers and staff members of the Directorate.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director Agriculture Jammu said that Rashtriya Ekta Diwas reminds us of the visionary leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a monumental role in unifying India after independence.

The event concluded with the message that true tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel lies in fostering harmony, working with a spirit of collective progress and building an agricultural sector that supports the dream of a "Viksit Bharat - Aatmanirbhar Bharat."



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah unveils Kashmir Marathon Exposition at Polo View

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the exposition of Kashmir Marathon-2025 at Polo View, Srinagar.

The exposition marks the final leg of preparations for the much-anticipated second edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled to be held on November 2 in the picturesque city.

The Chief Minister inspected various stalls and counters set up by different government departments, private sports firms and event partners. The exhibition showcases a wide range of sports gear, equipment and accessories aimed at promoting fitness and outdoor activities.

It also includes dedicated bib collection centres and on-spot registration counters for participants of the upcoming marathon.



On the occasion, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Director

Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob, event organisers and other senior officers were present. The Chief Minister interacted with stall owners, athletes and volunteers, appreciating their role in promoting a vibrant sporting culture in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier this week, the Chief Minister had unveiled the official merchandise of Kashmir Marathon-2025 at Royal Springs Golf Course.

The merchandise includes a cap, medal and racing kit symbolising the spirit of endurance and unity.

While unveiling the collection, the Chief Minister invited all fitness enthusiasts to test their stamina and join the marathon, which aims to encourage healthy lifestyle and showcase the natural beauty of Kashmir to visiting participants.

IWAI and J&K Government sign MoU for development of Srinagar Water Metro

SRINAGAR: The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have signed

The initiative aims to ease traffic congestion, enhance intra-city connectivity, and promote sustainable, eco-friendly mobility



a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop an Urban Water Transport System in Srinagar, modeled on the highly successful Kochi Water Metro.

On behalf of the J&K Government, the MoU was signed by the Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Kashmir, while the Chief Engineer (Transport & Logistics), IWAI, signed on behalf of the Authority. The MoU was formally presented to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in presence of Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, Secretary Transport Department Avny Lavasa and RTO Kashmir Qazi Irfan.

The MoU outlines a comprehensive framework for collaboration in developing and promoting an integrated, water-based urban transport network connecting key destinations along Dal Lake and River Jhelum.

within Srinagar.

Under the agreement, the J&K Government will provide administrative and logistical support, including necessary clearances, land acquisition, and the development of allied infrastructure. It will also ensure efficient first- and last-mile connectivity, integrating the Water Metro into the broader urban transport ecosystem of the Union Territory.

The IWAI will provide technical expertise and guidance for the project, oversee maintenance of navigational channels and aids, and facilitate capacity-building programmes for inland water transport personnel. It will also ensure navigation safety and the adoption of modern operational systems. The proposed 900 crore project envisions establishing water

transport connectivity through electric-hybrid boats for local passenger movement – featuring five routes with ten terminals on Dal Lake and two routes with eight terminals on River Jhelum. This network will complement existing road infrastructure and offer an alternate, green mode of urban transit.

Both parties have agreed to work jointly to obtain statutory clearances and address environmental, forest, and local considerations related to project execution.

The funding structure will be finalised through mutual consultation, while a detailed implementation roadmap will be prepared in the coming months. This collaboration marks a major stride toward developing a reliable, efficient, and environmentally responsible public transport system in Srinagar.

The project is expected to enhance urban mobility, boost tourism, and create new livelihood opportunities by introducing a modern, sustainable mode of transport.

A similar inland water transport model is also being explored for Jammu, reflecting the government's broader vision to harness the potential of the region's waterways for integrated urban transport development.

Div Com, IGP Jammu flag off Unity March to mark 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

JAMMU: To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, Sardar@150 Unity March, a district-level Padyatra was organised here from Gulshan Ground. The march was flagged off by Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar in the presence of IGP Bhim Sen Tuti, Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas, DIG Shiv Kumar and ADC Ansuya Jamwal. Director Mera Yuva Bharat, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Nisar Ahmed Butt was also present on the occasion.

The march passed through Gujjar Nagar Bridge and culminated at Hari Singh Park. Bands from the J&K Police and BSF along with NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, school students and officers and staff of the district administration participated in large numbers and pledged to uphold the unity and sovereignty of the nation.

Patriotic performances were presented by school students and artists from the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. Tableaus were also showcased as part of the Unity Run.



Sakeena Itoo inaugurates two-day National Conference cum-Workshop ‘Kashmir Endogyn 2025’ at GMC Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated two-day National Conference-cum-Workshop “Kashmir Endogyn 2025” at Government Medical College (GMC) here.

The Conference is being organized by the Postgraduate Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Addressing the distinguished gathering of healthcare professionals, medical students, and policymakers, the Minister highlighted the importance of and commended GMC Srinagar for advancing women's wellness through education, research, and clinical care. She emphasized that women's health must be seen as a societal priority, not just a sectoral concern.

“Empowering women through better healthcare access and education strengthens families, communities, and the nation at large,” Health Minister stated.

In his address, Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah appreciated the department for creating a strong academic platform

that blends evidence-based medicine with practical training.

Principal and Dean, GMC Srinagar,

on updates in Endometriosis, Infertility, Urogynecology, and Menopausal Health. She said that such academic platforms



Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah in her address emphasized on the role of technology and continuous skill development in gynaecologic practice. She noted that modern tools such as minimally invasive surgery, robotic laparoscopy, and advanced reproductive techniques are transforming women's healthcare.

Organizing Chairperson and Head of the Department, Dr. Syed Masuma Rizvi in her welcome address outlined the conference objectives, which focus

promote collaboration and raise healthcare standards.

Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, and Medical Superintendent, LD Hospital, Dr. Muzaffar Jan extended their appreciation for the event and reaffirmed their support for GMC Srinagar's academic and clinical initiatives.

The first day of conference featured scientific sessions on laparoscopic management of endometriosis,

Assisted Reproductive Technologies, urogynecologic reconstructive surgery, and menopause management. The sessions helped participants understand current best practices in gynaecology.

The conference also witnessed expert talks by Dr. Seema Hakim and Dr. Shaheen Anjum from Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. (Dr.) Shweta Mittal Gupta from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital New Delhi, Dr. Vjayanthi from KIMS Hyderabad, and Dr. Ajay Agarwal, noted laparoscopic surgeon.

Their presentations highlighted new techniques and clinical innovations.

The second day of conference will include a hands-on workshop on advanced laparoscopic and reproductive procedures. The workshop will help young doctors and trainees gain technical skills, clinical confidence, and direct mentorship from national experts.

The Minister on the occasion also felicitated Dr. Bilques Jameela and Dr. Shahida Mir, both former Heads of the department for their service to women's health and medical education.

Pulwama Observes Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with Enthusiasm

PULWAMA: District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with Police, CRPF & Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) Pulwama (Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India), today organised a mega “Run for Unity” on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The event was held to honour Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's monumental contribution to the unification of India and to promote the spirit of unity, integrity, and national harmony.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Dr. Basharat Qayoom flagged off a vibrant bike rally, where participants proudly carried the National Flag, spreading the message of “Unity in Diversity.”

Following this, the Deputy Commissioner along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Pulwama, Tanushree, led a Unity March that commenced from the Deputy Commissioner's Office Pulwama and culminated at the District Police Lines (DPL) Pulwama. The march witnessed overwhelming participation from all sections of society including elected representatives, social activists, NGOs, civil society members, trade union representatives, students, youth and local citizens.

At DPL Pulwama, a Unity Concert was also organised by Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Pulwama, filling the atmosphere with energy and patriotic fervour through renditions



Reserve Police Force (CRPF) 182/183 BN, and NCC Cadets among others.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama administered the Ekta Pledge, reaffirming the commitment to preserve the unity, integrity, and security of the nation.

Meanwhile, similar Unity Runs and Pledge Ceremonies were held across the district at the sub-divisional & block levels.

Furthermore, a series of cultural programmes, seminars, essay competitions, and quiz contests on the life and legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were organised across educational institutions in Pulwama district, engaging youth and students in understanding Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a united India.

Govt to revive traditional stone quarrying in Kashmir: Deputy CM

Panel formed to finalize modalities for resumption of operations

SRINAGAR: Government informed the Legislative Assembly that concrete steps are being taken to address issues related to the closure of traditional stone quarries across Kashmir and to explore modalities for their revival, keeping in view both livelihood concerns and environmental requirements.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary said that Government has constituted a Multi-Departmental High-Level Committee to examine and finalize the modalities for revival of customary stone quarrying at Panthachowk (Srinagar), Saderkoot Bala (Bandipora), and other locations. The committee held its preliminary meeting on October 16, 2025, and has sought inputs and recommendations from all stakeholder departments to expedite the process.

Replying to the Calling Attention Motion moved by

MLA Hasnain Masoodi and others regarding the closure of traditional stone quarries, Deputy Chief Minister stated that prior to 2016, quarrying for extraction of masonry and building stones was governed under the Jammu and Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1962, which allowed quarrying on short-term permits without the need for Mining Plans or Environmental Clearances.

He said that after the introduction of the J&K Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016, all individual quarrying sites were required to be grouped into clusters, and each cluster was mandated to obtain approved Mining Plans, Environmental Clearances, and Consents to Operate from competent authorities before formal issuance of quarry licences.

It informed that 35 quarry clusters have been declared across Kashmir Division under these provisions, covering 625 individual quarries. However, due to procedural and environmental constraints, only one quarry cluster – in District Ganderbal – has been issued a licence after completing all statutory formalities.

The remaining clusters, particularly in districts such as Anantnag, Pulwama, Srinagar, and Baramulla, have faced delays primarily due to environmental objections raised by Forest and Wildlife Departments and technical issues involving limestone deposits exceeding permissible chemical limits.

To address these challenges, Deputy CM said that the government has allowed erstwhile quarry holders to lift and transport weathered material for government works

Officer Neeraj Bhargav along with staff members of the department.

During the event, the DIO and other officials lauded the invaluable contributions made by Rajinder Kumar during his service. They appreciated the commitment, sincerity and the professionalism he exhibited during his years of service.

While extending best wishes for his retired life, the

DIO expressed hope that his vast experience and work ethics would continue to inspire others in the department. The programme concluded on an emotional note, with colleagues and peers sharing fond memories and extending heartfelt wishes for his future endeavors. Later, as a mark of respect and affection, a memento was presented to the retiring employee.

DIPR Udhampur Centre bids farewell to Information Assistant Rajinder Kumar

UDHAMPUR: The Department of Information and Public Relation (DIPR) District Centre Udhampur today organized a warm and impressive farewell ceremony in honor of Rajinder Kumar, Information Assistant, who retired from government service today after an illustrious and dedicated career.

The farewell programme was graced by District Information

Editorial

J&K Needs Action, Not Excuses

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's recent comments on Jammu and Kashmir's Union Territory Foundation Day are the kinds of necessary clarification we expect. The LG unequivocally stated that the elected government in J&K has full governing authority and needs to stop claiming that their actions are hindered due to the absence of the state. This statement speaks directly to the emerging political narrative, which potentially privileges political grievance over serving the public interest.

It is well-known that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has continually referred to a "dual power structure" and the Union Territory status as impediments to the functioning of his governance. While the desire for statehood restoration is clear and, as Union Home Minister Amit Shah clearly stated in Parliament, is part of a "sequenced" plan--delimitation first, followed by elections, followed by statehood--it cannot be an everlasting excuse for governance. Certainly, the people of J&K voted in Assembly elections with the understanding that they were electing a government for a Union Territory. To now assert that work is hamstrung under the absence of statehood, as the LG accurately asserted, is an excuse that misleads the people.

The elected government has significant authority with regard to public service, development projects, education, health, and many more sectors that influence the day-to-day life of our people. To argue that development is contingent on a shift in constitutional status is to underestimate not only the capacity of government but the intelligence of our people. The voters voted for a government that would deliver development and effective governance. It is that mandate that demands a response, not an indefinite debate about constitutional status that the Centre has already described a time frame for.

LG Sinha's speech correctly pointed to a transformation that commenced on October 31, 2019, the end of discriminatory laws, the advent of social justice, and the initiation of on-the-ground progress in infrastructure. In this new environment, the people's aspirations are tied to economic outcomes, jobs, roads, quality education, and peace. These are the subjects of engagement where an elected government can and has to show its effectiveness.

So, it is time for CM Omar Abdullah and his government to switch gears. The focus should be less about negotiating political capital over something the Centre has already accepted and more about delivering the promised change to J&K's people that the government campaigned on. The people of J&K need a government that is active in its approach to solving problems, not one that looks like it is waiting to engage in its task based on a different political period. Powers exist, a mandate exists, and a demand for development warrants a government to reconvene to express its intention to govern. J&K's future will be created by people who work within the current socio-political framework to create a potential good day tomorrow, not by those who are still carrying the grievance of yesterday.

Sardar Patel: The Legacy Of A Nation Forged In Unity



VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

On October 31st we celebrated the 150th Birth anniversary of Iron man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It reminds me the memorable lines of H.W. Longfellow that - "Lives of great men

with exemplary qualities. Straightforward and outspoken, his commitment to secular India was true and well-defined. Blessed with extraordinary qualities of courage, integrity and an iron determination, Patel played an important role in the freedom movement. He was, thus, able to win their unstinted support in the endeavor of nation building. The genuine qualities of leadership he had shown as leader of Satyagraha, flowered in greater way in the administration of the country, maintenance of law and order and ensuring stability of the country and making it invulnerable.

Here, I would like to point out that if our

as a threat and his lectures were considered anti-government and he was imprisoned several times. In 1942, he took part in the Quit India Movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

Sardar Patel's unrelenting efforts towards the unity of the country brought success. A man of iron will and absolute fearlessness integrated 553 princely Indian States into the Indian Union. Due to the achievement of this massive task, Sardar Patel got the title of 'Iron Man'. He is one of the prestigious leaders of the world who became immortal by uniting a scattered nation without any bloodshed. He took over as the nascent nation's

statement of our PM Shri Narendra Modi, I would conclude that "Through his skill, vision and patriotism Sardar Patel integrated the nation. We can never forget his contribution in uniting free India." It is hard to find a

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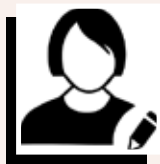
Sardar Patel was a great political leader with exemplary qualities. Straightforward and outspoken, his commitment to secular India was true and well-defined. Blessed with extraordinary qualities of courage, integrity and an iron determination, Patel played an important role in the freedom movement. He was, thus, able to win their unstinted support in the endeavor of nation building.

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leader like him who dedicated himself to the service of the nation and its people. Let us hope we find a determined leader like him with depth and vision. Following up the footsteps of Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel to inculcate integrity in Public life, let us remember him with veneration and bow to him. Let us imitate his admirable qualities.

Auth Can be mailed At dicitpatrakar@yahoo.in

How India's Women Redefined Cricket's World Order



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Today will be etched in golden letters in Indian sports history. India defeated reigning champions Australia in the semifinals of the Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 to advance to the final. This is not just a victory, but a story of courage, dedication, and struggle that has propelled India's daughters to the pinnacle of cricket.

There was a time when women's cricket was considered a mere formality. Matches were played on the field, but spectators were scarce. Players received basic facilities and almost no recognition. But these daughters refused to give up. They continued to play--braving the sun, dust, and difficult conditions. Players like Mithali Raj, Jhulan Goswami, Harmanpreet Kaur, and Smriti Mandhana strengthened the foundation of Indian women's cricket at a time when support and resources were limited. Today, as a result of their struggle, India's young team is confidently and enthusiastically defeating the world's most powerful team, Australia.

This victory wasn't just a single match, but a symbol of self-confidence and determination. Against Australia, a multiple World Cup winner, the Indian team displayed a remarkable display of excellent batting, accurate bowling, and agile fielding. With every boundary and every wicket, the entire ground echoed with "Bharat Mata ki Jai." The spectators were filled with tears of joy, as this wasn't just a sporting victory, but an echo of Indian women's power. The captain's bold decisions at crucial moments proved that this team was as mentally strong as it was physically.

This success didn't come by accident. It's the result of years of hard work, lessons learned from failure, and unwavering dedication. Indian women's cricket is no longer just an emotional inspiration, but an example of professional excellence. Women aren't just participating on

the field--they're making history. Cricket, once considered a men's game, now resonates with the names of Indian daughters. Smriti Mandhana's brilliant batting, Harmanpreet Kaur's captaincy, Shefali Verma's fast starts, and Deepti Sharma's

with limited resources, have shown that with determination and opportunity, no dream is impossible. This success is also an inspiration for parents who hesitate to encourage their daughters in sports. Now they can confidently

longer just a sport, but an emotion. This support from spectators and the media has boosted the players' confidence exponentially. Now, women are not only playing, but also shaping a new identity for the country.

All eyes are now on the final. The Indian team's rhythm, discipline, and passion are enough to ensure India's victory in the World Cup. Every player knows this isn't just a match, but an opportunity to make history. It's no longer just about the trophy, but about honoring the dreams of millions of Indians. The final will be a celebration of Indian women's power--it will show the world that Indian women can lead not only in their families and society, but also on the field.

Today's victory is a message--that with hard work, discipline, and self-confidence, no obstacle is too great. India's daughters are playing today, not on the field, but in the pages of history. They have bats in their hands, goals in their eyes, and boundless patriotism in their hearts. This is the power that is propelling India into a new era. Whether it's Australia, England, or any other team--Indian women's cricket no longer fears anyone. This is a generation born to make dreams come true.

The Cup is no longer far away. This victory marks the beginning of a new dawn. It is the inspiration for countless little daughters, tucked away in a corner, bat in hand, shaping their dreams. This victory is the smile of every mother who gave her daughter the freedom to fly. This victory is the pride of every father who, defying societal norms, guided his daughter to the field.

We salute the Indian women's team for this historic victory. This is not just a sporting triumph, but a restoration of the nation's self-confidence. Now, when the Indian flag flies in the final, it will be the result of every daughter's hard work and every mother's prayers.

Jai Indian women power!
Hail the daughters of India!

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



all-round ability have proven that the Indian women's team has the potential to win under any circumstances.

This victory isn't limited to the field, but it's also a sign of social change. These daughters, who hail from villages and towns and grew up

say, "Our daughter can play, win, and bring glory to our country."

The popularity and support that Indian women's cricket is receiving today is historic. Stadium crowds, TV channel TRPs, and social media trends demonstrate that women's cricket is no

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India's daughters have made history! India defeated Australia in the semi-finals of the Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 to advance to the final. This victory is not just a symbol of sport, but also of women's power, struggle, and self-confidence.

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Upgradation Of Degree Colleges As Per Public Requirements, Not Political Interference: Education Minister

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo said that the 52 newly sanctioned degree colleges are being made fully functional before any proposal will be taken for opening new degree colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister stated this while replying to a clubbed question of Legislators, Nizamuddin Bhat, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, Muzaffer Iqbal Khan, Choudhary Akram and Dr. Rameshwar Singh regarding establishment of Degree Colleges, in Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister highlighted that the upgradation of degree colleges across Jammu and Kashmir will not be on any kind of political interference, rather it will be as per the requirements of public. She also said that Health and Education sectors are very important sectors which reflect development of any society, adding that these sectors shouldn't be looked with the prism of vote bank.

The Minister informed that for establishment of Degree College at Manjakote, State Level Empowered Standing Committee has been constituted earlier

to examine the feasibility/ location and identify the un-served areas for establishment of Colleges. She added as per feasibility report submitted to the



Administrative Department the land measuring 72 Kanals 15 Marla in Village Lower Saroola, 9 Kanals in Village Lower Mangar (Nagar) and 56 Kanals custodian land at Talwad at village Dehri Dhara was made available for the establishment of college.

Regarding establishment of Degree College Arnia, the Minister said that the department of Higher Education is receiving demands from different sections of society including MLAs which are being evaluated as per feasibility parameters on the subject.

She added that as per the feasibility report for opening of Degree College Arnia, Jammu is concerned, the existing GDC R.S. Pura and GDC Bishnah being approximately 17 Kms away, serve the educational needs of the area. She also said that besides these, 7 Degree Colleges are operational in the Jammu District, and with the current enrollment patterns at GDC RS Pura and GDC Bishnah, the focus remains on enhancing the existing institutions. She further said that the establishment of new Degree College in the vicinity may be reassessed upon achieving optimum enrolment and operationalization capacity at GDC RS Pura and GDC Bishnah.

Regarding establishment of Degree College Lohai-Malhar, the Minister informed that the matter has been examined in the Department and it has been observed on the basis of feasibility report submitted by the committee constituted for the purpose, that it was decided to establish a Degree College at Lohai Malhar in view of remoteness/ topography of the area, as well as the distance from the nearest Degree College (i.e. 60 Kms from GDC

Bani).

Regarding establishment of Degree College for Women in Bandipora, Education Minister said that the existing Government Degree College, Bandipora presently caters to the higher educational needs of the region, with an enrolment of 497 female and 530 male students. She added that in addition to GDC Bandipora, there are further 7 Degree Colleges operational in the district, each reflecting an almost suitable enrolment of female students vis-à-vis their male counterparts.

Education Minister further added that with the current enrolment patterns at GDC Bandipora and other colleges of the district, the focus remains on ensuring the delivery of quality education up to the required standards, and strengthening academic infrastructure.

Regarding Land for Degree College Surankote, the Minister informed that Tehsildar Surankote has identified State land measuring 66 kanals at village Kotlaha, for the construction of the Government Degree College for Women at Surankote, adding that the land has been transferred to Principal, Govt. Degree College, Surankote.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrated with zeal in Shopian

DC Urges Youth To Uphold The Ideals Of Unity, Integrity, And Harmony For A Stronger Nation

FE NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: To celebrate the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, commemorating

of princely states and the unification of the nation after Independence. He emphasized that Patel's vision, courage and leadership remain a guiding light

inculcating the same among the youth.

On the occasion, Unity Pledge was also administered to officers, officials and participants, reaffirming commitment to uphold the unity, integrity and security of the nation.

Local artists and school students of various educational institutions presented a series of cultural, patriotic, and dramatic performances and speeches reflecting the theme of national integration and unity in diversity.

The programme concluded with expressions of gratitude from the district administration to all participants and stakeholders for their active involvement in making the event successful.

The celebration at Shopian reflected the true spirit of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, spreading the message of oneness, harmony and national pride across the district.

SSP, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary; ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; district administration officers and officials, civil society members, youth, volunteers, and a large number of students and local public participated in the event.



the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the District Administration Shopian in collaboration with "Mera Yuva Bharat" today organized a grand function here at Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

The event was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta to celebrate the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner paid glowing tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for his historic role in the integration

for every Indian, reminding citizens of the strength that comes from unity and collective effort.

He further added that we all should commit on this happy occasion to fight collectively against corruption, drugs and environmental pollution to take forward the developmental journey of the district.

The DC also highlighted the importance of preserving communal harmony, promoting mutual respect and working collectively towards developmental goals, especially

Chief Secretary administers 'Unity Pledge' to officers on eve of National Unity Day

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On the eve of the 12th National Unity Day, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, administered the



'Unity Pledge' to officers and officials of the Civil Secretariat here.

The ceremony, aimed at reaffirming the spirit of national integration and collective responsibility. The same was also attended virtually by employees stationed at the Jammu Secretariat through video conferencing. During the solemn ceremony, the civil servants

pledged to dedicate themselves to preserving the unity, integrity, and security of the nation, and to spread this message among fellow citizens.

They also resolved to contribute actively towards ensuring internal security and strengthening the spirit of national unity in their respective spheres of work.

Pertinently, National Unity Day is observed every year to commemorate the immense contribution of India's first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, in the unification of the nation. The day celebrates Patel's monumental efforts in integrating more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after independence, thereby laying the foundation of a united and strong India.

This year's observance also marks the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose vision, leadership, and steadfast commitment continue to inspire the nation to uphold peace, integrity, and unity.

Rs. 2.26 Cr WSS Gassu approved for supply of portable water in Hazratbal Constituency: Jal Shakti Minister

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmad Rana said that the Rs. 2.26 Cr WSS Gassu has been approved for supply of portable water to residents of Hazratbal Constituency.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Legislator, Salman Sagar in the Legislative Assembly today.

He said that there habitations including Tailbal, Khimber, Chandpora, Gasoo, Faquir Gujree, Chatarhama and adjoining areas of Hazratbal Constituency are being supplied drinking water supply facilities satisfactorily.

He said that these areas lie on the boundary of SMC and fall within the Ganderbal Division. However, during peak season, these areas are facing shortage of drinking water supply due to misuse of water by the inhabitants (online booster, watering gardens, washing vehicles and

construction purposes etc). However, any shortage in supplies is addressed by



deploying Water tankers.

Moreover, the area of Tailbal currently receives water from a 60,000-gallon Overhead Tank (OHT) sourced by a tube

well. To enhance the water supply to Tailbal and its adjoining areas and serve the growing demand in future, a new OHT is being constructed along with a dedicated bore well which is in the final stage of completion.

Further, he said that to augmentation the future demand, a new scheme under UT Capex titled WSS Gassu has been approved with an estimated cost of Rs. 226.32 lakhs and is under process of tendering.

Regarding the concerns of farmers confronting deficient irrigation facilities, the Minister said that the command areas

are adequately connected through the existing gravity canal system of the Mavas Canal, which is fed from the Dachigam Nallah. During peak season or in case of

deficient rains/scarcity, additional irrigation requirements are being met through the Sind Extension Canal drawing water from the Nallah Sind (Ganderbal), and further tail end areas are supplemented by three Lift Irrigation Stations, namely LIS Batpora A & B and LIS Tailbal.

The Minister said that the adequate steps are being undertaken for strengthening critical and vulnerable spots along irrigation canals to ensure smooth and uninterrupted irrigation facilities. In this regard, various works are already being taken up during CFY 2025-26 under M&R, CDF, and UT Capex.

Adding the Minister said that additionally, under the UT Capex, a provision of Rs. 100.00 lac has been earmarked for the strengthening of SE Canal for further upgradation and augmentation of drinking and irrigation facilities.

Supplementaries were raised by Legislator, Mubarak Gul and Tanvir Sadiq.

Run for Unity held at Budgam to Commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

FE NEWS NETWORK

DC leads March, Administers Ekta Pledge; Highlights Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Role in National Integration

BUDGAM: As part of the nationwide celebrations marking the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the District Administration Budgam today organised a grand Run for Unity (Padyatra) from Multi-Level Car Parking to the DC Office Complex Budgam, followed by an Ekta Diwas Pledge Ceremony at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, Budgam.

The event, aimed at fostering the spirit of national integration and paying tribute to the Iron Man of India, was organised under the overall supervision of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat.

The DC flagged off the Padyatra and personally led the march, symbolising unity and collective resolve among the citizens. Hundreds of students, government employees, officials, and local residents participated in the march, carrying National flags, banners promoting the message of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat."

The Padyatra culminated at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, where DC Budgam administered the Ekta Diwas Pledge to all participants, reaffirming the collective commitment of the district's citizens to preserve and strengthen the unity, integrity, and security of the nation.

Addressing the gathering, the DC paid glowing tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, calling him one of the greatest nation-builders of India.

He said that "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's firm resolve, statesmanship, and foresight were instrumental in integrating our Country. His vision and leadership laid the foundation for a strong, united, and democratic India."

The DC said, today's Ekta divas served as a tribute to Sardar Patel's vision of a united India. He emphasised the essence of love transcending barriers of caste, color, creed, and religion, urging everyone to embrace unity.

The DC said, the National Unity Day celebration in Budgam reflects a collective commitment to the principles of integrity, inclusivity, and harmonious

coexistence.

The DC emphasised that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's life continues to serve as an inspiration for every citizen to uphold the values of patriotism, integrity, and service.

He added that the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) reminds everyone of their



duty to protect and strengthen the fabric of the nation.

The DC highlighted that India's greatest strength lies in its diversity and that unity amidst diversity forms the very essence of the country's civilizational ethos.

He remarked that our pluralistic culture, mutual respect, and harmony are what make India unique. He said that we must ensure that this unity remains unshaken despite differences in language, region, or belief.

He further encouraged the youth to take inspiration from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's unwavering commitment to public service and to play an active role in nation-building. "The young generation must emulate this discipline, determination, and dedication. They must work to strengthen the idea of India, an India that stands for peace, progress, and inclusiveness," he said.

The DC also spoke about the importance of community participation, social harmony, and civic sense in maintaining peace and order at the grassroots level. He said that unity should not merely be symbolic but reflected in everyday acts of cooperation, compassion, and mutual support.

The DC appreciated the overwhelming participation from across different sections of society, noting that such events reinforce the spirit of collective responsibility and brotherhood.

He also commended the efforts of all departments and institutions involved in successfully organising the Padyatra and the pledge ceremony.

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DC Kulgam, SSP inaugurate Fitness Room & Library at DDAC on Rashtriya Ekta Divas

FE NEWS NETWORK

Urge recovered patients to lead community outreach and inspire others to overcome addiction

KULGAM: On Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited the District Drug De-addiction Centre (DDAC), where he along with SSP Kulgam Anayat Ali Choudhary inaugurated a fitness room and library at the District Drug De-addiction Centre Kulgam.

During the visit, the DC also interacted with recovered patients and assessed the available treatment and rehabilitation facilities at the centre.

He commended the patients for their courage, determination commitment to overcoming addiction.

The DC lauded their decision to seek timely medical intervention and emphasized that "drug addiction is a treatable medical condition, and successful recovery is possible when patients and families remain motivated and approach de-addiction centres without hesitation.

He held detailed interactions with the recovered individuals to understand the underlying causes of addiction and discussed strategies to further strengthen anti-addiction initiatives across the district.

The DC also sought comprehensive feedback to enhance treatment efficacy and improve the infrastructure and support systems at the centre.

Patients expressed their gratitude for the collaborative efforts of the District Administration, Social Welfare Department, and Health Department in combating substance abuse and fostering recovery.

The DC encouraged the recovered individuals to play a proactive role in community outreach, motivating others struggling with addiction to seek help through the District Drug De-addiction Centre Kulgam and the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Kulgam.

Present on the occasion were ADC Kulgam, Tehsildar Kulgam, Executive Engineer R&B, DSWO, and other officers.

Modi

Modi said that after 2014, the government took steps to weaken the Naxalite movement and eliminate the support structure of “urban Naxalites”. “We put an end to the support of the urban Naxalites and Maoists,” he said.

The Prime Minister said that the efforts of the government over the last decade had ensured that the Constitution now applies in all regions of the country. He said that the work started by Patel had reached its logical conclusion, with Jammu and Kashmir becoming an integral part of the national mainstream.

National Unity Day is observed every year on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a key role in uniting more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after Independence—(KNO)

J&K Govt

Sardar Patel,” the LG said, adding that people are well aware of those who once conspired to divide the region.

He said that even the President of India had no authority over an inch of land here. “A few individuals ruled while thousands lived deprived. Some had built artificial walls that kept our sisters away from their rights.”

LG Sinha said that with the abrogation of Article 370 and subsequent reforms, October 31 became the day when the walls of separatism began to crumble. “J&K Police and security forces have broken the backbone of terrorism. The era of fear is over. People now participate freely in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, strengthening democracy in the Union Territory,” he said.

The LG said that the new generation has rejected violence. “Stone pelting has become history. People are now coming out spontaneously in support of peace and progress,” he remarked.

Speaking on termination of government employees involved in terror activities, the Lieutenant Governor said that this process will continue till we completely wipe out the terror ecosystem from the governance system.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the people to stand united against the elements trying to disrupt the development process. He said attempts are being made to stall the speed of development and people must be united to see that development process continues unabated.

Referring to April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, LG Sinha said, “People of Kashmir by taking to streets and staging protests against Pakistan and the terrorists sponsored by it sent a clear message that they won’t tolerate barbarism and killings of innocents anymore.”

He said that terrorism survives only on ideology and public support. “When society withdraws that support, terrorism breathes its last and that process has already begun,” LG Sinha added.

The Lieutenant Governor said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the dreams of Sardar Patel and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee are being fulfilled by all-round development of Jammu Kashmir.

He called for unity with a singular objective of inclusive development.

“We must follow the vision and ideals of Sardar Patel and work as a unified force for the shared goal of Atam-Nirbhar J&K and Viksit Bharat. We have made history in terms of all-round development and need to continue this journey as an unbreakable entity,” the Lieutenant Governor said, adding, “Since 2019, the aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir are linked to the aspirations of the country. We must work with dedication to transform our unity into widespread prosperity. This path will be guided by the vision of the 4 Ps: Peace, Progress, Prosperity, and People First.”

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a Photo Exhibition on “An Era of Transformative Governance in Jammu Kashmir”. Young achievers and budding entrepreneurs shared their success stories, and a documentary by the Department of Information and Public relations on “Viksit Jammu Kashmir” was also showcased to mark the day.

Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly; Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Wakf Board; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of Security Forces, Civil and Police Administration, Heads of educational institutions, youth and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present—(KNO)

J&K Govt

on October 16, after being abolished by the lieutenant governor’s administration in 2021.

The offices in Srinagar that operate on a five-day week closed after regular office hours on Friday, while those that function on a six-day week will close on Saturday, officials informed, adding that all offices will resume operations in Jammu, the winter capital, on November 3.

Officials also noted that all necessary arrangements have been made for the accommodation and security of the relocating employees, along with transportation from Srinagar to Jammu, to ensure smooth administrative operations.

Due to the move, the traffic department has announced that there will be no movement of goods carriers from Jammu toward Srinagar on Saturday and Sunday. (DIPR)

AI-Powered

Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu to Telangana and Kerala to Karnataka in this campus has transformed it into a “Mini India”. The transformation at SKUAST-Kashmir in the

last 3-4 years has brought about such a revolutionary change that a “mini-India” is visible in this campus today,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

“You are the inheritors of Sardar Patel’s vision. You are the ambassadors of unity. As we honour the memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel today, let us also reaffirm our duty to continue strengthening our country. Let your education be not just about degrees but about making a difference in the lives of people,” the Lieutenant Governor told the students.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated social workers and prominent citizens for their contribution to the society. He also visited the Chrysanthemum Garden in the campus. The cultural performances by the students received special appreciation from the Lieutenant Governor.

Aftab Malik, Chairman, District Development Council Srinagar; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; senior officials; Head of Departments, faculty members, staff and students were present. (DIPR)

Removal

but Sardar Patel addressed every issue with determination and foresight,” he said.

The HM said that Patel’s mission of complete integration remained unfinished because Jammu and Kashmir continued to have a separate Constitution and flag under Article 370. “Because of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir was not fully integrated into India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi accomplished the work of Sardar Patel by abrogating the Article, and now we have an ‘Akhand Bharat’ with us,” he said.

Shah said the decision to revoke Article 370 in August 2019 marked a historic milestone that realised Patel’s dream of one nation, one Constitution, and one flag. He said the integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the national mainstream has ensured equal rights and opportunities for all citizens in the region.

The Home Minister said the government’s policies in Jammu and Kashmir have brought stability and development that reflect the unity Patel envisioned. The people of the region are now equal participants in India’s democratic and constitutional framework, he said.

“Today, under Prime Minister Modi’s leadership, the entire country stands united, from Kutch to Kamrup and from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. This unity is the true tribute to Sardar Patel,” Shah said.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, or National Unity Day, is observed every year on October 31 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a central role in integrating princely states into the Indian Union after Independence—(KNO)

200 units

tender processes are underway, and delays are linked to mandatory timelines for tendering and planning to ensure long-term sustainability.

Responding to another query from Sheikh on imposition of flat tariff on AAY and BPL consumers in rural areas, the government said the tariff revision is part of the routine load rationalization exercise.

It stated that J&K already offers one of the lowest domestic power tariffs in India, with rates starting at Rs 2.30/unit, while BPL consumers pay Rs 1.40/unit for up to 30 units.

The government further said all consumers are billed as per tariff orders issued by the JERC for J&K—(KNO)

DIPR

entity misusing media credentials or indulging in coercion or defamation, and to coordinate with the respective Deputy Commissioners and police authorities for prompt legal and administrative action.

Additionally, district-level offices have been advised to verify credentials before granting access or sharing official information with anyone claiming to represent a media outlet. DIOs are required to submit periodic vigilance reports to the Joint Director’s office, detailing incidents, field inputs, and preventive measures taken.

The circular also urges editors and media houses to exercise due diligence while engaging correspondents, freelancers, or stringers, ensuring they are qualified, credible, and properly authorized. Editors have been advised to take disciplinary and legal action against representatives found indulging in unethical or coercive practices, and to publicly disassociate from individuals misusing their organization’s name or credentials.

Emphasizing adherence to ethical journalism, the department reminded all stakeholders to uphold the journalistic code of ethics prescribed by the Press Council of India and the DIPR accreditation guidelines.

The circular has also been shared with all Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) across the Kashmir Division for coordinated vigilance and enforcement. (KDC)

Judge

them after polls. There is no political party which didn’t talk about its restoration,” he said.

The Chief Minister also reaffirmed his government’s resolve to develop sustainable and efficient transport infrastructure to meet the

growing needs of Srinagar’s expanding urban population. He assured the people that all promises made by the government would be fulfilled, adding that the administration remains dedicated to addressing the genuine issues of citizens. “After completing our term, we will present ourselves before the people to judge our government’s performance,” he remarked.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Eidgah Mubarak Gul, MLA Central Shalteng Tariq Hameed Karra, besides several senior officers and officials from the concerned departments, were present on the occasion.

The inauguration of the Noor Jahan Bridge is expected to not only decongest existing traffic bottlenecks but also enhance accessibility for commuters, traders, and residents in the area and help people in commuting and going about their business in this busy area of Srinagar city. (DIPR)

CS stresses

employment opportunities.

He observed that the purpose of higher education is to create a futuristic, employable generation rather than one that struggles for opportunities post-graduation. He directed the Department to seek guidance from the Union Ministry of Education, NITI Aayog, and the Higher Education Council to strengthen policy alignment and institutional excellence.

The Chief Secretary also advised the Department to make human resource management a focal area of its reform strategy, ensuring that employees remain motivated, well-supported, and adequately trained to deliver effectively under all circumstances. He maintained that building institutional capacity and nurturing a capable workforce are critical for achieving the educational excellence.

Highlighting the Department’s progress, the ACS, Higher Education, Shantmanu, informed that significant strides have been made in infrastructure development, financial management, and student enrolment across the UT. He stated that the total enrolment in higher education institutions across J&K stands at 2,87,663 students, including 9,274 students in University of Jammu, 13,375 students in University of Kashmir, 1,98,392 students (UG + PG) enrolled in Government Degree Colleges and 56,644 students in Private Colleges across J&K.

The Department also highlighted its pioneering efforts in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, making J&K one of the first UTs to adopt the 4-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) with 58 major programmes under the 3+1 Honours model. The FYUGP framework features multiple entry-exit options and the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), facilitating seamless mobility and credit transfers for students.

It was informed that the Department is prioritizing infrastructure expansion and modernization through a substantial capital expenditure plan. Out of the approved Capex budget of Rs 500 Cr, an amount of Rs 270.61 Cr has been released so far, with Rs 80.68 Cr expenditure recorded on BEAMS.

Against the target of 160 works, 30 have been completed to date. Major ongoing projects include construction/upgradation of 50 classrooms, 39 multi-purpose halls, 22 hostel blocks, 22 science blocks/labs, 19 auditoriums, and 10 administrative blocks.

Moreover it was divulged that 18 libraries are being digitized and RFID-tagged, 18 playgrounds are under development or upgradation, 9 research hubs are in progress, and 3 new library blocks are under construction.

Providing details of central schemes, the Department reported strong financial performance and steady project completion under RUSA and PM-USHA. As of October 30, 2025, out of 74 institutional/project targets across all phases (RUSA 1, RUSA 2, and PM-USHA), 38 projects have been completed, the meeting was appraised.

Additionally it was given out that against a total outlay of Rs 713.48 Cr, cumulative expenditure stands at Rs 430.40 Cr, reflecting an excellent 94% utilisation against funds released by the Central and UT Governments (Rs 455.88 Cr).

To ensure timely completion of ongoing projects by March 2026, the Department has projected an additional requirement of Rs 251.92 Cr from the Government of India.

Reiterating the government’s commitment to academic excellence and student-centric reform, the Chief Secretary directed the Department to adopt a mission-oriented approach, ensuring that higher education in J&K emerges as a model of quality, innovation, and employability in the years ahead. (DIPR)

Legislative

MLA Nizamuddin Bhat emphasized the need to maintain the dignity of the House, noting that every member has made sincere efforts to fulfill their responsibilities.

MLA Surjit Singh Slathia extended gratitude to the Speaker for conducting the proceedings efficiently and giving every member an opportunity to participate. He acknowledged that while differences and heated exchanges are natural in debates, members must observe legislative decorum and avoid remarks that may hurt others’ sentiments.

MLA Mubarak Gul while expressing satisfaction over the productive session, said that MLAs were able to raise all important issues through Calling Attention Motions, Question Hour and Zero Hour. He urged that the concerns and suggestions discussed in the House should translate into concrete action, ensuring meaningful outcomes for the public.

MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para appreciated the Speaker for accommodating all voices in the House and thanked him for providing space for diverse opinions. He said that although institutions may be weak, the Assembly remains the forum where elected representatives can raise their voices on behalf of the people.

MLA Farooq Shah observed that people expect their elected representatives to register their grievances in the House and thanked the Speaker for conducting the proceedings effectively.

The legislators collectively appreciated the Assembly Secretariat, security personnel and media representatives for their cooperation throughout the session.

Timely measures taken to address land sinking in Doda’s Mundhar area: Govt

₹171.14 lakh DPR prepared for restoration and slope stabilization works

SRINAGAR: Government today informed the Legislative Assembly that District Level Committee, Doda has assessed the damage and prepared Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for slope stabilization and restoration works estimated at 171.14 lakh.

Minister Sakeena Itoo was replying to the Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Shakti Raj Parihar regarding the situation arising due to land sinking in Bari-Sadra Bag villages of Mundhar Lower A Panchayat in Tehsil Kastigarh, District Doda. However the motion was presented in the House by MLA Rajeev Jasrotia in his absence.

Minister informed that adequate measures have been taken to address the situation arising out of land sinking in Bari-Sadra Bag villages.

The minister said that District Level Committee comprising officials from Revenue, PMGSY, Soil Conservation and Agriculture Department visited the site to assess the damages and recommended measures for slope stabilization for safeguarding public life and property.

The measures include realignment/restoration of washed-out road (Gugwaha Parshall to Banjar Morh Shamthi via Kastigarh Bari road, check dams, crate work, plantation, patch sowing, protection walls and drains

It further stated that the affected area falls in Revenue Village Mundhar, which

has a history of landslides and land subsidence since 2013. The situation aggravated due to recent spells of heavy rainfall, and on October 18, 2025, massive land sinking damaged around 200 metres of road stretch, posing risk to nearly 35 households.

The minister said that the government immediately evacuated all families in the Red Zone to nearby safe locations, including school buildings and Pan-chayat Ghars, where ration and relief materials were provided.

Regarding providing of relief for the damaged structures and agriculture land, the government stated that the it is under process and being considered by the committee for disbursal of relief under SDRF norms.

Government further said that an expert interdepartmental committee has been suggested for long-term measures, besides Geological and Mining Department and Geological Survey of India have been requested for detailed inspection and recommendations. (DIPR)

J&K Bank gives warm send-off to GM Rajesh Gupta

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank gave a warm send-off to General Manager Rajesh Gupta, who superannuated from the Bank after rendering 36 years of dedicated service. Joining the institution as a Probationary Officer in 1989, Rajesh Gupta rose through the ranks to become General Manager, serving in several key leadership roles including Zonal Head, Divisional Head, and most recently as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) at the Bank’s Corporate Headquarters.

Held at the Bank’s corporate headquarters, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta presided over the farewell function that was attended by CGMs Sunit Kumar and Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, General Managers, DGMs and other senior officers.

In his message on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee commended the affable personality, calm demeanour and people-friendly behaviour of the retiring officer. He said, “Mr. Rajesh Gupta’s journey embodies dedication and humility. His professional approach and personal touch left a positive impact on everyone he worked with. I urge our younger executives to emulate such qualities as they take on leadership roles within the Bank.”

Extending best wishes for his post-retirement, MD & CEO said, “As you step into a new chapter after a fulfilling career spanning 36 years, we wish you and your loved ones good health, happiness, and peace in the years ahead.”

In his remarks at the farewell meeting, ED Sudhir Gupta said, “I have seen Mr. Rajesh Gupta always leading by example as he embodied a deep sense of belonging to the institution. His contribution to the Bank’s journey will be remembered with respect and admiration.”

Expressing his gratitude, Rajesh Gupta said, “Whatever I have achieved in life - every milestone and every recognition - I owe it to this great institution. I feel deeply satisfied today, having spent my entire career among such wonderful colleagues who have always been supportive and caring. I thank each one of you from the bottom of my heart.”

The event concluded with the participants recalling fond memories of working with the outgoing officer and appreciating his contribution to the Bank’s growth story. They also wished him a happy and fulfilling post-retirement life. (DIPR)



Government of Jammu and Kashmir



Email:- info.srsr@jk.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION SRINAGAR
PRESS RELEASE

This office is going to conduct a plantation programme under Institutional plantation in various institutions of District Srinagar, Ganderbal & Budgam during the current financial year 2025-26. In this regard, the Institutions intends to have plantation under the programme in their respective institutions may contact concerned Range Officers of SF Range Srinagar/Ganderbal/Budgam along-with requisitions.

1. Range Officer Srinagar:- 8825026729

2. Range Officer Ganderbal:- 8825017393

3. Range Officer Budgam:- 8825026729

SD/-
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division
Srinagar

NO. :- 461-64/SF/Acctts/Sgr
DIPK-7662/25 Dt: 31-10-2025

Dated:- 30-10-2025

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION SOPORE.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Fresh NITNo- 119 of RnB-Sopore of 2025-2026-tendering DATED 30.10.2025(3rd call)
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Mone y	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Construction of Foot Path with ornamental lights from Opposite Mehtab Poshak Ghar SBI road to Bashir Pan house at Super Bazar Sopore.	14.093	600/-	28186/-	60 days	07.11.2025	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	IDMT

Project Authority:
Position of funds:
Position of AAA/

MC Sopore
Available
Accorded Director Urbal Local Bodies vide his No:DULB/Plg/748 of 2025 dtd: 22.9.20025
100/TS of 2025-26 dated: 25.09.2025 respectively

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

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	30.10.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30.10.2025
3	Bid Submission start date	30.10.2025
4	Bid submission End date	06.11.2025 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	07.11.2025 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

2, Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
3, At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government’s circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period

3(b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per e-NITNo.01 of 2025-26

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&KUT,
No: 7176-85 Dated: 30.10.2025
DIPK-7650/25 Dt: 31-10-2025

Sd/- Ex.Engineer

Crafting legacy: The artisans weaving Kashmir's Heritage



Srinagar's iconic Clock Tower, the GhantaGhar at LalChowk, Srinagar transformed into a vibrant symbol of culture and creativity on October 25, 2025 as the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, organized the "Know Your Artisan" programme. The event infused fresh life into the city centre, attracting hundreds of visitors, artisans, and admirers of Kashmiri craftsmanship, and turned LalChowk into a living exhibition of art, tradition, and heritage.

The initiative reflected a larger cultural awakening—a collective recognition of the people behind the intricate crafts that have defined Kashmir's artistic identity for centuries. Against the graceful backdrop of the restored Clock Tower, Srinagar's heart beat to the rhythm of looms, chisels, and brushes as artisans demonstrated their timeless skills. The air resonated with the soft hum of activity, echoing the heritage of a land where artistry is a way of life.

The event offered an immersive experience of Kashmir's artistic diversity. Artisans representing traditional crafts such as pashmina weaving, kani shawl making, carpet weaving, papier-mâché, copper engraving, wood carving, crewel embroidery, and sozni work showcased their artistry in real time. Each stall became a small theatre of craftsmanship where creativity unfolded before visitors' eyes.

Crowds gathered around artisans as they worked meticulously — spinning fine pashmina threads, carving intricate motifs into walnut wood, or painting delicate floral designs on papier-mâché artefacts. Visitors observed the detailed processes, often marvelling at the patience and precision that go into each creation. For many, it was an awakening to the human skill and endurance that lie behind the celebrated Kashmiri label.

The "Know Your Artisan" event broke the barriers that often separate craftspeople from consumers. It brought artisans out of their workshops and into the public space, giving them visibility and respect while allowing the public to engage directly with the creative process. The city's busiest commercial square thus became a space for cultural dialogue — one that connected the hands that create with the eyes that appreciate. LalChowk, with its deep historical and

emotional significance, was an apt venue for such a revival. Recently redeveloped into a pedestrian-friendly zone, the square has evolved into a space not only of commerce but also of culture and community gathering. By hosting "Know Your Artisan" at this symbolic site, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom effectively transformed an urban landmark into a stage for heritage and pride.

Throughout the day, the Clock Tower was surrounded by colour, sound, and movement. Handwoven fabrics fluttered in the breeze, copperware gleamed under the autumn sun, and soft strains of Kashmiri folk music created a festive ambiance. The event became a visual narrative of Kashmir's artistic evolution — one that speaks through texture, colour, and form rather than words.

For the artisans, this was more than an exhibition; it was an affirmation of their identity and a celebration of endurance. Many of them come from families that have practised their crafts for generations, passing skills through time despite economic pressures and social change. Their presence at LalChowk symbolized continuity — the unbroken link between tradition and modernity.

The programme was also part of a broader strategy to strengthen the artisan community through exposure, recognition, and market linkage. The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom has been working to promote traditional crafts through a combination of skill enhancement initiatives, design interventions, and marketing platforms.

Events like "Know Your Artisan" are vital in re-establishing the connection between artisans and consumers, especially in an era dominated by mass production. They bring authenticity back into public appreciation and remind the younger generation of the cultural wealth embedded in local crafts. The initiative also contributes to tourism by offering visitors a direct encounter with Kashmir's living heritage — an experience far more engaging than conventional shopping.

For many artisans, the event opened opportunities to showcase their work to new audiences, explore collaborations, and understand changing market preferences. Younger artisans, in particular, are experimenting with ways to blend traditional methods with contemporary aesthetics, ensuring that Kashmiri crafts remain relevant in today's global marketplace.

The "Know Your Artisan" programme also highlighted the natural synergy between handicrafts and tourism. Kashmir's beauty has long drawn visitors from around the world, and its crafts have served as tangible memories of that experience. Hosting a craft-focused event in the heart of Srinagar allowed tourists to witness the craftsmanship that often remains hidden within workshops or remote villages.

Visitors interacted freely with artisans, purchased handmade products, and learned about the intricate processes involved in their making. This direct engagement added a new dimension to cultural tourism — one that not only supports local livelihoods but also deepens visitors' understanding of Kashmiri identity.

The timing of the event was significant. As the region seeks to revive its tourism industry, cultural initiatives such as this reinforce Kashmir's image as a place of beauty, creativity, and resilience. LalChowk, once a symbol of political expression, now resonated with the sounds of looms, tools, and laughter — an emblem of a city rediscovering its artistic soul.

Beyond its visual splendour, the "Know Your Artisan" programme carried a powerful message about cultural preservation. Kashmir's handicrafts are more than commodities; they are embodiments of collective memory, tradition, and identity. Each motif in a shawl, each carving on wood, each stroke of colour in papier-mâché represents a story — one that has been shaped over centuries.

Yet, these crafts face challenges from changing lifestyles, imitation products, and declining interest among youth. Events like the one at LalChowk rekindle awareness and respect for the craft sector, reminding society that preserving heritage is as much a civic responsibility as it is a cultural one. By engaging directly with artisans, citizens and visitors become stakeholders in the effort to sustain this legacy.

The Department's initiative thus reflects a conscious attempt to make heritage visible in everyday life — not confined to museums or markets but celebrated in public spaces where people gather, shop, and connect. It transforms cultural preservation from an abstract concept into a shared experience.

As daylight faded, the Clock Tower glowed under soft illumination, surrounded by

displays of art and clusters of people still exploring the stalls. The transformation of LalChowk into a cultural arena demonstrated how urban spaces can nurture community pride and artistic expression.

The success of "Know Your Artisan" has sparked discussions about making similar events a regular feature in Srinagar's cultural calendar. Many believe that public spaces should continue to serve as platforms for artistic interaction and heritage education, linking city life with rural craftsmanship.

Such initiatives can help sustain traditional livelihoods, encourage innovation, and restore dignity to artisanal professions. They also strengthen the emotional connection between citizens and their city — a bond rooted in shared history and creative identity.

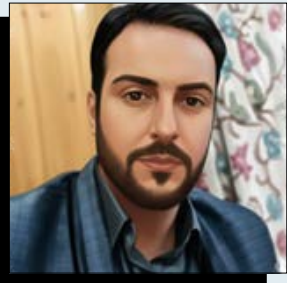
In essence, the event transcended the boundaries of an exhibition or market fair. It was a reaffirmation of the idea that art and craftsmanship are integral to Kashmir's social fabric. It reminded the city that behind every shawl, carpet, or carved object lies a human story — one of skill, patience, and perseverance.

By choosing the Clock Tower — a structure that has witnessed decades of change — as the venue, the organisers symbolically placed the artisan at the centre of Kashmir's evolving narrative. The blending of past and present, tradition and innovation, made the event a celebration not only of craftsmanship but of continuity and renewal.

As the evening drew to a close, LalChowk stood as a reflection of Kashmir's enduring creativity. The hum of activity subsided, but the spirit of the artisans lingered — a reminder that culture thrives wherever there are hands willing to create and hearts willing to appreciate.

The "Know Your Artisan" programme thus marked more than a single day of festivity; it marked a movement toward rediscovering and respecting the living heritage that defines Kashmir. In every woven thread, carved motif, and painted surface, Srinagar found a renewed sense of belonging — a quiet yet profound tribute to its artisans who continue to shape the story of this land, one masterpiece at a time.

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



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

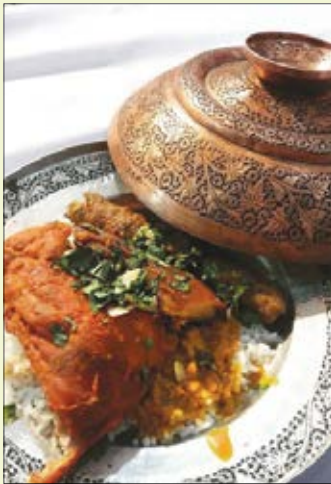
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