

MLA Jasrotia inaugurates Paddy Procurement Mandi at Dhanni Bhakhta, Barnoti

GY CORRESPONDENT
KATHUA, OCT 20

In a landmark move for the agrarian landscape of Jaskota, Rajiv Jasrotia, MLA Jaskota, today inaugurated the Paddy Procurement Mandi (Registration-cum-Facilitation Centre) at Dhanni Bhakhta, Block Barnoti—a remote Kandi region that now stands to benefit more than 35 Panchayats. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua, Jitendra Khajuria and his worthy team, SDAO Ashwani Sharma, BDO Barnoti Suraj Singh, AEE PWD Mahesh, AEE PHE Himanshu, XEN Flood Control Kathua, Abnish Kumar, Sarpanch Shivdev Singh, Balwant Singh, Randeep Singh, several Pancha and hundreds of prominent citizens in the area. Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia said that newly-



established centre is designed to ensure smooth, transparent, and timely procurement of paddy at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 72,369 per quintal for Common Paddy and 72,389 per quintal for Grade-A Paddy, thereby guaranteeing fair and assured returns to local farmers. He emphasised that such centres will strengthen the rural economy, eliminate middlemen and empower

farming communities. He noted that the establishment of the Paddy Mandi (MSP) in Jaskota Constituency fulfils a persistent demand of local farmers, offering better accessibility and convenience. Jasrotia reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to farmer welfare through improved procurement infrastructure, enhanced transparency, and prompt payment disbursement.

He called upon the Agriculture Department and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure efficient operations and timely payments. He urged field officers to extend full assistance to farmers, ensuring no inconvenience during procurement. He encouraged farmers to utilise the registration-cum-facilitation centre for seamless documentation and quick processing. Jasrotia highlighted that

awareness campaigns through Panchayat-level meetings, posters, and social media are being amplified to keep every farmer well-informed about MSP benefits and mandi operations. He affirmed that the centre will revolutionise paddy procurement in the Kandi belt, fostering prosperity and equity for the farming fraternity of Jaskota. By eliminating middlemen, empowering local farming communities and boost the rural economy. The long-standing demand for a procurement hub in Jaskota Constituency is finally fulfilled, bringing the mandi closer to homes and fields. Together, we are sowing the seeds of prosperity. Let this mandi become the cornerstone of a thriving Jaskota, where every farmer's toil is honoured and rewarded, said Jasrotia.

NC deceived J&K people, voters looking for alternatives now: LoP Sharma in Budgam

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20

Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday criticised the National Conference (NC), accusing the party of betraying the people of the region and promoting family politics. Speaking with reporters in Budgam, Sharma, as per news agency, said that the NC has lost public trust and that voters are now looking for alternatives. "NC has deceived people in Jammu and Kashmir for decades. Recently, it took a u-turn on smart meters. People are now seeking alternatives," Sharma said, adding that the Abdullah family has maintained control over politics in the region. "People have started a fight against the Abdullah family and will reject them. A big fight has begun in Kashmir against family dominance," Sharma said.



He alleged that the public is no longer willing to tolerate dynastic politics. "The National Conference will soon collapse like a pack of cards and its MLAs will be seen scattered," he said. He also criticised what he called "double standards" on governance issues, referring to the issue of smart meters and other policies. "Those who eat with silver spoons can never understand the pain of poor people," Sharma said. Sharma also said that the

BJP would implement policies at the ground level in Budgam and across the region. "PM Modi's policies are poor. The BJP will take these welfare measures to the people in Budgam and throughout Kashmir," he said. The Budgam by-election was necessitated after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah retained his Ganderbal seat following the 2024 assembly elections. BJP has fielded Aga Mohsin for the bypoll to Budgam seat—

Big Relief: Budgam-Banihal special train extended up to Sangaldan for 30 Days

GY CORRESPONDENT
BUDGAM, OCT 20

Bringing a major relief to passengers amid heavy rush and rising travel demand, the Railway authorities have announced the extension of the Budgam-Banihal special train up to Sangaldan station for a period of 30 days, starting October 21, 2025, officials said.

As per the news agency, the decision comes as the Kashmir rail network continues to evolve, witnessing a major transformation over recent times. A senior railway official said that keeping in view the increased passenger load, the special train 04687/88 has been extended up to Sangaldan to ensure smoother and more comfortable travel during this period.

The Railways' journey in Jammu and Kashmir has been transformative — from connecting the Valley to the rest of the country for the first time, to launching the Vande Bharat Express, a symbol of modern connectivity.

Beyond passenger service, the network now plays a crucial role in freight transport, carrying cement, appliances, automobiles, and other essential goods that sustain the region's economy.

As per the revised schedule, Train No. 04688 (Down) will depart from Banihal at 10:05 am, halting briefly at Kari (10:23/10:24 am) and Sangaldan (10:45/10:46 am) before reaching Sangaldan at 11:10 am. In the return direction, Train No. 04687 (Up) will leave Sangaldan at 4:45 pm, stopping at Sumbur (5:05/5:06 pm), Kari (5:26/5:27 pm), and Banihal (5:53/6:00 pm).

Javid Tenga re-elected as KCCI president at 91st AGM

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20:

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday held its 91st Annual General Meeting in which office bearers were elected with Javid Ahmad Tenga re-elected as president.

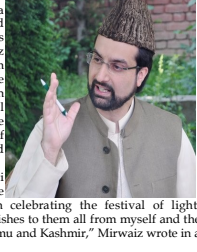
The Executive Committee Elections, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) were held on October 6, in which 21 executive committee members were elected for a one year tenure. Of 21 executive committee members, 6 were elected office bearers by them. Javid Tenga was re-elected as president, Umar Nazir Tibehtbaqal as senior vice president, Farooq Amin as junior vice president, Faiz Ahmad Bakshi as general secretary, Akib Chaya as joint general secretary and Amir Guna as treasurer.

Mirwaiz extends Diwali greetings to Hindu brethren

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20:

Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, Molvi Umar Farooq on Monday extended Diwali greetings to the Hindu brethren.

As per a statement issued to the news agency, Mirwaiz extended warm wishes to the Hindu brethren from him as well as from the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir. "Diwali greetings to the Hindu brethren celebrating the festival of light. Extend warm wishes to them all from myself and the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir," Mirwaiz wrote in a post—



SWFC Kashmir clinches Invisibles Football Cup title in Sopore

Organizers vow to make Sopore a hub of sports activity; MLA Kar pledges sports infra boost

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20

SWFC Kashmir lifted the Invisibles Football Cup (2nd edition) after edging past Sonawari SA by 1-0 in a closely contested final played at Sir Allama Iqbal Ground in Sopore.

The tournament, as per the details available with news agency was organized by the Sports Development Forum Sopore and featured over 40 prominent football clubs across Kashmir.

The final drew an enthusiastic crowd of football lovers and local supporters.

MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

In his address, he praised

the organizers for promoting sports and promised substantial improvements in local sports facilities. "We are fully committed to upgrading sports infrastructure in Sopore. You will soon see major developments at Allama Iqbal Ground, Noor Gah and Khushal Stadium," Kar said.

Chief Organizer, Shahid Wani said the event aimed to engage young people through football and create a positive environment for them. "Our goal is to divert youth from drugs and other harmful influences. Through sports, we want to build discipline and teamwork among them," he said.

KCWU urges immediate action on addressing of pending welfare issues

Registration process of labourers must be made easier, says Tarigami

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20

The Kashmir Construction Workers' Union (KCWU), affiliated with the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), held its 5th conference in Srinagar on Monday. The event witnessed the participation of over 100 delegates from different parts of the Valley.

Addressing the conference, President CITU J&K unit and MLA Kulgam Muhammad Yousof Tarigami, as per a statement issued to the news agency, said that the government must take immediate steps to make the registration process of labourers easier and more accessible.

"The present procedure is cumbersome and discourages genuine workers from availing the welfare benefits they are entitled to," he said. He reiterated that in every district, one medical officer should be posted to issue Date of Birth certificates to the entitled labourers to save time and avoid unnecessary delays. The cess needs to be enhanced from 1% to 2% and be charged from private builders and corporates as well. The files pending for years in various districts related to educational assistance, marriage assistance, death compensation, and accident compensation be



settled at the earliest.

The last date for submitting the application forms for educational assistance needs to be deferred for at least ten days beyond the already fixed dated of 20.10.2025 in view of the three holidays," he demanded.

Abdul Rashid Pandit, President of the Kashmir Construction Workers' Union, said that the amendments carried in the bylaws of the union, as mandated by the constitution of the Building and Other Construction Welfare Workers Board, have been pending approval in the office of the Labour Commissioner for more than three years, which needs to be approved in the interest of the labourers. General Secretary, Manzoor Ahmad said there is the need to prioritise the registration of migrant labourers working in Kashmir, ensuring they also receive

due welfare benefits. The speakers reiterated that the genuine demands of construction workers must be addressed without further delay and urged the authorities to take concrete measures to safeguard the rights and welfare of the labour community across Jammu and Kashmir.

Resolutions on Environment and Climate change as also on Revoking of Four Codal Laws were moved and adopted in the Conference. Fifteen members Committee with Abdul Rashid Pandit as President, Manzoor Ahmad as General Secretary, Aashiq Hussain (Kupwara) and Aashiq Hussain (Anantnag) as Vice Presidents, Hilal Ahmad, Publicity Secretary, Munir Ahmad, Treasurer, Ghulam Mohamad, Secretary, and Mohd. Altaf, Organiser was elected in the Conference—

J&K Contractors Coordination Committee Extends Warm Diwali Greetings To All

JKCCC Chairman Jeelani Purza Urges Togetherness, Peace & Prosperity In Every Home Across J&K

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20

On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights, Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir Contractors Coordination Committee (JKCCC), Ghulam Jeelani Purza, extended his warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country.

In his message, Jeelani Purza said, "May this Diwali strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir. I wish the people a very Happy Diwali, hoping that the day augurs well for everlasting peace, prosperity, and happiness for all."

"On this joyful occasion, I extend heartfelt greetings to our Hindu contractor brothers and their families. May this festival bring light, success and good fortune to every home."

Chairman Purza further emphasized that festivals



like Diwali play a vital role in promoting unity and understanding among diverse communities. He said that Jammu and Kashmir has always been known for its rich tradition of mutual respect and brotherhood and such occasions reaffirm the region's composite culture.

Jeelani Purza urged everyone to share happiness with the underprivileged and spread the light of hope and compassion across society.

The Executive Body and General Members of JKCCC also extended

warm greetings to the people of J&K and across the nation. They collectively wished for peace, prosperity and strengthened communal harmony, urging everyone to celebrate the festival in the true spirit of brotherhood, compassion and unity.

The JKCCC leadership said that Diwali is a festival of light and joy, reminding everyone to share happiness, kindness and goodwill with others. They added that such occasions help strengthen the spirit of unity and togetherness among all communities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sajad Lone says he can't be blamed for PSA, urges objective debate on who introduced and misused it



GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20

Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) chairman Sajad Lone on Monday reacted sharply to a senior journalist's remarks questioning his inaction on the Public Safety Act (PSA) during his tenure as a minister in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir government.

Responding to journalist's post on X, Lone said this while he accepts his limited share of responsibility, it is unfair to blame him for a law that he neither introduced nor had the power to repeal.

"First I plead guilty of acting you as a journalist. Right from the days when you would be on TV, you stood out. So let the knives not come out," Lone began in a

conciliatory tone, before addressing the criticism. He noted that during his tenure of two and a half years as a minister, his political influence was minimal. "I will take my share of blame if there is any for being a minister for 2.5 years. And I had one more MLA. That too little to change a law as horrendous as PSA," Lone said.

In a detailed post, Lone urged for an objective discussion on the origins and misuse of the Public Safety Act, asserting that those who introduced and extensively used the law should be held accountable. "Let us objectively talk about who scripted and introduced PSA. Who used it with impunity. Who could have actually repealed it. How many were jailed under PSA. Trust me that part is

defensible. So let my favourite journalist not defend the indefensible," he wrote.

The JKPC chief also compared the police verification certificate process to the PSA, describing both as major issues impacting the lives of common people in Jammu and Kashmir. Lone concluded his post by appealing to Chaturvedi to use her wide reach to highlight these concerns. "I really hope that given your reach is vast on different platforms, you will espouse these causes," he said.

Earlier, the sejour lady journalist had responded to Lone's post questioning his inaction during his tenure as a BJP-supported minister, despite now raising strong criticism of the PSA.

Two on-duty men hit by vehicle killed at Chingi in Sopore

GY CORRESPONDENT
SOPORE, OCT 20

Two persons discharging duty at 'Chingi' near Chinar Crossing in Sopore on Monday evening were

killed after hit by a speeding vehicle.

According to reports, two individuals were deployed at Chingi (entry point) for vehicle entry

checking and they were hit by a vehicle (JK02BW-2197).

Both of them were shifted to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Sopore and one of them, Bilal Ahmad, 29, son of Wazir Ahmad Shah, a resident of Saidpora, was declared brought dead on arrival while another person, identified as

Shahid Hilal, 25, son of Hilal Ahmad Shah, a resident of Nadhal Rafiabad was shifted to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment.